

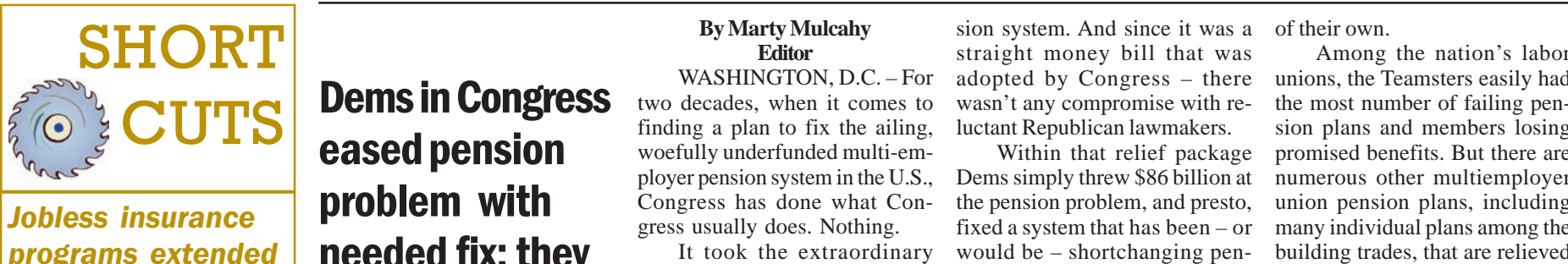
THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

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Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades unions

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SHORT CUTS

Jobless insurance programs extended

LANSING – Federal unemployment insurance programs that were set to expire on March 13, 2021, have been extended under the COVID-19 stimulus package approved by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden.

“Individuals with claims of any type should continue to certify as usual,” said a statement from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. “Most claimants will not experience a gap in benefits as long as they remain eligible and continue to certify.”

Unemployment provisions under the federal American Rescue Plan extend the benefits from March 13 – Sept. 4, 2021.

Included in the package are lengthened benefits for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (for self-employed); Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which provides additional weeks of benefits to those who exhaust their regular state benefits, Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, which provides all unemployment recipients with an additional \$300 per week, and Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation, which provides an additional \$100 per week to claimants on some benefits programs who have self-employment income of at least \$5,000.

“Continuation of these federal benefit programs will provide some financial breathing room to Michigan workers as we continue to fight the effects of COVID-19,” said Liza Estlund Olson, acting director of the Unemployment Insurance Agency. “Because this legislation extends the current federal programs, we expect to be able to implement the changes without a delay in payments.”

For more information on unemployment programs, visit Michigan.gov/uia.

Our infrastructure grades kinda stink

With COVID-19 soaking up so much attention, it's easy to forget that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer won her office in 2018 pledging to “fix the damn roads.”

A new report by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) brought up bubbles of that memory March 13, as they released a quadrennial report that listed the grades of each state when it comes to the state of our infrastructure.

Michigan's grade: D+. The entire United States did a bit better: C-. It was the first time in 20 years that the nation received a grade higher than a D.

To develop the grade, the ASCE takes a look at 17 key infrastructure areas including aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, inland waterways, levees, ports, public parks, rail, roads, schools, solid waste, stormwater, transit, and wastewater. They then assigned a grade ranging from A-F.

Quotable

“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.”

—Pope Francis, 1936-

Dems in Congress

eased pension

problem with

needed fix: they

threw money at it

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – For two decades, when it comes to finding a plan to fix the ailing, woefully underfunded multi-employer pension system in the U.S., Congress has done what Congress usually does. Nothing.

It took the extraordinary COVID-influenced \$1.9 trillion dollar relief package passed by the slim Democratic majorities in the House and Senate on March 10 to fix the multiemployer pen-

sion system. And since it was a straight money bill that was adopted by Congress – there wasn't any compromise with reluctant Republican lawmakers.

Within that relief package Dems simply threw \$86 billion at the pension problem, and presto, fixed a system that has been – or would be – shortchanging pensioners who had counted on that money to fund their retirement, but were seeing reduced payouts or the prospect of reduced payouts through no fault

of their own.

Among the nation's labor unions, the Teamsters easily had the most number of failing pension plans and members losing promised benefits. But there are numerous other multiemployer union pension plans, including many individual plans among the building trades, that are relieved to finally get the federal relief.

“I couldn't be more pleased by the House's vote to pass this COVID relief package containing a pension fix after years of tire-

less work by members, retirees and union officials,” said International Brotherhood of Teamsters President James Hoffa. “Members decided that pension reform should be the union's top priority heading into the 2020 election. They then worked hard to elect President Biden and other lawmakers who would get that done. Now we see the results of that effort. It's promises made, promises kept.”

The financial aspects of the
(Continued on Page 4)



INSTALLING A ROOF DRAIN outlet at the new Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II Development in Battle Creek are Jeff Moulds and Tim Kinney of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. They're employed by John E. Green.

More room to stay and play readied for Firekeepers Hotel II

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

BATTLE CREEK – The “Tower II Development” at the Firekeepers Casino Hotel is currently hosting about 150 building trades workers, putting their skills to work to build an eight-story,

second hotel tower at the site.

When their work is complete, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi will have an additional 203 guest rooms, complementing the property's existing eight-story, 242-room hotel. Earlier this month, building trades

workers were toiling all over the building, with some floors more complete than others.

Clark Construction Co. is managing the project, which began with a groundbreaking in June 2019. “We're about 80

(Continued on Page 2)



BAR-AREA LIGHTING on the first level of the Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II Development in Battle Creek is installed by Jerry Tramel of IBEW Local 445. He's employed by Swan Electric.

House Dems pass

pro-worker PRO Act,

Senate GOP? No way.

Sidestepping filibuster may

be the only way to pass

game-changing pro-union law

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) – After a boost from President Joe Biden, the Democratic-run House passed the Protect The Right To Organize (PRO) Act, the most wide-ranging, pro-worker rewrite of labor law since the original National Labor Relations Act of 1935. Debate lasted into the evening of March 9. The 225-206 vote ended at 8:56 p.m. EST.

Just five House Republicans joined all but one Democrat in backing the PRO Act, HR842. Biden wants the evenly split Senate to pass it, too. There, 48 Senate Democrats and two independents oppose 50 Republicans, a caucus where yes votes will be hard to find.

So the Senate will be a heavier lift, unless its Democrats do away with or evade the filibuster, which allows a minority party – the GOP – to hamstring virtually everything that isn't a tax or spending bill, by requiring 60 votes for it.

“We're not going to let a minority in the Senate stop” the

PRO Act, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka vowed in a video press conference with lawmakers and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights just
(Continued on Page 4)

Biden stresses

his support for

unions, PRO Act

In late February, President Joe Biden released an extraordinary statement in support of the right of American workers to form and join a union, in light of the ongoing unionization drive by Amazon warehouse workers in Bessemer, Ala.

As we pointed out in our last issue, labor historian Erik Loomis called Biden's remarks “arguably the most pro-union public statement by a president in support of unions in the entirety of American history.”

On March 9, the president doubled down on his pledge to be “the most pro-union president
(Continued on Page 4)

A year later, COVID

is still plaguing

U.S. construction

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

The nation's construction industry would love to quit you, COVID-19.

But one year after the pandemic struck, U.S. construction firms are experiencing soaring materials costs, widespread supply-chain problems, and continuing project deferrals and cancellations, according to a survey released March 11 by the Associated General Contractors of America.

The AGC released the results of the survey after collecting responses from 1,489 construction contractors across the nation from Feb. 19 to March 4.

“The survey results make it clear that the construction industry faces a variety of challenges that threaten to leave many firms and workers behind, even as some parts of the economy are recovering or even thriving,” said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. “The pandemic has left the supply chain for a range of key construction components in tatters and undermined demand for a host of private-sector projects.”

Simonson said that an overwhelming 93 percent of the survey's respondents report the pandemic has driven up their costs. Four out of five are spending more on personal protective equipment, sanitizers, and other health-related expenses. More than half say that projects are taking longer than before the pandemic.

Some other highlights from the survey:

- Costs and delayed deliveries of materials, parts, and supplies are vexing many contractors. Nearly 85 percent report those costs have increased over the past year. In addition, nearly three-fourths of the firms are currently experiencing project delays to shortages of materials,
(Continued on Page 2)

Amazon's new union-busting tactic: 'resignation bonuses'

Amazon is taking part in a huge union-busting campaign to stop employees at the Bessemer, Ala. warehouse from voting for a union.

The historic vote is seen as key to unions establishing a foothold in the South, where a union hasn't won a major organizing

drive in decades.

UCOMM previously reported on the union-busters Amazon has hired and how the company has placed anti-union literature in the bathroom. Now Amazon is offering workers checks to leave their jobs before they vote for the union.

According to the *Payday Report*, workers throughout the plant received emails offering them bonuses if they quit. The email offers people who have worked two peak seasons \$2,000 to quit and \$3,000 if they worked three peak seasons. While this is not a new practice at Amazon,

they sometimes use this plan to lower staffing following a busy season like Christmas, the timing is suspect, especially since the company waited until eight weeks after the holiday season to offer the checks.

Workers who quit now
(Continued on Page 5)

Off-season on Mackinac Island, electricians get to work

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

MACKINAC ISLAND – With a permanent population of 492 people, this 3.7-square-mile summertime tourist magnet in Lake Huron has been quiet and sequestered this past winter, as usual.

But for the first time in about three decades, a cadre of building trades union electricians have been on the job during the off-season on the island, putting their skills to work refurbishing and remodeling the Grand Hotel and Mission Pointe Resort.

Northern Power and Electric has upped its IBEW
(Continued on Page 12)

A GROUP OF building trades union workers assemble for a photo in front of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.
Photo by Laurie Thybault



Viewpoints



Bravo, Rescue Plan

On March 10, without a single Republican vote, Congress passed a sweeping \$1.9 trillion relief and recovery package that will provide crucial support to millions of working families; dramatically reduce the race, gender, and income inequalities that were exacerbated by the crisis; and create the conditions for a truly robust recovery once the virus is under control and people are able to resume normal economic activity.

Crucially, the American Rescue Plan extends key pandemic unemployment insurance (UI) provisions, which are essential to aid those workers hardest hit by the crisis. These include Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, which provides benefits to many groups of workers who fall through the cracks of our regular UI system, like gig workers; Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, which boosts weekly benefits by \$300; and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which extends unemployment benefits by an additional 25 weeks.

The implementation of these provisions in this pandemic has been uneven, slow, and problematic due to our failure to invest in or modernize state UI offices over the last several decades. Nonetheless, these expansions to our UI system are crucial lifelines for tens of millions of U.S. families and have showed the promise of what UI should be in future recessions. The package also exempts the first \$10,200 in UI benefits received in 2020 from taxation, sparing tens of millions of families who relied on UI throughout the pandemic an unexpected large income tax bill.

Another enormously important aspect of the bill is the inclusion of \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments. This is a huge departure from mistakes made in the aftermath of the Great Recession, when the lack of sufficient aid to state and local governments led to spending cuts that delayed recovery by over four years. The package wisely includes prohibitions against states using this aid to cut taxes instead of making needed investments and providing crucial services.

The bill also temporarily expands the child tax credit to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 per child under age 6). Crucially, the benefit would be fully refundable, meaning children's benefits will not be held hostage to their parents being able to find work. The benefit is phased out for higher earners, while families eligible for the full credit would get payments of \$250 per child (\$300 per child under 6) per month from July through the end of the year. This is a long overdue investment in America's future. It will make an enormous dent in child poverty, and Congress and the White House should move quickly to make the credit permanent.

We are disappointed that the provisions to raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 were stripped out. This is an enormous missed opportunity to help ensure not just a strong recovery, but also an equitable one. A \$15 minimum wage, phased in gradually by 2025, would increase the earnings of 32 million low-wage workers – a majority of whom are essential or front-line workers – by a total of \$108 billion dollars. It would lift up to 3.7 million people – including an estimated 1.3 million children – out of poverty, and disproportionately benefit women of all races, and Black and Hispanic men.

The bill has many other important provisions, including stimulus checks, rental and food assistance, money for vaccine distribution, an expansion of Affordable Care Act subsidies, money to reopen schools, and more. Some concerns have been raised that this package might be “too large,” but those concerns are misplaced. This bill gets the economics right – it is at the scale that is needed. It is also likely to spread fiscal relief over time in a way that will support the recovery.

Crucially, however, some relief provisions in the current bill will need to be extended beyond their current, arbitrary end dates. The UI provisions, for example, are set to expire the first week of September, less than six months from today. Even in the best-case scenario, the unemployment rate will be elevated in September and expanded UI provisions will still be necessary.

The passage of the American Rescue Plan is a moment of great progress in U.S. economic policy. It is not perfect, but it is an enormous departure from the profound mistakes of prior downturns, when Congress's refusal to provide sufficient relief and recovery measures caused needless suffering for millions, exacerbated racial inequality, and delayed recoveries by years. To ensure fiscal support is sustained in the future, a second package of public investments, some financed by progressive revenue measures and including strong labor protections for workers, must be the next step.

Thea Lee
President, Economic Policy Institute

Liking the Line 5 tunnel

Editor's note: the proposed Line 5 tunnel underneath the Straits of Mackinac would be a \$500 million project to move the existing Line 5 petroleum pipeline out of the water.

I'm concerned by the misinformation, exaggeration and just plain lies that have become commonplace in the Line 5 debate, and feel environmental movements – such as the one to shut down Line 5 – continue to ignore the voices of working men and women. That's where I fit in.

