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SHORT CUTS



May Day rally to boost working class

Observance of May Day, or International Workers' Day, will be in special focus this year in Detroit, with a coalition of organizations seeking to promote the interests of the working class.

A 3 p.m. rally and march will take place on Thursday, May 1, at Roosevelt Park, which is the green space in front of the renovated Michigan Central train station, 2231 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48216. May Day supporters include Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 and IBEW Local 58.

"The working class and our allied are under attack," organizers say. "What do we do? Unite and fight back! United in a public show against the right-wing oligarchs and billionaires who have taken over the government to extract more wealth at our expense.... Join us as we build a broad fightback movement of the working class! Let's bring together our unions and social justice advocates, the workers and the poor!"

U.P. trades taking apps for summer camp

MARQUETTE – The Upper Peninsula Construction Council announced April 1 it is seeking applications for the region's 2025 Building Trades Summer Camp.

In partnership with Upper Peninsula Michigan Works, the UPCC's Building Trades Summer Camp gives high school students a six-week introduction to the skilled trades. Participants earn \$13 per hour while gaining hands-on experience in construction activities.

"Skilled trades are in high demand, and these are high-paying, rewarding careers that offer strong job security," UPCC Executive Director Mike Smith said. "This camp is about giving young people the chance to discover those opportunities firsthand."

The program will be held in Gladstone. Students in grades 9 through 12 who live within a 45 minute driving radius from Gladstone are eligible to apply. Up to 30 students will be selected for the program, which will begin July 7 and end August 14. Students can apply via a link at www.upconstruction.org.

Cerulla, Stec are picks in Wyandotte

The Political Action Committee of the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council has endorsed the candidacies of Adriana Villanueva-Cerulla and Kelly Stec for seats on the Wyandotte City Council.

The election will be held Tuesday, May 6, and also on the ballot will be the offices of mayor, others on the city council, city assessor, city clerk, and city treasurer.

Quotable

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."
—Steve Jobs (1955-2011), Apple Inc. co-founder

Trump busts unions for two-thirds of federal workers

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Trump on March 27 issued a new executive order that eliminates union protections for two-thirds of the entire federal government workforce. His primary justification for the mass union-busting is that it is being done in the name of "protecting

'It strips the fundamental right to unionize and collectively bargain from workers across the federal government at more than 30 agencies.'

–AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler

our national security."

The executive order affects some or all workers across a swath of agencies, including the departments of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, Health and Human

Services, State, Justice, Energy, Interior, Treasury, Defense and others. Law enforcement unions were excluded from the order. All told, more than 1 million federal employees are refused collective

bargaining rights by the order. Trump had previously tossed out the federal government's collective bargaining agreement with 45,000 airport security (TSA) screeners.

"Straight out of Project 2025, this executive order is the very

definition of union-busting," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. "It strips the fundamental right to unionize and collectively bargain from workers across the federal government at more than 30 agencies. The workers who make sure our food is safe to eat, care for our veterans, protect us from public health emergencies and much more will no longer have a voice on the job or the ability

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WIRING A PORTION OF THE fire alarm system on the overhead running track at the new Berston Field House gymnasium in Flint is John Kelley of IBEW Local 948. He's employed by Weinstein Electric. E&L Construction is managing the entire project.

Addition, renovation to renew historic field house

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

FLINT – The Berston Field House, a recreational, educational and cultural beacon for the city since 1923, is undergoing a transformational expansion and renovation for a new generation to enjoy.

A \$30 million project managed by E&L Construction includes the construction of a new 57,000-square-foot gymnasium, which has the largest footprint on the site and will triple the size of Berston's existing field house. It will include basketball courts and an elevated track.

The current historic field house, connected to the new gymnasium building, will be completely remodeled to provide dedicated spaces for a boxing gym, art and music rooms, dance studios, a bike room, locker rooms, meeting spaces and a large community room.

There's more going on outside: recently acquired land surrounding Berston will feature all-new outdoor basketball

and pickleball courts, a softball diamond, and football/soccer/lacrosse fields. An amphitheater for outdoor performances and a splashpad (in place of Berston's original pool) will bring more options for activity to the campus. A children's playground and new parking lots are also planned.

"Berston Field House has been a powerhouse of community engagement and athletic achievement for 100 years, and it's important for us to continue to support the renovation and expansion of this city-owned facility to secure Berston's legacy for generations to come," said Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley.

Located on Saginaw Street north of the city's downtown, the "Berston Fieldhouse and Playground" has a Michigan Historic Site Marker. It says the site "has served Flint citizens as an important recreation center since it opened in 1923" on land deeded by the Neil Berston family to the

(Continued on Page 2)



OPENED IN 1923, the Berston Fieldhouse in Flint is undergoing a major expansion, and soon a renovation of its original building.



SETTING UP A LADDER in the boiler room next to a trio of domestic hot water tanks at the Berston Field House in Flint is Anthony Rodgers of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 370. He's employed by Johnson and Wood.

Labor, GOP group fight back with effort to support fed unions

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. – (PAI) Faced with a Donald Trump regime threat to exterminate contracts covering approximately a million union members, the AFL-CIO launched a campaign to push lawmakers to protect those federal workers' unionization rights.

The federation wants people to write, call or email their lawmakers in favor of bipartisan legislation to achieve that goal. It received a boost from an unexpected source: Eight House Republicans, marshalled by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), wrote to Trump demanding he withdraw his executive order obliterating those 30 contracts.

"Collective bargaining in these agencies has traditionally played a positive role by providing a structured channel for communication and addressing employee concerns, which ultimately supports a more productive and stable workforce and thereby promotes national security," the group wrote. There's been no reply from the Republican Trump government either to the federation's call or to Fitzpatrick's missive.

"On March 27, the Trump administration took its most blatantly anti-worker, anti-union action yet: An executive order stripping the right to organize from hundreds of thousands of federal workers at more than 30

(Continued on Page 4)

It took 22 years, but state's jobless workers finally get benefits raise

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – The increase in the U.S. inflation rate between the years 2002 to 2024: 58.3 percent.

Meanwhile, the inflation rate for benefits for unemployed workers in Michigan during that same period: zero.

During those 22 years the maximum weekly jobless benefit rate in Michigan has been stuck at \$362.

Now Michigan's jobless workers will finally see an increase in their state Unemployment Insurance benefits. One of the things Democratic lawmakers did during their majority in the state Legislature from 2022-24 was to raise the maximum jobless benefit amount by \$84 a week. The raise took effect April 2.

"Strong unemployment benefits are a necessity. Some of these system changes are the first in 22 years – they are long overdue, applauded, and welcomed by Michigan's labor movement," said Steve Claywell, president of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. "This package of legislation created much needed improvements to our unemployment insurance system: it increases the maximum weekly benefit from \$362 to \$614 over the next three years, increases the maximum benefit duration from 20 to 26 weeks, makes it easier for workers who have experienced multiple hardships to claim benefits, modifies qualifications and disqualifica-

tions to receive benefits, and makes records of the Unemployment Insurance Agency subject to the Freedom of Information Act."

Notably, and crucially, Dem lawmakers tied annual future increases in the state's Unemployment Insurance rate to the federal inflation rate.

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'Tower on Grand' Ground broken on Lansing's tallest building

LANSING – Ground was broken April 7 on the "Tower on Grand," which will rise 320 feet and will be the city's tallest upon completion.

Civic and business leaders held the ceremonial groundbreaking on the site along Grand Avenue. The tower, a project of the development team New Vision Lansing, will contain 28 stories of residential and street-level retail, market, and office space. It's the largest project in downtown Lansing in the past three decades.

Christman Construction is managing the project, which is expected to take more than two years to build. Leasing is expected to take place in early 2028. The building is expected to house more than 1,000 people downtown in 300 units.

"I am incredibly excited to officially get this project underway," said Lansing Mayor Andy

(Continued on Page 2)

U.P. council honors top union apprentices

HARRIS – The Upper Peninsula Construction Council held its annual Apprentice of the Year banquet at the Island Resort and Casino on March 8 to recognize outstanding apprentices in the construction industry.

Fred Magdaleno of Carpenters Local 1510 was named Apprentice of the Year from a field of 18 apprentices nominated for the title. Eric Soderman of UA Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 111 and Samuel Burgess of IBEW Local 906 were named finalists. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize, and finalists receive \$500.

About 270 people attended the event, where Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson, who has announced his intention to run for governor, was the guest speaker.

"The Apprentice of the Year banquet celebrates the next generation of skilled trades professionals who are shaping the future of our industry," said UPCC Executive Director Mike Smith. "These apprentices have demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and craftsmanship, and we are proud to recognize their hard work. Congratulations to Fred Magdaleno, our 2024 Apprentice of the Year, and to the finalists Eric Soderman and Samuel Burgess, and all the nominees who represent the very best of the trades."

Sponsors of the event included: B&B Electrical Contractors, Billerud, Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 2, CR Meyer, Enbridge, IBEW Local 906, JP Electric

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ATTENDING THE apprenticeship banquet are (l-r) State Rep. Dave Prestin (R-108th District), Eric Soderman, finalist, UA Local 111; Apprentice of the Year Fred Magdaleno, Carpenters Local 1510; Sam Burgess, finalist IBEW Local 906, and state Sen. Ed McBroom (R-38th District).

Viewpoints



Trump: king, union-buster

There's no question that the events of the past month have seen some federal employees engage in activities that compromised national security. National Security Adviser Michael Waltz and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's discussion of an impending attack against Houthi forces in Yemen, shared in a private chat outside official secured channels that for some bizarre reason included a journalist Waltz invited, doubtless confirmed the perceptions of America's enemies and friends that President Trump's national-security team is composed of dullards and doofuses who couldn't defend America's interests if their lives, and ours, depended on it — which, of course, they do.

On March 27, Trump did Waltz one better by saying he was moved to shore up national security by stripping collective-bargaining rights from perhaps 1 million federal employees, none of whom had anything to do with a security breach, much less one so appalling as Hegseth and Waltz's.

Elections have consequences, of course, and as a result of the most recent one, we've gone from the most pro-union presidential administration in American history to the most anti-union one — at a time when unions' approval rating of 71 percent dwarfs that of either party and of Donald Trump and Elon Musk as well.

No American employer, public or private, has ever trashed so many duly agreed-to contracts as Trump just did, or destroyed the collective-bargaining rights of so many American workers.

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 codified in law much of the executive order first promulgated by President Kennedy in 1962, which gave federal employees collective-bargaining rights, though not including the right to strike or the right to bargain for wages, which were to be set by Congress. The 1978 law reinforced those rights and those exclusions, and gave presidents the power to exempt workers in national-security agencies from its provisions.

Until March 27, those agencies were the CIA, the FBI, and kindred organizations — not the Food and Drug Administration, the Agriculture Department's food safety inspectors, or the doctors, nurses, and orderlies in Veterans Health Administration hospitals, all of whom abruptly lost their right to bargain over working conditions and grievances due to Trump's executive orders.

According to a story in Government Executive, Trump's executive order applies to departments and agencies that employ 67 percent of federal employees and to 75 percent of unionized federal workers. Roughly one-third of federal workers are veterans. The number of workers covered under Trump's order is so large that it would probably reduce the number of unionized American workers, both public- and private-sector, by somewhere between 5 and 10 percent.

No mystery attends Trump's reason for seeking to cripple and perhaps even abolish federal unions. The fact sheet that the White House released to enumerate the agencies affected and to justify its order briefly said the president had issued the order to protect national security, but also complained, with more specificity, that: "Certain Federal unions have declared war on President Trump's agenda." The largest federal union describes itself as "fighting back" against Trump. It is widely filing grievances to block Trump policies. For example, VA's unions have filed 70 national and local grievances over President Trump's policies since the inauguration — an average of more than one a day.

In other words, this is explicit political retaliation. (By the way, the reason that workers at the VA have pushed back may have something to do with Trump and Musk's orders to reduce staffing and hence services to veterans in need of the health care services the VA provides, and also with the explicit commitment the government makes to veterans to offer them federal employment when their term of duty in the armed services ends.)

The reference to the "largest federal union" that is fighting back against the Trump/Musk campaign to slash government services is to the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), which has filed many of the suits questioning the legality of Trump's wholesale dismissals and abolition of agencies established by acts of Congress. On March 28, AFGE President Everett Kelley announced the filing of another such suit contesting Trump's move to strip collective-bargaining rights from workers on the basis of his national-security claims. Kelly noted that federal workers have enjoyed these rights throughout the Cold War and every hot war the U.S. has engaged in since 1962, without any president (or anyone else) arguing these rights had in any way endangered national security.

Trump's executive order is groundbreaking, but at the same time just one part of his broader campaign to destroy the federal government — or more precisely, to replace it with a Versailles-like court in service of a monarch (him) whose word, rather than the Constitution, is law. It came in the same week that the leaders of virtually every governmental agency vowed to slash their workforce by somewhere between 8 and 50 percent. And it was heralded by Trump's Department of Transportation unilaterally repudiating the contract the department had signed just last year (when Joe Biden was president) with its unionized TSA security screeners, which was to have been in place until 2031.

On March 28, eight of the agencies affected by Trump's order filed a case in a federal court in Waco, Texas — which has only one judge, a decided Trump acolyte — to negate their current contracts with their employees' unions. None of these agencies are headquartered in Waco; this is simply an example of the court-shopping. When AFGE's attorneys appear in the court in which they've filed, they're certain to argue that the vast majority of the agencies covered by Trump's latest order cannot reasonably be construed as focusing on national security.

Whether unions will do more than going to court — and campaigning for Democrats in 2026 — is not at all clear. Striking the federal government would give Trump a clear legal right to fire the strikers, the same excuse Reagan used in 1981 against PATCO, the air traffic controllers union. That doesn't preclude taking to the streets during workers' time off, and I suspect that unions will now urge their members and their members' friends to help swell upcoming anti-Trump & Musk demonstrations.

Harold Meyerson
The American Prospect

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.

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To the Editor,

Who will fight for us? Interesting question. Definitely not this publication. Everything in the Viewpoints is exactly what the National Socialists have said and used to almost bankrupt this country. The public doesn't care about the truth. Tell them something simple, that seems to solve their problems. Don't worry about the facts, just say it over and over again and after a while they will start to believe it.

This is the Biden/Harris/Obama doctrine. Paying protestors for endorsements are the norm. The Pelosis, Schumers, and Sanders can pad their pockets with taxpayer money no more.

Remember, "we the people" spoke loud and clear last November. Our great state was among those who wanted a change from

the usual tax and spend format the National Socialists used for years.

