



THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council
Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades unions

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SHORT CUTS

Estimated UI tax penalty waived

If you collected state unemployment benefits last year, and underpaid your estimated tax payments, you will not be required to pay a penalty and interest related to underpaid estimated tax payments, according to the state Treasury Department.

The Michigan Treasury Department said that it has granted an automatic waiver of all penalties and interest related to underpaid estimated tax payments owed by taxpayers who received unemployment benefits in 2020.

Under state law, taxpayers are required to pay quarterly estimated tax payments when the annual tax due is expected to exceed \$500 or more. Taxpayers who fail to pay an estimated quarterly tax payment are typically subject to penalties and interest.

All taxpayers who received unemployment during the 2020 tax year will automatically receive this waiver. "This is the right thing to do," State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said. "Having to pay penalties and interest on unemployment benefits is the last thing individuals should be worried about when they go to pay their taxes."

UI Trust Fund is in pretty good shape

The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency Trust Fund has paid \$5.1 billion in state jobless benefits since March, but "has one of the healthiest trust funds in the nation," the UIA said Feb. 18.

The agency said it has paid more than \$29 billion in benefits since March 15, 2020, but only \$5.1 billion has been paid in state UI benefits. The rest comes from federal relief benefits.

The fund is built from state taxes paid by employers. The UIA pointed to its "Work Share Program" as a major reason the fund is in the black - the program allows job providers to retain their skilled workforce, avoid layoffs, or bring back workers at reduced hours while employees collect partial unemployment benefits to make up for their lost wages.

Union attorney moves up at NLRB

President Joe Biden has nominated a union-employed attorney, Jennifer Abruzzo, for the National Labor Relations Board General Counsel position. It's a key position, deciding which cases come before the board.

The White House said on Feb. 17 that Abruzzo currently serves as Special Counsel for Strategic Initiatives for the Communications Workers of America (CWA). Prior to her work at CWA, Ms. Abruzzo was Acting General Counsel at the National Labor Relations Board NLRB, and has spent almost 23 years working for the NLRB in various capacities.

Abruzzo replaces Trump-appointed Peter Robb, a partner at a union-busting law firm - and his actions at the NLRB reflected that background. Biden fired Robb.

Quotable

"As I have said many times, and believe with all my heart, the coalition that can have the greatest impact in the struggle for human dignity here in America is that of the Negro and the forces of labor, because their fortunes are so closely intertwined."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a letter to a laundry workers' union in 1962.



THIS GROUP OF ELECTRICIANS stopped what they were doing to have their picture taken at the Lansing Board of Water and Light's Delta Energy Park power plant. The IBEW members include (l-r) Vanessa North (Local 665); Hanna Harrington (Local 275); Howard Revard (Local 557); Barry Bock (Local 692); Scott Sovo (Local 557); William Alberts (Local 557) and Justin Kaczor (Local 557). Employed by Newkirk Electric and Swan Electric, the team was working on cutting and bending and conduit for the plant.

Trades power construction of Lansing BWL Delta plant

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

DELTA TWP. - The long coal-hauling trains that have fed the two remaining coal-burning Lansing Board of Water and Light power plants will be a thing of the past in the next few years, with the retirement of the Eckert Power Station (in 2020) and the closure of the Erickson Power Station (slated for 2025).

Their replacement is the 250-megawatt Delta Energy Park, a plant to be fueled by natural gas that's being erected on the grounds of the Erickson plant. Construction of the \$500

million facility is being led by Lansing Power Constructors, a joint venture between Barton Malow and Clark Construction, their subcontractors and a union workforce. "It's by far the largest construction project we have undertaken," said Lansing Board of Water and Light General Manager Dick Peffley. "Despite the impact of COVID, we



A WINTRY AERIAL view of the new Lansing Board of Water and Light Delta Energy Park.

Photo credit: Lansing BWL

have done really well with the construction, and we're very pleased with our contractors (Continued on Page 2)



A GROUP OF UNITED ASSOCIATION of pipe trades workers gathered for a photo at the Lansing Board of Water and Light Delta Power Plant. They include (l-r) Larry Dennis (UA Local 174); Mike Murphy (Local 333); foreman Zeb Fihlek (Local 174) and Sam Chase (Local 370). Employed by Northern Boiler, they were standing in front of a piece of their handiwork, a condensate header at the plant.

Construction employment slips as 2021 starts

U.S. construction activity in 2021 is picking up where 2020 left off.

Looking for traction, the industry started the year slipping a bit, with total construction starts dropping 4 percent in January compared to 12 months prior. The U.S. nonresidential sector, a key union employer, saw building starts flat compared to January 2020, while the stronger residential market fell 4 percent and non-building construction starts (think infrastructure) fell 10 percent. The numbers come from a Feb. 17 report by Dodge Data and Analytics.

Given uncertain weather conditions in much of the nation,

first quarter construction totals can be notoriously uneven from year to year. Indeed, "with only one month of 2021 completed, a year-to-date analysis will provide little useful information," Dodge said. "Additionally, January 2020 (i.e. pre-pandemic) was the culmination of a strong cyclical upswing in construction starts that began in 2010 and thus provides a poor point of comparison.

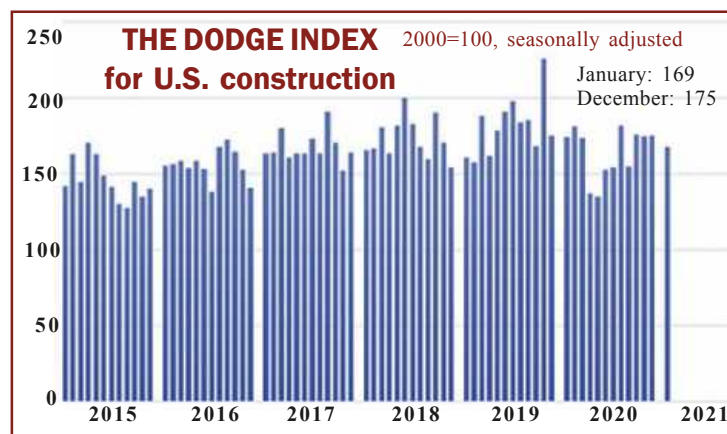
"An alternative viewpoint for analysis is comparing 12-month totals. For the 12 months ending January 2021 total construction starts were 11 percent below the 12 months ending January 2020. Nonresidential starts were down 25 percent, while non-

building starts dropped 15 percent. Residential starts, however, were 5 percent higher for the 12 months ending January 2021."

Regionally in January, starts

were lower in three of the five regions - the Midwest, South Atlantic, and South Central. Construction starts rose, however, in

(Continued on Page 3)



Amazon warehouse unionization vote a new mile-marker for Southern labor organizing

By Mark Gruenberg, Press Associates Staff Writer
BESSEMER, Ala. (PAI) - Overcoming one final company-crafted hurdle, almost 6,000 workers started mail voting on Feb. 8 on whether to unionize an Amazon warehouse. If the drive to unionize is successful, it would be seen as an historic win for organized labor.

Final results of the balloting, on whether the workers will join

the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, a sector of the United Food and Commercial Workers, will be announced March 29.

The last-ditch hurdle put in by Amazon, which other anti-union bosses have tried, was to force the 5,805 workers to vote in the traditional manner - in the warehouse during time off from their shifts - despite the lack of physical distancing and other

anti-coronavirus measures. The National Labor Relations Board, even with a GOP-named majority, unanimously OK'd the mail ballot.

"Once again Amazon workers have won another fight in their effort to win a union voice," RWDSU President Stuart Applebaum said after the NLRB's Feb. 5 ruling for mail balloting, not in-person voting. "Amazon's blatant disregard for the health and (Continued on Page 3)

Dems (barely) control Congress - now what?

New hope for retiree-friendly multi-employer pension reform

Labor loves pro-union PRO Act, but it's 'kill bill' for GOP

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congress is taking another crack at providing relief to a multi-employer pension plan crisis that threatens the financial future of more than one million American workers and retirees.

House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) on Jan. 21 introduced the Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 (EPPRA), which is an updated version of the four-year-old Butch Lewis Act. "The workers and retirees enrolled in these failing plans did everything right - they put away money year after year to save for their futures, even forgoing pay (Continued on Page 14)

What the PRO Act would do - See Page 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Like it or not, here comes the PRO Act. For the nation's labor unions, it could usher in a whole new era of easier worker organizing. For many workers it could be the trigger that raises pay and improves benefits, leading to a greater voice on the job and bringing about safer workplaces.

The *National Law Review* on Feb. 4 said: "If enacted, the PRO Act (Protecting the Right to Organize Act) would arguably be the most significant piece of labor (Continued on Page 14)



Washington Wire

Every half-century or so, a union member is picked to run the Labor Department

WASHINGTON, D.C. (via Press Associates) - By a bipartisan 18-4 vote, the Senate committee that handles workers' issues voted for Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, a Laborers Local 223 member, to be President Joe Biden's Labor Secretary.

The vote is a good indication that Walsh has the support of the full Senate to be the first union member to run the Department of Labor since union painter Peter Brennan of the New York Building and Construction Trades Council was picked by President Richard Nixon in 1973.

All 11 Democrats voted for Walsh on Feb. 11, as did seven of the 11 Republicans. Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chair Patty Murray, D-Wash., did not say when Walsh's nomination would come to the full Senate. The panel's GOP leader, Richard Burr (N.C.) voted yes and said he would do so when the full Senate votes, too.

Walsh would replace GOP

Trump regime Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia, a union-busting corporate attorney known for his anti-worker rulings and push to deregulate everything, thus favoring corporations. Scalia also halted all job safety rule-making and slashed enforcement, even in the midst of a pandemic.

By contrast, Walsh, who is also a past president of the Greater Boston Building and Construction Trades Council, has spent his career fighting for workers and is committed to Biden's "Build Back Better" economy that works for everyone, not just the rich, Murray said.

In a statement when Biden (Continued on Page 3)

Ford's train station renovation proceeds, with next-level safety

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

DETROIT - The renovation of the Michigan Central Station - the train depot built in 1913 that's being transformed by the Ford Motor Co. - is a project proceeding under a commitment to "zero injuries and zero accidents."

A partnership sealing that deal has been formed among the project team on site, including MIOSHA, Ford, and building trades unions and their contractors. Such partnerships are becoming increasingly common, with an enhanced level of safety procedures, education and reminders.

Now comes a rare "Level 3" partnership signed by the parties on Jan. 29. Only the second of its type in Michigan, "the primary goals are specific in scope," MIOSHA says, "and will center around safety training with a focus on workers new to (Continued on Page 14)



LABORER Joe Walsh is awaiting confirmation as U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Viewpoints



What the PRO Act would do

Workers face multiple hurdles when they try to organize, and employers have too much leeway to interfere with workers' free choice. The federal Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act addresses many of the major shortcomings with our current law, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), which is supposed to protect the rights of private-sector workers to organize.

And there are shortcomings in the operations of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) which was established to carry out key parts of the law. The weaknesses are exploited by anti-union employers and the union-busting consultants they hire, who intimidate workers seeking to unionize, stall union elections, and erect roadblocks to negotiating union contracts.

Here is some of what the PRO Act would do, if enacted by Congress. **Problem:** Employers can fire pro-union workers with no real consequences. This is illegal under the NLRA, but employers do it anyway.

PRO Act solution: The PRO Act establishes civil penalties for employers who violate workers' rights as well as individual liability for corporate officials.

Problem: Many employers interfere with the union election process. Under current law, employers are not required to recognize and bargain with a union that is supported by a majority of workers.

Employers also stall the election to buy time to campaign against the union. Employers exploit the law to drag out the scheduling of the election, and then use the time between the petition and the election to campaign against the union.

PRO Act solution: The PRO Act addresses employer delay tactics by restoring the representation election process and making clear that the decision over the proper bargaining unit is to be made by workers and the NLRB, not manipulated by employers.

Problem: Lopsided communications controlled by employers can mean workers hear only anti-union messages. Employers use their access to workers and control of the workplace to make sure workers understand the employer's views about unionization. Anti-union messages are included in orientation materials for new employees, and employers use company email to broadcast anti-union messages.

Nine in 10 employers require employees to attend mandatory captive-audience meetings – meetings delivering anti-union messages that employees must attend or else be disciplined or fired. Employers legally are allowed to keep union organizers out of the workplace so that organizers are unable to talk directly with employees.

PRO Act solution: The PRO Act bans captive audience meetings. It requires employers to allow workers to use company email systems for organizing purposes unless there are compelling business reasons for disallowing this use.

Problem: Employers hire union-busters to push back on workers' power. Employers overall spend at least \$340 million each year on anti-union consultants.

PRO Act solution: The PRO Act requires prompt disclosure of union-busting activities and closes the loophole through which employers and consultants have evaded reporting.

Problem: Employers stall progress toward initial collective bargaining agreements.

PRO Act solution: The PRO Act establishes a mediation and, if necessary, arbitration process to ensure that workers and employers obtain an initial collective bargaining agreement when workers first organize.

Celine McNicholas, Margaret Poydock, and Lynn Rhinehart
Economic Policy Institute

Lansing BWL Delta Energy Park

(Continued from Page 1) and tradespeople, they have been great to work with. We're looking forward to bringing the plant online, it will be the most efficient plant of its type in the United States."

Retiring both the Eckert and Erickson plants will make the BWL the largest utility in Michigan to generate coal-free power by 2025, reducing its carbon emissions by 80 percent.

"Five years ago, we burned 2 million tons of coal a year," Peffley said. "By the end of 2025, that will be down to zero."

The new Delta Energy Park plant is being erected on about 20 acres of a formerly empty lot south of the Erickson plant and its signature red- and white-striped smokestack, which was built along with the plant in 1973. Ground was broken on the Delta project in May 2019, and load generation is expected to commence in May. Substantial completion of the plant is expected in October 2021. The site is located at Millett Highway and South Canal Road.

Barton Malow says the natural gas-fired combined cycle Delta Energy Park will be home to three Siemens SGT-800 gas turbines, two Vogt Heat Recovery Steam Generators, and one Doosan steam turbine. The combustion turbines are each capable of 57 megawatts, and the steam turbine generator is ca-

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.

By mail: Building Tradesman Editor, 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216 or, e-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net



WORKING ON A PLATFORM for a compressor pump at the Lansing Board of Water and Light's new Delta Energy Park are Rick Kehoe of Iron Workers 25 and Matt Kern of Millwrights Local 1102. They're employed by Barton Malow.

pable of 90 megawatts. Auxiliary equipment will include a heat recovery system, air inlet filtering, closed-cycle cooling, exhaust stack, distributed control system, a switch yard, emission controls and noise controls.

The new 155,000 square-foot Delta plant will be fed from a 12-inch natural gas pipeline under 250 lbs. of pressure, which taps into a Consumers Energy main about nine miles away.

BWL Project Manager Roberto Hodge said earlier this month that the project is employing about 400 tradespeople, putting it at peak employment. He said the project was shut down for only two days due to the

COVID-19 virus, but significant productivity was lost as the utility and its contractors looked for ways to make certain the project could proceed safely.

"It took us about two months to ramp back up to where we were before the virus, and it added about \$15 million to the cost of the project," Hodge said. "We did a lot of re-thinking, and made some good, positive changes, because we wanted people to feel comfortable working here. I think we've done that."

The BWL has kept the building trades busy in recent years. In 2013 the utility started its

movement toward reducing its carbon footprint by erecting a \$182 million, natural gas-fired power and steam generation facility in Lansing's REO Town. In 2020 a new \$27.9 million substation was completed, also in REO Town. Peffley said the BWL is currently undertaking about \$60 million in capital improvement work.

The Erickson plant has been operating at full capacity during construction, and it will continue to do so, Peffley said – but its end is near. "This new plant is a very big part of our future," Peffley said. "It's our bridge between burning coal and moving toward being 100 percent renewable."



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Patrick Devlin
Secretary-Treasurer

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Steve Claywell
President



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Editor/Photographer
Marty Mulcahy
E-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net

Advertising Director
Joe Hoshaw
E-mail: btads@ameritech.net
(734) 558-6955

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Muskegon's Michigan Theater HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



MUSKEGON'S MICHIGAN THEATER, in 1944. The four-story building at Western Avenue and Third Street also housed shops and businesses. The opulent theater opened in September 1930 showing the films *Queen High* starring Ginger Rogers and Charles Ruggles, and a Laurel and Hardy short *Murder Mystery*. It has been renamed the Frauenthal Center. Photo credit: Muskegon Actor's Colony

The presence of at least one prominent, historic and operating theater in a community's downtown isn't necessary for its success, but it sure does help.

Whether they were originally constructed for vaudeville, stage shows or movies, historic theaters are a common touchstone in a community, a place where everyone has been invited to visit over the years to laugh at a comedian, listen to a musical act, or watch a movie.

Such theaters are usually on a city's main street, are often one of the coolest buildings on the block, and the number of people who are happy when an historic theater is closed or demolished should be zero.

"The impact and importance of the performing arts on the cultural and economic life of American cities has been felt since the very first theater and vaudeville houses sprung up on main streets throughout the country," said Michael R. Schnoering, fellow of the American Institute of Architects for the Theater Historical Society of America. "The historic theaters that remain from the pre- and post-World War II eras, as well as those from the mid-20th Century, represent innovative (and sometimes highly ornate) examples of some of the best architectural work of the day, by some of the most heralded architects of their time."

So we're looking at you Frauenthal Center, Muskegon's wonderful historic downtown theater that survived an economic depression, a closure, and calls for its demolition. Opened in 1930 as the Michigan Theater, today the site acts as a multi-purpose venue for movies, live performances and even weddings.

Located prominently at Third and Western Avenue, construction of the 1,726-seat theater came at a time when Muskegon was thriving, and already had several theatres.

"Originally known as the Michigan Theater, the Frauenthal Center was built in 1929 by Muskegon's movie mogul, Paul Schlossman, under the direction of famous theater architect, C. Howard Crane," says the Community Foundation of Muskegon County, which operates the site. "The architectural styling of the theater is Moorish, or Spanish renaissance, and gleams with extraordinary gold accents, cherubs and griffins. Built as a theater for '100 percent all talking motion pictures,' the theater built up a rich history as a glamorous entertainment destination...."

Between 1915 and 1917, Schlossman had previously hired architect Crane to design three of Muskegon's great theaters – the Rialto, Majestic and Regent (all subsequently demolished) and the Strand in Muskegon Heights in 1923.

"Muskegon's massive Frauenthal Center," says *Best Things Michigan*, which lists the venue at No. 8 on its list of the "nine most incredible theatres in Michigan." "offers quite a bit in one package. Built in 1929 – seemingly a fairly big year for Michigan theater – the Frauenthal Center was originally the design of an architect which developed three of the greatest movie houses in Muskegon, sufficient that these were considered on par with most anything else 'outside of Detroit.'"

Indeed, the Roaring 20s was a grand era for theater construction in Michigan, and it was com-



"A DOWNTOWN MUSKEGON landmark, the Michigan Theater Building is significant for its architecture and its role in the community. It features a fine Art Deco exterior and elaborate terra cotta interior decoration," says *Cinema Treasures*. Photo credit: Cinema Treasures

mon for smaller communities or local benefactors to cough up big bucks to fund the hiring of big-time architects like Crane for the construction of a local theater that would bring bragging rights and claim the best "outside of Detroit" designation.

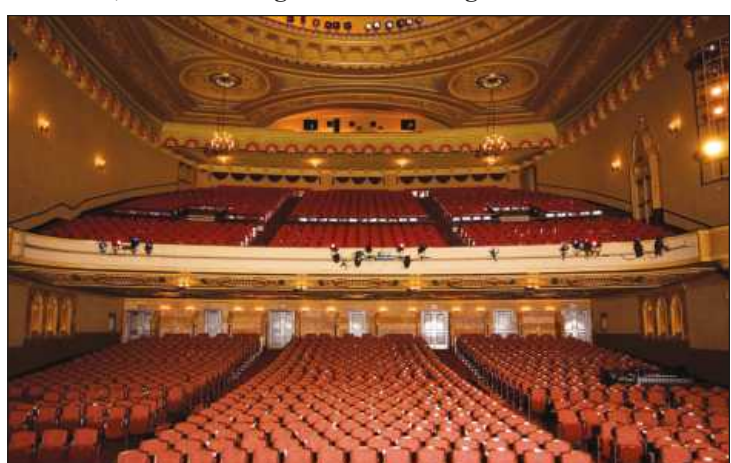
Some of those include the Strand (1921) in Pontiac, the Soo (1929) in Sault Ste. Marie, and the Temple (1926) in Saginaw, just to name a few.

Schlossman made a terrific impression in Muskegon with the new Michigan Theater, which was described by the *Muskegon Chronicle* prior to its opening on Sept. 16, 1930. With the Great Depression nearly a year old, there was no grand opening night event.

