



SHORT CUTS

U.P. construction seeks career-seekers

MARQUETTE – The Upper Peninsula Construction Council is now is now accepting applications from current high school juniors for Construction Connect UP during the 2026–27 school year.

Construction Connect UP is designed to help students move seamlessly from the classroom into a career in the skilled trades. Students who complete the program may be directly placed into registered apprenticeships, allowing them to bypass the standard application process.

The program was developed through collaboration with UPCC signatory contractors and Upper Peninsula building trades unions, UP Michigan Works, Delta-Schoolcraft ISD, Dickinson-Iron ISD, and the Marquette-Alger Regional Education Services Agency. Together, these partners created a program that is skill-based, approved by both labor and industry, and closely connected to real job site experience.

Participating students must have schedules that allow for two hours in the morning or afternoon to work and train on job sites, where they earn \$15 per hour while gaining hands-on experience.

To qualify, students must, at the time the program begins:

- Be a high school senior and at least 17 years of age.
- Be enrolled in a certified CTE Program.
- Have a driver's license, or be in the process of obtaining one, and have reliable transportation.
- Pass a drug screen.

“There is a significant demand for skilled trades professionals across the Upper Peninsula,” said UPCC Executive Director Mike Smith. “Construction Connect UP gives students the chance to learn in real work environments, earn a paycheck, and begin building a career right away.”

Students can apply in a link that can be found at <https://upconstruction.org/>

UAW wins historic pact in the South

The United Auto Workers have just marked one of the most important milestones in the union's history: they have officially reached a tentative agreement on a first contract with Volkswagen in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The agreement, reached on Feb. 4, is the culmination of 502 days of bargaining and a successful strike authorization vote by a supermajority of workers in October 2025.

It includes a 20 percent wage increase over four years, reduced health care costs, job security protections, the right to strike over health and safety grievances, the recognition of skilled trades, and many other protections and benefits. It will now proceed to a vote by the union's members.

This marks the first time the union has successfully organized and bargained an agreement with a foreign-owned, nonunion auto company in the South.

“For years, Chattanooga workers were told to settle for less while Volkswagen made record profits. So, the workers stood together and won their union – and now they've secured a life-changing first agreement,” said UAW President Shawn Fain.

Quotable

“Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)



CONSTRUCTION OF THE GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE between Detroit and Windsor has been a massive employer of building trades workers on both side of the Detroit River since 2018. Nearing completion, the magnificent span wrought by the trades was the surprising object of a bitter Truth Social post on Feb. 9 by President Trump. There were falsehoods aplenty in Trump's rant, with the bottom line indicating that he threatened to block the opening of the span. Later the White House added that Trump wants the U.S. to have slice of the tolls collected from the bridge – the original deal allowed Canada to collect the tolls as reimbursement because they funded the entire cost of the bridge's construction. Former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who was in office when the deal with Canada was struck, offers his perspective in the Viewpoints on Page 2. And a related statement from current Gov. Gretchen Whitmer: “The Canadians have paid for the bridge. The bridge was built with organized labor, union labor on both sides of the bridge, including Michiganders. It is a really important part of our economy, the largest crossing in North America. And so it is important that it continues to move forward and open up on time, and that's my expectation.”

Photo credit: WDIV

Truth? Social – Trump's rant about Gordie Howe Bridge defies reality

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

Here are some actual “Truths” about the Gordie Howe International Bridge, which has been a rock-solid employer, and a source of pride, for building trades union workers on both side of the border for the past eight years. With the president spreading misinformation on his Truth Social platform about one of the most prominent infrastructure projects in Michigan and North America, we hope providing a few facts will be of a benefit to our readers.

•The government of Canada is funding the entire \$4.7 billion cost of construction, and the original deal with the State of Michigan and the U.S. will allow Canadian taxpayers to recoup that investment over time through collection of bridge tolls.

• Canada itself does not own the bridge: it is owned jointly owned by Canada and Michigan.

•If you worked on the bridge, it's unlikely you feel that the U.S. has received “Absolutely NOTHING!” as Trump wrote. “Since the fall 2018 construction start, 15,000 workers have contributed 19+ million hours across all four project components.” –Year-end report for 2025 by Bridging North America, the private-sector consortium contracted to design, build and finance the span.

•Trump stated that “virtually no U.S. content” comprises the bridge. There have been no official numbers released from the government of Canada, the State of Michigan or Bridging North America about the percentage of U.S. or Canadian steel used on the bridge. But if Canada is paying for the bridge, they could hardly be blamed for using Canadian materials on the span itself. But the 13 structures in the 137-acre U.S. Port of Entry, as well as the I-75 highway and approach work in Detroit, used U.S. content.

‘What does the United States of America get?’ – A modern bridge and about 10 million U.S. building trades hours

So that nothing can be taken out of context, here is the verbatim, unedited, and occasionally fact-free content of President Trump's Truth Social post on Feb. 9 related to the Gordie Howe International Bridge – and some other stuff.

“As everyone knows, the Country of Canada has treated the United States very unfairly for decades. Now, things are turning around for the U.S.A., and FAST! But imagine, Canada is building a massive bridge between Ontario and Michigan. They own (Continued on Page 2)

By Alec Monnie

I worked in a Walmart deli for three years. It made me understand why labor unions in America are more popular now than they've been in generations.

(The Gallup organization last year reported that 68 percent of U.S. adults approve of labor unions, part of a popularity trend last reached in the early 1960s).

I'd heard horror stories about what it'd be like to work at Walmart. The customers would be rude. The treatment from higher-ups would be bad. The day-to-day would grind you down.

I tried to wave away these warnings. I'd already worked some not-so-glamorous jobs,

Perspective

from sweeping floors as a janitor to manning a footlong hot dog shack (the hot dogs were a footlong – not the shack). Surely Walmart wouldn't be so awful. I was wrong. And frankly, I was unprepared for how soul-crushing it would be.

Though it was just a deli inside a Walmart and not some big-shouldered butcher shop, the job was more physically demanding than you'd expect. Slicing meat and serving customers was only part of the role. Other frequent tasks: spending hours in a subzero freezer unloading clumsily stacked pallets of

Trump holds up \$16 billion ‘Democrat’ tunnel project because of ... naming rights?

By Mrty Mulcahy Editor

The Feb. 6-17 pause on work at one of the largest civil construction projects in the country, the vital Hudson Tunnel Rail Project between New York and New Jersey, is a continuation of President Trump's exasperating focus on shutting down public building projects that are stopping paychecks from a solid bloc of his supporters: unionized construction workers.

Two years into the Gateway Development Commission's Hudson Tunnel project, Trump in October abruptly froze federal funding on the \$16 billion tunnel project (between two blue states) during the government shutdown.

At the time he told Fox News' Maria Bartiromo “that what we're doing is we're cutting Democrat programs that we didn't want, because they made

1,000 workers sidelined; president reportedly seeks his name on Penn Station, Dulles Airport

one mistake, they didn't realize that gives me the right to cut programs that Republicans never wanted. You know, giveaways, welfare programs, etc. And we're doing that. And we're cutting them permanently. And we're cutting a \$20 billion project that Shumer fought for 15 years to get, and I'm cutting the project, and the project is going to be dead.”

The federal funding freeze began in October, and this month diminishing funds finally forced construction on the project to halt entirely. Trump's “Shumer” comment refers to Senate Minority (Continued on Page 13)

Canceled NIOSH safety research agency restored

By Nick Fox Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America

Crippled by staffing cuts since last April, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and its essential programs are finally being restored.

That's the unexpected and welcome news released Jan. 14 by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which oversees NIOSH, the federal agency tasked with worker safety research and programs to prevent work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths.

“We wholeheartedly support the full restoration of NIOSH,” said Laborers International Union General President Brent Booker. “NIOSH protected America's workers for over 50 years, including LIUNA members and other survivors following the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Firing the workers behind these essential safety programs was misguided and dangerous then, and restoring their jobs is long overdue.”

Historically, NIOSH has been responsible for:

- Certifying respirators at its National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory – the only U.S. lab authorized to do this work.

(Continued on Page 10)

Good start for building; modest job gains overall

U.S. construction employment started 2026 with an increase of 33,000 jobs in January, with gains concentrated in nonresidential construction, according to an analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data released Feb. 11.

It was a good month for the building industry, which accounted for more than a quarter of U.S. jobs created last month.

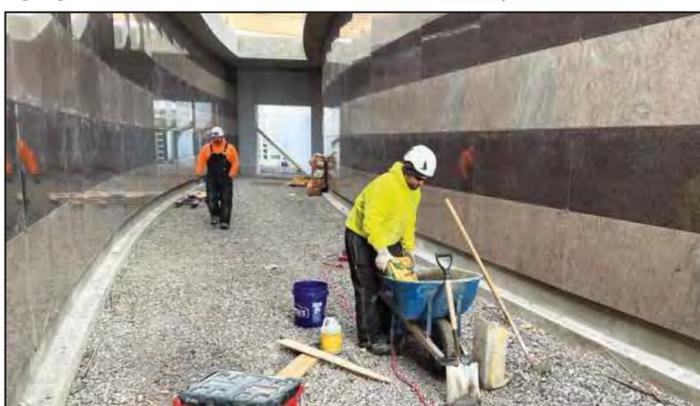
The Associated General Contractors of America's analysis said that “while January hiring was stronger than expected, contractors remain cautious about prospects for sustained growth in 2026.”

“It's encouraging to see solid construction job gains in January after a year of uneven employment,” said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. “But those gains will fade later this year unless policymakers provide greater clarity and stability for infrastructure and energy investment.”

Total construction employment reached 8,308,000 in January, an increase of 33,000 from December. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 44,000 jobs, a gain of 0.5 percent, outpacing the 0.2 percent increase (Continued on Page 2)

Playbook for anti-union employers: pile on the indignities, push turnover

CLINTON TWP. – A new collection of mausoleums is going up at Resurrection Cemetery, and a group of Boom Stone masons



MIXING MORTAR at “Mausoleum 1” at Resurrection Cemetery is Jeff Bishop of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. Approaching in the walkway – the curved granite panels add to the project's complexity – is foreman Scott Reese. Both are employed by Boom Stone. This is one of two heated portions of the project.

have them covered. Or more accurately – they will have them covered with granite by the time warmer weather arrives to make their jobs a lot easier.

The crew of masons, mem-

bers of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2, have been braving one of Michigan's toughest winters in years to help erect a trio of mausoleums at Resurrection Cemetery. Their work

will certainly be the most visible aspect of the project when it is completed, which is expected to be complete this summer. They're placing four different types of granite on the three mausoleums which are arranged in a semi-

circle near a new chapel that's also under construction.

Boom Stone Foreman Scott Reese is overseeing the granite installation, working alongside a crew of 10-13 masons. Their (Continued on Page 12)



CAULKING A GRANITE panel at the new Mausoleum No. 1 at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Twp. are masons Danzell Shannon and Tyler Thurkettle of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by Boom Stone.

Viewpoints



Alternative bridge facts

Last night, my wife and I had a quiet evening watching Olympic highlights, including some incredible Michigan skaters. The quiet was quickly shattered by President Donald Trump's announcement that he might stop the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Since I played a significant role in the bridge project, my phone and email have been flooded with media inquiries. I have generally kept a low profile over the past few years, but this topic merits a few comments.

Most responses to the president's comments have been in favor of the GHIB, asking him not to stop the opening. Instead of a similar statement, let me take a nerdier approach and analyze the key underlying points in his Truth Social post and important historical background.

In Trump's Truth Social post, he says:

• "They (Canada) own both the Canada and the United States sides." This is incorrect. Canada and the State of Michigan are 50/50 owners of the new bridge. Canada was wonderful and financed the entire bridge. They will get repaid with interest from the tolls. Michigan and the United States got their half-ownership with no investment. That is a great deal.

• "(It was) built with virtually no U.S. content." This is incorrect. There was a waiver of the Buy America Act for the actual bridge part of the construction project. Why? Because half the bridge is in Canada. Buy American should not apply to a project that is half outside our country. The workers and materials for the bridge construction have come from both countries. The U.S. customs plaza and the Michigan-side approach to work have been built with U.S. materials and workers, just as the Canadian equivalents have been built with Canadian resources.

• "We (U.S.) should own, perhaps, at least one half of this asset." We do already!

You may wonder who loses if the Gordie Howe International Bridge is delayed or stopped:

• Obviously, Canada. They have a huge investment in the bridge.

• U.S. and Canadian companies. The Ambassador Bridge has hindered commerce for decades and increased costs for manufacturing operations. The GHIB will solve these problems and provide for faster economic growth on both sides.

• U.S. and Canadian workers. The GHIB will create new jobs in logistics and other areas on both sides.

If the GHIB is delayed or stopped, there actually is one big winner: The Moroun family and the Ambassador Bridge Co. (Editor's note: *The New York Times* reported Feb. 9 that Ambassador Bridge owner Matthew Moroun met with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick hours before Trump's threat on Truth Social to block the bridge).

Over the decades, the Morouns have spent millions trying to stop the GHIB. Why? Every day, they make much more money at our expense. In 2012 alone, they spent more than \$30 million on a ballot proposal to prevent construction of the GHIB. For years, they have had active lobbyists in Lansing and Washington trying to sabotage this project. They have also made very large political contributions in both places.

President Trump, I would encourage you to challenge your advisers and the sources for your post to correct the information they have provided. The GHIB is a great deal for America that I hope you will be proud of. Canada has been a stalwart partner on this massive project through multiple governments on both sides of the Detroit River. It is a big win-win for all of us.

Rick Snyder (R), Michigan governor 2011-2019
(condensed from a Feb. 10 *Detroit News* column)



UNIONIZED BUILDING TRADES workers have enjoyed years of employment building the Gordie Howe Bridge, buildings in the U.S. Port of Entry, and on sewer, water, freeway and surface street work related to the bridge. If only for the 19 million work hours that were created by building the bridge and back-bridge areas in both Windsor and Detroit (above), President Trump's claim that the U.S. gets nothing from the bridge is blatantly false. It will take many decades of toll collection from bridge traffic for Canada to recoup what it spent on construction, after which it will split the tolls 50/50 with Michigan. Ironically, the Trump-imposed tariff war with Canada has reduced commercial traffic at the border and will likely lengthen the payoff time for Canada. With bridge and related construction almost complete, Trump is apparently seeking to rip up the 2012 agreement with Canada so the U.S. gets a cut of the tolls.