President Trump was duly elected and he chose Mr. Musk to assist him in cleaning the swamp and finding out where our tax dollars are going. Maybe after he fixes the country he could have Mr. Musk take a look at Michigan's books. How many times must we be taxed to "fix the damn roads"? Maybe we change that ourselves in 2026.

Where are the new ideas? The National Socialists attack the president and his agenda, but do not offer any alternatives. The ones with the most to lose are the ones screaming the loudest.

I believe we will finally get the truth on the corruption and cover-ups from the last administration. We must know what

Addition, renovation for Flint field house

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City of Flint. "The field house contained an auditorium a gymnasium, a swimming pool, community meeting rooms and a branch of the public library. During the 1930s Berston became the first community center in Flint to admit African-Americans living in the surrounding neighborhood. Berston Field House and Playground remains a significant part of the neighborhood."

E&L Construction Group Project Supt. Mike Basnec said last month that about 30 tradespeople were on site, performing a variety of finishing tasks at the new gymnasium building. "The trades have been very good. We have strived to keep the project on schedule; we've had a few setbacks but we've done very well," he said.

The next phase of the project will take about 18 months, renovating the existing 35,000-square-foot, 102-year-old field house into new space that will primarily be used as a community center and for the cultural arts. The building has seen better days, but it's still in active use and is structurally in good condition.

Berston's most famous affiliate is Claressa Shields, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and the only boxer in history, female or male, to hold all four major world titles in boxing — WBA, WBC, IBF and WBO, in three weight classes. Shields, 30, trained during her youth in Berston's ring.

"I just remember, like, it giving me just so much hope, you know? Just for, like, the Flint community, and it just showed me that somebody do care about us," Shields said to *Flint Beat* about Berston. "We're going to create more champions, create more, just, great people, you know, and I was a part of that."

Beware the billionaires at work, down on the farm

By Jim Hightower

America's family farmers were astonished recently to get a jolly tweet from the President of the United States: "Have fun!" exclaimed The Donald.

Fun? The farm economy is in the ditch, with crop prices at depression levels and bankruptcies surging. Plus, Trump Inc. is now rigging the

law to give agribusiness monopolies more power to run roughshod over farmers and rural communities.

Well, yes, say the billionaire "geniuses" and partisan hacks who've seized control of farm and food policies, but our phantasmagoric laissez-faireland ideology will open up new agricultural markets here at home, so see? Fun!

Those ideologues, however, can't make chicken salad out of chicken manure, and that's what their promises are. While Brooke Rollins, Trump's corporatized ag secretary, babbles about "new" markets — she actually shut down a nationwide market last month that provided a billion dollars a year to family farmers who produce for local schools, food pantries, etc.

In reality, Rollins' goal is an industrialized, globalized food economy, so she coldly dismissed these local sales as "nonessential." Of course, that says to all of the people involved that her government considers them nonessential.

Combining arrogance with ignorance, Trump's aloof plu-

happened to the billions of tax dollars unaccounted for.

The sad part is that the president and Mr. Musk are "rich." They don't need the money. So you have to ask yourselves, why are they doing this? Maybe they want the United States to be whole again; one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

Unfortunately, nothing the president does will satisfy the National Socialists, who, with the help of the media mob, will try to rain on our best chance at greatness again.

In the words of the late, great George Carlin: "everyone appreciates your honesty, until you're honest with them, then you're an a**hole."

God bless America!

Scott Rydman
Coleman, Mich.



SETTING METAL PANELS on the new Berston Field House in Flint are Hunter Kuehn and Brandon Bancamp of Sheet Metal Workers Local 80. They're employed by Cass Sheet Metal.

Ground broken on Lansing's tallest building

(Continued from Page 1)

Schor. "We will see hundreds of new residents downtown and a new tower that will change our skyline, showing that the progress we are making to grow Lansing is working."

Construction of the 335,000-square-foot building is being undertaken by New Vision Lansing, a development team that includes Lansing-based Gentilozzi Real Estate and Bloomfield Hills-based JFK Investments.

"Today we break ground not just on a building, but on a new era for downtown Lansing," said John Gentilozzi, vice president, Gentilozzi Real Estate. "Tower on Grand is the beginning of a new wave of investment, opportunity, and growth. Featuring an energy-efficient glass skin, the building not only leads its class in amenities but modern building technology as well."

The tower will be erected on a lot where West Washtenaw Street dead-ends into Grand Avenue. It will include an attached parking garage and about

one acre of outside space. It will also include a 20,000-square-foot outdoor amenity deck, golf and race car simulators, a fitness center, yoga studio, cold plunge, a penthouse-level sky lounge with private dining and meeting spaces.

The project is part of \$315 million in spending by the development team, which including the repurposing of the Capitol Tower on Walnut Street into residential and mixed-use office space, and work on the Ingham Building on Ottawa Street. A new 90-unit building will also be erected in the city's Old Town.

Since it was com-

pleted in 1931, the 23-story, Art Deco Boji Tower has been the city's tallest, at 297 feet.

A RENDERING of Tower on Grand.



Just joking

A postal worker had the job of sorting mail with illegible addresses. One day, he came across a letter with shaky handwriting addressed simply to "God" — it had no address to send it to, but it had a return address. Curious, he opened it.

Inside, he found a heartfelt message: "Dear God, I live on a small pension, and yesterday, someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it—the only money I had until my next check. This Sunday is Easter, and I had planned to make dinner for two dear friends. Now, I have nothing to buy food with. I have no family to turn to... you are my only hope. Please help me. Sincerely, Edna."

The postal worker was touched. He read the letter to his colleagues, and they all pitched in and collected \$80. They placed it in an envelope and anonymously mailed it to Edna. The crew felt pretty good about what they did.

Easter came and went, and a few days later, another letter from Edna arrived — again addressed to "God." The same worker opened the letter and read it aloud to his colleagues.

The letter read: "Dear God, How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your generosity, I was able to prepare a wonderful Easter dinner for my friends. We had an amazing day, and I told them all about your kindness and the miracle you sent.

"By the way... there was \$20 missing. I think those bastards at the Post Office must have taken it!"

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BUILDING MICHIGAN!

Michigan's oldest lighthouse HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE FORT GRATIOT LIGHTHOUSE in Port Huron has been the mariners' friend since 1829. "I have seen many storms on the Great Lakes but never in my life as a sailor have I witnessed such a one as Sunday," said Capt. Thomas W. Carney of the steamer *H.W. Smith* to a reporter from the *Port Huron Times Herald* on Nov. 10, 1913. "We left Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Light at 1 a.m. Sunday morning bound from Buffalo to Milwaukee with a load of coal. Not until Saginaw Bay was reached at noon Sunday did the vessel encounter the severe storm. At the time the waves were as high as mountains, and breaking over the entire length of the boat. Finally the wind blew at such a terrific velocity and the sea became so heavy that the steamer became unmanageable. For a time the big boat wallowed helplessly in the trough of the sea and the waves tossed her about like a shell. After working desperately for an hour or more, the crew and I got the boat under control and turned down the lake. With the waves dashing so furiously, the *Smith* made slow progress toward the Fort Gratiot Light. Clothing, provisions and furnishings were swept overboard and the crew was doubtful of ever again reaching port. But luck was with us." (Account via *Walter Reuther Library, Wayne State University*).

Photo credit: Library of Congress/Carol Highsmith

Michigan has more lighthouses than any state in the nation thanks to our proximity to the Great Lakes. And perhaps the builders of Michigan's 129 lighthouses learned a few lessons from the lousy construction of the state's first beacon: the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse in Port Huron.

Completed in 1825, it was only up for three years. "Along with the poor design and construction, the original tower was built in a bad location," says the Library of Congress. "During a severe storm in (September) 1828, it collapsed into the river."

The first Fort Gratiot Lighthouse was located where the first Blue Water Bridge stands today as it crosses the St. Clair River. The well-constructed second lighthouse, located about a half mile south

of the first, since 1829 has stood watch to guide Lake Huron shipping at the mouth of the St. Clair River.

"The new location made it easier for ships to spot as they entered the rapids at the head of the St. Clair River," says the Library of Congress. "Originally 65 feet high, the white painted brick tower was extended to its present height of 82 feet in the early 1860s."

"The Fort Gratiot Light was named for a nearby military (Army) outpost, at the time one of the few European settlements north of Detroit," said the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University.

The fort, says *Michigan History*, was constructed in 1814 "as an outpost to guard the juncture of the St. Clair River and Lake Huron. The

fort took the name of the engineer supervising its construction, Charles Gratiot. Soldiers occupied Fort Gratiot until 1822 and then abandoned the fort." (The Army returned in 1828, and rebuilt the fort in a somewhat smaller size than the original, and stayed on site until 1879).

The low bidder for construction of the failed first light at Fort Gratiot was Captain Winslow Lewis of Massachusetts. The inventor of the "Lewis lamp," an early source of oil-fueled lighthouse illumination, Lewis had unfortunately branched out into the business of lighthouse construction. In 1823 he subcontracted work on the 32-foot-tall tower to Daniel Warren of Rochester, N.Y. Congress appropriated \$3,500 for construction, then tossed in an additional \$5,000 for the



A 1902 POSTCARD view of the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse in Port Huron. It is the second-oldest light on the Great Lakes.

project's completion after there were cost overruns.

During the summer of 1828, Keeper George McDougall reported that the lighthouse had cracks in its walls and was leaning to the east. He also complained about its tight quarters and the difficulty he had maneuvering inside. After it collapsed in September 1928, Congress acted with unusual speed to award money to replace the light. In early 1829, Congress appropriated funds to build the second Fort Gratiot lighthouse. Then in April of that year, Lucius Lyon - a surveyor, statesman, and later U.S. senator from Michigan - was awarded the contract for construction of the new lighthouse.

Lyon hired builder Truman Beecher to construct the tower, and he did a much better job than his predecessor. Plans called for the tower to be constructed of stone and brick, 25 feet wide and five feet thick at the base. It would taper to 12 feet wide and two feet thick at the top, which contained an octagonal iron lantern. The contracted price was \$4,445, with an extra \$55 budgeted for adding an old Argon lamp in the new tower.

A French-made Fresnel lamp lens, with intricately cut glass that narrowed light into a beam that could be seen for miles, wasn't available at Fort Gratiot until a fourth-order lens arrived in January 1857. That lens produced an oil-fueled fixed white light, and replaced eight lamps and 15-inch reflectors that had been used in the tower for several years.

"As the traffic on the Great Lakes increased in the 1850s

and 60s, so did the need for improved navigational aids," says *Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light*. "New towers around the Great Lakes were being built at an average height of 80 to 100 feet tall to improve visibility. In 1862, the tower was raised to 82 feet to accommodate the Fresnel lens's superior range. That new addition can still be visibly seen today." Today's lamp has a visibility of about 21 miles.

The Fort Gratiot light, now nearly 200 years old, continues to be a navigation aid. Completely exposed, it has needed significant upkeep over the years. "From 1875 to 1882, the Lighthouse Board noted in its annual report that Fort Gratiot Lighthouse was old, leaky, and should be replaced," said *Light-house Friends*. "Fortunately, the request for \$25,000 for a new lighthouse was not granted," and repairs were made.

From the 1860s to the 1930s the site's property expanded with the addition of the Keeper's Duplex (1874), the Fog Signal Building (1900), the Single Keeper's Dwelling (1932), the Coast Guard Station (1932) and the Equipment Building (1938).

"The 86-foot light stands above the lake level in a conical stone tower, overlaid with red brick that has been painted white," says *Pure Michigan*. "The keeper's cottage and fog whistle house are red." And today, *Pure Michigan* points out, "tower climbs and tours are available during business hours, weather permitting."

The Fort Gratiot Light is the oldest in Michigan and the second oldest on the Great

Lakes. The oldest is the Marblehead Light on Lake Erie (1822), north of Sandusky, Ohio.

"When most of the Great Lakes lights were automated in the 1930s, the need for light keepers faded into the sunset," said *Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light*. "A single dwelling for the keepers was added to the station in 1932 at a cost of \$5,738. An electric oscillator fog signal replaced the steam whistle in 1934, the same year the tower's light was changed to green. In 1941, fog signal operation at the station was changed so that the fog signal only sounded when the upper St. Clair River was foggy. Mariners could also radio Port Huron Coast Guard Station to obtain fog reports for the river.

"The Coast Guard maintained the Fort Gratiot Light Station from the 1930s until they moved next door into the new Coast Guard Station in Port Huron that was built in 2004. The Fort Gratiot Light Station was transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard to St. Clair County Parks and Recreation in 2010."

The Friends said the transfer agreement with the federal government required St. Clair County Parks to oversee the restoration of the site, following federal guidelines. Restoration of the tower began in the fall of 2011 and was completed in the spring of 2012, with tours reopening. The restoration of the tower was made possible by a Save America's Treasures grant and a match from the city of Port Huron.

Renovations and restoration at the site are ongoing.

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Trump busts unions for 2/3 of federal workers

(Continued from Page 1)

to organize with their coworkers for better conditions at work so they can efficiently provide the services the public relies upon.

"It's clear that this order is punishment for unions who are leading the fight against the administration's illegal actions in court – and a blatant attempt to silence us."

Indeed, Trump's justification for his executive order reads like it was taken a union-buster's – and dictator's – operating manual.

The order itself says that:

- Collective bargaining "enables hostile federal unions to obstruct agency management. This is dangerous in agencies with national security responsibilities."

- "President Trump is taking action to ensure that agencies vital to national security can execute their missions without delay and protect the American people. The president needs a responsive and accountable civil service to protect our national security."

- "Certain federal unions have declared war on President Trump's agenda. The largest federal union describes itself as 'fighting back' against Trump. It is widely filing grievances to block Trump policies."

If Trump thought he wouldn't get pushback in the courts from federal unions whose ranks he and Elon Musk are decimating with mass firings, he is delusional.

In response, the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents more than 800,000 federal workers, vowed to fight this executive order in court, as the union has similarly asked judges to restore jobs cut by Musk's Department of Government Efficiency.

"President Trump's latest executive order is a disgraceful and retaliatory attack on the rights of hundreds of thousands of patriotic American civil servants – nearly one-third of whom are veterans – simply because they are members of a union that stands up to his harmful policies," said AFGCE National President Everett Kelley. "AFGE is preparing immediate legal action and will fight relentlessly to protect our rights, our members, and all working Americans from these unprecedented attacks."

Trump's executive order appalled union leaders, who saw parallels to the negative, seismic effect that President Reagan's 1981 firing of striking air traffic controllers had on the American labor movement.

"President Trump's attempt to unlawfully eliminate the right to collectively bargain for hundreds of thousands of federal workers is blatant retribution," said AFSCME President Lee Saunders. "Federal workers – including thousands of AFSCME members – are the lifeblood of their communities. They protect our clean drinking water and food supply, care for veterans, support American farmers, administer Medicaid and Social Security and so much more."