I'm a proud member of the Laborers' International Union of North America, or LIUNA. As union laborers, we work on the construction and maintenance of energy systems, including work on pipelines, nuclear power plants, solar farms, wind turbines, and other jobs critical to the energy industry.

Environmentalist opponents are waging guerrilla warfare on a project-by-project basis, killing jobs and opportunities, and creating division as they move toward extremism without solutions. Many are opposed to all natural gas extraction. They are opposed to increasing domestic oil production, to dams that harness energy from water and nuclear power.

Environmentalists are opposing wind farms because too many birds will be killed by the turbines. They oppose solar farms because their construction will cover some wildlife habitat. They don't care about rising energy costs, or how many jobs they kill. Currently, Michigan's renewable resources provide only 8 percent of its electricity net generation. That share will and should grow. But there is no scenario, no possibility in which renewable energy grows fast enough to replace oil and gas in the short term.

Given the massive investment and commitment LIUNA puts toward training, safety and renewable energy, it is insulting that many in the environmental movement have forgotten their purpose and have instead chosen to use high-profile energy projects such as the proposed tunnel project to agitate their base at the expense of workers' livelihoods. This is not a battle between those who want to protect the environment and those who want to create good green jobs.

My point is this: we can believe in protecting the planet and the people on it. We can be for good jobs, for green jobs and for taking care of workers. It's time to acknowledge the energy challenges we face. We need to build the infrastructure for renewable energy sources. We must expand domestic oil production and power our nation's economy with thousands of good union jobs.

Michigan wins when we protect the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Tunnel is a \$500 million modern infrastructure project that will safeguard our precious natural resources, including fish and wildlife, while permitting Line 5 to continue powering Michigan's economy by securing the jobs our families need. It's a vital Michigan asset over the long term, and it's going to be entirely paid for by Enbridge, the company that operates Line 5. In Michigan, we love our lakes, guard our paychecks, and work hard at our jobs. The proposed Great Lakes Tunnel protects all three.

Geno Alessandrini Jr.
Business Manager, Michigan Laborers District Council
via the Iron Mountain Daily News, March 15, 2021

More room to stay at Firekeepers

(Continued from Page 1)

percent complete,” said Chad Webster, senior project manager for Clark. “With all the challenges we’ve had with COVID over the past year, we’ve done great, we’re pleased with the progress.”

Seven stories of hotel room space will sit above a ground level that will feature gaming, the build-out of replacement space for the property's signature Nibi restaurant, and a bar. Mechanical works are in the basement.

Located at I-94 at 11 Mile Rd., FireKeepers opened its first hotel space to the public on Dec. 12, 2012. The site also includes an indoor pool, exercise facility, a full-service restaurant and business center. A functional multi-purpose event center is capable of seating up to 2,000 guests as a concert venue, or it can accommodate banquets, corporate meetings, trade shows, and other events.

The new hotel tower will include 14 suites, plus the transformed hotel lobby area.

“We are proud to capitalize on our outstanding business performance in recent years and invest in a second hotel tower with many exciting complementary offerings,” said Jamie Stuck, chairperson of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, the owners of the Firekeepers property. “This expansion represents our continuing efforts to build a solid foundation for the next seven generations of tribal members.”

Webster said they were fortunate that they ordered materials for the project in advance of the pandemic, so faults in that supply chain never caused any major issues. He said it was the same for the construction workforce.

“For the most part, we’ve had enough tradespeople when we have needed them,” he said. “And they’re doing fine, we’re seeing top-notch work.”

“Inspiration does exist, but it must find you working.”
–Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973)

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

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ON A ROLL MOVING HVAC barrels for CO2 exhaust at the Firekeepers Hotel II project in Battle Creek are (l-r) foreman Scott Hebron and Brett Abbruzzese of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7. They're employed by Applegate.

A year later, COVID is still plaguing U.S. construction

(Continued from Page 1)

equipment or parts. Nine out of ten firms that are incurring such delays cite backlogs and shutdowns at domestic producers, such as factories, mills, and fabricators. Half of the firms also blame backlogs or shutdowns at foreign producers.

•More than three-fourths of the firms report having projects canceled or postponed in the past year, including more than one out of five with a 2021 project that has been canceled or postponed. Conversely, one-fifth of respondents say they have won new projects or add-ons to existing projects as a result of the pandemic, usually in medical-related construction.

•There is encouraging news from the survey. In a sign that the pandemic has had very different effects on construction firms, about one-third of firms say business matches or exceeds

year-ago levels, while another third say it will take more than six months to reach that mark, and one-fifth say they don't know. Respondents in the Northeast are the most pessimistic about the industry's outlook, followed by firms in the South. Firms from the Midwest are split along the same lines as the full survey, while respondents in the West are more optimistic, on balance.

•Despite these differences in experience to date and the near-term outlook, contractors from all regions, project types, and firm sizes are almost equally bullish about their hiring expectations over the next 12 months. Across nearly all subgroups, roughly three out of five respondents expect to add employees over the coming 12 months. Only 10 to 15 percent of firms in any category expect to reduce their headcount.

•While 69 percent of respondents say they have not achieved cost savings resulting from the pandemic, 31 percent have – from reduced office expenses, travel and equipment usage.

Nearly half (46 percent) of firms reported that they had seen no change in employee headcount from a year ago, while another 20 percent said they added workers. Just over one third said they had a reduced headcount from a year ago.

•Those employers who did reduce their employee base over the past year said the reason was because projects have been postponed or canceled (65 percent) or there were fewer projects to bid on (45 percent). Another 37 percent said some employees have quit or refused to work because of illness, exposure concerns or family responsibilities.

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The COVID-19 Vaccines: what they are and what they are not

YOU MAY BE ASKING, “should I take a COVID-19 vaccination?” As of April 5th, anyone age 16 and above is eligible for the shot. The personal health stakes are too high to not be informed, so let's examine facts.

More than 355 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have gone into American arms as of mid-March. Early on, the city of Detroit became a national model for getting efficient and safe vaccination sites up and running.

Reports of temporary, mild side effects such as soreness at the injection site and fatigue are fairly common, though not a cause for concern. In fact these reactions signal that the vaccine is kicking the immune system into gear. No reported side effects have been permanent, and severe side effects, such as allergic reactions, have been extremely rare.

What's going on?

But there are a number of other claims circulating about the vaccines' safety. Some of the more far out claims – such as the vaccine injecting you with a microchip; causing infertility; or changing your DNA – are best answered by explaining how the vaccines really work.

The vaccines available at this time - Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) contain different ingredients, but they essentially do the same job. When the vaccine is shot into your arm, picture it delivering a recipe to the cells in your body.

The cells use this recipe to produce their own spike proteins – those protruding crowns sticking out of a coronavirus. These spikes are harmless because they aren't an actual, whole coronavirus. What they do is trigger the body's defense system to produce antibodies, which will be ready and able to kill the real coronavirus should your body encounter it.

The vaccine can't change DNA or impact other body systems such as fertility, because the vaccine's “recipe” is targeted to one thing only: get the body producing anti-bodies against the coronavirus.

Cut through the noise, and you'll find the vaccines are safe. Doing your part by getting it shows that you care about yourself and those around you. That sounds similar to a core principle of the labor movement - solidarity.

Oh, and there's no needle big enough to inject a microchip – that's pure science fiction.

Rushed or researched?

The lighting speed with which the COVID-19 vaccines came to market created suspicions that safety corners were cut. But a closer look at the process reveals no shortcuts. Vaccine research began with other disease outbreaks, such as SARS, MERS and Zika, that occurred long before COVID-19. Once a vaccine specific to COVID-19 was developed, its effectiveness was based on data gathered from large clinical trials.

J&J - one effective shot

The Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine requires just one shot, making it easier and quicker to get large numbers of people protected. But there's been criticism of the J&J shot because it is slightly less effective in preventing COVID 19 than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

The data that really count, how-

ever, show that all three vaccines are 100% effective at preventing the worst outcomes of COVID 19. No one died of COVID 19 and no one became sick enough to require hospitalization among the trial participants receiving any of the vaccines.

An objection to the J&J vaccine has arisen among some U.S. Catholic bishops who claim the J&J vaccine is “morally compromised” because it is produced with cell lines derived from generations-old fetal tissue.

But the Vatican has clearly stated that the vaccines can protect against the “grave danger” of COVID 19 and taken in good conscience as part of the moral “duty to protect one's own health [as well as] the duty to pursue the common good.”

Better off with it, definitely

If you're thinking of chancing you'll survive COVID-19 rather than take the vaccine, think again. The percentage of COVID deaths seems small, but it translates to a large real number – 535,000 lives lost as of mid-March. This is a tragedy of major proportions, and so too are the long-term effects of COVID-19 on its survivors. Brain fog, breathing problems, and joint pain are commonly reported, even among COVID-19 survivors who were never hospitalized.

More seriously, nearly a quarter of those hospitalized with COVID-19 developed cardiac complications, a contributing factor in about 40 percent of COVID-19-related deaths.

Most recently, as variants of the virus threaten to create new surges, our best hope is to stay ahead of the spread. Vaccines offer a safe and reliable way out of the chaos COVID-19 has created in our lives and society at large.

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BUILDING MICHIGAN!

The Detroit Free Press building

HISTORY IN THE MAKING By Marty Mulcahy

DETROIT FREE PRESS building architect Albert Kahn incorporated windows, and lots of them, to help eliminate eyestrain for newspaper workers. Completed in 1925 and shown here shortly afterward, the Detroit building has a unique 14-story center tower over a six-story base.

Following a \$110 million union-built renovation that wrapped up late last year, the building's restored features include terrazzo floors and original cast-iron framing surrounding the elevators, and new studio-size- to three-bedroom apartments. The "new" building will also have a seventh-floor rooftop pool and sundeck. Below ground is a fully automated parking deck.

Photo credit: Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

Most daily newspapers around the world are a feeble, degraded version of the once-powerful position they held in society. Their demise began long before the rise of the internet, with profits and circulation falling across the nation beginning in the 1980s.

It wasn't always this way, of course. For a while in the 1960s, the *Detroit Free Press* actually published two editions a day. In 1978, the *Sunday Free Press* had a circulation of 820,139, and at the time it entered into a Joint Operating Agreement with *The Detroit News* in 1989, the combined papers offered the nation's fourth largest Sunday paper.

Anyone with a computer or smart phone knows what happened next. The traditional news industry that put ink on paper entered into an ongoing death spiral, with papers lucky enough to stay in business moving their platforms online, as they may continue with a print edition.

Just as hard copies of their papers were mostly no longer wanted, so it was with both of the historic, separate headquarters of both *The Detroit News* and *Free Press*, which sat down the street from each other on Lafayette Avenue in Detroit. Luckily, both buildings have been gloriously restored and repurposed by Bedrock Real Estate.

The former *Free Press* building's renovation was completed last year. "For more than seven decades, 321 W. Lafayette Blvd. housed one of the most iconic, widely distributed newspapers in the country," Bedrock said. "The *Detroit Free Press* occupied the 14-story, 302,000-square-foot building until it moved out in 1998. The Albert Kahn building, completed in 1925, has been renovated for mixed use, with ground-level retail spaces and office spaces on the second and third levels. Above the office and retail spaces are more than 100 residential units."

The Detroit Free Press was founded in 1831, six years before Michigan became a state. According to *Historic Detroit's* Dan Austin, the paper has had no less than 15 homes since it was established, with No. 13 being the most impressive, on Lafayette between Washington and Cass avenues.

Construction began in 1924 and was completed in 1925. The building was designed by Albert Kahn, who was somewhat more noted for his industrial plant designs, but who also designed numerous office buildings. But the *Free Press* building certainly had some industrial elements, with foundations in place to hold steady the building's presses.

Carrying through with Kahn's design was general contractor Crowell and Little Construction Co. of Cleveland. The building's foundations, installed by contractor Spencer, White and Prentice, consisted of 73 "shallow caissons belled out in firm clay," said a July 1924 article in *Contractors and Engineers Monthly*. "The work also involved the installation of foundations for a large number of presses and other special machinery."

The six-story building, with a 14-story tower, was commissioned by Free Press owner E.D. Stair and cost \$6 million (about \$90 million in today's dollars).

Encased in limestone, the building included carvings by New York sculptor Ulysses Ricci, including two imposing statues of the goddesses of Commerce and Communication who guard the front doors. "An arch with owls, snakes and, oddly, pelicans and seahorses is above



THE RENOVATED lobby of the Free Press building. Photo credit: Kramer Design Group

them," Austin wrote.

Ricci also carved eight reliefs, an eclectic and incongruous group of bedfellows: Benjamin Franklin, for his work with the printing press; Governor and Sen. Lewis Cass; Gov. Austin Blair; Monroe, Mich., native Gen. George Custer; former University of Michigan President James Angell; and journalists Horace Greeley, Charles Dana and George Goodale. There also are sculptures of transportation: a plane, a ship, a train and a truck – but no cars... in Michigan.

"The paper moved into this building because it had outgrown its old location at 131 W. Lafayette, the now-demolished Transportation Building," Austin wrote. "Everything that went into creating the paper was carried out under its roof, from the mailers being stuffed into papers to ads being sold to the gigantic printing presses that were housed in the building's basement. The presses rumbled under its walls until new ones were installed in a building on the Detroit riverfront in 1979."

