

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

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Since 1952 • Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trade unions

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July 10, 2020

SHORT CUTS

Jobless gains likely just a mirage

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Two months of huge payroll employment gains does not equate to a healthy economy.

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics released its latest monthly employment numbers on July 2, and they show a record 4.8 million job gains in June alone, on top of a 2.7 million hike in jobs in May. But few economists expressed excitement over the numbers.

For one, they didn't reflect the business shutdowns and "re-shutdowns" that came later in June in various states, including Michigan, as the virus surged to record levels in some places.

Said the Economic Policy Institute: "Because so many jobs were lost in March and April, we are still 14.7 million jobs below where we were in February, before the pandemic."

And, ominously, the EPI said in the last week of June, 2.3 million U.S. workers applied for unemployment benefits – the 15th week in a row that jobless claims have been more than twice the worst week of the Great Recession a decade ago.

"Unfortunately, deepening pain is on the horizon," the EPI said. "Given the increase in coronavirus over the last couple of weeks along with re-shuttering of businesses ... June's labor market – as weak as it is – is the best we can expect for a while."

U.S. is Third World for worker rights

All the statewide right-to-work laws, an OSHA and NLRB apathetic to workers and the general decline in unions are having an effect on the United States.

Those and other factors have been noted by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which ranked the United States on June 18 among the worst countries for workers' rights in its 2020 Global Rights Index for "systemic violations of rights."

The U.S. earned a No. 4 ranking, which has the category "systemic violations of rights." That puts the U.S. on par with countries like Haiti, Jordan, Uganda and Venezuela, to name a few. The ranking puts the U.S. closer to nations like China, Iran and Egypt (all bottom-ranked No. 5, "no guarantee of rights") than it does to No. 2 Canada (repeated violation of rights) or the best, No. 1 ranked countries like Germany, Iceland, and Sweden ("sporadic violation of rights").

The COVID-19 pandemic is being used by some countries to further restrict workers' rights, the ITUC said.

"If the findings of the Rights Index are not shocking enough, we are already seeing some countries take things further," said Sharan Burron, general secretary of the ITUC. "Under the cover of measures to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, they are advancing their anti-workers'-rights agenda. This has got to stop and be reversed."

"The Global Rights Index exposes a breakdown in the social contract that governments and employers have with working people. There's a trend to restrict working rights through violations of collective bargaining, withholding the right to strike and excluding workers from unions."

Quotable

"In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice...the path of faith, the path of hope, and the path of love toward our fellow man."

– Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1882-1945



A TUBE STEEL CANOPY is erected last month at Henry Ford Allegiance Hospital in Jackson by members of Iron Workers Local 25, employed by Douglas Steel. Photo credits: Marc Crance

New way to welcome patients going up at Henry Ford Allegiance

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

JACKSON – Welcome to Henry Ford Allegiance Hospital.

A nicer, more efficient way to greet patients, visitors and staff is on the way to the city's main hospital at Michigan and East avenues.

Henry Ford Allegiance Health said it is in the midst of expanding the front entrance of the hospital to enhance way-finding so that patients, families and visitors can more easily navigate its expanding hospital structure, including its new West Tower of private patient rooms. This renovation will also include a more welcoming environment in the lobby area.

"This is really about ensuring our patients have the best experience we can possibly provide," said Henry Ford Allegiance Health Integration Ad-

visor Karen Chaprka. "From the moment patients approach the hospital, we want them to feel welcome by creating a calm, healing environment that reflects the

high quality of care and service we offer. One way to achieve this is to create an entrance with an inviting look and atmosphere. (Continued on Page 13)



UNDERNEATH the new steel tube canopy at Henry Ford Allegiance-Jackson, Iron Workers Local 25 members employed by Douglas Steel weld joints for the new entrance. Leading the project are Local 25 foreman Dennis Douglas and steward Larry Lambaria.