"When the doors of the beautiful new Michigan Theater are opened to the public Tuesday for its premier showing, theatergoers of Muskegon will be given the opportunity of visiting and seeing one of the most modern and best-equipped amusement houses in the state," the *Chronicle* said. "The new building, completed and equipped at a cost of more than \$600,000 (\$9.3 million in 2021), today takes a place of prominence among Muskegon's growing group of architectural gems – symmetrical masses of brick and stone which have replaced, in the last half-decade, a number dilapidated tenement houses and ramshackle structures of another day.

"Located at Third Street and Western Avenue in the heart of the business district, the new edifice, with its modern and ornate design and its cream-colored terra cotta exterior, lends color and dignity to the lower end of the city's main thoroughfare. Particularly at night with 1,500 incandescent lights aglow, the building is transformed into a marble-like monument of grace and beauty.

"This same beauty of grace and design which marks the exterior of the structure is carried out in an even more lavish degree in the auditorium of the theater proper, where highly colored materials, rich draperies, graceful arches, ornamental light fix-



THE 1,726-SEAT Frauenthal Theater in Muskegon. *Archipedia* said "the theater displayed ornate carvings, arches, and intricate plasterwork...." Photo credit: Cinema Treasures

tures, heavily carpeted aisle ways, all add to the tasteful appointment of the building."

An advertisement at the time in the *Chronicle* proudly stated, "With the opening of the new Michigan Theater, Muskegon can boast the best in Michigan, outside of Detroit, and second to none in the United States for a town our size." The theater was erected by the Strom Construction Co.

A history provided by the Frauenthal Center said the building's "ceiling and walls were adorned with beautiful ornamental light fixtures, the carpet and opera chairs covered with rich velour, and the stage enclosed with lipstick red draperies. Many ornate carvings, arches and intricate plasterwork abound. The ceiling is surrounded by plaster shells and comes to a large acoustic dome, or oculus, in the center. Suspended from the roof hanging by steel wires, the ceiling is not unlike the suspended acoustical ceilings with which we are all familiar."

The theater was also given a Barton organ, a rare and expensive addition to any venue.

Showing signs of wear in the 1950s, the Michigan Theater's lively interior colors were coated with a pale beige – not an uncommon desecration in the 1950s.

Schlossman's company met its demise in the late 1960s, and the theatre was closed in the early 1970s to 1976. Fearing demolition of the building, a citizens group approached the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, which had received a substantial gift from a local industrialist, A. Harold Frauenthal, who wanted his gift to be used for the good of the community.

In 1976, the Community Foundation used the funds to purchase an entire block of West Western Avenue, including the Michigan Theatre. Frauenthal's name was put on the theatre.

In 1995, Muskegon County voters passed a \$16 million bond issue, and work began in 1998 to restore, improve and expand the theater building and nearby buildings.

Construction employment slips in 2021

(Continued from Page 1) the Northeast and West.

"The tenuous beginning to construction starts in 2021 highlights the long and rocky road ahead for the sector this year," said Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. "Over the course of the year the economy will recover as more Americans receive their vaccinations. However, the construction sector's recovery will take time to materialize due to the deep scars caused to the industry by the pandemic. Patience will be key in the months to come."

In terms of construction employment, the sector dropped a bit in January, ending eight months of recovery after the pandemic-related losses from earlier in 2020, said the Associated General Contractors on Feb. 5.

Construction employment dipped by 3,000 to 7,392 million in January from a downwardly revised December total, the Associated General Contractors reported Feb. 5. Employment in the sector remains 256,000 or 3.3 percent lower than in February 2020, the most recent peak.

Unemployment in construction soared over the past 12 months. The industry's unemployment rate in January was 9.4 percent, compared to 5.4 percent in January 2020.

"The stagnation in construction employment in January may foreshadow further deterioration in the industry as projects that had started before the pandemic finish up and owners hold off on awarding new work," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "With so much of the economy still shut down or operating at reduced levels, it will likely be a long time before many nonresidential contractors are ready to hire again."

Union member picked to run Labor Dept.

(Continued from Page 1) nominated Walsh a month before, Laborers President Terry O'Sullivan praised the mayor as "a hard-charging, hard-fighting, tireless and tenacious working-class warrior whose word is his bond, who says what he means and means what he says, and who can always be counted on to stand with working men and women. Marty never forgets where he came from. He values hard work and those that do it, and he has seen, first hand, the power of the union movement to transform lives."

Walsh will again make DOL "a powerful guardian of workers and a strong and effective enforcer of labor laws," O'Sullivan added.

As mayor, Walsh won extra support for nurses, sanitation workers and other "essential workers" during the pandemic, said Murray. He's also built coalitions with business on issues such as greater apprenticeship opportunities for women and workers of color.

And his political experience, as a state legislator and union leader, as well as mayor, make him a credible advocate among lawmakers for the Protect The Right To Organize (Pro) Act, which Biden and Walsh strongly support.

Murray added: Workers "need a Secretary of Labor like Mayor Walsh who will act quickly to keep workers safe, defend and expand workers' rights, and be a partner in helping our economy come back stronger and fairer for all workers."

Amazon unionization vote a new marker for organizing the South

(Continued from Page 1)

safety of its own workforce was demonstrated yet again by its insistence for an in-person election in the middle of the pandemic.

"Today's decision proves that it's long past time that Amazon start respecting its own employees, and allow them to cast their votes without intimidation and interference."

If RWDSU wins, it would mark a double breakthrough for organized labor in two notoriously hostile environments: Amazon and Alabama. Only 8 percent of the state's workers were union members last year, a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey reported. And while union density rose around the U.S. in 2020, it declined in right-to-work Alabama.

Meanwhile, Amazon hired 400,000 new workers last year to deal with huge increases in shipping volume due to the coronavirus pandemic, Kevin Vasquez reported in Harvard Law School's *On Labor* blog.

Amazon's also notoriously anti-union, even though it could easily afford to pay its workers higher, living wages. Its owner, Jeff Bezos, is one of the three richest people in the U.S. None of Amazon's facilities in the U.S. are unionized.

The *Washington Post* reported in early January that Bezos's wealth grew to \$186 billion, up by roughly \$70 billion during the pandemic.

Appelbaum told Reuters earlier that top union officials had discussed the organizing drive with top aides to new Democratic President Joe Biden, a strong union backer, just after the Jan. 20 inauguration. He did not disclose who talked, or the Biden aides' response.

Appelbaum stressed the importance of the Bessemer campaign to the entire labor movement and its effort to break through in the notoriously union-hating South. There, bosses and politicians in the racially antagonistic and stratified society often play off Whites versus Blacks to thwart union organizing drives by depriving workers of local community support. Most of the Amazon workers are Black in a 70 percent Black city.

Amazon "has a long and well-documented history of workplace abuses, poor working conditions and illegal labor practices," Vasquez added. "A successful union campaign could incite a flurry of organizing activity and spread rapidly to its other warehouses."

Amazon grudgingly admitted in September that the coronavirus had infected more than 19,000 of its workers. It refused to say how many have died. It hasn't released figures since then. Lack of protection against the virus is a key issue for the Bessemer workers.

Just joking

A few days after Adam and Eve were together in the Garden of Eden, the Lord called to Adam and said, "It is time for you and Eve to begin the process of populating the earth. So first, I want you to kiss her."

Adam answered, "Yes Lord, but what is a kiss?"

And so the Lord gave a brief description to Adam, who took Eve by the hand and took her behind a bush. A few minutes later, Adam emerged and said, "Thank you Lord, that was enjoyable."

And the Lord replied, "Yes Adam, I thought you might enjoy that, and now I'd like you to caress Eve."

Adam replied, "What is a caress?" So the Lord again gave Adam a brief description and Adam went behind the bush with Eve.

Quite a few minutes later, Adam returned, smiling, and said, "Lord, that was even better than the kiss!"

And the Lord said, "I understand, Adam. And now I want you to make love with Eve." And Adam asked, "What is 'make love' Lord?"

And so the Lord again gave Adam instructions and Adam went again to Eve behind the bush, but this time he reappeared seconds later.

And Adam said, "Lord, what is a 'headache?'"

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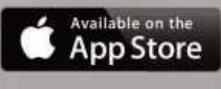

Over 32 Years of Continuous Service

2021 LOGBOOK AVAILABLE

HARD COPY & MOBILE APP VERSIONS

Aiello Law Group, f/k/a Esper Aiello Law Group has released our 2021 Construction Worker's Daily Logbook in both print and digital versions! We have provided logbooks to Michigan's building trades for 32 years!

The traditional paper version can be picked up in our law office, your union hall, the Building Trades office at 1640 Porter in Detroit, or can be mailed directly to you by calling (313) 964-4900. The digital version can be found on the App Store by Apple or on Google Play for Android. Simply search "Aiello Digital Daily Logbook."



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111 UPPER PENINSULA – Both the Escanaba and Marquette halls have been closed to walk-in members until further notice. Please call either hall for any assistance you may need.

The next scheduled union meeting will be on **March 25, 2021** at the Escanaba hall @ 7:30 p.m. EST. Masks will be required so if you plan on attending please wear a mask.

Thank you to the membership for your patience during this process due to the current situation of the COVID-19 mandates of gatherings. Any questions please call Business Manager, Dean Gutzman and stay safe.

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.

Important Information: Contact the hall with any changes with any of the following: E-Mail, address, phone number, a new birth, marriage, divorce, or death. For those of you, who have an email address that we do not yet have on record, please call and give it to April or Ann.

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 etc.) by sending a copy of your 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 ua111.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: The 2020 MSHA schedule is on our web site & our Facebook page. Call Ann at (906) 226-6511 ext. 4 to register. MSHA expires in one year.

"Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance but to do what lies clearly at hand."

–Thomas Carlyle (1795 - 1881)

"Let us so live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry."

–Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

"Enjoy present pleasures in such a way as not to injure future ones."

–Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)

"Success isn't measured by the position you reach in life: it's measured by the obstacles you overcome."

–Booker T. Washington (1856 - 1915)

"Liberty has never come from the government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of it. The history of liberty is the history of resistance. The history of liberty is a history of limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it."

–Woodrow Wilson (1856 - 1924)

"You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes."

–Winnie the Pooh's Little Instruction Book, inspired by A. A. Milne

"Growth demands a temporary surrender of security."

–Gail Sheehy

"You may delay, but time will not."

–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)



Sprinkler Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

FARMINGTON – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, March 10th at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M. Please note masks will be required for entry to the meeting.

Election of delegates to the 40th United Association Convention will take place on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at the Local Union Hall. The polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. In case of a tie, there will be a run-off election held the same evening with the voting members present. Eligibility to vote is covered in the Constitution of the United Association under section 124: (a) 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 the election. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of one (1) year immediately prior to the date of election shall not be eligible to vote in any Local Union election.

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.

Article IX, Section 4 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order states: Members shall report all job starts to its local union office.

NFPA All Access is available for all 704 members. Please contact the Local 704 Training Center for username and password.


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

Continuing education classes are being formed. Please reach out to the training center for further information or future classes you would like to see added.

Our deepest condolences go out to the family and friends of Retired Brother Robert Weigand. Brother Weigand was a 65-year member of Local 704 where he served on multiple committees including one term as Business Manager. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Please keep your information updated with the union hall.

A speedy recovery to all of our sick and injured members.



Local 370
Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 7:00pm**. It has been designated a refreshment meeting.

The hall is open for essential business. If you come to the hall, please follow all CDC Covid-19 guidelines.

Please note that we have moved to our new Union Hall/Training Center located at **2151 W. Thompson Rd. Fenton MI**.

Upcoming Night Classes.
Med-Gas. February 22nd through April 7th, 2021. Every Monday and Wednesday @ 4:30pm

HVAC STAR REVIEW & TEST. February 16th through March 4th, 2021. Every Tuesday and Thursday @ 5pm

Backflow. March 8th through April 5th 2021. Every Monday and Wednesday @ 4:30pm

There will be no deposit for these classes.

To sign up please call Kaytlin Johnson @ 810-720-5243 ext. 15.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – Tuesday March 16, 2021 at 3:30pm

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.

Sub Pay. Remember to qualify for sub pay when you are laid off, you must sign the out of work list. You can also collect when you are on Jury Duty and miss work. If you are traveling, call Karla to see if you need to make sub-fund self-payments. All members were sent a Sub-Pay manual in 2018. If you did not receive one, please call TIC at (517) 321-7502 and ask for the 370 Sub Pay Fund Summary Plan Description (SPD)

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

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing The Joint Apprenticeship 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 Riggering, 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 Tradesman article, see upcoming meeting dates, or pay your dues. This is a work in progress, and we will add more content to the site as we move forward.

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

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

Plumbing, Mechanical and Residential Code Books are now available at the hall. The books are \$75.00 each.

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 bylaws. 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, Dan Gaudet for application and testing dates.

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

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

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



AT WORK BUILDING the new Lansing of Board of Water and Light Delta Energy Plant are pipe trades workers (l-r) Jason McDiarmid, John Ortiz (Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 174) and Mark Hutchinson (UA Local 118, Kenosha, Wis.). They're employed by Scheck Mechanical.



UA LOCAL 85
SAGINAW, MI
Local 85

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

SAGINAW – Union Meetings are also cancelled due to the pandemic until further notice. The office is closed to in-person business. Please utilize fax, email and phone. If you're unable to conduct business by fax, phone or email, please call to set up an appointment at (989) 799-5261.

Seeking licensed plumbers to work in Alpena, if interested please call Clint Steele at (231) 499-7330.

UA Local 85 will be hosting a food drive in coordination with the United Way on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, Michigan. If you are available to volunteer, please call Feather at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510.

Please note: **Our new mailing address** for all correspondences has changed to 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603.

ALL NON-CRITICAL INTERACTIONS is cancelled until further notice. Please utilize email and phone calls whenever possible. Below is a list of main contacts for the hall:

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

Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515
jbador@ualocal85.org

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

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

Feather Reige, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8510
freige@ualocal85.org

The next **Northern Meeting** is postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85.org or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

The **new website** is up and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin or Feather at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511 or 8510.

The **new Facebook** page is live. If you are currently on the Local Eighty-Five Facebook account, invites were sent to have you join the new site. UA Local 85 page is our public Facebook account. UA Local 85 Members Group is our new members only Facebook. On this page, we will have important messages and reminders specific to our membership. Please like both and let us know what you think.

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 (Continued next column)



Local 357
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Service Local 357

KALAMAZOO – **UNION MEETING:** All Union Meetings face-to-face are cancelled until further notice. The Finance Committee and Executive Board will conduct their regularly scheduled monthly meetings. We will conduct a **Zoom Meeting** in place of a face-to-face membership meeting starting at 6:30 pm on March 9th, 2021. There will be an email with instructions on how to participate in advance of March's union meeting. You can only receive this email if you have given us permission to send you emails. Please call Lori at the Hall, (269) 679-2570, to confirm your email address and/or consent to us sending you emails.

Brothers and Sisters, For those of you who have not heard, Sean Flora is now working for the Michigan Pipe Trades Association as an organizer. Ben Ranger, who is the lead organizer for the Michigan Pipe Trades Association, appointed Sean to his team starting Jan. 1, 2021. Congratulations to Sean on being recognized and rewarded for his hard work. We wish Sean the best in his new position.

At this time, Local 357 will be looking to hire another full-time Organizer. If you are interested in applying for the position, please call Ken Willcutt at (269) 569-3492 or email kwilcutt@ualocal357.com, your resume. Interviews to fill Local 357's Organizer position are scheduled for March 18th.

MEDICAL CLAIMS ISSUES: As a member, TIC International provides a dedicated team of member advocates to assist with the resolution of any and all medical claims issues. If at any time you experience an issue with your claims being processed and paid correctly, please contact TIC international at 1-888-281-3461. If you are not satisfied with the service you have received, please call me, Ken Willcutt, at (269) 569-3492.

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Members Access Your Information Here, then click on TIC International Corporation and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and Create your own password. Once you have completed all the information – click on the LARGE REGISTER button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password – and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when hours are posted to your account. **This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.**

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 TIC at the phone number above and 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) Time limits apply for reporting status changes so let the hall know ASAP!

TAX PREP INFORMATION: Dollar amounts WILL BE available February 15th, 2021 for 2020 withholdings & dues paid. If you sign up for the e-mail on the website, you do not need to call the Hall for your deductions because you can view and print out your own information. The information that we have is what the contractors have reported on the fringes. If you think there is a discrepancy, then you should check your own pay stubs.

NOTE: HEALTH INSURANCE IS PAID BY THE CONTRACTORS AND IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the families of Matt and Randy Kieszowski on the recent passing of their brother.

Local 85, continued

moved up to Wednesday by noon.

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

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510.

Beneficiary Cards: Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510.

Email Addresses: Please email freige@ualocal85.org to update email addresses.

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

RETIREE LUNCHEON: All retiree luncheons are postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85.org or Facebook for all up to date information.

Remember you all are essential to me.

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



Local 190

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190
ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: DUE TO COVID a video informational meeting will take place on March 8 and will start at 6:00. Please make sure the union hall has your current cellphone number in order to receive these notices on how to join in on the video informational meetings.

ROBO CALLS: We are sending out Robo calls to keep you updated and informed, if you are NOT receiving these messages it means we do not have a current phone number on file for you, please contact the hall to update.

GAS DISTRIBUTION MICHIGAN MEMBERS – MONTHLY MEETING: We will start having monthly informational meetings via ZOOM online meetings. Information will be sent out via text message on how to join the virtual meeting. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings. We are sending out Robo calls (caller ID “Oklahoma City, OK”) to keep you updated and informed, if you are NOT receiving these messages it means we do not have a current phone number on file for you, please contact the hall to update.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – UNION HALL HOURS: Effective Monday, Nov. 23 the office will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 (the office will be closed for lunch on these days from Noon to 1:00 p.m.) There will be no foot traffic to the back offices. Please feel free to stop by the union hall to see Karen to make your dues payments or if you have something to drop off.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the office will be closed to foot traffic. Members can still call the hall anytime.

Currently Local 190 is not accepting any apprenticeship applications. A note will be put in the paper when this current status changes.

MASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN ENTERING THE UNION HALL BUILDING AND TRAINING CENTER DUE TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDER.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN WELDERS: Please remember it is very important to keep your continuity forms up to date.

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.

2020 - 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.

UALLOCAL190WEBSITE: www.ua190.org Current members will be able to log into the “Members Only” section using your last name and UA card number.****

NEW ON THE WEBSITE: Members can now view and sign up for job calls. The same procedure will be used as the call-in line. If you are laid off or go back to work, there are forms available to fill out on the website that will inform the hall.

CREDIT CARD MACHINE: You now have the ability to pay your union dues or purchase merchandise by credit card or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. A surcharge of 3.99% is added to your card on the transaction amount. We will then mail you your dues receipt and credit card slip.

LAI D OFF OR BACK TO WORK – IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS: All members who get laid off or report back to work **please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210**, to report the last day in which you worked or to report the day you went back to work. **PLEASE NOTE:** Members can now go to the website under “members only” and fill out a “back to work” form or “laid off” form.

INFORMATION-FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:

NEW VISION PROGRAM – DAVIS VISION: Please be advised of the Jan. 1, 2021 change to your vision benefits. Effective Jan. 1, 2021, your vision benefits are now being offered through Davis Vision. Welcome letters and cards, detailing your new benefits, were mailed during the month of December 2020. If you

have not received this information, please contact the Fund office at 888-390-7473. You can also go to the Local 190 website www.ua190.org and go to the benefit section for more information.

NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE: Attention all members, you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation of benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Effective Wednesday, Nov. 25 due to COVID there will be no representative at the union hall the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month until further notice.** You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

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

CLASS INFORMATION – TRAINING CENTER- office phone: 734-426-3700. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update certifications, licenses, or qualifications. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. You must wear a face mask while inside the building. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2021 Schedule - All on Mondays - **April 5, 2021 @ 5:00pm, July 19, 2021 @ 5:00pm, and Oct 4, 2021 @ 5:00pm. Call Retha to be put on the list for the day you choose.**

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): 2021 Schedule - All on Mondays - **April 19, 2021 @ 5:00pm, July 26, 2021 @ 5:00pm, and Oct 18, 2021 @ 5:00pm. Call Retha to be put on the list for the day you choose.**

Aerial Lift Training (4 hrs): Two different classes. **Monday, March 1, 2021 @ 5:00pm. Tuesday, March 2, 2021 @ 5:00pm. Each class size is limited to 8, so call and get your name on the list.**

Welding Lab: Runs Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4:30 pm till 8:30 pm. Weld test days are determined as participants show they have the skills.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This class is complete. **Next class to be in the fall**

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): **Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb 23, 2021 and Feb 24, 2021. Check your certs to make sure of your expiration date. We will have another class in Sept. Call Retha to pick your dates and be put in the class. Each class will be limited in size.**

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class that **WILL BE ON-LINE, via Zoom. Must have an active e-mail address. Must have a computer with a camera and good internet. Camera must stay on and you must stay in front of the camera the duration of the class. Brazing practice, brazing test and written test will be in-person at the training center. Class will run Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 5:00pm starting March 9, 2021 until April 8, 2021. Call Retha to be put on the list and give her your active e-mail address. Class limited to 16.**

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): **Tuesday and Thursday, April 13, 2021 and April 15, 2021 @ 5pm, and another class on April 20, 2021 and April 22, 2021 @ 5:00pm. Both Tuesday classes will be ON-LINE, via Zoom and both Thursday classes will be in-person, at the Training Center for the test. For on-line part, you must have good internet and a web camera. Camera must stay on and you must stay in-front of your camera for the duration of the class. Call Retha to choose your dates and give her your active email address. Each class limited to 16.**

ICRA Certification (16hrs): Looking to put on another ICRA certification class. **Next class possibly in-person at the Training Center. In-person class is limited to 8 participants. Call Training Center to get put on the list for the next class. If it is on-line, it will be ran through Zoom. For on-line class, you must have a computer with good (Continued next column)**



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333
LANSING – March’s union meeting will be held March 17, 2021 at 7:30pm. The meeting will be virtual.

