

# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

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## SHORT CUTS

### Union picks placed on workforce panel

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on May 29 signed an executive order creating the Michigan Workforce Development Board — with some welcome construction labor union representation.

“Here in Michigan, the birthplace of the middle class, we must all work together to ensure paths to opportunity for everyone. This board will be vital in continuing our efforts to grow both our workforce and our economy,” said Whitmer. “This group of leaders will be instrumental in bringing together efforts and partners from key industries to expand our workforce, economy and educational attainment efforts.”

Included on the list of 20: Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council President Steve Claywell, Operating Engineers Local 324 Labor Management Education Committee Executive Director Lee Graham, and Upper Peninsula Construction Council Executive Director Tony Retaskie (member of IBEW Local 906).

They are joined with a group of religious, academic, government and business leaders for terms up to four years including Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Consumers Energy CEO Patti Poppe, and Central Michigan University President Robert Davies. A federal law requires the governor to abolish previous, similar panels and establish a new state workforce development board.

“Preparing the state’s workforce for jobs of the future and making sure that Michigan wins on talent will be incredibly important as we work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to working with these key industry, labor and community leaders, utilizing their diverse perspectives as we build a stronger Michigan together,” said Jeff Donofrio, director of the state Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

### Whitmer taps IBEW’s Egan for COVID post

LANSING — Sean Egan, former business manager of West Michigan IBEW Local 275, and currently the state’s deputy director for Labor at the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, was appointed an additional role on June 5 to serve as director of COVID-19 Workplace Safety.

“Sean Egan has spent his career helping working families in Michigan and I am confident he will continue to do everything in his power to protect workers and their families from the spread of COVID-19,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “He will be responsible for helping ensure that as businesses across the state begin to reopen under the MI Safe Start Plan, they enact strict safety measures to protect the health and safety of employees and customers.”

The appointment follows efforts to ensure Michigan workers are protected as the state opens different sectors of the economy.

“As a Navy veteran, journeyman electrician, activist and proud Michigander, I have spent my career helping families in this state and I am honored to be appointed to serve as Director of COVID-19 Workplace Safety,” said Egan.

### Quotable

“Never, never be afraid to do what’s right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society’s punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1929-1968



THE 300,000 SQUARE-FOOT Dakkota-Kettering plant going up on Detroit’s east side will be a supplier to Fiat Chrysler’s Mack Avenue plant, which is undergoing a transformation and is where the next generation Jeep Grand Cherokee will be assembled.

## Trades building new plant for FCA supplier Dakkota

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

DETROIT — A new \$55 million manufacturing facility that will supply parts to Fiat Chrysler (FCA) is going up on land adjacent to the former Kettering High School on Detroit’s east side.

Devon Industrial Group, a minority-owned firm in partnership with Walbridge, is managing construction of the 300,000 square-foot facility for Dakkota Integrated Systems, a tier-one automotive supplier. It will use the plant to supply parts to various Michigan-based FCA

manufacturing facilities, and offer 625 jobs in assembly operations, material handling, quality inspection, skilled trades and logistics.

“Construction is going very well,” said Devon Industrial Group Supt. Gary Newsom. “There are a lot of good subcontractors; a lot of good people on the job.” And despite the scheduling and personnel complications wrought by the COVID-19 virus, which led to a relatively minor short-term loss of tradespeople for about a week and a half, “we’re on schedule,” Newsom said.

The project, which began in January, is expected to employ about 90 tradespeople this year during the course of the project. Located off of Van Dyke east of I-94, the pre-engineered plant sits on an 18-acre site next to the former Kettering High, which closed in 2012. The high school building still stands, and while urban scavengers have done their worst in stripping out copper pipe and other things of value from the building, its future use is unclear and is not part of this project. Rose Elementary school

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TEAMING UP TO MOVE a bundle of three-inch gas pipe at the Dakkota-Kettering project are Paul Wisniewski of Plumbers 98 (employed by Guideline) and Jacob Fraley of Operating Engineers Local 324.

## COVID-19 hasn’t shaken ENR’s Top 400 contractors – yet

This isn’t 2019 anymore. As much as the U.S. construction industry would like to turn back the clock to the pre-COVID-19 days, a time machine isn’t an option, and going forward, owners, contractors and tradespeople are met with prospects for a bleak economy that will have its challenges, to put it mildly.

Every year at this time, the *Engineering News Record* publishes its annual list of the Top

400 U.S. construction contractors, in terms of revenue, comparing the present year and the year prior. Overall 2019 was a good year for most contractors, including many in Michigan, and the good times moved into the first couple of months of 2020.

“The construction industry is cyclical, riding the ups and downs of economic trends,” the *ENR* said in presenting its list. “When 2020 began, the industry was on the upswing. Many large

contractors were confident that they could ride out any possible downturn that may come along, using large backlogs to get them through possible future tough times.

“But the current COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything the industry has experienced in generations. There was no warning, and rather than a tapering off of markets from economic troubles or even natural or man-made disasters, the epidemic hit hard and

fast, leaving a heretofore healthy industry in chaos.”

The contractor list is typically fairly consistent from year to year, but next year’s roster will have revenue numbers that will include the full impact of the COVID-19 crisis on revenues, and it’s likely to be a bit scrambled.

On the list this year, Michigan’s two perennial construction contracting giants roughly maintained their standing among

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## Pension reform on back-burner in Congress

By Jim Kolb & Dana Thompson  
The Association of Union Constructors

Breaking through the noise to make sure your voice is heard in Washington can be very challenging. That is one reason the Construction Employers of America (CEA) was created — to ensure that signatory contractors have a voice in the policy

debates in Washington affecting the construction industry.

The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC) and the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association (SMACNA)



are founding members of the CEA, which comprises more than a half-dozen national union construction contracting associations. We work together to raise awareness of the value of high-quality construc-

tion and engage on a range of public-policy initiatives to strengthen the domestic construction industry.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions on travel and large gatherings forced CEA to cancel its National Issues Conference, which would have been held May 5-7 in Washington. Each year,

(Continued on Page 13)

## OSHA’s silence is deafening during COVID-19 crisis

By Mark Gruenberg  
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) — The top official in President Donald Trump’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration reluctantly admitted OSHA has done little enforcement against firms that have broken federal “guidance” on how to prevent the coronavirus pandemic from spreading through workplaces and beyond.

“We’ve issued one citation under (OSHA’s) our existing standard,” OSHA’s General Duty

### Agency’s top official admits they do little enforcement involving the coronavirus

Clause, for violating job safety and health laws since the pandemic began, OSHA Acting Deputy Director Loren Sweatt told Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., during a May 28 House Education and Labor subcommittee oversight hearing.

That’s even though OSHA has fielded approximately 5,000 worker complaints so far about employers’ lack of protection

against the virus’s spread, she said several times. “We give them (firms) guidance they need” not enforcement, Sweatt said.

None of this satisfied panel Democrats, who wanted to know why the agency isn’t proactive, rather than reactive, in mandating employers protect workers from the virus.

“More than three-fourths of OSHA inspections have started

after fatalities have occurred” from the virus, Rep. Andy Levin, D-Mich., a former AFL-CIO deputy organizing director, told Sweatt. “Every day, I get calls from frightened workers. What do I tell them?”

The committee’s hearing focused on OSHA’s actions, or lack of them, during the pandemic, which has left almost 1.7 million people ill in the U.S. since mid-March and killed more than 100,000. That includes more than 100 dead health care workers and

(Continued on Page 3)

## ‘Sobering’ construction downturn does a number on the industry

By Marty Mylcahy  
Editor

U.S. construction spending and employment numbers in Michigan and the rest of the nation are going to improve. They have to, eventually. But the near-term employment and spending statistics are brutal.

Never in the nation’s history has the construction industry seen a six week stretch where 81 percent of activity in the building trades simply stopped, as it did in Michigan, with total construction hours worked between March 1 and May 4 dropping 69 percent.

Michigan’s construction industry has been one of the hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis, but we’re not alone in our misery. Some newer employment and spending numbers in the U.S. construction industry have been released, and they tell a tale of woe across the nation.

U.S. construction spending plunged 2.9 percent in April to \$1.35 trillion, according to Census Bureau figures released June 1, as governmental agencies and project owners shut down ongoing work and canceled projects that were about to break ground, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America.

AGC officials warned that further steep declines are “inevitable” for public projects unless the federal government acts quickly to invest in needed infrastructure and shore up crumbling state and local budgets.

“Bad though these numbers are, construction spending appears sure to shrink further,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist. “In our latest survey, 40 percent of contractors report that an upcoming project has been canceled. But this is a great time to undertake needed infrastructure projects, with more availability of labor, lower materials costs and record-low borrowing costs for many public agencies.”

The AGC report said that 10 out of 12 public and 10 out of 11

### Jobless, spending statistics portend ‘a very long road back to normalcy’

private nonresidential construction categories in the Census Bureau’s monthly construction spending release declined from March to April. Highway and street construction tumbled by an especially steep amount, 5.2 percent.

“Although there have been scattered reports of acceleration in highway spending, many state and local transportation departments have been postponing or canceling projects as fuel-tax and toll revenues plummet,” Simonson said. “The highway

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### States paying ‘staggering’ jobless benefits, but the demand rate is falling

If you have remarkably high national unemployment rate of 13.3 percent, it’s going to be costly in a variety of ways.

One of them, says Lansing-based Anderson Economic Group (AEG), is the downstream cost of unemployment insurance claims made by 21.5 million laid-off workers as of the end of May.

“We estimate that the effective ‘payroll’ of state unemployment offices is now in excess of \$16 billion per week,” said Anderson Economic Group Principal and CEO Patrick L. Anderson last month. “States are quickly becoming one of the largest sources of household income in the country. The scale and magnitude of these benefits is changing the way Americans view work during this coronavirus depression.”

AEG estimates show that some states are now pumping nearly \$1 billion in weekly payments into their economies through their unemployment insurance programs — “a staggering total that dwarfs the weekly payrolls of many private sector businesses,” AEG said. These benefits include a state payment, as well as a \$600 weekly federal supplement under the federal CARES act.

That \$600 jobless worker supplement, adopted in Congress as part of the first worker relief package after the coronavirus closures devastated the economy, is said to be a major holdup among Republicans in Congress to passing a second stimulus package. They see it as a disincentive for laid-off workers to go back to their jobs, with some earning more to stay at home than to go back to work. That supplement expires next month.

“There’s broad agreement within the Senate GOP conference that the \$600-a-week federal enhancement of state unemployment benefits — a core element of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act — is too generous and provides a disincentive

(Continued on Page 3)



STATES HAVE been on their own in developing protocols to deal with COVID on building sites.



# Viewpoints



## OSHA won't act for workers

On May 18, the AFL-CIO filed a petition for a writ of mandamus in the U.S. Court of Appeals to compel the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an emergency temporary standard (ETS) protecting U.S. workers against the coronavirus.

The petition demonstrates that thousands of workers have been infected on the job through exposure to infected patients, co-workers and unscreened members of the public. As the economy reopens and people return to work, person-to-person contact will increase and health experts predict the already shocking number of infections and deaths among workers will rise.

"It's truly a sad day in America when working people must sue the organization tasked with protecting our health and safety," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "But we've been left no choice. Millions are infected and more than 100,000 have died, so it's beyond urgent that action is taken to protect workers who risk our lives daily to respond to this public health emergency. If the Trump administration refuses to act, we must compel them to."

Even with overwhelming evidence that additional protection is needed, Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia has been unwilling to fulfill the duties Congress entrusted him with. In response to a letter from Trumka demanding OSHA action, Scalia stated on April 30 that a mandatory standard specifically addressing the grave risk posed by the virus was not necessary.

"OSHA was intended to be that vehicle to protect workers, yet it is not. The dozens of OSHA complaints across the country we have filed have been met by silence as the Trump administration refuses to do its job to enforce a safe workplace standard," said American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten. "And this has had a huge effect: Our members are getting sick and dying - we have lost more than 160 members including public employees, health care workers and educators to COVID-19, many of which could have been prevented if they had been provided the proper protections. Health care and other essential workers can't simply rely on their union buying them PPE, as we have done, or the gratitude of strangers. This action is needed to get the Trump administration to do its job."

From the AFL-CIO

## Respect from the building trades

WASHINGTON, D.C. - June 1, 2020 - This statement was issued in response to the nationwide protests following the death of George Floyd under the knee of a police officer in Minneapolis:

"In response to a grave miscarriage of humanity and justice laid bare for the world to see, thousands of peaceful protesters rightfully demonstrated their abhorrence and intolerance for such behavior in a country they call home. We stand firmly behind the African-American community that for too long has had to endure humiliation and dehumanization in the shadows, in silence and with no prospect of meaningful redress. Real reform must be undertaken and enacted immediately so that the historically brutalized and marginalized among us may have a modest reprieve and a glimmer of hope that a nation that espouses equality and protection under the law for all its people is living up to its stated ideals and foundational promise.

"The greatness of America is the right to protest for right. Those who have sought to undermine the legitimacy of these aggrieved community protests with opportunistic and malevolent selfishness have further alienated well-intentioned citizens of all backgrounds and have themselves inflicted injustice on all who call themselves Americans. North America's Building Trades Unions and, indeed, the American labor movement have and will continue to cherish our First Amendment rights to peacefully protest and speak truth to power. We hope that those who have been moved to protest as a result of the outrageous actions of individuals sworn to uphold the law, to serve and protect the communities they police, continue to distinguish themselves from those who seek to undermine and distract from true pain and long suffered trauma.

"While we all look around for leadership, we must first recognize and know who we are and look within. It is our hope that Americans of goodwill will now rise and shine as beacons of love and light in this moment of darkness and despair. The men and women of North America's Building Trades Unions will do whatever it takes to help provide a model of decency, understanding and respect for our fellow citizens."

Sean McGarvey

President, North America's Building Trades Unions

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.

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# New plant for FCA supplier Dakkota

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at the site was demolished and its former space is being used for rainwater detention.

"We're excited to bring good manufacturing jobs to the east side of Detroit," said Dakkota Integrated Systems CEO and President Andra Rush when the project was announced nearly a year ago. "Our mission is to profitably create jobs and develop top talent, all while exceeding our customers' expectations. We're so proud to support FCA, provide employment opportunities in Detroit, and showcase world-class quality auto parts built by hardworking Detroiters. We appreciate the mayor and his team for helping us make this happen. This is a win for all parties."

Newsom said the metal-skinned building is akin to "a big

Costco," basically a sea of six-inch thick concrete flooring that support walls and interior columns and wide-open space under a roof that's as tall as 39 feet. He said in recent weeks the trades on site have been busy building 16 loading docks, completing the siding and roof, and pouring and finishing floors.

The plant is expected to be fully handed over by Devon to the owner at the end of Novem-

ber. One of Dakkota's products will be a dashboard that will go into a new Jeep plant also under construction on Detroit's east side. Dakkota Integrated Systems is a joint venture established in 2001 between majority partner Rush Group LLC and Magna International Inc.,

Fiat Chrysler said in a statement: "We applaud Dakkota's commitment to invest in a new manufacturing facility on

Detroit's east side and to join FCA in putting Detroiters first. While this new facility will bring even more new jobs to the area and strengthen our manufacturing footprint, we also believe that investments like this one will help build a more vibrant community and provide stability for the future.

We encourage others to take notice and join us in investing in Detroit."

## COVID-19 hasn't shaken ENR's Top 400 contractors - as of yet

(Continued from Page 1)

the top 100 contractors in 2019, with Southfield-based Barton Malow dropping six spots to No. 46 in the U.S. Meanwhile, Detroit-based Walbridge moved up 10 spots to No. 49 in 2020. Joining them again this year in the Top 100 contractors was Lansing-based Christman Co., No. 88, which moved up five spots.

Other Michigan-based contractors and their 2020 positions on the list compared to 2019 include: Rockford Construction Co., Grand Rapids (No. 204, +39); Aristeo, Livonia (No. 206, -12); Pioneer Construction, Grand Rapids (No. 263, +5); Wieland, Lansing (No. 273, +46); Granger Construction, Lansing (No. 282, +22); Clark Construction, Lansing (No. 291, +29); Roncelli, Sterling Heights (No. 301, +39); Commercial Contracting Corp. (No. 323, -63); Ideal Contracting, Detroit (No. 358, unlisted in 2019); Wolverine Building Group, Grand Rapids (No. 379, -21); Auch Construction, Pontiac (No. 383, unlisted in 2019).

The top five U.S. firms include Bechtel (Reston, Va.), Turner Corp (NYC), Aecom (Los Angeles), Whiting-Turner (Baltimore), and Kiewit (Omaha).



TENSIONING CABLES on a wall at the Dakkota-Kettering project in Detroit are iron workers David Urchick and Stephen Gavin. They're employed by Midwest Steel.

## Corporate raider rigs the rules

By Jim Hightower

Monty Bennett was just another faceless right-wing millionaire on the long list of high-dollar donors to Donald Trump - until he suddenly surfaced in April as the nation's biggest bagger of government cash in the emergency

check Protection Program. Bennett got \$76 million from this fund meant to help small businesses keep people employed in today's pandemic shutdown of the economy. But there's nothing mom-and-popish about Monty's business.

Operating through a maze of tightly interwoven financial trusts and corporate subsidiaries, Bennett runs a sprawling, Dallas-based conglomerate named Ashford Inc. that owns and operates 130 hotels and luxury re-

sorts all across the country, including the Marriott Beverly Hills and the Ritz-Carlton in the Virgin Islands.

How does a multibillion-dollar empire get such payments while legitimate small businesses are shut out? The old-fashioned way: By paying lobbyists and lawmakers to rig the rules to let corporate thieves raid the treasury.

A major donor to Trump and GOP congress critters, Bennett pressured them to punch a special interest loophole in the program, decreeing that while a big business cannot apply for payments, each "unit" of a big business can.

So... gotcha! In early April, before most of America's Main Street enterprises even knew relief was available, Ashford's squad of manipu-

lators were running all-night sessions for each of the hotels it owns, getting them to rush out "individual" applications. This twisting of the PPP fund made the slick hotelier King of Bailout Hill, having scooped up 339 times more than the average applicant received.

In addition to stiffing small businesses, Bennett balked at the requirement that the bulk of taxpayer dollars be used to maintain the paychecks of Ashford's hotel employees. Instead, he loudly insisted that government aid should be available to bolster corporate owners - i.e., him.