Vote Tuesday, Aug. 4
in the Michigan Primary
For Endorsements: See Page 4

Michigan regions, for now, enjoy top U.S. rankings in survey of construction jobs

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

We're sizzling, Michigan. And it's not because of the 90-degree temperatures much of the Lower Peninsula has experienced in recent weeks. But we're headed for uncertain, maybe chillier times.

Construction activity in Michigan, relative to the rest of the country, zoomed to the top of the employment charts that are updated every month by the Associated General Contractors of America, based on federal job statistics. Michigan's building trades workforce has been extremely busy since Gov. Whitmer on May 7 ended the six-week COVID-19 construction lockdown on building in the state. But there's a caveat, which we will get

to shortly.

In our last issue, we explained how Michigan's construction employment was up 24 percent from March 1 (pre-COVID) compared to May 31 (three weeks post-COVID) – the second-highest percentage increase in the nation during that time.

But now, in a report released by the AGC on June 30, a further breakdown of the numbers shows how widespread the jumps in construction are in Michigan. We've never seen anything close to this: among 329 geographical "metropolitan" jurisdictions in the U.S., eight of the nation's top 10 communities for construction employment increases are right here in Michigan.

"Yes we're busy, there's a (Continued on Page 3)

NLRB shift weakens union position prior to bargaining process

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Labor Relations Board on June 23 overturned precedent, yet again, and now "allows employers to impose serious discipline on an employee ahead of reaching a collective bargaining agreement with a newly formed union," according to *Bloomberg Law*.

The decision means that management at newly unionized businesses can carry out discipline against employees during the pre-contract phase without having to notify or bargain with

the union.

Overtaken was an Obama-era NLRB rule that "required employers to provide notice and an opportunity to bargain to a newly-certified union on 'serious' disciplinary action against unit employees, even before a collective bargaining agreement is in place, says the *National Law Review*."

The *Review* added: "The National Labor Relations Board continues to overrule Obama-Board precedent at a rapid pace." Employers weren't required to reach an agreement with the union "before actually taking action under the previous precedent, and could impose discipline unilaterally in certain exigent circumstances," says *Labor 411*.

The NLRB, which in comprised of a 3-0 majority of appointees of President Trump, said in a statement that the precedent was overturned because the existing rule that called for employers to

(Continued on Page 3)

House adopts \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – It took an economic crisis bought on by an historic pandemic, but the Democrat-led House of Representatives on July 1 adopted a long-awaited, wide-ranging infrastructure bill with a \$1.5 trillion

price tag that probably has something for everybody.

Adopted was House Resolution 2, which passed by a 233-188 vote, mostly along party lines with Democrats in support. Paperwise and content-wise, it's a very thick bill, and in many ways tries to play catch-up with the nation's

decades-long refusal to address our aging infrastructure.

"The Moving Forward Act is a \$1.5-trillion, 2,300-page bill," says *Forbes*, "that would touch almost every aspect of American life, from the roads we drive on to the way rural communities get broadband internet, from improv-

ing ports and train networks to investing in schools and child care. There's even talk in there about electric or hybrid airplanes."

Peter DeFazio, the Democrat who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said the legislation "deals (Continued on Page 3)

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) NOTICE TO VISITORS Your health and safety matters

Summer's heat brings special risks for facemask use

By Nick Fox
Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America

Across the U.S. and Canada, the summer months bring widespread risk for heat illness to millions of workers who spend most of their days outdoors. According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 11 construction workers died from heat exposure in 2018, and an-

other 370 required days away from work to recover from heat illness.

"LIUNA members working on road jobs to repair our aging highway system, on pipelines and other critical infrastructure projects and on other projects in the construction industry are at high risk for heat illness," says Laborers International Union of



North America General President Terry O'Sullivan. "These jobs can require tough, physical labor, and when that physical exertion is combined with high temperatures,

heat exhaustion and heat stroke can happen quickly."