Photo credit: Bridging North America

Good start for building in 2026

(Continued from Page 1)

in total nonfarm employment.

"Strong hiring reflects sustained infrastructure investment, private development activity and long-term confidence in the build environment," said Megan Tanel, president and CEO of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.

The BLS numbers showed that a significant portion of January's growth occurred in non-

residential construction, which added 27,900 jobs for the month. Residential employment remains below year-ago levels.

The monthly Dodge Momentum Index for U.S. construction, issued Feb. 7 showed a 6.3 decline in January. Year-over-year, the Dodge index was up 29 percent compared to January 2025.

Meanwhile, in the bigger picture, the BLS said 133,000

jobs were created throughout the entire U.S. workforce in January. It was a pretty good number – but the revisions to employment numbers in 2025 were a bit of a downer.

Said Economic Policy Institute economist Elise Gould: "With the downward revisions, the labor market added only 181,000 jobs total in 2025, just 15,000 per month on average."

Singing the bankers' blues

One of the most obnoxious sounds in nature is the whine of a Wall Street banker. It's a cross between the tantrum of a peevish brat and the blathering of a sputtering old plutocrat.

Consider the long, pitious whimper of Jamie Dimon, potentate of the powerful JPMorgan Chase banking empire.

He constantly whines about laws to restrict banker greed, even toting around a Rube Goldberg-style cartoon depicting a

tangle of rules that, he squeals, is choking poor Wall Streeters like him.

Before you break into tears about Jamie's plight, though, notice that he and his bank are not choking on rules, but gorging on riches. Dimon himself pocketed – get this – \$770 million in personal pay last year.

Golly, we should all suffer like poor Jamie!

And he's hardly alone in singing the "Talking Banker Blues," for that elite clique has long pouted that they're paupers compared to the billionaires of high tech. So, mounting an odd boardroom "labor action," bankers have been getting drastic payhikes. The CEO of Citigroup,

for example, recently set a new bottom line expectation for top-floor bankers: A 2025 paycheck of more than \$100 million!

How can a business lavish such a windfall on one guy? Easy. The CEO slashed tens of thousands of bank employees from Citi's payroll last year, so he got their pay.

Woody Guthrie once wrote a parody of such predatory behavior, singing "I am a jolly banker, A jolly banker am I."

Today's Wall Street aristocrats are jolly, too, bloating their extravagant wealth by taking wages and livelihoods from thousands of their own employees. As Woody might sing, that's how inequality "happens."

'What does the United States of America get?'

(Continued from Page 1)

both the Canada and the United States side and, of course, built it with virtually no U.S. content. President Barack Hussein Obama stupidly gave them a waiver so they could get around the BUY AMERICAN Act, and not use any American products, including our Steel. Now, the Canadian Government expects me, as President of the United States, to PERMIT them to just "take advantage of America!" What does the United States of America get – Absolutely NOTHING! Ontario won't even put U.S. spirits, beverages, and other alcoholic products, on their shelves, they are absolutely prohibited from doing so and now, on top of everything else, Prime Minister Carney wants to make a deal with China – which will eat Canada alive. We'll just get the leftovers! I don't think so. The first thing China will do is terminate ALL Ice Hockey being played in Canada, and permanently eliminate The Stanley Cup. The Tariffs Canada charges us for our Dairy products have, for many years, been unacceptable, putting our Farmers at great financial risk. I will not allow this bridge to open until the United States is fully compensated for everything we have given them, and also, importantly, Canada treats the United States with the Fairness and Respect that we deserve. We will start negotiations, IMMEDIATELY. With all that we have given them, we should own, perhaps, at least one half of this asset. The revenues generated because of the U.S. Market will be astronomical. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

"In these matters the only certainty is that nothing is certain."
–Pliny the Elder (23 AD - 79 AD)

"The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook."
–William James (1842 - 1910)

"Everything is in a state of flux, including the status quo."
–Robert Byrne

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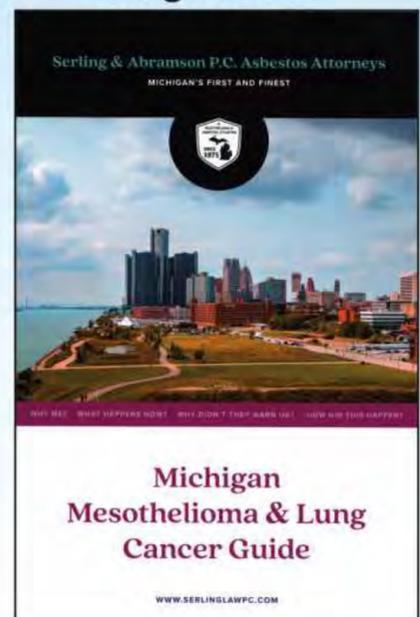
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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Square D HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy

A little bit of Detroit is found on the labels of circuit breaker and electrical panels the world over.

Even electricians may have no idea that the familiar “Square D” logo on old and modern electrical equipment has its roots in the Motor City – the “D” stands for Detroit.

The Square D company is gone as a stand-alone corporate entity, and so is the building that housed its manufacturing on the near east side of Detroit. But the name lives on after 124 years – with Square D electrical equipment still a strong brand and its products still sold at electrical supply houses and your local home center.

“The company is one of America’s best-known brands of electrical distribution and control equipment serving residential, commercial and industrial customers,” said a tribute article by *Control Engineering* magazine in 2002, marking the Square D Co.’s 100th anniversary. “The company is one of America’s best-known brands of electrical distribution and control equipment serving residential, commercial and industrial customers.”

And that hasn’t changed. Since 1991 Square D has been a brand of Paris, France-based Schneider Electric, which is a \$9-billion enterprise that reports it’s committed to “building a new electric world: in more than 130 countries worldwide.”

Square D, the company said, “accounts for the greatest share of \$2.7 billion in annual sales by the company’s North American Division, which provides nearly one-third of Schneider’s global revenues and employs 17,000 people in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.”

The roots of Square D were formed on Dec. 15, 1902, by Detroiters Bryson Horton and James McCarthy. Their company, McBride Manufacturing Co., initially focused on manufacturing cartridge fuses. “They hired two women to assemble an initial order of 1,000 cartridge-type electrical fuses, working in an 18x40-foot rented room,” said a company history by Schneider. The business “fueled rapid growth at McBride Manufacturing during its first decade in Detroit.”

McBride “grew steadily and became one of the major U.S. suppliers of electrical products,” said a 2017 corporate case study by HKT Consultant. “McBride sold some of its products direct to a few large accounts, but most of the product line was sold through a nationwide network of distributors.”

Horton, an 1895 electrical engineering graduate from the University of Michigan, led the business while the company underwent several management changes. He was credited with the invention of the safety switch, which encased high voltage switches and started the company’s main line of business of circuit breakers and enclosed control panels. Their first enclosed safety switch was introduced in 1909.

“During the first decade of business, the company expanded into various other electrical products,” said a write-up by the *IT History Society*. One of their innovations was to produce and sell fuses in cases and fuse switches in boxes.

“In 1908, the company was renamed Detroit Fuse and Manufacturing. Soon after their renaming to Detroit Fuse and Manufacturing, the company adopted their famous logo: a capital letter D for Detroit enclosed in a square. The logo was stamped on all Square D’s switches and products.”

Horton didn’t initially intend to name the company “Square D.” The name grew organi-

cally from electricians and other customers, who assigned the name by themselves having observed the familiar logo stamped on all manner of its products, especially its “safety switch.”

“The simple trademark design soon had customers asking for the ‘Square D’ switch,” the *Control Engineering* article said. “This new switch was so successful that the fuse business was sold in 1917.” That same year, the firm trademarked the Square D logo, and the company was renamed ... drum roll... “Square D Co.”

Horton stayed on and served as Square D’s president until 1928.

The Schneider company history said throughout the 1920s and into the 1930s, Square D grew by acquiring and manufacturing related electrical products, such as porcelain insulating parts and industrial controllers. The firm eventually grew beyond Detroit, and opened operations in Peru, Ind., Milwaukee, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Houston. During the 1940s, Square D counted 10 factories in the U.S. and a workforce of 7,000.

During World War II, Square D devoted more than 90 percent of its manufacturing to the defense industry, making military aviation circuit breakers, aircraft instruments, and high-precision military binoculars. The company also produced electrical, distribution, and control equipment necessary for industrial war manufacturing.

Post-war, the company’s growth was fueled by a new product that replaced the common fuse. “In 1955,” *Control Engineering* said, “the revolutionary Square D circuit breaker found eager markets in commercial, residential and industrial applications, succeeding traditional screw type fuse boxes in most homes and businesses.”

The *International Directory of Company Histories* said the 1955 “QO” Square D circuit breaker “turned out to be one of the most influential developments in the control of electricity.”

The company opened new manufacturing in seven other states and abroad, and its circuit breakers and other products sold well despite a remarkably dull advertising slogan: “Wherever Electricity is Distributed and Controlled.”

The company’s continued national expansion led it to relocate its corporate headquarters in 1960 from Detroit to the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, Ill., and then move again in 1979 to nearby Palatine, Ill.

In 1991, Schneider Electric, a French multinational corporation, acquired Square D, and its products today “are present in all sectors” of the electrical products market.



A CRUSTY SQUARE D electrical switchbox cover, with its logo prominent, likely from the 1950s. Square D pioneered the enclosed safety switch in the early 1900s to protect industrial workers from the hazards of exposed electrical switches. Founded in Detroit, Square D has been one of the electrical products industry’s most recognizable brands for well over a century.



THE SQUARE D PLANT at 6060 Rivard St. in Detroit, circa 1920. It’s not clear when the plant closed as a manufacturer of Square D products, although the company headquarters left Detroit for Illinois in 1960. The abandoned plant was demolished only in the past couple of years in anticipation of the expansion of the I-94 and I-75 freeways. Square D began its operations at the site in 1902, and saw a major expansion in 1915.

Credits: above, Wikipedia Commons; top, Preservation Detroit

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST June 7, 1909

“Jones is Dead!”
He bumped against an exposed electric switch!

THE man with that message is on his way to your office this minute. It may take him months to get there—but if you have dangerous open-knife switches in your factory or home, the bearer of bad news is coming.

The man on the left shows the operation of the Square D Safety Switch. The switch is enclosed in an insulated, drawn-out box. It can be operated safely by a child, fumbled for in the dark, touched with copper wire, bracelets, finger rings, wet hands; bumped accidentally with steel tools, and no one will ever be hurt. It is spring and safe. It is operated by a handle on the outside of the box. It can be locked shut if desired, or locked in the “off” position to prevent careless closing of the switch when repairs are being made on the line or equipment it controls.

Square D Safety Switch

Prevents Unnecessary Death from Electric Shock

It is better to have your contractor or your electrician replace your old-fashioned open-knife switches with Square D switches, or to wait at your desk for the inevitable accident?

It is nearer than you think. New production methods, new machinery, green work-people who do not know these dangers, all are combining to electrify some poor man or woman and the insurance companies know it.

Large industrial firms that employ Safety Engineers have already installed Square D Safety Switches. A few are: American Steel & Wire Co., American Car & Foundry Co., Bethlehem Steel Co., Carnegie Steel Co., Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Goodrich Rubber Co., Hudson Motor Car Co., National Tube Co., Ford Motor Co., Packard Motor Car Co., and Pennsylvania Railroad.

Installed by your electrical dealer or contractor. Get information from him about Square D Safety Switches, or write us direct. Over 300 sizes for homes, office buildings, factories.

SQUARE D COMPANY, Detroit, Mich.
Canadian Works: WALKERVILLE, ONT.
New York Chicago Philadelphia Pittsburgh Boston St. Louis San Francisco Portland, Ore. Toronto, Ont.

THE DEPARTED “JONES” was surely the figment of an advertising writer’s imagination, but when this iconic Square D ad made the rounds of major magazines circa 1919-1921, electrocutions in the workplace were all too common. Detroit-based Square D was a pioneer in the development and manufacture of enclosed electrical safety switches, and the “D” inside the square lives on today.

Image credit: The Saturday Evening Post, June 7, 1919

Playbook for anti-union employers: pile on the indignities, push turnover

(Continued from Page 1)

during my orientation, right after I was lectured on why I should never join a union, I heard that Walmart sponsored a health insurance plan. But management had a cute way of scheduling people just short of the hours they’d need to qualify for coverage. And retirement benefits? Non-existent. Let alone any protection from being an at-will employee.

None of this was ideal, but it was tolerable. For me, at that time in my life. The worst part, though, was the total lack of control I had over this labor that made up such a big part of my life. My schedule shifted wildly without notice. One week I’d work 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. The next week it was 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a few random midday shifts thrown in. Making plans with friends or spending time with family was impossible.

At the deli counter, customers could mistreat you, but you had to swallow it unless you wanted a manager to chew you out. Some customers seemed to enjoy making absurd demands. No, I wanted the turkey to be ground into sawdust, not chipped! Working in such an environment every day really starts to destroy your dignity.

The best aspect of the job was the other people. My co-workers were very nice and hard-working. It’s not like I was scanning the streets of some distant roadside looking for IEDs. But working at Walmart still made something click in my mind.

For a long time, I was really frustrated by what I thought was the cluelessness of people in the corporate world. Did they not know that this isn’t how a business should be run? Did they not see how many people were quitting every week? Their methods made no sense. Why would they structure their company in a way that exposed workers to so many daily indignities?

Then it hit me: daily indignities aren’t a flaw in the system. They are the system. If workers are treated decently, they stick

around. When they stay, they form relationships and begin to invest in their community. They realize they have things in common with the people around them – like being disrespected by management and not being paid their fair share.

When workers see themselves as “we,” they’re more likely to demand better.