April’s union meeting will be held April 21, 2021 at 7:30pm. An announcement will be made at a later date if the meeting will be virtual or in-person depending on the Covid circumstance.

Notice: Charges have been formally filed against Brother Corey Barrett. The details of the charges will be read to the membership at our next in-person membership meeting TBA based on the current Pandemic restrictions. The membership will then have the opportunity to vote on the merit of the charges and whether or not to proceed with a trial. The meeting will be announced in Building Trades paper when possible.

The United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters will be holding the 40th General Convention in August 2021. Nominations were held on January 13, 2021 and these are the nominees listed in the order they were nominated: Trent Mauk, Andrew Martinez, Ben Wright, Nick Asher, Jeremy Garza, Rob White, Deshon Leek, Dave Mull, Larry Haggerty.

UA Local 333 Delegate Election Ballots have been mailed out and need a return post-mark dated no later than March 01, 2021. All members eligible to vote will receive a voting ballot.

Weld Classes: As of February 1, 2021, the 10-week weld classes have begun. There is a \$25.00 fee, please call your respective hall to pay for the class.

If you are interested in signing up for other classes please call the Training Center, (517) 323.0333 and we will sign you up for that class, as our website is currently being updated.

Lansing’s weld class: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson’s weld class: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3101 Industrial Allied Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek’s weld class: Mondays & Thursdays (KCC) RMTc, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA, as of January 2019, all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications. Check the date(s) of your Certifications, if they have expired please contact Diana at 517.323.0333. Though we send out everyone’s continuities to be renewed; between changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. **Ultimately it’s the member’s responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated**

If your Med-Gas Installer is going to expire within the next few months please sign up on our website to take the renewal class.

Med-Gas new certification: Please sign up online on our website or contact the Lansing Training Center.

Please make sure you contact your respective hall with address changes, births, deaths, or if you need to change your beneficiaries.

Sincere condolences to Brad Durham and his family on the loss of his mother Betsy Durham who passed away February 8, 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Local 190, con’t

reliable internet access and a webcam. You must also have a valid email account. Test day will be at the Training Center.

CONDOLENCES: Our member Clark Sampson passed away on Jan. 10. Clark initiated Aug. 30, 1966, retired March 1, 2003 and became a lifetime member Aug. 1, 2016. May our sincere condolences bring comfort to all family members and friends.

RETIREE MEETINGS – **SPADES and BREAKFAST MEETINGS have been canceled until further notice.

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.



WE ASKED THIS group of pipe trades workers to assemble for a photo while working at the Lansing Board of Water and Light’s Delta Energy Park powerhouse. They are, (l-r) Jeff Van Der Tuin (Local 174, Coopersville) Tim Novak (Local 50, Toledo) and Shawn Mouser, (Local 333, Lansing). They’re employed by Scheck Mechanical.



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – Meeting Notice: ALL IN-PERSON UNION MEETINGS AND RETIREE BREAKFASTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. **Tuesday March 2nd at 7pm we will broadcast our Local Union Update on the Facebook members group chat and via Zoom. We will email the Zoom link the Monday prior to the meeting.**

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

Condolences: Local #174 would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of Brother Thomas Turoski who recently passed away. Brother Turoski was initiated in December of 1966. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Local Union Office: The office will remain open. To reduce foot traffic in the building we’re asking members to conduct business by phone are use the website when possible.

UA Convention: The UA Convention will convene on the week of Aug. 23, 2021. The convention will either take place in San Diego CA in person, be entirely virtual, or a hybrid approach with some delegates participating in person and others virtually.

Eligibility: To be eligible to vote you must have been a member in good standing for a period of one year prior to the election date. Apprentices having completed their third year of apprenticeship will be eligible to vote provided they meet the criteria above.

Election: The election will take place at the assembly hall on March 2nd from 3pm to 7pm. The election committee will be there to verify eligibility, issue and collect secret ballots. Results will be verified by office manager Lisa Johnson C.P.A. After the results are tabulated they will be made known using the same means as nominations. Our final number of delegates will be determined based off the March cash sheet which is due to the UA by April 15th. Any ties will be settled by the settled by coinflip to take place on April 16, at 3pm. Any protest should be done in accordance with Section 125 of the UA Constitution. Our election committee will be John Ruitter, Dennis Bennett and Tom Whitaker.

UA Convention Delegate Nominees (in order based on nomination date): JEREMY RAAP, TERRY BROWN, JASON MCDIARMID, FRANKIE PAGAN, JASON FINCH, NATHAN PHILLIPS, MARK MANGIONE, JEFFERY C RUMSEY, CHRISTOPHER PELTON, CLINT FOWLER, JEFFREY C RUMSEY II, MICAH PERKINS, LENNARD DEHOFF, ROBERT BARNETT

COVID-19: The virus is showing up on many jobsites throughout our jurisdiction. Please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask and wash your hands frequently.

PAC Cards: Since the elimination of prevailing wage, the race to the bottom on wages and benefits for publicly funded projects has begun. Our political focus over the years to come will be electing people who support prevailing wage and wage standards in general. To do that we need to raise our PAC card participation. We currently have less than half of the local contributing to our PAC. Your PAC contribution DOES NOT COME OFF YOUR CHECK. When you sign the PAC card it allows us to move

money from your working dues over to our PAC. Please call Cami today and find out if you have current PAC card on file.

Medicare Retirees: Effective Jan. 1, 2021 your insurance premiums will be reduced by approximately 12.5%. New rates are as follows: Single Medicare \$262.55; Retiree and Spouse Medicare, \$525.09; Retiree and Non-Medicare Spouse \$677.55.

Short Term Disability: The Local 174 Board of Trustees recently voted to increase the short-term disability amount from \$300 per week to \$400 per week. This increase will be effective Sept. 30, 2019.

Dispatch: We will be splitting 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: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

New insurance carriers: Active and NON Medicare Retirees Aetna: (888)290-7241 Save-Rx: (800)228-3108 Medicare Retirees Labor First: (616) 345-0788

Organizing Update: Please contact Chris Pelton if you know of any jobsites with a non-union plumbing or mechanical contractor or if you are interested in actively assisting with our organizing efforts. There are plenty of opportunities available, ranging from a one-day ride-along with a Business Agent or Organizer all the way up to full blown salting.

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 that you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events, such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

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

Contact Info: Please make sure we have your updated contact information. Check your info on the website or by calling Cami at the Union office.

Retiree Breakfast: Canceled until further notice.

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

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3rd Wednesday of the month / Labor Temple 918 Benjamin / 5:30pm

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.

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (TIC) West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No.174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275 (517) 321-7502 Phone

(855)40-PLUMB Toll Free (517)321-7508 Fax

BENEFITS WEBSITE: westmichiganplumbers.org is the TIC website where you can check your contributions and benefit information. Click on benefit inquiry. Your username is your social security number. The password for first time users is K4GHB39 (case sensitive). You will then be prompted to create a permanent password.

Forms: The forms for Dollar Bank Reimbursement and Sub Pay are on the www.ua174.org website under the Members Only section and Forms and Links tab.

Contract Requirements: Please remember Section 5.7 of our collective bargaining agreement states, “Persons called from the unemployed list will report to work with a UA/WMMCA issued drug card.” Section 18.5 states, “...employees... shall be required to maintain the following Safety Training Certifications: First Aid/CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens and OSHA 10.” Please make sure you follow our agreement.

Out of work list: Please remember to call extension 17 when you are laid off. You must call line 17 to be put on the available to work list. When you leave a message, please speak clearly. Any member who goes to work without a referral is in violation of our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Article XXXI of our Constitution and By-Laws. Please contact the Union Hall to find out your position on the out of work list.

Union Hall extension numbers: Ryan Bennett Business Manager ext:12, Nathan Phillips Assistant Business Manager ext. 13, Jason Finch Business Agent ext.14, Chris Pelton Organizer ext.15, Lisa Johnson Accounting Manager 11, Cami Burris Administrative Assistant ext. 10, Training Dept: Jeff Rumsey ext. 16, Nicole Shumaker ext. 30.

Training News. **FIRST AID:** First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5-9:00p. The next class will be held March 11 and April 15; this will be the 3rd Thursday in April rather than the second, due to a schedule conflict for the instructor.

WELDING: The next weld test event will be Saturday, March 13, 2021 @ 8:00am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, March 11, 5:00p – 9:00p. Please call and sign up if you plan to test.

REMINDER: Open Welding resumed in the Training Center as of Jan 20th and is available weekly on Wednesday evenings from 5-9 pm. In order to continue offering this, participation needs to increase. Open Welding is an opportunity for members to utilize the weld booths to practice and/or work with a welding instructor to improve your skills. Due to class size limits, we ask that you call the Training Office or Training Coordinator, Jeff Rumsey, to register so we know the number of participants to expect.

Night classes will be added to the schedule based on student demand and instructor availability. If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification, please contact the Training Office. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates.

Please contact Jeff or Nicole if you have questions. Call the training office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Jeff)/Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140 / Nicole (231)206-4213.

Plumbers Local 98

Plumbers Local 98
DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

Brothers and Sisters, On behalf of all your officers and staff, we hope you and your family are safe and healthy.

MEETINGS. Union Meetings are still on video due to the hall being closed. The next video will be posted on **Thursday, March 11th at 7:00 pm.** This is a State of the Union address covering the past year. I hope when it's done you have all the information that has been requested by some of you. At that time the old video from February 11th will be pulled down. You can access this video on our Local 98 website at the member section under **Member Zone.**

The next video Union Meeting after that will be **April 8th at 7:00 pm.** This will be the unfortunate norm until May, hopefully we can be outside and try to get some time together. For virtual meetings we will follow the same rituals and officer reports as usual. We will have to trust our elected officers, E-Board, and Committees to keep a transparent look at things down here. All bills will be previewed by the Finance Committee and recently our Executive Board. If you feel a need, you can set an appointment to ask questions.

E-Board meetings. E-Board meetings are the first and second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. If you need to contact or see the board, please call V.P. Jim Cools at 734-307-9841.

Retiree Meetings remain cancelled.

DUES. We are updating the systems at the hall to streamline the dues payment process. As of now you can pay online, over the phone, or by mailing in a check. You can also set up auto-payments. If you have any questions or need to pay dues, please contact Kristina Lodovisi at (248) 307-9800 ext. 4 or on her cell at (248) 331-7232. You should have received a letter about the status of your Union Dues and about the 2021 Dues Gift Program earlier in the year. For those of you who took advantage of this program, the 98 dues jackets are coming in weekly. Please call first to make sure we have your size available.

COVID-19 Information & Vaccine! The most important web site we can give you for information pertaining to COVID-19 is as follows: Michigan.gov/protect-mission. Or, if you would like to be a part of the conversation and join a workgroup, you can reach out to protect-mission@michigan.gov or www.michigan.gov/covid-vaccine for locations or information regarding COVID-19 updates. **WEAR YOUR MASKS!** Any concerns with COVID-19 safety protocols or lack of PPE contact the **Business Agent in the area or the Union Hall.**

Vaccines! Plumbers Local 98 is covered in Detroit as an essential worker and if you are job related to the city of Detroit (this means any plumbing job in the city you may be working on) you can call 313-230-0505 between 9am & 8pm M-F to schedule an appointment at the TCF Center.

UNION HALL. The Union Hall is CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC. You will need to schedule an appointment to come to the hall. Properly worn masks are required. There is a COVID-19 questionnaire that **MUST** be filled out by everyone entering the Union Hall. All the officers are continuing to work remotely.

SUB APPS/OOW CHANGES. It is your responsibility to fill out a sub app when you are laid off. Please fill out SUB Apps electronically. This can be found on the web page under the OOWL section. If you're still having unemployment issues call BAs Gary Glaser or Tom McWilliams. For any member issues dealing with benefits contact Jon DeRoo. If you are less than a year from retiring, please set a meeting with Jon today.

NOTE ON DISABILITY. If you are filing for Social Security Disability you will need to file for your Local 98 Disability Pension at the same time in order to make sure you get all your pension checks. Social Security normally takes at least a year and sometimes a lot longer. If you file for your Local 98 Disability Pension at the same time, then when you receive your award from Social Security, we will be able to pay you all the retro money owed.

POLITICS. The UA has launched a new grassroots activism tool. The new tool allows us to directly engage our elected officials on all kinds of issues. Right now, we have two campaigns open: one urging a comprehensive infrastructure package with strong labor protections, like prevailing wage and PLAs; and the other urging an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to energy.

You can find these campaigns and more tools to find your elected officials or pieces of legislation at www.uagetinvolved.org/take-action.

We can't hold our elected officials accountable unless we make our voices heard. It only takes a minute to take these simple actions to keep the UA strong.

LICENSE RENEWAL. Time again to renew your State of Michigan Plumbing License. It is online go to <https://aca3.accela.com/LARA> (note mobile devices may not work with new site). If you are a Master and a Contractor for the same company, you may be able to have your fee waived. Any other questions EMAIL LARA-BCC-licensing@Michigan.gov. For all continuing education opportunities or classes, call Training Coordinator Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435. BAs Gary Glaser and Tom McWilliams are admins on the Must/Most program, contact them if you need help.

IN MEMORIAM. Our heartfelt and deepest condolences go out to the families and friends of our brothers who have recently passed. Brothers William Pote and Ethridge Ford both passed on February 16, 2021.

GOOD/WELFARE. We all wish to congratulate Bother Ryan Lyle for taking up the challenge and become Plumbers Local 98's Director of Training. We wish you the best in leading our future apprentices to a better way of life and Brotherhood. Brother Paul Baker has agreed to stay on for a bit as we transition.

This month Plumbers Local 98 is partnering with Representative Lori Stone to promote her Diversity Toy Drive. The goal is to provide toys that are inclusive to the diverse community that Beaumont serves. As we know representation matters and children should have books, toys and dolls that represent them! You will find a link to an Amazon wish list on our Facebook page and the 98 websites with suggested items. However, all diverse and representative toys, dolls, books, and games are appreciated. You can drop off your donation at the hall.

We are currently looking for Residential and Service Plumbers. This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire. If you know anyone working Non-Union or is a past member that may be interested, have them call Organizer Rob Moses at 248-763-2187.

In solidarity I remain, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98

TRAINING CENTER NEWS
Phone # 248-585-1435
Check out The Training Center's website www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further notice.

The Training Center is open and adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Paul Baker, his near retirement, and outstanding job he has done serving as Director of Training. Paul has been and continues to be a great mentor, and teacher. Paul's reliability, integrity, and loyalty to the Program has been exceptional.

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification exams are scheduled quarterly. Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. For those who are eligible, please call the Training Center to register and pre-pay by check only before the deadline June 25, 2021. The next scheduled recertification class is **July 27 & 28, 2021.**

OPEN WELDING Every Thursday 4 pm-8 pm, other days & times available- Call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext. 146 to reserve a booth and visit the updated welding shop. Looking to try something new? Ideas for a class? We're here to help.

(Continued next column)



Local 636

**Pipe Fitters,
Steam Fitters,
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning
Service**

Pipe Fitters Local 636
DETROIT – The Next Union Meeting will be held on **March 16, 2021 and will be a VIRTUAL MEETING. It will start at 7pm. Information to join the meeting can be found on the Pipefitters 636 website under the MEMBERS tab.**

Nominations for the 2021 UA National Convention: Names were drawn by President Bill Helwig as to the order which they will appear on the Ballot.

Witnessed by Joe Bourgeois, Geary Tudball, Larry Krisniski, Theresa Danko, Sam Cadena, and Steve Spurlock.
Vote for not more than SEVENTEEN (17) In the event of a tie for the SEVENTEENTH (17th) spot there will be a coin toss to determine the winner.

Ballots Will Be Mailed Out on Monday, Feb. 1, 2021 and MUST be Returned by Monday March 1, 2021. Due to issues with the United States Postal Service, we STRONGLY urge Members to remit your ballots as soon as possible.

1. Scott Regits, 2. Val Pod, 3. Lou Hadley, 4. Mike Wright, 5. Dan Gurley, 6. Doug Bardy, 7. Nicky Labute, 8. Marc Lafferty, 9. Bill Holsomback, 10. Peter Dunn, 11. Tony Sievert, 12. Ozzie Munoz, 13. Jeff Lewis, 14. Brad Patterson, 15. Frank Grammatico, 16. Jason Selph, 17. Jeff Selph, 18. Mike Leonard, 19. Melissa Leonard, 20. Jake Regits, 21. Rick Fast, 22. Dave Fox, 23. Bill Helwig.

Our apologies to Melissa Leonard for the oversight on the Original Posting of the Delegates List, that she was not mentioned and should have been.

Pipefitters 636 would like to inform the Local 636 members of the current Office Administrative Changes they are as follows (please notice the changes in the SUB FUND correspondence):

Receptionist/Dues/Address Changes/General Inquiries:
Craig Harmon email: charmon@pipefitters636.org
Sub Fund Office: Kristina Springer: Please send all SUB Fund Requests to email: kspringer@pipefitters636.org 248-538-7065

Account Management/Death Notice: Margaret April email: mApril@pipefitters636.org 248-538-6636 extension 102

By Law change was proposed to Article III which reads: No Foreman who has five (5) or more Journeyman under his supervision, shall work with tools. **The proposed change to:** No Foreman who has five (5) or more Journeyman under his supervision, *or on a job with more than one (1) Foreman, shall work with tools.* **The 3rd and final reading and the vote will be held at the next meeting that we resume face to face meetings.**

The Hall is now open to all foot traffic. Masks are REQUIRED. Dues payments or SUB transactions can still be done via email or by phone. SUB email is kspringer@pipefitters636.org

CJ Harrison would like all our members to know that she is still available by phone during these uncertain times, she is working from home doing phone conferences which is still beneficial to all our members and their families. You can contact her @ 313-580-6887

The Retiree Association Meetings have been cancelled until further notice. The election has also been postponed until further notice. – President David

Local 98 cont'd

If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **WELDING Test** will be Saturday, March 6 and April 10, 2021. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the class. The next **BRAZING Cert** Session will be Friday, March 5 and April 9, 2021. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

2021 Course Hour reimbursement forms are now available at the Training Center. You must have 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021 to be eligible for the \$80 reimbursement. Deadline for 2020 reimbursement forms is March 31, 2021.
OSHA Training - OSHA 10,

Evans
UA password good thru March 31, 2021: UA2021

Any member that is Retiring contact Benesys @ 248-813-9800 for your Retirement paperwork or if you want to meet with the Financial Secretary Treasurer, please give him a 7 to 10 day notice so that he can get all of your paperwork in order.

Dues: If you do not pay your Dues by the end of each quarter. After 2 quarters go unpaid you will then be Expelled and have to be Re-Initiated and pay a \$200 Re-Initiation fee.

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 website is www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys. All inquiries.

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, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENTS.**

Recovery Support Group: Pipe Dreamers, a Peer Support Recovery group for ongoing recovery from substance abuse and addiction meets the **second and fourth Tuesday** of each month at **4:30pm** at the office of "Work Life Strategies" 26789 Woodward Avenue, Suite 3105, Huntington Woods 48070. Call 248-545-8301 for details or any questions you may have.

Also, a Relations/Divorce Support Group meet on the **second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm.**

Worker Assistance Program: Work Life Strategies, LLC are available to our members and their families to provide personal counseling services and when needed, referral to other professionals. Call 248-545-8301 to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol and or drug addiction, bankruptcy, financial management, marital, depression, legal and family counseling. Consultations with Work Life Strategies are a service paid for by the Insurance Fund. Referrals to outside professionals, if needed, will be paid for according to the current health care plan benefits.

Training Center News.
Call Kim at the training center for first aid online class. Please send all emails and weld continuities to info@pipefitters-636tc.org

WELDING - 4pm to 8pm
Regular night welding from 4 pm to 8 pm on Mondays, and Thursdays. Cost is \$50 for 40 hours.

Downhill Welding - 6 Saturdays, call Kurt to sign up, cost \$75
GMAW Welding - 4 Saturdays, Call Mike to sign up; \$50,

available as an online class for \$25 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.