Construction employers and other businesses have implemented social distancing policies, stepped up cleaning and disinfecting protocols and taken other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on jobsites.

Part of the safety measures

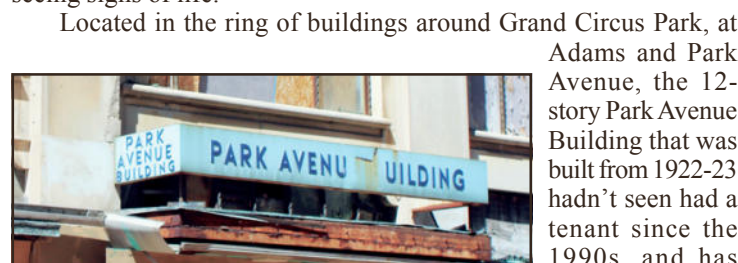
that many construction employers have implemented is the mandatory use of cloth face coverings on the job. Face coverings are especially important when workers are working close together in enclosed spaces and when it's not feasible to practice physical distancing during a task. However, a policy that mandates cloth face coverings (or N95

(Continued on Page 2)

Park Avenue Building finally gets some love

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – A prominent, historic building that has heretofore resisted redevelopment – and a date with the wrecking ball – is again seeing signs of life.



Located in the ring of buildings around Grand Circus Park, at Adams and Park Avenue, the 12-story Park Avenue Building that was built from 1922-23 hadn't seen had a tenant since the 1990s, and has largely been vacant since the 1980s. Two years ago, brick and other masonry had fallen 11 stories to the sidewalk in front of the building, leading to a "dangerous" designation from the City of Detroit and the erection of a barricade around the building.

About a week before the masonry fell in April 2018, the Beaux-Arts classic was purchased for \$4.9 million by a Novi developer, Rino (Continued on Page 2)



POWER-WASHING the 98-year-old brick and limestone exterior of the Park Avenue Building in Detroit are Laborer Rudy Leon and mason Tyler Tabor of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by Grunwell Cashero. The derelict building is getting readied for renovation after being empty since the 1990s.

Viewpoints



Seeking a safe, solvent state

The labor movement has always led the charge in protecting working people from workplace injury, illness and death. We've all seen heroic workers on the news during the COVID-19 outbreak, working in jobs from health care to food service, risking their health and the health of their families in the process.

The AFL-CIO has been working to advance protections in Michigan and federally to ensure we reopen the economy in a way that's appropriately cautious and importantly, avoids a second wave of this awful virus. I'm grateful to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for all the actions she's taken to protect Michigan's working families. Her efforts have truly saved lives. Now the Republican majorities in the Legislature need to step up and do right by working people and work with Democrats to pass laws that make sure that these protections stay in place for the future, because this crisis isn't over yet.

Working with the Michigan Legislative Labor Caucus, we've outlined legislation that would do just that. Our priorities include keeping front-line workers safe and secure. Rep. Jim Haadsma has introduced a bill to create a presumption within workers compensation for first responder heroes who have post-traumatic stress disorder.

We also want to ensure that we keep workers employed. Rep. Tenisha Yancey's bill would restore the 2018 Paid Sick Leave initiative that was gutted by Republicans in the Legislature, and ensure that all workers who get sick are able to stay home and receive earned paid sick leave so they aren't forced to go into work when they're sick and risk infecting others.

We must keep Michigan healthy. Rep. Alex Garza has introduced a bill to codify best practices based on worker safety and sound science, provide personal protective equipment to workers, conduct screenings, and identify and protect people who work in high-risk areas.

Another priority is that we keep state and local governments, our public schools, and the U.S. Postal Service solvent and working. We need Republicans in Washington and Lansing to step up to make sure budgets stay balanced and public workers stay on the job. In Washington, Republicans should get to work on another round of funding and protections to continue aiding the economy in this time of crisis.