That’s terrifying for executives whose priority is protecting their bottom line and bloated compensation packages. Companies like Walmart do everything they can to atomize their workforce – grinding people down, churning them out, and maintaining annual turnover rates around 70 percent. When everyone is temporary, isolated, and exhausted, there is no “we.” It’s just me. And one guy is so much easier to control.

Like many Americans, I grew up with little exposure to organized labor. But over time, I’ve come to see how unions like the Teamsters have been one of the few forces in our economy that push back against the excesses of big business that I experienced firsthand.

It’s easy now to witness every day, in the news media

and online across social media, if we’re willing to pay attention. In the last year, the waste giant Republic Services spent over \$50 million in a failed attempt to break strike lines of hundreds of sanitation workers represented by the Teamsters. The company’s effort was for nothing, in the end, as every single Teamster who was pushed onto the picket line emerged with a strong new contract. It was senseless greed by a corporation well known all across this country.

As employers rake in higher profits than any time in American history – while still offering workers scraps – it’s no mystery why unions are more popular now than they’ve been in decades. History shows that when greed goes unchecked, workers band together.

As companies like Republic Services, Amazon, and Walmart prioritize that bottom line over the health and prosperity of working people, there’s likely no end in sight to our nation’s resurgent support of a labor force that’s fighting back, demanding respect, and getting organized.

(Reprinted from the Teamsters Union’s *Just Cause* sub-stack)

“Where facts are few, experts are many.”

–Donald R. Gannon

“Endeavor to be always patient of the faults and imperfections of others for thou has many faults and imperfections of thine own that require forbearance. If thou are not able to make thyself that which thou wishest, how canst thou expect to mold another in conformity to thy will?”

–Thomas a Kempis (1380 - 1471)

“Success in business requires training and discipline and hard work. But if you’re not frightened by these things, the opportunities are just as great today as they ever were.”

–David Rockefeller (1915 - 2017)

“Quit now, you’ll never make it. If you disregard this advice, you’ll be halfway there.”

–David Zucker (1947 -)

“‘Yes’ is how you get your first job, and your next job, and your spouse, and even your kids. Even if it’s a bit edgy, a bit out of your comfort zone, saying yes means that you will do something new, meet someone new and make a difference.”

–Eric Schmidt

“Biography lends to death a new terror.”

–Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

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Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

UA Local 85 SAGINAW The next Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026**, at the Union Hall at 3535 Bay Rd. at 7 PM.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge located at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The **new website** is up. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information.

Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card No. If you should have difficulties logging in, please call Kristin, (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: Congratulations to our newest Journeymen Dustin Ott and Jacob Persieck!

Work continues to be very busy, please keep a close eye on the website for upcoming classes. We need to continue to be trained and certified for many of these upcoming projects.

If there is a specific class you need, please reach out to Training Coordinator Robert Mead at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8519.

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

RETIREE LUNCHEON: (Continued next column)



Local 111 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 111 UPPER PENINSULA - UNION MEETING: The next Union Meeting will be held in **Marquette on Thursday, February 26th** at 7:30 PM. All members are encouraged to attend.

CONDOLENCES: It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing Howard Lister, Life Member, and we honor the years of dedication and brotherhood he gave to our trade.

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.

NEW MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Beginning December 1, 2025, our Health & Welfare Plan will partner with Ulliance to offer the Life Advisor Member Assistance Program (MAP). This confidential, no-cost benefit is available to members and covered dependents and provides 24/7 support for personal and work-related challenges, including stress, anxiety, depression, relationship concerns, substance abuse, eldercare or childcare referrals, and financial or legal guidance. Services include short-term counseling, coaching, crisis intervention, and community resources. To access services, call 800-448-8326 or www.lifeadvisor.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAFETY TRAINING - LOCAL 111 WEBSITE: Visit lu111.com and click Safety Links to complete your online safety training. Members must complete training for each site; trainings are valid for one year.

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

Local 85, con't

The next retirees' luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026** at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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



Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 357 KALAMAZOO - UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 10th** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS: Qualified applicants must meet the following requirements: Be at least 18 Years Old and Graduated or Graduating in 2026 Be willing to serve an apprenticeship

Have a desire to work in various conditions and weather Be able to pass a drug test Be willing to submit to a background search and have no felony convictions

Be willing to attend some mandatory night classes Qualified applicants must provide the following documents: A copy of your high school diploma (If your Graduation Date is NOT on your High Schools transcripts) or GED equivalent

A copy of your high school transcript of classes and grades A copy of your birth certificate

Absolutely no copies will be made for you! Interested persons may pick up an application by showing a driver's license, beginning **Feb. 2, 2026**, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (closed from Noon to 1:00 pm) at the Union Hall, 11847 Shaver Rd., Schoolcraft, MI 49087. Note that NO EARLY APPLICATIONS are given out.

All applications must be picked up by the person who is applying! NO EXCEPTIONS! Applications along with the three documents from above must be returned to the Schoolcraft location by 4:30 pm on **Feb. 27, 2026**. Only complete applications with all documents will be considered. Absolutely no mailed, faxed, or e-mailed information will be accepted. All applications and documents must be hand delivered by the applicant to the Union Hall.

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

RETIREE MEETING: Lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. 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).



Local 190 ANN ARBOR - UNION MEETING - PLEASE NOTE - SPECIAL CALL MARCH MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST MONDAY 3/2: The Special Called Union Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

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 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this training as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding training.** Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

PAY UNION DUES ONLINE; https://mtp.ua190.org/mtpweb

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

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

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

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Annual physicals need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2026. Please remember to bring in the 2026 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to Bernadette Maus bmaus@ua190.org. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org, go to documents, health care, 2026 annual physical verification form (towards the bottom of the page)

NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE: you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM**

Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Monday's and Wednesday's at Local 190's office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

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

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. Closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. The Training Center will no longer accept cash pay-

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

ments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MIOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines.

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

Available Journeyman classes:

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule - Mondays - April 20, July 20, and Sept. 28, 2026.** Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule - Mondays - Feb. 23, April 27, July 27, and Oct. 5, 2026.** Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

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

Welding Lab: is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The open welding lab will run until **May 22**, closed for the holidays. There is limited space and first come first served. Saturdays will only remain open with member participation. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept 8, 2026.** Courses run on **Tuesdays and Thursday** for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE INCREASE ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **May 5.** The third course starts **Oct 13.** Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

Med Gas Installer and Brazzer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2026 Schedule:** First course starts **March 10.** The second course starts **Sept. 1.** Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. **2026 Schedule:** First course

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

ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs): This is a four-day course. **2026 schedule:** course to be announced later.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be **Winter/Spring 2026.** Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: **March 16, 2026, later course to be announced later.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

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 announced when the class roster is full. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

RETIREE MEETINGS - PLEASE JOIN US: The next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, March 5 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.

Just joking

At a stoplight, the driver of a Yugo rolls down his window and shouts to the driver of a Rolls Royce, "Hey, buddy, nice car! You got a phone in your Rolls?"

"I've got one in my Yugo!"

The driver of Rolls looks over and says simply, "Yes I have a phone."

The driver of the Yugo says, "Cool! Hey, you got a fridge in there too? I've got a fridge in the back seat of my Yugo!"

The Rolls driver, looking annoyed, says, "Yes, I have a refrigerator."

The Yugo driver says, "That's great, man! You got a TV in there, too? You know, I've got one in my back seat!"

The Rolls driver, now very annoyed, responds, "Yes, of course I have a television!"

The Yugo driver of the Yugo says, "Very cool car! Hey, you got a bed in there, too? I got a bed in the back of my Yugo!"

Upset that he did not have a bed, the Rolls sped away straight to a shop where he promptly ordered that a bed be installed in the back of the Rolls. The next morning he picked up his car with the newly installed bed.

He pulled out of the lot and begins searching for the Yugo. After an all-day search, he finds the Yugo parked, with all the windows fogged up from the inside.

The driver of the Rolls got out and knocked on the Yugo's window. No answer. He knocked and knocked, and eventually the owner stuck his soaking wet head out of the Yugo's back window.

"Just to let you now, I now have a bed in the back of my Rolls-Royce!" the driver of the Rolls told him.

The driver of the Yugo looked at him and said, "You got me out of the shower to tell me that?!"

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Steve Claywell Secretary-Treasurer
Greg Herman President

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Local 671

UA Local 671
MONROE – The next union meeting will be held on **March 19, 2026, at 7pm.** The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **March 19, 2026, at 5pm.** If anyone would like to come in front of the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall.

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

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassocationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

Retiree Luncheon: The next retiree luncheon will be Thursday, Feb. 26 at noon at the Union Hall. All luncheons are the last Thursday of the month. I hope to see you there.

Retiree Health Care: Attention to all retirees, please be advised that the self-pay amounts have increased, effective January 1st, 2026. For information on what your new self-pay amount is, please contact Carly at the Union Hall.

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

Congratulations: I would like to congratulate Brother Jacob Merrick and his wife Megan on the birth of their new baby girl Lexi Jeanne on February 2nd. We wish the family health and happiness.

Attention: We are currently taking applications for our apprenticeship at the Union Hall. You can pick up an application from 1pm-4pm Monday through Friday through the month of February. There will be a \$20 application fee, and you must have a current valid ID. If you have any questions on who and when you can apply, feel free to contact the Union Hall.

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

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: On February 5th, we hosted a Building Trades Career Fair at our Union Hall and throughout our campus in all three school buildings. With the help of several different trades and our training department, we were able to bring together students, job seekers and union representatives to showcase the outstanding opportunities available in the skilled trades.

The event highlighted the strength and unity of our Building Trades partners and demonstrated the growing demand for highly trained professionals across our industry. We also had the pleasure of hosting Michigan Works, Conduit to the Trades and the Monroe Community College.

We had over 500 visitors to our campus that night and it could not have happened without the hard work of Justin, Kristina and all the volunteers that were made up of instructors and apprentices. The event was a huge success, and we look forward to hosting again real soon. Thank you to all who supported this event and a special thank you to The Monroe Masters Association for providing food and drinks for all who attended.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavoy: email: kirk@ualocal671.com

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

"When we ask for advice, we are usually looking for an accomplice."

—Marquis de la Grange (1639 - 1692)

"Fight for your opinions, but do not believe that they contain the whole truth, or the only truth."

—Charles A. Dana (1819-1897)



Local 333 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333
LANSING – **March's union meeting** will be held March 18, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.

April's union meeting will be held April 15, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm

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

UA Sec 15: All delegates to the convention shall be elected by secret ballot. Nominations of delegates shall be held by a Local Union at least 25 days prior to the election. At least 10 days prior to the nomination meeting, notice shall be mailed to the last known address of all members in good standing of the Local Union setting forth (1) the date and place of the nomination meeting, and stating that the delegates to a convention will be nominated at the meeting; (2) the notice shall also state the date, time, and place of secret ballot election of delegates to the convention; and (3) The notice should state also that in the event of a tie and a runoff election is necessary, then the date, time, and place of the runoff shall be so stated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winter 2026 classes. Weld Classes begin on Jan. 5, 10 weeks Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm

Weld classes begin on Jackson Jan. 5, 10 weeks. Jackson Training Center. 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201

Monday & Wednesday 4-8pm Tuesday & Thursday 4-8pm

Weld Classes begin Jan. 5, 10 weeks (KCC)RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

The following classes will be held the Lansing Training Center. Please sign up online or call the Training Center if you are interested.

Monday and Thursday 4:30-8pm

Med-Gas Lansing Jan. 7, 7-8 weeks

Monday & Wednesday 4:30-8:30pm

Backflow Lansing Jan. 13, 7-8 Weeks

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-8:30pm

Tube Bending Jan. 19, 4-5 weeks

Monday and Wednesday 5-8pm

Trimble Basic. TBD Sign up online

Advanced Blueprint Class Jan. 13. Sign up online

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

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

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

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of Jan. 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certification. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333.

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: meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10 am at the Alpha Coney Island, 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

We remind everyone that if you have had a life change: address, phone number, marriage, divorce etc. Please contact your regional office with updates or request new beneficiary paperwork. Deepest sympathy to Sandra Mullen on the loss of her husband Lansing member Robert "Moon" Mullen. Bob was a member of Local 85 that transferred to Local 333 in 2005. He retired from Local 333 in 2009. We are so very sorry for your loss, and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Todd Sidnam and his family, his father Battle Creek member Thomas Sidnam passed away Feb. 6, 2026. Tom was initiated into the Local April 22, 1969. He has been a member of the local for 56 years. We're saddened to hear about his passing, and we share in your sorrow.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Mrs. Cheryl Rapson on the loss of her husband Lansing member, Denny Rapson, who passed Feb. 06, 2026. Denny started his plumbing career as an apprentice with Local 388/333 in 1966. Denny was a member of the local for 59 years. We wish you comfort and peace during this difficult time.



Plumbers Local 98

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

We congratulate Brother Luke Garcia, taking on the responsibility of his newly appointed position as Michigan Pipe Trades Organizer for Plumbers Local 98. He will begin the new position the beginning of March 2026. Looking forward to having Brother Garcia with us as we continue to build this Local and wish him the best in his new role.

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

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

The next board meeting is Thursday, March 5 at 4:30pm prior to the regular monthly meeting. The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

Annual Chili Cook Off: 98's Entertainment Committee hosted a chili cook off before our Feb. 12 meeting. A special shout out of thanks to Connor Socrates and the apprentices who helped before and after the meeting. We had nine contestants and three winners. Thank you to all who completed in our 2nd Annual Chili cook off.

The winners are: 1st Place - Hailey Jent, 2nd Place - Evan Wrobel and 3rd Place - John Linardakis Jr. It was a tough decision for our three judges Christine, Donna and Kelly to pick the top three! Great job everyone!

St. Patrick's Day Parade Downtown Detroit, Sunday, March 15. Local 98 will be participating in the 68th Detroit St. Patrick's Parade in Corktown. Please join us in marching down the parade route on Michigan Avenue representing our local. Members, their family and friends are welcome. Parade begins at 1 pm. More information to follow on the meeting spot prior to parade. Hoping to have many members march in solidarity with Local 98!