Did you know that "boss," spelled backwards, is double-S.O.B?

via [www.otherwords.org](http://www.otherwords.org)

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

-Marie Curie (1867 - 1934)

"The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it."

-Franklin P. Jones

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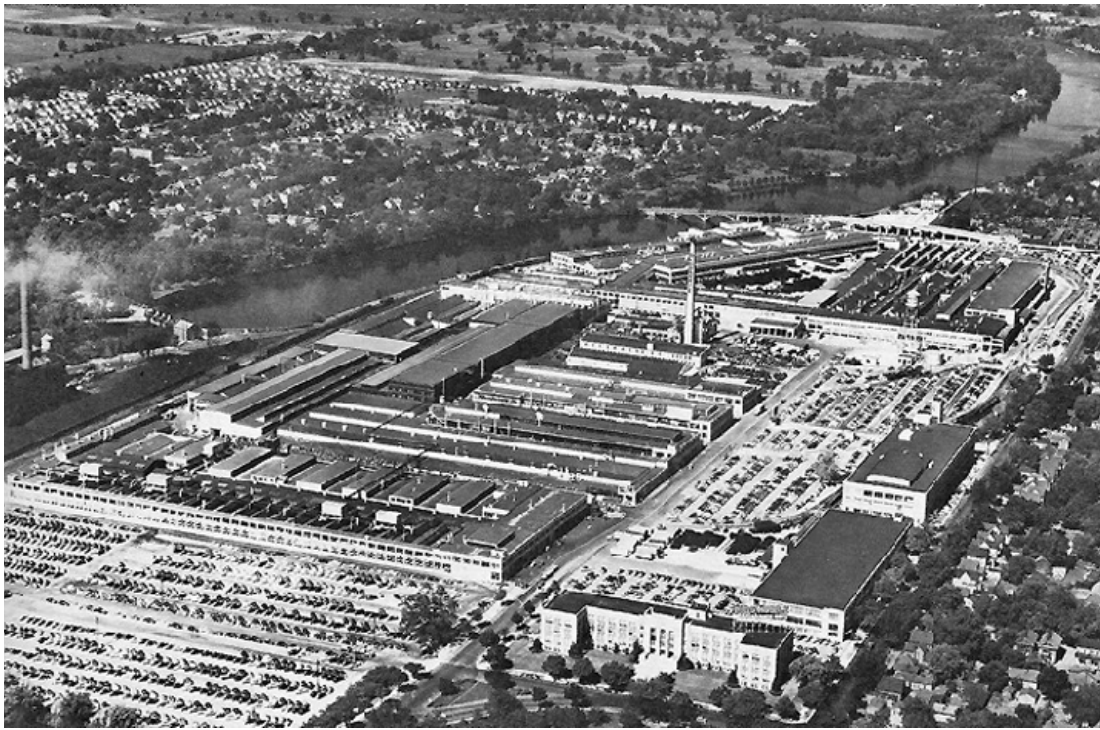
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## BUILDING MICHIGAN!

### The Lansing legacy of Ransom E. Olds HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



LANSING'S OLDSMOBILE PLANT along the Grand River had grown considerably over the years by the time this photo was taken in 1950. Now demolished, it was the longest-operating automobile factory in the United States when it closed on May 6, 2005. Today, much of the space has been replaced with the GM Grand River Assembly Plant.

Photo credit: usautoindustryworldwartwo.com/

The City of Lansing's biggest claim to fame, of course, is being Michigan's state capital. And the most prominent symbol of this is the beautiful State Capitol Building at Allegan and Capitol avenues.

But the city has another major claim to fame – in the person of Ransom E. Olds – who put a singular mark on the city's landscape by developing not one, but two major factory sites. And in so doing he helped create a pathway to the middle class for tens of thousands of mid-Michigan workers during the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century who worked in the factories he founded. He was also no small player in the state's rich automotive history.

It's "notable," writes Ben Wojdyla of *Jalopnik*, "that Henry Ford, genius of mass production and ardent anti-Semitic founder of Ford Motor Co., didn't actually invent the assembly line, despite often being credited as such. The honor for this innovation instead rests on one of the giants of the era, Ransom Eli Olds.

"Ransom is one of the forgotten masters of the early century, the man most credited with bringing mass-production to Detroit and largely establishing the auto industry. The Oldsmobile Curved Dash was, for a time during the nineteen-ought's, the best-selling car in America and is considered the first mass-produced vehicle in history."

Born in Geneva, Ohio, Olds grew up the son of a blacksmith, and he began tinkering with gasoline engines in the 1890s after moving to Lansing. In 1895 Ransom and his father opened the Olds Gasoline Engine Works where they experimented, and by 1896 had built their first gasoline-powered automobile.

"The spark of auto innovation ignited here in the 1890's," says the Greater Lansing Michigan Convention & Visitors Bureau. "P.F. Olds founded a prosperous machine shop here on River Street, repairing and building steam and gasoline engines. His was one of many Lansing manufacturing plants that produced small engines, carriages, windmills and other equipment used by farmers and businesses. His son, Ransom, had bigger ideas. He put engines in carriages, creating his first successful 'horseless carriage' in 1896. A year later, the Olds Motor Vehicle Co. became Michigan's first operating automobile company."

Ransom E. Olds started the Olds Motor Vehicle Co. in 1897, starting with the assembly of four cars. The company was purchased by a copper and lumber magnate, Samuel Smith, in 1899, and renamed the Olds Mo-



THE OLDS curved dash, 1903.

tor Works. The company was relocated from Lansing to Detroit, with Smith as president and Ransom Olds as vice president and general manager.

Catastrophe hit, as the Olds Detroit plant burned to the ground in March 1901 after limited production had taken place. Saved from the fire was a key prototype, the Curved Dash Oldsmobile, and Olds used it as a model for manufacturing when the company then moved back to Lansing.

The first Olds plant in Lansing was erected in 1901 on the site of the city's fairgrounds next to the Grand River. This downtown plant would later be known as GM's Lansing Car Assembly – Chassis Plant.

"The Lansing plant," says *Michigan History*, produced 400 Curved-Dash Oldsmobiles in 1901 "and was the first American car to be produced using the progressive assembly-line system, as well as the first to become a commercial success. Production of the Curved-Dash would increase steadily to 4,000 by 1904."

Olds "devised a progressive assembly line system, which contained all the elements of the modern assembly line with the exception of the power conveyor" according to his biographer Glenn A. Niemeyer. The stationary line was still an improvement over traditional manufacturing, and it enabled Olds to more than quintuple his factory's output, from 425 cars in 1901 to 2,500 in 1902.

Olds "not only radically reduced the price of the car but made interchangeable parts the order of the day," wrote Wojdyla. "When supply was outstripped by demand, Olds developed and patented the very first assembly line. Ransom put in place much of what we recognize as the assembly line today, defined repetitive operations, fixed stations and parts delivered to the worker."

"Olds was 'the first company organized specifically to produce cars in quantity,'" said the *Oldsmobile Club*.

Olds and his connection to his namesake company didn't last long. In 1904, Ransom Olds clashed with Samuel Smith's son over the direction of the company, and Ransom sold his interest in the company and went on to form the REO Motor Car Co. in Lansing in 1905. The REO name was taken from Ransom's initials,

and was used to avoid a lawsuit over the Olds name.

Ransom Olds didn't go far to build his new REO plant, which was erected on 16.5 acres at 2100 S. Washington St. It was and is in an area called REO Town, built south of downtown Lansing.

"Shortly after he left the Olds Motor Works," said *Historic Structures*, "Olds announced the formation of the Reo Motor Car Co. and began construction of a factory, (Building No. 2) and office, (Building No. 1) on land which he had purchased previously in connection with his peat business. Within a year, the plant and office structures were completed, and as Reo's business increased, he expanded the size of his original plant by adding an additional story."

Around the same time, he constructed three smaller factories (Buildings No. 5, 6, 7) adjacent to it and gradually increased them in size over the years. By 1908, the engineering building (Building No. 4), where Olds helped design a number of the company's models, had been completed. Six years later, he built another large factory. In 1917 the company completed a beautiful clubhouse facility to provide for employees' recreational needs.

REO was one of the top four brands in the United States in 1907, but faded later due to competition from industry giants Ford and GM. The company added a truck line in 1910, but still remained small.

In 1915, Olds relinquished the title of REO's general manager to his protégé, and eight years later he ended his tenure as the company's presidency, retaining the position of chairman of the board.

Gradually, Olds withdrew from active management, "and the firm confined itself largely to the manufacture of quality medium-priced cars and trucks on a relatively small scale," says *Historic Structures*. In the 1930s REO's automobile production ceased with the 1936 Flying Cloud, and the firm concentrated on its line of trucks before it was eventually merged with several other truck manufacturers. The company stayed in business producing trucks during World War II.

Ransom Olds died in 1950. After the company was sold in 1954 and later merged, the final Diamond Reo Trucks, Inc. filed for bankruptcy and closed the REO Town works in 1975.

Much of the campus was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, but that designation didn't save it: the buildings were demolished by early 1980.

## 'Sobering' construction downturn does a number on the industry

(Continued from Page 1) construction downturn is likely to intensify in future months because, in many states, April is normally the first month of significant highway spending following winter shutdowns.

"In addition, public educational construction dropped by 2.3 percent from March to April, while public spending on transportation infrastructure slipped by 1.4 percent. All public categories are at risk of further declines unless the federal government fills some of the holes that have opened in state and local government budgets."

On a year-to-date basis through four months of 2020, total U.S. construction starts were 8 percent lower than the same period in 2019, reported Dodge Data and Analytics.

"The April starts data is definitely sobering, but also very much expected," said Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. "The near shuttering of the economy during April had a significant negative effect on the construction industry, leading to delays in both ongoing projects as well as those about to break ground. Even though parts of the country are beginning to reopen, and

some areas that had paused construction are now restarting, it will be a very long road back to normalcy for the construction industry. Continued fear of a resurgence in the virus will lead to a continued reduction in economic activity over the coming months, affecting construction projects across the country. The economic and construction recoveries will remain sluggish until a vaccine or viable treatment becomes available."

Two days after the latest construction spending figures were released, more updated, unhappy employment numbers came out.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that construction employment declined in more than nine out of 10 metro areas from March to April, a time when industry employment typically increases in most locations.

New York City, the AGC reported, lost the largest number of construction jobs for the month: 75,900 jobs, or 49 percent of the March total. There were also extremely large construction job losses in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, Wash. area, 44,200 jobs or 41 percent. Construction employment fell by half or more in three areas: Montgomery

County-Bucks County-Chester County, Pa. (-54 percent, -27,200 jobs); Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, Mich. (-52 percent, -26,100 jobs); and Brockton-Bridgewater-Easton, Mass. (-50 percent, -2,300 jobs). All, of course, were coronavirus hotspots.

"Today's employment report shows how few areas were left unscathed by April's unprecedented job losses," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "Sadly, our latest survey shows project cancellations are escalating, making further job losses inevitable unless there is funding for widespread new projects."

### States paying 'staggering' jobless benefits, but the demand rate is falling

(Continued from Page 1) for returning to work," said *The Hill* on June 4. "But many Republican senators, including members of the leadership, now say the federal government should continue to enhance state unemployment benefits or provide a generous back-to-work bonus of \$450 per week for laid-off workers who return to their jobs."

Multiple states have crushing unemployment as a share of their overall workforce as of May 16, the highest being Nevada (24.9 percent), Michigan (22.9 percent), Hawaii (20.6 percent) and New York (19.2 percent).

Michigan had 57,714 new jobless claims for the week ending May 23, according to U.S. Labor Department data released May 28, still one of the highest claim rates in the nation. Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency still has long and frustrating waiting periods for claims that have been endured by jobless claimants, who have overwhelmed the state with claims during the pandemic shutdowns.

Michigan cut employment compensation weeks for jobless workers from 26 weeks to 20 weeks – the stingiest in the nation – under legislation adopted by Republican legislators during the Rick Snyder Administration. But one of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders in March temporarily extended that benefit to 26 weeks, in line with the rest of the states. The AEG estimates that Michigan is sending out about \$840 million in jobless benefits per week.

The Anderson Economic Group estimates that the current average weekly unemployment insurance check is nearly \$1,000 per claimant, consisting of \$370 in state payments (Michigan's max is \$362/week) plus the additional \$600 from the federal government. With 20 million unemployed Americans, and more than 17 million among the "insured unemployed," total weekly payments to workers are roughly \$16.7 billion.

Some good news: in the week ending May 30, the Labor Department reported seasonally adjusted initial U.S. jobless claims was 1.9 million, a decrease of 249,000 from the previous week's revised level. And, fewer jobless benefit applications have been filed each week for eight straight weeks through the end of May. Also, the unemployment rate dropped 1.4 percent on June 5 compared to the month prior.

But that 1.9 million figure is still more than double the pre-coronavirus record of 695,000 claims set in October 1982.

## OSHA's silence is deafening during COVID-19 crisis

(Continued from Page 1) dozens of workers at meat and poultry processing plants.

Congressional Democrats fault President Trump and his regime for delaying action against the virus, not providing needed protective gear for front-line essential workers, and shuffling blame for the virus off on China and responsibility for battling it off on the nation's governors and mayors.

And, as lawmakers learned, OSHA has been more interested in guidance that gets workers out of the way of catching the virus, and the virus out of workplaces, not catching and prosecuting "bad apple" employers that refuse to protect employees.

So as a result, when Sweat ducked a panel member's question about what she would do at, say, a pork production plant where there's a virus outbreak, she recommended having the plant follow federal distancing recommendations.

But she also told Subcommittee Chair Rep. Alva Adams, D-N.C., that "we have 58 compliance inspections going" at meat and poultry processing plants nationwide.

But those probes could each take six months before OSHA decides plant owners didn't protect workers from the virus and thus violated the law's "general duty clause" ordering firms to protect workers against job health and safety hazards, Sweat said.

That didn't satisfy Adams, or other panel Democrats. "If you were a worker, would you feel safer if there was an enforceable (OSHA) standard" forcing firms to protect employees against the virus "or would you feel safer if the firm showed it made a good-faith effort to follow the rules?" Adams asked.

"The agency is doing everything it can to provide guidance" to firms, Sweat replied. "I suggest you act proactively," Levin told Sweat. "Look at the worst sectors and act."

The hearing was originally called to demand answers from OSHA about why it didn't issue

an emergency rule to firms, ordering them to immediately craft and implement plans to protect front-line workers against airborne viruses.

That emergency rule would force firms, and particularly hospitals and nursing homes, but also the poultry and meat processing plants, to protect their workers by buying and providing N95 masks, respirators, hazmat suits, gloves and other shields.

National Nurses United has led a long campaign for such a rule, starting before the coronavirus struck the U.S. full force. In the waning days of the Democratic Obama administration, OSHA was working on a permanent protection rule, too, and had alerted health care facilities in particular to get ready to protect their workers. Trump shelved it.

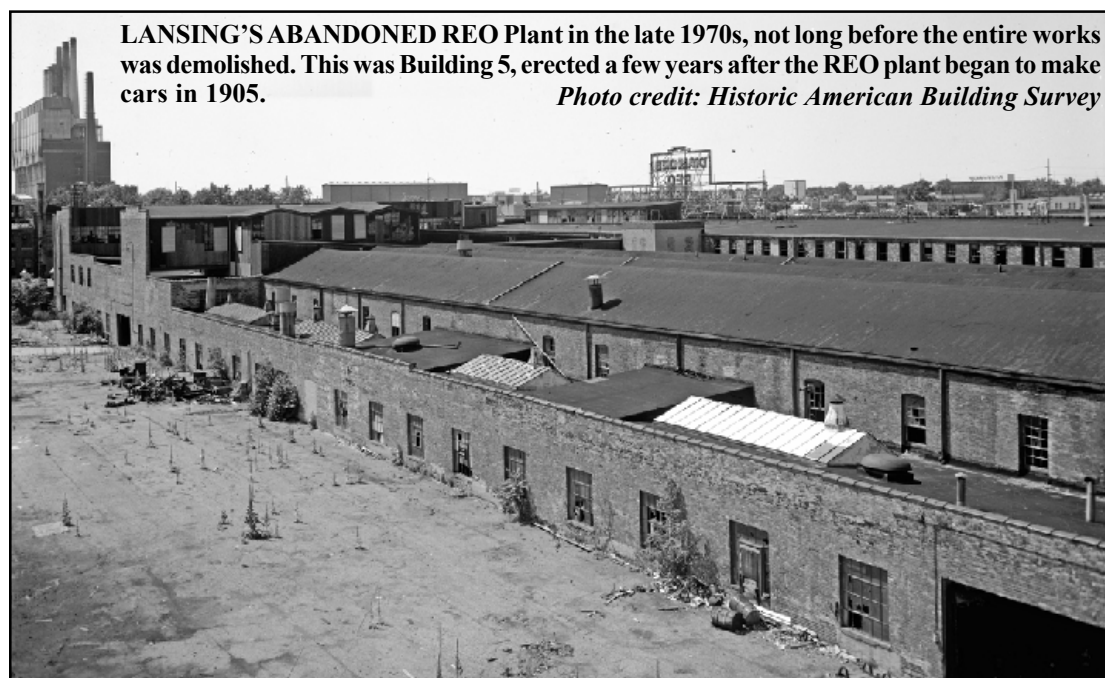
And pushed on the rule issue by Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott, D-Va., Sweat ducked answering "on the advice of counsel" why OSHA wouldn't issue a temporary emergency rule. She also ducked saying whether her boss, Trump Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia, ordered her not to answer.

As for the permanent rule, it's been pushed into the future on the agency's annual rule-making agenda, she admitted. "And that's been postponed" while OSHA deals with the coronavirus pandemic, Sweat added.

By contrast, the other witness, Dr. John Howard, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, bluntly told lawmakers that he would tell frightened pork plant workers not to come to work if they feared they would get sick.

"Would you have provided a mandatory standard?" for firms to follow to stop the airborne virus, Levin asked both Sweat and Howard. Sweat ducked.

Howard, a longtime job safety and health official in California – which, thanks to NNU, has such a standard – simply answered "yes."



LANSING'S ABANDONED REO Plant in the late 1970s, not long before the entire works was demolished. This was Building 5, erected a few years after the REO plant began to make cars in 1905.

Photo credit: Historic American Building Survey

### Just joking

At one point during a game, the coach called one of his 9-year-old baseball players aside and asked, "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?"