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



Local 671

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 671
MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting scheduled for **March 4, 2021, at 7 p.m.** will likely be a "Virtual Meeting." The details for this meeting, whether virtual or in person will be sent via our App (UA Local 671). The Executive Board meeting will also be on **March 4th at 6 p.m.** If any Member wants to see the Executive Board contact the Hall to make arrangements.

The Hall is open if a Member needs to sign the out of work list or have any other problems that can only be handled in person, but we encourage everyone to call instead whenever possible. The payments for dues or insurance can be taken over the phone. Credit card fees will apply starting March 1st.

Health and Welfare: If you have any insurance problems or questions you can contact Carly using the health line on the back of your insurance card. **734-241-6180.** Any MRA or Dental/Vision receipts can be mailed, emailed or faxed to the benefit office. Contact information is at bottom of article.

Work Opportunities: As reported in the last two Informational Meetings, the work outlook for Monroe County has improved recently. Reminder: continue to listen to the job line for Local work.

AFL-CIO Scholarship: The applications are being accepted for the Bonnie Finzel-Doster Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council Memorial Scholarship Program. The AFL-CIO will be awarding (2) \$1,000 scholarships again this year to graduating 2021 Seniors and they are available to the **Son or Daughter of a Member in good standing.** If anyone is interested, contact the Hall and we can send you an Application Packet. **The Application Due Date is April 2, 2021.**

Team Elly Blood Drive: There will be an Annual Team Elly Blood Drive on Thursday, April 22, 2021 from 12p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at The Monroe Church of the Nazarene 3401 S Custer Rd, Monroe, MI. Please consider being a donor and making a difference. They have 73 appointments to fill and they need help to reach their goal! If you can't donate, please share the information with your family or friends.

Local Pension: I would like to inform everyone that near the end of 2020, Jason May, financial advisor for our Defined Contribution Plan, left Morgan Stanley/Graystone Consulting.

After discussion with the Health & Welfare Board of Trustees, the decision was made to follow Jason to his new firm of Merrill Lynch/Bank of America. Jason has been very helpful to the members of Local 671 and we appreciate the service and time he has given to all of us.

The current Defined Contribution Plan will remain with TransAmerica for administration, and Jason will continue his consulting work with the committee to help provide a best-in-class investment lineup as well as monitor the overall costs of the plan. He will also still be available to the members of Local 671 at any time, just as he was with his prior firm.

Once we get past the current pandemic, we will look to have Jason come to the Hall for a day of education, as well as schedule additional dates for one-on-one in-person consultations as we have done in the past.

Under the Weather: Retiree Rick Sonak has been battling some health issues lately, please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. He did say he is willing to take phone calls during this time. If you do not have his number, contact the hall and we will get it to you.

Congratulations: Congratulations to Brother Jeremy Riggs and his wife Lindsey on the birth of their daughter Henley Marie on February 20th. We hope you enjoy in this wonderful time together.

Mobile App: Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for iPhone or Android. The Username for Local 671 Members is your last name and your book number (UA Card Number). The Password is just your book number.

We recently have sent Push Notifications out with important information such as Covid-19 updates and Informational Meeting notices. This mobile app is a great tool to stay current with all the latest information from the Union Hall. **PLEASE DOWNLOAD THIS APP SO YOU CAN KEEP UPON CURRENT INFORMATION THAT THE HALL NEEDS TO GET OUT.** The App is available in the Google Play Store or on iTunes.

Condolences: We received word that Retiree Cliff Grundman passed away on February 10th after a short illness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family in this difficult time.

In Closing: "The only effective answer to organized greed is organized labor" please try to buy and shop Union whenever possible.

During this pandemic there are many local businesses struggling to keep their doors open. Patronize local businesses when you can. **SHOP LOCAL BUY LOCAL**
Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: mike@ualocal671.com
Vinnie Fenech: Cell (734) 693-4082 email: vinnie@ualocal671.com
Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com
Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692

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Tax Time?

When it's tax time, it's time to call Kuderik at 248 835 7755.

- Over 20 years experience in Union worker returns
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Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – The next Union Meeting, scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2021, will be held in Area One at the union hall – 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, MI 48101. Immediately following, there will be a special meeting to nominate the delegates for the 34th Consolidated Convention. This convention will be held virtually on July 19, 2021.

The Union Hall has resumed “normal” operations with the previous safety measures in place, which include social distancing, mandatory mask use, and limited occupancy. As always, if you do not feel well, do not come to the hall.

Union dues for 2021 are \$49.85 per month. The union hall accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the hall and over the phone.

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

Training Center: The Area One Training Center is in the process of reopening. You will be notified by your Area Agent when you have an assigned training day and time.

Apprentices: Congratulations to the Spring 2021 apprentice graduates!

Sweatshirts are available for purchase for \$40. Payments can be made with cash or check. If you live out of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available.

Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating milestones in their years of service in 2021:

15 years – Thomas Campbell Jr, Aaron Cochran, Donald Corbett, Timothy Corradin Jr., Gary Daniels, John Donohue Jr, Douglas Kazzyaka, Tim Kelley, Jeffrey Kerr, Tyler Kish, Robert Laroque, Edward Lavere Jr., Casey Malotke, Casey Masten, Donald McCracken, Martin McElvany, Zachery Moore, Jeffrey Price, Brian Rose, Kenyatta Sellers, Jeff Stegall, Mark Tutten, Daniel Webster, Joel Williams, Joseph Wlodyka, Eric Woodman, Ronald Yearling

20 years – Mark Behmlander, George Bryant, Aaron Campbell, David Chambers, John Cox, Thomas Doran, Gary Ellis, John Emerick, Henry Felcoskie III, Daniel Garza, Steve Hinds, Joshua Klaus, Maurice Mays, Michael Neal, Gregory Robinson, Benjamin Ryers, Willis Stewart, Jacob Stoneburner, Clark Tagger, Adam Trousdale, Brandon Vermeesch, Mark Wertz, Donald Williams

25 years – Brian Kuntze, David Niven, Jeffrey Pietro

30 years – Gary Bublitz, David Burger, Chris Campbell, Jerry George, Robert Huttsell, Jack McAlpine, Keith Paquette, Daniel Pentecost, Gerald Schultz, Robert Schultz, Robert Wilson

35 years – James Bouley, Lance Neddow

40 years – Michael Boyer, Lee Bushong, Bruce Harbanski, Larry Huber, Nick Iannuccilli, Michael Legrand, John McLeod Jr., Eric Rasmussen, David Robb, William Roe, Rudy Rotunno, John Yates

45 years – John Akers, Joseph N. Batory, Timothy Bell, Rick Bobzien, Cleland Bridget, William W. Brush, Dale Carlson, Michael A. Dodge, Richard Doneth, Howard Gauthier, Marc Grumbley, Gregory Hintz, Richard Kawucha, Irvin Klein, Thomas Kopp, Edwin Lobdell, Dennis Muxlow, Gregory Rokuski, Steven Sella, Walter Siegel, Woodrow Spaulding, Larry Stockwell, Kenneth Uhl

50 years – Gary Campbell, Todd Chambers, Bill Cogswell, John Easley Jr, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Harold Larson, Larry Lindroth, Patrick Marshall, Louis Nagher, Robert Simkins, George Wilson, Larry Yates

55 years – Richard Clish, David Gandy, James George, Paul LaForest, Richard McEachran, John C. Miller, Gary Mitter, David Rylott, Roger Sylvester, Gerald Taylor, William Tessin

60 years – Charles Heim, Sonny Zarb

65 years – Rudolf Gross, Arno Guske

70 years – Ronald Hicks



Michigan Painters District Council

Painters DC 1M
WARREN - Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE:
www.iupatdc1michigan.org
DC1M FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/iupat1m

DC 1M UNION CARDS* Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

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

FTI OF THE GREAT LAKES APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION. To all Apprentices, the FTI of the Great Lakes Apprenticeship is back to in-person classes. If you have any questions regarding this, call the Apprenticeship School.

UPGRADE CLASSES FOR FTI OF THE GREAT LAKES APPRENTICESHIP. The Warren Training Center will be offering a Confined Space class on 2/27/21. Start time for all of these classes will be 9am and members will need to register with me the week prior to the class.

DC 1M 2020 CHRISTMAS PARTY UPDATE FOR MARCH 20, 2021 The alternative date for the DC 1M 2020 party was March 20th, at the Motor City Hotel and Casino. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions on mass gatherings, Motor City Hotel and Casino has informed the District Council they cannot host the party in the event space, and it has been cancelled.

The next DC 1M Christmas party is scheduled for Dec. 11, 2021. It will be held at the Soaring Eagle Hotel and Casino, Mt. Pleasant.

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL IMSMART PHONE APP. Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP.

For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore
Search for “Painters and Allied Trades” download APP
Username: your member id#
Password: painters

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday Mar.2, 2021 at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m. The meeting may be postponed due to covid. Will notify ASAP.

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

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

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, or Keith Anderson at 586-899-7958, your Business Representatives.

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

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

District Council 1M
Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.
Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933
Local Union 312

Business Rep: Tim Schwerin
Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053
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: Fred Frederickson

Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Local Union 1052

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

Local Union 1803
Business Rep: Josh Ovalle

Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352
Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland

Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

Local Union 2353
Business Rep: Keith Anderson

Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

Local 357



Glaziers & Glassworkers
WARREN — Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be on Monday March 1, 2021 at 6pm. We will be voting on the local union #357 Bylaws.

Work looks to be remaining steady in the area. Please keep your certifications current, along with your MUST, and drug screen.

Apprenticeship school in classroom classes has resumed as of January 11th. If you are an apprentice, and have a question on the schedule please contact Jeff Flynn, or Rich Oakey.

2021 looks like it will be another productive year for Local 357. We have several large projects on the books.

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

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

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

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

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

Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep your union strong, so try to make it to a meeting.

–Business Rep- Don Stepp



CHECKING OUT a 480-volt panel while working at the Lansing Board of Water and Light's Delta Energy Park power plant is Larry New of IBEW Local 58. He's employed by Utilities Instrumentation Service.

Union leaders meet with Biden over infrastructure

WASHINGTON (PAI) – Democratic President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris talked nuts and bolts with U.S. union leaders on how to rebuild the nation's decaying, aging infrastructure – a goal all of them share.

Biden said infrastructure would be a top priority, once his \$1.9 trillion American Recovery Act passes, designed to help workers and the economy pull out of the coronavirus-caused depression which shot joblessness up into double digits.

And he shrugged off the infrastructure price tag, which itself could be in the trillions.

“It’s not about money. It’s about the nation’s needs,” the president said.

“For working people, this was the most productive Oval Office meeting in years,” AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, who led the delegation, said after the sit-down on Feb. 17.

“The president and vice president share our belief that rebuilding our infrastructure is critical to our communities. President Biden ran on a promise to build back better. As we made clear today, America can only build back better if unions are doing the building.”

“I asked them to come in,” Biden said. “We want to talk about the Recovery Act we have here that we’re trying to pass – and I think it’s going to get done – and building infrastructure in this country.”

“We are so far behind the curve. We rank something like 38th in the world in terms of our infrastructure – everything from canals to highways to airports to everything we can do, and we need to do, to make ourselves competitive in the 21st century.”

Trumka agreed the Recovery Act must come first, but said union members can trust Biden on infrastructure, because Biden’s always been “a union guy.”

“If we make key structural changes to our economy, we can create a new generation of good-paying union jobs. That means delivering long-overdue COVID-19 relief to working families. It means passing urgently needed infrastructure spending,” Trumka’s post-meeting statement said.

“And it means strengthening working people’s freedom to organize a union by passing the Pro (Protect The Right To Organize) Act. President Biden understands how urgent this is, and we’re looking forward to getting it done as quickly as possible,” Trumka explained.

Infrastructure investment has been a particular union cause for years, just as the American Society of Civil Engineers keeps giving U.S. infrastructure grades of D+ or worse due to aging bridges, airports with pitted runways, elderly railroads, creaky subways and bus fleets that desperately need replacement.

Biden agrees, and construction union leaders, including those at the White House session, keep re-emphasizing that such investment would produce hundreds of thousands of well-paying family-supporting jobs. Biden said so, too. He predicted workers’ incomes and the economy “grow in a way we haven’t seen it grow in a long time” via infrastructure spending.

Neither Trumka nor Biden divulged details of the plan, but Biden said U.S. infrastructure must be built with union labor – a

‘As we made clear today, America can only build back better if unions are doing the building’
–AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka

point he repeatedly emphasized during the 2020 campaign and bluntly told to top business leaders several weeks ago.

And construction workers need the jobs. The latest federal figures, for January, showed construction firms shed 3,000 workers that month, compared to gaining 58,000 in January 2020, before the coronavirus pandemic hit. And there were 938,000 unemployed construction workers in January 2021, while the sector reported a 9.4 percent jobless rate. Exactly a year before, both figures were just over half: 515,000 jobless and a 5.4 percent rate, in winter.

Biden’s plan, to be released, “will create millions of family-supporting union jobs. The plan is exactly what our nation needs,” said Laborers President Terry O’Sullivan, one of the other union leaders in the meeting.

He said Laborers “are ready for the job. It is time to restore the economic well-being of America’s workers and address our long-overdue infrastructure investment needs.”

The Washington Post reported unionists discussed a \$4

trillion multi-year plan. “Any just recovery will build a pathway to economic security and workplace dignity for the millions of working people who have already sacrificed too much,” added AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, an Electrical Worker. “As I told President Biden, that path runs directly through the labor movement. A union card is the single best tool we have to advance racial justice and gender equity on the job.”

Besides Biden, Harris, Trumka, Shuler, and O’Sullivan, others in the meeting were North America’s Building Trades President Sean McGarvey and union presidents Lonnie Stephenson (IBEW), James Callahan (Operating Engineers), Painters President Ken Rigmaiden, Plumbers and Pipefitters President Mark McManus, Ironworkers President Eric Dean, and Machinists President Robert Martinez.

“From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life.”

–Arthur Ashe

“It is well enough that the people of this nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning.”

–Henry Ford (1863-1947)

“Middle age is when you’ve met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else.”

–Ogden Nash (1902-1971)

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 maintain offices in Sterling Heights, Livonia, Southgate and Novi. Call them at **1-800-331-3530** for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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

www.ssdfighter.com





IBEW 58
 DETROIT – The General Membership Meeting scheduled for **TUESDAY, Feb. 16, 2021** was CANCELLED in compliance with the current COVID-19 Restrictions. Stay tuned for the next meeting notice. We thank you for your continued compliance with COVID Safety and remind you to MASK UP!

Electrical Industry Training Center is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroitetc.org/> continuing-education/. We will start to cancel classes if they don't meet the minimum enrollment requirements, or more hopefully we will order books for those of you who've signed up. Members on the Storm Book must secure their training through the Continuing Education Program offered by the school. If you need assistance in registering for a class please call the Training Center at 586-751-6600.

Local 58 Dues Information: Dues should be paid by the first day of the quarter. You can pay your dues with an APP. Go to Apple/Google Play and download the IBEW 58 APP. In the APP go to My Profile, My Member Tools and that's where you find the information to pay. We will call you to verify all information prior to processing your payment. NOTE: Your payment is not completed until you receive a phone call from the dues department and payment gets processed. Please make sure you put your phone number on the submitted form. You can also pay by phone with credit/debit or mail a check/money order.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:00 pm.

The 18th Annual Ken Fitzhenry Super Bowl Raffle: The winners for the virtual raffle drawing are: GRAND PRIZE – Recliner & 65" TV Juawan Cawthon; 2nd PRIZE – 55" TV Deb Godfrey; 3rd PRIZE – 42" TV Ron Kingsbury; 4th PRIZE – 42" TV Derrick Taylor; 5th PRIZE – 42" TV Phil Demers; 6th PRIZE – 32" TV Kevin Thibodeau; 7th PRIZE – 32" TV James Berlin; 8th PRIZE – 32" TV Joe Schraufnagel; 9th PRIZE – Weber Grill Paul Stefani. Congratulations to all! We thank Larry Reid at ABC Warehouse for his continued support and helping us with our prizes. Please contact Larry Reid (734) 981-7780, at the Canton ABC Warehouse store for all your appliance, TV and electronic needs.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The Wobbly Kitchen is up and running again and we are assisting them every 2nd and 4th Sunday with food prep and distribution at Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 am to help with the Wobbly Kitchen program. To get involved with future community service projects contact Mike Conflitti or Rob Z at the union hall.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Wednesday, March 9 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 pm.

EWM of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWM involvement and engagement for the year 2021. What can we safely participate in that continues to promote the IBEW in the community? Bring your ideas. Thank you to those who continue to attend our Zoom meetings as we navigate through these difficult times. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Sending continued healing and comfort to those who were/are affected in any way by this CoVid 19 pandemic. Please continue to stay safe at work, home, and in the community. #ibewstrong

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

The Veterans Committee will now be meeting monthly immediately after the Safety committee meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month.

The Political Action Committee (PAC) meets the 1st Wednesday of each month Via Zoom. To be added to our email list please contact Jeannette Bradshaw (313-408-1287). PAC contributions can be made through the APP, and at the Union Hall. You can contribute more than the \$4 that is suggested on your quarterly dues, but you cannot exceed \$175 per calendar year. The loss of our deduction cut our resources in half, and we would like to assist local candidates and our members looking to run for office.

Local 58's Women's Committee – Our next regular meeting is Thursday, March 25th at 6pm on Zoom. Please watch for emails with further updates and hopefully we will be meeting in person soon. ARC Scholarship and Awards are back for 2021! Scholarship applications and award nomination forms are available under the Women's Committee tab on the app/website. Scholarship applications are due Friday, April 30th 2021. Award nomination forms are due Wednesday, March 31. ARC Awards dinner is being planned for July 17. Bids have been opened for catering, music/entertainment, photography, tent rental. If you or someone you know offers these services and would be interested in participating in this event please contact the women's committee. You can Email us at: 58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org, or call committee chairs Angela Panicucci (586) 291-8014 or Kayla Pauli. Follow us on Instagram @ibewwomen58; Check us out on Facebook.

The Retirees Annual Florida Luncheon: Due to the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 virus no plans have been made for the 2021 Florida Annual Luncheon. I hope you are all well, stay safe and I hope to see you at the next one. ~Syl Ludwic~

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: On Groundhog Day 2021 Punxsutawney Phil predicted 6 more weeks of winter. We really don't need a groundhog to tell us that winter is still upon us, here in Michigan we enjoy our outdoor winter sports as much as our summer/water sports. Bundle up, watch your step on snowy and icy surfaces, and keep the safety measures going to protect each other from ill health. It continues to be a "stay at home" time as covid-19 is still keeping us from our regular activities. Retirees Association luncheons and other activities are still suspended. We know that patience must prevail, vaccines need to be given, masks need to be worn in public places, and we must continue to distance in groups and be cautious. We expect all of us to come together in the future, just not sure how near in the future that will be. Dues were due January 1, 2021, \$8 a year, per person. Please send your dues (payable to the Retirees Association) to Ray Owen, 428 Welch Rd., Northville 48167. If you still owe dues for 2020, please include them. If you haven't sent us your email address yet, please send it to 58retirees@ibewlocal58.org.

As winter continues, reach out to your fellow retirees, family and friends, these are tough times to live alone or be away from close family. Stay safe, take good care.

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

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: William Durand, Joseph Govan, Michael Hastie, Richard Klee, David Migdal, David Riley, and Michael Sossi.

Members that are sick or hospitalized: Armand Meininger, suffered a hip injury.

Members that have Passed Away: Beverly Accettura, widow of the late pension member Muzio Accettura; Dorine Birg, wife to the pension member Michael Birg; Daniel Ochoa, pension member, 24 year IBEW membership; Diane Peltier, Mother to JIW, Assistant Business Manager of IBEW Local 58 James Peltier II, Grandmother to Installer Tech Austin Peltier.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.



IBEW Local 131
 KALAMAZOO – We are awaiting to hear about the status of our March General Membership meeting, if the meeting is cancelled the business of the Local Union will be taken care of by the **Executive Board** on March 15th @ 5 p.m.

Due to the Governor's current executive order, we ask that those coming to the Local Union to conduct business please wear a face covering.

All Book 2 signings shall be done by fax or email from the member's home local.

Work Outlook: The work outlook is strong. We expect to have a busier than usual fall continuing into the winter. If you are aware of interested electricians working in our jurisdiction, please have them visit www.poweringkalamazoo.com or call the office. M.J. Electric, Van Ert Electric, and KEI Electrical have all secured work at the Graphic Packaging Paper Mill expansion. **Most calls will require a Michigan State Electrical License; most calls right now are working overtime.**

The LMCC has launched a new website www.poweringkalamazoo.com. This website will be used to highlight local signatory contractors and used as an organizing tool. Follow us on Facebook @poweringkalamazoo, Twitter @PoweringK200, Instagram @poweringkalamazoo, and LinkedIn @poweringkalamazoo. Please feel free to share the wage calculator feature of this site.