Adopt-A-Highway: Spring is just around the corner! Our semi-annual Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean Up of I-94 in Macomb County is Saturday, April 11 (inclement weather back up day is Saturday, April 19). We meet at Bob Evans in Roseville at 8am. Please RSVP with Jeff Kavalor so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

Attention 98 Hockey Players: The team will be playing in the Hamilton, Ontario Canada Tournament May 1-3. Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the 98 Hockey Team, please contact FST Dan Nixon. Practice will begin soon.

Annual Summer Picnic will be **Saturday, June 20** at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Boardwalk Picnic Shelter. Watch our website and social media pages for more information.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members, retirees, spouses/domestic partners and dependents through the age of 26. This benefit has no out-of-pocket costs and includes confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters, a discount program for goods and services, and free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326. A Ulliance Representative will lead off our January 8th membership meeting to present and answer any questions.

The Retiree Luncheon

has been postponed until, it is scheduled **Wednesday, March 11.** Please watch the Tradesman article, check the Local 98 website and Facebook page. Any questions, contact retiree Dave Schroeder.

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

In Memoriam: Let us remember our family, friends and brothers and sisters who have recently passed: Brother Ray Banbury, he was a 54-year member and initiated on 4-8-1971; and Brother Clyde Terpening, was a 55-year member and initiated on 4-15-1970.

Expelled Members: We currently have one expelled member as of Feb. 1, 2026: Tyler Jester.

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.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION: Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm
Gary Glaser, Business Manager (313) 580-0148 gglaser98@ualocal98.org
Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 dnixon98@ualocal98.org
Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313)542-2758 rhamilton98@ualocal98.org
Jim Cools, Business Agent (248)762-9221 jcools@ualocal98.org
Paul Smith, Business Agent (313)938-2477 psmith@ualocal98.org
Jeff Kavalor, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalor@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, July 10, 2026. Applications are submitted online only. Go to our website

and read all requirements for the application process. The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the Training Center at 248-585-1435 if you have any questions.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is March 18, 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 May 5, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesday April 22, and Wednesday April 29. **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.

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

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

ASSE Backflow Tester Certification: Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly. \$100

4 hour recert class April 21 & 22 Deadline is March 20

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hydronic Heating and Cooling: \$100

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber: \$100

CAD/BIM: \$100

****2025 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be March 7. *You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.

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

OSHA Training - OSHA 10, 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.



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UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 10, 2026 and is designated as a refreshment meeting.**

Building Trades Instructor Position If you are interested, please contact Ashley in the training department. Interviews for this position will be Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, March 9th 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 on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

CPR March 18th. 4:30pm – 8:30pm.

Mar. Welding March 2nd thru March 25th. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

Backflow March 9th thru April 12th. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm – 8:30pm.

Evacuation/ Recovery March 11th @ 5:00pm

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

A2L (Safe Handling of Mildly Flammable Refrigerants) March 24th thru March 26th.

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, March 10th, 2026 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing: MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years.

Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules.

Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test.

If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

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

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

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

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

Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

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

(Continued next column)



UA Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

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

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.

The Election of delegates for UA Convention will take place on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at the Union Hall. Polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. There will be 3 delegate spots and 3 alternate spots, the top three nominees with the most votes will serve as delegates with the remainder of the top six nominees with the most votes will serve as alternates. In case of two or more candidates for delegates tied for a position in the top six, a runoff will be held that evening with voting members that are still in attendance until a winner is determined.

Eligibility to be Nominated. No member shall be eligible to be nominated for Delegate unless he or she shall be a journeyman member and shall have been a member of the UA and Local 2 in good standing for at least a period of two years immediately prior to the date of election, Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Any journeyman member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of two years immediately prior to March 11, 2026, shall not be eligible to be nominated for the position of Delegate. Under Section 160 © of the UA Constitution, no member who holds a financial interest in any business directly connected with the plumbing and pipe fitting industry may run for or serve as a Delegate.

Note that those who are elected to serve as Delegates must remain in continuous good standing through the Convention in order to serve. If a member elected to serve as a Delegate loses good standing between being elected and Convention, the highest vote-getter from the unsuccessful candidates will serve as an Alternate Delegate in his/her place.

Election Committee: Ralph Thomas, James Voodre, Chairman, Bruce Lukosavich

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

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

Our condolences to the Kellog Family on passing of Brother Philip Kellog, a 56-year member of Local 704. Viewing and Burial for Brother Philip Kellogg. Tuesday Feb. 24, 2026 @ 11AM, Affordable Cremation, 2127 West Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89102.

Burial: Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026 @ 2PM, Palm Cemetery, 6701 North Jones Blvd.

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

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

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

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

Local 370, con't

\$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 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – The **monthly membership meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

The Retiree Breakfast: will be held Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

The 2026-2028 UAMembership Cards are now available in the front office. If you have paid your window dues through January 2026 or beyond and have not yet received your updated UA card, please contact Therese or visit the front office to collect yours.

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

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

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

RUN-OFF ELECTION.

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

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

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

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

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

Organizing Update: *One of the biggest gripes from the non-union sector is insurance. It's getting so expensive to insure families and themselves and when this is coming out of your weekly paycheck...in some cases it's a decision of health coverage or putting food on the table. As represented workers, we collectively bargain for the benefits we have on top of our pay!*

It would make sense to me that because of the substandard wages these workers receive already, wouldn't it be common sense to provide benefits for these workers at no cost? It's just simple GREED! Continue talking to these workers, we have more in common than what separates us! All workers deserve opportunity! "We're all doing the same work, we're just not all getting the same wages, benefits and opportunity!"

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

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

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

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

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

Training News: FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5:00pm-9:00pm. The next classes will be held Thursday, March 12th and Thursday, April 9th, 2026.

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

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, March 10th, and the test to follow Thursday, March 12th at 5pm.

INDUSTRIAL RIGGING: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 23th @ 5:00pm – 9:00pm. The class will run weekly for eight weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays, March 23rd to Wednesday, May 13th @ 5:00pm-9:00pm. Rigging practical exam will be held Saturday, May 16th beginning at 8:00am.

OPEN WELD: Available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month; evenings beginning at 5:00pm. Watch the Facebook 'Local Union 174 Members' group page for any updates.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATION: Local 174 Training Center will be accepting applications for the apprenticeship program for two weeks beginning Friday, Feb. 20, 2026, through Friday, March 6, 2026; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am - 5pm; Wednesday 8am - 7pm. Closed from 12-1pm for lunch. Applicants must apply in person at the Training Center during these dates and times listed. To be considered for entry into the apprenticeship, an applicant must bring with them his or her high school diploma or GED, his or her valid driver's license and complete a basic math assessment and Journey assessment. The assessments will be given at a time to be scheduled after the application process.

Medical Gas Installer: Recertification class is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 2nd @ 5:00pm – 9:00pm. The class will be three evenings: Mon 3/2, Wed 3/4 and Thurs 3/5 @ 5:00pm-9:00pm. Deadline to register for class is Thurs 3/12!

2026 Michigan Pipe Trades Apprentice Contest: The Training Center will be closed April 22, 23 and 24th as the staff will be in Ann Arbor for the Contest. We will be available via email or cell phone during this time.

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.



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

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next Regular Meeting will be held **Tuesday March 17, 2026 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075.**

Results of the Feb. 3 Special Meeting for the Election of UA Delegates for the 41st UA National Convention are as follows in order as they appeared on the ballot:

Malcome Harris 81 votes; elected Mike Ferrante II 56 votes; elected Derek Sheldon 65 votes; elected Dave Fox 90 votes; elected Frank Grammatico 38 votes Mike Pierce 107 votes; elected Ed Hyvonen 59 votes; elected Lou Hadley 45 votes Nick Luczak 38 votes Adam Ridener 69 votes; elected Kim Pigeon 60 votes; elected Tess Schmidt 66 votes; elected Tim Pierce 76 votes; elected Jeff Rimer 70 votes; elected Jeff Selph 79 votes; elected Val Pod 81 votes; elected Melisa Leonard 67 votes; elected Nicky Labute 69 votes; elected Rick Fast 20 votes Doug Barty 70 votes; elected Chad Pauloski 38 votes Peter Dunn 58 votes; elected Bill Helwig 75 votes; elected

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

SAVE THE DATE: The St. Patrick's Day parade is March 15. Contact Business Agent Jeff Lewis if you would like to attend.

Second Annual Scholarship Contest is upon us again. Deadline to apply is April 21, 2026, applications will be accepted starting March 17, 2026. Applications are open to sons, daughters and grandchildren of members of Pipefitters Local 636 in good standing. Applicants must be a high school senior and be accepted to an accredited college, community college or trade school not in direct competition with the Pipefitters Industry Training Center or currently enrolled in such school. Please contact the Union Hall for more details.

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

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

December 1, 2025; David Percy, Lloyd Tanner. **January 1, 2026;** Randolph Chabot, Tommy Eftoff, David Hancock, Earl Shields, Todd Valquette.

Deceased Members – 30 Year Member Edward Nys February 12, 2026; Lifetime Member George Baldrige February 4, 2026; Lifetime Member Richard Charzynski February 1, 2026

Our condolences to Eric Mondro on the passing of his wife Sandra on Feb. 2, 2026. Kenneth and his wife Doris Lindsay on the passing of their son Alan on Jan. 28, 2026.

Get Well Wishes to; Rebecca Blair, Jeffrey Farabaugh, Michael Ferrante, Gregory Firth, Jason Howe, Raymond Kuhowsky Jr, John Lilly, Denver Malenfant, Ian Martin, Daniel Mosey, Dung Phan, Roger Pruitt, James Spurlock, David Stone, Eric Swinburnson, Michael Trybuski and Sean Gale.

DUES – 1st Quarter Dues are due now. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. As a reminder AUTO PAY is available.

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

988 crisis help line. The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention. With the implementation of the Department of Health and Hu-

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

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held March 19, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. The number for the Voice response unit is **877-410-9984.** Plan provider number is 7526. You can login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website, while logged in as a member Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the website 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, (mmd-dyyyy). 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. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 888-646-8920 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork.

Please allow a 60-90-day notice that is necessary to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

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

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

"An unhurried sense of time is itself a form of wealth."

–Bonnie Friedman

"Our problems are man-made, therefore they may be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings."

–John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)

"If it doesn't feel right, don't do it. That's the lesson. That lesson alone, will save you a lot of grief. Even doubt means don't."

–Oprah Winfrey (1954 -)

"The freethinking of one age is the common sense of the next."

–Matthew Arnold (1822 - 1888)

"I once had a sparrow alight upon my shoulder for a moment, while I was hoeing in a village garden, and I felt that I was more distinguished by that circumstance that I should have been by any epaulet I could have worn."

–Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be Friday, March 13, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number:

(804) 441-8365. 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.

DENTAL BENEFIT CHANGE NOTIFICATION: Starting January 1, 2026 all Active and Retired Participants will now have Delta Dental as your Dental Provider. You will be receiving a welcome packet along with your card in the mail shortly if you have not already. Your dental information will no longer be attached to your health insurance card. The card you are being provided will not be necessary when using Delta Dental services, providing your Social Security number/card to a participating provider will be sufficient. Any Annual or lifetime benefits that were already utilized with Blue Dental will be carried over to the new coverage. If you have any further questions please call our Pension/Welfare Trustee Joshua Kroell, (989) 385-2671.

Congratulations to Jacob McCormick and his wife Carsyn on the birth of their daughter Stoney!

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

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked. Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671 Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds 6525 Centurion Drive Lansing, MI 48917-9275 Toll Free: (800) 323-8079 Telephone: (517) 321-7502 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 (Continued next column)



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25

SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

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

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US: It is with sincere condolences that we announce the passing of Andrew Zielinski, son of mechanic member Matthew Zielinski. May he Rest in Peace.

SUB FUND: The March 12, 2026 membership meeting will be open for further discussion regarding the proposed SUB Fund distribution. Please ensure your Election of Choice for SUB Fund Benefits document is received by March 13, 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local 47 cont'd

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."

"We are never deceived; we deceive ourselves."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)

"If your morals make you dreary, depend on it, they are wrong."

—Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)

"We must use time as a tool, not as a crutch."

—John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, March 17, at 7 p.m. There will also be an executive board meeting on the same day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Membership Gold Cards- Congratulations! February 2026

Mario Jimenez-25 Years
Andrew Dupont-30 Years

If you haven't updated your MUST profile, please log in to MUSTsafe.com to update your MUST username and password.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Local's website is: www.opcmiami.org. Please refer to the website for updated information.

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

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

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online, www.mustonline.org.

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

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



CUTTING A KERF edge on a granite panel at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Twp. is Wayne Cesaek of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by Boom Stone.



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2
WARREN – UPCOMING 2026 MEETINGS.

METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 3, at 5:30pm, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee St., Lapeer, MI 48846

HOUGHTON BRETT MEETING: March Meeting is

CANCELLED
LANSING CHAPTER: Wednesday, March 4, at 6 PM, 3321 Remy Dr., Lansing, MI 48906

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, March 12, at 6 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, March 16, at 7 PM, 119 S Front St., Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 24, at 6 PM, 1300 W Thomas St., Bay City, MI 48706

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 3, at 6pm, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130. Be sure to attend. Allocations for the 2026 – 2027 wage increase will be discussed.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Brother Cyril Demeulenaere (Bricklayer) who passed away on 2/11/2026. Brother Demeulenaere had been a member for over 74 years.

2026 BAC LOCAL 2 SCHOLARSHIP. We are proud to announce the 2026 BAC Local 2 Scholarship. This scholarship is open to ALL dependents of good standing members, statewide, from all of the trades. To be eligible, the following guidelines must be followed and information submitted to the BAC Local 2 WARREN office, at 21031 Ryan Rd., Warren MI 48091. Deadline for applicant submission is 12 pm on Friday, March 27, 2026:

Applicant must be a legal dependent of a good standing ACTIVE member who has either:

Worked and received union contributions on or after September 2025 or Retired from actively working on or after January 2025

The member must be current, up to date, with their monthly union dues.

Applicants must be attending an institute of higher education: college or university. High school students are not eligible for this scholarship.