Free Press owner Stair had Kahn design it with extra floors, including the signature, striking tower eight stories above the base, so he could act as a landlord and make money leasing office space to other businesses. The building also housed at one point a flower shop and restaurant. But producing and printing newspapers was always the building's bread and butter.

"This impressive piece of urban architecture holds a commanding place at the foot of Washington Boulevard," wrote Eric Hill and John Gallagher in their *American Institute of Architects – Detroit* guide to the city's architecture. "Unlike his earlier *Detroit News* building, Kahn's *Free Press* building used a steel frame for a more efficiently constructed 14-story tower for commercial tenants. The then-fashionable stepped

massing of the central tower and flanking six-story wings were finished in limestone to create an appropriate monumental feel."

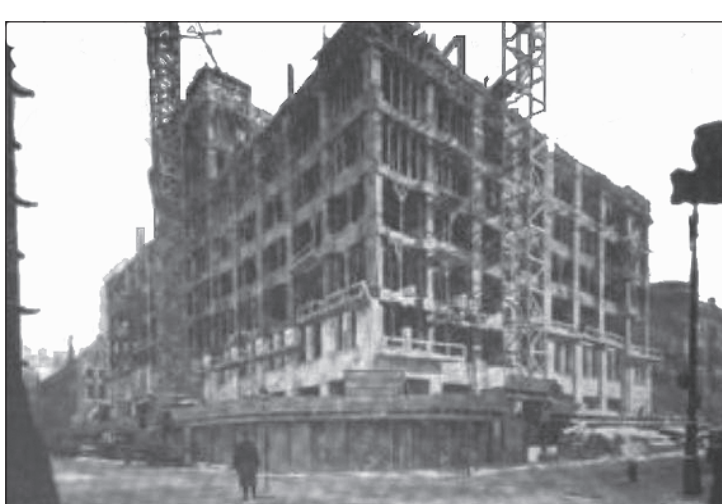
By 1998, low profit margins and reduced staffing made it increasingly difficult to justify the use of such a large building, which by that time was also in need of a great deal of maintenance. Like so many downtown Detroit buildings, it sat empty for two decades until billionaire developer Dan Gilbert's Bedrock company bought it in 2016 and renovated it, completing work on the former *Free Press* building last year.

Bedrock renamed it "The Press/321," and the building includes 105 residential units as well as office, restaurant and retail space. Bedrock's overall investment was around \$110 million.

The ground floor is dedicated to retail, with the second and third housing offices. The fourth through 14th floors are residential, with apartments ranging from studio to three-bedroom apartments and rents starting at \$995 a month.

The former *Detroit Free Press* building doesn't exactly tower over nearby structures," said *Deturbex*, "but still retains a certain dignity that more modern buildings had lost. The *Free Press* Building is a monument to the roaring 20's. From the arch over the entrance to vaulted ceilings inside, the building is chock full of intricate, detailed stonework. The center tower is flanked on both sides by six-story wings, each with a light well offering daylight to most corners of the building."

Said Gilbert said upon the building's reopening: "We own a lot of buildings downtown, but to have something that's been sitting vacant since 1998 that was such a notable building downtown and bring it back to something of this level and the fact of the mixed-used component, makes it really unique."



THE FREE PRESS building under construction, January 1925.

Dems in Congress eased pension problem with needed fix: they threw money at it

(Continued from Page 1)
"Butch Lewis Act," which Congress had been using as a negotiating point in solving the pension crisis, was incorporated into the overall American Rescue Plan. The Teamsters said more than 50 of its pension plans – including its largest, the quickly failing Central States Pension Fund that covers about 400,000 pensioners – will be eligible for assistance at the outset of the bill's enactment, with more of the union's plans becoming eligible in 2022.

Under the measure, money to assist eligible plans would come directly from the U.S. Treasury Department in the form of grants which would not need to be repaid. Plan participants would receive 100 percent of their earned pension benefits.

Although there are 1,400 U.S. multiemployer pension plans that are financially healthy, roughly 180 other struggling multiemployer funds covering a variety of industries were in danger of defaulting on pension promises. Plans fail for a variety of reasons: declining union membership and declining hours contributed to the plans; contributing employers going out of business; demographics, with the retirement onslaught of Baby Boomers; and ill-timed investment losses, especially during the Great Recession a decade ago, are the major reasons. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC) which is supposed to backstop ailing pension plans, was itself slated to run out of money in a few years.

"The American Rescue Plan is historic legislation that provides direct financial relief to millions of struggling working families, funds state and municipal authorities so they can continue to provide critical public services and expands vaccination efforts across the nation," said IBEW General President Lonnie Stephenson. "I thank members of the U.S. Senate for their support of this crucial bill. Congress kicked this problem down the road for years, increasing the difficulty and the cost of solving it and putting millions of retirees at risk through no fault of their own. I am proud that President Biden made this one of his first priorities."

Said Laborers International Union General President Terry O'Sullivan: "The multiemployer pension relief provisions in the bill come at a time when some funds are on the brink of insolvency and will fail without financial assistance. The plight of these funds has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic devastation. Provisions in this relief bill will provide necessary federal assistance and ensure that millions of retirees – including thousands of LIUNA retirees – and beneficiaries will still receive their full pensions and be able to retire in dignity after a lifetime of hard work."

The \$86 billion that will refund the pensions – an improvement from the \$65 billion offered in the Butch Lewis Act – is only part of the bill. Pension insurance premiums will also be raised to help ensure the PBGC does not become insolvent.

"This does allow a narrow subset of troubled plans to avoid having to make the painful move of reducing benefits for already retired participants," said David Brenner, national director of multiemployer consulting at Segal Consulting. "It also provides the option for plans that have made that move to possibly reverse that decision."

Pension experts say the new law is very much a case of throwing money at a problem, but doesn't provide much plan guidance for the future. But that's going to be OK with pensioners who agreed to have a portion of their life savings contribute to a pension plan – and then had their retirements upended by reduced payments.

"The legislation provides extensive assistance to pension plans that were suffering long before the COVID-19 pandemic and ensures that many retirees will receive their full benefits," said Bradley Kafka, a labor lawyer writing for the National Law Review. "However, it does not freeze accruals, curtail the practices that led to the pension plans' current underfunding problems, or otherwise provide guidance as to how the plans will function financially in 30 years when the special financial assistance ends."

Frank Johnson, writing for the labor law firm Miller Johnson, said the law "provides for direct payments to be made by the U.S. Treasury to restore all benefits, including previously implemented benefit cuts, for the plans in the worst financial shape. As a result, retirees who participate

in funds like the Central States Pension Fund have gone from wondering how they were going to survive on pensions that were scheduled to be reduced to as little as \$12,000 per year to knowing that they will now receive their full pensions, which in some cases are \$50,000 per year or more."

Biden stresses support for unions, PRO Act

(Continued from Page 1)
you've ever seen," by urging Congress to support the Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would grease the skids for union organizing in a manner not seen since the passage of the National Labor Relations Act in the 1930s.

Following are Biden's comments:

"I strongly encourage the House to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2021, which would dramatically enhance the power of workers to organize and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

"As America works to recover from the devastating challenges of deadly pandemic, an economic crisis, and reckoning on race that reveals deep disparities, we need to summon a new wave of worker power to create an economy that works for everyone. We owe it not only to those who have put in a lifetime of work, but to the next generation of workers who have only known an America of rising inequality and shrinking opportunity. All of us deserve to enjoy America's promise in full – and our nation's leaders have a responsibility to deliver it.

"That starts with rebuilding unions. The middle class built this country, and unions built the middle class. Unions give workers a stronger voice to increase wages, improve the quality of jobs and protect job security, protect against racial and all other forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, and protect workers' health, safety, and benefits in the workplace. Unions lift up workers, both union and non-union. They are critical to strengthening our economic competitiveness.

"But, after generations of sweat and sacrifice, fighting hard to earn the wages and benefits that built and sustained the American middle class, unions are under siege. Nearly 60 million Americans would join a union if they get a chance, but too many employers and states prevent them from doing so through anti-union attacks. They know that without unions, they can run the table on workers – union and non-union alike.

"We should all remember that the National Labor Relations Act didn't just say that we shouldn't hamstring unions or merely tolerate them. It said that we should encourage unions. The PRO Act would take critical steps to help restore this intent.

"I urge Congress to send the PRO Act to my desk so we can seize the opportunity to build a future that reflects working people's courage and ambition, and offers not only good jobs with a real choice to join a union – but the dignity, equity, shared prosperity and common purpose the hardworking people who built this country and make it run deserve."

House Dems pass pro-worker PRO Act, Senate GOP? No way.

(Continued from Page 1)
before House debate began. But he didn't say how workers and their allies would accomplish that goal, other than to imply PRO Act political foes would face trouble at the polls, and would change their minds now.

Trumka warned: "In an era of extreme polarization, nearly two-thirds of Americans – 65 percent – approve of labor unions, so it's not surprising workers would form unions if they were given the chance. That's 60 million people knocking on our doors. The PRO Act would let them in."

The PRO Act would also undo a big right-wing win in the Supreme Court, the *Janus* decision several years ago that made every state and local government worker in the U.S. a potential "free rider," able to use union services and protections without paying one cent for them. Similarly, the PRO Act would supercede and toss out statewide right-to-work laws, like Michigan's.

The PRO Act would outlaw closed-door anti-union management harangue meetings and make it easier to organize and win elections. It would increase employer fines to \$50,000 per labor law-breaking offense, and \$100,000 for repeat offenders.

The legislation would also mandate first-contract arbitration if the two sides can't agree and legalize simplified, union-friendly, card-check recognition during organizing drives, among other pro-worker measures. And among many other provisions, it would force union-busters to disclose their activities, clients, and how much they got paid.

"We are engaged in a great act of patriotism for our country," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said during the later debate. "The middle class is the core of our democracy and the middle class has a union label on it."

House speeches fell along predictable lines. Democrats laid out the economic and moral case to restore labor law to its National Labor Relations Act roots, as Rep. Andy Levin, D-Mich., a longtime union organizer and former AFL-CIO Deputy Organizing Director, put it. "What we're talking about is whether workers are free to come together and form a union," Levin said "Let's get back to the basic concept that they're free to do so – and not have the person who has the most power in the world over them, their boss, interfere."

Republicans raised old anti-worker canards, preaching about "union bosses," and "thugs," "radical legislation" and calling it socialist. Unions "make companies less efficient and less competitive," Rep. Robert Good, R-Va., charged, without offering evidence.

Said Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), a union painter: "As a small business owner and union member for 30 years, I know how important it is that every worker has a union. Giving workers a voice in their workplace and negotiating for good family-supporting wages and worker safety is crucial to a family's ability to thrive."

Just joking

A young vulture is tired of eating nothing but scavenged meat.

So he says to his father, "Dad, can't we eat something else for a change? I'd like to try some vegetables."

The father is outraged, claiming that vultures do not eat vegetables, that is not their way. But the young vulture doesn't give up. He asks again and again before every meal. "What about a cucumber?" And the next day, "how about a carrot?" And the next, "maybe I can try a lima bean?"

Eventually the father relents, and agrees on a compromise. The young vulture could eat a vegetable the next day, but only if he first finished his meat first.

The following day, the young vulture asks what they will be eating that evening. The father replies, "Carrion, my wayward son. And there'll be peas when you are done!"





Local 36
Elevator
Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular **Membership Meeting is planned for Monday, April 26, 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 expires July 9 of 2022, so we had Nominations for the Delegates for the 32nd General Convention at our February Meeting. Congratulations to our Delegates for the 32nd General Convention, Michael Vandervennet, Russell O'Donnell, Sean Walker, Jeff Patti and Jim O'Brien. Any Resolutions for the next contract shall be turned into the Hall as per our Local Constitution and By-laws before our April 26, 2021 meeting.

Attention All Apprentices, 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 OJT 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 By-laws, 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 Jan. 1, 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. When paying for this quarter dues card please include an extra \$10 for the loss of two members.

All Members, Local 36, Local 85, Lansing and the EIWP 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're 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. Sign up to receive Safety Alerts at IUDEC.org for safety and product alerts to your phone. All Construction and Modernization work is Teamwork, keep the hall informed of all jobs. We regret to inform all members, but the Executive Board and Officers have decided to cancel this year's 2021 Picnic due to Covid concerns.

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.

Local 36 express our condolences to the Family and Friends of Mike Olesky as his Mother passed away. Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list. Be a Brother to a Brother, regardless of what Local they might belong too. Be Safe and Be Healthy!



Local 149
Roofers &
Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149
DETROIT – Main Office – Southeastern Lower Michigan – Regular Membership Meeting. The regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 6, 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.

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

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brothers.

Brother Jeremy Langlois, he was 29 years old and a 5-year member. Brother Langlois past on 3/10/2021.

Brother Ervin Peters, he was 90 years old and a 70-year member. Brother Peters past on 3/15/2020.

Rest in Peace Brother Jeremy Langlois, and Brother Ervin Peters.

Union Dues. Make sure you pay your monthly dues before the end of every month to stay in good standing. You can pay dues over the phone with a credit or debit card. Monthly dues can be taken out of your vacation check by filling out a form at the Hall (active Members only). If you have to come in to our office to pay, please understand that we are adhering to Michigan COVID19 guidelines; masks and social distancing are being enforced to protect our staff and our tenants. The mailbox is only to be used for checks and money orders, do not put cash in the mailbox. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Hall at 313-961-6093.