If you believe we do not have your email address or correct cell phone number, please email Christine at cbohms@ibew131.com

Dues pricing – The price for dues in 2021 is \$40/month. If you're unsure about your balance, please call the Hall for the exact amount or email Christine. If your dues ticket reads paid through December 2020, your dues are not current; please contact the Hall.

We have finalized our automated dues reminders; these reminders will be sent ahead of possible late dues. You may receive a message via text or email if you have not tendered your most current I.O. Dues payments. Dues payments can also be made online; to log in, use your Last Name and Card Number.

Life events happen, and we'd always like to make sure you have updated beneficiary forms. If you're questioning whether yours is up to date, stop on down to the Hall to get new documents. If you're interested in receiving updates from the Hall, please email Christine at cbohms@ibew131.com to get your email address added.

Retirements: Congratulations to the following retiring members: Adrian DiVisser, July 2020. Michael Chaddock, May 2020. John Magnan Jr., May 2020. Robert S. Davis, June 2020. Roger Clark, March 2020. Patrick Klocke, May 2020. Keith Moore, April 2020. William Slater, July 2020. Thomas Vrobel, August 2020. Peter Spreitzer, August 2017.

Condolences: Brother James Stewart passed on January 17th, 2021. Brother Gary Yack passed on January 31st, 2021.

All Memorials (members and members families) and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab.

FROM THE APPRENTICESHIP: Journeyman Upgrade Classes: Fall 2020-Winter 2021
 4. Motor Controls W February 10 to April 14, 2021
 5. CPR S February 13, 2021
 6. Foreman Training W March 10 to May 12, 2021
 7. CPR S March 13, 2021
 8. CPR S April 10, 2021

****Code Update Classes:** it is now required for Journeyman to pay in advance to hold your spot in the Code Update Class. We require 48 hours' notice for cancellations if you need to re-schedule for another available Code Update Course.**

Please visit our website www.kalamazoojatec.com or stop in to sign up for the Code Update Class. September 3, 2020. Call Nicole at 269-388-4434 with any

(Continued next column)



AT WORK CABLING A 480-volt panel at the Lansing Board of Water and Light's Delta Energy Park plant are (l-r) Jeremy Soli of IBEW Local 665 and Greg Anderson of IBEW Local 58. They're employed by Superior/Motor City Electric.



IBEW Local 948
 FLINT – Our March Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 22nd, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

The Retiree Club Meeting will return in April 2021.

Do not forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. www.local948.com.

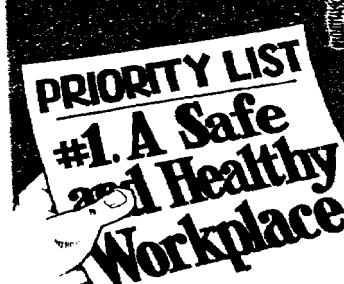
You can pay over the phone with debit or credit card. You can also stop by the Hall during business hours (7am-noon/ 1-4pm) and pay by cash, check, debit or credit card. **Do not wait till you owe a reinstatement fee (4 months behind).**

2021 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$43.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month

2020 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$43.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month

If you are unfamiliar with our referral procedure, please refer to our website @ http://local948.org/job_referrals/
Gregory Remington
 Business Manager

E-mail and Re-signs: If the Hall does not have your e-mail address it would be a good idea to send us an e-mail to jwallace@local948.org so we can add you to the e-mail list. This is a great way to keep up with the latest information on job calls and other information sent from the Hall.



IBEW 131, con't
 questions.

Drug Test Renewals: Please keep track of your drug test expiration date through www.safe2work4you.com. It is your responsibility to stay current on your drug test. Please contact Nicole (269) 388-4434 to get your authorization form printed for you to pick up. If you don't want to come to the Hall to pick it up, please email Nicole and request your form to be emailed to you. nwolf@ibew131.com.

Negotiations: The Local Union has set its bargaining team for upcoming negotiations thank you to the following Brothers and Sisters for volunteering: Tim Haydon, Scott Mueller, Kari Collison, Scott Bryer and Brian O'Donnell. We are continuing to process feedback from the Negotiations Survey. At this time, we have presented our proposals to the Executive Board for their consideration, we are tentatively scheduled to exchange proposals with NECA on March 3rd.

Organizing: As much technology as we use to track non-union electricians in our jurisdiction, often, our best resources are you, the members. If you see a non-signatory in the area working at a location, please let the Hall know.

"United we Bargain; divided we beg"
Brian O'Donnell
 Business Manager/
 Financial Secretary



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252
 ANNARBOR – **UNION OFFICE LIMITING IN-PERSON BUSINESS:** Due to the Nov. 18 MDHHS Epidemic Order, the Union Hall will be limiting in-person business effective Wednesday, November 18, 2020 until further notice. If you have business to take care of at the hall, please call us at (734) 424-0978.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: We continue to monitor new orders and directives pertaining to COVID-19. Decisions about membership meetings will be determined and relayed to you as they approach.

CONTRACTOR CLASS: We will be hosting Pro-Union Consulting to assist IBEW Local 252 members in becoming profitable union electrical/ renewable energy contractors. This class will be offered May 13th, 14th, and 15th, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Please call the Union Hall to sign up. We need a minimum of 20 people for the class.

TRAINING CLASSES 2021: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 P.M.

1. OSHA 30- Monday nights, February 22nd – April 19th, 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. This class is worth 30 BICSI credits.

2. JOURNEYMAN PREP CLASS- Thursday nights, February 25th- April 1st, 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

3. Instrumentation Part B hands-on- Tuesday nights, March 9th- April 27th, 5:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

There is a \$50 fee to hold a spot in all classes except First Aid/ CPR. You must register one week prior to class start date. Call the Training Center at (734) 475-1180 to register. Masks must be worn at all times in school.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Please take every precaution to protect yourselves, your family, and others while at work or in the public by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. If your employment is disrupted due to COVID-19, please contact the Hall so that we can ensure that you get everything that's entitled to you, and that proper protocol is followed for everyone's safety.

Local 252 Website & App: The Local's website www.ibew252.org is up and running. There is also a Local 252 App available to download. Search "IBEW 252" in the app store. You must create a new login and password to access the Members Only section. Your login for the old website is no longer valid.

SERVICE PINS: If you would like your service year pin please call the hall to make arrangements to receive it.

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

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

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

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

Winter Gathering: Due to covid-19 concerns, the Winter Gathering in Lakeland, FL will not be held this year.

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

CREDIT CARDS: The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover. There is a fee of 3.5% to use your card.

UNION DUES FOR 2021: Effective January 1, 2021 union dues for "A" members will remain \$119.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will remain \$61.80 per quarter.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2020, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2021. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2021. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (Jan. through Mar.) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.**

"It is never too late to give up your prejudices."
 – Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

"The only good is knowledge and the only evil is ignorance."
 – Socrates (469 BC - 399 BC)

"Anger is a bad counselor."
 – French Proverb

"In politics, an absurdity is not a handicap."
 – Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 - 1821)

"There are no secrets better kept than the secrets that everybody guesses."
 – George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

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IBEW Local 557

SAGINAW – COVID-19. I hope this writing finds you and your family in good health. Navigating through a global pandemic for the last year has been challenging for all of us. I want to thank the membership of Local 557 for being vigilant and cooperating with the many COVID-19 restrictions and policies that have been instituted during this unprecedented time. With your patience, understanding and help we have made the most of a difficult situation. While we are not out of the woods yet, we have seen numbers improve with the vaccine roll-out and we look forward to what is hopefully a return to normalcy soon.

The following policies are in effect to keep our members, their families, and the union hall staff as safe as possible:

-The Union Hall is OPEN. Please limit trips to the Hall for critical business through utilization of the glass service window.

-When visiting the Union Hall, you must wear a mask and stay socially distanced.

-Please continue to take care of as much business as possible via email, phone, or fax when you can.

-The March Union meeting will be held at the Carpenter's Local, 3160 Commerce Centre Drive, Saginaw, MI 48601.

-Please try to take care of your quarterly dues payments by utilizing a credit or debit card over the phone. E-checks are also available.

-Apprentices should continue to monitor emails and correspondence from the school regarding upcoming class schedules.

Keep in mind, all of these decisions have been made to keep members and their families safe.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS- The next membership meeting is scheduled for March 2nd at the Carpenter's Local, 3160 Commerce Centre Drive, Saginaw, MI 48601. The Local 557 Executive Board met on February 16th and will meet again on March 16th.

INSIDE NEGOTIATIONS- As you may know the Local's Inside Wireman Agreement expires on May 31st of this year. Negotiations will begin soon between our negotiating team and NECA. It is the intention of this Local for all to have a chance to participate in this process. Therefore, the March Union Meeting will ensure that any member that wishes to raise an issue for the negotiations will have their turn to be heard and fully participate.

There is strength in numbers and we will want to show a great deal of solidarity this spring in order to get the best deal that we can to benefit the membership. Remember: united we bargain, divided we beg!

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- The Union Hall is open. Please limit visits to the Hall for critical business if possible. We ask that if business can be taken care of with phone calls, emails, or a fax that you please do so. Otherwise, the glass service window in the front of the building should be utilized as much as possible to keep everyone as safe as possible. James Lamb is continuing organizing duties as much as possible during this time as well and if you have any useful information for him regarding work or new members please feel free to pass it along. He can be reached at 989-529-5943.

BOOK SIGNING- Out of work lists can be signed for other Locals through fax or email. This is to continue to cut down on as many in-person transactions as possible. Contact your home local and request a correspondence to be sent to the Local you are interested in signing.

WORKOUTLOOK- Local 557 would like to thank our neighboring Locals that have continued to put our traveling members to work. Here in Saginaw, we await the beginnings of some good projects for the area. Projects that remain on the radar in the near future include the Caro Mental Hospital, Saginaw County Animal Shelter, Dow Event Center, and the Saginaw City Schools. All of these projects have an excellent chance of going fair and putting our members to work. The leg-work to secure these projects is ongoing and results are promising.

(Continued next column)



ELECTRICIANS (l-r) Carrie Talbor and Carl Sander of IBEW Local 665 pull out a breaker on a 4160 volt panel at the Lansing Board of Water and Light Delta Energy Park power plant. They're employed by Superior/Motor City Electric.



IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – Local 445 Business Office: The Business Office is now open normal hours to walk-in traffic, but you are required to wear your masks.

Attention: The dues for 2021: JIW are \$53.00/mo. or \$159.00/qtr. and AP are \$42.00/mo. or \$126.00/qtr. You can pay cash, check, money order or credit/debit card. For those that have scheduled payments, please verify with your bank that you are sending in the correct monthly amount.

Members in arrears are: Jeffrey Benson, Keith Bostwick, Phillip Gagnon, Phillip Jarrard, George Krawczynski, Marcus Nunnally, Brian Phillips, Rocky Schultz and Riley Storm.

The **Annual IBEW 445 Golf Outing** is scheduled for July 17, 2021. More information to follow in the coming months.

The **General Membership Meeting** is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall. Please make sure to wear your masks.

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

PLEASE HELP!! – The Hall is asking for each member to verify their address, phone number and email address that we have on file. We are looking into a texting and email service, and if you would like to be included in those correspondences, we need your current information. Thank you!

Local Website – Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is IBEW445.com.

IBEW 557, con't

HEALTHCARE-The Michigan Electrical Employee's Health Plan continues to cover 100% of the costs related to testing for COVID-19. During this pandemic, remote care is encouraged and Blue Cross members can call the 24-Hour Nurse Line at 800-117-BLUE. You may also want to inquire if your primary care provider offers telemedicine. The Health plan continues to meet regularly via teleconferences to stay on top of the pandemic and update coverage as necessary.

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

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

(Continued on Page 10)



IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- Due to Covid 19 it was decided to have the E-Board meetings by phone or digital format. It will be held on the new night of the second Friday of every month at 6 pm. The next meeting is March 12, 2021. Subject to change, so far we have no updates from the State about in-person meetings and are still planning on a zoom meeting.

MEETING -Due to Covid 19 and State of Michigan rules the March 12, 2021 in-person meeting is subject to change with state guidelines. Watch this article for further updates and mailers. As always you can always call the hall for meeting updates.

JB Webb West- Negotiations will be starting in March 2021.

Email – Please get an email address to the hall so we can get info out easier and faster, thanks. You can email your address to the hall at ibew@local498.net. Please put your name in the subject.

Contracts - We have updated Inside Wireman Contracts available at the hall.

Dues 2021 – There is no Union Dues increase for 2021. Effective Jan. 2021 the rate will remain \$140.10 per quarter.

Resale Items – We have Local 498 Beanie Hats for resale and T-shirts. Stop in to get yours today! Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

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

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:
MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 or 1-517-321-7502 Fax# 1-517-321-7508
MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-517-321-7502

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan) TIC International Corporation, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917
NEBF 1-301-556-4300
NEAP 1-301-556-4300
IO Pension 1-202-833-7000
DUES RATES
Jan 1, 2020 - \$140.10/Quarter
Jan 1, 2021 - No increase. Still remains \$140.10/Quarter

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



IBEW Local 275

COOPERSVILLE – Dear Brothers and Sisters: We recently updated the Local's website. When you have a chance, please visit www.ibew275.org for important member resources, dues payment, information, etc.

As you are probably aware, our current contract is set to expire May 31st. Usually, we open suggestions to the contract at the March meeting. Since it is still undetermined whether we will be able to meet in March, an email was sent out to the members who have signed up for notifications from the Hall that asks what you would like to see in the upcoming contract. If you are not signed up for email notifications from the Local or would like to submit any suggestions for the upcoming negotiations, you may contact any of the staff in the Hall and we can help you out. You may also fill out the form/questionnaire on our website.

We are still closed to foot traffic at the Hall. We will keep monitoring the state's restrictions as we too are anxious to open up entirely. Thank you all for your patience as we try and balance what we are able to do with the restrictions from the state and keeping the members and staff safe at the same time.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three or more months behind in dues: Robert Akers.

From now on, all resign request will be sent to gyonkers@ibew275.org. The procedures are still the same.

Regular meetings for the EWMC and RENEW committees are every month on the 4th Tuesday @ 6:00pm at the Union Hall in Coopersville and/or via zoom. Both of these are great ways to get involved with the local as well as the community.

Dues for the year 2021 are \$42.90 per month. Please make adjustments when making payments through mail and automatic bank payments.



IBEW Local 692

IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – Message from the Business Manager, After careful consideration, the Union Hall is open to foot traffic. Until further notice masks and social distancing must be adhered to at all times when visiting the union hall.

Please be vigilant in your efforts to stay healthy and safe from Covid-19. Local 692 continues to have more and more members and their families affected by this pandemic by the week. Please keep all of our brothers and sisters in your thoughts. Science tells us both washing your hands and wearing a face covering can protect the public from contracting this virus. Stay safe and look out for your fellow brothers and sisters. Please contact myself or one of our agents for any questions you may have regarding Covid-19.

The March monthly membership meeting has been cancelled due to the latest Michigan Department of Health and Human Service order. My plan is to resume these meetings as soon as safely possible.

We will begin negotiations with our "Inside" collective bargaining agreement in the next few weeks. Please contact myself or President Pat Nitschky with any changes you would like to see to this agreement.

Work Report: The new Meijer in West Branch has been bid and we are currently awaiting the bid results. Wilkinson Minerals has been bid and those numbers are being reviewed. This will be a very large industrial project. Ted's Electric has been awarded some of the work at Midland Public Schools with Barton Malow being the G.C. The new Isabella County Jail has been secured by Master Electric with work beginning in the spring.

Alpena Schools have been awarded to John's Electric out of Alpena. John's Electric also has been awarded the Alpena library project. Some nice projects will be out for bid in the next month for the Bay City Public Schools. There are also a large number of Solar Projects that are slated for our jurisdiction this summer. Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Work remains very good in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, and Lansing. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

Organizers Report: The membership development team here at Local 692 continues to reach out to those workers in the industry not represented by the IBEW. We have made some very fine additions to our membership over the past year, and now with double the manpower tasked to the cause, we have high hopes to start having some serious campaigns with some of the non-union competition in our jurisdiction.

Many of you brothers and sisters know electricians on the other side of the fence. Reach out to them, have the conversation with that unrepresented neighbor or family friend, and explain what the IBEW can do for them.

We continue to rely on our membership for updates on smaller projects that are happening throughout our nineteen counties that we are unaware of.

If you see something, call. If you see or know of a contractor working in your area let us know. The same for out-of-jurisdiction union contractors. Lately we have seen an uptick of contractors not checking in when working in the area.

When we catch a contractor in our jurisdiction not checked in, that member will be invited to explain their actions to our executive board. With that said, we expect the same courtesy call from our members when traveling outside of 692 to whatever local you are working in. Stay safe out there Brothers and Sisters.
Brian Klele 989.252.9225
Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131

Union Dues.
There will not be an increase in monthly dues in 2021. Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. *Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.*

2021 Dues (Effective Jan. 1, 2021)

Monthly \$41.20

Quarterly \$123.60

6 months \$247.20

Yearly \$494.40

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

Local 692 Retirement Party. The retirement party scheduled for May 2021 has been postponed until next year.

Retirees Lunch. All retiree's lunches have been postponed.

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

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

RENEW Committee. IBEW Local 692 is still working on supporting our RENEW committee as they get off the ground. For those that are unfamiliar, RENEW stands for Reaching out and Engaging Next generation of Electrical Workers. This committee meets the second Monday of the month at a rotating location. If you are 35 and younger and looking to get more involved in the local please reach out to the hall and we can get you the information needed. This is your local Brothers and Sisters, get involved!

Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary
Important links & numbers
IBEW Local 692
989-684-4510
www.ibew692.org
Health Plan 517-321-7502
www.mielectricalhealth.org
Michigan Pension Fund 517-321-7502
www.michiganelectrical.org

First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box"
NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300
IO Pension: 202-833-7000

"The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter."

– Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)



Pipefitter Apprenticeship

The JATC for the Pipefitting Industry and Pipefitters, Steamfitters, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Service Local Union #636 of the United Association will be accepting applications for our Apprenticeship **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am - 11:00 am beginning March 1, 2021 through March 26, 2021.**

Qualifications necessary for an applicant to be considered are:
1. Must be 18 years of age or older.
2. Complete the application and return to the Pipefitting Industry Training Center with:

a. A valid driver's license.
b. High School diploma or high school equivalency (GED) certificate.
c. There is a \$45.00 testing fee that will be collected when turning in application.

The Pipefitting Industry Training Center is located at 636 Executive Drive in Troy, MI between John R. and Dequindre Rds., north of E. 14 Mile Road.

No resumes please.

For more information please contact our web site at:

www.pipefitters636tc.org.



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING – We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. The health and well-being of our members and their families and continuity of service to our members is our highest priority. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either the Warren office at (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office at (517) 886-9781.



CHUCK KUKAWKA

MARCH 2021 CHAPTER MEETINGS.

METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 at 7:30 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, March 03, 2021 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

HOUGHTON CHAPTER: Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:30 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, March 08, 2021 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 1231 Hastings Street, Traverse City, MI 49686

DEATHS REPORTED: Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Gino Del Pup** (Bricklayer) who passed away on Feb. 11, 2021. Brother Del Pup had been a member for 62 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Orvle Henson** (Stone Mason) who passed away on Jan. 2, 2021. Brother Henson had been a member for 65 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Luther Hilliard** (PCC) who passed away on Dec. 10, 2020. Brother Hilliard had been a member for 56 years.



(Continued from Page 9)

WEX APP- Search for the "TIC HRA" app in Google or Apple and download it today. Utilization of this app will give you access to account balances, receipt reviews and submittals, barcode scanning for covered items, other helpful services. This is a great tool to accompany your Health Care benefits.

JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3.

STAY CURRENT ON DUES –Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards and also E-checks. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use either service. Both payment methods to pay dues can also be accomplished over the phone to ensure you are current.

CONTACT NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website mielectricalhealth.org
Evan Allardyce,
Business Manager

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Ronal Longnecker** (Bricklayer) who passed away on Jan. 06, 2021. Brother Hilliard had been a member for 59 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Marvin Tenbrink** (Bricklayer, Cement Mason & Refractory Worker) who passed away on March 8, 2020. Brother Tenbrink had been a member for 68 years.

2021 LOCAL 2 SCHOLARSHIP FUND. The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 Michigan is proud to announce the 2021 Local 2 Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is open to ALL dependents of good standing members, statewide, from all of the trades. In order to be eligible, the following information must be submitted to the BAC Local 2 WARREN office by **12 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021:**

1. Applicant must be a legal dependent of a good standing **ACTIVE** member. The member must have their dues paid up to date. They may also be a dependent of a recently deceased, formally working member, who has passed away after Jan. 1, 2019. A dependent will be defined according to the guidelines of that member's insurance fund summary plan description.

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

3. Applicant must be a **full-time student**, enrolled in 12 or more credits, during the **Winter 2021 Semester.** A copy of the **Class Schedule** showing full time status must be submitted.