President Donald Trump said he would support additional stimulus. It's my hope that they get this done soon. In Lansing, Republicans haven't so much as proposed a budget in 2020. This work needs to happen now, so that schools and local towns and counties have the financial information they need to plan for what looks like an uncertain economy.

We also need to keep Michigan and our country competitive by hiring people to finally get to work on our infrastructure. The governor's bonding plan is already fixing roads and bridges, and we are rebuilding from the terrible floods that affected folks in the Midland and Gladwin area.

Whitmer is doing everything she can, but we need continued support from the federal government, both in aid to states, and in direct spending on rebuilding our country's crumbling infrastructure.

Incredibly, some folks believe that we should be leveraging this opportunity to undermine workers and the unions who protect them. Just last Friday the Michigan Civil Service Commission announced proposed plans to attack the collective bargaining rights of the very workers who kept us healthy, safe and fed during this coronavirus crisis. This shameful political attack must end now.

The Civil Service Commission must do the right thing by these heroes and immediately cease their ill thought-out plan and show these workers, who had our back when we needed it most, that we will have theirs.

Especially right now, leaders at all levels should be doing everything they can to protect those workers who keep us safe and healthy.

Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber
from the Detroit News Labor Voices, June 9, 2020

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

How to contact us—

By mail: Building Tradesman Editor
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216

e-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net



Follow us

Hot weather brings special risks for facemask use

(Continued from Page 1)

respirators) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 should be re-examined during high-heat conditions.

Using face coverings makes it more difficult to breathe because the body has to work harder with each breath to pull the same amount of air into the lungs. Breathing may become more difficult as the cloth becomes soaked with sweat. When the body has to work harder than normal, our heart rate increases. The combination of strenuous physical activity, high-heat conditions and difficulty breathing has the potential to put workers at serious risk for heat illness, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Federal OSHA's position. OSHA briefly addresses this issue in their COVID-19 FAQ on cloth face coverings, a portion of which is included below:

"Where cloth face coverings are not appropriate ... during certain job tasks (e.g., because they could become contaminated or exacerbate heat illness), employers can provide PPE, such as face shields and/or surgical masks, instead of encouraging workers to wear cloth face coverings. Like cloth face coverings, surgical masks and face shields can help contain the wearer's potentially infectious respiratory droplets and can help limit spread of COVID-19 to others."

Surgical masks are easier to breathe through than cloth face coverings, which are usually made using at least one layer of cotton. Face shields provide a barrier without requiring a worker to inhale air through any type of material.

Reducing risk for heat illnesses. In addition to these options, employers can also reduce risk for heat illness by providing additional rest breaks, changing shift times to cooler parts of the day and/or rotating work crews more frequently during strenuous tasks. Employers should perform a risk assessment of each job task to determine conditions when using a mask may be hazardous or not required because of other controls. Depending on the task, possible controls may include increasing ventilation, installing physical barriers, staggering shifts, working alone, increasing physical distancing and increasing hand hygiene protocols.

Providing water, rest and shade, and allowing workers time to acclimate to high-heat conditions, are the most effective methods to reduce and prevent heat illness. Workers should be trained to recognize the signs of heat illness, including the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Employers should encourage workers who experience trouble breathing, feel dizzy or feel their heart racing to do the following:

- Move at least six feet away from their fellow workers, then remove their mask
- Find shade if it's available to let the body cool down, then rest while drinking some cool water
- Seek medical attention if symptoms don't improve within a few minutes

Facial coverings not a replacement for respirators. It's important for both employers and workers to remember that cloth face coverings, surgical masks and face shields used to limit the spread of COVID-19 cannot be used in place of respirators when a respirator would otherwise be required. For example, if a worker is required to wear at least an N95 respirator due to exposure to respirable crystalline silica, a face covering does not meet that requirement. Remember: surgical masks and cloth face coverings are not respirators.