Notice of Election – Detroit Negotiating Committee
The following members are running for the committee: Joe Gilliam, Don Watkins III, Gary (Shade Tree) Johnsen, John Crosby, Tom Jaranowski, John Johnson, Tim Sampson, Luis Pablo, Joe Zsembery, John Eggert

The election will take place at the Detroit Union Hall, 1640 Porter St, Detroit, MI 48216, on April 6, 2021, from 2pm thru 7pm. You must be a member in good standing to cast a ballot. We will be doing a walkup election on April 6, 2021, in our parking lot.

Notice of Election – Business Agent (2 to be elected). The following members are running for Business Agent: Joe Gilliam, John Crosby, Gary (Shade Tree) Johnsen, Tim Sampson, Joe Zsembery, John Eggert

This Statewide election will be a mail out. Please read the following instructions included in your ballot envelope carefully before marking and mailing your ballot. This ballot must be mailed. Please mail your ballot to the PO Box ASAP.

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

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.

Detroit Training Center Info. 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.

MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan regular membership meeting scheduled for Tue., April 13, 2021 (Continued next column)



PREPPING FOR A TERRAZZO FLOOR installation at the Firekeepers Casino Hotel II project in Battle Creek are Miguel Franco and Ruben Gallegos of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by Artisan Tile.



Laborers Local 1191

Laborers Local 1191

DETROIT – UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Laborers' Local 1191 has remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Local 1191 is making every effort to keep our members and staff safe during this time by limiting person-to-person contact at the Local Union Hall. Thanking you in advance and please follow the COVID-19 recommendations to stay safe and healthy.

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. Union meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Union hall (except for holidays), the next membership meeting will be on the 2nd of April, 2021.

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

Union Dues For 2021: Effective Jan. 1, 2021 regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00.

Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org!!! Upper right-hand corner Pay Dues tab, and follow the instructions ... Please also check out our website and "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

NOTICE: The Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member shall be deemed suspended by the International Union without notice.

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

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

Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules. You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by

Local 149 cont'd

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 as 3/22/2021, 11:00a.m.

In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local 149

Laborers

Local 1191

calling (517) 625-4919 or visit the training school website www.mlta.org to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241 to use a Local Union computer to complete required modules.

Training: Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeymen and apprentices may still obtain training through MLTA's online training at https://lms.mlta.org. Types of training you can take include: Asbestos Awareness-Silica Awareness-Infectious Disease Awareness-Respirator Awareness-Hazard Communication-Blood borne Pathogens Awareness-Covid-19 Awareness-Lead Awareness.

NOTE: Classes & Certifications contractors have been asking for are: OSHA 30, Asbestos & Lead Awareness, Hoisting & Rigging, Pipeline Safety, Class A Call License, Asbestos Removal Supervisors Licence, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading & Measuring Tools, Gps Location.

The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not! FYI: By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well. If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1 and 4 pm and put their name on the out-of-work list. You must have an out-of-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. Also be sure to Check & Update your Skills regularly.

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first (1st) five (5) days of the following months March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list. *Example: If your name is on the list in April and or May and you don't re-register by June 5 your name will be removed from the list.

Retirees: Retiree Council's meetings are the last Friday of the month. The meetings are held 11:00 a.m. at the Local Union Hall, located at 2161 West Grand Boulevard in Detroit. However, the Retiree Council's monthly meetings have been cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19.

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

CONTACT NUMBERS

Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension & Vacation)
*Telephone: (877) 645-2267
*Fax: (517) 321-7508
*Web: www.michiganlaborers.org
*Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149
*Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)
*Telephone: (248) 641-4942
*Fax: (248) 813-9898
*Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare)
*Telephone: (800) 228 0048
*Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Vacation)
*Telephone: (877) 645-2267
*www.metrodetroitlaborers.org

Goals in sight, AFL-CIO joins campaign to formally end the filibuster

WASHINGTON (PAI)— Faced with the prospect that a Republican Senate filibuster could kill the best chance in decades to rewrite labor law in favor of workers, the AFL-CIO formally joined a growing coalition of groups campaigning to end that legislative burial tactic.

With the tactic, a 60-vote supermajority is needed to pass legislation in the Senate.

In a March 11 statement, "Senate rules cannot be used to block a Workers First Agenda," the labor federation's Executive Council said its agenda "is too big and too important to fit through the loophole" in Senate rules. The rules did let the slim Senate Democratic majority pass Democratic President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill, which Biden signed on March 10, because it dealt with taxes and spending. The 50-49 vote was on party lines.

But the filibuster ban didn't let through an increase in the federal minimum wage, which would need 60 votes — in a 50-50 Senate — to win. So would the Protect The Right To Organize (Pro) Act, labor's No. 1 legislative priority, and the centerpiece of its agenda.

"The Workers First Agenda — investment, democracy and economic justice — is the agenda Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris ran on. It is the agenda working people fought for. It is the agenda our nation voted for. It... cannot be delayed or denied. The very survival of our democratic republic is at stake," the AFL-CIO said. "Standing in its way is an archaic Senate procedure that allows the minority to block the majority: The filibuster."

Of course, getting rid of the filibuster works both ways, depending on the party in the majority.

Amazon's new union-busting tactic: 'resignation bonuses'

(Continued from Page 1) would be unable to vote in the union election. It would also open up jobs where management could replace pro-union workers who quit with anti-union ones. With the anti-union campaign from Amazon getting especially heated, these bonuses could be enough to convince some pro-union workers to leave.

These "resignation bonuses" could also raise legal issues for Amazon. Under federal labor law, employers are barred from improving the material conditions of workers in the lead up to union elections. By giving bonuses to these workers the union could contest the results of the election and say that the company conferred benefits to induce a "no" vote.

The union election wraps up this month. (From the Union Communications Blog)

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS

BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com





Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333

LANSING – April's union meeting CANCELLED. May's union meeting will be held, May 19, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI. 48933. We will be voting on a contract proposal and the Lansing Hall remodel. A formal notice will be mailed to all members in the coming weeks. Please plan to attend. Thank you to everyone who ran for a delegate position for the 40th UA Convention.

Results of the UA Local 333 Election. Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333 2021 U.A NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

- 1. Trenton Mauk
2. Jeremy Garza
3. Deshon Leek
4. Robert White
5. Dave Mull
6. Larry Haggerty
7. Ben Wright
8. Nick Asher
9. Andrew Martinez

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: Scholarship applications for the 2021-2022 school year will be available April 1, 2021.

Students who received an award last year will receive an application in the mail. Applications will be available at all three union halls or members may request an application by calling Joni at the Jackson office, 517-784-1106, ext# 4.

Med Gas class starting March 22nd, 5:00 pm at the Lansing Training Center. Please call the Training Center at 517.323.0333 to sign up.

Weld Classes: Lansing's weld class: Tuesday's & Thursday's Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson's weld class: Tuesday's & Thursday's, 3101 Industrial Allied Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek's weld class: Monday's & Thursday's (KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

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.

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.

Attention Members: If you have served in one of our United States Armed Forces, please call the Lansing Hall with the branch of military service you served and the dates. We are putting together a Local 333 Veterans Wall. If you have this information for any of our deceased members who have served in the military, please give us their information also. The deadline is May 1, 2021. Please note this is our second request for this information. If you have called previously there is no need to call us again.

Adopt-A-Highway: Battle Creek: April 17, 2021, volunteers will meet at 9am, at the Quality Inn, 11081 Michigan Ave. E, Battle Creek. Please contact Todd Scarborough at (616) 893-5354 to sign up.

Condolences to Local 333 members Judd Van Coppenolle, his son Quentin and the family as they mourn the loss of their mother and grandmother, Sharon Van Coppenolle, who passed away March 15, 2021. Sharon was also the wife of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333 Retiree, George "Joe" VanCoppenolle Sr., who passed away in 2000.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this sorrowful time. A Celebration of Life Memorial will be scheduled at a later date.



UNDER A COOLING tower they helped erect at the new Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II in Battle Creek are (l-r) tribal helper Daniel Jacobs, and Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 members Ryan Morehouse, Randy Fritzer and project steward Jeff Kiss, at right. They're employed by John E. Green. Visiting the site that day was second from right, Local 333 Assistant Business Mgr. Joe Michilizzi.



THANKS TO ALL who volunteered in the Local 85 food drive on March 18, where food for more than 300 families was distributed.



Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85 SAGINAW – A Special Order of Business Union Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM at 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 for the purpose of allocations.

UALocal 85 partnering with the United Way of Saginaw and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, hosted a contactless food drive on March 18, 2021. The event was a huge success and provided food to over 300 families in Saginaw County. Thank you to all the apprentices and volunteers who help make this happen.

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

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 jbadour@ualocal85.org
Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteale@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 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

CONDOLENCES: We extend our condolences to the family of John O'Connor who passed away on March 14, 2021. Remember you all are essential to me.

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



Local 111 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

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 scheduled union meeting on March 25, 2021 has been CANCELLED. The next scheduled union meeting will be on April 29, 2021 in Escanaba @ 7:30 EST.

If you missed the recent MRA webinar with Zenith American, you can access it again on our website at -LU111.com, click on the Zenith link, click on the MRA link and enter the password. Please check it out for useful information.

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.



Local 370 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7:00pm. and has been designated a special called meeting for wage allocation.

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

Please note that your monthly work hour statements from TIC now show your Health Care banked hours and Benny card dollar bank.

Scholarship Applications for the 2021-2022 school year are now available online at our website UALOCAL370.ORG The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local Union 370. Complete lists of qualifications and applications are also available at Local 370 Hall. Applications are due by May 15, 2021.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

- Examining Board – Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:00pm
FMR Committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 4:00pm
PAC committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 5:00pm
Executive Board – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 5:00pm
Building Committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:00pm
Finance Committee -Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:15pm
JATC Committee – TBD

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother Carl J Ranger. Carl passed away March 12, 2021 at the age of 91. Carl retired in 1990 and was a member of local 370 for 56 years. Rest in peace Brother.

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

Mobile App. Our mobile app. (Continued next column)



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704 DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14th 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.

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 (2) members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

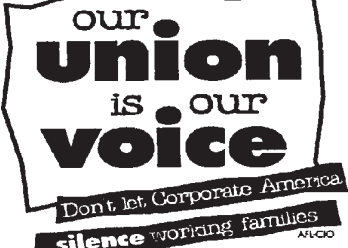
Article IX, Section 4 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order states: Members shall report all job starts to its local union office.

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.

Please keep your information updated with the union hall.

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



Local 370, con't

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

Our web site is up and running. Check it out at ua1ocal370.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 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 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.

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

Local 190

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190

ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING FOR THE MONTH APRIL WILL BE A NORMAL IN-PERSON MEETING: The next meeting will start at 6 p.m. Monday, April 12, at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings. Masks and maintaining social distance will be enforced.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – UNION HALL HOURS: Effective Monday, April 5 the office will resume normal business hours. The office will be open on Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 (the office will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1:00 p.m.) There will be no foot traffic to the back offices. **MASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN ENTERING THE UNION HALL BUILDING AND TRAINING CENTER DUE TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDER.**

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

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than July 9. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, no later than June 9 [https://uascholarshipfund .communityforce .com](https://uascholarshipfund.communityforce.com). Contact the union office, (734) 424-0962 for further information.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION UNION MEETING: There is a Michigan Gas Distribution Union meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. until noon. This meeting will take place at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in the Black River room. This meeting will be for the 2021 Michigan Gas Distribution wage allocations effective May 1, 2021. Please make every effort to attend.

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.

UNION HALL CLOSING AT NOON FOR AN UP COMING HOLIDAY: For the Easter holiday the office will be closing at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 2. We wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

47th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: Our annual golf outing will be held on Saturday, July 31. Our event will be held at **Whitmore Lake Golf Links, Whitmore Lake**. Mark your calendar for this special event. Tickets will soon be available to purchase at the union hall. If you have questions please contact Karen, (734) 424-0962 Ext. 210.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN WELDERS: 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.

UA LOCAL 190 WEBSITE: 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 charge slip.

LAI D OFF OR BACK TO WORK – IMPOR TANT 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. **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: 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, please 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 any 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 @ 5pm, July 26, 2021 @ 5:00pm, and Oct 8, 2021 @ 5pm.** Call Retha to be put on the list for the day you choose.

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): This class is complete. We will have another class in Sept.

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): The next class will be in the fall.

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): Tuesday and Thursday, **April 13, 2021 and April 15, 2021 @ 5 pm, and another class on April 20, 2021 and April 22, 2021 @ 5 pm.** 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.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): The UA and EPRI have developed a test to cover both the Rigging Certification and a Signal Person Certification. The standalone Rigging Certification will no longer be offered. Please call Retha to be put on the list for the next class. Once we have enough, we will put this class on. Looking to put this class on in the late summer, early fall, as we are upgrading our rigging course.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (16hrs): This class will be four (4) days long. The Training Center is looking to put on a recertification/upgrade class. This upgrade is a 120-question test. All rigging/upgrade and re-certification classes will include the signal person certification going forward. Please call Retha to be put on the list. We will run this class as soon as we have enough for a class.

(Continued next column)



PLUMBING GUEST ROOM bathroom fixtures at the new Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II Development in Battle Creek are (l-r) plumbers Jeff Gunn and Merritt Tumanic III of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. They're employed by John E. Green.



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

Local 636

**Plumbers and
Pipe Fitters
Local 671's
column –
See Page 9**

Pipe Fitters 636

DETROIT – The Next Union Meeting on April 20, 2021 will be a Special Called Meeting for the purpose of Reading the 2020 Year Financial Statement. This will be held in person at Burton Manor 27777 Schoolcraft Rd. in Livonia 48150. It will start at 7pm.