NOTE: Classes listed on the *Official Transcript* will **not** be considered as a class schedule. A class schedule lists the classes, dates, times, instructor and location where the class meets. Students name, semester and the name of the college/university must be on the schedule.

4. Applicant must submit an **Official Transcript**, showing their grades from the Fall 2020 Semester. An Official Transcript comes directly from the registrar's office in a **sealed envelope.** Please allow ample time for the registrar's office to prepare and mail the official transcript; to be received at BAC Local 2 by March 26, 2021. If your institution participates with the National Student Clearinghouse Transcript service, transcripts may be sent to: colleen@bricklayers.org.

5. Applicant must submit a typed information sheet which will include: Applicants name, applicants address, applicants email address and telephone number, college/university attending, course of study – major & minor and anticipated graduation date of applicant. They must also include the name of the member, members I.U. number, relationship to member, address and telephone number of member and members branch of trade.

6. All information must be submitted by **12 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021** to the **BAC Local 2 Warren office: 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.**

7. Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered for this scholarship. We are not responsible for late, missing or lost documents.

The winners will be selected by the BAC Local 2 Management Committee and announced at the April 2021 Detroit Chapter Meeting.

CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED: If you are available for work, it is important to contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. We are currently looking for experienced Bricklayers and Tile Setters. Those who are interested should contact either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS: Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a **Signing Bonus** for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors for a month. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get the same amount as a **Finders Referral Bonus** for each new skilled craftworker who they refer, if they work for at least a month for our Union Contractors.

For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing of-

fice, (517) 886-9781. You can view the full Signing Bonus policy on our website.

ASPEEDY 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.

IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union Dues All Local 2 Members are now eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently. This offer is a great way to catch up on your monthly window dues by taking advantage of this annual dues discount.

We are making available to ALL Local 2 members the opportunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!

UPDATE - BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS. Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members but **visits to our offices should be scheduled by appointment.** Please contact our Training Centers at the numbers listed below for an appointment for annual RESPIRATOR FIT TESTS and other services.

DETROIT IMI TRAINING CENTER: To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Metro Detroit Training Center, please contact Tom Ward directly at (734) 552-7066.

TMT RTI CLASSES RESUME WITH REDUCED CAPACITY DUE TO COVID-19; REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

To register visit **detroittroweltrades.org** and click Calendar. Classes are filled on a first registered first served basis and will be held on the following Saturdays from 7:00am – 3:30pm: Mar: 6 & 20 • Apr: 10 & 24 • May: 1, 15 & 22 • Jun: 5 & 12

Apprentices, remember that Related Training Instruction (RTI) classes are a requirement of your Apprenticeship, failure to attend will delay your apprenticeship and raises.

Additional classes will be added as necessary to accommodate all apprentices.

Feel free to contact your BAC field representative or the Apprentice Coordinator should you have any questions.

METRO DETROIT APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD: Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Metro Detroit Apprentice Worksheets are available for download at <http://bit.ly/ApprenticeWorksheets>. If you do not have a printer you can pick them up during our monthly meeting or contact Tom Ward at (586) 757-6668 to request them by mail. For more information on the Detroit Training Center visit: detroittroweltrades.org

LANSING TRAINING CENTER: To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly, (517) 749-1102.

Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Lansing Apprenticeship and Training website and register future 2020 online training classes.

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE: During this COVID-19 pandemic, 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 <http://bit.ly/MAP-BAC> and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for membership assistance Monday – Friday 8 am – 8 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."

E-MAIL ADDRESS: 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 e-mail. Please submit your address by sending an e-mail to information@bricklayers.org and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication. (Continued next column)



SHOWING THE FLOOR TILE they're installing at a restroom at the Lansing Bord of Water and Light Delta Energy Park power plant are Emin Melkie and Christopher Turner of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by Shores Tile.



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

call (248) 548-0800.

The Local's website is: www.opcmiami.org.

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

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

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

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: www.mustonline.org 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 can track your annuity fund status at the Wells Fargo website. You may do so by logging on to: www.retirement.wellsfargo.com or call (866) 640-5138, you can also call the fund office at (248) 645-6550 with any related questions.

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.

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits, **ROAD BUILDERS** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502. **PLASTERERS' AND COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS** can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-9357. All **Plasterers and Cement Masons** can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. For the **INTERNATIONAL PENSION** Call 1-888-880-8222 Toll Free or (202) 638-1996.

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for a Telephonic meeting. Please feel free to call the Business manager or any agent with questions on how to sign up.

Congratulations go out to Pam Marshall on her retirement. And we would like to welcome Amber Best as our new Office Manager!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the retirees that you all are safe and well.

Membership gold cards- Congratulations!

Patrick O'Shea – 30 Years
Gino Gattari – 70 Years
Joseph Schifano – 70 Years
Andrew Dupont – 25 Years
Lance Ryan is now Plasterer Business Agent, if you have any questions for him please call (586) 615-1564.

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

Lawrence Nemeth is the Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313) 350-0389.

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

You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.

Miller Cohen PLC is extending an invitation to our members to participate in free Estate Planning Seminar. Learn about Wills, Trust, Durable Power of Attorney, and Medical Power of Attorney, and Guardian Designation. Contact the Union Hall if interested and a date will be scheduled for the free Seminar.

If you are a Military Veteran please contact the Local so we can update our records. Please

BAC Local 2, con't

nication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.

BAC 2 MI Texting Program. We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We encourage our members to sign up to receive our text messages by -texting **2MI** to **877877**

-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!

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION: Bricklayers Metro Detroit Local Pension Fund (248) 641-4954 Detroit & Vicinity Health Insurance (Brick, Cement and TMT) (800) 435-4080 or (248) 828-6000 (dvtt.org)

MI BAC Health & Welfare and MI BAC Pension (800) 531-2244 (outstate funds, michiganbac.org)

Cement Pension Fund (248) 645-6550 (detroitcementmasons.org)
CALL-A-DOC (800) 835-2362 (D&V Health Fund)

International Pension/Annuity Fund (Brick, Cement and TMT) (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (dvtt.org)

Pandemic's 1-2 punch: 1.38M more seek jobless assistance; life expectancy falls

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) – The ongoing coronavirus pandemic packed a one-two punch against the nation's workers, federal agencies reported, as almost 1.38 million more people sought federal or state jobless aid in the week ending Feb. 13. Meanwhile U.S. life expectancy dropped by a year, to 77.8 years, in the first half of 2020, another federal report showed.

And that second statistic, which re-emphasized the modern-day plague's impact on people of color – life expectancy for Blacks dropped by 2.7 years – could get worse. That's because the preliminary data from the National Center for Health Statistics covers only the first half of 2020, not the whole year, while coronavirus deaths skyrocketed after Labor Day.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers, as usual, show the huge impact on jobs from business closures forced by the battle against the COVID-19 virus. The 1,378,650 workers who applied for state or federal jobless benefits in the second week of February joined 1,209,925 who sought the aid the week before and the 18,340,161 who were already receiving federal or state jobless checks.

Together, those 20,928,736 people either seeking or receiving jobless aid are equivalent to one of every 6.86 workers in the U.S.

The bad jobless numbers are another argument for Democratic President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Recovery Act, which the Democratic-run House is putting together. It extends federal jobless benefits, which top off state jobless aid for those who get it, or are the only benefits for "independent contractors" and "gig economy" workers.

Those benefits, now \$300 weekly, are scheduled to end in mid-March. Biden's bill extends them to the end of August and increases them to \$400 weekly.

"In the first half of 2020, life expectancy at birth for the total U.S. population was 77.8 years, declining by one year from 78.8 in 2019," the National Center for Health Statistics reported. That wiped out all gains since 2006. "Life expectancy at birth for males was 75.1 years in the first half of 2020, representing a decline of 1.2 years from 76.3 years in 2019. For females, life expectancy declined to 80.5 years, decreasing 0.9 year from 81.4 years in 2019."

People of color saw even larger declines in lifespans: Three years for Black men, 2.4 years for Spanish-speaking men, 2.3 years for Black women and 1.1 years for Spanish-speaking women.

"The provisional life expectancy estimates do not reflect the entirety of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, or other changes in causes of death, such as the increases in provisional drug overdose deaths through early 2020," the federal agency warned. Deaths rise in the winter, it added.

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Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI – March's ZOOM Union meeting will be Monday March 29, 2021 at 7:00 pm. This union meeting will be the third (3rd) Reading of the proposed **By-Laws. The VOTE WILL BE (in-person) MARCH 31, 2021** at all Union Halls (Novi, Flint, Lansing, Saginaw & Kent-Ionia Center from 7am to 7pm. **PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.**

International Convention. Nominations open 7:00 am March 10, through March 17, 2021 closing at 4:00 pm. Nominations will be conducted through The Member Only Section of our Website (www.ironworkers25.org). The VOTE for Delegates & Alternates will take place **MARCH 31, 2021** at all Union Halls (Novi, Flint, Lansing, Saginaw & Kent-Ionia Center from 7am to 7pm.

The Ironworkers' June Wage Allocation VOTE will take place **MARCH 31, 2021** at all Union Halls (Novi, Flint, Lansing, Saginaw & Kent-Ionia Center from 7am to 7pm.

The vote for BY-LAWS, DELEGATES TO CONVENTION AND WAGE ALLOCATION will ALL take place on **MARCH 31ST** from 7am TO 7pm at ALL UNION HALLS

ZOOM: If you have not yet signed up for Notifications please sign up as Notification will go out via the APP. To participate in the Zoom Union meeting is very easy ... just be sure you have downloaded our APP or signed up for our emails via our website (www.ironworkers25.org). We are leaning toward communication through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS** – Please download the APP if you haven't done so yet!! Again, via our website!

The 2021 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available. Call the Novi hall to get one mailed to you. These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible. **All requests for complete rules and the application must be received by Wed. March 31, 2021 and turned in by Friday April 30, 2021.**

MANDATORY TO WEAR A FACE MASK IF YOU VISIT ANY OF THE UNION OFFICES OR UNION HALLS.

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30am to 4:30pm. 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.

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

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days. A Marriage certificate will be required.**

Dispatch is OPEN. Please call 248-305-9282: Monday through Friday 7 am to 10 am. if you happen to get voicemail, just leave your name, book number and phone number. Local 25 Active Members, Apprentices and Probationary should call each day you are out of work. **OR use our website or the APP to sign up for the out of work list: www.ironworkers25.org**

Steward Meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Stewards' Notes: 1) The Electronic Steward Reporting forms are online www.ironworkers25.org Log in with your book number, and the password is the last 4 of your social. For any new member that is logging in for the first time, your Username is your book number and your Password is your last name (all lower-case letters). After logging in for the first time you will be prompted to reset your password. **2) PLEASE** be sure to check dues for members and boomers too **AND BE SURE ALL BOOMERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING**

(Continued next column)



Local 8 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local Union #8
Tim Roman, Business Rep.

UPPER PENINSULA - WELD CERTIFICATIONS: Weld certifications are being held on an as-needed basis. Please contact Rich Hanson at the Apprenticeship office for more information. 414-476-9372.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The Membership Meeting will take place by video conference on March 24th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CST. Members can gain access to the meeting at <https://meeting.iw18.org> on the afternoon of the meeting.

MINE SAFETY TRAINING: The next MSHA Refresher Class will be held on March 20th, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. To sign up for this class, and provide your email address, please contact Ann Lakenen at Pipefitters #111, 906-226-6511.

If you sign up for MSHA classes and do not attend or cancel, you will be charged a fee of \$30.00 and will be suspended from any further Mine Safety classes until the fee is paid.

RETIREE & ACTIVE MEMBER UPDATES: Cal Prout, Book #633874, age 81, passed away on Feb. 5, 2021 in Pensacola, Florida. Cal started his Iron Worker career while in high school, working on the Mackinac Bridge in his hometown of St. Ignace, Mich.

In 2007, Cal was inducted into the Iron Workers Hall of Fame, with special recognition for being the youngest Iron Worker on the Mackinac Bridge project. Cal was initiated into Iron Workers Local #783 in October 1958, as an Apprentice. He was a 62 year Member of our Union and was a Lifetime Member of Iron Workers Local #8.

Cal was elected as an officer to the following positions of Local #783:

1966-1968 – Executive Board Member

1968-1970 – Executive Board Member

1970-1973 – President/Del-egate to Iron Workers District Council of the North Central States.

1973-1976 – President/Del-egate to Iron Workers District Council of the North Central States.

As the President of Local #783, Cal was involved with the Apprenticeship and Training programs. To those who knew and worked with Cal, there was no substitute. He was one of a kind. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at a later date. Our condolences to Sis and their family.

IRON WORKERS LOCAL #8 ONLINE STORE: Check out Local #8's swag at the online store at iw18.org.

Panel's party-line vote OKs minimum wage hike

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) – The proposed raise in the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour took another step in Congress when the Democratic-run House Education and Labor Committee included it in the \$1.9 trillion “reconciliation” bill that President Joe Biden seeks to help ease the economic woes of the coronavirus pandemic.

The panel’s section of the legislation was passed over GOP protests against raising the minimum wage for 27 million-32 million workers, depending on whose calculations you cite. The Republicans called raising the wage part of “a radical left-wing agenda.”

Now the wage hike and other pro-worker provisions in committee’s section of reconciliation will be combined with provisions from other panels before the full House votes on the measure, expected by the end of the month.

The minimum wage hike is a key worker cause, as the federal minimum wage for regular full-time workers, \$7.25 an hour, hasn’t risen since 2009. The wage for tipped workers – servers, porters, taxi drivers and others – is \$2.13 an hour. It hasn’t risen in 30 years. The bill equalizes the tipped workers’ minimum and the youth subminimum wage with the regular minimum wage in 2027. It faces GOP Senate opposition, along with that of key Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va.

And support for the “\$15 and a union” led thousands of fast food workers out on a strike, literally or virtually, from coast to coast on Feb. 16.

The raise to \$15 an hour by 2025 “will lift nearly one million people out of poverty and put money into the pockets of 27 million workers, who will accelerate our economic recovery by spending that money in local businesses,” committee chair Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., said.

“According to the” non-partisan “Congressional Budget Office, a \$15 minimum wage, even after you account for any employment losses, will put an additional net \$333 billion into the pockets of low- and middle-income workers, outweighing the cost to the federal government.”

The Auto Workers had a pointed reply to naysayers in a tweet: “Despite claims that the cost wage increases will be passed onto consumers, researchers found that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage raised McDonald’s food prices by just 1.4 percent.”

Building a power plant



AT WORK AT THE Lansing Board of Water and Light’s Delta plant are Iron Workers Brad Coons and Tim Thomas of Local 25. They’re employed by Barton Malow.



TAKING THE MEASURE of a pipe at the Delta Energy Park in Delta Township is Dave Hardaker of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 190. He’s employed by Scheck Mechanical.



THE 250-MEGAWATT Delta Energy Park natural gas-fired power plant is going up on the grounds of the Lansing Board of Water and Light’s Erickson Station in Delta Twp.

Iron Workers Local 25, continued

3) All members please be sure to keep your Union dues paid up to date as it is criteria for working. You can be asked to leave the jobsite if your dues are not current.

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org, print the application, gather documentation then phone the school for an appointment; no walk-in foot traffic. The Wixom Training Center – Phone: 248-960-2130.

Due to the high volume of apprentices doing their make-up days, we are limiting the number to 10 per day. Please call the school to make up days ... **Do not just show up and expect to be allowed to stay.**

Apprentices: Fill out your monthlies online at the website or mobile app located under the apprenticeship tab “Monthly Report Sign-In” this gives you the ability to electronically submit your monthlies. Also located under the apprenticeship tab you will find “Evaluation Form” Journeyman/Supervision can use this to submit apprentice evaluations using computer/cell phone and submit electronically. **Please also note, you must check your email on a regular basis; we now email your annual MUST drug screen paperwork and your pay raises slips.**

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule; we are practicing social distancing protocols, etc.

Wixom Training Center: First Aid/CPR-March 2, SubPart R-March 4, Un-bonded Post Tensioning March 8, 9,10 and 11 with time being 7am -4pm. Text-

(Continued next column)

books \$30 and must be purchased 2 weeks BEFORE class starts and turned in 1 week PRIOR to the start of class.

IRONWORKER-CONTRACTOR PROFESSIONAL: Autodesk training is now available online on the Learning Management System (LMS). Those who enroll will gain access to all 14 courses for just \$99 per year. Contact your local training center to register. (248-960-2130).

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues is changing the week of April 5, 2021. Comerica has changed the processing platform. With regulatory

changes in banking, the new platform is requiring any new users to **authenticate** themselves. Anyone who has used the system in the past will already be authenticated. However, any current users will still need to create a new log-in and password the first time you need to update/edit any payment information.

Pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. PLEASE include your book number on the face of the check/money order. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-

F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash). After-hours use the outdoor-dues-collection box.

The Novi retirees Board of Directors will meet on **Tuesday, March 2nd** in Novi at 9:00 am; The Novi retiree meeting will be **Tuesday, March 16th at 10:00 am.** Located 2691 Fort St, Trenton, MI 48183. All are welcome!

No Bay City Chapter meeting until April 2021 (hopefully). Updates will be posted on the local’s website and/or local’s column in the Building Tradesman.

Watch for updates at (www.ironworkers25.org) or the Local 25 app that you can download by searching “Iron Workers Local 25” to stay informed on union matters.

To all Union Members: Covid-19 has an effect on all of us and our ironworker community is no different. Please keep our membership in your prayers and please do your best to be safe during this pandemic as cases rise. We hope you and your family stay safe and healthy!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (02/22/2021 12:00pm E.S.T.).



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To each of our Members, Clients and Vendor partners impacted by COVID-19, our thoughts are with you. Rest assured knowing that BeneSys is working hard on your behalf while we navigate these difficult circumstances together.

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Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 SOUTHFIELD – This paper serves as official notice for all meetings and elections.

****REMINDER**** Meetings are no longer held at the Plumbers Hall and are now held at Local 80's Union Hall.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall. 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.



UNION HALL REGULATIONS
Monday through Friday 7:30 – 4:00, unless otherwise indicated in holiday hours.

RETIREE MEETINGS: We will be going month to month for 2021. Please keep an eye on the paper for an updated schedule. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

SUB CHANGES: Effective immediately you will need to start sending your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax it to 248-557-0297. Your unemployment proof needs to be in by 2pm on Tuesdays to be paid on that Friday. Local 80 will be handling all of your proof now. If you have any questions, call us 248-557-7575.

CONDOLENCES: To member Timothy Przytulski for the loss of his son, Gregory Norman Anthony Przytulski on Feb. 17. Please keep the Przytulski family in your thought and prayers during this very difficult time.

ACCIDENT: Please keep longtime member Robert Johnson in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from an injury caused by a serious head-on collision.

Congratulations to the members who earned a pin for continuous service in 2020:

15 YEARS OF SERVICE: Brian Arndt, Ken Backers, Robert Backers, Jim Brasfield, Johnnie Downing, Donald Geary, Ryan Goetterman, David Guilliams, Eric Hoffman, Jacob Knapp III, Charles R. Kortright, John Kuha, Brandon LaFramboise, William Lovell, Sam McGunnigle, Matthew Monette, Brian Neumann, Jason Pauli, Michael Paytas, Nektarios Roukounakis, Lawrence Rucker, Jeremiah Samson, Tyrone Sinclair, Ronald Stark, Michael Stone, John Styles, Joseph Zachos, Kevin Korndorfer, Harry Morgan & Joseph Salkowski

25 YEARS OF SERVICE: James Belisle, James Bleyaert, Gregory Bourdon, Russell Bular, Keith Buschbacher, David Clay, Ralph Coffman, Roger Curtis, Dencil Daniels, Mike Dupont, Greg Dutchak, Thomas Eckerle, Jon Gabridge, John Hartman, Gregory Hobert, Gerald Hoga, Dennis Jacepec, Robert Kelly-McFarland, Stephen Korbiak, Thomas Laskowski, Gary Lulek, Donald Mallett, James Mayne, Matthew Negge, Robert Nelson, William Nelson Jr., Anthony Parpart, Christopher Patroske, Michael Petit, Gregory Rasa, John Robinson, Louis Rohrbacher, Dale Schmidt, Michael Trombley, Patrick Turner, Rainer Becker, Mark Becking, Robert Chamberlin, John Cieszynski, Kenneth Leskinen

40 YEARS OF SERVICE: Ronald Handley, Joel Hanson, Richard Missler, Gerald Rajter, Allen Tremberth, Robert Zalewski, Gregory Chervinsky, John Cooper, Michael Dostilio, Patrick Giles, Paul Hilbert, Russell Padalino, John Roland, Michael Trelfa, Joseph Verbit, Daniel Willacker

50 YEARS OF SERVICE: Larry Brow, Robert Elmendorf, John Hill, James Pfeifle, Daniel Spankie, Lee Woolsey, Donald Dlugie, Douglas Haines, Joseph Hayter, Charles Latour, Michael Livingston, Ronald Meyerhoff, Stephen Morgan, Ronald Rasbury, Thomas Seibert, Robert Tokie & Brian Walewski

60 YEARS OF SERVICE: James Caris & Charles A. Mack

70 YEARS OF SERVICE: George Capoccia & Carl Martuscelli

Thank you to members who have paid their dues a year in advance: Matt Bratten, Jim Belisle & Brian Arndt.