"Yes, coach," replied the little boy. "Do you understand that we win or lose together as a team?" The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

"So," the coach continued, "I'm sure you know, when an out is called, you shouldn't argue, curse the umpire, or call him an A-hole. Do you understand all that?"

Again, the little boy nodded in the affirmative. The coach continued, "and when I take you out of the game so that another boy gets a chance to play, it's not a dumb-ass decision and I'm not an SOB, I'm just doing the best that I can. You get that?"

"I understand, coach." "Good!" said the coach. "Now go over there to the stands behind the dugout and explain all that to your grandmother!"

"One thing life has taught me: if you are interested, you never have to look for new interests. They come to you. When you are genuinely interested in one thing, it will always lead to something else."

—Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962)


"A rumor without a leg to stand on will get around some other way."

— John Tudor

"There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge."

—Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)





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

Pipe Fitters 636  
FARMINGTON HILLS—The Union Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday June 16 has been cancelled.

The Union Hall is closed to all foot traffic until further notice. Any Dues payments or SUB transactions can still be done via email or by phone. SUB email is [mapril@pipefitters636.org](mailto:mapril@pipefitters636.org)

The "early start 5 week "boot camp" Apprentice class has resumed as of June 1, 2020. They have 2 weeks remaining to complete their 5 week program, then they will be ready to be dispatched to work. **The Training Center will be open for all classes as of June 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

The Leadership of Local 636 is doing their best to balance the concerns of our members in regards to their health with the concerns of the health of our Union, Trust Funds and Industry. We encourage everyone to fill calls as we are receiving for jobs where all the OSHA regulations working safely are being followed.

These jobs must be filled. If the hours are not worked by our members they will be worked by travelers, which doesn't help our Union or our Trust Funds as the money is sent to the traveler's Home Local.

In situations where a member doesn't have COVID, isn't caring for someone with COVID or eligible under any of the other relaxed rules of the State of MI regarding unemployment benefits; we ask that you take available work, and it is your choice if you do not, but please understand SUB benefits will not be paid in these instances where Traveler fitters are dispatched.

**Also it is your responsibility as a member** to report when you return to work not the contractors. Please call the Hall and speak to the Business Agent on dispatch to report your return to work date.

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 14<sup>th</sup> Annual UA Retiree Golf Outing** will be held on **Monday July 20, 2020** at Sanctuary Lake Golf Club in Troy, MI. We will begin with an 8 am shotgun start, 4 man scramble. Still only \$50 per person for 18 holes of golf with cart, snack at the turn and buffet dinner. Prizes to be dispersed immediately following dinner. It is limited to 72 players so be aware that it is on a first come first serve basis. To purchase tickets, please contact **Frank Grammatico, 586-913-7145.**

**Due to COVID-19** Pipefitters 636 is sad to announce that the **Pipefitters 47th Annual Golf Outing has been cancelled.** Anyone looking for information regarding a Refund please contact Lance Pesci at 248-939-3421

Pipefitters 636 would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Brother Retiree Allen (Al) Schirrick who passed away on May 28, 2020.

**The Retiree Association meeting for the month of June has been cancelled.** The election has been postponed until further notice.

**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.**

New Quarterly ending June 30, 2020 UA Password is: USA Canada Strong

**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,



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

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190  
ANN ARBOR – **UNION MEETING:** The next regular union meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13th at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings. A mailing was also done on June 5th pertaining to the Special Called meeting on Wednesday, June 17th.

**UNION HALL CLOSING FOR AN UP COMING HOLIDAY:** Our office will be closed Friday, July 3rd to observe Independence Day. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

**GOLF OUTING:** Our annual golf outing is cancelled for this year, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

**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 10<sup>th</sup>. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, no later than June 7 <https://uascholarshipfund.communityforce.com>. Contact the union office at (734) 424-0962 for further information.

**OFFICE HOURS: Effective Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>,** the Union Hall office hours are as follows: Monday–Friday: 7:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**The office will be closed daily from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

**2020 - MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL:** Plumbing license renewals are done online **ONLY!!!** For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://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](http://www.ua190.org) Current members

## Local 636, con't

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 No. 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](http://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](http://mustsafe.org) and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENTS.**

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

**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.

**Training Center News.** Our regular apprentice days classes will begin June 15<sup>th</sup>. We have sent out letters and emails to tell you your exact school day, call Kim with any questions.

Call Kim at the training center for first aid online class. Please send all emails and weld continuity's to info@pipefitters636tc.org

**WELDING – 4pm to 8pm.** Regular night welding will begin July 6<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to 8 pm on Mondays, and Thursdays. Cost is \$50 for 40 hours.

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

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

**INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: VISION PROGRAM – EYEMED – IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** EyeMed benefit cards are not necessary to access benefits, however, you may print a card from the EyeMed website. Vision providers should be provided the following information at the time of the appointment; 1) Carrier Name -(EyeMed), 2) Member Name 3) Member Birthdate EyeMed Customer Service Call: 888-581-3648 In Network Provider Listings Call: 866-804-0982 EyeMed Website: [www.eyemed.com](http://www.eyemed.com)

**NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE:** Attention all members, you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation of benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Bernadette will be available by phone call only. 1-888-390-7473**

**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** TRAINING CENTER IS OPENED BACK UP TO MEMBERS WISHING TO UPDATE ANY CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES OR QUALIFICATIONS. **PLEASE NOTE:** You **must** call the training center before arriving. We are following the State and CDC guidelines. You must wear a face mask inside the building.

**Lead/Asbestos/Bloodborne Pathogens Training (4 hours):** Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00p.m. and Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO EIGHT (8)

**First Aide/CPR Training (4 hours):** Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO EIGHT (8)

**WELDING LAB:** Will start back up by appointment only. It will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, starting June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Times are 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. LIMITED TO SEVEN (7) PARTICIPANTS. Call Andy Fielder, at the Training Center to be added to the list.

**ASSE 12000 ICRA (16 hours):** This class begins Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and will take place every Tuesday until July 14<sup>th</sup>. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO EIGHT (8). Will be in-person at the Training Center.

**APPRENTICES PLEASE NOTE:** Make sure your e-mail and phone number are updated at the training center. Please call and dial EXT. 2

**RETIREE MEETINGS – \*\*SPADES AND BREAKFAST MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. These meetings will resume in July.**

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



**Sprinkler Fitters Local 704**  
MOTOR CITY

FARMINGTON – The next regular meeting will be July 8, 2020 at the local union hall at 5:30 P.M. The Executive Board will meet the same night at 4:30 P.M. There will be a vote for allocation of monies held July 8, 2020 at the Local Union Hall. The polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M.

Reminder: Article V, Section 13 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order. Any project that falls into the jurisdiction



**Plumbers & Pipe Fitters**

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333  
LANSING – June's union meeting is CANCELLED.

**Local 333 June 01, 2020 Wage Allocation: \$1.00 per hour will be put on the check, \$.65 per hour as approved last year will go the Pension to lower the retirement age and \$.10 per hour will go to the JATC as our Apprentice numbers are at record levels to offset forecasted retirements. Due to the current situation and Executive Orders we will not be able to vote at this time. However, we will convene as soon as it is safe and legal to review and vote at that time. The allocation will go into effect on June 01, 2020.**

THE LOCAL 333 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR WAS DELAYED ONE MONTH THIS YEAR DUE TO THE COVID 19 OUTBREAK.

Applications will be available May 1, 2020. The deadline to apply has been extended. Applications must be postmarked by July 28, 2020 and in the Jackson office by July 31, 2020. Members may request an application my emailing [joni@jthomas@local333.com](mailto:joni@jthomas@local333.com) or calling 517-784-1106 ext. #4 and leaving a message. Applications will also be available at all three offices when offices reopen.

LOCAL 333 RETIREES' GOLF OUTING HELD IN JUNE IS CANCELLED.

LOCAL 333 PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS GOLF OUTING HELD IN AUGUST IS CANCELLED.

If you're interested in taking any classes please sign up at [www.ua333.org](http://www.ua333.org) or call Trent or Diana at 517-323-0333.

**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 contractors, changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

Weld Test (Second Tuesday of the Month) Weld Test are scheduled each month. (Unless lack of participants) If your Med-Gas Installer is going to expire within the next few months please sign up on our website to take the renewal class. Med-Gas new certification: Please sign up online on our website or contact the training center.

Lansing Board of Water & Light Powerhouse: All members must have their 18 MUST modules and a current drug test on file to get on site. Please call your Business Agent if you need assistance.

**Foreman:** Any journey member interested in Foreman opportunities please call your Business Agent. We have plenty of opportunities available. Get well wishes to Ron Fizzell. Local 333 is wishing you a very speedy recovery.

Sincere condolences to Doug Hamming on the loss of his father Percy Hamming, who passed away May 11, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are you and your loved ones.

tion of Local 704 shall be manned by not less than two members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

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.

Remember to keep your information updated with the Local Union Hall.

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



**Local 671**  
Plumbers, Pipefitters, HVAC & Welders

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671  
MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for **July 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 7pm at the Union hall. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for **July 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 5pm at the Union hall. I will get out a notice to all members if we feel that it is still unsafe to meet.

There will also be a Special Order of Business meeting on **June 18** for the appropriation of the contract raise of \$1.65. We are asking that only voting members attend this meeting. If we can still not have this meeting due to the pandemic, I have been authorized by the General President to allocate the money as needed temporarily until we can meet as a body and vote on the allocation. If anyone has any suggestions on the allocation; please submit them to me via email or text message.

**Notice:** Until further notice all retirees' luncheons are cancelled.

The Union hall is closed to all visitors until further notice in response to Covid-19 and to practice social distancing within the Hall. We are manning the phones and conducting the necessary daily business. If you need to come to the Union office for any reason, please call ahead and we will make arrangements. If you have any health insurance issues please call the insurance line at (734) 241-6180 and you will be connected with Carly or you can call TIC, our 3<sup>rd</sup> party administrator at (517) 321-7502.

**Congratulations:** I would like to congratulate Brother Mike Jones and his wife Dawn on the birth of their son Emery James on May 8<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to Congratulate Brother Jake Jondro and his wife Rachel on the birth of their new son Caleb Jacob on May 26. We wish you good health and happiness with your new family members.

**Condolences:** We extend our condolences to Brother Ed Hoffer on the loss of his Mother on May 20<sup>th</sup>. We are very sorry for your loss and our prayers and thoughts go out to you and your family in this difficult time.

**Fermi Outage:** The Fermi RF20 Outage has been extended and continues to be a challenge with Covid-19. Please keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers for a safe and successful completion to this long outage.

**Mobile App:** Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for I phone or Android. The Username for Local 671 Members is your last name and your book number (UA Card Number). The Password is your book number. **Please download this app so you can keep up on current information that the hall needs to get out.**

**Health and Welfare:** We met telephonically on May 20<sup>th</sup> and I will give a report to the membership in July at our membership meeting. If the membership meeting is cancelled, I will get some information out to the members electronically. If you have any insurance or RX issues please contact us to help you through them. Carly can be reached directly by using the health line at (734) 241-6180 or you can call the Hall at (734) 242-5711.

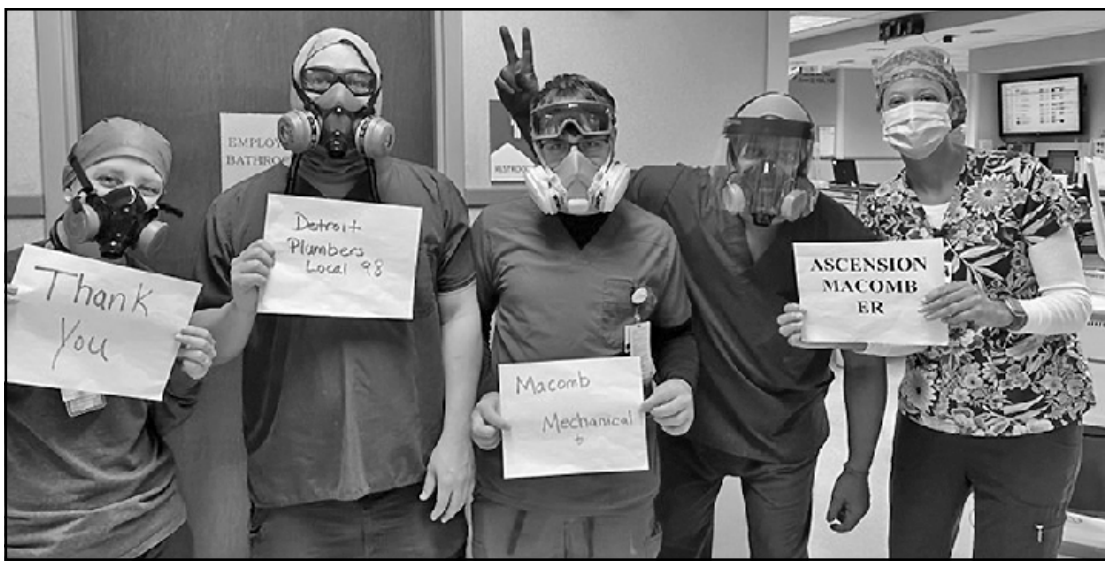
**In Closing:** As you all know Governor Whitmer has opened up construction jobs on May 7<sup>th</sup>. With this order comes a lot of responsibility to our contractors and us alike. If you don't feel safe on the job or you believe that proper measures are not being taken to keep you safe on the job please contact myself or Vinnie with any concerns. Our contact information is listed below. There are a lot of new rules in place to help defend against the spread of this disease; make sure you are doing what you can to keep people safe. God bless you all.

Mike Jewell cell 4519-262-8503 email [mike@ualocal671.com](mailto:mike@ualocal671.com)  
Vinnie Fenech cell 734-693-4082 email [vinnie@ualocal671.com](mailto:vinnie@ualocal671.com)

*"What we say is important for in most cases the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."*  
–Jim Beggs

*"Enjoy present pleasures in such a way as not to injure future ones."*  
– Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)





**PLUMBERS LOCAL 98** teamed up with affiliated contractors Macomb Mechanical, Detroit Piping Group, Guardian Plumbing, Limbach(2), Guideline, De-Cal, John E. Green(6) and Western Mechanical to deliver Lefty's Cheesesteaks sandwiches to health care workers this spring at 14 area hospitals during their daytime and late night lunch breaks. The food was delivered to personnel on various days at Ascension Macomb, Henry Ford Main, St. Mary Mercy, Beaumont Troy, McLaren Macomb, Providence Southfield, Henry Ford Macomb, Beaumont Dearborn, DMC Children's, Beaumont Grosse Pointe, McLaren Port Huron, Detroit Receiving, Beaumont Trenton and Beaumont Royal Oak. At left, a crew at Ascension Macomb sends their thanks.

**Local 98, con't**

6887 for an appointment. **Out of Work List Changes/ SUB Pay.** All working members will be required to complete a SUB application within 48 hours of their lay-off to ensure placement on the Out of Work List. If you are out of work due to Unemployment, Disability or Workers Compensation, contact Jon DeRoo first, 248-762-9238 first than BeneSys, 248-813-9800 to verify your continued Insurance eligibility.

**TRAINING CENTER NEWS.** Phone # 248-585-1435 Check out The Training Center's website [www.Plumbers98tc.org](http://www.Plumbers98tc.org)

The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further notice.

The Training Center staff and trustees would like to send out a hearty congratulations to our newest graduates. Zachary Balden, Bozin Blazevski, Jeremy Bott, Richard Call III, Walter Charboneau, Christopher Hatfield, Mike Hickey, Troy Hutchinson, Robert Johnson, Joseph Marino, Tyler Michels, Raul Quintanilla, Khaalib Raheem, Leonard Russ Jr., Joshua Theis, and Daniel Walsh have completed their Apprenticeships and are now unrestricted journey plumbers.

As the COVID-19 restrictions begin to relax the Training Center is open and slowly returning to normal operations. We will begin journey plumber upgrade classes as soon as we are able. Please call Paul Baker at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 if you have any questions.

If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **WELDING Tests** will be Saturday, July 11. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the class. The next **BRAZING Cert Sessions** will be Friday, July 10. Please note: All members must be **dressed appropriately** to be in the shop area.

**2020 Course Hour reimbursement forms** are now available at the Training Center. You **must have** 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from January 1 - December 31, 2020 to be eligible for the \$80.00 reimbursement. Deadline for 2019 reimbursement requests is March 31, 2020.

**OSHA Training - OSHA 10**, available as an online class for \$25 at [www.careersafeonline.com](http://www.careersafeonline.com) This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org). \*\*Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

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



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370

**FLINT** - The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2020** at 7:00pm and has been designated a **Special called meeting for wage increase allocation. Please note that this meeting will be at the new Training Center/Union Hall located at 2151 W. Thompson Rd. Fenton MI. This will also be a refreshment meeting.**

The Union Hall will be open for business as usual starting on Monday June 15<sup>th</sup>. Apprentices day classes will also resume the week of Monday June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Scholarship Applications** for the 2020-2021 school year are now available online at our website [UALOCAL370.ORG](http://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 are available at Local 370 Hall.

**Local 370 2020 Golf outing** will be held **Saturday, Aug. 22** at Flushing Valley Golf course in Flushing. 9 am Shotgun Start. The price is \$70 a man. \$280 per team. Price includes 18 holes with cart, lunch at the turn, Refreshments, Door prizes and Dinner. Stop by the hall and get the sign up sheet with all the information. We are limited to 38 teams so sign up early if you want to play

**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)

**Upcoming Night Classes: TBD**  
**Committee and Board meetings are as follows:**  
Examining Board - Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 4:00pm  
FMR Committee - Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 4:00pm  
PAC committee - Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 5:00pm  
Executive Board - Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 5:00pm  
Building Committee - Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 6:00pm  
Finance Committee - Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 6:15pm  
JATC Committee - TBD

**Local 370 office hours 7:30am - 4:30pm.**  
Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am - 11:30 am and 1:30pm - 4:15pm daily.

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

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

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

**ALL GM Work requires 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 GM site 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.

**Our web site is up and running.** Check it out at [ualocal370.org](http://ualocal370.org). We are now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express for window dues. If you want to take advantage of this service there will be a \$1.00 per month charge added to the monthly window dues fee and a 3% fee for all other transactions.

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

Remember to keep your dues current. Any member failing to pay for 3 months shall stand suspended, unable to vote for a period of 1 year or run for office for a period of 2 years and subject to a \$50.00 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our bylaws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test contact business agent, Dan Gaudet for application and testing dates.