"This attack is meant to silence their voices, so Elon Musk and his minions can shred the services that working people depend on the federal government to do. The billionaires running this administration have proven that they are willing to bulldoze anything that stands in their way to enact their anti-worker, extremist agenda – even if it harms our communities. In just two months, they have completed one-third of the 900-page *Project 2025* agenda, a plan that robs working people of their power to benefit the ultra-wealthy."

Labor, GOP group fight back with effort to support fed unions

(Continued from Page 1)

agencies," the AFL-CIO said in its *Action Alert*. "Now representatives have introduced the bipartisan Protect America's Workforce Act, to overturn Trump's executive order." Unions have also gone to court against Trump's order, as have state attorneys general.

It's not the only union battle in D.C. Two GOP senators, Mike Lee and Marsha Blackburn, last month introduced the "Federal Workforce Freedom Act," which would legislatively eliminate union rights for about 1 million federal workers from three of the largest federal unions.

"We are asking every single American who cares about the fundamental freedom of all workers to join a union to call their member of Congress right now," the AFL-CIO said. The campaign includes a button to a link on the website, or phone number, (844) 896-5059. The entire Democratic caucus in the Senate also sent a letter to the president, demanding that he rescind the collective bargaining cancellation.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said if Trump gets away with unilaterally nullifying union contracts covering federal workers, there's nothing to stop him from ordering the same contract destruction in the private sector. "Donald Trump's executive order would end collective bargaining for hundreds of thousands of federal workers, silencing their voices and ripping up their contracts. This is blatant retaliation for unions challenging the administration's illegal attacks on working people and strikes a blow to every American's fundamental right to freedom of speech and association," Shuler declared. "There are 70 percent of Americans and nearly nine in 10 young people who support unions. No one voted to attack the freedom to organize with our co-workers for a better life."

Shuler thanked Fitzpatrick and the lead Democratic sponsor of the measure, Rep. Jared Golden (D-Maine) for crafting the bill and marshaling support. The two and their allies are trying "to reverse this blatantly illegal, anti-worker power grab," Shuler said. "The labor movement is 100 percent behind this bill, and we call on every member of Congress – Democrat and Republican – to take a stand in support of our fundamental rights by backing this critical legislation."

Other unions chimed in with similar denunciations of Trump and support for the measure. The Communications Workers were even more explicit about Trump's threat to all workers, not just federal employees.

"This attack threatens all of us. With this executive order and other attacks on our rights, President Trump and his billionaire backers are sending a clear message to our employers: If you want to ignore union contracts and labor laws, we have your back," CWA said. "Protecting workers' collective bargaining rights isn't a partisan issue. It's about whether or not you want to hand even more control over our jobs and our lives to CEOs and hedge fund managers."

The eight Republicans, led by Fitzpatrick, flagged Trump's "national security" excuse for removing collective bargaining. They criticized not just these contract terminations, but Trump's unilateral decision a week before to trash AFGCE's contract covering the nation's 45,000 Transportation Security Officers, the airport screeners.

"Collective bargaining in these agencies has traditionally played a positive role by providing a structured channel for communication and addressing employee concerns, which ultimately supports a more productive

U.P. council honors top union apprentices

(Continued from Page 1)

Professionals, Laborers Local 1329, Lakehead Construction Inc, Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council, MI Carpenters JATC, Miron, MJ Electric, Payne + Dolan Inc, Prime Specialty Contracting, Sheet Metal Workers Local 7, SMACNA, UA Plumbers & Pipefitters JATC, UP Plumbers & Pipefitters Joint Mech Fund, UP Mechanical Contractors, and Workforce Development Institute.

The selection panel was comprised of Don Maki, lead judge; Mike Andary, assistant professor, TAS Construction; management Northern Michigan University; Michael Fornetti, retired, Mead/WE Energies; Stan Kaczmarek, president, Gundlach Champion; Ryan Stern, business representative, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, and Pam Versailles, health & safety director, Billerud, Escanaba.



WIRING A BOX on the running track at the Berston Fieldhouse in Flint is Nathan Cristoforo of IBEW Local 948. He's employed by Weinstein Electric.



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT- ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be **April 28, 2025, 5:30pm** at Local 58 hall, 1350 Abbott St. Detroit, MI 48216. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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

Attention All Members, there was a motion made at the March meeting to change our dues structure from 1.5% gross pay to a flat-rate dues structure. The motion was held over till April 28, 2025, meeting for a discussion and secret ballot vote (YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE). You will receive a letter 15 days before the meeting explaining the motion, if you don't receive the letter contact the hall. This meeting will be held at Local 58 Electrician's Hall, address is above.

This meeting is also the nomination of officers, and the May 19, 2025, meeting will be the vote. According to Article XI Sec 1. All members in good standing shall have the right to nominate, vote or otherwise support the candidate of their choice. Article XI Sec 2. To be eligible for nomination, a member must have been a member in good standing for two years previous to nomination. All candidates must be present at the nomination meeting in order to be nominated or, if unable to attend, a letter of acceptance signed by the candidate must be presented by the members nominating them.

It was discussed and voted on to having a picnic on July 26, 2025, it passed. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the picnic please contact Jon Bujan (586)787-1114 or email him at bujan@icloud.com.

With the addition of the IUEC's Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) benefits, Local 36 has chosen to discontinue our agreement with American Income Life and their accidental death and disability coverage. Please contact the hall if you have any questions.

If you haven't enrolled in the IUEC's new National Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) benefits, go to <https://iuecvip.com> or call the IUEC Service Center at 224-487-5030. These tax-free benefits can help you continue to get paid when you're unable to work due to illness, injury, surgery, mental health conditions, substance abuse treatment, or death. The benefits are paid in addition to other benefits you may receive, providing a financial safety net when you need it most.

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.

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

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website.

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 (1) week waiting period.

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

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

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanics who passed the Mechanic's Exam on or after July 9, 2022, starting Jan. 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP. NEIEP will monitor compliance for all participants and upon successful completion will pay the participants' Mechanic rate for their home local (excluding benefit contributions).

Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.

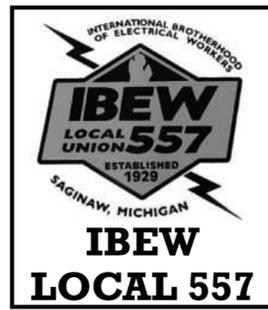
Attention All Apprentices, if you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic's exam, you must fill out your OJTs till you get your passing results. Kenny and I thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled 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 the **NEXT MORNING.** If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, **your personal tools MUST be taken off the job, out of your vehicle and notify the hall.**

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

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

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



IBEW 557

SAGINAW-UNION NEWS-Reminder – Local 557 Monthly Union Meetings are now starting at 6pm due to a large amount of members working overtime.

LOCAL OFFICER ELECTIONS- will occur this year. By now, all members should have received their official notification of this process in the mail. Complete details on the process for elections are contained in that official mailing. If you need additional details, please refer to this letter or reach out to Nick Iles, the Local's Election Judge.

Nominations will occur at the next regularly scheduled union meeting on May 6. The following positions in the local are up for election this year – President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager/Financial Secretary/ Delegate to Convention, Executive Board (6 spots), Examining Board (3 spots) and the Alternate Delegate to Convention.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE LOCAL 557 GOLF LEAGUE at Twin Oaks Golf Course is set for April 24. Tee times begin shortly after 5:30pm. If you are a returning golfer or a first timer – all are welcome!

EARNED SICK TIME ACT- Michigan's new law requiring employers to pay their employees Earned Sick Time (ESTA), is now in effect. By now, every member working for an IBEW contractor currently, should have seen a written notice of some sort regarding this matter. Local 557's CBA does not contain any language related to ESTA, therefore, this law will apply to our membership. If your employer is NOT complying with this law you are strongly encouraged to file a complaint with the State of Michigan. The complaint process can be found on the Local's website homepage with the complete process instructions listed. You can also find these details on the State of Michigan's website.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING- With work being the best it has been in Local 557 (and throughout the State), organizing is as important as ever. Local contractors will begin work on traditional work throughout the Local this spring which is important to provide manpower for. Whether work in the Hemlock area continues for a prolonged period or not, it is vitally important to keep all other work of the IBEW in mind. Moving forward, Local 557 will be focusing hard on keeping these projects successful. The future of the Local depends on this work.

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

PROJECT PHOENIX- Work on the Mega Project remains steady. As of this writing, there are currently 523 IBEW members referred to the project. Most calls have all gone to Book 2 lately and some members have only been on Book 2 for a very short time or picked up an open call. Stay current on monitoring work in Local 557 by looking on the Job Line website or calling the dispatch telephone option.

This is updated throughout the day to provide the latest information regarding calls when they are being filled. If you are on Book 2, please reach out to the Local through the jobline@ibew557.org email address and you will receive a reply as soon as possible. Through the jobline email address, you can receive updates as to your spot on the out of work list.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS- The next membership meeting is May 6 and will start at **6 pm. Please note the change to a 6:00pm start time** due to Overtime being worked in the area.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- New normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday **7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open from 1pm to 4:30pm. In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager**



IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

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

Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, May 12, 2025.

Entertainment Committee and volunteers- We are looking forward to some fun events this year. We need to get a group of volunteers together to brainstorm ideas and host events. Currently we have two events planned for this summer. The Cherry Festival Parade in July and the summer picnic in August. If you are interested in a fun way to get involved with your local, get in contact with Dylan O'Dwyer at 231-943-4980.

Congratulations to Cody Wright for passing his Michigan Journeyman Exam.

Death Notice – With great sadness we announce Brother Bruce Olmsted passed away Wednesday April 9, 2025. He has been a member since July 2000. Our condolences go out to all his family and friends who got the opportunity to know and work with him. He will be missed by all.

PICNIC – At the Feb 10, 2025 meeting a motion was made and passed to have the annual summer picnic this year. It will be held at Timber Ridge Resort & Campground on **Aug 16.** Please watch your mailbox for a postcard notice in the near future. For those not familiar with Timber Ridge it is a campground that also has cabins for rent. There are a lot of kid's activities and they will have access to use all of them. You can access more information at their website at www.timberridgeresort.net.

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

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

Scholarship – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship 'Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment' for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to www.gtrcf.org/scholarships/. Local 498 Union members' children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.

Service Pins – Service Pins are still available at the union hall for those members who have not received them. Stop by and get yours today!

Email Addresses - Any member that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at ibew@local498.net Thank you!

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: www.michigan-electrical.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, 2025 – Dues increase to \$161.10/Quarter.

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

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

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

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



IBEW Local 948

IBEW Local 948
FLINT – Meetings
Membership Meeting – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be May 12th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings – Retirees next meeting will be May 6th, 2025 at 9:00am.

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

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 re-signs.

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

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

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

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

Retirees - Congratulations to Todd Beamish & Fredrick Paulin on your pension application. The membership wishes you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the family of Thomas Mikulski. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, IBEW LOCAL UNION 948. The nominations for all officers of Local Union 948, IBEW will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the local meeting hall at 1251 W. Hill Rd., Flint, MI. 48507. Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination prior to being nominated.

No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate. Nominations do not require a second to be accepted.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years:

President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Delegate to IBEW Convention, Treasurer, Executive board (7 to be elected), Examining Board (5 to be elected)

Additionally, nominations will be held for 2 delegates to the International Convention. The Business Manager shall, by virtue of the office, serve as a delegate to the International Convention as stated in Article VIII, Section 3 of our local union bylaws. This leaves 1 delegate position open to nominations for the at-large election. No member nominated for the office of Business Manager may be nominated for the at-large delegate position.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 948. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations. No Apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union.

As stated in Article XII, Section 7 of the Local Union bylaws; all members in good standing shall have a voice and a vote one year after being sworn into Local 948.

As per the IBEW Constitution and our Local Union Bylaws, an Election Judge and tellers have been appointed prior to nominations. Neither the Election Judge nor the Tellers may be a candidate for any office. The election of of-

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on May 5, at 6 p.m. The next **Renew** meeting will be held on April 23, at RJ's at 5 p.m.

The Executive Board meeting will be held on April 21, 5 p.m.

Woman in the Trades Meeting will be held on April 22, 6 p.m.

The EWMC meeting will be held on April 23, at R.J.'s at 5 p.m.

The Veterans Group will be meeting on May 1, at 5 p.m.

Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at RJ's from 3:30 to 5:30p.m. 8118 Portage Rd. Portage. Keep an eye out for location changes on the Local's FB page.

Detroit Tigers Union Day Game on April 26, against the Baltimore Orioles. We have reserved a bus for safe travel. Go to the local website for more details.

Pension Education class is scheduled for May 8, at the Union Hall, at 6:00p.m.

The **Work Outlook** continues to be steady. Champion has agreed to pay \$15 an hour over scale. There will be requirements for proof of knowledge in control wires termination, fiber optics termination and LAN terminations. Watch the website for job calls (IBEW131.com). Other work in the local has slowed down, the contractors and members are beginning to gear up for shutdowns at the papermills.

The **NOMINATIONS** for all officers of Local Union 131 will be held on **May 5, 2025**. Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination. Nominations for the

IBEW 948. con't
Officers shall take place between the hours of 8am and 8pm on Monday, June 2, 2025 at the local union meeting hall, at 1251 W. Hill Rd., Flint, MI. 48507. The ballots will be counted immediately following the closing of the polls and the results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted. A complete listing of the results shall be posted at the Union Hall by the close of business on the day following the election.

Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge. **Mail Request to Mathew Hart Election Judge PO Box 55 Grand Blanc, MI 48480.** Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of the election. Anyone receiving an absentee ballot will not be entitled to vote at the polls without first presenting the election judge with their unused ballot and the envelope used in the mailing. Absentee ballots received at the post office box after 4pm on June 2, 2025 will not be counted.

Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the P.O. Box. Observers may not interfere with the orderly procedure of the election. There shall be no campaigning or electioneering at the polls nor within 50 feet from the entrance to the polling place. No postings except for instructions shall be permitted at the polling place.

In the event a runoff election is required, the same shall be held on Monday, June 23, 2025. The same rules shall apply to the runoff election as were applicable to the regular election. Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive the same for the run-off.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3 year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on Monday, July 14, 2025.

Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge as soon as possible before the election is certified. Once the election is certified any protests of the election are to be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the district within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President, the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Fraternally yours, Mathew Hart Election Judge IBEW Local 948

following offices President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager / Financial Secretary / Delegate to international Convention, Executive Board (6 Members) and Examining Board (5 Members)

May's meeting will also have contract allocations. We will allocate where we want to put the raise. According to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) we have a 5.5% raise beginning on June 2, 2025. This will equal \$3.35 total package increase. I need your input on how the money will be allocated. There will be a food truck from 4 to 6PM. Come have dinner, come to the meeting.