"Be not extravagantly high in expression of thy commendations of men thou likest, it may make the hearer's stomach rise."
—Thomas Fuller (1608 - 1661)

"A full cup must be carried steadily."
—English Proverb



OPENED IN 1923 to house business offices and retailers, the Park Avenue Building in Detroit followed the path of other downtown businesses and started emptying out in the 1980s.

Park Avenue Building finally gets some love

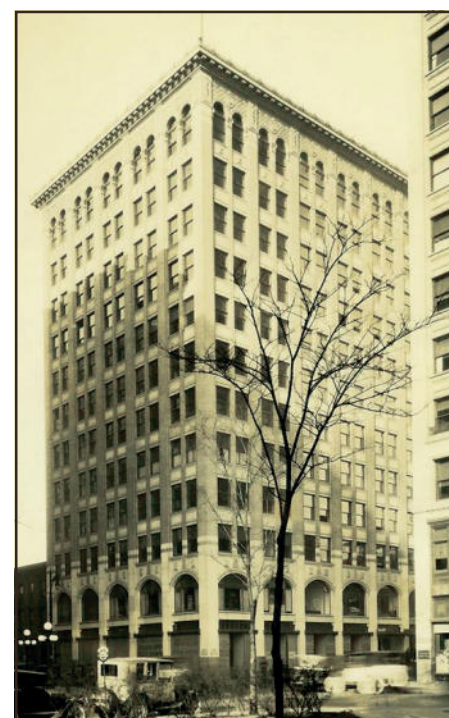
(Continued from Page 1)

Sauve. He plans \$22 million in renovations and a transformed 104,500-square-foot building with 75-100 apartments and first floor retail. The apartments will consist of one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Preliminary work on the masonry began June 1, with a small cleaning crew of laborers and Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 masons from Grunwell-Cashero.

"We're planning on doing brick repair, caulking, stone replacement and general restoration of the exterior of the whole building," said Grunwell Cashero Supt. Jeff Cusin. "But the first thing we're doing is powerwashing it with hot water, so we can get an idea of what it looks like cleaned up, and we can match the mortar."

Designed by famed architect Albert Kahn, the Park Avenue Building had housed offices and retail, according to the City of Detroit. It was once known as the General Necessities Building.

A 2014 citizens' petition drive sought to save the building from demolition, even though the city called its state of disrepair "the very definition of irreparable harm to the public."



THE PARK AVENUE building, circa 1920s. Photo credit: Indiana Limestone Photographic Collection

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ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

FREE ABESTOS CLAIM EVALUATION

ASBESTOS CLAIMS

Evaluation Request Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Date of Birth: _____

Union : _____ Local No: _____

Dates of Employment: _____ thru _____

Have you been exposed to asbestos?
 Yes No

Have you been diagnosed with:
 Mesothelioma Asbestosis
 Lung Cancer Colon Cancer

Do you have shortness of breath?
 Yes No

Return this form to:
 Goldberg, Persky & White, PC
 3995 Fashion Sq. Blvd. Suite 1 Saginaw, Michigan 48603 or
Call 800-799-2234

➔

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

Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.

For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We can arrange a **free chest x-ray** review by a NIOSH Certified B-Reader to determine the presence of asbestos lung disease for all qualified building tradesmen with start dates prior to 1975.

Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry.

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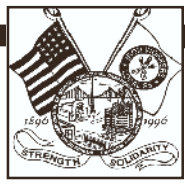
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Local 25 Iron Workers

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

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: Any member who has a new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days.

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.

Union Meeting: We held another "Zoom" union meeting on Monday July 6th at 7:00pm. To participate in the Zoom union meeting is easy ... just be sure you have downloaded our APP or signed up for our emails via our website (www.ironworkers25.org). We are leaning toward communication through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS—Please download the APP if you haven't done so yet!! Again, via our website!

Steward Meetings are still cancelled until further notice as we adhere to Governor Executive Orders.

Classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School are starting up again; we are practicing social distancing protocols, etc. New Apprentice Applications will be accepted BUT you MUST

(Continued next column)



Iron Workers Local 8

Iron Workers Local 8
Tim Roman
Business Representative
UPPER PENINSULA –
WELD CERTIFICATIONS: Weld certifications are being held on a as needed basis.
Please contact Rich Hanson at the Apprenticeship office for more information, call 414-476-9372.

SAFE START CLASS: A Safe Start Class will be held on Tuesday, July 28th, 2020, 5:00 p.m., at the Marquette Hall, 119 South Front Street. Please contact Rich Hanson to sign up for this class. 414-476-9362.

FORKLIFT/AERAILIFT: Forklift/Aerial Lift Recertification Class will be held on Wednesday, July 29th, 2020, 5:00 p.m., at the

Marquette Hall, 119 South Front Street.
Please contact Rich Hanson to sign up for the class. 414-476-9362.
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Membership Meetings will soon be broadcasted via Zoom. To participate, please contact the Milwaukee office to submit your email address.

Iron Workers Local 25, continued

phone the school for an appointment; no walk-in foot traffic. The Wixom Training Center – Phone: 248-960-2130–

Night Welding at the Wixom Training Center from 5-10pm will be July 14th, July 16th, July 28th, July 30th.

The following Events are Cancelled: Ironworker Picnic, Dennis O'Dowd Golf Outing, August Pin Award Ceremony, 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 5th 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 (\$429.00 Journeyman) (\$426.00 Apprentice) and you will get a (1) one-month dues paid for by Local 25. (Get the 13th month free). This is intended 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."
–PLATO

The International Association (IABSORIW) has endorsed Joe Biden for president of the United States of America.

ATTENTION RETIREES: Novi Retirees regular meeting is "in person" July 21, 2020 at 10:00am. Social distancing, face masks and good hygiene will be observed. There will be no luncheons in the near future, coffee and cake will be provided. The Novi Retirees Board of Directors meets "in person" August 4, 2020.

The Retirees' Scholarship Fund Golf Outing is scheduled for September 10, 2020. The Bay City Retirees meeting for July 16th is cancelled, however a regular meeting for October 15, 2020 is planned.

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.

Diversified Members Credit Union: Located at 25880 Novi Rd. Phone: 248-344-2560 - CALL

FOR HOURS. Services available: debit or credit cards, interest bearing checking accounts, IRAs, CDs, Benefits Plus program, HOME MORTGAGES, low interest loans and part of Co-Op Shared Branching. We have other branch locations in Detroit and Clawson.

Home Mortgages for Union Families: Learn more about the unique benefits available to union members, their parents and children. CALL 866-802-7307, M-F 8am - 10pm EST, Sat 9am - 5:30pm EST www.unionplus.org

Those who have passed: James A. Bagley #931541 passed away November 2, 2019 at the age of 64. He was a 45-year member. Mary Etta Ward passed away Sunday June 21, 2020 at the age of 90. She was the mother of Lifetime ironworker Thomas Myers #1121435. Robert J. White #1241551 passed away June 26, 2020 at the age of 49. He was a 22-year member. Lifetime ironworker Gerald R. Fisher #496549 passed away June 29, 2020 in Yuma, Arizona at the age of 91. He was a 68-year member. Gerald has 5 ironworker sons (1 of whom deceased), 1 ironworker step-son (deceased) and 2 ironworker grandsons. Simon Stroia #660771 passed away on July 2, 2020 at the age of 82. He was a 60-year member of Local 25. Predeceased by Richard Stroia #673273; Survived by David Stroia #689388, Daniel Stroia #824778 and Craig Stroia #1154879.

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 (7/06/2020 12:00 pm E.S.T.).

Trump's VA starts evictions of union tenants from buildings

By Brian Young
UCOMM Blog

Back in November UCOMM Blog reported that unions at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) received eviction notices.