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

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to [www.shopunionmade.com](http://www.shopunionmade.com).

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

*"One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory."*  
-Rita Mae Brown

**Plumbers Local 98**

**MADISON HTS. - Membership of Plumbers Local 98.**

Brothers and Sisters, Your officers and myself are in hope this letter find you and your family well. The Governor has now extended the stay at home order until June 15, even though the CDC and our affiliated Governmental agencies have seen the epidemic peak in Michigan it still has a chance for a resurgence.

If I may say briefly on the recent topic of the public execution in our streets of another black American, George Floyd, by law enforcement officers. This triggered protests, riots, looting and social unrest thought our country these last few weeks. No, I never meet Mr. Floyd but I can tell you no human should go out like that for a supposed fake \$20 bill, to beg for his life on a U.S. street and then be terminated.

Yes, we all know these three police officers do not reflect all officers in our nation, and no we do not condone the retaliation of murdering policemen or looting, but again no one reads a history book and learns from it. I certainly hope his family finds some peace and that his death does not become another sticky note in in American history. We your 98 officers have asked President Rufus Hamilton to address this nightmare and it will be posted as soon as he gets his thoughts wrapped around this tragedy.

At this time, your officers are working together on gathering information on updates to the historic changes, to unemployment, we have secured grant money for our hall and our training center as have many locals have done across the country.

Our goal is to have our 1<sup>st</sup> Union meeting July 9. It may not look like a normal meeting but we will do our best to supply you with current information and allow you to regain some sense of normality. I still would not recommend any one with a possible compromised immune system or older members to attend.

**Facebook posts:** younger members are still attempting to contact the hall on this medium. This may come as a shock to some of you, if you need help on anything job-related, (training) safety conditions, insurance questions, Benesys issues or unemployment problems, please use your cell phone and call any of your officers. We do not police the Facebook page, we cannot help you nor can I dispatch an agent to a job we have zero knowledge of if you do not notify us directly.

The job site return to work guidelines are published on the Mi. Department of Labor and Economic opportunity web site for the State of Michigan. Please take some time to review these before returning to work.

Due to our compliance with Mayor Duggan's STEP program, we have been given access to free Covi-19 testing to all Local 98 members at the old State Fair Grounds on Woodward and 8 mile in Detroit. Prior to going you must call for an appointment at 313-230-0505. No Dr. note is needed, they will ask you for a code and ours is 289488PL. This is free and zero copay.

Many of you are trusting your contractor to report you back to work, they are forgetting to do so, when you return to a job call the hall or any officer to report your status.

Due to many large volumes of calls we now are looking for organized men and women, travelers and retirees so Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, sub pay was cut, your agents have gone thru the list multiple times and the calls are ranging from 6-7 days, 40 hours to 70.

Our auto plants as well as construction sites are starting their work up again. There are many changes now for entrance to these facilities. If you are asked to do any pre-hire safety of any type prior to entering the plant on your own time, that is not go-

ing to be acceptable, you must be reimbursed for your time.

You will be asked medical questions on your health and your immediate family contacts. You will have your temperature taken before work. The use of 4-10s may be used at first. Shifts may be staggered for a while, watch the start times, as overtime may apply. You will no longer be allowed to leave the plant or job sites, this means going out for lunch or cashing a check and then return, they will not let you come back the same day.

You will need to pack food and water for the hours the plant is working, pack a big lunch this is the new normal. The 6' rule "when possible" must be adhered to and face masks will be supplied to you as you enter the jobs. Don't be the guy who refuses to wear a mask and the PPE provided, you have no right to endanger your partner, the owner may have you removed for non-compliance.

If you are not supplied any PPE or feel the job is not addressing these issues you have the right to call your agent and leave the job. We have established an anonymous safety hotline call in number for our locals 98, 636 members and our Contractors to investigate any lack of protection or wrong doing by the owners we all work for, the number is 313-340-7339.

This is a chance for the whole building trades to fight for a sanitary job site, no one person needs to be the only one bitching of poor conditions of Porta Jon's and a clean place for lunch. All of you need to talk as one voice and help yourselves on this issue.

As you know wage allocation is upon us and it has been allocated until a meeting can be held to ratify by the membership. All wage rates and allocation have been posted to our web page, weather it is temporary or becomes permanent, none of us wants to move money to a check than pull it back for some unforeseen run on a fund. Once we have an official meeting you can than have a vote to approve final allocation.

Until further notice only E-Board meetings are getting under way. If you need to contact or see the board please call V.P. Jim Cools at 734-307-9841. Union meetings and Retiree meetings are still cancelled. The Union Hall and our Training Center have been shut down to all unnecessary foot traffic, that does not mean the officers cannot be reached or center can't be used.

Apprentices, our training center is reopening this week to classes pay attention to any emails and calls to you.

I am getting complaints from agents that 18 Apprentices won't return calls. If you are working and haven't reported in, the computer didn't register you or you can't work due to some reason, I would hate to replace you due to fact you are too busy to return a call.

In the meantime, any pertinent information can be found on our new web page, yes 98 has a web page (not Facebook). Your officers can individually report on upcoming work in their areas or issues and a whole list of information is now available to you under the member only section.

I suggest to the officers of 98 you update your column this week or this new option will fail. <https://ualocal98.com>

You now can fill out sub apps electronically, this now can be found on the web page.

The new out of work list available to access there as well, just follow the instructions on the top of the web page. Please be patient as we are working out the bugs on the system.

If you're still having unemployment issues call BA's Gary Glaser or Tom McWilliams.

If your looking to retire or need help with Benesys call Jon DeRoo or myself, the union hall phone # of 248-307-9800 will direct dial our cells, agents Larry Delehant and Wade Kovach are there to help as well.

Any Must/Most, upgrades, continuities or letters of certifications will still be taken care of by Paul Baker 248-585-1435, our Officers at 248-307-9800.

It's that time again for your **2020 Plumbing License Renewal**, it can be done **ONLINE ONLY!** For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc). Or call 98's training Center and they will assist you. We have currently frozen taking applications for our apprenticeship classes until further notice.

Our Local 98 PAC committee has come out in support of past V.P. Joe Biden for President of the United States. With all the twisted things that Washington and our great state has done to the working class and every Local Union in this country, it did not take long to come to this conclusion.

That does not mean in any way shape or form we have shut the door on the Republican Party. Good men and women like Dr. Singh running for Republican Congress in the 10<sup>th</sup> is proof of our commitment to you the members. We will work on a list of candidates your PAC committee is recommending soon on our web page, we will always back anyone who stands with the working people of our state of Michigan and this country just like we have done in the past. You stand with us or against us!

We are looking for Residential and Service Plumbers at this time, it will be a great chance to expand and grow again as many members are looking to retire. So, if you know anyone working Nonunion or is a past member that may be interested in us. Have them call 98's Organizer Rob Moses on his cell phone 248-763-2187.

The new U.A. Union cards are available at the hall when you pay your 2020 Union dues, cards are good for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The new Log books and new Contract books are in, so grab only what you need for your job. It figures now that work is slow the new contract books have arrived, agents can distribute them to your job site.

**In Brotherhood, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98**

**Retiree Meeting.** Cancelled.  
**Northern Retiree Meeting.** Cancelled.

**Thumb Area Meeting.** Cancelled.

**Workers Assistance Program:** I personally can't tell you how lucky we are to have Work Life Strategies, LLC. They are available to our members and their families to provide personal counseling services and when needed referrals to professionals in Recovery and Relationship/Divorce Support Groups/Child Custody/Criminal Defense.

Please call C.J. Harrison at Work Life Strategies at 313-580- (Continued next column)

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

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## Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades 174

**COOPERSVILLE – Meeting Notice:** The status of the July meeting is still undetermined. We will put notice for the July meeting and retiree breakfast in the next Building Tradesman paper.

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

**Local #174 Golf League:** The golf league will begin on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The league takes place a Hickory Knoll Golf Course in Whitehall. We will start on the red course at 5pm. The format is 2 person teams. No need to RSVP, just bring a partner and show up the first night. If you have any questions contact Ryan Bennett.

**Apprentice Application and Testing:** We will be testing applicants later this Summer. Watch our website and social media for more information.

**Family Picnic Cancelled:** The Picnic Committee has recommended cancellation of this year's family picnic. It is unlikely that a gathering of that size will be allowed by July. We want to make sure to protect the health of our members and especially our retirees.

**Dues:** The UA and Local #174 are providing monthly dues relief to those members not working due to COVID-19.

•Beginning in April any member working in the trade who works 40 hours or less in the prior month will be given credit for one month's dues.

•Eligibility will be determined off the previous month's employer contribution list.

•Each month you are eligible, one month's dues credit will be added to your account. There will also be no reinstatement fees assessed.

•This program will continue on a month by month basis as determined by the UA.

•You will still be expelled if you are more than 6 months in arrears.

**401K Withdrawal:** The recently enacted CARES Act allows the 401k Plan to adopt a special in-service distribution for participants who are diagnosed with COVID-19, whose spouse or child is diagnosed with COVID-19, or who are experiencing economic hardship as a result of the pandemic.

This distribution can be up to \$100k, is not subject to the ordinary 10% excise tax, and the income tax from the distribution can be spread out over a 3-year period. Individuals receiving such a distribution may also repay the distribution over 3-year period, in which case they will not be subject to income tax on what they repay.

Unlike other hardships, this particular distribution only requires that the member self-certify the need. The Fund is not required to independently corroborate the participant's certification with medical documentation or other types of documentation. The distribution is a one-time event only and must be taken in 2020. This program applies to only the employer contribution 401k and will begin April 20th, 2020. You will receive an official notice in the mail soon.

**Sub-Pay:** The board of trustees voted to temporarily raise the maximum sub pay credit from \$130 to \$260 from March 23<sup>rd</sup> until the end of April. To file for sub-pay, fill out a sub-pay form. You can find a form on the members only section of the website under the "forms" tab on the left hand side, or you can call the Union office and we'll mail or email you some. Mail or fax the completed form along with verification that you received an unemployment payment to TIC. If you prefer to email the forms, please email them to Cami at cburris@ual174.org and she will submit them to TIC.

**School Work:** Several school districts were successful in passing mileages this fall. We are looking for families who live

*"He who lives without folly isn't so wise as he thinks."*  
—François de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)

*"When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity."*  
—Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

*"The secret of being a bore is to tell everything."*  
—Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

in the district of, or graduated from the schools below to possibly join us at a school board meeting or sign a letter of support. For Hudsonville, Ludington, Oakridge contact Ryan. Kent City and Tri-County contact Jason. Rockford and Lowell contact Nathan.

**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. In order 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.

**Wild Game Dinner: THE WILDGAME DINNER WILL BE POSTPONED TO A DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED.**

Save the Dates:  
Union Picnic, CANCELLED  
Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: Saturday, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:30am Shotgun, Falls at Barber Creek

November Union Meeting: **MONDAY** November 2nd at 7pm

**Medicare Retirees:** Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> you are now enrolled in a Humana Medicare Advantage Plan administered by Labor First. If you have any questions about premium payments contact TIC. All other questions should be directed to Labor First.

**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 September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Local #174 Gear:** We have setup an online store with apparel through Trophy House in Muskegon. You can order and pay online and either pick up the merchandise or pay to have it shipped. There is a link on our website, ual174.org. You can also go to [www.trophyhousebrands.com/online-stores/local-174](http://www.trophyhousebrands.com/online-stores/local-174) to order. You can also find a link in the members Facebook group. They will print the apparel once they receive twenty orders and contact you once your order is ready.

**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@ual174.org](mailto:dispatch@ual174.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. The dispatch schedule for the next month will be as follows:  
Jason Finch (231) 670-4482: 6/15/2020 to 6/29/2020  
Nathan Phillips (616) 916-0667: 6/29/2020 to 7/12/2020

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

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

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

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

**Contact Info:** Please make sure we have your updated con-

tact information. Check your info on the website or by calling Cami at the Union office.

**Retiree Breakfast:** The status of the July Retiree Breakfast is yet to be determined. There will be notice in the next Building Tradesman Article. If you are a retiree and in need of assistance please contact the Local Union Office.

**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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month / Labor Temple 918 Benjamin / 5:30pm

Lakeshore – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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.ual174.org](http://www.ual174.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 are in compliance with 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: \*\*ANNOUNCEMENT:** We are happy to announce that the Training Center will reopen to daytime as well as nighttime training on Monday, June 15. If you were enrolled in a night class at the time the Training Center was required to shut down, you will be contacted with information on completing the class you were enrolled in. Additional night classes will be added into the schedule slowly.

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.

**FIRST AID:** First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held on Thursday, July 9 and Thursday, August 13, 2020.

Please contact Jeff or Nicole to sign up for classes or 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 324 OPERATING ENGINEER Joe Nickson gives us a thumbs up while operating a Volvo front end loader at the Dakota-Kettering site in Detroit.**

### Local 357

#### Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Service Local 357

**KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: All Union Meetings Are CANCELED Indefinitely.** With the cancellation of June's membership meeting, Local 357 conducted its Finance and Executive board meetings via video and conference call. The Finance Committee reviewed and approved May's expenditures. The Executive Board met and discussed the following topics: Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders and Wage Allocation.

**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, 1-888-281-3461. If you are not satisfied with the service you have received, please call me, Ken Willcutt at (269) 569-3492.

**WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC:** Check out the website at [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com) and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ [www.facebook.com/UALocal357/](https://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 Corp. 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!

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Congratulations to the family of Brad Floyd on the addition of a baby girl, Josie.

Congratulations to the family of Jake Jones on the addition of a baby girl, Aubrey.

Congratulations to the family of TJ Collick on the newborn addition.

Congratulations to Kyle Davidson on his recent marriage. We would like to extend a SPEEDY recovery to Matt Romain .... Get Well Soon!

**CONDOLENCES:** to the family of Blair Smith on the recent passing of his daughter.



## Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

**SAGINAW – All Union Meetings are postponed until further notice.** Currently we have canceled May and June. We will make decisions on all future meetings including July as we get closer.

The UA Local 85 office will reopen to foot traffic and person to person interaction on Monday, June 8, 2020 with normal business hours being 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. We still encourage members to do as much of their business as they can by phone, email and fax. We will adhere to social distancing practices. SUB checks will continue to be mailed ONLY. We will be available by phone and email anytime for your convenience. Please utilize the phone numbers and email addresses listed below.

**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 13  
[jpomerville@ualocal85.org](mailto:jpomerville@ualocal85.org)  
Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 15  
[jbadour@ualocal85.org](mailto:jbadour@ualocal85.org)  
Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 14  
[tdanielak@ualocal85.org](mailto:tdanielak@ualocal85.org)  
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330  
[csteele@ualocal85.org](mailto:csteele@ualocal85.org)  
Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 12  
[rjanderson@ualocal85.org](mailto:rjanderson@ualocal85.org)  
Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 11  
[ktuthill@ualocal85.org](mailto:ktuthill@ualocal85.org)  
Feather Reige, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 10  
[freige@ualocal85.org](mailto:freige@ualocal85.org)

The next **Northern Meeting** is postponed until further notice. I truly and sincerely hope all of our UA Local 85 families are healthy and staying well. God Bless Organized Labor.

Please check the [ualocal85.org](http://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](http://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. 11 or 10.

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!**

**Training Center News:**  
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: UALocal Union 85 SUB, P.O. Box 6547, Saginaw, MI 48608 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: [SUB@ualocal85.org](mailto: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. 10.

**Beneficiary Cards:** Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (989) 799-5261 ext. 10.

**Email Addresses:** Please email [freige@ualocal85.org](mailto:freige@ualocal85.org) to update email addresses.

**Website Address:** Please visit [www.ualocal85.org](http://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 retirees' luncheons are postponed until further notice. Please check the [ualocal85.org](http://ualocal85.org) or Facebook for all up to date information.

Remember you all are essential to me.

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

*"We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible."*

—Vince Lombardi (1913 - 1970)

*"If not actually disgruntled, he was far from being grunted."*

—P. G. Wodehouse (1881 - 1975)

*"I don't like that man. I must get to know him better."*

—Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

*"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are rotten, either write things worth reading or do things worth the writing."*

—Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

*"However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results."*

—Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)





## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

### BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING – We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. So, while we continue to provide services to our members, any visits to our offices should be scheduled by appointment. If you have any questions, please contact either the Warren office at (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office at (517) 886-9781.

The health and well-being of our members and their families and continuity of service to our members is our highest priority. Please visit our website for updates: [www.bricklayers.org](http://www.bricklayers.org)

If you are available for work, it is important to contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. We want to be ready if one of our contractors calls and needs assistance.

**JUNE CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE STARTING BACK UP IN THE LOWER PENINSULA AS SHOWN BELOW. Chapter Meetings will be held while practicing social distancing.**

**MARQUETTE CHAPTER:** Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

**HOUGHTON CHAPTER:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:30 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

**TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER:** Wednesday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM, 1231 Hastings Street, Traverse City, MI 49686

**SAGINAW CHAPTER:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

**CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED:** We are looking for experienced Craftworkers in all of our trades: Bricklayers, Caulkers, Masonry Restoration Workers, Cement Masons, Tile, Marble and Terrazzo Workers. Those who are interested should contact either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781. Tell anyone who is doing our work, that we are looking for craftworkers!

**SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS:** Local 2 will pay a **Signing Bonus** for skilled craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors for at least a month. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get 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. For more details on the Signing Bonus Policy, go to [www.bricklayers.org](http://www.bricklayers.org).

**RESULTS OF LOCAL 2 MI'S ELECTION FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE IUBAC CONVENTION IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2020.**

On June 1, 2020, the ballots that were returned were counted in the conference room at the Warren office of BAC Local 2, MI. The result of this nomination and election is that the membership voted as follows: 616 Yes Votes, 33 No Votes, 2 Spoiled Ballots. 649 Total Votes. The membership voted in favor of the question to send 3 delegates by virtue of office, President, Secretary-Treasurer and Vice Chairman and no alternate delegates, to the IUBAC CONVENTION.

Accordingly, the Election Committee declared that Local 2, MI will send 3 delegates, by virtue of office, to the IUBAC CONVENTION that is scheduled to convene in Chicago, Illinois on September 28, 2020.

On behalf of Local 2. I would like to thank our membership for their overwhelming support of the Management Committees recommendation to send our Delegates by Virtue of Office to the IUBAC Convention in September. For more details on the vote on process, please visit our website: [bricklayers.org](http://bricklayers.org). Chuck Kukawka, President.