Apprenticeship Applications: We often get calls on how to apply to Kalamazoo Apprenticeship Program. To apply, go to www.kalamazoojate.com and navigate to the application page on the website.

If you know of any journeyman electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Ryan at (269) 366-0322 or rlewis@ibew131.com.

Kalamazoo IBEW 131 Golf Outing is on May 18, at Pine View Golf Course, Three Rivers. For more information go to the Local 131 website. Local 131 Retirees play for free

Retirees Lunches at the following locations:

May 21, Lunch at Judy's Restaurant, 120 W Allegan St. Otsego, 49078 @ 11:00.

June 18, Lunch at Roxie's Breakfast & Lunch, 4010 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048@11:00

July 16, Lunch at McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 East Main St. Kalamazoo 49048

Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meets at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001 @ 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.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and IBEW PBF applications take at least 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 call the hall and set up an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of your social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications. Important numbers for you to write down:

NEBF (301)-556-4300
IO Pension (202)-833-7000
American Income Life - Accidental Death Benefit. Recently you may have received a letter in the mail regarding the \$2500 Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit available through a partnership with the IBEW and American Income Life. All active members are eligible for this benefit. The letter states that you need to return the enclosed yellow card to qualify and name your beneficiary. Please note you are **NOT REQUIRED** to return this card to name your beneficiary; the beneficiaries you have on file at the hall are sufficient. The \$2500 benefit would be paid to your named beneficiary, not to your estate. If you have questions, please contact the hall at 269-382-1762.

Three Months or more behind in counter dues payments are the following suspended members: Joshua Chopp, and Steve Sulin.
Morris Applebey Business Manager



IBEW Local 692

BAYCITY – Union Meeting. The May monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, May 5, 2025.**

Executive Board Meeting. The April Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, April 21, 2025.**

Message from the Business Manager. Nominations for all elected officers within the Local will occur on Monday, May 5. Please be involved and run for an office.

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

Thiel Electric is on site at Delta College performing a remodel of the K wing.

Motor City Electric has been awarded the new line at Bay City's GM Powertrain site. They will continue to hire for this project.

J. Ranck Electric is continuing work at SK Siltron semiconductor chip manufacturing facility, thanks in part to \$560M which was allocated by the Biden administration as part of the Chips & Science Act. J. Ranck has also secured both phases 4 and 5 on this project and calls are coming in. Ranck is continuing work on their Mission Street Solar project. This is a 250-mw site which will require a substantial number of JIWs from our hall to complete.

Master Electric has begun their work on phase 2 at Bangor Schools.

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

Clements Electric has work at Mersen USA. They have also recently been awarded a maintenance contract at Mersen. Work on the Midland Center for the Arts, Bay City lift stations and HL Mechatronics in Midland continues. Clements Electric is also working on an apartment complex in Auburn.

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

Escon Group continues work at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end and is slowing down some within the I-Park.

Superior Electric has a new line out to Bay City Powertrain along with a cooling tower project. An open job call remains for this project.

Zone 2 contractors have been bidding and securing a fair amount of work, doing a great job of keeping their crews busy. **John's Electric** has secured nice projects in Luzerne, Rogers, and a considerable amount of work in Alpena schools along with most recently landing another project at Bayview Park. Work on the CMU Tower building in Atlanta will continue. **Hardie's Electric** has ongoing work in Cheboygan and Towers. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant. **Pierce Powerline** has secured work in the Oscoda schools.

A larger projects Solar Project is also coming at Consumers Energy's Karn site in Essexville. Multiple Prevailing Wage projects in Bay City have been bid or will be bid soon. Another Solar Project will begin late summer in the Gladwin area.

Not only do inside Wireman

opportunities exist in IBEW Local 692, we need some wireman to man our work or market share will be lost. Open calls continue to exist on a weekly basis. We saw this instance play out in our past brothers and sisters, let's not repeat our mistakes. 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

Organizer's Report. Visits to non-union job sites and outreach to unrepresented electricians continues. We continue to bring in new members each month.

After placing in the regional competition held at our training facility, two Bay Arenac ISD students were eligible to compete in the SkillsUSA state competition held this past weekend in Grand Rapids. Both students attended training sessions which included EMT fabrication, residential wiring, and low-voltage installs (doorbells). The kids arrived on time every day, ready to learn. The future of our industry is bright.

It's too soon to tell if the recent historic investments into green energy infrastructure and American manufacturing will continue. If they do continue, they may move forward without the worker protections and union-friendly provisions that incentivize local labor, which have led to an abundance of work for IBEW members in Michigan and across the Nation. Uncertainty about tariffs on construction materials may lead to canceled projects if agreements cannot be made. With OSHA and the NLRB temporarily unable to function as intended, it is important to be thankful we are protected under the terms of our Collective Bargaining Agreements.

It is our duty as Union members to offer those same protections to the unrepresented workers in our industry. If any current members know non-union electricians who may be interested in joining our Local, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Immediate onboarding opportunities are currently available around the state, in addition to expected open calls at home and in nearby 557 throughout 2025. We must do all we can to provide our local contractors with the skilled manpower they need to continue bidding the projects we worked so hard to secure. This is not the time to become complacent or pull the ladder up. We need to continue to organize.

Brendon Baranek bbaranek@ibew692.org 989.327.4131

Sound & Communications Contract Ratification Vote

After nearly two full days of negotiations, a tentative agreement has been reached between Local 692 and NECA's Bay City Division regarding the Sound & Communications agreement. All Installer / Technicians, Senior Technicians, and VDV Apprentices should plan on attending a ratification vote on **Monday, April 21, 5 P.M. at the Union Hall.** Should the contract be ratified by membership, details will follow. Thank you to President Brian Walker and his Negotiating Committee of Brendon Baranek and Greg Kroening for your hard work.

Union Dues. Effective Jan. 1, 2025, dues increased to \$48.20 per month. This \$2 Pension Fund increase was approved by the delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022.

Additionally, effective July 1, 2025, dues will increase to \$49.20 per month.

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

Retirees Lunch. The May lunch is scheduled for 1 P.M. on Thursday, May 15 at Beer and Brats, 4562 Eastman Rd., Midland.

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

Important links & numbers

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

State's jobless workers finally get benefits raise

(Continued from Page 1)

"The increases in benefits and weeks will put extra money into the pockets of thousands of Michiganders at a time when they need it the most. They spend that additional money at local businesses in communities across Michigan," said Jason Palmer, director of the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA). "Unemployment benefits stabilize household budgets and provide a safety net for families while workers search for a new job."

For new claims filed on April 2 or later, the law increases:

- The maximum weeks of benefits from the current 20 to 26. (The minimum number of weeks a worker can be eligible for benefits will still be 14.)
- The maximum weekly benefit from the current \$362 to \$446 this year, \$530 in 2026, and \$614 in 2027.
- The amount for each dependent (up to a maximum of five) from the current \$6 each to \$12.66 each this year, \$19.33 each in 2026, and \$26 each in 2027.

- Beginning in 2028, the state treasurer will set the weekly benefit and dependent amounts, based on the national Consumer Price Index.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the changes to unemployment law in December, but the Legislature did not give immediate effect to the legislation, meaning the earliest the changes could be implemented was April 2.

The legislation did, however, specify Jan. 1, 2025, as the effective date for Michiganders to receive the higher benefit and dependent amounts. UIA will review active claims filed between Jan. 1 and April 2 and make retroactive determinations on claims.

State Republican lawmakers were in control of one of the three levers of power of state lawmaking during those 22 years – often having a trifecta of power in the state House, Senate and governor's office – but never raised the jobless benefit level. In fact, they made Michigan the first state in history to lower the number of maximum benefit weeks from 26 to 20.

"Amid unprecedented attacks by the Trump administration on millions of government workers, unions, and the working class at large, these improvements to Michigan's unemployment insurance system will be key," said Ron Bieber, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO.



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IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – 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.

Local 445 Wage Allocation Meeting will be held on May 14, 2025, at 4:45pm at the Hall.

Local 445 Golf Outing is scheduled for July 12, 2025. Be sure to get your teams registered.

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

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

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

Accordingly, effective Jan. 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to "A" members only, and \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita. Effective July 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita.

As of **Jan. 1 thru June 30, 2025**, the following due's structure:
J/W's: • Monthly \$60.00 • Quarterly \$180.00

Apprentices: • Monthly \$49.00 • Quarterly \$147.00

As of **July 1, 2025**, the following due's structure:
J/W'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 the second Monday of each month and starts at 5 p.m. at the Hall.

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Secest
Recording Secretary

"Providence has hidden a charm in difficult undertakings which is appreciated only by those who dare to grapple with them."

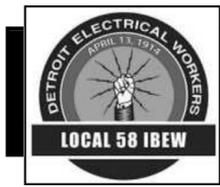
- Anne-Sophie Swetchine

"The right word may be effective, but no word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause."

- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

"Man is a clever animal who behaves like an imbecile."

-Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965)



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58
DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way. Your patience is appreciated!

Great News! Every Wednesday from 12 pm – 4 pm you can sign for Sub Pay in Port Huron. You will need to go to the Port Huron Labor Temple at 2441 W. Water St, Port Huron, MI 48060. If you have any questions, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Call 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 - Please look at your Dues Receipt, if the paid through date shows 09-30-2024, you have lapsed and need to call the hall to set up an appointment for the Executive Board to be reinstated. If your dues receipt is 12-31-2024 you owe the \$30 reinstatement fee and will lapse at the end of the 2nd quarter if your dues are not paid. Please note that Union quarterly dues are increasing starting the Third Quarter of 2025. The amount will be \$148.50 without PAC, and \$152.50 with PAC. Please make any adjustments to your Credit Union and Automatic payments when sending in your dues. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you.

Wiremen's Golf Association (WGA) Tournament: It will be hosted by Local 139, Elmira, NY on July 29 - Aug. 1, with the optional scramble being held on Tuesday, July 29. The golf courses being utilized for the tournament this year are Mark Twain Golf Course (Elmira, NY), Soaring Eagles Golf Course (Horseheads, NY), Willow Creek Golf Course (Big Flats, NY) and the optional scramble on Tuesday at The Club at Shepard Hills (Waverly, NY). The host hotel for this year is the Radisson Hotel Corning, NY (607)962-5000) with the overflow hotel being Hilton Garden Inn Corning DOWNTOWN (607)438-1400). Entry fees for this year are \$275 per man for the Tournament and an additional \$75 per man for the optional scramble. **All monies must be received by April 31, NO EXCEPTIONS. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR MONEY IN TO EITHER RON KRAJENKE OR BRAD GARRITY BY APRIL 31 YOU WILL NOT ENTERED INTO THE TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR.** If you are mailing your payment please mail to: Ron Krajenke, 20244 Edinberg Drive, Macomb, MI 48044. Any WGA member who is planning on participating in the 2025 Tournament or anyone looking for information or to join the WGA this year can feel free to reach out to Ron Krajenke at 313-475-0487 or Brad Garrity at 313-850-1837.

Local 58 Senior Softball Team: 55+ Senior Softball. Practices starting in April with games starting May 12, 2025. For more information, please contact Jim Miles at 586-933-3551.

Local 58 Senior Golf: The Senior golf outings are scheduled as follows:
 May 15 - Dunham Hills Golf Club - Hartland, MI
 June 12 - Pontiac Country Club - Waterford, MI
 July 17 - Rouge Park Golf Course - Detroit, MI
 Sept. 11 - Rackham Golf Course - Huntington Woods, MI
 Oct. 2 - Dunham Hills Golf Club - Hartland, MI

Jeff Gregory will be running these golf outings from now on. They are open to all Local 58 members and guests. Anyone who would like to participate, please text or call Jeff at 248-240-7449 for reservations. It is important to get a head count for the golf course.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, May 6. The winners of the John Mayernik Memorial Scholarship this year are Jordan Romanowski and Amanda Gallagher. There was a tie so (2) apprentices received an award of \$2000 this year to use at their discretion.

Our next event is the 16th Annual Walleye Tournament on the Detroit River on Saturday, May 3. Lines in at 7 am and back to the Union Hall between 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm for weigh in. Registration is open. If interested, contact Michael Bellhorn at 586-612-5964. All trades, family & friends are welcome. Prizes will be awarded as well as Big Fish & Battle of the Trades. Fish fry and food available starting at 3 pm at Local 58 Union Hall.

The 24th Annual Jerry Gaudi Memorial Golf Open will be on Friday, June 6. Registration will start on Wednesday, April 30 at noon through EVENTBRITE. **Do Not contact the Union Hall.** Get your foursome and money together because this event will fill up quickly.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 12, at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 12, 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, April 21, at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the Hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

Please bring a greeting card (get well/encouragement/thinking of you) to the April meeting so that we can deliver them to Brother Arthur Edge as he continues on his road to recovery.

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, May 19 at 5:30 PM.

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

Local 58's Women's Committee - The next committee meeting will be Thursday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

The Political Action Committee: PAC meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm. The city of Wyandotte has an election on May 6. The PAC Committee has endorsed Kelly Stec and Adriana Cerulla for City Council. 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.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: The Annual PIN PARTY is happening on Saturday, April 26 at the Local Union Hall. We will be honoring all 50, 55, 50, 65 and 70+ year members. Invitations to Honorees have been mailed out, and we would appreciate your RSVP as soon as possible. Honorees will be our

(Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 906



IBEW 906
UPPER PENINSULA – MEETINGS

MARQUETTE UNIT - First Tuesday 7:00 pm EST

IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT - Second Tuesday 7:00 pm CST

ESCANABA UNIT - Second Wednesday 7:00 pm EST

Brothers and Sisters,
 Happy Spring! For the month of May Local 906 will have a general membership union meeting on May 3, 2025. There will be no unit meetings in May. At this meeting we will be allocating \$2.26, we encourage everybody's participation and hope to see you all there.

2025 is an election year for Local 906, nominations will take place on Saturday May 3rd in Marquette at the Masonic, everybody should have received a letter regarding election information.

New short and long sleeve shirts are at the hall and available for pick up at the hall or delivered to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the app/website.

Work outlook is looking very strong for the summer of 2025 with renegade solar in Rock, MI needing 60 journey workers, along with other various projects across the Upper Peninsula. Currently we have a 2 man call for Systems Control addition for MJ Electric, and a 2 man call for Northern Power on Mackinac

guests at a catered lunch, guests are welcome. There will be no regular luncheon in April, even if you don't have a friend or family member receiving a pin, you are welcome to attend. Tickets for guests are \$25 per person. Send your checks (payable to the Retirees Association) to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit 48232-0756. Questions about the pin party, or for reservations call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885.