By Law change was proposed to Article III which reads: No Foreman who has five or more Journeyman under his supervision, shall work with tools. **The proposed change to:** No Foreman who has five or more Journeyman under his supervision, *or on a job with more than one Foreman, shall work with tools. The 3rd and final reading and the vote will be held at the April 20, 2021 Union Meeting.*

Please submit to Terry Gilligan or Steve Spurlock in writing or by email any suggestions for the .90 cents to be Allocated on June 1, 2021, tgilligan@pipefitters636.org, sspurlock@pipefitters636.org

The Pipefitter 636 48th Annual Golf Outing will be held Saturday, June 19, 2021 at the Links of Novi. Tickets are limited to 216 golfers, first-come first-serve basis. Foursomes can be reserved at a cost of \$400. This will include a continental breakfast, range balls, 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch on the turn, soft drinks/beer, prizes and a buffet dinner immediately following completion of play. All ticket orders must be received no later than Friday May 28, 2021. Please contact Terry Gilligan for tickets at 248-538-6636.

Pipefitters 636 would like to extend our condolences to the family of Retiree Brother Charles Vanbuskirk who passed away on March 18, 2021. Also to the family of Brother Eric Adams on the passing of his father Willie Adams who passed away on February 25, 2021.

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

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

The contract with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has been finalized and Jason May has new contact information 248-655-4048.

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 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 PAYMENT'S.**

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.

"Laughing is the sensation of feeling good all over and showing it principally in one spot."

– Josh Billings (1818 - 1885)

"The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence. Fences have nothing to do with it. The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be."

– Robert Fulghum (1937 -)

"No tyranny is so irksome as petty tyranny: the officious demands of policemen, government clerks, and electromechanical gadgets."

– Edward Abbey (1927 - 1989)

"Humility is the embarrassment you feel when you tell people how wonderful you are."

– Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988)

"The conception of two people living together for twenty-five years without having a cross word suggests a lack of spirit only to be admired in sheep."

– Alan Patrick Herbert

"I find that a great part of the information I have was acquired by looking up something and finding something else on the way."

– Franklin P. Adams (1881 - 1960)

"Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."

– Carl Sandburg (1878 - 1967)

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
- Family members over 50 years in Local 636
- Maximize your deductions and returns
- Electronic filing for fast refund
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Plumbers Local 98

Plumbers Local 98

MEMBERSHIP - Detroit - On behalf of all your officers and staff, we hope you and your family have a happy Easter. Please be safe, stay healthy, and wear a mask!

MEETINGS. Union Meetings are virtual/video due to the hall being closed. The next meeting is scheduled April 8 at 7 pm, please check the Member Zone on the website for the most current information. 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 reviewed by the Finance Committee and recently our Executive Board. If you feel a need, you can set an appointment to ask questions.

Special Called Meeting - for wage allocation is scheduled for Thursday, May 13 at 7 pm. This meeting will be held outside at our Union Hall and all COVID restrictions are in place using social distancing and masks. Please contact your Business Agent and give them insight on the possible ideas you may have for new monies.

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: I will ask the President of the retiree association to present a plan, dealing with restarting those meetings back up again.

In June we will have an Awards Night with refreshments, please watch the paper for information.

OTHER EVENTS. At this time the Cincinnati Softball Tournament is cancelled.

At this moment, the State Pipe Trades Convention is on for this summer for our elected delegates. This is the second week of June. More information will be passed on as we get closer.

LICENSE RENEWAL. Time again to renew your State of Michigan Plumbing License. It is online and you can renew by going 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, 248-585-1435.

BA's Gary Glaser and Tom McWilliams are admins on the Must/Most program, contact them if you need help.

DUES. You can pay your dues 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.

COVID-19 Information & Vaccine! Registration is now open for the FEMA/State of Michigan Ford Field COVID-19 vaccine clinic! There are three options to register for a vaccine: * Go to <https://clinic.meijer.com/register/CL2021> or * Text "EndCOVID" to 75049

* Residents who don't have access to the internet or who need assistance navigating the vaccine registration process can call the MDHHS COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 (press 1) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Vaccines are still available at the TCF Center, call 313-230-0505 between 9am & 8pm M-F to schedule an appointment at the TCF Center, or go to the website detroitmi.gov and click on the COVID-19 Vaccine Updates, for the most up-to-date information.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 go to the website Michigan.gov/protectmi commission. Or, if you would like to be a part of the conversation and join a workgroup, you can reach out to protectmi commission at michigan.gov or www.michigan.gov/covidvaccine 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.

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. If you do have an appointment at the Union Hall, please use the south entrance. All the officers are continuing to work remotely.

SUB APPS/OOW CHANGES/BENEFITS. Due to influx of travelers, we are closing SUB pay to all except for medical or COVID related injuries. 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 issues that are unresolved at BeneSys, please get the name of the person you are dealing with and contact Carlo or Jon or the Union Hall immediately.

NOTE ON DISABILITY/RETIREMENT. 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 of 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, when you receive your award from Social Security, we will be able to pay you all the retro money owed. If you are less than a year from retirement, we suggest you set up a meeting with Jon DeRoo prior to your retirement date.

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.

GOOD/WEFARE. Join us for Macomb County Adopt-A-Highway week April 17-25. Please call BA Gary Glaser (313)580-0148 or BA Tom McWilliams (248)752-2994 for more information and to sign up so they can assure they have adequate equipment for the number of volunteers. This is a great volunteer opportunity for any high schoolers in need of volunteer hours.

Cleveland Cliffs (AK Steel) update: No more onsite witnessed drug tests! Cliffs is now accepting offsite MUST drug tests administered within the last 6 months. They retired the old legacy AK Steek barred list. If you were previously banned from AK Steel, your name can be submitted for reinstatement. Any questions call BA Gary Glaser.

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, 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.

Michigan State Plumbing License Renewal - There is not an update required to renew the Michigan State Plumbing License this year. In order to renew your license, go to Michigan.gov/lara and click on License Renewal. Remember to renew by April 30th in order to avoid a late fee. 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, (Continued next column)



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, April 6 at 7pm we will broadcast our Local Union Update on the Facebook members group chat. We will return to in person meetings as soon as the capacity restrictions will allow us. We will have an in person meeting on Tuesday, June 1 at 7pm to allocate our upcoming raise. The meeting location has not yet been determined.

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 John McCormick on his recent passing. Brother McCormick was sworn into Local #154 in December of 1955. We also offer our condolences to the family of Chuck Stafford. Brother Stafford was sworn into Local #70 in September of 1961. Local #174 is thankful for their many years of service. May they rest in peace.

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

UA Convention Delegate Election: Congratulations to our elected delegates listed in order of votes received below. Thank you to all who stopped by and voted. Thank you to our election committee and Office Manager/CPA Lisa Johnson for your help. Our final delegate count will be based off end of March membership numbers, but we'll likely have 9 delegates plus the business manager.

1. Jason Finch
2. Nathan Phillips
3. Clint Fowler
4. Terry Brown
5. Mark Mangione
6. Frankie Pagan
7. Jeffery Rumsey
8. Jeremy Raap
9. Jason McDiarmid
10. Chris Pelton (1st alternate)
11. Robert Barnett (2nd alternate)
12. Lenny Dehoff (2nd alternate)
13. Micah Perkins (4th alternate)
14. Jeffery Rumsey II (5th alternate)

UA Convention II 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.

Golf League: The Local 174

Golf League will start on Wednesday May 5 at 5:15pm at Hickory Knoll Golf Course in Whitehall. It's a two person team with handicapped scoring. Show up on the first night and get signed up. If you do not have a partner contact the Union office and we'll pair you up.

Local Union Picnic: The Local 174 Family Picnic will take place at Heritage Landing in Muskegon on Saturday, July 17 from 11am to 3pm. This year we would like to purchase prizes from local vendors. If you know of a local small business we could support please forward their info to ryan@rbennett@ua174.org.

Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: The Local 174 Golf Outing will take place on Saturday Aug. 7 at the Falls at Barber Creek. The format will be a four person scramble. Each team must have two Local 174 members. Registration at 8am and shotgun start at 8:30am. The cost is \$65 per person.

DHE Plumbing and Mechanical: We would like to talk to DHE's workers. If you know of a jobsite where they're working please contact Chris Pelton.

Contact Information: If you have a change in contact information PLEASE CONTACT CAMI so we can keep our system up to date.

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

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 January 1st 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)290-724 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.

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: Cancelled 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. It is up to you to let the Union office know.

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 p.m. The next class will be held 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, April 10, 2021 @ 8 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, April 8, 5-9 p.m. 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 5:00pm to 9:00pm. 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.

ASSE BACKFLOW TESTER/RECERT: Class is scheduled to begin Monday, March 29, 2021 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: March 29, 31, April 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14 & 17 (Exam). The cost for the Recert exam is \$120; cost for the Tester exam is \$75. Exam fees are due prior to testing.

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.



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 April 13th, 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.

ORGANIZING: Congratulations to Phil Curtis on being selected as Local 357's next Organizer. On March 18, International Representative Kevin Carden and Michigan Pipe Trades Lead Organizer Ben Ranger interviewed five members of Local 357 and picked Phil to be the next Organizer. Kevin and Ben remarked on the quality of applicants to choose from thus making their job difficult. Phil will start training in the coming weeks and when we get his contact information we will share it with you.

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, (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, remarried, 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 are available 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. Congratulations to the family of Matthew Hagen on the birth of a baby boy, Griffin.

Congratulations to the family of Nathan Wanemaker on the birth of a baby boy, Miles.



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

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.

We have received our Breath of Life Gun Raffle Tickets, if your interested to purchase any tickets please call the Union Office or you can get a hold of someone on the job site who is selling them.

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

Toll Free: (800) 323-8079
Telephone: (517) 321-7502
Fax: (517) 321-7508
Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

To all active members, if you
(Continued next column)

Local 671 cont'd

able in the Google Play Store or on iTunes.

In Closing: "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." Likewise, spending time promoting your Union is also an investment in tomorrow. I would like to wish all of our Members and their families a healthy and Happy Easter. I look forward to the day we can gather again. May God Bless Local 671 and the UA.

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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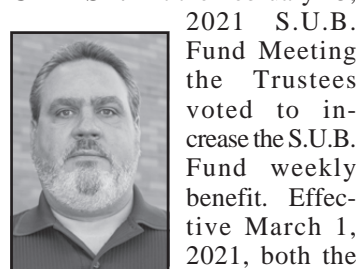
PLACING A NEAT PVC jacket around piping at the Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II Development in Battle Creek is Josh Bower of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47. He's employed by 3MI.



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 APRIL 2021 UNION MEETING has been cancelled. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates.

SUB FUND BENEFIT INCREASE: At the February 25, 2021 S.U.B. Fund Meeting the Trustees voted to increase the S.U.B. Fund weekly benefit. Effective March 1, 2021, both the disability S.U.B. Fund benefit and the unemployment S.U.B. Fund benefit will increase by \$50.00 per week.



CURT
MCGLONE

APPRENTICE APPLICATION: Apprentice applications will be accepted during March 2021 and April 2021. To learn more and apply online, visit HeatFrostInsulators.org/Apprenticeship. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the 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.

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.

MUST SAFETY MODULES: It is important to keep your MUST 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, (Continued next column)

Local 47 continued

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

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

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC. JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson, (616-466-8736)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office.

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

Good and Welfare:
Get well to all our sick and injured members
Condolences to the Family and Friends of Christopher Jarman who passed away on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.



Local 207 Abatement Workers

Abatement Workers Local 207 TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for Spring so be prepared for work. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites. 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 March 20th
Asbestos Supervisor Initial April 5th thru the 9th

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!

"Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought."
—Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (1893 - 1986)

"If I have ever made any valuable discoveries, it has been owing more to patient attention, than to any other talent."
—Isaac Newton (1642 - 1727)

"Hysteria is only possible with an audience."
—Chuck Palahniuk (1962 -)

— Chuck Palahniuk (1962 -)

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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.

THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR

- Health and Welfare Plans
- Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Defined Contribution Pension Plans
- Claims Processing
- Supplemental Unemployment Plans
- HRA's, HSA's, FSA's
- Vacation Plans
- Eligibility Processing
- Trust Fund Accounting
- VEBA Administration
- Web Applications
- COBRA Administration
- HIPAA Compliance

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IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58
DETROIT – Stay tuned for the next General Membership meeting notice. We remind everyone to follow COVID-19 guidelines on safety.

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 58 starting a Motorcycle Club! Join the forming stages on Tuesday, March 16 2021, 5:00 pm at Dean Savage Memorial Park (next to the Hall) under the canopy. In the event of rain, we will meet in the basement classroom at the Hall with a limit of 25 people due to COVID restrictions. A follow up meeting will take place Tuesday, March 30th at the same place and time. Contact Anthony Anderanin at anderanin@gmail.com or Grace Trudell 313-244-2268 for more info.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, April 6, 2021 5:00 pm.

The 12th Annual Local 58 Detroit River Walleye Tournament will be Saturday, May 1, 2021, beginning at 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM - Rain or Shine! Outside event, masks and social distancing required per State/MDHHS Mandate. Fish Fry following weigh-in at the Union Hall. Entry form and rules are available at Local 58 or on our website at: www.ibewlocal58.org Entries must be received by Wednesday, April 28, 2021. AFL-CIO affiliated Local Union families and friends are welcome!