**DEATHS REPORTED:** Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother David Degrandchamp** (Bricklayer) who passed away on May 05, 2020. Brother Degrandchamp had been a member for 72 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Ralph Dunton** (Bricklayer) who passed away on May 04, 2020. Brother Dunton had been a member for 69 years.

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

**\*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 re-opening slowly to our members. Contact each Training Center 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 RELATED TRAINING CLASSES**  
STAY TUNED FOR THE SOON TO BE RELEASED SCHEDULE FOR TMT RTI CLASSES.

**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](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: [detroittradeltrades.org](http://detroittradeltrades.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) 749-1102.

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

**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE:** During this COVID-19 pandemic, the IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <http://bit.ly/MAP-BAC> and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for membership assistance Monday - Friday 8 am-8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

**FACEBOOK:** "Like" Local #2 on Facebook "Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 of Michigan."

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via e-mail. In an effort to accomplish this please submit your address by sending an e-mail to [information@bricklayers.org](mailto:information@bricklayers.org) and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.

**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 ([dvt.org](http://dvt.org))  
MI BAC Health & Welfare and MI BAC Pension (800) 531-2244 (outstate funds, [michiganbac.org](http://michiganbac.org))  
Cement Pension Fund (248) 645-6550 ([detroitcementmasons.org](http://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 ([dvt.org](http://dvt.org))



## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

### Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

MADISON HTS. – The monthly membership meeting for June is cancelled. The Apprenticeship training center is closed until further notice. The Local continues to be closed to foot traffic, however we are still providing services to our members during these times. Please call the office (248) 548-0800 or any agent with your questions or concerns. Stay safe!!

Congratulations go out to Jack McCool who is retiring from the OPCMA Local 514!! Good Luck Jack as you move on to this next phase in your life. We will all miss you!!!

Lance Ryan is now the new Plasterer Business Agent, if you have any questions for him please call (586) 615-1564.

2020 is a very important election year! We are encouraging every member who has not registered to vote to do so. You can register at any Secretary of State office.

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 now the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313) 350-0389.

Attention all Apprentices, now you will need to go to the website: [www.micementplastertraining.com](http://www.micementplastertraining.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.

**ACTION ALERT: OUR APPRENTICESHIPS UNDER THREAT!!**

**MEMBERS URGED TO CONTACT THE LABOR DEPT IMMEDIATELY!!**

**PLEASE GO TO:** <http://saveopcmiaapprenticeships.org>

Effective September, 2018 every member in Good Standing will only be allowed to use the Hall twice per year, also effective January, 2019 there will be a \$100.00 refundable deposit required for any cleaning and/or damages that may incur.

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

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

The Local's new website is now up and running!! Please go to [www.opcmia.org](http://www.opcmia.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](http://www.mustonline.org) Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

Please make sure that we  
(Continued next column)



PAUSING FOR A PHOTO at the Dakkota-Ketting worksite in Detroit are (l-r) Brie Stewart of Laborers Local 1191 and Marie Gambino, Walbridge's site safety engineer.



## Laborers Local 1191

### Laborers Local 1191

DETROIT – Due to COVID-19, Laborers' 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.

Therefore, **The Local Union is closed per Executive Order till June 12, 2020.**

Thanking you in advance for complying with the COVID-19 recommendations to stay safe and healthy.

**Check out our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org). Important information is now on line!**

**Dues:** Beginning January 1, 2020 regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$ 8.00.

**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.**

We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs!

**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.

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org) to see how many modules you have. **Members are re-**

### Local 514 cont'd

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](http://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 insure 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.

*"Do what you can with what you have where you are."*  
—Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919)

**mind to get your 18 modules and keep them up to date also a current Drug Test.** You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training school by calling (734) 729-7005 or 517-625-4919 website [www.mltai.org](http://www.mltai.org).

Also, check out the training classes available to you at no cost. **Note: classes & certifications contractors have been asking for are, OSHA 30, Asbestos & Lead Awareness, Hoisting & Rigging, Pipeline Safety, Asbestos Removal Supervisors License, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading, Measuring Tools, & GPS** all are 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, we will help make arrangements for you to complete them.

**Referral List:** Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 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 this Local Union. (Be sure to Check & Update your Skills.)

Also please be advised: Per the out of work list rules, all members on the list must re-register your availability for work every quarter and do so within the first

(1<sup>st</sup>) five (5) days of the following months **March, June, September and December (Roll Call).** 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<sup>th</sup> your name will be removed from the list.

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.

**Save Time & Money:** no more checks or money orders to mail no more worry if it gets here on time, **monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check** and sent direct to the Local. Please stop by the office to get one of the forms or you may call the office **(313-894-2241)** to have one mailed to you. We have forms for both Michigan Laborers and Metropolitan Detroit Laborers.

**Also, be sure to keep your current address and phone numbers up to date with Local. Current E-mail address is also very important! Also, we are now accepting CREDIT & DEBIT payments.**

*"A smile is the shortest distance between two people."*  
—Victor Borge (1909 - 2000)

*"Experience teaches slowly and at the cost of mistakes."*  
—James A. Froude (1818 - 1894)

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES  
BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 25 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.ssdfighter.com](http://www.ssdfighter.com)





## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

**SOUTHFIELD – FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES REGARDING COVID-19 PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE SMW80.COM**



**TIM MULLIGAN**

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 June 23, 2020. This will be the general election.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI

**ELECTION NOTICE:** 2020 is a general election year. The Election will take place on Tuesday June 23, 2020 at the Local 80 Union hall. The polls open at 12 Noon and close at 8:00 p.m. Candidates are as follows:

**Business Manager/FST:** Timothy Mulligan, unopposed.

**Business Agents:** 4 positions, In order of ballot draw: Gary Lulek, Chip Herndon, David Hartsuck, Eric McPherson, Jason Grunenwald, Timothy Gay, Bryan McConnell.

**President:** Frank Livingston, unopposed

**Vice President:** Joe Brick, unopposed

**Recording Secretary:** Thomas Drost, unopposed

**Conductor:** Mike Dupont, unopposed

**Warden:** Thomas Wilkos, unopposed

**Executive Board – 5 positions:** Thomas Brown, Richard W. Donovan, Jim Peraino, Brian Godawa, Jason Constantine, Joe Decker, A. Scott Lewis, Mike Luedtke.

**Trustee:** 3 positions Robert Kelly-McFarland, Leonard Lopez, Ed Zabik, Tony Stocker

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

**RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: 2020 Meeting Schedule:** June 15, Aug. 17, Oct. 19, and Dec. 21. The meetings begin at 12:30 pm and are held at the Royal Oak Elks Club, 2401 E. Fourth St. Royal Oak. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association, contact Steve Murzen, 248-652-0593. We also have applications at the Hall if you would like to apply and we will forward it on to Mr. Murzen.

**SUBCHANGES: 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, 248-557-7575.

**THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN** David C. Canady, Adam L. Mayne, Stuart J. Ingalls, Michael L. Jenner, Christopher R. Pauwels, Michael Vansickle, Fedrico Luna, Mark Boyd, Donald Dluze, Allie Schoder, Richard W. Donovan and Sam Velez

**CANCELLED EVENTS:** Unfortunately the golf outing and picnic are cancelled for 2020. We hope to resume back to normal for 2021.

**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.

**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.

**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 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 through March 20 and September 1 through September 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 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. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. **Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not** (Continued on Page 9)



## Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers 7

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

\*Zone 2 - July 21st - 6:00 p.m.

\*Zone 3 (TCity) June 18th - 6:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting

\*Zone 5 - August 6, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Meeting- There will be a Zone 5 Meeting, August 6th at 6:00 pm. At this time, we are not sure if this will be a Zoom meeting or in person. Will update when we know.

The picnic scheduled for June 20, 2020 has been canceled. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic please register on our website at sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2020. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.



**SAM FULLER**

**NEWS From the Business Manager, Samuel J. Fuller:** Please note the cancellations listed above. We are doing everything we can to keep people informed during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Please register for our website for the most current information. Dues can be paid on the Local 7 website or by mail. Local 7 is beginning to hold Zoom satellite meetings. The link for these meetings will be on the website under member resources/zones. I would like to thank the members risking their health that are considered essential workers who have continued to work. Thank you for your patients during these trying times. Please stay safe.

**Local 7, Zone 1 JATC, is currently accepting Letter of Interest for an Trustee Position.**

Letters must be received in no later than June 30 2020, Local 7 Zone 1 JATC, Attn: James Callahan, 1473 N. 30th St. Galesburg MI 49053 or E-mail letters to: jcalismw7@gmail.com or efarringtonsmw7@gmail.com

**\*\*Attention Certified Welders from Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5\*\***

Starting April 1st, 2020 all welding certification renewals will change to a twice a year schedule. The new renewal deadlines for all Certified Welders will be April 1st and October 1. In order to keep your certification from expiring you will be required to submit a **Welder Maintenance Form** to the Training Center dated no more than 5 days prior to April 1st or October 1st. You will no longer be required to submit a \$10 Filing Fee with your renewal paperwork. If needed, you can request a maintenance form from the Training Center. **\*IF YOU FAIL TO SUBMIT YOUR FORM BY THE DEADLINE YOUR CERTIFICATION WILL EXPIRE.** Feel free to contact Training Coordinator Darek Scarlavai @ (231)288-6325 if you have any questions.

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

**ZONE 1 Info:** Any Zone 1 apprentice that is laid off should notify Kevin at the school. Any Zone 1 Journeyman that is out of work should contact your agent. There is travel work available, so if you are interested please contact James or Eric. If you are experiencing any trouble with your insurance, please contact your agent or BeneSys at (866) 288-7037. If you are experiencing issues with unemployment, contact your agent. The retiree meetings are currently on hold as the meeting places are shut down until further notice. Apprentices should be in contact with Instructors to make sure you don't fall behind. If you are interested in Fire Life Safety Training and Certification, CAD or Welding, please contact the Zone 1 Training Coordinator Kevin Dowdy at (269) 781-7183.

"Now that the construction industry has resumed, if you have any questions and/or concerns about returning to work, job-site safety or sanitary conditions please contact James Callahan or Eric Farrington."

-In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.

**ZONE 2 Info:** Work in Zone 2 is picking back up slowly, if you are not working and have not called in you should make sure I have your info. Our next meeting is July 21, 2020 in Grand Rapids at 6pm **Thank you, Dave Rutz**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw)** Zone 3 is slowly returning everyone to work, following all CDC guidelines as close as possible. Looks like the rest of the year is going to be busy, there is a big job that will start this fall in Alpena, and we will be needing man power to go up there to work. Hopefully everyone is recovering well from the pandemic. **Thank you, Wayne Stover**

**Zone 3 Info: (TCity)** We will be having our next union meeting via Zoom Thursday June 18th at 6PM. Please make sure you are registered on the Local 7 Website prior to the meeting. You can also call into the meeting. Any questions please give me a call. **Thank You, Travis Eastman**

**ZONE 4 Info** Wage disbursements will take place when it is safe for the membership to have a meeting. We have \$1.15 to disburse that as of May first will go directly on the check until a wage disbursement meeting. Due to the stay at home order many members are off and hopefully we all can return to work soon. Please stay safe! **Your Brother, Larry Kinzie**

**ZONE 5 Info** I hope everyone is doing well through these times of uncertainty. If you are having issues with your unemployment or the SASMI emergency relief benefit, please give me a call. There is lots of work waiting to start across the UP, once construction is allowed to reopen. To keep up on the latest information as to what is happening check the Local's website. If you are not signed up on the Local 7 website yet you can do so at Sheetmetal7.org.

**Respectfully, Greg Faust**

**RETIREE MEETINGS:** Canceled until further notice  
**CONDOLENCES:** to the family and friends of **Robert Digue** who recently passed away June, 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/Phone 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 phone number, please contact the union hall to update your records.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wayne Stover** (Saginaw) 989-692-0002

**Travis Eastman** (Traverse City) 231-943-5150

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

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



## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020.

This meeting is extremely important for all to attend as there will be a **Special Order of Business regarding Division of money, as well as Election nominations taking place. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. sharp. All members are encouraged to attend.**

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 for June 23, 2020 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.

**NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS:** Per Article (12) Section (4) of the Constitution and Ritual of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, this is to serve as timely notice that nominations for Local 292 Union officers will be held **July 8, 2020** at the Regular Membership Meeting (Knights of Columbus Hall, 870 N. Main Street Clawson, MI) beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The term of office will run from the Regular Membership Meeting, Sept. 9, 2020, to the first Regular Membership Meeting in June 2023. Candidates may be nominated by any member in good standing. A second is not necessary. No member may be

nominated for or elected to more than one office or position in any local union. Any member who is nominated for a Local 292 office and who is not present at the nominations meeting shall be dropped from the list of nominees unless within five days after such nominations (close of office at 4:00 pm on July 13, 2020) he or she notifies the Recording Secretary in writing of his or her willingness to run for such office.

Members who are nominated for a Local 292 office, must comply with the eligibility requirements as described in the Sheet Metal Workers International Association Constitution and Ritual. If you do not have a copy of the Constitution, please request a mailed copy.

To be eligible for nominations to Local Union office on July 8, 2020, dues for the month of July must be paid in advance, that is, on or before June 30, 2020.

To be eligible for election on August 21, 2020, dues for the month of August must be paid in advance, that is, on or before July 31, 2020. Please take time to participate in this important process.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** On behalf of Local 292, we would like to congratulate Pete Priebe on his over 40 years of service and membership with Local 292. Pete retired March 1, 2020. We wish you good health and enjoyment in your retirement. Your smiling personality and sunny disposition will be missed by all!

**2020 ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions placed by the golf course, the Local 292 Charity committee has decided to cancel the outing for this year. We look forward to 2021 when we can resume this wonderful event.

**RETIRES NOTICE:** The retiree's luncheon will be held **Thursdays** at Tavern on the Main, 235 S Main, Clawson MI 48017. (248) 588-1696. It is located 3 blocks south of 14 Mile on the east side of the street. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!!

Next meeting: **August 6, 2020** at 12:30 pm

**2020** meeting dates are as follows: Aug. 6th, Oct. 1st and Dec. 3rd. 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 have hard copies when they become available.

**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 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:** Although the Union Hall is not open to foot traffic, your Union Reps and Administrative Staff are working to address members' questions and concerns. If you have issues, please call the Hall or your Union Representatives. If you would like to drop off dues or any other paper work, there is a secure drop box located at the front of the Union Hall.

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

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

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

(Continued on Page 9)





## Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – The union meeting will be held in Area Three on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 8pm at IBEW 692 – 1300 West Thomas St, Bay City, MI 48706.



**BOB HUTSELL**

The union hall is now open for in-person business. Masks must be worn at all times, only one person in the lobby at a time, and if you are feeling unwell, do not come to the hall. If you can conduct business remotely, please continue to do so.

The 2020 Boilermakers Local 169 Scholarship application is now available. If you are interested, please call the union hall (313) 584-8520 to request an application. Applications will be accepted for any son, daughter, legally adopted child, or dependent (during high school years) of a member or retiree in good standing of Boilermakers Local 169. **Applicants must be one of the following:**

- A student who graduated high school in 2020 and who will be entering their first year of a two-year or four-year program of academic study at a degree-granting, accredited college or university within one year of high school graduation - OR -

- A student who has previously graduated high school and is currently enrolled and attending a two-year or four-year program at an accredited college or university who has never applied for the Boilermakers Local 169 Scholarship Contest.

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](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) - for more information.

Retired member John Hubbard passed away on May 22, 2020 and retired member, and WWII Veteran, Richard Little passed away on May 31, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.



**THE SIGN IN FRONT of the Elevator Constructors Local 36/Roofers 149 union hall says it all – we appreciate the efforts of all front line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.**



## Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors 36

**DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED** that our next regular **Membership Meeting is tentatively planned for Monday, June 22, 2020, will not be held due to lack of venue to maintain restrictions on social distancing for gatherings of multiple people. We are working on a venue for our July 27, 2020 meeting.** Any changes in this schedule or venue will be included in future *Building Tradesmen* articles and emails. The Local requests your email so we may inform you on any last-minute changes or the possibility of virtual meetings.

All members are reminded that we are working under the MOU-NEBA final 3-23-20. This temporary agreement has been extended until **June 30th, 2020.** Any questions pertaining to this agreement should be directed to the Hall. If you are asked to go into another Local's jurisdiction by your company, make sure you notify the Hall and the Local where you are heading into. Their work situation will be different than ours. All members are reminded to inform the Hall of any

changes in your work status and where you are working. These are your responsibilities as a member of the IUEC.

**Attention All Apprentices,** your classes are now online at the NEIEP website, **all homework and unit exams must be done by June 26, 2020, the deadline has been extended from May 29. Your final exams will be the starting June 29 and ending July 3.** To maintain enrollment and get credit for this semester is your responsibility. Remember, your progression in the program and your raises are based upon you passing your classes. Failure also results in repeating the class and an appearance in front of the Local JAC.

**Monthly OJT Forms** are still required of **ALL APPRENTICES!** You can drop these forms at the hall. **This is a requirement of the Department of Labor.** Do not put your apprenticeship in jeopardy by failing to fulfill this responsibility. This will also result in your appearance before the Local JAC Committee.

**Attention All Apprentices,** Temporary Mechanic Agreements are through the Hall. This agreement is between You, Your Company and the Hall and is to be renewed monthly. We are currently under the MOU and your Company will have to provide proof of your eligibility. Do not put yourself at risk of possible charges.

Brothers and Sisters, due to recent conditions, **ALL** are requested to follow guidelines put out by the CDC, building's and your companies. Common sense and personal health practices should always be followed. **ALL** safety policies must **always** be followed.

The Local picnic was scheduled for Saturday, July 25. Currently the Picnic Committee and the Local Officers agree that for the safety and health of all members, retirees and families we have canceled our picnic for July 2020.

Currently the City of Detroit is not open for license renewal, they have said all licenses expiration dates have been extended during the shutdown. When we receive information on the re-opening of the Coleman Young building, we will forward it on.

We are also requesting your email address. If you are not receiving emails, please confirm your address with the Hall. During our recent situation we have received updates daily and we want this information at your disposal as soon as possible.