Applicant must be a full-time student, enrolled in 12 or more credits, during the Winter 2026 Semester. A copy of the Class Schedule showing full-time status must be submitted. NOTE: Classes listed on the Official Transcript will not be considered as a class schedule.

A class schedule lists the number of credits, classes, dates, times, instructor and location where the class meets. Student's name, semester and the name of the college/university must be on the schedule. If the applicant is enrolled in a program that is less than 12 credit hours for the Winter 2026 Semester but considered full time due to an internship or clinical hours, a letter from their institution will be required indicating full time student status.

Applicants must submit an Official Transcript, showing their grades from the Fall 2025 Semester. An Official Transcript comes directly from the registrar's office in a sealed envelope.

Please allow ample time for the registrar's office to prepare and mail the official transcript; to be received at BAC Local 2 by March 27, 2026. If your institution participates with the National Student Clearinghouse Transcript service, transcripts may be sent to: colleen@bricklayers.org.

Applicant must submit a typed information sheet which will include: Applicant's name, address, email address and telephone number, college/university attending, course of study, major & minor and anticipated graduation date. They must also supply the members information: full name, I.U. no., relationship to the member, address and telephone no., as well as the members branch of trade.

All information must be submitted by 12pm on Friday, March 27, 2026 to the BAC Local 2 Warren office: 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for this scholarship. We are not responsible for late, missing or lost documents. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all documents are received by 12 pm on Friday, March 27, 2026.

Winners will be selected by the BAC Local 2 Management Committee and announced at the April 2026 Detroit Chapter Meeting.

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 there are resources available on-

line or please contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on the Training Centers please visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

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

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

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

You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#)

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com



IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – IBEW 445 Golf Outing Save the date for the IBEW 445 Golf Outing of July 25, 2026.

Local 445 Officer Nominations. Please plan on attending the May 11, 2026, Union Meeting. At this meeting, nominations for officers will be handled. Please consider putting your name in for Officer Elections! You have a voice in YOUR Local! Watch your mailboxes for additional information.

Wage Allocation Meeting. Please watch your mailboxes for the upcoming date for the Wage Allocation meeting. The meeting will be in May 2026, but the date has not been set.

Local 445 Election of Officers. Please add to your calendar the elections for Local 445 Officers will be on June 8, 2026. Watch your mailboxes for additional information. You will want to attend the June Union Meeting for the results of that day's Officer Elections.

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

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

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

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 through 13, 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution. As of **January 1, 2026**, the following due's structure:

JW's:
 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.

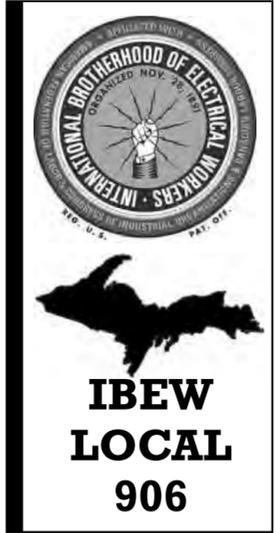
The General Membership Meeting is on the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall.

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.

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

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

"A schedule defends from chaos and whim."
 - Annie Dillard



IBEW Local 906
UPPER PENINSULA – MEETINGS. There will be normal unit meetings in March:
 First Tuesday- 7:00pm 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI EST
 Second Tuesday- 7:00pm 1800 N Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI CST
 Second Wednesday- 7:00pm 1219 1st Avenue S Escanaba, MI EST

For the month of March there will be normal unit meetings.

Work Outlook- 2026 is off to a slow start but will be ramping up come spring time. Upcoming projects include Amazon warehouse in Escanaba, Harden Hall 1st floor remodel in Marquette, VA Hospital in Marquette, Crystal Falls Compressor Station, Tilden Mine Tray Replacement.

We currently have a 1 man call for Code Electric in Marquette. Please call the hall 906-226-7497 if you're interested in this call.

IBEW Local 906 accepts book 2 signing via email. Please email efleury@ibew906@gmail.com for all book 2 signings.

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

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

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

Website/App- 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 are in arrears, you will not be able to pay on the app or website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall. There is a 2026 Negotiations Survey under the Announcements tab on the Website and App, we encourage everybody to submit what they would like to see in these upcoming negotiations.

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

Union Dues- A friendly reminder that dues are \$49.00 per month. Please keep this in mind if you are mailing a check for dues payment. There will be no Dues increase for 2026.

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

New Journeyman- Congratulations to local 906's newest Journeyman, Ben Chaloner!

"Don't be sweet, lest you be eaten up; don't be bitter, lest you be spewed out."
 -Jewish Proverb

"We have been taught to believe that negative equals realistic and positive equals unrealistic."
 - Susan Jeffers

"It is better to wear out than to rust out."
 -Bishop Richard Cumberland

"He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals."
 -Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)



IBEW Local 131
 KALAMAZOO – IBEW Local 131 App and Website Launch: Earlier this month, Local 131 launched its new app, which can be found on Apple Store and Google Play Store by searching "IBEW 131." You can create a log-in on either the web page or the app and it will work for both platforms. The app allows members to bid available jobs, access the contract, by-laws, benefits information, licensing information, Ulliance services, our calendar of events and much more. Please keep in mind that we are working to integrate our systems with the app and website, so please be patient.

DBRF Assessment: In 2025, a new bylaw was approved to increase the Death Benefit Retirement Fund to \$10 per member for each retiree/decedent with 10 years continuous good standing prior to retirement/death. This benefit is to be assessed once per year at the end of the year. This means each member will be assessed \$10 for every Local 131 member who retired or died as an active member after April 25th, 2025. DBRF assessments have begun appearing on monthly assessment. The anticipated assessment will be \$70. This assessment will appear on your next monthly dues payment.

The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on March 2nd @ 6PM.

The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Monday March 16th, 5PM @ the hall

Veteran's Committee Meeting: March 5th @ 5PM, VFW Post 667 in South Haven 1070 S Bailey Ave, South Haven, MI 49090.

The Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 16.

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

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

Upcoming Events: Retiree Quarterly Meetings – March 10th 1PM, @ the hall – meeting to discuss retiree issues Officers & Stewards Contract and Conduct Review - March 10th @ 5PM

Pension Self Direct – March 25th @ 730PM

Spring Member Orientation Breakfast – March 21st (Official) Steward Training – June 11th

Spring Member Orientation Breakfast – March 21st

Solidarity Education Dinner – April 22nd

Governing, Construction, and Mega Projects – April 30th (tentative)

Allocation Meeting – May 4

Local 131 Picnic – August 1st

Local 131 110th Anniversary – TBD (Fall 2026)

Fall Member Orientation Breakfast – October 10th

Work Outlook: Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. Palisades Nuclear Facility is expected to work into spring of 2026, paying \$57.78/hr. *The work situation in and around Local 131 appears to be steady until spring* and local contractors have reported a steady work outlook elsewhere in the jurisdiction. Palisades is expected to begin construction of its new SMRs sometime in 2026.

They are clearing ground, but we don't expect manpower need on new construction until 2027. Palisades recommissioning work continues to require work with PCI Energy and Champion still placing manpower requests. The Solar Farm in Fabius Township is planned to begin in late '27, according to the project manager. We do anticipate it to be an IBEW project, but details need to be hammered out. Liberty Solar Project is expected to need 70 wiremen at peak. It is scheduled to begin in April of this year and run until April of 2027.

Solar Fields, Data Centers, and infrastructure: There are many projects in our area being cancelled or rejected due to local opposition, usually based on

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 498
 TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

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

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

Office Closings – The hall will be closed March 16-19, 2026. If you need anything during this time, please call Dylan O'Dwyer at 231-649-9157

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

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

Scholarship – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship 'Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment' for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to www.gtref.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. Jan 1, 2026 – \$164.10/Quarter.

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

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

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

Local 131, con't

bad information and reactionary politics. To help secure work and build prosperity for our Local and our community, please speak up and participate in local meetings and board hearings.

Retirees' Lunches at the following Locations: Feb. 18 @ 11AM, Lunch at Our Table Family Restaurant, 108 E Allegan St., Otsego

March 18 @ 11AM, McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 W. Main St., Kalamazoo

April 15th @ 11AM, Nob Hill Bar & Grill, 4218 S. Sprinkle Rd., Kalamazoo

Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Rd., Portage, MI @ 10 a.m.

On the last Friday of each month, a group of retirees and others, meet at Jac's Cekola's Pizza, 3112 South Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

Members Three Months in Arrears or More: Jeff Berner, Mathew Pelicano, Justin Prisk, Jacob Rhoda, Bryce Stewart, Jason Streit, Cory Werner-Hoskins, Joseph Zirkelbach.

Jonathan Current Business Manager IBEW Local 131



IBEW 557 SAGINAW – UNION NEWS- The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:00pm. New Member Orientation class is February 24th, at 6:00pm. Retirement Seminar is March 12th at 6:00pm.

35th SENATE SEAT SPECIAL ELECTION – Thanks to all who voted in the special election for our Labor candidate, Chedrick Greene. Chedrick and his team ran a great campaign and are off and running to the General Election in May. In the coming weeks there will be volunteer opportunities for this important election. All help is appreciated.

FINANCIAL PLANNING/RETIREMENT INFORMATION NIGHT – Local 557 believes preparing members for the future and retirement is important. Each year in March the Local hosts a retirement information night. This year's event has been set for **March 12th at 6pm.** Representatives from the Hantz Group will also be in attendance. No matter what stage you are at in life, it never hurts to learn more about the retirement programs offered through the IBEW.

LOCAL 557 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION – Each February, the Local brings in all new members who have joined from the last year for a **mandatory class.** If you have been a member that has come into Local 557 since last February, please arrange your schedule to attend this year's course to be held on **February 24th, at 6pm at the Hall.** All members that may want to participate in the class are welcome as well.

POKER NIGHT RETURNS – Back by popular demand for 2026! The next scheduled Poker night of the year will be **Thursday, March 19th. Start time is 6pm.** Please come out for some friendly games between Brothers.

LOCAL 557 RE-VAMPED WEBSITE & PAYING DUES ONLINE – The feature to pay dues online is now fully active. The credit card fee for using this feature is also less than the normal of providing your card information to the Hall either over the phone or in-person. To pay dues online, you will need to initially set up the new service by entering your card number as the username and the temporary password is your last name and the last 4 digits of your SSN.

Upon completing this, you will then be prompted to change your password to one of your choosing. If you haven't checked this out yet, please do as it is very convenient. Logging into this member portal also allows members to check positions on the Out of Work List.

SAGINAW SPIRIT GAMES – Local 557 has again sponsored the Saginaw Spirit through the Labor-Management Committee. Season tickets will continue to be given away at Union meetings for the remainder of the season. The Local has 2 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 February 22nd, and March 14th. If you picked up some of the tickets for games through the Hall, please make the plans to use them or drop them back off at the Hall for others to use if your plans have changed. The Local also has new Saginaw Spirit themed gear available for purchase the Hall.

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

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

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business

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

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

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

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

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

WEX APP- You will need to download the WEX app for your phone. Search for "MI IBEW Special Fund" in the Google or Apple store. The app allows you to monitor your special fund balance and other great features.

JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. **All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3.** 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. Paying dues through the website is now the easiest option for members. Phone in card purchases are still accepted, but the credit card fee is slightly more than utilizing the website's system.

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

In Solidarity, Evan Allardye, Business Manager

"If you wish in this world to advance, your merits you're bound to enhance; You must stir it and stomp it, and blow your own trumpet, or trust me, you haven't a chance."

- W. S. Gilbert (1836 - 1911)

"It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time."

-Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

"Can I ever know you? Or you know me?"

-Sara Teasdale (1884 - 1933)

BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON Real Estate Training Inc. 901 Tower Drive, Suite 120 Troy, MI 48068 www.middletontraining.com 248-885-8311



IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW Local 58
DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project.

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

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

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line, \$100 Donation per Brick. **NOTE:** No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Look at your Dues Receipt – if your paid through date shows 09-30-2025, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee of \$30.00. If you are paid through 6-30-2025, you have lapsed your membership and will have to see the Executive Board. Dues statements for the 2nd quarter of 2026 will be going out this month. Please call the union hall to make the appointment. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone no.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: The February luncheon is at the Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Rd., Warren 48092, on Wednesday, Feb. 25, doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$25 per person (payable to the Retirees Association), mail your reservations and checks to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees Association, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI, 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885. We appreciate all of you who reserve your space in advance of the luncheons. All retirees are welcome!

All retirees who will be receiving 50, 55, 60, 65 and 70-year pins at our Annual Pin Party on Saturday, April 25 at the local union hall, will be receiving an invitation in March. Mark your calendars now, to save the date. If you aren't receiving a pin, you are still welcome to attend the luncheon, honorees will be our guest, all others will need reservations, the cost is \$25 per person. More details will be found in future columns and newsletters.

Dues expired on 12/31/2025, dues are \$8 per person (spouse is an additional \$8). A renewal form is in the February Newsletter, 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.

Details are set for our annual September Bus Trip to New York City. The trip is happening Thursday, Sept. 10-16. Cost per person, double occupancy is \$1050. Send in your \$75 per person deposit (checks payable to the Retirees Association) to hold your space, send it to 22700 Grove St., St. Clair Shores, 48080. Balance of trip is due July 3, 2026. Questions, call Dave Riley at 586 206-8075. 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. They also distribute the 1099R tax form for the Local 58 Pension.

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

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): will have their next meeting on

Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Thank you to all members, friends and family who attended the Annual Ken Fitheny party on Super Bowl Sunday. It is our biggest fundraiser for the Fund so we can provide member assistance to our local. Big Thanks go out to all the committee members, spouses, Brothers and Sisters who volunteered their time to make this a success. Also, all the Apprentices who volunteered as well. The Grand Prize winner of the 75" TV and stereo recliner was Deb Godfrey. Congrats.

The Joe Pye Benevolence Award winners this year were Norri VanCamp and Carlos Cardona.

The 3rd Annual John Mayernik scholarship is now available. The amount awarded is \$2000 for 2nd year or higher Apprentices. Please contact Mike Bellhorn at 313-963-2130 ext 3042 or Kelly Lynch at 313-963-2130 ext 3023. Deadline is March 15, 2026.