DUES PAYMENTS: your dues payments are due prior to the first of the month. The books will close at the end of the business day on the last day of the month. **Payments made on the 1st of the month are considered late for that month. There will be no exception, once the books are closed it cannot be undone.** Members will receive a text message dues reminder prior to the end of the month. If you are not receiving our text messaging please call the hall. **REMINDER:** We ONLY take Visa, Master Card & Discover and do not accept American Express.

MARCH RE-REGISTRATION IS COMING! If you are laid off prior to March 1 you need to re-register to keep your spot on the out of work list. You may re-register at the hall, by email registerlocal80@gmail.com or fax 248-557-0297. You CANNOT re-register over the phone. Please call the hall with any questions. Re-registration does not start until March 1.

READY TO WORK: SMANCA Detroit and Local 80 are in progress of developing a mobile smart app which will allow access to the Ready to Work program from your smart phone. The app is in development for both Apple and Android systems; once it is completed (est. early November) an announcement will be emailed, hard-mailed and shared with you at your union meetings as well as published in the *Building Tradesman* newspaper.

In complement, for the 2020 Ready to Work stipend requirement, you will only need to download the app on your smart phone, review and confirm your contact information (email, mailing address, employer, list of your accomplished training).

When you download the app and review your contact information, the program will inform SMACNA Detroit of your interaction and this part of the stipend requirement will be completed.

There will be no custom Ready to Work modules required for the 2020 stipend.

In the meanwhile of receiving notice the Ready to Work app is available, it is important to make sure you have all other stipend requirements completed, these are still the same:

Current MUST Drug Test
Current MUST 18 Safety Modules
OSHA 30
Current FA CPR certification
Deadline for stipend requirements is March 31, 2021.

For members who do not have a smart phone, contact Support 248-649-5450 and accommodations will be made for you.

BENEFICIARY REMINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your Local 80 and international 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 need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 and update your address with them as well, that is not done through the hall.

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: Saturday and Sunday work assignments. Please remember that when performing work on a Saturday or Sunday the steward must report it to the hall, give each members name and obtain a form for signatures. Each member must sign the form along with the number of hours they worked. The completed form must be sent back to by hall by the end of the day on the following Monday. Weekend work assignments must be called or emailed into the hall prior to 3 pm Friday.

WORK ASSIGNMENTS: Everyone must obtain a work assignment prior to starting work. If you fail to do so you could be written up on charges.

LAY-OFFS: All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. Your name will be removed from the list 14 days after receiving an assignment.

LAY-OFF SLIPS/TERMINATION NOTICES: Lay off slips must accompany all applications for sub pay. Without lay off slips you cannot collect sub pay. It is the member's responsibility to make sure they get one from the contractor when laid off. Your application cannot be submitted

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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 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

- *Zone 1 - March 11th -6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 2 –March 16th -6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 3- (Saginaw) – March 10th -6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 3- (TCity) March 18th -6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 4- March 9th - 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 5 –April 1st 6:00 p.m.

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up-to-date information on meeting schedules for 2021. 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.

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

ZONE 1 Info: ZONE 1 Info: Please watch for the contract survey in the mail. Be sure to fill out the survey and return in the prepaid addressed envelope provided before March 1st. Work in the Zone 1 area continues to remain strong. Please remember to inform James or Eric of your employment status in the case of a layoff. Apprentices please remember to also inform Kevin at the Zone 1 Training Center of your employment status. If you are experiencing any problems with unemployment, please contact your Business Agent for additional assistance. If you are experiencing any trouble with your insurance, please contact your Business Agent or call BeneSys at (866) 288-7037. Any Journey person interested in up-grade classes, please contact Kevin at the Training Center (269) 781-7183. Please note that class availability depends on the level of interest. The Zone 1 Retiree meetings may resume per the restrictions set forth in the MDHHS Order which can be found on the Local 7 website www.sheetmetal7.org. **In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.**

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 is holding steady. Call if you are not working. Next meeting is May 18, 2021 at 6 pm at the Grand Rapids hall. **Thanks Dave**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the Zone 3 area is slow at this time. I have many guys traveling to Detroit and Lansing for shut down work. We have projects coming up in the spring, looks like we should be able to keep everyone working. Make sure to keep updated on your OSHA 30 must modules and Mshaw so we can keep everyone employed. Hopefully everyone is staying safe. **Thank you, Wayne Stover**

Zone 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our next Traverse City Meeting will be Thursday, March 18th at 6:00PM. Please continue to follow the Trades paper for updates. It looks like 2021 is going to be another busy year with plenty of work opportunities. Hopefully we can schedule some Retiree Breakfast soon. **Thank You, Travis Eastman**

Zone 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 has slowed a bit with winter here; we only have a few members on the out of work list. Spring looks to be good with lots of good size projects. We will be trying to have an in person meeting in March, masks will be required in the union hall/training center. Anyone who is not working and has not contacted me, please do so. **Your Brother, Larry Kinzie**

ZONE 5 Info 1 would like to express our condolences to the families of Marvin J. Norman (85) who passed away on November 1, 2020 and James O. Haines (76) who passed away on Jan. 15, 2021.

Work around the area hopefully will be picking up soon with some jobs starting soon. We will be having Upgrade Classes in March, 5pm to 8pm at the Training Center located at 304 Avenue A Gwinn MI. 49841 and will go as follows; 8th and 9th Trimble Robotic Total Station, 10th and 11th PlanGrid Software, 12th 7am to 7pm AWS Welding Certifications. The Training Center will be open from 8am to 5pm March 8 through 11 for anyone who wishes to get some practice time in the welding booths. If interested in any Classes contact myself or Darek Scarlavai to be added to the list. Also a breakdown on these classes have been sent to all our signatory contractors.

Thank You, Greg Faust

SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5: Underemployment – Filing for period 2020-B is from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Eligible members who worked less than 750 hours from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 may receive an underemployment benefit. Health and welfare benefits paid on your behalf will be deducted from your benefit. NOTE: Members who received an Emergency Advance Benefit must file for Underemployment to receive the remainder of that benefit for the stabilization period. In addition, you must provide copies of all W-2 forms for the entire year of 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

James Callahan (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-342-8842

David Rutz (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-458-2313

Wayne Stover (Saginaw) 989-692-0002

Travis Eastman (Traverse City) 231-943-5150

Larry Kinzie (Agent-Flint) 810-785-6831

Greg Faust (Agent-Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

Local 80 cont'd

without one. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue one in accordance with our contract.

S.U.B. BENEFITS: Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven days from your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB ben-

efits. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

OUT-OF-WORK LIST: You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. 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.

SHORT WORK WEEKS PAY: If you work 16 hours or less



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **March 10, 2021.**

Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at www.sheetmetal292.com for the location and date.

The E-Board/Stewards meeting is scheduled for **March 23, 2021** at 6:00 pm at the Union Hall.

****Per the CDC guidelines, masks must be worn and social distancing must be followed during all meetings.**

NEW PRESCRIPTION CHANGES: The Board of Trustees of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 Health Fund (the

Fund) is introducing a new prescription drug benefits program effective Jan. 1, 2021. The new program will be administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (replacing EnvisionRx). Since Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan already administers our Simply Blue PPO Medical Plan, your medical and prescription drugs will be integrated and co-ordinated, which should make it easier for you and lead to better care.

You should be receiving your new Blue Cross cards in the mail soon. You will use the new card for both medical and prescription drug coverage. If you do not receive your cards, contact the union hall so we can advise BeneSys. These changes are for active members and pre-65 retired members only.

RETIREES NOTICE: Duetto Covid-19 and restrictions placed for social gatherings, as well as the health and safety of our retirees and their families, the retirees' luncheons have been cancelled until further notice. We will notify when luncheons will resume. Stay healthy and safe. Please contact Fred Engelman at fred_el@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The Constitution and Ritual of the 2nd 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 also has hard copies for members who want one.

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. Members please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact Laura or Lee Ann at the Union Hall. With the amount of upcoming in-town work, all current Journeymen and Apprentices should ensure they have **18 safety mods completed and drug test should be current.**

****The NMA addendum for most of the upcoming projects states: 1) Prior to, but within thirty (30) days of referral for employment to the project site, all craft persons will: A) Attend a Project Specific Orientation facilitated by the Contractor at mutually agreed upon times and locations; B) Before being admitted to the job site, all contractors and subcontractor employees having active involvement in job site construction activity, must be current and maintain a current MUST or equivalent status regarding the Substance Abuse Program. Prior to the start of work on the project the employee must provide confirmation of negative results to a MUST Substance Abuse Test or equivalent test within the last 30 days.**

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 is now partnering with

Ulliance, an employee assistance program designed to assist active 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 active members and their dependents.

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have been receiving 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. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the member's responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner. 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.

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 **4:00 p.m.** on the last business day of the month. Payments received after **4:00 p.m.** on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you **WILL** go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

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

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 also through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List.

TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION: We have recently updated the text blast contact list. All members have been added. If you haven't been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please contact the Union hall and we will make the change.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER: Be sure to check our website – www.sheetmetal292.com; Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 and Twitter - @SMW292, for updates and information.

NOTARY PUBLIC: For your convenience, we now have a Notary Public on site at the union hall. Notary services are free of charge to our members.

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 certs) with the 4 Plus logo, along with 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 248.495.6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class February 27th.

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

Note: Anyone that 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.

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you are experiencing problems in your family,

(Continued on Page 13)



Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149
DETROIT – Main Office – Southeastern Lower Michigan – Regular Membership Meeting. The regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Mar. 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The regular membership meeting will be broadcasting live on “Detroit Roofers - Radio Active” channel 88.5 on your FM dial. You must be within one mile of the Union Hall to hear the radio station.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Mar. 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SITTING ON THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE? The search for a collective-bargaining negotiating committee is coming. Nominations are being taken Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Are you a strong advocate for yourself and your fellow Detroit 149 members? Have you ever considered being a part of your Union’s collective-bargaining negotiating committee?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR UNION AS A BUSINESS AGENT? The search for Business Agent is coming. Nominations are being taken Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

For the collective-bargaining negotiating committee, and Business Agent’s job description, please contact Business Manager Brian Gregg at 313.961.6093.

In order to stand for election, you need to be a Journeyworker in good standing and you must be nominated by another member in good standing at the general membership meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 or in writing via a nomination acceptance letter addressed to the Recording Secretary Gary Johnsen by Monday, March 1, 2021, at 5:00 pm.

Website for announcements, news, and updates www.rooferslocal149.com

Detroit Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Thomas Jaranowski at the Training Center, 248-543-3847, or TJaranowski@DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements.

Follow us on Facebook for announcement updates @ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149.

Reminder. Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information.

Members are reminded to call the Hall (313) 961-6093 to put their name on the out of work list.

CLEARANCE CARDS. Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local’s territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan regular membership meeting scheduled for Tue., April 13, 2021 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

At the April 13, 2021 regular membership meeting, we will be taking proposals on administering the \$1.85 raise.

When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up to date phone number. 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.

The publication above is accurate as 2/22/2021, 10:00 a.m.

In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local 149.

Sheetmetal Workers Local 80, continued

(Continued from Page 12)
marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. **Ulliance** is there to help you with your needs. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or (Continued next column)



Local 36
Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular Membership Meeting was set for Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm. As of this printing we are having a meeting in the parking lot only, we are seeking alternate ways to communicate if the weather does not cooperate or a venue to accommodate us. Letters and Emails have been sent to all Members. Keep watching your email for possible changes!

Attention, our NEBA contract will be expiring July 9, 2022, so we had Nominations for the Delegates for the 32nd General Convention at our February Meeting and Elections will be at our March Meeting, per the International Constitution and Bylaws. Any Resolutions for the next contract shall be turned into the Hall as per our Local Constitution and Bylaws before our April 26, 2021 meeting.

Attention All Apprentices, the new semester has begun as of Jan. 18. Continue accessing the NEIEP website/email frequently for all instructions. Mechanic’s review is available and Exam invitation will be coming for those eligible at NEIEP. **Monthly OJL Forms** are now online at NEIEP which must be completed before the 9th day of the next month, if you are working out of your jurisdiction, laid off or a probationary OJT forms must be filled out and turned into the Hall. This is a requirement of the Department of Labor. Do not put your apprenticeship in jeopardy by failing to fulfill your responsibility. Reminder to all that the NEIEP website is available to all interested for review and Continuing Education.

Attention All Members W-2s should be in your possession. It is your responsibility to comply with Article XIV Sec 2 Par 14 of the Local Constitution and Bylaws, letters have been sent to all Members. Check your pay stubs regularly there have been multiple issues with several Companies with Pay and Rates paid per specific tasks. The hours you are paid should match hours toward vacation, benefits and expenses submitted. Remember our wage increased on January 1st 2021. All may request a copy of the time you submit, according to NEBA Agreement, Article XI, Par 2.

Any changes made to your time are to be documented and given to you, NEBA Agreement, Article XI, Par 1. We recommend all request a copy as issues with payrolls seem to be rising. Put in for your check cashing along with 50 cents per Local Expense Agreement and verify you receive it. All Testing must be done according to Code and your Companies Maintenance Control Program. Document all tests that are due and only tasks you have completed. Keep all job logs current with this information.

All are reminded Construction and Modernization work is Teamwork, keep the hall informed on all jobs.

All Members, Local 36 is working with Local 85, Lansing and the EIWPF are holding classes on Monday nights, 6-8 pm. Reviewing and answering any questions pertaining to Michigan and Detroit Elevator Codes. Contact the Hall if you are interested. The link will be sent to you for either online or phone participation. Maintenance Control Programs reference the Codes, are you being Code compliant? Know what the MCP is referencing for you the Licensed Journeyman.

Reminder, please keep your State of Michigan and City of Detroit licenses current.

Please always follow COVID-19 guidelines for your safety and those around you. E-mails were sent to all Members and Companies for the effort to make the Covid-19 Vaccine available to any and all their employees who are requested to visit Front Line Facilities. Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list. Keep safe and healthy! Be a Brother to a Brother, regardless of what Local they might belong too. Be Safe and Be Healthy!

www.LifeAdvisor EAP.com.
Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – To combat and limit the spread of Covid-19, Local 47 encourages all members to continue to work safe, and if you feel sick contact a doctor immediately.

Any retirees wanting to go to work, please call the office.

The Funds Trustees have waived the 79-hour rule.

All members should have received a letter from our International regarding the Asbestos Exposure Scientific Study. For more information on how to participate in this study, please contact Business Manager Patrick Welch at the main Local 47 Office number: 517-708-0665

Per the Rules and Procedures:

Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Contracts are available at the Union Office or at the Union Meeting upon request.

OSHA 10: Local 47 will be offering OSHA 10 to any Active Member who is not current with the program. The course is done online, so if you wish to take the course please contact the Local Union office with your email address and we will be more than happy to set it up for you. If you do not have a computer at home, you are welcome to come to the Local Union Office to take the course.

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.

Local 47 has been receiving a lot of returned mail from our members. We ask that if you have a change of address or phone number to please call the Local Union Office right away so we can update your information throughout our system, TIC’s, and the with the International. It is very important to make sure your contact information is always update with Local 47.

Anyone interested in joining the newly formed Breath Of Life Committee is asked to please call the Local Union Office.

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

Allied Workers’ Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds

6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275

Toll Free Number: (800) 323-8079

Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502

Fax Number: (517) 321-7508

Josh Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Josh is the new Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at 989-385-2671

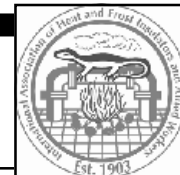
To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms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



SEALING A DUCT at the Lansing Board of Water’s new Delta Energy Park powerhouse is Brennan Dunham of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47. He’s employed by Advance Industrial Services.



Local 25
Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25

SOUTHFIELD – REMINDER: We continue to be under the directive of the International Union and pursuant to that directive, the MARCH 2021 UNION MEETING has been cancelled. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates.

UNION ELECTIONS: Congratulations to the following elected members:

- President:** Jim Boyd
- Vice President:** Rob Chambers
- Financial Secretary:** Adam Werle
- Executive Board:** Dave Innis, Ed Howard, Bob Wright
- Union Trustee:** Pat Taylor
- Pension Trustee:** Bob Wright
- Welfare Trustee:** Rob Chambers
- J.A.T.C. Trustee:** Constance Vincent, Mark O’Connell
- S.U.B. Trustee:** Constance Vincent, John Richards
- Recording Secretary:** Rob Chambers
- Sgt-At-Arms:** Randy Rowell

WEBSITE: The new website is up and running. It can be located at: <https://heatfrostinsulators.org>.

APPRENTICE APPLICATION: Finalization of the apprentice application procedures are almost complete. Applications will ONLY be taken via our website: heatfrostinsulators.org. Applications will be accepted during March 2021 and April 2021.

As soon as details and procedures are finalized, you will be able to find the information in this article, our website, our facebook page or as always, you can contact the Union Office (248) 352-1850.

QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR AN APPLICANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS LOCAL 25 APPRENTICESHIP

1. Must be at least 18 years of age by June 1st, 2021, and have a valid driver’s license.

2. Complete the application. Be sure that you sign the application and you must upload any required supporting documents, including documents that support previous employment or extracurricular activities.

If you are a current High School senior, you must provide your Diploma or GED certificate (proof of completion) by June 1st, 2021.

Successfully complete an aptitude test when scheduled, (at the applicant’s expense of \$30).

Appear for an interview when notified.

Have a residence and live in the Territorial Jurisdiction of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25 as follows: in the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, and neighboring counties as well as the Townships of Ann Arbor, August, Lodi, Northfield, Pittsfield, Salem, Saline, Scio, Superior, Webster, Ypsilanti, York in Washtenaw County.

Before employment, all applicants accepted for probationary apprenticeship will be required to pass a physical examination and pre-employment drug test as prescribed by the local JATC.

APPAREL: New Local 25 apparel is available at the Union Hall. New items include: knit hats and beanies, new hi-vis short and long sleeved t-shirts and hi-vis hoodies. Apparel can be viewed on the Facebook page.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: It is important to keep your M.U.S.T. Safety Modules up to date. If you have Modules expiring and needing to be completed, give the Union Office a call to have the testing authorization turned on.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. The only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remains current and correct.

LAY OFF/HIRE: Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within forty-eight hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

S.U.B. FUND: Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

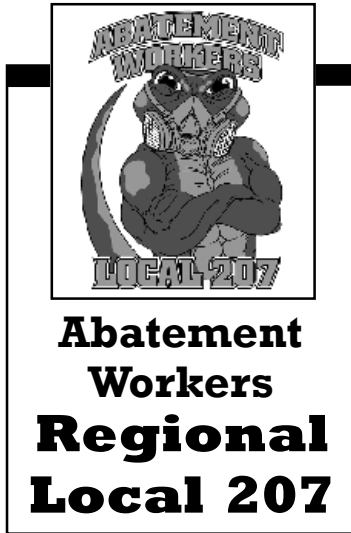
SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION: Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator’s office within 30 days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the 30 days will be denied per the Plan Document.

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information. Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members.

In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

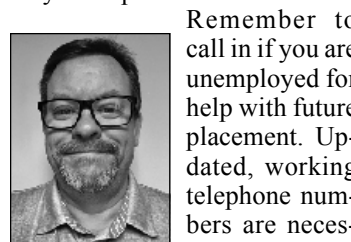
CONDOLENCES to the family of Retiree Gary Flucks on his February 18, 2021 passing. Please keep his children, retired members Dean Flucks, Sue Robidou, Dawn O’Neil and his entire family in your thoughts and prayers. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

SICK AND INJURED: Please keep all our sick and injured members in your thoughts and prayers.



Abatement Workers Local 207

TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for late winter so be prepared for work during a time when traditionally work is slowing down. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites.



KEVIN MEAGHER

Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement.

Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic.

The General Office still has a ban on Union Meeting and Elections. Our current election process is still on hold until an ok is given to proceed. All members will be notified by mail when the election can resume.

Work in other areas of the region have been picking up over the last couple of weeks in Ohio and West Virginia. Spring outages are coming! With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail-in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell.

We are looking at scheduling a new initial class for Late March so please if you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class.

UPCOMING ASBESTOS TRAINING CLASSES: Asbestos Supervisor Refresher February 27th.

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

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

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

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

— Class sizes are being limited due to state guidelines currently in place.

BE SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASKS, & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES!

Local 47, cont’d

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office.

Under Duties of Apprentice-



CURT MCGLONE

“True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring.”
—Martin Luther King
“Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.”
—Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 - 1892)



Ford's train station renovation proceeds, with next-level safety

(Continued from Page 1)
the industry.”