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 13, 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 8:00 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, April 13, 2021, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 pm.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. What can we safely participate in that continues to promote the IBEW in the community? We will be hosting a Toiletary and Sock Drive to benefit the Detroit Public Schools Community District Office of Homeless and Foster Care. New and unused toiletries and socks can be placed in the collection container at Local 58 anytime during regular business hours. 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, April 27, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 12, 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 dollars 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 Softball team, The Live Wires will be celebrating its 20th year anniversary this year and welcomes new players. Season begins April 26. We play single recreational games, USA Softball rules, Monday nights at Claude Allison Park in Redford on Beech Daly Rd. All skill levels welcome to join the camaraderie and solidarity. If you or someone you know would like more info please contact Grace Trudell at 313-244-2268.

Local 58's Women's Committee- Our next regular meeting is Thursday, April 22 at 6:00 pm 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 31st. ARC Awards dinner is being planned for July 17th. Bids have been opened for catering, music/entertainment, photography, and tent rental. If you or someone you know offers these services and would be interested on 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 with any questions. Follow us on Instagram @ibewwomen58; Check us out on Facebook Local 58 Women's Committee.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: 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: Leon Carter, Robert Crilley, Thomas Erickson, Donald Friedrich, Victor Horn, Allen Nesbitt, Donald Olmsted, Michael Palmer, Mark Schumacher, and David Warrington.

Members that have Passed Away- Estelle Kaiser, widow of the late pension member Frederick Kaiser; Gerald Moses, pension member, 67 year IBEW membership; Maurice Lamphier, pension member, 67 year IBEW membership. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.



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 6:00 pm. The next meeting is April 9, 2021 due to Covid Restrictions and a schedule conflict. 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 – We are planning on having the next regular membership and Executive Board meeting in person. This meeting will be dependent on state Covid restrictions and weather permitting if we need to be outside. Watch this article for further updates. As always you can always call the hall for meeting updates.

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.gtref.org/scholarships/. Local 498 Union members' children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.

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

Made in America Websites – www.theunionbootpro.com - 100% American made/union made. Union member discounts 27% off. Use this code when ordering: Be0498mD or order toll free 1-800-723-5384.

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

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 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, 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 with these changes.

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

Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 3#

"You need only reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the struggle for independence."
–Charles Austin Beard (1874 -1948)



IN A 6TH FLOOR GUEST ROOM of the Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II in Battle Creek installing a shower light is Lenny Kazlauskas of IBEW Local 445. He's employed by Swan Electric.



IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW Local 557

SAGINAW – **Union News-Nice** to see spring is in the air as work continues to ramp up in our local. The deadline for accepting new apprenticeship applications was March 19th. Good luck to all those who applied.

We would like to thank our Saginaw JATC Instructor and the third year apprenticeship class for their volunteer work with the James Township Fire Department to retrofit new LED lights. Our community ties keep our union strong.

Lastly, it has been a privilege to have our own brother, James Lamb, lead organizing efforts here and throughout mid-Michigan. It is with a heavy heart we give our best wishes and say goodbye, as he steps down. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the true meaning of brotherhood. We know you'll succeed in all your future endeavors.

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.

-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. Please make sure you are up-to-date on all work reports and book payments.

-Please pick up your Local 557 mask from the hall if you have not done so already.

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 April 6th at 5:30pm. Depending on weather, it will be held at either Roberts Park Pavilion in Thomas Twp. or, at the Carpenter's Local, 3160 Commerce Centre Dr., Saginaw, MI 48601. **Please monitor your email, or our Facebook page for the latest information.** The Local 557 Executive Board met on March 16 and will meet again April 20.

INSIDE NEGOTIATIONS- Negotiations with NECA have started as we approach the May 31st expiration date of the Local's Inside Wireman Agreement. We are two meetings in, but progress has been minimal and slow. Our team continues to stand strong for our brothers and sisters to ensure the best outcome possible. "Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, human security." 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.

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 lo-

cal and request a correspondence to be sent to the Local you are interested in signing.

WORK OUTLOOK – Local 557 is pleased to have nearly all our members out on job calls. Most of our members are working either in Detroit, Lansing or here in their home local. In Saginaw, work at Mary Free Bed continues with the addition of two more JIW's. We would like welcome our newest contractor Pierce Powerline, for opening an inside wireman branch. Already an existing outside IBEW contractor, they're looking to expand and bid new jobs in our local. They have wrapped up foreman interviews with plans to hire soon. Projects that remain on the radar include the Meridian Wind Park in Merrill, with Motor City Electric. The leg-work to secure Dow Event Center, Saginaw City Schools and Saginaw County animal shelter is still ongoing.

HEALTH CARE – 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.

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.** (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 445

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.

Members in arrears: are Jeffrey Benson, Phillip Jarrard, Marcus Nunnally, Brian Phillips and Rocky Schultz.

Attention: The dues for 2021: JIW are \$53.00/mo. or \$159.00/qr. and AP are \$42.00/mo. or \$126.00/qr. 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.

Building Committee: The Hall is looking for Members that are interested in being on the new Building Committee. You can be an Apprentice or JIW to be on the Committee. Please submit your interest in writing to info@ibew445.com.

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.

Local 557, con't

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 mielectrical.health.org

Breanna DePottey, Press Secretary



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IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948
FLINT – Information regarding the April Union Meeting will be coming soon.

Our April Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 26th, 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 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 April monthly membership meeting is still on track to occur. The plan is to hold this meeting outside. Please stay tuned and watch your email for further updates. We are currently monitoring orders coming from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and will update the membership as soon as we have more information.

We are currently right in the middle of negotiations for our “Inside” collective bargaining agreement. As soon as we have reached a tentative agreement, I will be notifying the membership and a ratification vote will need to occur.

Work Report. The new Meijer in West Branch has been bid. Master Electric has been awarded this project. Master Electric has also secured the new Isabella County Jail located in Mt. Pleasant. Both of these projects will have a spring start. Ted’s Electric has been awarded some of the work at Midland Public Schools with Barton Malow being the G.C. Ted’s was also awarded the Bay County lift station project. There is also a large energy upgrade project currently being bid for Midland Public Schools. Alpena Schools have been awarded to John’s Electric out of Alpena. John’s has also been awarded the Alpena library project and a large marijuana grow facility located in Harrisville. Clements Electric has been awarded the Sterling Saw Mill, Monitor Township Fire Department, Bay-Arenac ISD bus garage, the Troll Smokehouse, multiple marijuana dispensaries and the Handy Middle School office renovation. Another nice project for Bay City Public Schools will be out for bid in the next month.

Countyline Power has secured Midland/Gladwin County dam work, the Mackinaw City lift station and the Roscommon Airport. Consumers Energy work for the summer includes Karn 1&2 utility separation, and also work on the generator at Alcona Dam. Northern Valley Electrical has the LaFarge PLC upgrade. Northern Power (Local 498 signatory contractor) has secured work on the Shepler Docks in Mackinaw City. There are also a large number of Solar Projects that are slated for our jurisdiction. We are currently working on a timeline for all solar work. 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. 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 January 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 originally scheduled for May 2021 has been postponed to **March 11, 2022**. It will be located at the DoubleTree in Bay City. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this great event to honor our retirees!

Retirees Lunch. All retirees’ 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.



IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership** meeting is scheduled for April 5 at 6 p.m. The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held April 19 at 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 @PoweringKzoo, 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 February 2021, 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.

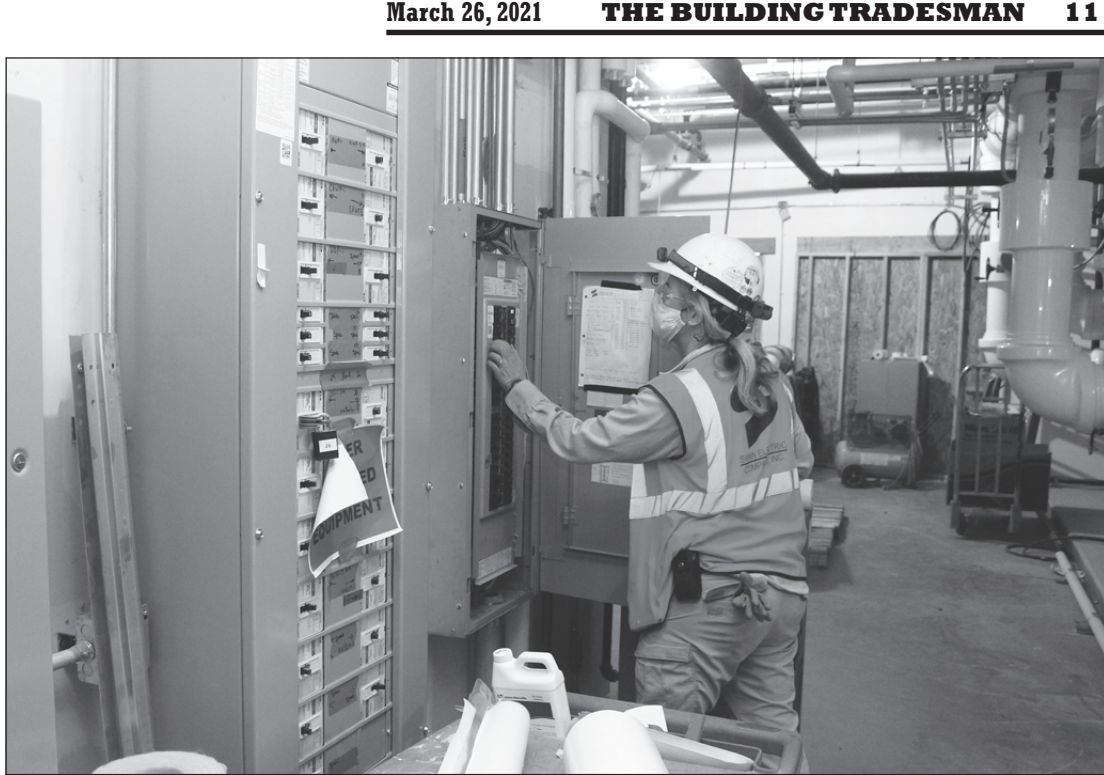
FROM THE APPRENTICE-SHIP: Journeyman Upgrade Classes:

- Fall 2020-Winter 2021
- 6. Foreman Training W March 10 to May 12, 2021
- 7. CPR S March 13, 2021
- 8. CPR S April 10, 2021

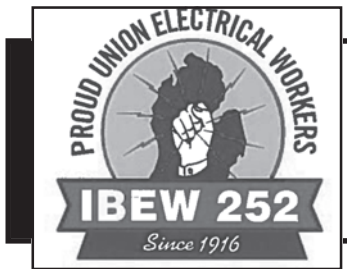
****Code Update Classes:** it is now required for Journeyman to pay in advance to hold your spot in the Code Update Class. We require 48 hours’ notice for cancellations if you need to reschedule for another available Code Update Course. ******

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



IN THE BASEMENT of the Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II Development in Battle Creek is Kim Fast of IBEW Local 665. Employed by Swan Electric, she’s working on a 120/208 volt panel.



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – WE ARE SEEING AN UPTICK IN POSITIVE COVID TESTS AND QUARANTINES ON JOBSITES. Please keep yourself, your coworkers, and the public healthy by following CDC and MHDDS jobsite guidelines. This includes social distancing and proper wearing of masks.

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: We are going to make every effort to conduct an in-person membership meeting in April. Please make every effort to attend as we will be discussing negotiations. We continue to monitor new orders and directives from the MDHHS and may have to alter plans if necessary.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEES: Thank you to everyone that has participated in the recent Inside and Residential text surveys that the negotiating committees have sent out. The number of responses has been very impressive and helps us to determine what is important to you all during these negotiations.

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, Nov. 18, 2020 until further notice. If you have business to take care of at the hall, please call us at (734) 424-0978.

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 13, 14, and 15, 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 P.M.

1. CPR/First Aid- April 13, 2021
2. Master License Prep Class- Thursday nights, April 8 and 15 and May 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 5-9 p.m.
3. Instrumentation Part B hands-on- Tuesday nights, March 9- April 27, from 5-9 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

Local 131 cont’d

(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 NECA and will continue negotiations on March 29th.

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

at all times in school.

COVID-19 UPDATE: 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 Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone number: (517) 306-0144.

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

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

Retirees’ Breakfast: The Retirees’ Breakfast will resume on April 14, 2021 and will take place the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Leo’s Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances in both the front and rear of the restaurant.

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 Jan. 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.**

“Dwelling on the negative simply contributes to its power.”
– Shirley MacLaine (1934 -)



Local 275

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.

The second round of contract negotiations will be done by the time this article is published. We will also be negotiating the VDV contract this year. We received a lot of good suggestions from the electronic poll from the members. I thank all of you who submitted your ideas.

As the Governor has lifted public gathering restrictions to 25 indoors and up to 300 outdoors, we held March’s union meeting in person at the union hall. We had a very good turnout, and it was nice to see all the Brothers and Sisters in person again. If the current state restrictions still make it permissible to conduct April’s meeting in person, we will do so. However, if things do change between now and then, we will keep you informed on if we will meet.

As Locals around the country become more diverse, the look of jobsites is rapidly changing. With these changes comes a heightened responsibility that all IBEW members have towards respect for each other. Lately, there have been incidents of racial and sexual harassment on various projects.