The **September Bus Trip** is heading to Washington DC this fall. The trip takes place Sept. 12-16. Total cost for the trip per person, \$710, based on double occupancy. Send in your \$75 deposit per person, to hold your spot. A tour of the IBEW International Museum and a tour of the White House are currently being arranged to be included in this trip. Call Dave Riley with questions or for the address to send your deposit, 586 206-8075.

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

Electrical Workers Credit Union - Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check out our low rates! New auto as low as 5.25%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go online at <http://www.ewcu.net>. Who's your Beneficiary? 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.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Greg Gritz, William T. Green, Keith C. Greene, Douglas Herbert, Jr., and James Woelkers.

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.

Oliver Brown, Pension member, 60 year IBEW membership; **Judith Groves,** Widow to the late Pension member Douglas Groves; **Mary Lee Kowalczyk,** Mother to Gregory Kowalczyk, Technician 1; **Greg Philson,** Brother to George Philson, Pension member, 27 year IBEW membership; and **Ralph Rutherford,** Pension member, 27 year IBEW membership.

Island. Local 906 will be hosting the Michigan State Conference on Mackinac Island June 11-13.

Reminder that there is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11 am EST.

For those of you who have not heard yet, we have a new website and mobile app. Please reference those new tools for any new announcements and updates within the local. The website can

be found at ibew906.org and the app can be found under IBEW 906. Dues payments can also be made through the app and website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall.

We are saddened to announce the passing of former Business Manager, Richard Lahtinen. Richard passed away on March 20, 2025 peacefully in his sleep. Richard served over two terms as Business Manager for IBEW Local 1070 and was a key part in the founding on the Electricians hockey team founded in 1976. Local 906 would not be where it is today without Richard's hard work and dedication.

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 information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at BOTH.

TRAINING CLASSES 2025: All classes start at 5 p.m.
 OSHA 30- (Tuesday and Thursday's) May 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 & 29. Worth 30 CECs for those that have a current BICSI credential.

CPR- (Tuesdays) June 3 & 10, Sept. 2 & 9, Dec. 2 & 9
 BICSI TECH- May 7-Sept. 3, 2025. BICSI ITSIMM book is required (\$240 or \$290 digital). Exam certification fee is \$400. BICSI Workbook fee \$115. You must have 3 years of verifiable field ICT experience to sit for the exam. Worth 35 CECs for those who have a current BICSI credential.

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TRAINING CLASSES 2025: All classes start at 5 p.m.
 OSHA 30- (Tuesday and Thursday's) May 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 & 29. Worth 30 CECs for those that have a current BICSI credential.

CPR- (Tuesdays) June 3 & 10, Sept. 2 & 9, Dec. 2 & 9
 BICSI TECH- May 7-Sept. 3, 2025. BICSI ITSIMM book is required (\$240 or \$290 digital). Exam certification fee is \$400. BICSI Workbook fee \$115. You must have 3 years of verifiable field ICT experience to sit for the exam. Worth 35 CECs for those who have a current BICSI credential.

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 BICSI TECH- May 7



AT WORK IN WHAT WILL BE concession space at the **Berston Fieldhouse in Flint** is **Bobby Mitchell** of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by Glen's Tile.



THE EXISTING BERSTON FIELDHOUSE, at left, meets the newly constructed gymnasium addition, at right. E&L Construction is managing the Flint project, which will soon focus on renovating the 1923 facility.



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: **NEW LOCATION:** Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083, 1 block north of Big Beaver on the west side of Livernois. Use the Banquet Entrance.

The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **May 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm.** Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Due to a scheduling conflict, the E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on **April 29, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Union Hall. The regular E-Board/Stewards meeting schedule will resume in May.



PAUL GUALDONI

RETIREES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 6/5/25 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Hts., 48071. It's always nice catching up and staying connected. Please contact 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.

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. Remember that your Username is your full S.S. number and your Password is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

DUES: Membership dues are required to 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 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 paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

ADDRESS UPDATES: If you move, please get in touch with 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 will have hard copies in the near future for members 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 member interested in a Saturday welding class on April 26, May 3, May 10, May 24. These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

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

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



Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be April 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

- *Zone 1 May 15th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 2 May 20th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 3 May 14th at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)
- *Zone 3 June 19th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
- *Zone 4 May 6th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 5 June 5th at 10:00 a.m.

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2025. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.



SAM FULLER

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.labelitcanireport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

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

ZONE 1 Training Center Info. There are new changes to the testing procedure in Zone 1. Applicants will need to register for the Zone 1 entrance exam. Registration will open at the beginning of the exam month. You will receive your exam time during registration. Please contact the training coordinator to register (269) 781-7183.

ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:

- 1st Wednesday of each month @ 8:00 am located at Bob Evans 1725 N W Ave, Jackson
- 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1:00 pm located at Rocky Top 1900 Lansing Ave, Jackson
- 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, (Retirees, please notify Vance or Eric of any changes or additions you would like) - **In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains the same and looks to pick up some steam as we get further into spring. As a reminder always keep me informed of any address or phone number changes, so we can keep them updated with the Lansing Hall and TIC Midwest. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month. Important dates: Local 7 Picnic July 19th in Traverse City at Timber Ridge Campground and Local 7 Golf Outing September 6th at the Lynx Golf Course in Otsego both of these events are great to attend. **-In Solidarity Your Brother, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Wage Disbursement meeting location has changed to Back Orchard Barn 11001 Wilkerson Rd April 15 and next regular scheduled will be May 14 at the Freeland hall at 6 PM

This year's Local 7 picnic will be at Timber Ridge in Traverse City. Call 231-947-2770 if you're interested in booking a camp site. Retiree meeting will be at Ponderosa in Bay City off Wilder Rd. on Tuesday June 24th.

Please be sure to contact the Lansing office if you have any changes with your address or phone number. (517)882-4064. Make sure your dues are up to date they are due before the first of every month. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our next regular meeting will be June 18 at the Mill Pond center at 6pm. This year's picnic will be on July 19 at Timber Ridge. Call (231) 947-2770 for camping reservations and make sure to tell them you are from Local # 7. Work is slow in our area but will be a very busy summer. Your beneficiary designation card for SASMI needs to be updated, please go to the SASMI website and update it and your current address and email. Please call me if you know of anyone interested in our trade or if you get laid off and need help with unemployment. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Spring is in the air, work continues to look strong for the spring and summer. Local 7 Zone 4 is fully employed at this time; we have several members in the Zone 3 area helping out on the Hemlock project. I want to thank everyone who attended the wage disbursement last week. It was good seeing everyone. Please don't forget if you have had a change in your address or phone number please let me or the Lansing office know. **Thanks your brother, Scott Brotherton,**

ZONE 5 Info Work in the U.P. remains steady and should stay that way through the rest of the year. There is a lot of mine work coming up in the next several years so if you don't have your mine safety training make sure you get signed up for that at upconstruction.org. The next retiree breakfast will be on May 14th at 10am at A&M Cafe in Skandia. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld.**

Dues Department: *Online dues payment is now available* Dues of 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 of-

(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 April 22, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076. ***Wage Allocation* will be voted on at Aprils Union Meeting!** We will also be raffling off Tigers tickets at this meeting!



TIM MULLIGAN

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next executive board meeting is scheduled for May 20 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

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

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: Meetings are April 21, June 16,

August 18, October 20 (Holiday Party), December 15th. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership meeting schedule above.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Kyle Tretchler, Jeffery Hellings, Jonathan Patterson, Michael Dow, Raymond Osborne II, Scott Thompson, Martin Freiman, Justin Suchan, Drake Wohlfeil, Michael Anderson, Jared Miller, John Hill, Thomas Grzebyk, Shaun Barbacher, Thomas Kehoe, John McGow, Max Delonis & Anthony Pichette.

GOLF OUTING: Tickets are SOLD OUT! Please contact the hall if you would like to be added to the waiting list.

RETIREMENT CLASS: Saturday May 3 at 9am we will be hosting a FREE retirement education class with Graystone Consulting. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions about your retirement plans. Please call the hall to RSVP 248-557-7575. Spouses are welcome.

WAGE ALLOCATION: We will be voting on this year's wage allocation at the April union meeting. April's meeting will be on April 22, 2025 at 5:30pm.

DETROIT TIGERS UNION NIGHT: We still have some tickets available for the Tigers game on April 26th at 1:10pm If you would like to attend the game, please call the hall to reserve your tickets.

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.

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. 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

GIVEAWAY: Contact the hall in person by Friday May 2nd and mention this giveaway to be entered into a raffle for a Local 80 watch. The raffle will be done at the May 27th union meeting. Qualifications include: a current dues paying member and you must be present at the meeting to win. *you may only win once every 6 months.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Complete the SUB application at the hall.
- Provide a pay stub for the week.

The hall will submit your information to the fund office. Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE: Wage Allocation – April 22; Tigers Union Night – April 26; Pre-Retirement Class- May 3; Golf Outing – July 12; Picnic- August 9

Local 7 continued

fic. Zone 1 – BeneSys 866-822-7037, Zone 2 – TIC 866-887-4338, Zone 3 – BeneSys 800-451-5733, Zone 4 – BeneSys 800-842-2690 and Zone 5 – Wisconsin H & B Fund 800-654-2329.

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

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



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

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, May 12 and will start at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

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

51st ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: Our annual golf outing will be held on Saturday, July 26. Our event will be held at *Whitmore Lake Golf Links, Whitmore Lake*. Mark your calendar for this special event. Tickets are available to purchase at the union hall. Check or cash payments only, no credit card payments. If you have any questions please contact Karen at (734) 424-0962 Ext. 210.

OHIO GAS MEMBERS – WAGE ALLOCATION: A “Special Called Meeting” for the Ohio Gas Distribution Wage Allocation effective June 1, has been scheduled for Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott – Columbus West/Hillard 2350 Westbelt Dr. Columbus, OH 43228

FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY the office will be closing at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 18. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 23 and all-day Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than June 27, please mail or return to the union hall. The UA scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution, this application must be postmarked no later than June 12 and mailed to the UA Office in Annapolis, MD.

ALL MEMBERS WHO GET LAID OFF or report back to work please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work. PLEASE NOTE: All Members can now go to the website under “members only” and fill out a “back to work” form or “laid off” form.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN: If you are currently laid off and you would like to work building trades. Please contact Kristyn at our Training Center to get information on a UA 21 Weld Certification. 734-424-3700 Ext. #1 for Kristyn

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

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

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Annual physicals need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2025. Please remember to bring in the 2025 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to BernadetteMaus@ua190.org. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org

Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Mondays and Wednesdays at Local 190's office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Contact her directly, (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. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!

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

Available Journeyman classes:
UA STAR EXAM (4 hrs): Any member needing a Pipefitting, Plumbing, HVACR UA Mastery STAR Exam for recertification or new certification, please preregister through the website: ua190.org. **Schedule – Monday May 5.** The initial STAR Certification fee is \$150, STAR Recertification fee is \$100, please contact Kristyn to schedule with payment.

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 Schedule - **Mondays April 21, July 2, and Sept. 29, 2025.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 Schedule – **Mondays – April 28, July 28, and Oct. 6.** 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 fundamentals of SMAW (Stick), and GTAW (TIG) welding. This course will cover welding procedures (WPS), UA certifications (UA-21, UA-22, UA-41), basic metallurgy, weld process selection, machine setup, welding symbols, welding positions, welding electrodes and consumables, weld preparation, shielding gasses, and welder safety. Participants will receive training on the Lincoln Virtual Welding Machine (VR), before heading into the welding lab. **Call the Training Center to secure your spot, dates to be announced later.**

Welding Lab: Currently open welding lab is **Monday through Thursday 4pm to 8:30pm and Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm.** 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). **2025 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept 9.** Courses run on **Wednesday 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

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$95 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2025 Schedule:** The second course starts **May 6.** The third course starts **Oct 14.** 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

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a mandatory 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. You must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2025 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept. 2.** 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. **2025 Schedule:** First course starts **April 22.** Second course starts **Oct. 7.** 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 (Continued next column)



Local 357
**Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service**

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 pm.** Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

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

RETIREE MEETING: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew** located at 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 337-9800.

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date.

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

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Justin Jergens, and family, on the birth of a son, Tyler.

Congratulations to Michael Reed, and family, on the birth of a son, Joel.

Local 190, con't

course. **2025 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 2025.** The class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

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

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member Billy Howard passed away April 4. Billy initiated Feb. 12, 1973. To all family members and friends may the care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. We send our most sincere condolences.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and held on Thursday, May 1 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.

“Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.”

–P. J. O’Rourke (1947 -)

“There is no stigma attached to recognizing a bad decision in time to install a better one.”

– Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988)

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

–Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)

“We cannot control the evil tongues of others; but a good life enables us to disregard them.”

–Cato the Elder (234 BC - 149 BC)



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

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 7:00pm** and is designated **Special Called Meeting** for the purpose of **Nominations for Officers and Trustees.**

The following positions are up for nomination:

- (1) Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Treasurer
- (1) President
- (1) Vice President
- (1) Recording Secretary
- (1) Inner Guard
- (4) Executive Board
- (2) Pension/Insurance Trustee
- (3) Finance Committee
- (3) Sub/Sick Trustee
- (3) Building Fund Committee
- (2) Scholarship Trustees
- (6) FMR Fund Committee
- (4) Examining Board
- (6) 2026 UA National Convention Delegate

Per section 121 of the U.A. Constitution: No member shall be eligible to be nominated for office in any local union unless he shall be a journeyman member and shall have been a member of the united association and the local union in good standing for at least a period of two years immediately prior to the election. Any journeyman member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of two years immediately prior to the date of the election shall not be eligible to be nominated for office in any local union.

Per section 124a of the U.A. Constitution: “No member shall vote at any election of any description unless he has been a member in good standing in the local union where the vote is being taken for a period of one (1) year immediately prior to the date of election. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of one year immediately prior to the date of election shall not be eligible to vote in any local union election.” Apprentices that have successfully completed their 3rd year are now eligible to vote if they meet the requirements listed above.

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

Scholarship Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are now available on our website at ualocal370.org. The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local 370. Complete lists of qualifications and applications are also available at Local 370 hall. Applications are due by the end of May.

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, May 12th at 9:00 am.

Golf Outing Saturday, July 19th at Flushing Valley. 8am registration. 9am shotgun.