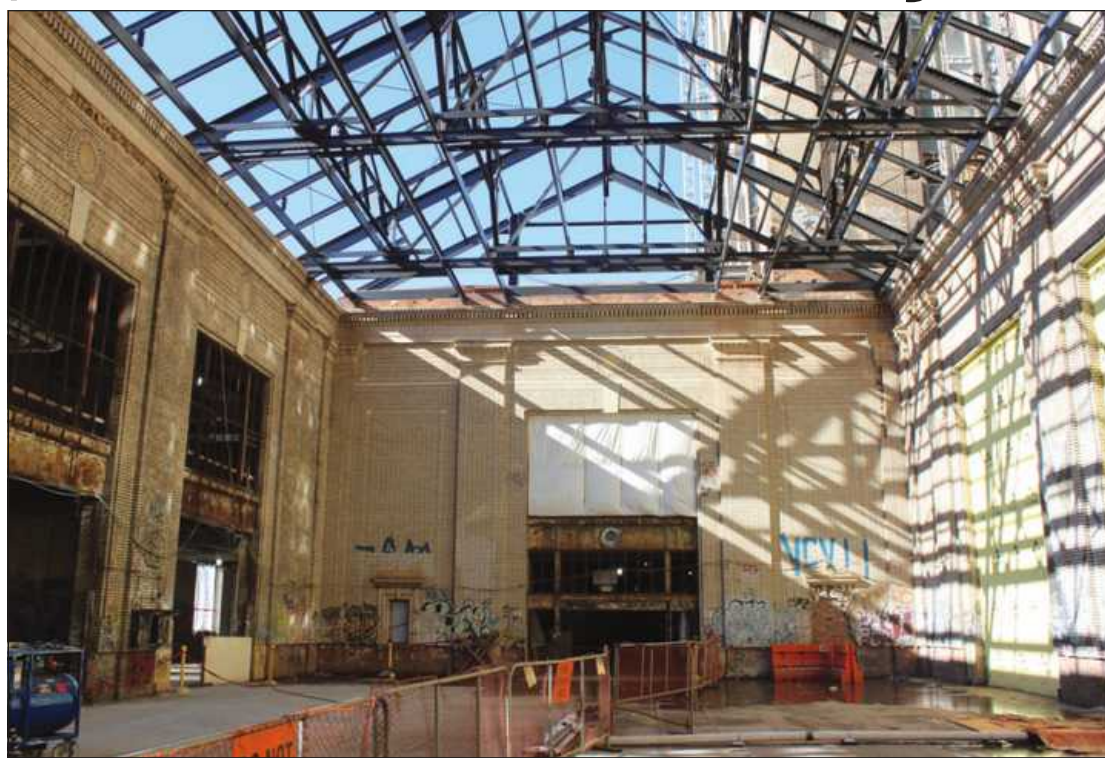
“The mission of MIOSHA is to protect the safety and health of Michigan workers and these types of collaborative agreements help ensure everyone goes home at the end of their shift healthy and whole,” said MIOSHA Director Bart Pickelman. “These construction companies embody the dedication that puts safety and health at the center of the work and they serve as mentors to the other trade contractors on this project.”

“MIOSHA is pleased to partner with Ford, Christman/Brinker, the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, and all of the trade contractors and workers on this project and thank them for their commitment to safety.”

The Michigan Central Station project is host to a new worker Fast Track Job Program. The work experience is a joint initiative aimed at providing a pathway from existing training and onboarding efforts to creating skilled city workers for future construction projects. “These safety and training opportunities help build tomorrow’s workforce,” MIOSHA says. The Michigan Central Station Fast Track Job Program was launched by Ford Motor Company, Christman/Brinker, Detroit at Work, Workforce Development Institute, Barton Malow, SkillSmart and the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council.

Renovations have been ongoing at Michigan Central Station, one of the few surviving grand railroad stations. The 647,000-square-foot building consists of a 15-story office tower set atop a three-story base that includes a vaulted waiting room, arcade, ticket lobby and concourse.

Ford is transforming Michigan Central Station into the centerpiece of a new mobility innovation district in Corktown to shape the future of mobility and transportation. It will be the place where Ford and its partners “will work on autonomous and elec-



A VIEW OF THE Michigan Central Station's concourse, which separated the main hall from the train platforms. Ford and its construction partners are undertaking a multi-year renovation of the train station, which opened in 1913 and was abandoned in 1988.

tric vehicle businesses, and design new solutions that make mobility more convenient and accessible through smart, connected vehicles, roads, parking and public transit,” Ford says. “This dedication to innovation and safety created the perfect complement for a focus on project safety as the team delivers a revitalized train station.”

The Christman Co. in a joint venture with L.S. Brinker, A Brinker Co., (Christman/Brinker Corktown Transformation Joint Venture) and alongside the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) are working with Ford on this “unparalleled workforce safety program,” MIOSHA says. “The resulting agreement blends the project leaders with the project’s trade contractors in the signing of a formal safety partnership.”

“This is a pivotal project for Ford, for Detroit and for the hundreds of workers that are restoring one of the city’s greatest historic assets,” said Wendy

Burkett, Ford’s director of global safety. “The safety of workers is our number one priority and we welcome the opportunity this agreement provides to unite as one team with MIOSHA, Christman/Brinker and the onsite trades to achieve our goal of zero injuries or accidents. We want everyone who plays a role in restoring this magnificent building to return safe and sound to their families and communities.”

Signing partners were limited at the ceremonial event, as COVID-19 protocols were in place to protect members of the team. In keeping with coronavirus safety practices, trade contractors will have the opportunity to sign the agreement electronically as they join the team.

“On behalf of our building trades workers, we’re delighted to be involved in renovating this wonderful, historic train station, where there is such an intensive focus on safety practices,” said Devlin. “We’re glad that MIOSHA, Ford and the Christman/Brinker team recognize

THE SAFETY PARTNER signing on Jan. 29 at Ford Motor Co.’s Michigan Central Train Station project included Wendy Burkett, director, global safety at Ford; Bart Pickelman, director, MIOSHA; Larry Brinker Jr., CEO, Brinker; Dwight Hooks, executive vice president, L.S. Brinker (A Brinker Co.); Steve Roznowski, CEO, Christman; Don Staley, vice president and safety director, Christman; Patrick Devlin, secretary-treasurer, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council; Byron Dandridge Jr., first-year carpenter apprentice at Brinker Team Construction (A Brinker Co.); and Cheryl Sanford, CEO, Michigan Workforce Development Institute.

there is nothing more important in our business than making sure our construction workers enjoy safe shifts on the job so they can go home to their family.”

These partnerships are “a strategic initiative for MIOSHA,” the safety agency says, “as they help to improve the health and safety of workers through cooperative relationships. This approach moves away from traditional enforcement methods and embraces collaborative agreements to protect the health and safety of Michigan workers.”

“We are honored to, once again, stand beside MIOSHA and take part in this level three safety partnership,” said Christman’s Staley. “Our approach is simply stated, *Safety: It’s How We Live*. This is not merely a slogan, it is our daily commitment. On behalf of the Christman/Brinker team, we are serious about accepting the agreement, as we personify safety through a multifaceted, coordinated safety strategy which will provide confidence and security for all of the workers with whom we partner.”

New hope for pension reform

(Continued from Page 1)

raises to do so,” Neal said in a statement announcing the introduction of the legislation. “We cannot allow more than a million men and women to lose their hard-earned savings when we have the ability to stabilize these plans. Passing this legislation is simply the right thing to do.”

The National Association of Plan Advisors said concerning the 2021 version of the Democrat-backed plan before Congress (and we bold-faced the really important stuff): “Under the program, a plan would receive enough financial assistance to keep it solvent and funded for 30 years – with no cuts to the earned benefits of participants and beneficiaries, according to a summary. Plans that previously cut benefits would have to restore them to the retirees who earned them. In exchange for the financial assistance, each plan would have to comply with certain conditions, and would be required to file regular comprehensive reports to PBGC and to the congressional committees of jurisdiction.”

Since the Great Recession more than a decade ago, some U.S. multi-employer pension funds have been beset by a declining base of employers participating in the plans, an increasing population of retirees drawing pensions, and reduced man-hours for workers contributing to the plans. And of course, the coronavirus has just made everything worse.

The IBEW, Boilermakers and Teamsters are the only building trades unions that have actively supported the new plan, called the “Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021.” The bill, named for a deceased Teamster who advocated for it, is also supported by the Mine Workers, the AFL-CIO, and a host of other smaller unions like the Bakery Workers who have multi-employer pensions. “These provisions are critically important and long overdue for the more than one million multi-employer pension plan retirees who have been living in fear that they will lose the retirement income they have earned after a lifetime of hard work because their plans and their insurance backstop, the PBGC multi-employer guaranty fund, are headed for insolvency,” wrote AFL-CIO Director of Government Affairs William Samuel in a Feb. 10 letter to Neal.

Plan Advisors added that “one of the key provisions is the creation of a special partition program that would expand PBGC’s existing authority to partition certain troubled multi-employer pension plans, increase the number of eligible plans and simplify the application process.”

Plan Sponsor magazine’s analysis said of the updated legislation: “Simply put, the loan-based solutions included in the Democrat-supported Butch Lewis Act have failed to gain traction in the full Congress. Republicans, for their part, seem to favor a ‘partition-based’ proposal advanced last year in the Senate.”

The GOP-backed process of partitioning, *Plan Sponsor* says, “would create a system whereby the ‘sickest plans’ can enact a ‘partition’ option that essentially spins off part of the stressed pension, to be taken over by government insurers or other parties.”

Jackson Lewis P.C., writing commentary on the legislation for JDSupra, said the partition procedure divides a multiemployer pension plan into two, “with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation accepting financial responsibility for the portion of the plan representing the benefits of participants for whom no contributions are being made.”

Under current law, PBGC has limited authority to partition certain troubled multi-employer pension plans. The new legislation, the EPPRA, would increase the number of plans eligible for relief and simplify the application process, Jackson Lewis said.

A fact sheet on the legislation by Democrats said the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not yet provided an official cost estimate of EPPRA this Congress. However, last year, the CBO scored similar provisions at \$52 billion over a 10-year budget window.

During an Education and Labor Committee hearing on the multi-employer pension crisis last Congress, the Dems said an actuary estimated that if Congress does nothing to address the multi-employer pension crisis, the total costs to the taxpayers (in terms of lost tax revenue and increased social safety net spending) would be \$170 billion to \$240 billion over the 10-year budget window.

Last year’s Trump Administration budget proposal for 2021 noted that the PBGC’s multiemployer plan program is in “dire financial condition” and projects that it will be insolvent by 2025, at which point participants in insolvent plans would see their guaranteed benefits cut by as much as 90 percent.

The law firm Morgan Lewis said that while a Democrat-controlled government would “likely result in an agreed-upon solution that can move forward,” combined with the “greater urgency” wrought by the PBGC’s looming insolvency, the future for multiemployer pension reform is murky in a Congress that has been dysfunctional. “The likely solution is somewhat difficult to predict at this point,” the firm said.

Late last year the two leading GOP senators negotiating a new plan for troubled pensions said despite bipartisan “significant changes,” during negotiations, we have yet to find an agreement that satisfies our respective principles and objectives for resolving this situation.”

More than 50 Teamster pension plans have high hopes for the 2021 Democratic plan – including the extremely troubled Central States Pension Fund – which would be eligible for support at the outset of the bill’s enactment, with more of the union’s plans becoming eligible in 2022.

“The Teamsters congratulate House Ways & Means Chairman Richard Neal and others on the panel who stood up for hardworking Americans and retirees who only want to receive the benefits they worked hard for by taking less in their weekly paycheck,” Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa said. “We must fulfill this pension promise.”

Labor unions loves the PRO Act

(Continued from Page 1)

legislation since the National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935.”

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce hates it. Under its website’s heading “Stop the radical agenda,” the business group said: “Unions and their allies are promoting a bill that would destabilize America’s workplaces and impose a long list of dangerous changes to labor law.” Whoa. The National Retail Federation calls it “the worst bill in Congress.”

The anti-union contractor group, the Associated Builders and Contractors, hates it too. “This undemocratic bill would strip workers of entrepreneurial opportunities to freelance as independent contractors, denying them the freedom to earn a living on their own terms and pursue the American dream,” said ABC CEO Michael Bellaman. “The PRO Act would do anything but ‘Build Back Better.’”

President Joe Biden, the inventor of the slogan “Build Back Better,” begs to differ. “Biden,” it says at JoeBiden.com, “strongly supports the Protecting the Right to Organize Act’s (PRO Act) provisions instituting financial penalties on companies that interfere with workers’ organizing efforts, including firing or otherwise retaliating against workers. Biden will go beyond the PRO Act by enacting legislation to impose even stiffer penalties on corporations and to hold company executives

personally liable when they interfere with organizing efforts, including criminally liable when their interference is intentional.”

Labor unions, of course, are pushing for its passage, big time. “The PRO Act is our crown jewel,” said AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka. “A national commitment to union organizing started in the New Deal that can now be finished by the candidates we elected. Legislation that will give tens of millions of working people access to our movement and hold anti-union corporations accountable in a real way.”

So in that contentious environment comes separate but equal U.S. House and Senate bills, introduced by Democrats in both chambers on Feb. 4.

Michigan Congressman Andy Levin (D-Berkeley), co-sponsor of the PRO Act in the House, said: “At a time of national crises of public health, worker safety and racial inequity, no single reform could do more to rebuild the middle class than restoring the freedom for workers to form a union and bargain collectively. Unfortunately, we’re also seeing corporations exploit a pandemic to deny workers their rights to do so. Now more than ever, workers need us to pass the PRO Act and enshrine the freedom to organize for good-paying jobs with safe working conditions and better benefits.”

Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.),

a sponsor of the bill in the U.S. Senate, said: “This pandemic has had an incredibly harmful impact on workers – especially people of color. I’m proud to stand in solidarity with Michigan and American workers against efforts to decimate workers’ rights and join with my colleagues in introducing this bill. We must continue to fight to ensure that every American who works hard and plays by the rules will be entitled to a living wage and benefits – the ability to band together and collectively bargain – and when all is said and done – the ability to retire with dignity.”

Management attorneys Fisher Phillips said the PRO Act contains a “mind-boggling number of sweeping initiatives.” So what are its chances in Congress, where Democrats hold a slim majority in the House and an even slimmer majority in the Senate, and where Dems would almost certainly have to do away with the 60-vote super-majority to avoid a GOP filibuster?

“Even if the filibuster is eliminated, it’s uncertain whether all 50 Democratic senators most likely necessary for passage would agree to such sweeping legislation,” a Fisher Phillips analysis says. “Nonetheless, President-elect Biden has underscored that the policy interests of organized labor will be a priority for his administration.... On that basis alone, it is important for all employers to understand the

significance of its potential components.”

Says the *National Law Review*, which suggested that some of the aspects of the law could be adopted piecemeal: “...whether it will pass Congress still remains a question. Democrats have control of both houses, but in 2009, a Democrat-controlled Congress fell short in a similar attempt at a labor law reform by failing to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. Regardless, changes at the NLRB seem to already be underway.... Employers can expect more union changes under the Biden administration on the horizon.”

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By Bradley Parsons
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

On a frosty winter morning, two anglers are on their way up to the first fishing hole on their favorite steelhead river.

As the father and son gear up, the only sounds they hear are the water running and the snow crunching beneath their feet.

Over the next 10 minutes, these woods will awaken with the sounds of chickadees and other birds. As the sun cuts through the clouds, it melts frost off the branches, dripping into the river's slow, churning waters.

Anticipation gathers within the minds of the two men, with a looming battle of epic sport about to occur.

The son looks at his dad, who nods back. They know within the first three casts they are going to have a fish on the line.

The first cast passes the bait through the water with no takers. Any minute now. "Right about there," the father mumbles as he casts.

Almost immediately, the float on the line drops and the water erupts. Out comes a shiny, chrome steelhead, fighting with all its might, trying to shake the hook.

This time of year, steelhead battles are creating magical memories like this across the Great Lakes State.

Michigan provides access to half of all the fresh water in the United States, thanks to four of the five the Great Lakes, more than 11,000 inland lakes, and 36,000 miles of navigable rivers and streams.

This enormous volume of water, and the state's world-class fisheries it supports, provide fishing opportunities of all kinds in every season.

During late fall and early winter months, steelhead river fishing becomes a prized pastime for anglers seeking a unique challenge.

Steelhead is a name given to migratory rainbow trout that are born in rivers but spend most of their lives in the ocean or the Great Lakes. Steelhead are not native to Michigan.

These beautiful fish, first brought to Michigan waters from the west coast in the 1885, are



Outdoors

Michigan's tasty, feisty steelhead



TROPHY STEELHEAD catches are displayed by Hayden and Craig Gosen.

Hayden Gosen photo

known fighters that provide great table fare – a combination making them a popular sport fish in Michigan.

Hayden Gosen, a fourth-generation steelhead angler from Sanford, in Midland County, caught his first steelhead on the Pere Marquette River at a young age, with guidance from his father, Craig Gosen.

The Pere Marquette, Muskegon and Hersey were the first three rivers in Michigan to have steelhead stocked in the late 1800s.

"I actually caught my very first steelhead on my own when I was 5 years old," Hayden said. "The passion, the thrill, the adventure, the chase of catching a wild steelhead that's traveled all the way from the Great Lakes up into these rivers ... I never know what the next cast is going to bring and that's the adventure I'm always chasing."

Steelhead river fishing has provided a generational influence that has fueled the Gosen family's interest and enjoyment of Michigan's natural resources for more than 70 years.

Craig was born and grew up in Spaulding Township and learned the sport of steelhead fishing from his grandmother, Mary Vleet, during visits with family on the East Branch of the AuGres River in Iosco County.

"I started going to the East Branch of the AuGres River and got my first steelhead when I was 7 and I was hooked on it at an early age," Craig said.

When Hayden was old enough to fish, Craig mentored him and passed on his knowledge of the sport through many fishing trips. The two have bonded

and spent a lifetime together chasing steelhead.

"He's taught me everything I know," said Hayden, who today lives in metropolitan Detroit. "There is no way I would be an avid angler if he wouldn't have taught me everything he knows, and if his grandparents wouldn't have taught him what they knew."

Hayden recalls that before he could even walk, Craig would tow him in his little red wagon down the banks of the AuGres.

"Steelhead fishing to me, it's a passion. I have a love for it," Hayden said. "That passion was instilled at a young age. For

years, until I could catch fish on my own consistently, I was my dad's 'net man,' his right-hand man."

Like most sportfishing adventurers, the Gosens find significant meaning and connection in participating. Little things, like taking a break and enjoying a sandwich together while sitting on the riverbank, help create lasting memories.

Fishing together is special for the Gosens. "The bond between a father and a son sharing the same passion together – now that's priceless," Hayden said.

"I enjoy the challenge, the thrill, the fight of catching a steelhead. It's gonna be that next memory that I'll remember for the rest of my life. That's what keeps me going, what will that next cast bring me?"

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages the state's steelhead populations through numerous fisheries management activities, including fish stocking and regulations.

The Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery, established in 1927 near Kalamazoo, and the Thompson State Fish Hatchery, opened near Manistique in 1922, rear Michigan's steelhead that are stocked in public waters.

"Michigan's steelhead planting program has really expanded fishing opportunities to countless rivers around the state," said Craig, who now lives in Sandford. "I think it's an excellent program."

Steelhead travel from the Great Lakes and spend their winters upstream, finishing their stay

spawning during spring months. Michigan geography offers a plethora of winter steelhead fishing opportunities found in all regions of the state.

During the winter season, Lake Michigan's rivers are among the prime places to find steelhead. Popular destinations include the Betsie, Muskegon, Grand, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph rivers. Some additional rivers elsewhere in Michigan offering steelhead runs include the Cheboygan, Clinton and Huron Rivers – which feed Lake Huron – and the Choccolay River, which flows to Lake Superior.

"There's endless opportunities to steelhead fish in Michigan," Craig said.

In recent years, the DNR has promoted steelhead fishing through various projects, including a steelhead hatchery video produced at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery. The video featured Hayden and Craig Gosen as anglers.

In winter 2020, a second DNR video expanded this effort highlighting winter steelhead fishing, capturing a Sunday scene of Hayden's family fishing on the Pere Marquette River. This video highlights Hayden's journey to locate, hook, fight and land steelhead, surrounded by the snowy banks of a wintery Michigan river.

Anglers interested in trying steelhead fishing can visit Michigan.gov/Fishing to learn more about getting started. A Michigan fishing license is required to pursue steelhead. Fishing regulations are published in the DNR's Fishing Digest, available at Michigan.gov/DNRDigests.

Charter and guide services offer steelhead opportunities around the state. These captains and guides are valuable stewards passing on the sport to future generations.

"Enjoy the surroundings and get outside," Craig said. "The state has tremendous resources to participate in and view. With steelhead fishing, either walking the bank or floating the river, you get to enjoy that all at the same time."



ASTEELHEAD catch from the Manistee River.

MDNR photo

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