Please be aware that IBEW Local 275 has a zero tolerance for these kinds of behaviors. If you refer to your IBEW Constitution that we ALL swore an oath to uphold, the Declaration on page ii reads, *“Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, human security. We refuse, and will always refuse, to condone or tolerate dictatorship or oppression of any kind. We will find and expel from our midst any who might attempt to destroy, by subversion, all that we stand for. This Brotherhood will continue to oppose communism, Nazism or any other subversive “ism.” We will support our God, our Nation, our Union.”*

If you are having problems of this nature on the jobsite, I ask that you speak to your Steward immediately. If you are on a jobsite that does not have a Steward, please call the Hall @ 616.837.7149 and speak with me, Jonas Talbott, Walter Christophersen or Geoff Yonkers.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three or more months behind in dues: David Oberlin. From now on, all re-sign requests 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.



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514
DETROIT – The next membership meeting is scheduled for April 20, 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.
 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.
 If you are a Military Veteran please contact the Local so we

can update our records. Please call (248) 548-0800.
 The Local's website is: www.opcmiami.org.
 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.



INSTALLING A TERRAZZO floor base at the Firekeepers Casino Hotel II project in Battle Creek is Rodney Gillean of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by Artisan Tile.



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.
APRIL 2021 CHAPTER MEETINGS
METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 06, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091
ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 06, 2021 at 7:30 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130
FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 07, 2021 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48846
KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, April 08, 2021 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087
LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906
MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855
SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706
TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 1231 Hastings Street, Traverse City, MI 49686
DEATHS REPORTED: Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Everett Cleveland** (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 09, 2021. Brother Cleveland had been a member for 33 years.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother James Hyatt** (PCC) who passed away on January 28, 2021. Brother Hyatt had been a member for 58 years.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Charles LaFramboise** (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 09, 2021. Brother LaFramboise had been a member for 70 years.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Dale Parker** (Plasterer & Cement Mason) who passed away on February 21, 2021. Brother Parker had been a member for 55 years.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Lloyd Provitt** (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 19, 2021. Brother Provitt had been a member for 55 years.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother William Riddle** (Bricklayer & Stone Mason) who passed away on February 01, 2021. Brother Riddle had been a member for 70 years.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Lloyd Sjoquist** (Bricklayer & Cement Mason) who passed away on February 26, 2021. Brother Sjoquist had been a member for 65 years.
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, Masonry Restoration Workers and Tile Setters. Those who are

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

interested should contact either the Warren office (586) 754-0888.
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 office (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: Apr: 10th & 24th • May: 1st, 15th & 22nd • Jun: 5th & 12th.
 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/Apprentice_Worksheets. 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 at (517)

849-1102.
 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 info@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. 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)

PRO Act, COVID relief are first big meal-ticket items for Congress

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer
 WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) – Worker rights. The right to vote. Free and open elections. And of course, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Act.
 All that was on the congressional plate in the first full week of March.
 For workers, there were two big deal votes in the House alone. One was on March 10 on President Joe Biden's Rescue Act. The other was on March 9, the Pro-Act, HR842. It's organized labor's top legislative priority – after Biden's bill – this year.
 The Pro Act would outlaw replacement workers, closed-door anti-union management harassment meetings and make it easier to organize and win elections. It would increase fines to \$50,000 per labor law-breaking offense, and \$100,000 for repeat offenders.
 It would mandate first-contract arbitration if the two sides can't agree and legalize card-check recognition, among other pro-worker measures. And among many other provisions, it would force union-busters to disclose their activities, clients, and how much they got paid.
 "When managers bully us out of exercising our most basic freedoms, they deny us our best shot at winning the fundamental dignity, security and respect we're owed. It's time to put an end to it," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said. "President Biden campaigned on a promise to be a friend to the labor movement. He has proven he's willing to speak out and stand with us. Now it's time to follow words with action. To convert the spirit of the president's message into the letter of the law, we must pass the Pro Act."
 Biden's rescue bill took top priority on the radar. Everything else placed below it.
 Senators approved the rescue plan by a party-line 50-49 vote, with all 48 Democrats and both independents voting for it and 49 Republicans voting "no." Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, was absent, back home for his father-in-law's funeral.
 There were some big changes in Biden's economic rescue plan. The biggest was when the Senate parliamentarian stripped out the increase in the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2025. She decided it flunked parliamentary rules for budget bills.
 Biden wanted the measure on his desk as soon as possible, as it faced a March 14 deadline when weekly supplemental federal jobless benefits, which sus-

tain at least 11 million people, ran out. He signed it on March 11.
 "This nation has suffered too much for much too long," Biden told reporters after the Senate vote. "And everything in this package is designed to relieve the suffering and to meet the most urgent needs of the nation, and put us in a better position to prevail." Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, Ind-Vt., tried to get the minimum wage hike back into Biden's bill, but lost, 42-58.
 Service Employees President Mary Kay Henry blasted the Democrats, and King, who opposed raising the minimum wage, though she did not withdraw the union's support for the rescue legislation overall.
 "A Senate of many millionaires voted to keep 32M in poverty when they opposed @SenSanders' amendment. Working people elected this administration & Congress to #RaiseTheWage to \$15. We will hold accountable those who hold us back, regardless of party," she warned in the first of several tweets comprising her statement.
 Another change was to cut

the federal jobless benefits from the \$400 weekly the Democratic-run House OK'd down to \$300, and to extend them to just after Labor Day, rather than the end of September. Otherwise, they ended on March 14, leaving gig economy workers, "independent contractors," and performing arts workers, among others, with nothing at all.
 And the measure still keeps the \$1,400 checks for adults, but phases them out for individuals making more than \$80,000 a year or couples making more than \$160,000.
 The Senate version – the final version – of Biden's bill has many other pro-worker provisions, including more money for mass transit, a resumed subsidy for airlines contingent on keeping their workers on the job, money to help schools reopen safely despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, money for more coronavirus vaccine development and distribution and billions to help hard-pressed state and local governments continue key services, such as jobless benefit centers.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Charles LaFramboise** (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 09, 2021. Brother LaFramboise had been a member for 70 years.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Dale Parker** (Plasterer & Cement Mason) who passed away on February 21, 2021. Brother Parker had been a member for 55 years.
 Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Lloyd Provitt** (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 19, 2021. Brother Provitt had been a member for 55 years.
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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, Masonry Restoration Workers and Tile Setters. Those who are

Off-season on Mackinac Island, electricians get to work

(Continued from Page 1)
 personnel working on the island, and union tradespeople from Cooke Sheet Metal and John E. Green have also been working there.
 Dave Fashbaugh, business manager of IBEW Local 498 in Traverse City, said about 30 IBEW electricians have been on the island working for Mancelona-based Northern Power this winter. He said the contractor was organized by Local 498 two years ago, and Northern Power then bought out the nonunion electrical contractor that had been doing work on the island. Fashbaugh said getting electricians to work on the island has been a group IBEW effort: by Upper Peninsula Local 906, which has jurisdiction on the island; Local 498; and Bay City-based Local 692, which has been the local union providing much of the manpower.
 "If not for all of us working together, this work wouldn't exist for us," Fashbaugh said. "We've got guys from all over working together on the island, I think in some ways they look at it as more of an adventure than a job."
 He said building trades workers are housed at no-frills quarters normally used in-season by employees at the Grand Hotel, but three hot meals are provided, workers can go home on weekends, and the island allows the use of snowmobiles during the winter, and street hockey games have been played every Wednesday night. The electricians are helping remodel some 400 rooms at the Grand, and are participating in the construction of a new swimming pool on the front lawn of the property.
 U.P. Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 111 Business Manager Dean Gutzman, whose local has jurisdiction over the island, said signatory pipe trades contractors have had fairly good success over the years winning work on the island, but this year hasn't been one of them. Clint Steele, a business representative from Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 85 in Saginaw, said he knows of only a handful of union pipe trades workers from Local 85 and Local 111 on the island, performing service work and installing the pool.
 "John E. Green usually does some sort of service work on the island every year," Steele said. Sheet Metal Workers Local 7 members from Cooke Sheet Metal have also been employed on the island.
 But for the sparkies, winning work on Mackinac Island, even during the winter months, has been a nice bonus.
 "Mostly the union electricians that are there have not been on the island for any major projects in 30 years," Fashbaugh said. "It is working out pretty good so far."

You Are the Missing Piece.

Attend
Your
Union
Meetings!



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 April 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

***There is a tentative ratification of potential contract at this membership meeting. Stay tuned for updated information regarding this. Updates will be posted in the paper, on Facebook, the website and a text message will be sent. If you have any questions or concerns you may call the union hall.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 20, 2021 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI

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

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The April 19, 2021 meeting is CANCELLED. 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 please call us at 248-557-7575.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Tim Przytulski, John McIsaac, John Bruce III, Jason Waldrop, Joe Ackerman, Patrick Turner, John Mastalinski, Brian Neumann, Thomas Ashley, Nicole Broomfield, Martel George, Willard Sarrach Jr., David Hiller & Michael Mallett

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.

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 Bldg. Trades newspaper.

In compliment, 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 SMANCA 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. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your spouse first and if there is no spouse to your children UNLESS you designate otherwise in writing with each specific benefit. Depending on your classification you could have benefits due to your heirs from Local 80 pension, insurance, annuity and from international and SASMI. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary unless you want it to go to your spouse or children. As always seek the advice of an attorney.

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.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Members who have their dues paid in advance (prior to the month of the accident) are eligible for accidental death and dismemberment benefits up to \$7,500. This benefit comes as a dues paying member of SMART International.

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: 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 3:00 pm on 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. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list 14 days after receiving an assignment. It is very important to report to the union hall immediately after your layoff. Members get confused because the S.U.B. Fund allows you a period of up to seven days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

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 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 (7) 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 benefits. 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 1-20 and Sept. 1-20 If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you work 16 hours or less in a week or have a short work week due to weather you may collect sub for that week but only if it is at the **beginning or the end of a layoff.** You may NOT collect if you are not laid off. You must complete a sub application at the hall, provide a pay stub for that week and the hall will submit it to the fund office. If you are not laid off and it is due to weather the company MUST provide written documentation that it was weather related.

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you are experiencing

(Continued next column)



AT WORK SETTING A grill register in the basement of the Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II Development in Battle Creek is Vincent Wade of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7. He's employed by Applegate.



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers' Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **April 14, 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 **April 27, 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.**

THANK YOU: Thank you to the following members who donated their 50/50 winnings from membership meetings to the Local 292 Charity: Jerry Sarrach, Chuck Garry, Leon Weathers

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 January 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 coordinated, which should make it easier for you and lead to better care. The new card will be used for both medical and prescription drug coverage.

You should have already received your new Blue Cross cards in the mail. If you have not received the new cards, please contact BeneSys immediately to request one. You can also download the Blue Cross app to any smart phone. The app provides tools and features to help you access information pertinent to your account. These changes are for active members and pre-65 retired members only.

RETIREES NOTICE: Due to Covid-19 and restrictions placed for social gatherings, as well as the health and safety of our retirees and their families, the retiree's luncheons have been cancelled until further notice. We will notify when luncheons will resume. Stay healthy and safe. Please contact Fred Engelman at fred_e1@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 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

(Continued on Page 14)

Local 80 continued

problems in your family, 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. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com.

Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.

SAVE THE DATES: • Local 80 Golf Outing: July 17, 2021
• Local 80 Picnic: August 7, 2021



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 - May 13th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 -May 18th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3- (Saginaw) May 12th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3- (Travers City) May 12th - 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 4- May 11th - 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.labelitscanitreport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

ZONE 1 Info: 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. Condolences to the family and friends of Thomas Cronk who recently passed away March 10, 2021. **In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.**

ZONE 2 Info: The next regular Zone 2 meeting is May 18, 2021 at Grand Rapids hall at 6pm. We are currently in negotiations and looking for a special call meeting toward the end of April. **Thanks Dave.**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Zone 3 is getting busy and we have a lot of good jobs coming up. Looks like we are going to be busy all summer. Our retirees are going to have their retiree meeting in person on April 20th at 12:30 at the Ponderosa in Bay City. Due to Covid restrictions the usual place could not accommodate the amount of people that we usually have. Hopefully everyone is staying safe out there, also we had a retired member Jerry Vance pass away last week, he will be missed. One of our members, Bob Vargas, has a 6 year old daughter who needs a heart transplant and could use our help, you can go to Facebook at #trinitystrong or contact me for details on how to help out. **Thank you, Wayne Stover**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City). If anyone is interested in the Fire Life Safety Certification Exam or a C. A. D. Class in Traverse City please call Darek at the Training Center for more info. We are looking for an experienced HVAC Service Tech, year round steady employment. Please call me for more info. If Covid restrictions continue to ease, we are looking at having a retiree breakfast Friday May 7th. **Thank You, Travis Eastman**

ZONE 4 Info: Condolences to the family and friends of Max Elkins who recently passed away February 12, 2021. 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 having in person meeting in May, 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: I would like to say thank you to the members who were able to attend the upgrade classes Darek Scarlavai put on the week of March 8th and congratulations to 3 Apprentices Chris Williams, Zach Albright and Derek Rogers on receiving AWS welding certifications. Also I would like to thank Lakenen Crane and Rigging Service for coming out to our training center for hands on training with the apprentices on hand signals and general crane safety. Remember upgrade classes and the training center is open to all members, contact me if you have any questions. **Respectfully 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

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Local 8 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 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 April 28th, 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.
MINESAFETY TRAINING:

The next MSHA Refresher Class will be held on April 17th, 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.