2nd Annual Labor Day Parade. Come be a part of this Family Fun Event and help support not only our union but all unions in Genesee County. Monday Sept. 1.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

First Aid & CPR Sept. 17, 2025 at 4:30pm

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

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

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, May 13th, 2025 at 4:00pm
- FMR Committee – Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 4:00pm
- PAC committee – Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 5:00pm
- Executive Board – Tuesday, May 13th, 2025, at 5:00pm
- Building Committee – Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 6:00pm
- Finance Committee -Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 6:15pm
- JATC Committee – TBD

ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing: MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for

the 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.

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

Our web site is up and running: ualocal370.org.

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 contact business agent, Zach Desrochers for application and testing dates.

Local 370 ball caps and winter fleece caps are available at the union offices. Ball caps \$10.00 (Continued next column)



SPRINKLER FITTERS
704
DETROIT

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, May 14, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark your calendars, The Sprinklerfitters Local 704 Golf Outing will be held August 2. More information to follow.

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 370, con't

and fleece caps \$5.00. Pocket Tee shirts are available for \$10 dollars each. Hooded sweat shirts and long sleeve pocket tee shirts are available. The sweat shirts are \$30 and the long sleeve tee shirts are \$15. Golf polo and golf wind shirts are available for \$25.

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to www.shopunionmade.com.

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

“Honesty is a good thing, but it is not profitable to its possessor unless it is kept under control.”

–Don Marquis (1878 - 1937)

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



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next regular UA meeting is May 20, 2025 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Dr.) Southfield, MI 48075.

A Special Called Meetings will be held May 20, 2025 for the reading of our yearly financial report.

Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.

Special Announcement as of 1/1/2025 all active, retired, and opt-out members are being enrolled in vision coverage through Delta/VSP Vision for details please contact the Union Hall 248-538-6636 or VSP member services 800-877-7195 or Member Portal www.memberportal.com for dental and vision benefits.

The Second Annual Local 636 Scholarship Golf Outing will be held on Saturday June 14, 2025 at Mystic Creek Golf Course Milford. To reserve a foursome please contact Jake Regits 248-939-6636 or Dan Gurley 248-939-5636. All proceeds benefit the Detroit Pipefitters Benevolent Fund.

Softball players, the 636-softball league starts on Monday, April 14 and every following Monday at 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm until June. The games are at Canton Sports Arena 46555 Michigan Ave. in Canton. Give Jeff Selph a call if you want to join the team. (269)598-6942

A big thank you to Angela MacMurray, daughter of late Lifetime Member Anthony Klein on the donation of a beautiful scooter to the Retiree Committee.

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

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

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

Deceased Members – Lifetime Member Frederick "Fritz" Komander March 25, 2025; May he rest in peace.

Our deepest condolences to Nikki Labute on the passing of her sister; to Lawrence Babridge on the recent passing of his wife Simone Babridge.

Get-Well Wishes to; Larry Cirillo, Ed & Noreen Nys, Rashad Dooley, Don Bagozzi, Chris Fye, David Hochstein, Thomas L. Williams Jr, Justin Morgan, Ron Sarata, Ramy Abubaker, Joshua Allen, Alex Block, Michael Downey, Brian Dyer, Michael Ferrante, Jamey Guthrie, Tanya Holland, Jason Howe, Ernest Justice, Earl Marshall Jr., Debra Reynolds, Anthony Robinson, Brian Robinson, Brandon Rodzik, Ryan Seitz, Mark Solomon, Buddy Woods, Bryan Durand, Larry Cirillo, Brian Mierendorf, Robert Filar.

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!**

January 2025: Greg Curlee, Jeffrey Gillies, Mark Hammons, Leonard Koskodan, Richard Mortz, John Taylor, Thomas Bitler. **February 2025:** Robert W Miller, John Pesci. **March 2025:** Michael Scriver.

DUES – 1st Quarter Dues are due now. Your dues receipt will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. Local 636 has set up an **auto-pay system** for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

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

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

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

The SUB Fund office will no longer be able to cut checks for walk-ins, only process SUB request. The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday. After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

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

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

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

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The NEW NUMBER for the VRU is **877-410-9984.** Plan provider number is 7526. You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution **corrected** website is www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the "My Dashboard" page. 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.**

"Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative."

–Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

"The greater man the greater courtesy."

–Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 - 1892)



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – This paper is to serve as the official notice to the membership.

ATTENTION: SPECIAL CALLED UNION MEETING – APRIL 24, 2025 AT THE ESCANABA HALL.

The Union Meeting will be held for a vote on the acceptance of the new contract.

If the new contract is accepted, a Wage Allocation vote will follow for the June 1st contract.

Additionally, the annual Pension Actuary presentation will be given, outlining pension options for members. **Your attendance is important—please plan to be there!**

In Memoriam: We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Brother **Ron Leppala**, who passed away on February 22, 2025.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Brother **Paul Jarvis** who passed away on April 5th, 2025.

Training News:

A weld test is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd.

Instrument Tech Level I will take place Monday, June 2-Saturday June 7.

To be added to the notification list or to register, contact Training Coordinator John Antoncew.

Anyone interested in **1-day shutdowns**, please contact Business Agent/Dispatcher, Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba office.

Call Escanaba or Marquette for 111's Lay Off Line; Ext. #7 and Job Line; Ext. #8.

MRA FUND - This is a reminder that you are required by the IRS to provide proper substantiation for your MRA debit card usage. Many members have received Substantiation Request letters from the Local 111 Benefit Fund office, Zenith American Solutions.

As per IRS regulations, the use of the MRA card must be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. **These IRS requirements are mandatory, and the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is YOUR responsibility** to ensure that all requested documentation is submitted to the Fund office in a timely manner. To check whether receipts are required for any transactions, please log in to the Zenith American Solutions Portal website or app.

Failure to respond to these Substantiation Request letters will result in suspension of your MRA card until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, please contact Zenith American Solutions at 1-866-823-4730 ext. 1 or the Union Hall.

New 988 Crisis Helpline: The UA & the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on how we approach mental health and suicide prevention. New resources are now available with the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline. Call or text 988 to be connected to trained counselors who will listen & provide support and linked to resources.

Reminder: Check your records and contact the hall with *any changes* to the following: **E-Mail, home address, phone no., a new birth, marriage, divorce, or death.** Please call April or Rose to have your information updated.

Reminder: It is your responsibility to call the hall as soon as you get laid off, the day you call in is the date that you are placed on the **Out of Work List**, if you do not call in you will not be referred to work.

Reminder to all apprentices, you must attend 4 union meetings per year.

Reminder to Welders/Welding Forms: The UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the hall. Certifications expire every **6 months** and it is **YOUR** responsibility to get your welding forms turned in on time.

Please update all Non-UA certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA etc.) by sending a copy of your

(Continued next column)



Plumbers Local 98



Plumbers 98

Membership of Plumbers 98,

On behalf of the officers and board members of Local 98, we want to wish you and your families a blessed and safe 2025 Easter and Passover.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING: Local 98's Negotiating Committee has reached a tentative agreement! On Thursday April 24 at 7pm there will be a contract ratification vote. The meeting will take place at Local 98's Union Hall at 555 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights MI, 48071. A hard copy of all proposed collective bargaining agreement changes will be available at Local 98's Union Hall on Monday April 21st by 3pm.

Our regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Retiree Luncheon meeting will be held at the hall on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 12:00-2:00pm.

The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm and before all Union Meetings. The next board meeting is May 1, 2025.

Dues: It's that time of year again for your dues gift. This year's gift is a tee-shirt with our updated logo on the front and back. If you haven't done so already, please call the hall and get your dues paid. If you're dues are paid in full or you have auto deduction, stop in to pickup your shirt or call to have it mailed.

Adopt-A-Highway: On behalf of Jeff Kavalor, thank you to all of the members who made our Adopt-A-Highway event successful on April 12 in honor of the Local Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean Up along I-94 Freeway in Roseville. We appreciate that many of you were able to reschedule your time due to the inclement weather the week prior. Special thanks to Liam Bauer, Alfred Callert, Alaister Corey, Maxwell Dialak, Shane Docken, Terry Fawk, Tom Hamann, Hailley Jent, John Linardakis, Ethan Loreto, Connor Socrates, Jalief Thomas, Kortezy Turner, Evan Wrobel, our Business Agents, Jim Cools, Rufus Hamilton, Paul Smith and Business Manager, Gary Glaser.

Save the Dates: We are excited to announce the Golf Outing will be held at Mystic Creek Golf Course in Milford on Aug. 23, 2025. Tickets will be on sale soon. The Plumbers picnic will be held on June 28, 2025 at Lake St. Clair Metropark (formerly known as Metro Beach Metropark) in Harrison Township. Additional details to follow.

Attention 98 Hockey Players: The Local 98 Hockey team will be playing in the Hamilton, Ontario Canada Tournament May 2-4, 2025. Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the 98 Hockey Team, please contact FST Dan Nixon.

Attention 98 Softball players: Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the Local 98 Softball Team, please contact Jeremy Pitts (586) 405-9425. Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

2025 Log Books and 2025 Membership Dues pins are available at the hall.

Expelled Members: We currently have one member expelled, Cory M. Herndon.

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

certification to the Union Hall

Check your dues records! You are assessed a \$50 reinstatement once you become 3 months behind. You are automatically expelled once you are over 6 months behind.

Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site: When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site **lu11.com** and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

MSHA Training: To register for an MSHA class please go to **Upconstruction.org** and go to the **MSHA calendar** to register. This website applies for canceling classes also.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is PENDING 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

your unemployment certifications and/or backup documents to receive SUB pay. Please email correspondence to: sub@ualocal98.org by Thursdays at 3:00pm to ensure ample time to process the payments. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Rufus Hamilton.

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

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

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

In Memoriam. Our deepest condolences and sympathy to the families and friends of deceased Brother Douglas Thomson, he was initiated on 11-09-1967, he was a 55-year member and Brother Charles Shomo he was initiated 09-13-1973 he was a 50-year member.

Additional information can be found at ualocal98.org

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Rob Moses, Organizer (248)763-2187 rmoses98@ualocal98.org

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

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

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 18th, 2025. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

THE TRAINING CENTER IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR MEDICAL GAS INSTALLER UPDATES. Please call the Training Center to get in the last scheduled class. This is an update to the new NFPA 99 2024 standard.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is PENDING 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 6th, 2025, we have 2 available evenings to come in and practice for it. The 2 dates are Wednesday, April 23, and Wednesday, April 30. Call the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on Wednesday evenings and the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those who 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.

****2024 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 May 3rd, 2025. ****You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.** Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2025.

The deadline to register for fall upgrade classes is August 22nd. ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):

ASSE Repairer: * Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification - 20 hour class**

CAD/BIM I - 40 hour class ICRA and Water Quality: * Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30 – 40 hour class**

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour)

Hydronic Heating and Cooling – 40 hour class

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber - 40 hour class

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

4 hour recert class July 29 & 30 Deadline is June 27

4 hour recert class October 21 & 22 Deadline is September 26

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

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

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

"Do not bite at the bait of pleasure till you know there is no hook beneath it."

– Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

"Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd."

– Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

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Troy, MI 48068
www.middletontraining.com
248-885-8311

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(313) 841-5100



Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671

MONROE – The Local 671 Membership Meetings have now been moved to the 3rd Thursday of the month. The **next meeting will be held on May 15th, 2025 at 7pm.**

The Executive Board meeting will also be held on May 15th, 2025. If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

There will also be a Special Order of Business at the May 15th meeting for the nomination for Local 671 officers.

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

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

Apprenticeship: I would like to welcome a new member to our team. Kristina Henry came to us from Monroe Community College and will be our new JATC admin and assistant to Justin McManaway. If you get a chance, please take the time to welcome Kristina to our Local 671 family. We are very lucky to have her.

2025 Service Awards and Apprenticeship Graduation Banquet:

We are excited to announce that we will be holding our banquet this year at The River Raisin Banquet Center at 8 N. Monroe St, Monroe, MI 48162 (Previously the Masonic Temple of Monroe). Cocktail hour will begin at 5:30. Dinner will start at 6:30, and the awards ceremony will immediately follow. Those receiving an award and the graduating apprentices will be free. If you are not receiving an award but want to attend, discounted tickets will be available for \$25.00 each. ALL MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A MAILING WITH DETAILS BY NOW. PLEASE RSVP SO WE CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY WITH THE CATERER.

Elections: Local 671 Election is coming up on June 19th. Nominations are on May 15th. If you are interested in running for an office, please make sure you are eligible prior to the meeting. You can refer to The UA Constitution sec. 121 and 124 on the requirements to nominate and run for office of The Local Union.

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

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

Open Weld Shop Nights:

The open Weld Shop nights are now **Thursday nights** from 6pm-10pm. A booth will need to be reserved by noon on Friday prior to the practice night. If we have (3) or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first-come, first-served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority. **Effective immediately, all UA weld test sessions will be held on the first Thursday of each month.** The next UA Weld Test Session will be held on **Thursday, May 1st.**

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: Wishing all my Fellow Local 671 members a joyful and peaceful Easter Holiday. May this season bring you and your families hope, renewed strength and solidarity. God Bless Local 671 and all its members.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Vinnie Fenech: email: vinnie@ualocal671.com

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

"Be to her virtues very kind. Be to her faults a little blind."
—Matthew Prior (1664 - 1721)

"Absolute faith corrupts as absolutely as absolute power."
—Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)



Local 333 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333

LANSING – May's union meeting will be held Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing.

June's union meeting will be held Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 6:30pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911.

Scholarship applications for the coming 2025-2026 year are now available. If someone you know needs an application, please call Joni at 517-784-1106, ext.# 4 or email her, jthomas@local333.com or by stopping in her office.

UA New Contractors Seminar will be held April 23-24, 2025, at 9am, at UA Local 174, 1008 O'Malley Dr. Coopersville, MI. 49404. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Weld classes:

Lansing:
Advanced Weld Class: Mondays & Wednesday's 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Beginners Weld Class: Tuesdays & Thursday's 4:30-8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Jackson:

Advanced Weld Class: Mondays & Wednesday's 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Beginners Weld Class: Tuesdays & Thursday's 4:30-8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Advanced Pipefitting class Tuesday's & Thursday's 4:30-8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Battle Creek:

Monday's & Thursday's 4:30 - 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Weld classes ends June 12, 2025.

Lansing Orbital Welding MIG CLASS:

Must have UA21 – Class will begin when 6 members have signed-up.

CPR and First Aid: Class will begin when 10 members sign up. Fall class TBD

Lansing Orbital Welding:

40 hours. You must have your UA21 and UA41 – Class will begin when 6 members have signed-up. This will be for the fall class.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS:

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

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

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

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

UA Local 333 Awards Banquet will be held for our members who are receiving their 30-year to 65-year pins and certificates on May 10, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West. Invitations will be mailed to our members who will be receiving an award. Please, please, please RSVP for this event once you receive your invitation and plan on attending.