All members are reminded that your company is responsible to deliver material to the jobsite. Use of personal vehicles for delivery of material is for only emergency situations. There are no emergencies in modernization or construction. All construction, modernization and cab work is **TEAMWORK.**

This is according to our agreement and follows your company's safety policy. A licensed journeyman must also be onsite while any work is performed. If you are asked or told differently call the hall immediately. Also, all jobs are to be reported to the **HALL**, this does include all unloads, crane picks and cab modernizations. This is our work and **SHALL** be performed by **ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS!**

(Continued next column)



## Local 149 Roofers and Waterprooferers

Roofers 149

**DETROIT – Main Office – Southeastern Lower Michigan –** The next regular membership meeting is scheduled for **Tues., June 16, 2020** at 7:00 p.m. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for **Tues., June 30, 2020** at 5:00 p.m.

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

Brother Loren Cote, he was 90 years old and a 50-year member. Brother Cote past on 4/13/2020.

Brother Dennis Gondick, he was 77 years old and a 29-year member. Brother Rehahn past on 5/25/2020.

Follow us on Facebook for announcement updates @ United Union of Roofers, Waterprooferers, and Allied Workers Local 149

**Detroit Negotiating Committee.** Detroit Negotiating Committee is as follows: Joe Gilliam, Bob Doyle, Tom Jaranowski, Gary Johnsen, and Joe Zsembery

**Are you interested in sitting on the Health and Welfare Committee?** The search for a Health and Welfare Trustee is coming. Nominations are being taken Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at the Membership Meeting.

Are you a strong advocate for yourself and your fellow 149 members? Have you ever considered being a part of your Union's Health and Welfare Committee?

In order to stand for election, you need to be a Journeyworker in good standing and you must be nominated by another mem-

ber in good standing at the general membership meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 or in writing via a nomination acceptance letter addressed to the Recording Secretary Gary Johnsen by Monday, July 6, 2020, at 5:00 pm.

**DAD's Day.** The June DAD's Day canister drive is canceled. This was an extremely difficult decision to make. Our Union has not missed a canister drive pounding the streets since 1985, back when it all started. I hope you are as passionate about seeing the DAD's Day event through as much as we do. Our union will have another event later in the year.

**Retirees' Association.** If you are a retired 149 member and are interested in joining the Roofers & Waterprooferers Local 149 Retirees' Association, please contact Business Manager Brian Gregg at 313-961-6093.

**Detroit Training Center Information.** The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:

- Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1 - Monday, July 20
- Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2 - Tuesday, July 21
- BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1 - Wednesday July 22
- BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2 - Thursday, July 23
- Apprentice 7 & 8 Safety & Health - Thursday, July 23
- All classes begin at 6:30pm
- 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 T.Jaranowski@DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements.

**Reminder.** Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information.

Members are reminded to call the Hall (313) 961-6093 to put their name on the out of work list.

**CLEARANCE CARDS.** Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

**MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office.** The next Mid-Michigan regular membership meeting is scheduled for **Mon., July 14, 2020** at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

**Raise Notice.** The Mid-Michigan members have spoken loud and clear by voting for proposal One. \$1.05 on the check, \$0.40 to the Pension, and \$0.40 to the Health & Welfare.

**Mid-Michigan Training Center Information.**

The next term for all Mid-Michigan Apprentices will be as follows:

- Apprentice 1, thru 3- Monday June 15
- Apprentice 4, thru 8- Wednesday June 17
- All classes begin at 6:00pm.



**READYING A CURB for a cement pour by installing expansion paper are Local 1076 Laborer Tyler Denski and Local 687 carpenter Karl Smith. They're employed by Devon Industrial Group at the Dakkota-Kettering project in Detroit.**

**AT RIGHT, STEEL WALL panels are installed by Hardhats at the Dakkota-Kettering project in Detroit.**

### Local 36, con't

All members be reminded your 3rd quarter working cards shall be paid before July 1<sup>st</sup>. When paying dues include \$5.00 for the International death assessment for the loss of our brother Taylor Lewis from Local 63 on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list. Keep safe and healthy. Be a Brother to a Brother, regardless of what Local they might belong too. We are all in this and will get through this, together!



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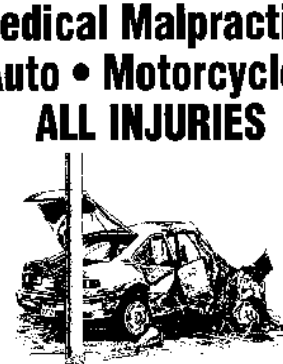
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**BURYING CONDUIT** they placed in the unfinished floor of the Dakkota-Kettering project in Detroit are Derand Favors and Leonard Robinson of IBEW Local 58. They're employed by Triangle Electric.



**IBEW LOCAL 58**

**IBEW 58**  
DETROIT – The next **Regular Membership Meeting** will be **JUNE 30, 2020 at 6:30 PM** at the Union Hall.

The **Electrical Industry Training Center** is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroitiec.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 call the Training Center, 586-751-6600.

**Local No. 58 Dues Information:** Pay your Dues with the New APP. Download at Apple/Google Play Store – IBEW 58. Your dues must be *current* to be able to download the app. You can also call and pay over the phone with credit/debit card or mail in a check. We are not accepting cash at this time due to the Covid-19.

**Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund:** The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:00 pm.

The **Jerry Gaudi Memorial Golf Outing** has been postponed for a later date until further notice. The date is TBD as of right now.

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 5 p.m. Every member is invited to attend and to bring their ideas about our Local's involvement in our communities.

**Members of the Entertainment Committee:** The next meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Tuesday July 14, 2020 immediately following the Community Service Committee which starts at 5:00 pm. We will be discussing the annual family picnic.

**EWMC of Southeastern MI** - In place of our next monthly meeting for the chapter on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 5:30 we will have a special presentation. The City of Detroit will be discussing how Local 58 members can buy houses in the city for 50% off. This will be a Zoom meeting so please make sure your cell phone no. and email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. Please continue to stay safe at work, home, and in the community. #ibewstrong

The **RENEW Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

The **Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, July 13, 2020 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)** meetings are held at 5:00 PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**Local 58's Women's Committee**- With the union hall being closed all in person meetings has been postponed. We will continue having our regular monthly meetings on ZOOM as needed. Please watch for emails with further updates and hopefully we will be meeting in person soon.

**ARC AWARDS-ASPIRING REAL CHANGE**—The IBEW Local 58 ARC-Aspiring Real Change awards have been created by the Women's Committee to recognize the outstanding efforts of Local 58 members who inspire, engage and advance growth of the local union. It takes a strong group of individuals to keep the vision and the mission of Local 58 moving forward and positively impact our membership, the community and the greater good for all working men and women. The ARC Awards seek to recognize outstanding contributions by our members dedicated to embracing the mission of the Women's Committee.

All ARC Award recipients are nominated by their peers and have positively impacted both the union and the Brothers & Sisters they work and serve with throughout many areas of our Local. The Women's Committee at IBEW Local 58 shares a commitment with our members to equality, diversity and personal growth and is proud to establish the ARC Awards as a tradition of recognizing outstanding achievements for decades to come. The ARC Awards has been *postponed* until further notice. When everything clears up and we can get back to normal we will be scheduling a new date. We will be choosing the scholarship winners as scheduled and will notify the winners.

**Help Wanted** - The Women's Committee will be keeping the bid process open for caterers, photographers, band/deejay and other vendors for the ARC Awards until we have a new date. If you know of vendors interested you can contact Angela Panicucci @ 586-291-8014 or Diana Wright @ 734-934-9029 for further information. We are also looking for a few good sisters to continue on with our newsletter and articles. If you have any experience or affinity for writing please reach out. If there are any retirees that need help with getting groceries or other essentials during this pandemic, please reach out, we are here for you. You can email us. Email us at: 58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org. Follow us on Instagram @ibewomen58; Check us out on Facebook.


**The Retirees Association Fall motor coach trip:** Local 58 Retirees Association Sept. 2020 bus trip for Charleston, SC, has been *cancelled*. Due to the existing conditions regarding the ongoing pandemic, and the lack of response for the trip, I feel it is in the best interest of our members to reschedule the same trip for next year. All deposits made for the 2020 trip will be returned ASAP.

**IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association:** It is essential for anyone attending any of our activities & luncheons to notify Ray Owen (248) 348-3626 ahead of time. Make checks for all activities payable to "The Retirees Association" Ray Owen, 428 Welch Rd., Northville, MI 48167. Board meetings and Luncheons have been cancelled/postponed, until further notice due to Covid-19. Board Meeting's convene in the "Bill Rushford Room" in the lower level of the Union Hall, at 10 AM.

**Luncheons: \*Price Increase\*** Due to rising costs, our luncheons will increase from \$15, to \$20 per person beginning with the June 2020 luncheon. Reservations for luncheons NEED to be confirmed by the Sunday prior to the date of the luncheon please. Please keep your email address updated with the Union Hall and the Retiree Association. Send your email address to 58retirees@ibewlocal58.org. This will help communicating within the association and so you don't miss out on events.

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Martin Irla (March 2018); Lawrence Janowski (June 2020); David Nellis (July 2020); Othea Wilson (April 2020).

**Members that have passed away:** Robert Russell, Father to JIW Michael Russell. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.



**IBEW Local 131**  
Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

**IBEW Local 131**

**KALAMAZOO** – The July General Membership meeting will be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Due to the Governor's loosened restrictions, we will hold the meeting as scheduled. We will set up the meeting to accommodate the suggested 6ft social distancing space.

The LMCC will soon be launching a new website [www.poweringkalamazoo.com](http://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.

The new website is live; we are continuing to work some through minor issues; we hope those will all be resolved shortly. To login to the member's only section, please use your last name and card number.

**If you believe we do not have your email address or correct cell phone number, please email Christine at [cbohms@ibew131.com](mailto:cbohms@ibew131.com)**

**Dues pricing** – The price of dues for 2019 is \$39/month. The price for dues in 2020 will increase to \$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, April 2020 your dues are not current; please call the Hall.

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 forms.

If you're interested in receiving updates from the Hall, please email Christine at [cbohms@ibew131.com](mailto: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.

**Condolences:** With a heavy heart, Local 131 would like to announce the following members passing, Brother Dale Bothwell passed away on April 23, 2020. Brother Charles Krull passed away on May 3, 2020. Brother John Ingram passed May 2020. All Memorials and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab.

**FROM THE APPRENTICESHIP:**

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

**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.

**Brian O'Donnell**  
Business Manager/Fin. Secy.



**IBEW LOCAL 906**

UPPER PENINSULA—MEETINGS:  
MARQUETTE UNIT—First Tuesday  
IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT—Second Tuesday  
ESCANABA UNIT—Second Wednesday  
PLEASE PROTECT YOUR-

SELF AND OTHERS BY KEEPING 6 FEET OF PHYSICAL DISTANCE. FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES ON HAND WASHING AND WIPING DOWN SURFACES. BE SMART, BE SAFE.

The Building Trades has set July 25<sup>th</sup> for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing. This event will be held at



**IBEW 252**  
Since 1916

**IBEW Local 252**  
ANN ARBOR – LOCAL 252 2020 ELECTION RESULTS:  
**President/ Convention Delegate:** Mike Cox.  
**Vice-President:** Doug Sanders.

**Recording Secretary:** M. Lisa Grove.

**Treasurer:** Erik Kane.  
**Business Manager/ Financial Secretary/ Convention Delegate:** Ryan Husse.

**Executive Board:** Mic Brough, Stacie Butler, Harry Hutchison, Geoff Morning, Andrew Neeb, Rick Plisko, Examining Board: Jeff Burdick, Linda Kardia, Chris Parks. Delegate to the Convention: Rick Plisko, Gary (Homey) Smith.

**LOCAL 252 ANNUAL PICNIC:** The Local's Annual Picnic is cancelled this year due to Executive Orders related to the pandemic.

**UNION DUES FOR 2020:** Effective January 1, 2020 union dues for "A" members will be \$119.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will be \$61.80 per quarter.

**TRAINING CLASSES 2020: ALL CLASSES CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**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.

**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.

**Local 252 Website & App:** The Local's website [www.ibew252.org](http://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.

**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](http://UnionPlus.org/ATT) with discount code 4924966.

**LOCAL 252 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING:** The Local's Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for July 18, 2020, more information will follow.

**NOTICE TO RETIREES:** If your 50-year commemorative watch stops working for any reason please contact the Union Hall. Do not attempt to have it serviced yourself.

**DUES PAYMENTS**—Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 3/2020, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2020. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2020. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your second quarter dues (April through June) are due now.

**Payments for second quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020.**



**IBEW Local 445**

**IBEW Local 445**

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

The **Local 445 Golf Outing** has been canceled. Anyone who submitted checks for hole sponsorship, will receive your checks back.

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

**Local 445's "Night of Baseball"** has been approved for Saturday, August 1, 2020 at C.O. Brown Stadium for the Battle Creek Bombers. Additional information will be released closer to the date.

The **Retiree** breakfast is the third Thursday at 9:00 a.m. and is held at the: Lux Cafe, 2587 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek. No reservations are needed to attend.

**PLEASE HELP!!**—Please make sure you have updated the Hall with your current address and phone number. Also, if you have had any life changes such as a marriage/divorce/new child, please contact the Hall to ensure your benefits are correct.

**Local Website**—Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is [IBEW445.com](http://IBEW445.com).

**Local Food Pantry**—Donations to help fund the Local 445 Food Pantry are still being accepted.



**IBEW Local 948**  
FLINT – Our July Union Meeting will be held on Monday, July 13th, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

Our June Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 22nd, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. at the Union Hall.

The Retiree Club Meeting is cancelled till further notice.

Don't forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. [www.local948.org](http://www.local948.org).

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. **Don't wait till you owe a reinstatement fee (4 months behind).**

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

2019 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$42.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$39.70 a month

If you are unfamiliar with our referral procedure please refer to our website @ [http://local948.org/job\\_referrals/](http://local948.org/job_referrals/)

Don't forget after 3 turn-downs on the out of work list you must come down to the Union Hall to resign.

**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](mailto: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.

the Highland Golf Course. If you are interested in playing on an IBEW 906 team please contact the hall and sign up. The golf committee has met with the course and it looks like we will be able to have the outing this year.

The Negotiations Committee has met and have reached an agreement with NECA. The Marquette area will receive \$1.40 each year for the next 3 years. Iron Mountain will receive \$1.49, \$1.90, \$1.90 and Escanaba will get \$1.85, \$2.00, \$1.97.

The Executive Committee and Officers of 906 have met and decided on the allocation of this year's raise. Fifty cents (.50) will go to the health plan. Forty cents (.40) will go to pension and forty nine cents (.49) will go on the check. This leaves one cent (.01) for the NEBF contribution. This is based on the Marquette Zone. The extra monies in Iron Mountain and Escanaba, based on the above, will go onto the check.

JIW rates are as follows: Marquette \$35.49, Escanaba \$34.35 and Iron Mountain \$34.51. The pension rate is \$12.40 and Health will be \$8.49 in all three zones.

We are planning on holding our regular unit meetings beginning in July. We will follow the State's rules on social distancing and any other requirements necessary to hold the meeting indoors. Marquette will be July 7<sup>th</sup>, Iron Mountain on July 14<sup>th</sup> and followed on the 15<sup>th</sup> in Escanaba.

Please remember that address changes and phone changes along with new additions to the families need to be passed on to the Hall and the Pension and Health Plans.

If you have any information you would like to see noted in this article or something you believe should be published please email the Hall with your request. [ibew906@gmail.com](mailto:ibew906@gmail.com)



**Local 275**

**IBEW 275**

**COOPERSVILLE** – Dear Brothers and Sisters: As some of us are slowly returning to work, please make sure the contractor is supplying you with all the PPE that is required. This may now include facemasks, face shields and hand sanitizer along with other safety precautions spelled out by the State. As each job site is unique, each situation and requirement may be as well. So please take extra precaution so that you may stay safe on the job and keep your families safe at home.

As you may know, the Hall is now back to our normal hours. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed Noon to 1:00 for lunch). However, please continue to observe 6' social distancing when conducting your business for your safety and the safety of others.

At this time, the June union meeting is scheduled as planned for the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. At this point, we plan to hold the meeting outside as we did in May, so please dress accordingly for weather conditions.

For now on, all resign request will be sent to [gyonkers@ibew275.org](mailto:gyonkers@ibew275.org). The procedures are still the same.

At the time of this writing, the following Members are three or more months behind in dues: **Vern Brink, Doug Budzynski, Ruben Cortez, Robert DeJonge, Ramon Diaz, Chris Hanson, Landon Hurst, Shane Huston, Nicandro Iannucci, David Irwin, Tony Kilgo, Avanti Lopez, Steven Mutschler, Eddie Quillen, Eric Quinn, Joseph Rich, Kevin Scrabis, Nate Sterling, Terry Stites, Jeff Wagner, Andrew Wohlfert, Fred Wohlfert and Kevin Wynn.**

If you are on this list, please make any and all attempts to get your membership in good standing.

Regular meetings for the EWMC and RENEW committees are every month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ 6:00pm (except April 2020) at the Union Hall in Coopersville. Both of these are great ways to get involved with the local as well as the community.

Dues increase for the year 2020 will be \$1.00 per month to \$42.90 per month. Please make adjustments when making payments through mail and automatic bank payments.



**IBEW Local 557**

SAGINAW— COVID-19 is still a real threat to our Nation and the health and safety of our members remains to be a top priority.

With Governor Whitmer moving Michigan into the "Safe Start" plan, we should look to return to some normalcy. The new normal will be returning to safer conditions with increased personal protective equipment. We need to meet the needs of our contractors while practicing correct social distancing and take extra precautions. If our contractors do not feel they can get the necessary manpower in our jurisdiction, they will stop bidding work and we will, in turn, be very thin on work in the future. Please be ready to answer the calls for manpower in the near future.

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS**— The Union Hall will be open for light foot traffic starting the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>. We will utilize the service window in the main entry way for member transactions that cannot be completed via email or phone calls. Please try to take care of business remotely as much as possible to cut down on visitors to the Hall. James Lamb is continuing organizing duties during at this time as well and if you have any useful information for him regarding work please feel free to pass it along. He can be reached at 989-529-5943.

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**—The Local 557 Executive Board met on May 19<sup>th</sup>. With continued guidance from the International Office, the E Board has the power to take any action that would normally be approved at a Local membership meeting. All operations are still on track at the Hall and they have done a great job helping to guide the Local through these difficult times while we are unable to have Monthly meetings.