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



CONSTRUCTION OF A MARIJUANA growing facility in Jackson is sprouting nicely, thanks in part to a crew of Iron Workers Local 25 members employed by King Erectors. The Local 25 crew shown here (l-r) include Matt Reid, Jeremy Ross, Noah Woodruff, Lenny LaLiberty and Devin Polak. Local 25 Business Rep. Marc Crance notes that they never missed an hour on the job all winter erecting pre-engineering buildings at the site. Florida-based Objectiv Growth is building a 71,500 square-foot marijuana and growth facility at the site, a \$19 million in capital investment.



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25
NOVI – **March's ZOOM Union meeting** will be Monday March 29, 2021 at 7:00 pm. This union meeting will be the third union meeting and Debate 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.**

ters 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.

IT'S 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 (April 1-April30). A birth certificate will be required.**

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April30). 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**

Stewards' Notes:
1) **STW Meetings cancelled until further notice.**
2) The link for Online Steward Report forms is found in the upper right-hand corner of our website www.ironworkers25.org.

LOG-IN DIRECTIONS will follow once you click the link that reads "Electronic Steward Reports" These forms are much easier than the paper forms, we encourage you to give it a try if you have not yet done so.

3) **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**

4) **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.

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 raise slips.**

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

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).

Welder online Verification: For an accurate and quick review of welder certifications please visit www.welderscertification.org On the homepage click "login" and type "read only" as both your username and password. Once logged on, type the member's book number in the column on the left marked "advanced search," click the "go" button, wait until the name pops up, and then click on the welders first or last name. On the next screen, click "list certifications."

Every welding certification the welder has will be available for viewing and you can see that if it has been renewed; it is good until the year 2021. The site also allows you to print out a copy of the welder WPQR if needed.

Click on "list test results." Click on the actual test code you want to see and you will see the test details. On that page click "Printable Form" (WPQR) and you can print the WPQR. If you read this please contact the Training Center for meeting credit.

The Novi retirees Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, April 6th in Novi at 9:00 am. The Novi retiree meeting will be Tuesday, April 20th at 10:00 am.

Jim Hamric is starting up breakfast on the last Friday of the month at Mom's Restaurant, 9:00 am. Located 2691 Fort St, Trenton, MI 48183. All are welcome!

Tentative: The Bay City Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm on April 15th, 2021 at the Bay City American Legion Post #18, 700 Adams St. Bay City MI 48708.

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.

In Memory: Cynthia Nash #1121481 passed March 10, 2021 at the age of 66. Cynthia was the first female ironworker member of Local 25. She was a 35-year member. Cynthia was the beloved wife of Carol Nash #824768 and leaves behind many friends in the ironworking industry. John Goodroe #887838 passed away March 18, 2021 at the age of 71. He was a 48-year member. Survived by his wife Lisa, his brother Joe Goodroe #954660 and his brother-in-law Randy Galbraith #975809. William Heynen #699142 passed away March 12, 2021 at the age of 81. He was a 57-year member. He was predeceased by his parents Sally & Martin Heynen #195971 who were all active in the Bay City Chapter of the Retiree Club. **Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

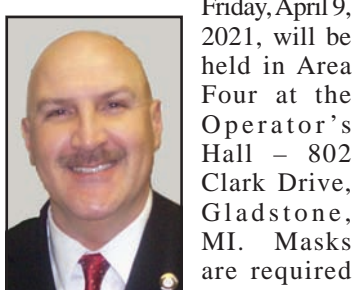
To all Union Members: Covid-19 has an effect on all of us and our ironworker community. Please do your best to be safe during this pandemic. We hope you and your family take care and stay healthy! This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (03/22/2021 2:15pm E.S.T.).

"We should every night call ourselves to an account; What infirmity have I mastered today? What passions opposed? What temptation resisted? What virtue acquired? Our vices will abort of themselves if they be brought every day to the shrift."
–Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)

"Cherish all your happy moments: they make a fine cushion for old age."
–Christopher Morley (1890-1957)

Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – The next Union Meeting, scheduled for Friday, April 9, 2021, will be held in Area Four at the Operator's Hall – 802 Clark Drive, Gladstone, MI. Masks are required for entry.



BOB HUTSELL 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.

Congratulations to the delegates elected to our 34th Consolidated Convention, which will be held virtually July 19, 2021. All proposed amendments to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution must be submitted in duplicate, no later than 45 days prior to the opening of the convention. All other resolutions having to do with the establishment or declaration of policy of the International Brotherhood shall be submitted to the International President, in duplicate, at least 45 days prior to the opening of the convention. All resolutions shall be attested to by the President and Secretary-Treasurer of the subordinate body. All questions regarding submission of resolutions should be directed to, Local 169 President, Mike Card, and Local 169 Business Manager-Secretary Treasurer, Bob HutSELL.

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 \$40.00. Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit. 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.

Sheet Metal Workers 7, continued

(Continued from Page 13)
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.

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 March 27th, April 3rd, 17th & 24th.

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.

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Michigan Painters District Council



District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.

Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

Local Union 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.

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.

D-BAR-A BOY SCOUT CAMP ANNUAL MIX FIX 2021. Members, the Mix Fix is on! Come out with your Brothers and Sisters to help the Boy Scouts. Breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner are provided.

Camping space provided for those who want to stay Friday and/or Saturday night. Painters, Finishers, and Glaziers can stay at the Jack Lord Bunkhouse.(bring a sleeping bag, toiletries and pillow)

WHEN: SATURDAY MAY 8, 2021 @ 8AM

WHERE: D-BAR-A BOY SCOUT CAMP, 880 EAST SUTTON Rd., METAMORA, MI 48455. For more information contact: Shawn O'neill- DC 1M Apprenticeship Director, Office-(586) 552-4481

Cell- (517) 304-4425.

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP.

Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP. For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore

Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP

Username: your member id# Password: painters

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,

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Local 591 Sign, Pictorial & Display

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

Meeting may be postponed due to covid, will notify a.s.a.p.

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.



SECOND FLOOR HOTEL ROOMS at the new Firekeepers Casino Hotel Tower II Development in Battle Creek are given some fit and finish by union tradesman. At left, painter Jeff Reicher of Local 845 dabs on a coat of paint in a guest room. He's employed by Murray Painting. At right carpenter Mike Butler of Local 1004 adjusts a bathroom door. He's employed by Moore Trosper.



Local 357 Glaziers & Glassworkers



Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6pm. We will be voting on the allocation of the Local #357 June 1, 2021 raise increase.

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 have 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

\$1.8 Million Largest in History of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.

ASBESTOS

FREE ASBESTOS CLAIM EVALUATION

GOLDBERG PERSKY WHITE P.C.
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ASBESTOS CLAIMS

Evaluation Request Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Date of Birth: _____

Union : _____ Local No: _____

Dates of Employment: _____ thru _____

Have you been exposed to asbestos?

Yes No

Have you been diagnosed with:

Mesothelioma Asbestosis

Lung Cancer Colon Cancer

Do you have shortness of breath?

Yes No

Return this form to:

Goldberg, Persky & White, PC

P.O.Box 5769, Saginaw, Michigan 48603 or

Call 800-799-2234

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis.

Many Michigan building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Thousands have developed asbestos disease. Some are not aware they were even exposed.

For more than 30 years, GPW has represented thousands of Michigan union workers in lawsuits against the asbestos industry. We can arrange a free chest x-ray review by a NIOSH Certified B-Reader to all qualified building tradesmen with start dates prior to 1980.

Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. No recovery-no fee

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Return the form or contact us today:
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Outdoors

Fishing Michigan? Explore your options



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Jennifer Johnson, author of this article, is shown with her husband, Andrew Johnson, with their catch of yellow perch from Lake Gogebic

By Jennifer Johnson
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

In Michigan, we are lucky to have 11,000 inland lakes to enjoy. Whether we fish, swim or boat – we have plenty of options.

With that being said, we can easily slip into our familiar routines and keep to the lakes we know – going to the same lake, at the same spot and using the same gear.

This is very tempting, and admittedly I often do that. With the everyday demands of life – working full time, managing a household and balancing my family's activities – squeezing in a quick afternoon of ice fishing often can be done only at my usual lakes.

Venturing out to new places can feel like a gamble.

I often read on ice-fishing social media groups, "I live in Houghton in Houghton County, is it worth the three-hour drive to the Bays de Noc in Delta County?" Of course, the answer

is "yes!" But to go all that way and not catch fish can be disheartening and discourage the angler the next time they want to branch out to new ice-fishing spots.

To fish a new lake, there are a few options an angler can try.

The first approach is to reach out to friends who live out of town and meet them at their favorite lake. There are multiple benefits to this approach.

Putting this idea to work, obviously, you get to visit friends you may not have seen in a while. Additionally, they will know the lake already – where the deep spots are, where the structure is and places on the lake to avoid (e.g. inlets and outlets where the ice may be thinner). Maybe they know which bait works best (wigglers versus waxworms).

My husband and I have good friends who live in Alger County, and we recently went to Au Train Lake. I ended up catching a nice 25-inch northern pike off a tip-up and numerous yellow

perch (on the small side but still fun to catch).

The second approach to finding new hard water to test is to see if there is a guiding service available for hire. This works very well if you are planning a big trip on a lake you've always wanted to fish, or if you have a short amount of time to explore the body of water. It's the guide's job to know the lake and to provide you with a great fishing experience.

My husband and I recently did this on Lake Gogebic in Ontonagon and Gogebic counties. I've long wanted to ice fish for the infamous "jumbo perch" on Lake Gogebic, but we were limited on the amount of time we had to go over there to fish.

The guide we hired knew exactly where to go, and which bait and techniques to use. We had such a good time, caught the jumbo perch we wanted, and I would certainly go back there.

The third approach is to venture out on your own. This has

the most prep work involved but can pay off in dividends in the end. Here are some tips that can increase your chance of a successful angling trip on a new waterbody.

If you don't have a specific lake in mind, first think about how far you are willing to drive and which types of fish you want to target. The answers to those two questions should narrow your choices to a more manageable level.

There are many ways to get information on a specific lake:

- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources fish stocking database (Google: "Michigan fish stocking database") includes information on fish the DNR has stocked dating back to 1979. Anglers can search by county, waterbody and species.

- The DNR weekly fishing report (Google: Michigan DNR weekly fishing report) provides fishing conditions for numerous bodies of water across the state.

- Inland lake maps that provide depth contours and habitat characteristics are an essential component in learning about a lake. The DNR makes many lake maps available to the public.

- Contact your local DNR fisheries biologists and ask them for lakes to target and winter access.

- Contact local bait shops. They can provide valuable information on area lakes.

- Online forums and social media groups are often a bit secretive about providing details on good fishing locations, but they can be really good sources to ask about current local ice conditions.

Once you pick the lake, make sure to have a plan for the day. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back home. It's always recommended to bring another fishing partner with you, especially when going to a new lake.

Safety should always be the number one priority, so bring along a rope and ice picks in case you or someone in your party falls through the ice. Having a winter

emergency pack that includes a change of warm, dry clothes is important too. Find more safety tips at Michigan.gov/IceSafety.

Make sure all your gear is in working condition. The last thing you want is for your auger to not run once you get to the lake. I also bring multiple tip-ups and fishing poles. Prepare for worst-case scenarios with your gear. With use over time, something will eventually break, and it's usually not in the comfort of your home when it does.

Before heading to the lake, be sure to stop at the local bait shop you called earlier for any supplies or bait you may need.

Even on the lake you always go to, try a new location, bait or time of day.

Earlier this winter, my daughter

"Between two evils, I always pick the one I never tried before."
–Mae West (1892 - 1980)

"The trick is not how much pain you feel - but how much joy you feel. Any idiot can feel pain. Life is full of excuses to feel pain, excuses not to live, excuses, excuses."
–Erica Jong

"The universe may have a purpose, but nothing we know suggests that, if so, this purpose has any similarity to ours."
–Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

ter Rhiannon told me she was "getting bored" going to the same spot on Sawyer Lake in Dickinson County. So, the next time we went out, we tried a location completely across from where we typically go.

It certainly paid off, because Rhiannon ended up catching a 14-inch black crappie that day. She and my son, Xander, each caught pike, so our "gamble" paid off.

If you feel your ice fishing lately has gotten into a rut or too much of a routine, remember in Michigan we have 11,000 inland lakes out there waiting to be explored.

Whether you reach out to friends or a guide or decide to venture out on your own, make sure to take advantage of these opportunities and explore new waters.

"To find a fault is easy; to do better may be difficult."
–Plutarch (46 AD - 120 AD)

"Honesty is a good thing, but it is not profitable to its possessor unless it is kept under control."
–Don Marquis (1878 - 1937)

"Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses."
–Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

AFL-CIO affiliated Local Union families and friends are welcome to join us for the 12th Annual

IBEW Local 58 Benevolent Fund
Detroit River Walleye Tournament

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

(Rain or Shine) Outside Event

Masks/Social Distancing Required

per State/MDHHS Mandate

50% of Entry Fees to Benevolent Fund

\$25 Per Person / 4 People to a Boat*

3 PRIZES AWARDED

INCLUDING BIG FISH CONTEST

FISH FRY FOLLOWING WEIGH-IN @

UNION HALL AT 3:30 PM

Entry Form & Rules are available at Local 58 or on our

website at: www.ibewlocal58.org



ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY WED, APRIL 28th, 2021

Make checks payable to: Local 58 Benevolent Fund

Mail or Bring to: 1358 Abbott St., Detroit, MI 48226 Attn: Michael Bellhorn

For further information call 313.963.2130

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