Diversity Committee meeting will be held, Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6 pm at Tony M's 3420 S Creyts Rd, Lansing, MI 48917. The topic of discussion will be unionism.

"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 for legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326 or call your respective agent or Dustin at the Union Hall.



Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Road.

The next Northern Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4 2025, at 7 PM at the Grayling Eagles.

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

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

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

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

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.

Address & Phone Update:

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

THE NEXT RETIREE LUNCHEON will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – THE **NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7 pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, May 8, 2025** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Volunteers Needed: Operation United is held on Friday, April 25 and is an annual United Way event in West MI that mobilizes volunteers to honor veterans and active military families, especially seniors and those with disabilities in West Michigan. We are hoping to have enough volunteers from 174 to sponsor our own home/project. The projects are outdoors like yard work, landscaping, and minor repairs to make homes safer and more accessible. For more information or to sign up please contact Nate.

The Local #174 Golf League will start Wednesday April 30 at Hickory Knoll in Whitehall. Two person teams, 80% handicap, \$20.00 for 9 and half a cart. Bring your own beer and there are 4 different 9-hole courses. Show up at 5pm that 1st night with your partner and we'll pair you up with another group. League runs until the end of September. Call Ryan with any questions.

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

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

Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA): Beginning on March 1, 2025 contractors will contribute 1/30 of your base wage for every hour worked into a Sick Fund on your behalf. Solxsys will set up and administer a fund for each individual member. Starting June 1, 2025 members will be able to fill out a form and request reimbursement for time missed. If you have any questions, please contact the Union office.

The 2024 wage allocation was voted on at the June 4, 2024 membership meeting. Results were \$1.27 increase on the check, \$0.05 increase to the Retiree Bonus Program, \$0.60 increase to the Pension fund, and \$0.30 increase to the Training Fund.

Organizing Update: If you know someone who wants to get into the trade or who has minimal experience, please have them apply during our apprentice application process. Our next application process is estimated to be February 2026.

If you know anyone that has experience with what we do, please give them my information. Thank you!

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

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

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

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

Health Insurance Contact Info: Active and NON-Medicare Retirees. Aetna: (855) 878-4101 • EAP: (888) 238-6232

• Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108
Medicare Retirees Retiree First: (616) 345-0788
Current Health Insurance Premiums: Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33/
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10
Medicare Single \$123.63
Medicare Couple \$247.26
Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Training News: FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month), from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, May 8th June 12th.

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 11th, and the test to follow Thursday, March 13th at 5pm. The dates in April are the 7th and 8th.

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.

2025 Michigan Pipe Trades Apprentice Contest: We will be closed April 23,24 and 25th. We will always be able to be reached via email or cell phone during this time.

Introduction to Refrigeration: This course serves as a gateway into the world of refrigeration, where we unravel the principles of refrigeration and mechanisms behind cooling systems that are critical to our industry. The course will focus on the 4 components that are essential for refrigeration, Latent and Sensible Heat, pressure/temperature relationship with refrigerants and basic refrigeration piping practices. Please call to be put in class.

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.

LiUNA!
Feel the Power
Local 1191

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

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

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

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

Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change. **The next General Membership Meeting will be held on May 2, 2025. June's General Membership Meeting will be held on June 6, 2025.**

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The next monthly Retiree Council Meeting will be held on April 25. The May Retiree Council Meeting will be held on May 30.**

Union Dues For 2025: Regular monthly dues are **\$35.00 for Active Members.** Retiree monthly dues will remain the same **\$8.00.** Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org!!! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

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

Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you. **FYI: Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!**

New Projects: Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work. The next time, it may be your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. **FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets.**

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.



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **May 9, 2025**. This meeting will be at The Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall, at 1755 Fairlane Dr., Allen Park, MI. 48101

Congratulations to Grant Genaw on winning our local apprenticeship competition. By winning, Grant will now represent our local at the Great Lakes Area competition in Indiana this summer. If you see Grant, please congratulate him and encourage him on his upcoming event. We are all very proud of him. Way to go!

BOB HUTSELL

Spring is just around the corner, and so are many of our annual events. With our annual golf outing and picnics in all four areas, there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and attend these events. We need more of our younger members to get involved if we are to continue our rich tradition of Brotherhood at these family fun events.

Local 169 is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year! Founded in 1895, our local has survived through good times and bad. For all those who came before us, and all those with the courage and loyalty to stay true to our great Brotherhood, I offer my sincere gratitude and congratulations. Pick up our new 130th anniversary stickers at the Union Hall or at our next scheduled union meeting.

Local 169 is happy to invite members to “Union Day” at Comerica Park. Unions across Michigan will be attending this game on Saturday, April 26 at 1 pm. Your local has tickets in section 138 for the Tigers vs the Orioles on this date. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jamie Ratliff. The first ticket is free to members in good standing. Additional tickets may be available for \$50 which is discounted from the \$62 face value. Members will be given priority over those purchasing additional tickets. Call to reserve your ticket, make your additional ticket request, and if extra tickets are available, you will be informed. We still have tickets remaining! Please take advantage by reserving with Jamie Ratliff before April 26.

Get ready to celebrate Local 169's 130th anniversary! Our annual dinner dance will be held on June 28 at the Athenium in downtown Detroit. This event is always a great time. The event will begin at 6 pm and end at 12. With an open bar, live music, and great food, this is an easy decision. Complimentary beer steins and shot glasses will be available for members to enjoy a “boilermaker” and take home at the end of the night. 130 years is a huge milestone for our organization, I hope you will ALL take advantage of this opportunity to show your Boilermaker Pride and celebrate this historic accomplishment. Rooms are available at the discounted rate of \$239.00 with valet parking available at a discounted rate of \$20.00.

Use the word Boilermaker for the discount when making your reservation. Please send a \$50 check to reserve your spot at this event. Significant others are welcome to attend. Your check will be returned upon arrival. This is necessary to establish a proper head count for food and beverage totals.

With our current full employment and a large group of new apprentices, I encourage every member to make safety your number one priority. The busy workload looks like it will continue throughout the year so please make every effort to safeguard yourself and your Brothers and Sisters on the job.

Retired member, Marc Grumbley passed away on April 9, 2025. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

“Drive thy business or it will drive thee.”
–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

“When a thing is done, it's done. Don't look back. Look forward to your next objective.”
– George C. Marshall (1880 - 1959)

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”
– Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)

“I take my wife everywhere, but she keeps finding her way back.”
–Henny Youngman (1906 - 1998)

“What helps luck is a habit of watching for opportunities, of having a patient, but restless mind, of sacrificing one's ease or vanity, of uniting a love of detail to foresight, and of passing through hard times bravely and cheerfully.”
–Charles Victor Cherbuliez (1829-1899)

In an effort to assist our Brotherhood, the Executive Council of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has voted to waive the increase in monthly dues for the second year in a row. Current Union dues for 2024 are \$55.85 and will remain \$55.85 for the 2025 calendar year in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

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

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

Any member interested in taking the Great Lakes Safety for Corteva please contact Area 3 Business Agent, Mike Card at 989-662-6491.

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

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

Area 2 Retirees hold luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11 am 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. The next lunch will be April 16 at 11AM at The Beaverton Tavern, 102 W. Brown St., Beaverton, MI. 48612. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome.

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

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45. 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.org or on our Facebook page.

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

Any member needing the services of a Notary Public can do so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Please call ahead to ensure availability. Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.

Retired member, Marc Grumbley passed away on April 9, 2025. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – **Business Manager: Patrick Welch (517-708-0665)**

Local 47 Lansing Office, 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, Michigan 48906. Ph.: 517-708-0665.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, April 11, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.,

And will be held at the J.A.T.C. Training Center Located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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.

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

Local 47 has reserved Site 5 at Fitzgerald Park for this year's 24th Annual Picnic being held on Saturday, June 14, 2025. You will soon be receiving an invite in the mail. Please make sure you fill it out and send it back in as soon as possible. Do not wait until the last minute. This is also a reminder, the Picnic is considered a Mandatory Meeting for All Apprentices.

Our Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025 and the cost is \$85/person. If you are interested in Golfing with us this year please call in with the name of your team along with Chicken or Steak for each person. Do not wait until the last minute to call in your team and the spots will fill in fast!

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 Fax: (517) 321-7508

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: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

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

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

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



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25

SOUTHFIELD – **SPECIAL CALLED MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge St., Southfield, MI 48033. This meeting is **SPECIAL CALLED** for allocations. *This meeting is MANDATORY for all Apprentices.*

WEEKLY HUMOR: Why do electricians make good friends? Because they know how to “conduct” themselves.

BY-LAW CHANGE: At the May 8, 2025 membership meeting, a third and final reading of the amendment to our Constitution and By-Laws will be voted on. The proposed change is as follows:

Business Manager: When a Business Manager is elected, the previous Business Manager's phone and phone number will be given to the newly elected Business Manager.

Organizer: When a new Organizer is appointed, the previous Organizer's phone and phone number will be given to the newly elected Organizer.

ANNUAL PICNIC: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 Annual Picnic will take place on Saturday, Aug. 2. The festivities will take place at Willow Metropark, 23200 South Huron Rd., New Boston, MI.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Save the date for the Annual Local 25 Christmas Party on Saturday Dec. 13, 2025. The event will take place at Laurel Manor Banquet Center in Livonia.

S.U.B. FUND: The Annual S.U.B. Fund Summary Report will be mailed out in the coming weeks. If you do not receive your copy, please contact the Union Hall to ensure your address is up-to-date.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: In light of several employers handing out jobsite specific attendance policies, refer to Article XII, Section A of the Collective Bargaining Agreement listed below. Please be reminded, good attendance is crucial in manning the work that we have in our territory.

Article XII, Section A: The Company has the right to discipline an employee for excessive absenteeism. The first two unexcused absences without good cause shall bring written warnings from the Company, with a copy to be furnished, in each case, to the Union. The Union shall be notified in writing no later than four business days after the infraction has occurred. Any infraction not reported in four business days, shall be deemed not to have occurred. Any subsequent unexcused absence without good cause may be cause for discharge.

Absences for good cause such as illness, family emergency and the like and excused absences shall not be cause for discipline, provided the employee notifies the Company not later than 9 a.m. (on the day of the absence).

No absence more than three months prior shall be considered in any manner or under any circumstances in the imposition of discipline and shall be deemed not to have occurred. Any dispute relative to discipline or discharge of an employee shall be processed through the grievance procedure established in this Agreement.

An employee must call the main employer's office if they leave the jobsite during working hours, excluding lunch time. An employee's unexcused absence may be cause for discharge as outlined above.

PER CAPITA: Please be reminded, any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14 per month. Per Capita payments should be made on a **monthly** basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local's jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00. Please forward your payments **monthly** to Local 25, 21353 Bridge St., Southfield, MI 48033.

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

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within forty-eight hours. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI – **The April Union Meeting will be Monday April 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm** and will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open for in-person and Zoom will also be available.

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

The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday April 24 at 6 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday April 28 at 6 pm. All are welcome.

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL ON Wednesday, May 7th 2025 from 8 am to 12 noon. If you wish to book an appointment or just have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494.

June vacation check schedule: The cut off for any early checks before the freeze period takes place is May 7 and this will be the last early check processing before the semi-annual disbursement for June 7. The last day to call to have your June vacation check pulled is Tuesday June 3 at **12 pm (Noon)**. Pulled checks will be available at the Novi Hall Thursday June 5, by 2 pm. All other checks will be mailed to you by the end of business day on Tuesday June 3.

All members that a receive ACH deposits, your vacation check will be transferred on Friday, June 6. All Vacation checks will be dated Saturday June 7, 2025.

The 2025-2026 JOHN H. LYONS SR. SCHOLARSHIP electronic application and complete rules; as offered by the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers is available on their website: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/johnscholarship> Deadline is May 30, 2025.

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

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

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

New SavRx Prescription Service as of 4/1/2025; Customer Service 888-662-4766 open 24/7 every day 365. To save you more money on your name brand prescriptions please check for manufacturer coupons on your name-brand prescription drugs or ask for generic whenever possible. It will save you and the “Fund” real dollars!

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

Check your HRA/Benny Card Balance: my.wexhealthcard.com (where you can create a log-in). Check your online benefit information: ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/

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

Mark your Calendar: The Iron Worker Picnic will be held on Saturday June 21, 2025 at the Local 25 Training Center, Wixom. More to come as we get closer!

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find “Make-Up Days” & “Welding Test Certifications” where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org) to view the 2025 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the TradeSchool Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, give us a follow. Wixom Training Center, ph. 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. **Phone no. is 866-635-2826.** Or pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club: The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, May 6 at 8 am in Novi. Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday May 20 at 10 am. All are welcome.

Completed Applications for the Local 25 Retirees' Club 2025 Scholarship are due by 5pm April 30, 2025. Any questions please contact John Miller: **TEXT TO: (734) 812-8036.**

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday May 6, 2025 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will be in July 17 at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeway S. Saginaw MI 48604 at 12:00 pm. All are Welcome.

The Downriver Chapter's next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be 9 am on July 18 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. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

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

In Memory: Ronald Ponichter passed away March 31, 2025 at the age of 81. He was the father-in-law of Brad Pierce #1453547 and dearest father to his wife Kristen. Lifetime IW Robert Diabo #564614 passed away March 28, 2028 at the age of 89. He was a 69-year member of Local 711/25. He is survived by his son Lawrence Diabo #1080345. **Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (April 14, 2025 11:00 am E.S.T.)-

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Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN – MAY 2025

CHAPTER MEETINGS:

METRO DETROIT

CHAPTER: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 5:30 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANNARBOR CHAPTER:

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER:

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee St., Lapeer, MI 48446

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER:

Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

LANSING CHAPTER:

Wednesday, May 07 2025 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing.

BRETT MARQUETTE

GIERAK CHAPTER:

Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER:

Tuesday, May 28, 2025 at 7 PM, 1300 W Thomas St., Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER:

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM, 3912 Blair Town Hall Rd West, Traverse City.

DEATHS REPORTED:

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Kirby Christman** (Bricklayer) who passed away on Jan. 28, 2025. Brother Christman had been a member for 40 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Paul Cryderman** (Cement Mason and Bricklayer) who passed away on March 30, 2025. Brother Cryderman had been a member for 59 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother George Herzberg** (Bricklayer) who passed away on Jan. 27, 2025. Brother Herzberg had been a member for 68 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Theodore Lipski** (Tile Finisher) who passed away on Feb. 20, 2025. Brother Lipski had been a member for 50 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Jack Mathers** (Bricklayer) who passed away on Jan. 20, 2025. Brother Mathers had been a member for 44 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother William Ohme** (Tile Setter) who passed away on Feb. 25, 2025. Brother Ohme had been a member for 71 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Sawyer Peak** (Bricklayer) who passed away on March 12, 2025. Brother Peak had been a member for 4 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Rhonald Pierce** (Bricklayer & Stone Mason) who passed away on Nov. 8, 2024. Brother Pierce had been a member for 74 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother James Qualman** (Bricklayer) who passed away on Feb. 9, 2025. Brother Qualman had been a member for 46 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Ronald Rapson** (Bricklayer, Cement Mason, Refractory Specialist and Welder) who passed away on January 11, 2025. Brother Rapson had been a member for 56 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Warda Toma** (Brick-

layer, Cement Mason & Pointer, Cleaner & Caulker) who passed away April 10, 2025. Brother Toma had been a member for 21 years.