If in the market for any appliances or electronics, please contact Ryan Heinrich at ABC Warehouse. Ryan is very supportive of the Benevolent Fund and Local 58. His number is 734-981-7780.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail).

The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 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, March 16 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available.

The fourth coin in the series for our challenge coin fundraiser 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.

We had an awesome time at the 2026 Annual EWMC Leadership Conference but don't forget to go to the website (www.ibew-ewmc) and fill out the conference survey. Next year it's on to Boston.

Our DPSCD March Reading event will take place on Friday, March 13 (313 Day). All volunteers must register on the DPSCD Volunteer portal to have clearance to participate in the event. If you have any questions, please reach out to Byron Osborn or Felicia Wiseman.

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

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

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

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

Local 58's Women's Committee – The next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087). Email at 58womencommittee@ibewlocal58.org

The Political Action Committee: Political Action Committee: PAC meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm. If you have questions or concerns or would like to attend a

PAC meeting, you can reach out to our registrars at registrar1@ibew58.org.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6 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.

NEWSYSTEMUPGRADE! You will notice several changes including: Account Numbers- Your existing base account number(s) will remain unaffected by our system upgrade. Checks- Your MICR line will change to a 14-digit format (currently 8) You can continue to use your current checks.

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

Who's your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiaries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary. Give us a call and we can check who you have listed. State of Michigan Escheat Law: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

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 for the Local 58 Pension and the IBEW.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Frank Bak Jr., Steven Bedard, Jon Carr, Grady Coleman, Charles Drury, Dwight Evans, Ronald Golemo Jr., Michael Heath, Kevin LaFuente, James Mackey and Hugh O'Donnell.

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

John Ahern Jr., Pension member, 69-year IBEW membership, Former IBEW Local 58 Business Agent, Recording Secretary & President of the Retirees Association; Father to David Ahern, Pension member, 47-year IBEW membership; Nephew to the late Pension member Charles Ahern; Cousin to Pension members Terry Ahern, 55-year IBEW membership and Timothy Ahern, 50 year IBEW membership; 2nd Cousin to Chris Ahern, Technician 1 and James Saley, JIW; **Logan Barnes**, Son of Michael Barnes, Pension member, 23-year IBEW membership; **Denise Dueweke**, Wife of JIW Pension member Russ Dueweke; Mother to JIWS Eric and Craig Dueweke; Mother to Journeyman 636 Pipe Fitter Adam Dueweke; Sister-in Law to JIWS John and Andy Dueweke; Aunt to IBEW Lineman Daniel Dueweke; IBEW Traffic Signal Journeyman Aaron Dueweke; JIW Alex Dueweke and Apprentice Inside Wireman Vinny Boiardi; **Marlene Garrett**, Wife to the late Pension member Thomas Garrett; Mother to Richard "Rick" Garrett, JIW, David Garrett, JIW, the late JIW James "Jim" Garrett and Stephen Garrett, Pension member, 42 year IBEW membership; **Cindy Grobelski**, Spouse of Dave Grobelski, Pension member, 49 year IBEW membership; **Gerald Kates**, Pension member, 44 year IBEW membership; **Stanley Kuk**, Pension member, 61 year IBEW membership; **Marie Mlynarek**, Widow to the late Pension member Anthony Mlynarek; **Margaret Russell**, Spouse of Donald Russell, Pension member, 59 year IBEW membership; **David Stovel**, Pension member, 51 year IBEW membership and **Virginia Wint**, Widow to the late Pension member Leroy Wint; Mother to Todd Wint, Pension member, 48 year IBEW membership. Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters.



Local 665

IBEW Local 665
LANSING – IBEW Local 665 100 Year Anniversary:

IBEW Local 665 will be turning 100 years old in June 2026. Please save the date June 6, 2026 to celebrate with us at the Lansing Center. **Please be looking in your email and on Facebook because invitations will be mailed out at the end of February 2026. Please make sure to RSVP as soon as possible.**

WORK OUTLOOK: Projected to be busy throughout 2026. There are many projects going currently in IBEW Local 665 jurisdiction. The 26-story tower in downtown. LG battery plant is still going strong with more work to come. MSU plans to spend \$2 billion over the next four to five years and a possible 24MW data center downtown. Not to mention all the schoolwork this summer.

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 Journeyman'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@lejatec.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING: The next CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING will be on April 28th, 2026 from 5pm – 7pm at IBEW Local 665 Hall. Please contact LEJATC at 517-483-9688 to sign up for training.

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@lejatec.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program. To apply, go to www.lejatec.org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.

DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on doing any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your 18 MUST mods or OSHA 30 certification and MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test 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. Remember that we have a wage allocation this year and nominations are in May's meeting for Business Manager, E-board, Recording Secretary and Delegates for the IBEW International Convention.

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.

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of 665 local members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal. Bruce Pettinger 12/01/2025, Charlie Fabiano 12/21/2025, Richard Dunlap 12/11/2025, Darold English 11/28/25, Michael Quintieri 11/15/25, Douglas Maki 09/17/25, Randolph Dehate 07/01/25, Glendon "Bill" (Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252
ANN ARBOR – BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED: A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office **AND** at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at **BOTH**.

TRAINING CLASSES 2025: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM

Transformers/Grounding & Bonding- February 9, 16 & 23

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

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

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

BICSI Installer 1- Every Monday starting March 2 and ending June 1

OSHA 30- April 21, 23, 28, 30, May 5, 7, 12 & 14

BICSI Fiber/ Tech- Every Monday beginning June 8 and ending Aug 31

Fire Alarm- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Sept 2 and ending Oct 21.

NICET PREP- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Oct 28 and ending Dec 23 (book purchase required, call the training center for more information)

CPR- March 3 & 10, June 2 & 9, September 1 & 15, December 1 & 8.

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

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

EWMC CHEF'S CHOICE COOK OFF: Join us February 21, 2026 from 4-9 p.m. at the Union Hall. Cook and bring your favorite and best recipe(s). The best savory and sweet dishes will be voted on with a reward for the winners. Please have an ingredient list for allergy purposes. This event will be on the same day as the RENEW Euchre/Cribbage Tournament. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Yohance Jennings (313) 283-3294 or Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

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

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

RETIREES' BREAKFAST: The Retirees' Breakfast will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 9

Local 665, con't

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.

a.m. (new time) at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances at both the front and rear of the restaurant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONDOLANCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of John Betz who passed away on February 11, 2026. John was the son of James Betz.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2025, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash or check. Dues for "A" members are \$143.25 by cash or check, or \$147.55 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Dues for "BA" members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.**

IMPORTANT DATES: February 21, 2026: EWMC Chef's Cook-Off & Cribbage/Euchre Tournament
 March 31, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 1st Quarter Dues

"Minds, like bodies, will often fall into a pimply, ill-conditioned state from mere excess of comfort."
 –Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)

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**IBEW
Local 692**

IBEW Local 692
BAY CITY – **Union Meeting.** The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, March 2, 2026.**

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, March 16th, 2026.**

Message from the Business Manager.

Brothers and Sisters, This weekend (February 21st) is our annual Ice Fishing Tournament put on by our RENEW club. After the fishing on Saturday, there will be a fish fry here at the hall. We hope to see you all there. All are welcome. This is a family event.

St. Patrick's Day Parade. IBEW Local 692 will be participating in the Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 15th at 2PM. An email will be sent out with specific details as the date approaches. Please join us in celebrating this annual event, all members are encouraged to bring their families. Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided.

Work Report. The work report in our jurisdiction has slowed a considerable bit. The Winter Season and extremely cold weather seems to have had a bit of an impact. Calls that may require additional manpower include:

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

AZCO continues work at Consumers Energy's Karn Solar site in Essexville. More calls are expected into early Spring.

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

Countyline Power has secured 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. Contracts for Oddfellows Hall in Midland, a housing development in Downtown Bay City, Bay City Animal Control and Bay County Road Commission have all been signed with work to start soon. Another housing complex in Auburn is also underway. Work also continues at Mersen for Clements along with being awarded a nice project out to Michigan Sugar in Bay City

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

Escon Group is ramping up work within the I-Park and Consumers Energy service centers.

Master Electric continues work at Clare County Road Commission.

Ted's Electric has work in Clare Schools.

Bay Valley Electric is finishing up work at Bay Valley Resort while working at St. Bart's in Kawawlin, looking forward to an Alpena Community College dorm project come Spring.

John's Electric has work through the winter at Clear Lake and Hoeft State Parks. **Swan Electric** has secured a decent upcoming project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and Oscoda's Air Base, as well as many smaller projects and service calls.

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

**In Solidarity, Ryan Charney
Business Manager /
Financial Secretary**

Organizers' Report. New Member Orientation will be (Continued next column)



**IBEW
LOCAL 948**

IBEW Local 948
FLINT – Meetings
Membership Meeting – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be March 9th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings – Retirees will be off the next couple months, next meeting will be April 7th, 2026 at 9:00am.

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

Work Outlook – Our work outlook is steady with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and 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 Martin Morris 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 Gregg Mark & Jack Reed. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

Local 692 cont'd

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

PAL and COMET training sessions will continue, all members are welcome to attend. Dates and times will be shared in future Building Tradesman articles. We are closely following developments of potential large-scale projects within the jurisdiction, specifically data centers. Our Michigan legislature has recently passed two public acts aimed at attracting such developments to the state while protecting the communities who allow them to be constructed. Please contact organizers if you have any questions about data centers or would like to be emailed some information.

Please work safely and let us know if you have any questions regarding organizing or work reports around the state.

**Brendon Baranek
989.327.4131 / Kevin Klapish
252.9225**

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

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

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.



Local 275

IBEW Local 275
MUSKEGON – **Work Outlook:** Work in the jurisdiction remains steady for journeymen with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call the job line if you are seeking work in Local 275. Hart Solar is just starting to have calls regularly, and Freshwater Solar will begin manning up soon. Please consider helping man these calls if you can.

Volunteer Info: With the new year please keep in mind volunteer reward points have reset. We will keep updating any opportunities for volunteer events as we get them.

West Michigan RENEW/EWMC: Meetings will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app. The EWMC have a challenge coin that is for sale at the hall as well! \$20, cash only while supplies last.

Veteran's Committee: Meeting will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm. Please keep an eye on the app for locations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Henri Creed, Damien Keglavit, Ruban Cortez, and Chris Hanson

Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

"If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail."
—Abraham Maslow (1908 - 1970)

"He who confers a favor should at once forget it, if he is not to show a sordid ungenerous spirit. To remind a man of a kindness conferred and to talk of it, is little different from reproach."
—Demosthenes (384 BC - 322 BC)

"Every minute you are thinking of evil, you might have been thinking of good instead. Refuse to pander to a morbid interest in your own misdeeds. Pick yourself up, be sorry, shake yourself, and go on again."
—Evelyn Underhill

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to follow their use."

"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 -

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song."
—Chinese Proverb



Elevator Constructors Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT – **ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED;** Our next regular membership meeting will be **February 23, 2026, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **March 16, 2026, 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, upcoming meetings:

February 23rd following General Membership meeting – Veterans Assistant Program Committee Meeting

March 2nd at 5 pm – Probationary Meeting

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

End of year statements were mailed out last week, you don't have to wait till the end of the quarter to send in your W-2. If you didn't receive it contact the hall.

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

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

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

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** report those jobs to the hall!! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A. **When starting a new job please email the hall @ Local36@iuec36.org with job name, address, names of mechanics and apprentices on job, mechanic's phone numbers, how many teams, type of equipment installing, how many stops and jobsite hours.** This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to 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.

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.

I just want to remind all members that when it comes to jumpers, we follow company safety policies, City and State code. Never use a home-made jumper, never leave a jumper on critical safety devices or leave devices defeated. Not only is this against your company's safety policy, it also violates

ASME A17.1-2016/CSAB44:16 8.6.1.6.1 Making Safety Devices Inoperative or Ineffective, 8.6.1.6.3 Controller and Wiring (c) & (e).

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

Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month **at the Union meeting.** If you can't make the Union meeting (for good reasons) to sign your agreement, then come down to

the hall **NEXT MORNING.** If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, **your personal tools MUST be taken off the job, out of your vehicle and notify the hall.**

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

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

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Virzi family after the passing of Honorary Brother Gerald Virzi. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

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



AT WORK AT THE Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum No. 1 in Clinton Township are Nick LaForest and Noah Angerstein of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by Boom Stone.

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work."
—Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)

"To sit in the shade on a fine day, and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment."
—Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)

"Never esteem anything as of advantage to you that will make you break your word or lose your self-respect."
—Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)

Canceled NIOSH safety research agency restored

(Continued from Page 1)

- Studying the effects of chemical exposures, including wildfire smoke, black lung disease and emerging exposures.
- Performing annual black lung screenings for U.S. miners.
- Participating in the 9/11 World Trade Center Health Program that ensures survivors can qualify for care.

NIOSH carried out these and other critical functions with a budget of only \$362 million – or about \$2 per American worker.

Timeline of NIOSH Cuts and Reversals:

- April 2025: HHS eliminates roughly 850 of NIOSH's 1,000 employees in Washington, D.C. and field offices around the country.
- May 2025: HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. reinstates of the terminated employees after bipartisan pushback from federal and state officials, unions and industry. A federal judge ruled that cuts to NIOSH's Respiratory Health Division must be reversed.

- June 2025: Secretary Kennedy releases a proposed budget that would eliminate 80 percent of NIOSH's funding.

- July-December 2025: Laid off workers remain on administrative leave due to pending lawsuits about the legality of the reduction in force.

- January 2026: Some workers are brought out of administrative leave then notified days later their termination is permanent.

- January 12, 2026: HHS reverses course, revoking all previous layoff notices sent to NIOSH employees.

While it's unclear what led HHS to reverse course now, it's likely that continued union actions like demonstrations and rallies, powerful media stories about the importance of NIOSH's work and bipartisan pressure from members of Congress were factors. Another possibility is that these layoffs were likely to ultimately be found illegal in court, since NIOSH's work is mandated by federal law. Others note that passing the president's proposed budget will involve negotiation with lawmakers in the House and Senate, and that the deep cuts at HHS were very unpopular on both sides of the aisle.