These notices were ordered by President Trump as part of his anti-union Executive Orders that he signed in 2018. Along with kicking the AFGE out of their union offices within VA buildings, AFGE officials were told they would be losing significant amounts of "union time," which is time that officials are able to do union business like represent a member in a disciplinary hearing, while still being paid.

The plan was to be enacted in January and now six months later, the VA is bragging about the changes that they made. According to a report from the Department, the VA has forced 244 of the 330 bargaining units out of their collectively bargained-for offices. The Department claims

this will free up 150,000 square feet of space. The other 86 bargaining units have decided to stay, but will be paying rent to the VA, which they claim will raise \$1.4 million a year for the Department. This would mean that on average the VA is charging about \$16,000 a year for each office.

The report also says that in the first quarter of the year, which ended in April, union time had been cut in half over the final quarter of 2019.

It is important to remember that union time and offices within federal buildings are parts of their collective bargaining agreements with the federal government. By taking these away, Trump and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie are unilaterally violating the CBA. They are hoping to make it harder for the union to defend its members allowing Trump to gain more control over the hiring and firing of non-partisan federal workers.



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – The union meeting will be held in Area Two on Friday, July 10, 2020 at 8pm at IBEW 275 - 140 64th Ave N, Coopersville, MI 49404

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.



BOB HUTSELL

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 - for more information. Congratulations to our member who are celebrating Years of Service in 2020!

15 Years – Joshua Abalos, Timothy Acocks Jr, Jason Beaudin, Benjamin Burnett, Patrick Card, James Chase, Andy Demars, Jason Dodson, Zane Dole, Donald Fajardo, Justin Howington, Joshua Lauzon, Anthony Marquette, Timothy Millett, Jason Niezurawski, Scott Schuiteman, Kevin Shirkey, Kim Snyder, Dale Weeden II, Ryan Whiteside, Benjamin Young

20 Years – Robert Anderson, James Archer, Kevin Blutsch, Jason Boler, Lawrence Brooks, Brian Cogswell, Marty Dalton Jr, James Dame, Anna Marie Deater, Tim Frazer, Daniel Fyolek, James Glasson, Lonnie Harden, Richard

Hiam, Scott Ivey, Eric Jones, Dennis Jordan, David Knaf, Derek Legace, Kevin Leaphart, Kevin Mackenzie, Michael Maddock, Mark McKie, Keith Mowrer Jr, Glenn Palmer, Bruce Pederson, Daniel Pelz Jr, Jamie Ratliff, Joseph Rebecca, Michael Robinson, Donald Rugenstein II, Douglas Saez, Murray Sedich, Daniel Smith, Shayne Smith, Christopher Sommerfeld, Jeff Tadlock, Larry Taylor, Timothy Taylor, Matthew Tow, Heath Tyler, Fredrick VanHaaren III, Samantha Whitten, Christopher Wicks, Michael Williamson, Ryan Willoughby, Michael Wright

25 Years – Steven Chase Jr, Richard Cowley, Pete Dodge, Paul Easley, Adam Howard, Kerry W Johnson, Donald Kisielewicz, Christopher Lanzon, Carl Mitchell, Spencer Moorefield, Dennis Nolen, Michael Slomzenski, Brad Smith, Terrance Sullivan, Michael Trousdale

30 Years – John Bergman, Michael Card, Donald Cobb, James Empson, James Gould, Richard Norris, Daniel Southwell

40 Years – Timothy Ayotte, James Howard, Gary Laforest, Timothy Laforest, Lenny Minor, George Payne, James Rokuski, Kevin Schultz, Steven Schultz, Richard St. John, William G. Westphal, Michael Wiles, Howard Wing, Edward Wlodyka Jr