UNION DUES: Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive 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!

WEBSITE UPDATES:

Be sure to check out our website at <https://www.bricklayers.org> and our app, which can be found in the IOS and Android app stores by searching for Bricklayers Local 2.

CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED:

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

A SPEEDY RECOVERY:

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

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS:

Both 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 Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2024 online training classes.

APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS:

Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets MUST be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on the Training Centers visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE:

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

FACEBOOK:

"Like" Local 2 on Facebook "Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 of Michigan."

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

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

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

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



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Local at (248) 548-0800. Training is the key to our future!

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: www.mustonline.org Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

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

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

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: Principal.com

If you are a first-time user, go to Principal.com/Welcome Select Get Started.

Enter your first name, last name, date of birth, mobile phone number (this is the quickest way to verify your identity), and your ID number (this is either your Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

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

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

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

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

The first time you log in, you'll need to choose where we send you verification codes (text



TROWELING TILE adhesive on a restroom wall at the Berson Fieldhouse project in Flint is Tyler Goddard of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by Glen's Tile.

message, voice call, or authentication app) and how often you want to use them.

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

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 30700 Telegraph Rd., Ste 2400 Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4524 The Fund Office's business hours

are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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

Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local.

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Regulation Wanted

"I'd like to see more regulation," said one Trump voter who participated in a recent focus group conducted by a Republican polling organization and reported in the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) Health News. She lives with Type 1 diabetes and believes that high healthcare costs are "just out of pure greed."

Another Trump voter said he supports caps on what insurance companies, doctors, and hospitals can charge. This tracks with a recent national survey that found three-quarters of Trump voters back government limits on what hospitals charge.

From the Ground Up

These trends – especially among the ranks of those typically opposed to government intervention – are notable because "It seems to be like a groundswell" says Mike Perry, who has conducted many healthcare focus groups over recent years.

These sentiments are bubbling up from the bottom, rather than political leaders defining what needs to be done. As costs climb, the lived experiences of people may be shaping their attitudes over political ideology.

For example, limiting medical debt, such as a \$2,300 cap on how much patients could be required to pay every year, was supported by about 8 in 10 Republicans, according to a survey conducted by the PerryUdem polling firm. And 9 in 10 favored a cap on interest rates that could be charged for medical debt.

Political Party Doesn't Matter — Americans Want a Healthcare System That Works

As costs climb, the lived experiences of people may be shaping their attitudes over political ideology.

Medicaid – a Literal Lifeline

Perhaps it's because most Americans foresee healthcare costs only going in one direction – up – that most say cutting Medicaid would have disastrous effects on many lives. Medicaid provides coverage to 79 million people, including children in the Children's Health Insurance Program, and 60% of nursing home residents.

"We could not take care of her," said Ashley Williams, a 37-year-old Trump voter in eastern Tennessee, referring to her mother-in-law who required nursing home care. Williams spoke at a focus group about how Medicaid helped her family. "It [Medicaid] stepped in. It made sure she was taken care of."

In a January focus group with Trump voters who were currently on Medicaid, some described Medicaid as the difference between life and death for them; others didn't know if they could continue working and manage their chronic diseases without the prescription drugs and services they get from the program.

One 52-year-old Trump voter from Pennsylvania said, "Healthcare is a right because you want the American people to work. So in order for the American people to work, they need to be healthy to work." And a 56-year-old Harris voter agreed, saying "If we're healthier, it makes our country healthier and we produce. If you got a bunch of sick people that have no insurance, all you're gonna do is cause debt, death, and god

knows what else."

In a recent KFF Health Tracking poll, about half of respondents said that federal government wasn't spending enough on Medicare and Medicaid programs, including 43% of Republicans when asked about Medicare. And as for cuts to Medicaid, a 45-year-old Hispanic male Trump voter in Arizona told the focus group "If you take money from Medicaid, you're just creating another problem elsewhere. It's gonna be a group of people that are being hurt over here to help the people over there so it doesn't add up. It doesn't make sense."

The impact will go beyond Medicaid recipients and affect local economies as well. The thousands of hospitals and community health centers that provide services to this population will also face a precarious future or could be forced to close.

Listen To Yourself

But don't just accept polls and focus groups. What's in your heart and mind?

Instead of focusing on what politicians are proposing for healthcare, think about what's important to you. Is the idea of an affordable system for all, one that limits medical debt and the prices of prescription drugs, something you want government taking an active role in?

If Americans want government to work toward affordable, accessible healthcare, we need to let political leaders know that. That's how it's supposed to work.

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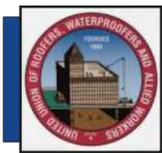
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Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofer

Roofers Local 149

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

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of Brother Steve Hitsman, who was 64 years old and a 32-year member. Brother Hitsman passed away on 4/6/2025. Rest in Peace Brother, thank you for your years of service.

The Detroit Tigers are hosting the annual Union Day at the Ballpark, at Comerica Park in Detroit on Saturday, April 26 @ 1:15 pm, vs. the Baltimore Orioles. Details: \$50 Left Field 'Section 149' tickets include a DET Tigers/Union souvenir cup. If you are interested in tickets, please contact the union hall at 313.961.6093.

Detroit Wage Allocation. During the May 6, 2025, Detroit membership meeting, proposals will be taken to determine how to allocate this year's \$2.50 raise.

Nominations of Officers. Nominations for the following officers and trustees:

(1) Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Treasurer, (2) Business Agent; (5) Executive Board; (1) President; (1) Vice President; (1) Recording Secretary; (3) Trustees; (1) Sergeant-at-Arms; (1) Pension Trustee; (1) Insurance Trustee.

Please note this meeting is scheduled for the Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216, 7:00pm All elected Officers and Trustee of this Union shall serve for a period of three years.

Notice of Election – Mid-Michigan Negotiating Committee
The election result for the 2025 Mid-Michigan Negotiating Committee will be as follows: Robert Coats, Jesse Wangler, and Robert "Buck" Parham

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.

Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit. Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas.

To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall. Member will need to know the following Financial Institution information, Routing No., Account No., and name of Financial Institution.

Detroit Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members. Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. The next term for all Mid-Michigan Apprentices will be as follows: Every Thursday from 6:00pm – 8:00pm until further notice

Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost.

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.

The publication above is as 4/14/2025, 2:00pm
–In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofer Local No.149



District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.
Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen
Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.
Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman
Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Ed Bracamontes
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

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

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty
Meeting date: The 4th Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton

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.



District Council 1M

Painters DC 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

UPGRADE CLASSES AT THE DC 1M FTI OF THE GREAT LAKES

WARREN TRAINING FACILITY. Lift Certification Class will held April 28, 29,30 and May 1, and 3.

OWOSSO TRAINING FACILITY. There will be an Architectural Drawings class on Saturday May 17 at 9am.

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

D BAR A MIX FIX MAY 10 at Scout Ranch Metamora.

Members volunteer some time to help at the Scout Ranch in Metamora. Breakfast is at 7am. Painters needed. To sign up or for more information contact FTI Director Shawn Oneill at dot@iupatdc1m.org or 517-304-4425.

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

(Continued next column)



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN –The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, at 5:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 5:00 p.m.

Display Members will be voting on wage distributions at May's meeting.

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

Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the Dis-trib 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 di-rectly 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

PDC 1M, cont'd

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.

"The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it."

–Flannery O'Connor (1925 - 1964)



Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next union meeting will be held Monday May 5, 2025 at 5 pm. 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI 48088.

This meeting will be a "Special Called Meeting." At this meeting we will be nominating for District Council 1M Representatives. We will also be nominating Local 357 Delegates to the District Council. Please make every effort to attend.

We will be holding a retiree's lunch on Wednesday, April 16, from 11am-2pm. If you are a retiree, we will be hosting a lunch on this day. The lunch will be at our District Council, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI 48088.

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.

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.

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

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474.

– Business Rep. Don Stepp

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

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Outdoors

Lake St. Clair bass are thriving



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources fisheries researchers hold large Lake St. Clair smallmouth bass. MDNR photos

By Jan-Michael Hessenauer and Marcee Wardell
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Now is the best time to be a bass angler on Lake St. Clair in at least the last 50 years.

Lake St. Clair in southeastern Michigan, consistently rated as a top 10 bass fishing lake by *Bassmaster Magazine*, is a popular destination fishery for high-level professional fishing tournaments and fishing enthusiasts from around the world.

Anglers love this opportunity to connect with nature, that feeling of a tug on the line and a beautiful fish in their hands. This isn't just hype – smallmouth bass are thriving in Lake St. Clair, despite the presence of invasive species, an intense fishery and other perceived or potential threats.

A new research study from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station looked at this fish population to explore what might contribute to its success. What they found might surprise even the most avid Lake St. Clair anglers.

Why study smallmouth bass? Not only are smallmouth bass valuable to anglers (and to the local economy of fishing- and tourism-related businesses), they

are also considered a keystone species. This means that smallmouth bass play a critical role in engineering the aquatic ecosystem.

"Smallmouth bass prey on a range of smaller species like crayfish and minnows," said DNR fisheries biologist Cleyo Harris. "Through this predation, they help keep the ecosystem in balance, leading to improved growth rates for other popular species, like bluegill. This effect trickles down through the food web, helping to control algal abundance and improve water clarity."

Using the DNR's long-term monitoring program in Lake St. Clair's Anchor Bay, researchers summarized trends in smallmouth bass population data from two time periods to compare past and present: 1972-1985 and 2002-2023.

They discovered large increases in the number of big (17 inches and larger) and trophy-sized (20 inches and larger) smallmouth bass in the second survey period (2002-2023), while fish of these sizes were essentially absent during the earlier period.

Between 2002 and 2023, the biomass of smallmouth bass (the average total weight of smallmouth bass per sample) remained relatively stable, while providing

increasing opportunities for anglers to catch trophy-sized fish.

Interestingly, the study found that smallmouth bass growth

of which are now a common part of smallmouth bass diets, might be responsible for the larger sizes of smallmouth bass observed in Lake St. Clair.

This theory is also popular with anglers. "Round goby are the best thing to ever happen to smallmouth bass," is a common refrain among bass anglers in the area. But the data suggests otherwise.

Smallmouth bass growth has been increasing at a small but steady rate since the 1970s and 1980s – likely a response to improved water quality, changes in the length of the growing season or climatic differences.

Round goby were not observed in Lake St. Clair until 1990, and the long-term change in growth rate of smallmouth bass was the same in the periods before and after round goby introduction. So, what changed?

Long live smallmouth bass. Simply put, between the 1970s and today, smallmouth bass started living longer. Historically, the average age of smallmouth bass was approximately 4.5 years old, but the average age of the population has increased steadily over time and now exceeds 7 years old.

Similarly, the average number of year classes (different ages

of fish) observed in the population increased in the later study period compared to the 1970s and 1980s.

This indicates that the increased average age was the result of adding more older year classes – fish living longer – and not a loss of younger fish.

Round goby are known to be nest predators, and many were concerned that their presence could reduce smallmouth bass nesting success and harm the population, particularly younger age classes. This concern has not been realized in Lake St. Clair.

Instead, smallmouth bass have enjoyed steady spawning success and survival to older ages, especially since 2002. A longer lifespan gives smallmouth bass more opportunity to grow and reach large and trophy sizes, while also providing more opportunity for fish to spawn.

That means there are more and bigger smallmouth bass in the Lake St. Clair system today than any time in the last 50 years.

Another interesting trend in the study data is that the overall mortality rate for smallmouth bass has continued to decline in recent years, even after the catch-and-release season was extended to year-round in 2015.

Increasing the opportunity to fish for smallmouth bass has not resulted in increased mortality at the population scale.

Changes in fishing practices may be partially responsible for longer lives, bigger fish and decreased smallmouth bass mortality.

Angler harvest rates for smallmouth bass have fallen since the 1970s. Today, more than 95 percent of smallmouth caught by anglers in Lake St. Clair are voluntarily released alive.

In fact, the decline in angler harvest has exceeded the decline in mortality rates, suggesting that the population could handle more catch-and-keep fishing. If you like taking smallmouth from Lake St. Clair, keep at it.

"In the mid-1990s, the Lake St. Clair smallmouth bass population was strong, and the fishery was already attracting national attention among bass anglers and bass fishing organizations," said retired DNR fisheries biologist Mike Thomas. "Despite invasive species, improved fishing technology, liberalized bass fishing regulations and environmental changes, the smallmouth bass population is

now stronger than ever.

"Bass anglers should be proud of their dedication to the conservation ethic, which has supported this ongoing boom in the smallmouth bass fishery."

Long-term DNR research studies like this one are valuable because they provide opportunities to evaluate trends in important fish species over the course of decades.

This allows fisheries managers to evaluate the effects of invasive species such as round goby, as well as changes in how people are fishing for species like smallmouth bass.

In Lake St. Clair, the data show that the excellent fishery of today is the result of multiple factors, including successful natural reproduction, fish living longer and ample prey resources.

These improvements, however, were not solely linked with the proliferation of a new food source, the invasive round goby.

"Since the early 2000s, round goby has spread to multiple inland waterbodies in Michigan, based on monitoring efforts and research, including in the Flint, Shiawassee and Saginaw rivers," said Justin Bopp, DNR Fisheries Division aquatic invasive species coordinator.

The continued spread of round goby into other Michigan inland waters remains a threat, unbalancing these ecosystems and outcompeting native species for food and habitat.

Anglers have a part to play in preventing the spread of the invasive round goby, which are a prohibited species in Michigan. It's illegal to possess or introduce these invasive fish, so don't use live round goby for bait fish or attempt to stock them in any waters, public or private, in hopes of boosting the bass population.

Report any round goby observations to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network via its online reporting tool or the MISIN smartphone app.

Bopp recommends that anglers help prevent round goby invading inland bodies of water by washing boats, trailers and fishing gear to help minimize the species' spread throughout Michigan.

In the last 50 years, there has never been a better time to be a bass angler on Lake St. Clair.

With the abundance of large and trophy-sized fish, the good times truly are now!

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