**WAGE ALLOCATION**— Thanks to all the members that participated and voted in this year's wage allocation. We had a great number of members vote on the issue as Option B won very easily. The new hourly rate for a JIW is \$34.25.

**NEW WEBSITE**— Local 557's website recently received a refresh but is still under construction. There are still some bugs to be worked out, so please be patient as we work to make improvements to the Local.

**2020 ELECTION**— The overwhelming majority of Local 557 is registered to vote. If you are not registered you should do so immediately. The 2020 Election will impact us in so many aspects of our lives. As informed IBEW members we cannot afford to sit out this election. I strongly encourage all members to apply to vote via ABSENTEE BALLOT.

Skip the long lines at the precinct in what is expected to be a record year for voter turnout. If you are working on the road or the possibility exists you may be working on the road in November, this is a great way to ensure you get your votes in. Information for this is available at the Union Hall as well as online under the Secretary of State at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

We will no doubt need a great many volunteers to help out with various election related events this year. If you are interested in helping out please reach out and offer up your services. We cannot afford to be inactive during the election season this year.

**HEALTHCARE**—The Michigan Electrical Employee's Health Plan has taken steps recently 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 plan continues to meet regularly via teleconferences to stay on top of the pandemic and update coverage. (Continued next column)

**IBEW Local 692****IBEW Local 692**

**BAY CITY – Union Meeting.** The next regular membership meeting will be **Monday, July 6, 2020 at 7pm.**

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next E-board meeting will be **Monday, June 15, 2020 at 6pm.**

**Message from the Business Manager.** First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers go out to all who were affected by the failure of both the Sanford and Edenville dams. We had many members that were affected in horrific ways. Brother Klele and I saw first-hand the devastation while out trying to lend a helping hand. Words cannot express the impact that the flooding had on the surrounding communities of Sanford and Wixom Lakes.

On the topic of Covid-19, we are seeing some positive progress. We are all aware that Governor Whitmer has cancelled the Stay at Home order so we are going to make some changes at the union hall. Effective Monday, June 15 the doors will be unlocked to traffic in and out of the union hall. Covid-19 is still a serious threat and we must take all steps to mitigate the threat to our members. Please only come to the hall if you have imminent business to attend to. Masks will be required at all times by anyone coming or going. There will also be strict guidelines to adhere to with social distancing.

With the referral procedure, we will begin "dinging" or giving "hits" for all calls on or after June 15<sup>th</sup>.

I believe if we all do our personal best in adhering to social distancing and masks, there is a great possibility, we will be able to hold our July 6<sup>th</sup> monthly membership meeting. Please do your part brothers and sisters to protect each other.

**Work Report.** Although summer is here work is breaking loose a little later than normal due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Work continues at both the Pincanna project and the Bay City Meijer's remodel. The new Consumers Energy Service center in East Tawas has started back up again along with the Wind Farm project (grounding and bonding) located near the Rosebush area. Clements Electric has returned nearly all the men to work they had out prior to Covid-19.

Work has also begun on Augres Schools and also Midland Schools. Master Electric has been awarded the new Midland Costco. This was a project that we worked very hard on. Buist Electric out of Grand Rapids was originally the low bidder. Countyline Power has picked up a sizeable project in Midland Hospital due to the severe flooding in the Midland Area. Please stay safe and look out for your fellow brothers and sisters.

**Union Dues.** Effective January 1, 2020, dues payments increased to **\$41.20 per month.** Please make note of this increase when sending in payments. **Also, if you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of this change.**

Dues can be paid in person, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. We also accept payments via credit/debit card. *Please note to use the credit card machine to process payments, there will be a 2% charge applied.*

**NEW:** Monthly dues can now be paid on-line from the 692 website! Visit [ibew692.net](http://ibew692.net) and log into the member section.

2020 Dues (Effective January 1, 2020): 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.**

**Death of Members.** We regret to inform you of the death of retired Brother Mike O'Leary, Card #D182593, who passed away on May 23, 2020. Brother O'Leary was born on June 1, 1945 (74 years old). He was initiated on June 6, 1966. Mike resided in Bay City, Michigan.

#319. Local death fund assessment **\$5.00 each** (due within 30 days) payable to: IBEW Local 69, Bay City, MI 48706

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

**Golf Outings.** The Michigan Wireman's Golf Outing and the IBEW 6<sup>th</sup> District Golf Outing have been CANCELLED for this year.

**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.

**Organizing.** Brother Brian Klele has been appointed as the new Local 692 Organizer. Brother Klele has served the local in a number of different capacities. He has been elected by the membership to serve on the executive board four different terms, been involved in two separate contract negotiations, and was also elected as President of the local. Finding a member with more qualifications to be Organizer would have been a difficult task.

Brother Klele is a second-generation wireman with the IBEW, and to say the IBEW is in his blood would be an understatement.

We as a local have done a tremendous job in making sure the principles that the leadership of Local 692 instilled so long ago are still followed today. As we continue to visit jobsites both on a daily and weekly basis, we try to keep these principles in mind while communicating with the unrepresented worker, making sure they have a voice in the labor movement. If you know of a non-signatory contractor doing work in your neighborhood please contact Organizer Brian Klele 989-252-9225.

**Ryan Charney**

**Business Manager / Financial Secretary**

**Important links & numbers**

IBEW Local 692, 989-684-4510. [www.ibew692.org](http://www.ibew692.org)

Health Plan, 517-321-7502. [www.mielectrichealth.org](http://www.mielectrichealth.org)

Michigan Pension Fund, 517-321-7502.

[www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)

First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box"

NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300

IO Pension: 202-833-7000

**Local 557 cont'd**

as necessary.

Help keep the cost of Health Care down. Schedule your annual physical with your doctor today if you have not done so recently. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit [www.bcbsm.com](http://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 p.m. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL (989) 781-0516 option 3.**

**STAY CURRENT ON DUES**

—Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use this service. Credit card payments to pay dues can also be accepted over the phone to ensure you stay current on your dues.

**CONTACT NUMBERS**—Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website [mielectric-health.org](http://mielectric-health.org). **Evan Allardyce, Business Manager**

**IBEW Local 498**

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

**IBEW Local 498**

**TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.**

**Regular E Board** – will be held on Wednesday, July 8th, 2020 at 5:30 pm in person meeting.

**MEETING** -The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, July 8th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

**JATC First Aid/CPR** – The Traverse City JATC will be providing First Aid/CPR/AED Training on Monday evenings, June 29<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. These class sizes are limited based on current Covid 19 rules. Call the hall to sign up. Our cards are good for 2 years, so please check your card or call the hall to see if you are due.

**Covid 19 office hours**—For your information the hall is open to limited walk in traffic. To follow state guidelines there is a 6-foot distance rule in effect, so if there is more than 1 person at a time in the hallway outside of Caroline's window the second person should wait outside or in the meeting room until their turn at the window. Masks are available at the hall for personal use as well as hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies to be able to sanitize the restroom after you use it if needed. So far Local 498 has not seen any confirmed cases with members that I know of and it would be nice to keep it that way. For extended stays or business needs at the hall you will be asked to fill out a health questionnaire and take a temperature reading just like apprentices do for class or applicants do for interviews, again to try and follow State of MI safety guidelines.

**Picnic** – this summer the picnic will be on the 29th of August 2020. We need some volunteers for the Entertainment Committee. If you are willing and able to help out please get ahold of the hall and get signed up.

**PAYPAL** – PAY PAL is now up and running!!! Please look into setting up a personal PayPal account. If you need help with this you can email George Shumar at [gshumar.ibew@gmail.com](mailto:gshumar.ibew@gmail.com) Also keep in mind that George is now on a furlough/lay off to address Covid 19 requirements and is NOT drawing a paycheck, so please be mindful of using his time.

**Election of Officers** – As of this printing we still have not had the election results as the meeting has yet to have been held. Local 498 would like to thank everyone that has participated in the process and keeping active in our local. Our next article will have a full list of the new elected representatives of the local. July's meeting will be the installation of those officers.

**JB Webb East and West**— West Side Steward update – Greg Perry is the single west side steward as he will likely not be returning to the Petoskey plant location. A big thank you to Eric Boucher for your service to the local members as the West side steward, you are much appreciated.

**Election year for state and federal elections**— This is an important year for local, state and national elections as well as our local union elections, it is important for your voice to be heard in all of these elections to support organized labor. The State of MI now has absentee voting for everyone that is a registered voter. Please visit the State of MI website or visit your local Secretary of State office to get registered to vote in the upcoming primary elections and general elections in November.

**Website** – The new website is up and running. Please take a look and let us know what you think. Pay Pal is up and running on the website. There should be no reason for late dues now. Thanks to George for getting this done for the membership!!!!

**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](mailto:ibew@local498.net). Please put your name in the subject.

**Contracts** – We have updated Inside Wireman Contracts available at the hall.

**Dues Increase 2020** – The union dues will increase \$1.00 a month. Effective Jan. 2020 the new rate will be \$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.

**Meeting Cookouts**— cook out and drawings will be suspended until further notice.

**Volunteer** – We will need people to volunteer for events coming up. Contact the hall and let George know.

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

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

**Made in America Websites** – [www.theunionbootpro.com](http://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](mailto: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, 2020 - \$1.00/month increase New Rate \$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#

"We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration. Inspiration seldom generates action."

—Frank Tibolt

"Never cut what you can untie."

— Joseph Joubert

"There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self."

—Aldous Huxley (1894 - 1963)

*Murphy's Law: "If there are two or more ways to do something, and one of those ways can result in a catastrophe, then someone will do it."*

—Edward A. Murphy Jr

"The penalty for success is to be bored by the people who used to snub you."

—Nancy Astor (1879 - 1964)

"Beware of the man who won't be bothered with details."

—William Feather (1908 - 1976)

**IBEW 665**

**LANSING – NEW SIGNATORY CONTRACTOR**— Earlier this month, IBEW Local 665 signed a new signatory electrical contractor in Mid-Michigan Electrical Solutions. We wish to welcome Dale Collins, Chuck Cleven, Avery Maurer, Calvin Collins and Samuel Helmich.

**NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS**— As a reminder, the nominations for all officers of Local Union 665 will take place at the Local Union monthly meeting which begins at 6:30 pm on Monday June 15, 2020, located at 5205 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, MI 48911.

Due to the continuing threat of COVID-19 and the Governor's limited gathering of ten people in doors, the nominations will be held in the back-parking lot (most likely under a tent) to comply with the Governor's executive order(s) for outdoor gatherings. Compliance to the Governors social distancing is essential and so too are the CDC's guidelines during this time.

The election of officers shall take place between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on July 20, 2020 at IBEW Local 665 which is located at 5205 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing, MI 48911.

Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge. Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of the election. Absentee ballots will be picked up at 5:00 pm on July 20, 2020.

In the event a run-off election is required, same shall be held on August 10, 2020. The same rules shall apply to the run-off election as were applicable to the regular election. Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the run-off.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on August 17, 2020.

Members with questions regarding the election can be directed to the election judge. The election judge can be contacted at: [local665electionjudge@gmail.com](mailto:local665electionjudge@gmail.com).

**QUARTERLY PARTY**— The June 15, 2020 quarterly party is canceled.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**— The next General Membership (Union Meeting) will be held on Monday June 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS HAVING PASSED AWAY**— **Bruce Bryan** - 01/16/2020 – DB 306; **Frederick Pardee** - 01/31/202 – DB 307; **Richard Hersey** – 04/15/2020 – DB 308; **Charles Coil** – December 11, 2019 – DB 309.

CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY!

"Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves."

—Carl Jung (1875 - 1961)

"Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage. The human spirit is to grow strong by conflict."

—William Ellery Channing (1780 - 1842)

"It is only necessary to make war with five things; with the maladies of the body, the ignorances of the mind, with the passions of the body, with the seditions of the city and the discords of families."

—Pythagoras (582 BC - 507 BC)

**BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING**  
**MIDDLETON**  
Real Estate Training Inc.  
901 Tower Drive, Suite 120  
Troy, MI 48068  
[www.middletontraining.com](http://www.middletontraining.com)  
**248-885-8311**

**CASH FOR SCRAP METAL**  
**Aluminum • Copper • Brass**  
**Nickel • Alloys • Carbide**  
**Radiators • Lead • Batteries**

**McNichols**  
**Scrap Iron & Metal Co.**  
6500 E. McNichols (near M. E. Iliott)  
[mcnicholsscrap.com](http://mcnicholsscrap.com)  
**(313) 365-6100**

**Detroit**  
**Iron & Metal Co.**  
8300 Dix (corner Lonyo)  
[detroitironandmetal.com](http://detroitironandmetal.com)  
**(313) 841-5100**





**Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47**

**Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47**

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

Local 47 Lansing Office, 419 S. Washington Square, Suite 301, Lansing, Michigan 48933. Ph.: 517-708-0665

Remember that all Union Meetings have been suspended until further notice.

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.

The International Union is requesting all the names of past and present members that are Veterans of the Armed Forces. This list will be going back to our charter in 1937. We need the name, registration number, military branch and dates served. Please call the office for more information.

2020 Local 47 Golf Outing has not been canceled at this point. Please send in your foursomes.

All members should have received a letter from our International regarding the Asbestos Exposure Scientific Study. For more information on how to participate in this study, please contact Business Manager Patrick Welch at the main Local 47 Office number: 517-708-0665

Per the Rules and Procedures:

Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Contracts are available at the Union Office or at the Union Meeting upon request.

**OSHA 10:** Local 47 will be offering OSHA 10 to any Active Member who is not current with the program. The course is done online, so if you wish to take the course please contact the Local Union office with your email address and we will be more than happy to set it up for you. If you do not have a computer at home, you are welcome to come to the Local Union Office to take the course.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804)441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

Local 47 has been receiving a lot of returned mail from our members. We ask that if you have a change of address or phone number to please call the Local Union Office right away so we can update your information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International. It is very important to make sure your contact information is always update with Local 47.

Anyone interested in joining the newly formed Breath Of Life Committee is asked to please call the Local Union Office.

Pension and Health Welfare: Larry Tolbert (269-345-8944)

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive

Lansing, MI 48917-9275. Toll Free No.: (800) 323-8079

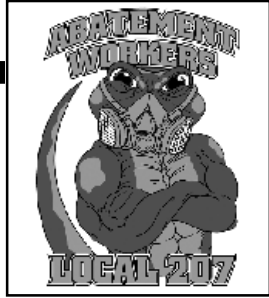
Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502

Fax Number: (517) 321-7508

The Funds Trustees have reinstated the Seventy-Nine Hours Rule for all Retirees.

Larry Tolbert will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Larry is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (269) 345-8944, or by mail at: P.O. Box 19541, Kalamazoo, MI 49019.

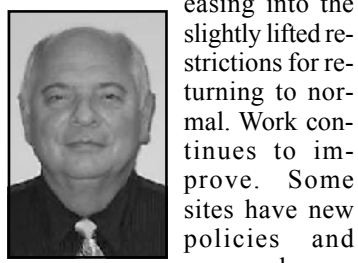
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**Abatement Workers Local 207**

**Abatement Workers Local 207**

TAYLOR – Hope all members and their families are safe and slowly



DAN SOMENUER

easing into the slightly lifted restrictions for returning to normal. Work continues to improve. Some sites have new policies and procedures when entering their facilities. 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.

One of the 2 members that tested positive with Covid 19 2 weeks ago is back to work. The other has recently been re-tested after 2 weeks at home. One member was in Michigan and the other was in southern Ohio. Let us keep them in our thoughts & prayers.

The General Office has banned all Union Meetings and Elections until further notice. Our current election process has been put on hold until an ok is given to proceed. There has been no word yet on when meetings can resume. All members will be notified by mail when the election can resume.

**UPCOMING ASBESTOS TRAINING CLASSES:**

Asbestos Supervisor Refresher - Saturday, July 11th, 2020

Asbestos Supervisor Refresher - Saturday, August 29th, 2020

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, STAY HEALTHY, & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES!

**Local 47 cont'd**

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

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

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

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

Good and Welfare:

Congratulations to Woodrow Woody Smith on your 101st birthday on March 5!

Our condolences go out to the Family and Friends of Robert Bedrick who passed away on May 26, 2020.

Please keep those members affected by the floods in your thoughts.

Get well to all our sick or injured members.



**Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25**

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 SOUTHFIELD – REMINDER: We are still under the direction of the International Union. Pursuant to their directive, the JUNE

2020 UNION MEETING has been cancelled. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing directive and the uncertainty of when it will be lifted, Local #25's ANNUAL PICNIC has been cancelled as well. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates.

APRIL PER CAPITA: The required Per Capita payment for any member working less than 32 hours in the month of April 2020 has been waived. Any payments already made to the Union Office will be returned.

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.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. The only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remains current and correct is to call the Office – (248) 352-1850.

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information. Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members. In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

S.U.B. FUND: Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

LAY OFF/HIRE: Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within forty-eight hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION: Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within 30 days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the 30 days will be denied per the Plan Document.

SICK AND INJURED: Please keep all our sick and injured members in your thoughts and prayers.



THE DAKKOTA-KETTERING project on Detroit's east side has been described as a "Big Costco," with 300,000 square-feet of space under 39-foot-tall metal walls on a six-inch concrete pad. The project will create 625 jobs for the automotive supplier. The \$55 million project is currently employing about 90 tradespeople, working under project manager Devon Industrial Group.



PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES District Council 1M recently donated a check for \$25,000 from the PATCH Fund (Painters and Allied Trades for Childrens Hope) to the United Way of Michigan to help disadvantaged children and their families with meals and other necessities. Making the donation to United Way Labor Relations Director Tiffany Bush, center, are (l-r) Director of Organizing Dave Saaristo, Organizer Tony Parker, Business Manager Robert Gonzalez and Political Director Keith Anderson.



**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

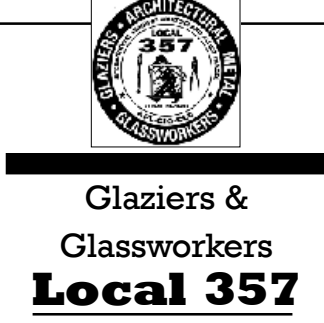
**Local Union 826**  
Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman  
Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.  
Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529  
**Local Union 845**  
Business Rep: Fred Frederickson  
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.  
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, 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: John Sape  
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.



**Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357**  
WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be subject to announcement.

We hope that everyone had a terrific Memorial Holiday Weekend.

Unfortunately, brother Dan Diehl passed away on May 26<sup>th</sup> in a fatal car accident. Dan was a member of Local 357 since 1999 and was a father to three young girls.