What's Next for NIOSH & Worker Safety?

The April 2025 cuts threw national workplace safety research into disarray, and many experts warn that reinstating NIOSH's workforce won't immediately patch over the harm done to the agency. Some NIOSH staff are unlikely to return after spending nine months with their jobs in limbo. Many have moved on to other jobs, while others have relocated or retired. Major research projects have been interrupted and won't be easily resumed.

"We still have a long road ahead of us. We have a lot of rebuilding to do," said Micah Niemeier-Walsh, a NIOSH employee and vice president of AFGE Local 3840. "It's going to take some time to get projects moving again."

The bulk of NIOSH's workforce has been locked out for the last nine months, freezing progress on critical projects and long-term worker health studies. You cannot simply press pause on the safety of American workers for nine months and expect there not to be consequences. Yet, even if it takes some time, we are all better off with a fully functioning NIOSH than without it.

NIOSH's work strengthens worker safety and economic stability, reducing costly injuries and illnesses while providing industry with science-based guidance they can trust. By investing in prevention, we create a more resilient workforce, lower healthcare and workers' compensation costs and create a level playing field for responsible employers that prioritize safety.

Welcome back, NIOSH. America's workers deserve the programs, expertise and research that only you can provide.



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **March 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm.** at **Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083.** Use the Banquet Entrance. Member meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, February 25, 2026,** at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

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

HEALTHCARE DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY AUDIT: The Health & Welfare Fund has contracted with Part D Advisors, Inc. (PDA) to handle the details of this dependent eligibility audit. PDA will be mailing you a dependent eligibility verification form. You will need to complete and return that form along with legal documents to verify that your dependents meet the Plan's definition of an eligible dependent. The mailing will include a list of the required documents. You also have the option to submit the documents electronically. **YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEPENDENT AUDIT IS MANDATORY.** Please call the Hall if you have not received a notification.

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

ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT ACCESS: You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-388-6466. To create an online profile and a PIN, visit johnhancock.com/myplan and click "register now." Be sure to choose a strong password. Keep your password safe and change it regularly. To establish your PIN by phone, call 833-38-6466 or 888-440-0022 for Spanish.

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

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

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an Employee Assistance Program designed to assist members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic, or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or 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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The 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., February 21, and February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21.

These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS
(Continued next column)



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

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

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

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

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2026 Retiree Meetings: Monday April 20th, June 15th, August 17th, October 19th (annual party) & December 21st. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership-meeting schedule above.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE:

Hayden Clay, Keith Trelfa, Glen Head, Michael Seccombe, Richard T. Donovan, Philip Karl, Kenneth Barrette, Michael Wescott, Kole Hosea, Cody Wescott, Charles Shelton, Michael Jones, Randy Klein, Patrick Karl, Michael R. Young, Vicki Thomas, Joseph Floyd, and Jason Franks.

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

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

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

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

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

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: must be reported by the steward by 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.

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

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

Important: Do not submit your UIA proof directly to the fund office.

For questions, call the hall at **248-557-7575.**

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

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

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

NOTARY: We have a notary public available at the hall at no charge.

SAVE THE DATE:
Detroit St. Patrick's Parade – March 15th
Golf Outing – July 11th
Picnic – August 1st

Local 292 cont'd

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.

"My future starts when I wake up every morning... Every day I find something creative to do with my life."
–Miles Davis (1926 - 1991)

"Never do anything when you are in a temper, for you will do everything wrong."
–Baltasar Gracian

"I always wanted a happy ending... Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity."
–Gilda Radner (1946 - 1989)



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 April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

- *Zone 1 March 12th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 2 March 17th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 3 March 11th at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)
- *Zone 3 June 4th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
- *Zone 4 March 10th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 5 April 4th at 6:00 p.m.

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

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2026. 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.labelscantireport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

ZONE 1 Info. Work in the Zone 1 area has slowed recently but looking to pick up in the spring. 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 Journeyper-sons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

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

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains the same with just a few members on the out of work list. If you become unemployed please be sure to reach out to me and apprentice's also let Tanner know as well. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month and let me know as well if your address or phone number changes. **Work Safe and Thank you, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in our area is slow, when work becomes available in other areas I will let members on the out of work list know. Our next Zone 3 meeting in Freeland is March 11th.

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

Please make sure your dues are current. Next Retiree meeting is April 7th at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Work is steady at the moment with more school work being bid right now. SASMI applications for Zone 3 and 5 have been sent out if you are eligible. We are looking for new apprentices and service people right now, so if anyone has someone interested in the trade, contact me. Please make sure your dues are paid and your address and phone numbers are kept updated.

In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

ZONE 4 Info: Work across Local 7, Zone 4 has been slower than usual, but there are positive signs ahead as we move closer to spring. Activity is expected to pick up in the coming months, and things are shaping up well for a stronger season. Members are reminded to turn in their surveys for the upcoming contract as soon as possible. These surveys play a key role in representing everyone's interests, and full participation helps strengthen our position moving forward.

For anyone interested in upgrade classes or additional training, please contact Kurt at the training center for more information and scheduling details. Stay warm out there, brothers. It's been a long winter, and your hard work and dedication are appreciated. **Thanks, your brother Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info. Work in the UP has hit a little bit of a lull. Now is a good time to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at www.upconstruction.org If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that updated. **Reminder:** Our 2026 union meetings at the hall in Gwinn have been changed to Saturdays at 10:00 am. - **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld.**

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

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

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:
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

"No one can be right all of the time, but it helps to be right most of the time."
–Robert Half

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|---|--|

Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25
NOVI – The February Union Meeting is Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00pm and will be in person only, and all out state Union Halls will be open. This union meeting will be the second Reading of the proposed by-laws.

The third and final Reading will be during March's Special order of business meeting on Monday, March 9, 2026; where we will also be reviewing all wage allocations. Any proposals for wage allocations must be submitted to the Novi Union Hall by 4:00 pm est no later than March 2, 2026. Please drop off the wage allocations proposals at the Novi Union Hall in person or email to Union@ironworkers25.org. Voting for By-Laws and Wage Allocations will take place on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 from 12 noon to 7:00 pm. All Union Halls will be Open for voting.

Nominations for Local Union Election of Officers and Delegates to Conventions will take place in person only at the Novi Union Hall on Monday March 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm. One must have been in continuous good standing for 24 months preceding the date of nomination to be eligible.

There will be no March Union meeting on 3/30.

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

The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday February 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 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 March 4, 2026 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.

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

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

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

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org); to view the 2025 or 2026 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the TradeSchool Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

We take Apprentice applications year-round! Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you

can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues: Pay via our APP or website www.ironworkers25.org. **The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am-3 pm (NO Cash).

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

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

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' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 8:00 am. The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday March 17, 2026 at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

Local 25 Retirees Club 2026 Scholarship available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Retiree must have a *minimum of five years continuous* Local union membership and be a member of the Iron Workers' Local 25 Retiree' Club as of the prior year and must be current on their *annual club dues* to be eligible and apply. Full rules & application please contact John Miller: **Prefer that you TEXT TO: (734) 812-8036.** All requests must be made by Tuesday March 17, 2026. Completed applications due by 5pm EST April 30, 2026.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 9 am, Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, MI 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will April 16, 2026; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw MI 48604 at 12 pm. All are Welcome.

The Downriver Chapter next quarterly Retirees breakfast to be held 9:00 am April 17, 2026 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

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

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. You can also Chat at 988lifeline.org/chat (English & Spanish). Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

In Memory: JIW Mark Grasso #949523 passed away Feb. 1, 2026 at the age of 69. He was a 50-year member and the father of Mark A. Grasso #1356609. He will be missed by all who knew him. Lauri Lynn Washburn passed away Feb. 5, 2026 at the age of 64. She was the beloved wife of Business Agent Douglas Craig Washburn #1110573 and the mother of Hailey Washburn. Lauri will be missed by all who knew her. **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 (Feb. 16, 2026 9:00 AM E.S.T.).



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 Mikulien
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.



Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
WARREN – Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI, 48088 at 5pm. If you are a member in good standing, please feel welcome to attend. Please make it a priority to attend.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-0666; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

(Continued next column)



PDC 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:
Saturday, February 14th - Confined Space -9AM
Wednesday, February 11th - Confined Space Part #1 -5PM
Wednesday, February 18th - Confined Space Part #2 -5PM
Respiratory Protection, March 5th - 5pm
Scaffold Awareness, March 12th - 5pm

Michigan Painters District Council

Rigging/Signaling, March 28th - 9am
OWOSSO FTI APPRENTICESHIP:
Saturday, February 21st - Confined Space -9AM
Thursday, February 12th - Confined Space Part #1 -5PM
Thursday, February 19th - Confined Space Part #2 -5PM
Respiratory Protection March 3rd - 5pm
Scaffold Awareness, March 19th - 5pm
Rigging / Signaling March 14th - 9am
Contact Director Shawn Oneill for more information or to sign up. (517)304-4425 or email dot@iupatdc1m.org
PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP
Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP.
For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to

Google Playstore
Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP
Username: your member id#
Password: painters
With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

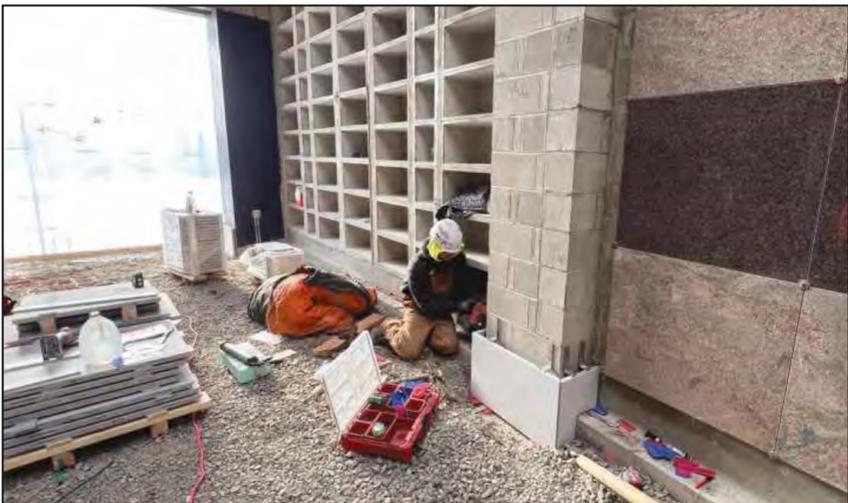
GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888.

New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so.

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



SETTING A CIERA WHITE granite panel at the Resurrection Cemetery mausoleum project in Clinton Township is Chris Oslund of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by Boom Stone. Behind him are cremation niches, suitable for containing urns.

Masons brave elements to make mausoleums

(Continued from Page 1)
portion of the project began in December, and it's expected to wrap up in July. They're working on Mausoleum 1 (of 3), and only a portion of the space is tarped and heated. The rest is open to the elements of a particularly cruel Michigan winter.

"We have a good crew and we're doing well," Reese said. "But it's cold. All the stone you touch is cold. It's not nice on the hands. Even the gravel is frozen at the foundations. But we don't let it stop us until it gets to about zero. There's a point where the silicone stops flowing."

The collection of three mausoleums and the chapel are part of the Our Lady of Hope section at the cemetery. The completed project will yield 4,500 new crypt spaces, with smaller spaces for urns and larger spots for caskets.

The four different types of granite come from a California

quarry, and all the slabs are pre-cut before arriving on site. The panels are either .75 inches or 1.25 inches-wide, mounted on block walls.

"With the pre-cut panels, there's a long lead time before they get here, and the cuts are generally detailed and accurate,"

Reese said. He said with the weather, there is some shrinkage in materials, and the masons have to compensate slightly to make the panels fit properly.

The 300-acre Resurrection Cemetery is one of the state's largest, and several mausoleum are already on site.



THREE MASOLEUM BUILDINGS centered around a chapel are shown under construction last year at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township. Credit: Frank Rewold/ZPD+A architects



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 3, at 6:00p.m. trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with 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.

Painters District Council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting.

Anyone possessing a union membership and who willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under

Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws

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

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

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Local 169
Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next regular membership meeting will take place **March 13, 2026, at 8 pm** at Boilermakers Union Hall. The address is 1755 Fairlane Dr., Allen Park, MI 48101.

Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate of \$55.85 for 2026.
Dinner Dance information: May 16, 2026, at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. The cost for a room is \$279 make sure you use boiler-maker code **BM051526**.

There are a limited number of rooms, so please book soon. If you plan on attending, please send a check or money order in the amount of \$50 to the union hall with the number of attendees for you. We need you to send checks to confirm your attendance as it gives us an accurate number of people eating. We will return your check to you when you arrive. If you use a money order and show up, we can put it towards your monthly dues.

Nominations for delegates for the 35th Consolidated Convention will be held at our regular union meeting March 13, 8:00pm at the Union Hall.

I congratulate the new executive board which was elected at our special meeting on Feb. 2. With the term July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029.

Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Michael Card, President Don Fajardo, Recording Secretary Tony Herrera, Vice President Scott Ivey, Trustees Jamie Ratliff, Jay Howard, Matt Chase & Inspector Joe Covington.

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

Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent, Jim Calouette at (906) 428-2880. Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

Retirees 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, Michigan 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 on Feb. 18 at The Otherside Bar and Grill, 8301 Midland Road, Freeland, Mi. 48623 As always, everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.

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

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$50 XL and smaller 55 for 2XL, 60 for 3XL and 70 for 4XL. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details. The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.com or on our Facebook page.

The cost of your T.W.I.C. card is reimbursable from the M.O.R.E. Fund. Contact the Union Hall for reimbursement.
Any member needing the
(Continued next column)



Local 1191
Laborers Local 1191

(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)
DETROIT – 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 am-4 pm to provide necessary contact information.

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

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

Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7 pm at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change. **The next General Membership Meeting is March 6. The April meeting is on the 3rd of April.**

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208.

The February Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 27. The Retiree Council Meeting for March 2026 is scheduled for March 27.

Union Dues For 2025: Regular monthly dues are **\$35 for Active Members.** Retiree monthly dues will remain the same **\$8.** Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

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

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

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

Referral List: Every member
(Continued next column)

Local 169 cont'd

services of a Notary Public can do so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Please call ahead to ensure availability.

Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.

Apprentice Michael Corpuz passed away on Jan. 19, 2026, after a long battle with cancer, please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.



Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149
DETROIT – Attention. This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is Tues., Mar. 3, 2026, at 7 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is Tues., Mar. 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216.

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 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 2/16/2026, 2:00pm
In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149

Local 1191 cont'd

ber who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. **FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!**

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first five days of the following months: **March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list.**

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.



Friends of Fishing appreciate union support

Cash contributions from Boilermakers Local 169, the Michigan Laborers and Operating Engineers Local 324 made them friends of "Friends of Fishing," a volunteer 501c3 group that works with The Arc of St. Clair County.

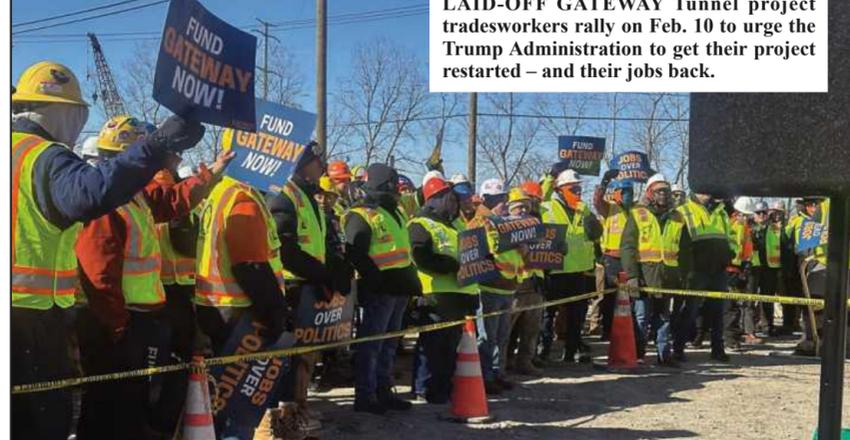
At the request of retired boilermaker Robert MacLeod, the three unions made generous donations to The Friends, which in turn works with The Arc to sponsor the refurbishment of an adopted cabin at Camp Grace Bentley as well as supplies for their clients to enjoy fishing outings.

"I just wanted to get something in the paper that expresses our gratitude to those unions who contributed to the Friends of Fishing," said MacLeod, a retiree from both the Boilermakers and the Laborers unions. "The money is 100 percent directed to helping people with disabilities. It has allowed us to sponsor a cabin, and to pay for fishing supplies."

Friends of Fishing started as a local group of about 25 volunteers who took kids to learn the joys of fishing at a pond in Fort Gratiot, which MacLeod described as a "big body of water with plenty of bluegill." After the pandemic, the group decided to join efforts with The Arc.

The Arc of St. Clair County says it is "committed to supporting and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and advocating for their full inclusion and participation in the community," and one of their missions is supporting Camp Grace Bentley north of Port Huron on the Lake Huron shore. As Michigan's oldest special needs camp, Camp Grace Bentley, the group says, "has been a beacon of joy and acceptance for over 90 years. Here, we foster a nurturing environment where every individual can thrive, explore, and create unforgettable memories for children and adults."

For more information, go to www.campgracebentley.org.



LAID-OFF GATEWAY Tunnel project tradesworkers rally on Feb. 10 to urge the Trump Administration to get their project restarted – and their jobs back.

Trump holds up \$16B tunnel

(Continued from Page 1)

Leader Chuck Shumer (D-N.Y.), who did indeed fight for federal funding the Gateway project, which will replace the deteriorating 116-year-old North River Tunnel – already a leading cause of delays that impact hundreds of thousands of train passengers.

A federal judge in New York on Friday, Feb. 6 quickly issued a temporary order barring the Trump administration from continuing to withhold money for the Gateway Project, but on Monday, Feb. 9, another federal judge allowed the project shutdown to continue through Feb. 12 to allow the Trump Administration to appeal the ruling. Some \$200 million in federal funding was expected to flow to the project on Feb. 16 after a federal court order blocking funding for the project expired, allowing it to restart. But the Trump Administration said it would make further appeals to halt the project.

"Today's shutdown of the Gateway Project is a reckless and profound failure of responsibility by the federal government," said North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey. "Stopping work on this nationally critical \$16 billion mega-project endangers the economic stability of the Northeast Corridor, the livelihoods of thousands of skilled building trades members and their families and directly undermines President Trump's stated goal of modernizing the infrastructure that keeps America competitive, secure, and moving."

Following Trump's admission that the Gateway shutdown was part of a cut to "Democrat programs," his administration issued other reasons for stopping the project, including the project's potential for use of "unconstitutional DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) principles." Another reason given for the pause was to allow the U.S. Department of Transportation time "to review the project's compliance with federal rules regarding disadvantaged business enterprise programs."

The situation got more bizarre when a barrage of media reports said that in January Trump told Shumer that he was prepared to release the funding if Shumer agreed to a deal to rename New York's Penn Station and Virginia's Dulles International Airport after Trump. It fits the mold: Trump has already placed his name on the Kennedy Center, as well as the "Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace." He has also announced a "Trump Class" of

battleships and branded the federal government's drug-related program "TrumpRX."

On Feb. 6, Trump didn't deny the conversation with Shumer, and told reporters aboard Air Force One that it was actually Shumer's idea to rename Penn Station to "Trump Station." Trump said Shumer "suggested that to me," but Shumer immediately dismissed the president's claim and accused him of lying about the details of their conversation. "Absolute lie. He knows it. Everyone knows it. Only one man can restart the project and he can restart it with the snap of his fingers," Schumer wrote on X.

Laborers International Union General President Brent Booker said "by blocking funds that were allocated for the \$16 billion project, the Administration's chaotic and baffling actions have put the livelihoods of LIUNA members at risk. This recklessness threatens to cause significant economic harm to New York and New Jersey and corresponding ripple effects across the nation."

"It is reported that the Administration's price to release funding to resume the project is to name New York's Penn Station and Washington Dulles International Airport after the president. This is a vain demand being leveraged at the expense of our nation's infrastructure and the hard-working building trades members now out of a job. This is not America First – it is Trump First and American workers last."

Late last year, Trump's Interior Department blocked construction of union-built wind projects being erected offshore on the Atlantic seaboard. The department paused the leases, and claimed that the construction of the wind turbines was shut down "due to national security risks identified by the Department of War," said a statement by the Interior Department. The five projects would bring about 5.8 gigawatts of electrical production, and just two of the projects are estimated to cost about \$16 billion. A federal court reinstated the leases last month so the projects could proceed.

Gateway Development Commission CEO Tom Prendergast said, "for more than two years the hard-working men and women building the Hudson Tunnel Project have not missed a day of work. That will change today, because the federal Administration continues to withhold funding for this vital investment in our nation's rail infrastructure. After spending more than \$1 billion, and countless hours of hard work, on this project, we will be left with empty construction sites in New York and New Jersey."

"Once shovels are down, project sites simply can't be abandoned. There is a massive hole in the ground in North Bergen and a 1,600-ton boring machine just sitting there," said Shankar Duraiswamy, deputy solicitor general for the New Jersey Office of Attorney General.

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Outdoors



Michigan's moose not so loose

By Andy Henion
Michigan DNR

Michigan wildlife researchers are preparing to conduct the second phase of a collaborative study that aims to figure out why the Upper Peninsula moose population remains stubbornly stagnant.

This month, researchers from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Northern Michigan University plan to capture up to 43 moose from the animals' core range in the western U.P. and outfit them with GPS tracking collars. In the project's first phase, in early 2025, 20 moose were captured and collared.

The first year of collar data and corresponding drone surveys are providing critical information. Researchers have learned, for example, that 17 of the 20 collared moose are still alive. That eight out of 10 collared females were pregnant and gave birth to 11 calves. And that one moose was killed by a vehicle, two by predators and one by unknown trauma.

Data from the upcoming capture will provide even more insights into why the moose population hasn't reached the 1,000 mark as researchers had hoped when moose were reintroduced to Michigan in the mid-1980s.

The core moose population is estimated at about 300 animals, based on the DNR's biennial aerial survey of the core moose range in Marquette, Baraga and Iron counties in 2025. That's down from an estimated 426 moose in the 2023 survey. It's not clear, however, whether the lower estimate reflects a population decline, a shift in moose distribution away from historically surveyed areas or a combination of both.

"We're attempting to identify the potential factors that are most likely affecting Michigan's moose herd, including disease, nutrition, reproduction, predation, vehicle collisions and habitat alteration," said Tyler Petroelje, northern Michigan wildlife research specialist for the DNR.

"This collaborative research will help us understand the cu-



TWO MOOSE are shown in a wintry scene in Marquette County.

MDNR photo

mulative or compounding effects these factors are having on moose population growth."

Moose predators in the U.P. include wolves and black bears, which primarily target vulnerable calves and weakened adults. Vehicles also pose a risk to the iconic animals; at least 60 moose have been killed in U.P. crashes in the past four years. And moose are susceptible to winter ticks – a single moose can carry up to 100,000 ticks in one season. And while winter ticks do not carry disease, the blood loss, skin irritation and hair loss can be fatal, especially during cold winters.

The research project is funded by the DNR and KBIC, with staff and support from NMU. Only about one percent of project funding comes from the Game and Fish Fund, which is supported by hunting and fishing license sales. The majority of funding comes from federal conservation grants, tribal partnerships and university resources.

KBIC has secured a \$684,112 grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to support the moose capture and research project for two more years. The funding, which comes through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's Distinct

Tribal Program, will support field work in 2027 and 2028 and allow the project team to bring on an additional graduate student, expanding research capacity. Continued funding also enables longer-term monitoring of collared moose, which is critical for improving understanding of survival, reproduction and movement over time.

"We hope this effort will lead to a better understanding of what is or is not impacting the long-term sustainability of the Michigan moose population," said Erin Johnston, wildlife and habitat manager for KBIC's Natural Resources Department.

Johnston, who played a key role in securing the new grant, said the partnership between the tribal community, the state and academia bolsters the effort to study and manage moose in Michigan.

"We may not always approach the situation in the same way or from the same perspective, but that is what strengthens the collaboration – bringing different experiences, knowledge, perspectives and expertise to the table to explore the natural world," she said.

During the capture operation, spotter planes will report moose locations to nearby helicopters and ground crews. Moose will

be sedated, and crews will move in quickly to collect biological information and fit the moose with a tracking collar.

The captures will take place Feb. 13-21 in an approximately 500-square-mile block in the Michigan Highlands.

Project researcher Diana Lafferty is an associate professor of biology and director of the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science Lab at NMU. She noted that the project not only provides useful information on the moose population but also benefits up-and-coming wildlife researchers.

"I'm grateful NMU provides graduate student support (i.e., tuition and fees) as well as faculty support for this exciting collaboration that brings together diverse people who have myriad perspectives and expertise in a shared effort to gain a holistic understanding of the factors limiting moose population growth in the U.P.," Lafferty said.

"I'm really proud to be part of a team that values the coupling of research and education to strengthen our knowledge about the nature world while simultaneously helping to train the next generation of leaders in wildlife conservation and management."

Hunters harvest 153 elk in Michigan in 2025

(From the Michigan DNR)

Michigan elk hunters faced challenging weather and storm-ravaged terrain to harvest 153 elk in 2025.

A record number of applicants – 47,493 – applied for one of just 260 elk licenses that were issued through the state's annual drawing. The elk hunt took place in the northern Lower Peninsula over two periods – one that stretched across late August and September and one in December.

"With more than 47,000 applicants for the 260 elk hunting licenses made available, Michigan elk hunting is a highly prized opportunity," said Brent Rudolph, the deer, elk and moose management specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"Despite their good fortune, the lucky hunters drawn for this year faced a variety of challenges to harvesting an elk," Rudolph said. "Those challenges included high temperatures in the early hunt period, blustery cold and freezing rain in the late hunt period, and continued complications from the historic March 2025 ice storm that left significant areas of downed trees and debris in the woods of northern Michigan."

Managing the herd. The DNR uses hunting as the primary method to sustainably manage Michigan's elk population, which stands at an estimated 1,150 animals. The elk herd is centered in the Pigeon River Country State Forest, primarily in Cheboygan, Montmorency and Otsego counties.

The DNR Wildlife Division has proposed lengthening the elk hunting season for the 2026-2027 hunting cycle. Under the proposal, the two hunting periods would provide 45 total days of harvest time, more than double the current 21 days. The proposal will be presented for decision this spring by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

Perseverance, success. In 2025, the DNR issued 100 elk licenses for the first hunt period (30 licenses for any elk and 70 for antlerless only). The period was split into three sessions: Aug. 26-29, Sept. 12-15 and Sept. 26-29. During this hunt period, hunters harvested 50 elk (26 bulls and



AFTER RECEIVING his first elk hunting license, Bruce Nelson, 87, downed this cow elk on Dec. 13. The Hastings man has entered every elk hunt drawing since 1964. (Photo courtesy of Bruce Nelson)

24 antlerless elk) despite warm temperatures that reduced elk movement. Some hunters chose not to hunt when the temperatures reached the mid-70s due to the challenge of retrieving and processing the elk before the meat spoiled.

In addition, many trees and limbs were still down following the 2025 ice storm, making it difficult to traverse some areas in the woods. Elk were reported as not occupying some reliable past locations, another potential impact of the ice storm.

During the second hunt period, Dec. 13-21, the DNR issued 160 elk licenses (50 for any elk and 110 for antlerless only). Hunters harvested 103 elk (40 bulls and 63 antlerless elk). Opening weekend brought subzero wind chills, while warming temperatures and rain then removed the snow cover, making it difficult to track elk.

Bruce Nelson of Hastings said he had applied for an elk license every year that Michigan has held a drawing. "Have you ever known anyone who's waited 61 years to get an elk?" Nelson said with a laugh. "It was an absolute privilege and a thrill to get my elk after all this time."

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

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PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

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

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