Please keep Dan and his family in your thoughts and prayers. He was our brother, and our friend.

The Governor has let construction resume. This being said please follow the specific guidelines required on each project. It will take some getting used to, the new ppe required, but it is necessary to keep each other safe, and our families safe.

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

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

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

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

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

There is one piece of advice, in a life of study, which I think no one will object to; and that is, every now and then to be completely idle - to do nothing at all.

–Sydney Smith (1771 - 1845)



**Painters DC 1M**  
WARREN – Dear Members, as our great state of Michigan re-opens and our Members return to work. Please use best practices to stay safe on the job. Wear your masks, maintain social distancing whenever possible, wash your hands, most of all use common sense while on the job. Please take care of yourself and each other.



ROBERT GONZALEZ

DC1M WEB SITE: 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 MICHIGAN APPRENTICESHIP RESUMES. The Apprenticeship will resume classes starting Monday June 8. The Apprenticeship School has sent letters to all Apprentices regarding their schedule.

Painter, Drywall Finisher and Glazier Apprentices, should you have any questions, please contact Director of Training Shawn O'neill at (517)304-4425 or by email dot@iupatdc1m.org.

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL I M SMART PHONE APP

Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its 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 810-232-0005. New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so.

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



**Sign, Pictorial and Display 591**  
WARREN – A Special Called Meeting will take place Tuesday, June 23 at the District Council Hall for the 2020 wage disbursement. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Our Medical Insurance wants additional 40 cents per hour in addition to 25 cents already agreed to. A Medical Insurance Rep will be present to answer questions about increase and coverage.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.





**IRON WORKERS (l-r) Dan Czerny, Bill Sumner, and "Uncle Paul" Paul DeLucia of Midwest Steel pause from their jobs for a photo outside the Dakkota Kettering project in Detroit. They're employed by Midwest Steel.**



## Local 25 Iron Workers

### Iron Workers 25

**NOVI – Local Union Elections:** Congratulations to our Incumbent Officer positions: Dennis Aguirre II (President); Michael Randick (FST-Business Manager); Jimmy Horvath (Vice-President/Business Agent); Tim Brennan (West MI Business Agent); Marc Crance (Western Area Business Agent); Mike Christensen (Up-State Business Agent); Wayne Coffell (Mid-State Business Agent); Anthony Ramos (Reinforcing Business Agent). Congratulations to our NEW Officers: Ralph McComber (Rigging MM Business Agent); and Doug Washburn (Downriver Business Agent).

Congratulations to our Executive Board: Joe Patterson, Mike Mansfield, Joseph Fontaine, Dan Farah, and Rich Witzke. Congratulations also to: Jeff Hamric (Recording Secretary); Mike Mansfield (Sergeant-At-Arms); Joseph Fontaine (Conductor); Paul Becigneul and "Buddah" Don Litterini (Examining Board). Thank you to everyone who stepped up to run for Office this year!

Because of your concern, dedication and courage Local 25 continues our forward momentum protecting and enhancing our community and the financial interests of our membership at large. Congratulations and Thank you to every Nominee and Officer!

Work is Available! We are in need of manpower. If you or someone you know is off, please call Dispatch or a Business Agent. We must fill our jobs in order to protect them!

**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 to sign up for the out of work list: www.ironworkers25.org**

**PLEASE 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, press 1 for Member access to this menu:

**QUESTION:** Vacation Pay-out or Balance Inquiry: Option 1.

**QUESTION:** Loss of Time, Disability or Death Inquiries or Claims: Option 2.

**QUESTION:** Health & Welfare such as Add or Remove a Dependent, Self-Payment, Enrollment forms, Prescription coverage, Monthly Status, Eligibility, ADDRESS Changes: Option 3.

**QUESTION:** To find the status of employer contributions remitted on your behalf: Option 4.

**QUESTION:** To update reciprocity information or find the status of reciprocity contributions: Option 4.

**QUESTION:** Pension or Defined Contributions Information such as Request an application for retirement or an application for a D.C. distribution. Direct Deposit or tax withholding changes. Request a Pension Verification Letter or you haven't received your pension check: Option 5.

**QUESTION:** Blue Cross Health Claims / Customer Service 877-790-2583. **QUESTION:** Delta Dental Claims / Customer Service 800-482-8915. Benesys office 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.

## Local 25 Iron Workers

**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.**

**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.**

**June Union Meeting:** We held our first "Zoom" union meeting on Monday, June 1, at 7:00pm. Attendance was very good and it was a successful meeting! We are looking to repeat the Zoom union meeting so please be sure you have downloaded our APP or signed up for our emails. Next meeting: to be determined.

**Union and Steward Meetings are cancelled until further notice.** The classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School are on hold as we reevaluate. New Apprentice Applications are still temporarily suspended. The Wixom Training Center – Phone: 248-960-2130 - Phone calls only to the school.

**The following Events are Cancelled:** Ironworker Picnic, June Apprentice Competition, Dennis O'Dowd Golf Outing (we may try to hold it in the fall however), Detroit Labor Day Parade, and the Labor Day Bridge Walk in Mackinaw. We've recently learned that the Annual Ironworker Festival in Mackinaw is CANCELLED.

At this time, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ironworker Benefit Dinner is being planned for Saturday Sept. 5, 2020. More information to follow.

**Stewards' Notes:** 1) The Electronic Steward Reporting forms are online www.ironworkers25.org Log in with your book number, and the password is the last 4 (four) of your social. 2) PLEASE be sure to check dues for members and boomers too AND BE SURE ALL BOOMERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING 3) All members please be sure to keep your Union dues paid up to date as it is criteria for working. *You can be asked to leave the jobsite if your dues are not current.*

**Pay union dues with credit-debit card 24/7 by calling 888-386-8173** and follow the prompts. OR PAY at www.ironworkers25.org Any member payment for multiple members, fines, suspensions, withdrawal deposits, **SHOULD NOT use this process. Whenever possible we are emailing you, your dues receipt.**

**Pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. PLEASE include your book number on the face of the check/money order. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).** After-hours use the outdoor-dues-collection box.

Pay a year's dues or more (\$429 Journeyman) (\$426 Apprentice) and you will get a one-month dues paid for by Local 25. (Get the 13<sup>th</sup> month free). This is in-

(Continued next column)



## Local 8 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local Union #8 Tim Roman, Business Representative UPPER PENINSULA – **WELD CERTIFICATIONS:** Weld certifications will soon be commencing at Bay College. Please contact Rich Hanson, at the Apprenticeship office to schedule an appointment. 414-476-9372.

## Local 25, con't

tended to encourage members to pay their dues in a timely manner. The one month will be credited in the month AFTER your actual 12-month payment.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced last month that all REGISTERED voters in Michigan will receive an application to vote by mail in the August and November elections. By mailing applications, the Secretary of State will ensure that no "Michigander has to choose between their health and their right to vote," said Benson. "Voting by mail is easy, convenient, safe, and secure, and every voter in Michigan has the right to do it." The application is also available for download at Michigan.gov/Vote. At the same website, voters can also register and join the permanent absent voter list so they always have the option to vote by mail. Check your voter registration at Michigan Voter Information Center Michigan.gov/Vote

**"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools."** Quote from PLATO. The International Association (IABSORIW) has endorsed Joe Biden for president of the United States of America.

**ATTENTION RETIREES:** Due to the COVID-10 pandemic, all retiree meetings across the local's jurisdiction are canceled until further notice. 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.

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**Those who have passed:** Dave Frick #1144557 passed away May 24, 2020 at the age of 56. He was a member for 26 years from 1988-2014. Erwin Strickland #1032436 passed away May 3, 2020 at the age of 71. He had been a member for 40 years and survived by his sons Blake Strickland #1253357 and Todd Strickland #1467246. Allen Grooms #930134 passed away May 26, 2020 at the age of 66. He was a member for 45 years. Marvin Appold #729835 passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at the age of 87. He was a 54-year member.

**Our condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

**To all Union Members:** We hope you and your family are safe and healthy. Thank you for all you continue to do to support each other during this pandemic response.

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (6/08/2020 11:00 am E.S.T.).

# Pension reform on back-burner in Congress

(Continued from Page 1)

this premier event brings together hundreds of members from around the country to hear from federal policymakers about legislative and regulatory issues that will affect their businesses.

Multiemployer pension reform was scheduled to be one of the most important topics of discussion at the conference. While we can't meet in person, we've put together what we hope is the next best thing: a comprehensive overview of where reform efforts currently stand and the prospects for making real progress in 2020.

Efforts to convince Congress to move forward with alternative plan designs, including a new "hybrid" or composite option for plans, have stalled while federal policymakers struggle to find solutions that both address failing pension plans and strengthen the overall multiemployer pension system.

*(Editor's note: Composite plans can be voluntarily instituted by a union-employer group, and they combine features of a traditional pension plan with 401k-style contributions. They would be offered alongside a union's traditional pension plan. Some building trades unions support the concept, others don't.)*

This failure to act threatens to undermine the multiemployer pension system and exacerbates the uncertainty for both the participants in these plans and the signatory employers who contribute to them. The CEA continues to remind Congress and the administration that while only about 10 percent of plans in the multiemployer system face insolvency, the overall system and its contributing employers are under stress – even more so in the wake of COVID-19-related work restrictions.

Many plans face significant unfunded liabilities and are subject to the same long-term risks that have driven other plans to insolvency. While we recognize and share the concerns about the effect of this crisis on plan participants, Congress and the administration need to understand that the system depends first and foremost on the viability of the contributing employer. Despite years of ever-increasing contributions, companies are subject to withdrawal liability that is frequently higher than the value of their company.

Owners cannot sell their businesses; the risks are too great to pass along to their children or other heirs; and the liabilities hinder the ability to transfer ownership to employees and the formation of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan, ESOP. Just staying in business is a challenge as employers face growing scrutiny from lenders and tighter credit

markets.

Again, we expect these problems will only increase in a post-coronavirus world. These liabilities are also a growing threat to companies' obtaining credit on reasonable terms. The unfunded liabilities create a barrier to new employers that want to enter the system and, worse, serve as an impetus for current employers to leave the plan, further destabilizing individual plans and the system overall. At the same time, policymakers need to recognize that active workers have seen decreases in their future benefits even in the face of increased contributions to their plans.

Is there a solution on the horizon? We are pleased that a proposal issued late last year by Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn – who chair the Senate committees with jurisdiction over multi-employer pension issues – has generated productive bipartisan discussions this year.

While many aspects of the proposal concern stakeholders, the CEA has held that it is a blueprint to initiate bipartisan discussions, not an ending point. The good news is that composite plans are part of the proposal. It is our job to educate people on both sides of the aisle in both houses that composites are necessary to modernize the multiemployer system and can be implemented in a way that would allow broader segments of plans to use composite plans.

A key problem Congress faces is how to pay for the estimated \$4 billion in annual costs to allow failing plans to partition liabilities in order to remain solvent. Some have suggested that the "system" should bear most of or all this cost.

The CEA stresses that construction industry employers and active workers have already made significant sacrifices to cover unfunded liabilities in their own plans and cannot also be expected to fully finance the rescue of failing plans through premium increases. Extreme increases would weaken the financial health of individual employers and the plans.

It doesn't make sense to bankrupt remaining plans to pay for the benefits promised by failed plans. Additionally, the CEA points out that Congress

has raised the PBGC premium rate for multiemployer plans over time and that the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA) doubled its rate in 2015 and included automatic increases for inflation.

Since, ultimately, the employer shoulders premium increases, construction employers argue that any increases must be phased in over a reasonable time period and that Congress should ensure that all other tools are fully deployed before considering increasing premiums.

This includes fully implementing the MPRA reforms for failing plans, providing government funding to pay for proposals to partition and authorizing composite plans.

Beyond figuring out how to pay for multiemployer pension reforms, policy recommendations under discussion would significantly affect the multiemployer system. This includes a proposal to mandate a maximum rate of return – the plan "discount rate" – that plans can assume. Severe and sudden changes to the funding rules will have grave and unintended consequences.

Even a modest change in investment assumptions can dramatically alter funding status. As previously stated, Congress must maintain a delicate balance to keep employers participating in the plans. Changes must be modest and phased in because mandating lower investment assumptions would raise actuarial liabilities, driving an inordinate number of plans to critical status and causing dramatically increased employer contributions.

Changes that financially weaken employers weaken the system and would put more multiemployer plans at risk of insolvency.

(From the Spring 2020 edition of *The Construction User*, the publication of the Association of Union Constructors. The writers: Kolb is a partner is with Summit Strategies, and Thompson is a SMACNA policy specialist.)

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## Outdoors



# Sharing space with urban wildlife

By Hannah Schauer  
Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources

The term wildlife might conjure up thoughts of large, exotic mammals in faraway places. Or perhaps some of the larger mammals we have in Michigan, such as a moose or a black bear, may come to mind.

But wildlife isn't just the big, iconic animals we tend to think of – it includes smaller species like bumblebees and butterflies. Chances are, you have had first-hand experience with a wild animal no matter where you live.

Wildlife is all around us. We all share the same habitat and are connected as different parts of the same ecosystem.

Each species plays an important role in the ecosystem and contributes to keeping our environment healthy.

Wildlife improves our shared ecosystem in a vast range of ways, providing countless benefits for humans.

For example, some species of birds and bats eat a variety of insects that would otherwise cause significant crop damage. Bats also pollinate flowers that provide fruits that we eat, like bananas.

Snakes, coyotes, hawks and owls all prey on smaller mammals, some of which people frequently view as pests, like mice and rats. Wildlife like turkey vultures could be considered a sort of clean-up crew as they scavenge and consume unsightly roadkill.

Because wild animals of all sizes can be found throughout Michigan, they provide benefit to whatever habitat they live in, from forests and wetlands to farmlands and cities.

**Living with our wild neighbors.**

Amazingly, many species have adapted and figured out how to survive in human-altered landscapes. Wild animals have been able to find a way to meet their needs even within our inner cities. Whether we intend to or not, people have changed the available habitat – we have created new



COYOTES HAVE adapted to living in human-modified landscapes. (Shutterstock image via MDNR)

habitat for ourselves and in the process created new habitat for wildlife.

Not all species have been able to adapt to these dramatic changes to their landscapes, but many have.

We cannot exist apart from wildlife, so we should put in a little effort to coexist with our wild neighbors.

If you enjoy watching wildlife, there are a variety of steps you can take to improve your property for wild animals, even in urban areas.

Pollinators such as bees and monarch butterflies – whose populations have declined dramatically in recent decades, threatening the food sources they pollinate – need places to stop to get food. You can plant a variety of plants in pots that can be attractive to these species, making even a small balcony a wildlife refuge.

Get started with tips and information for creating and maintaining wildlife habitat at Michigan.gov/Wildlife and in the Landowner's Guide.

**Conflicts with wildlife.**

As with any neighbor, you might not always get along with wildlife or approve of their behavior. Fortunately, there are some

options to deal with an unwanted visitor to your area.

"If you wanted to attract wildlife to your property, you would consider what food or shelter you might be able to provide to them," said Brian Roell, a DNR wildlife biologist from Marquette. "Discouraging wildlife follows a similar thought process, but instead of adding things like food or shelter for the wildlife, you would want to remove it."

Making your area an unappealing habitat is a good first step to take to reduce the potential for conflicts.

Roell suggests removing potential food sources, especially bird feeders, and not leaving pet foods outside – you never know who might come around looking for a free meal.

You can also try some "hazing" methods, which include tactics like making loud noises, to make the wildlife view you as the unfriendly neighbor and seek a quieter neighborhood.

Check out our "How to Haze a Nuisance Coyote" video on Youtube for hazing techniques and tips that can work on more than just coyotes.

Being a good neighbor to wildlife is as simple as being mindful about how your actions or

property could be an attractive habitat. From there, you can make changes to either make your property more appealing to certain species or less so.

Tips and information on how to handle conflicts with wildlife are available at Michigan.gov/Wildlife.

**When habitat changes are not enough.**

There are always those situations where, no matter what you do, you cannot seem to discourage an animal from your area. Especially when it is one of Michigan's well-adapted species like coyotes, deer, turkeys and geese, which seem to thrive in urban areas.

These animals may be well-suited for living in manmade habitats and hard to deter.

This is especially true of a species like coyotes, which are territorial and may be less keen on leaving "their" space to go elsewhere. Not only are coyotes found everywhere in Michigan, but they have healthy populations, so there probably are not many unoccupied territories left to choose from.

If you live in a more rural area where outdoor recreation activities like hunting and trapping are allowed, you can remedy some of

these issues during the open season for the species causing the headache.

"Hunting and trapping seasons give landowners options for mitigating issues with wildlife, while still preserving them on the landscape," said Adam Bump, the DNR's furbearer specialist. "There are also some species that can be taken year-round."

Bump says that coyotes, raccoons, woodchucks (groundhogs) and skunks can be killed at any time by landowners or their designees employing otherwise lawful methods if these animals are doing, or about to do, damage to private property.

Information on hunting in Michigan can be found at Michigan.gov/Hunting. Species that have open trapping seasons and associated regulations can be found at Michigan.gov/Trapping.

**What about urban areas where hunting is not an option?**

"The DNR issues permits to businesses that can provide wildlife removal services for certain species," said Casey Reitz, wildlife permit specialist with the DNR. "This helps give landowners an option for dealing with unwanted wildlife on their property, particularly in those areas where hunting is not allowed."

"Permittees use a variety of methods for removal that are safe in an urban or residential setting. They can help landowners with

removal of species like coyote, fox, muskrats, opossums, squirrels, woodchucks and skunks, to name a few."

Find the Nuisance Wildlife Control Directory at Michigan.gov/Wildlife.

The DNR also works closely with federal agencies to offer options for handling issues with Canada geese, a species protected by both federal and state laws, in urban areas. Specially permitted nuisance control companies can be hired to assist landowners with goose control programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services also offers removal assistance, such as nest destruction and relocation permits.

**Aggressive animals.**

In those instances where there is an aggressive wild animal, particularly animals such as geese, swans, turkeys, deer and bears, landowners should get in touch with the nearest DNR Customer Service Center to let the local DNR staff know about the issue. As each situation is unique, staff will first assess the problem and then determine the appropriate action based on the species and location.

Landowners can contact one of the nuisance wildlife control permittees for assistance with removal of species such as coyotes, fox, raccoons, opossums and skunks.

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