45 Years – Stuart Bass, George Boler, James Burns, Donald Burt, Patrick Carley, William Closser Jr, James Denkins, Douglas Edgar, James Ferebee, Ramond Flowers Jr, Charles Frankhouse, Lewis Harris, Andrew Heugh, Harold Hoagland, George Ivey, James Jedinak, John Kriesel, Dale Lewis, James Loveland, Charles Maciejewski, George Macklam, James

Micheau, Raymond Nadolski, Karl Peckstein, Patrick Pelz, Robert Rose, David Sanderson, Stephen Schwartz, William Senk, Bethel Siegel, Allen Tajak, Frank Temple, Timothy Theodore, Eric Treichel, Richard Woods

50 Years – David Atherall, Marty Dalton, Charles Flaishans, Raymond Gould, John Hubbard, John Ivey, Randy Ivey, John Kent, Ronald Roberson, Gordon Sanders, William Stelzer, Duane Suluk, Bernard Williams

55 Years – Babylas Bourdages, Thomas Founteas, Charles Gould, A. Chris Lanzon, Robert Macleod, Richard Schulte, Michael Usher, Alfred Vanderbrink, David Wilson

60 Years – Edward Rokuski, Richard Wimmer Jr

65 Years – Charles Dunn

"Age is mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

–Satchel Paige (1906 - 1982)

"The undertaking of a new action brings new strength."

–Eveinus

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Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

(Continued from Page 8)

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

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

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

APPRENTICE APPLICATION NOTICE

SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 292

APPRENTICE TRUST FUND

64 PARK ST. TROY, MI 48083-2752

www.smw1292jatic.org

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Apprentice Training Program operated by Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) admits qualified applicants without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, disability (except to the extent that such disability actually affects the applicant's ability to work at the trade or craft), marital status, or other classification protected by federal, state or local law or ordinance. (You must be 18 years old at the time of application.)

Application must be made in person. No faxes or emailed applications will be accepted!!

Applications for Apprenticeship are accepted all year every business day.

All applications must be filed in person at the Training Center and a copy of your High School diploma, or GED certificate, along with a picture ID must be submitted with the application or it will not be accepted. At the time of filing you will be registered for a written test at Macomb Community College, at a cost of \$60 (Non-Members Only) which you must pay at time of testing. Cash only will be accepted. If you have any questions, call Dave at (313) 623-9390 or visit www.smw1292jatic.org for more information.



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Plumbers Local 98

Plumbers 98
DETROIT – **Membership of Plumbers Local 98.** Brothers and Sisters, Your officers and myself are in hope this letter find you and your family well.

***SPECIAL CALLED MEETING:** Thursday, July 16th at 7pm for the purpose of wage allocation and approval will be held at the UFCW 876 (Food Workers next door). It may not look like a normal meeting but we will do our best to supply you with current information. Please keep an eye out for email blasts just in case we have to cancel due to changes in Covid guidelines. You will need to wear masks and keep social distancing to attend.

Apprentices who are unable to vote please stay home, I do not recommend any one with a possible compromised immune system or older members to attempt to attend. All distributed allocations are posted on our 98 Web page and went into effect the first week in June.

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 Covid-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.

Our auto plants as well as construction sites are up and running again. 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 acceptable, you must be reimbursed for your time.

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.

The Union Hall will be open only to essential foot traffic on July 13th please use South entrance until further notice. Masks and gloves are required.

Until further notice E-Board meetings are slowly getting underway, if you need to contact or see the board please call V.P. Jim Cools at 734-307-9841, Retiree meetings are still cancelled.

I repeat, 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.

In the meantime, any pertinent information can be found on our new web page, a whole list of information is now available to you under the member only section. <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.

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, continuity's or letters of certifications will still be taken care of by Paul Baker 248-585-1435, or 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. Or call 98's training Center and they will assist you. We have currently frozen taking applications for our apprenticeship classes until further notice.

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, these cards are good for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Don't miss out on our agreement with the Detroit Land Bank Authority. Local 98 members can purchase home or building in the Land Banks Holdings for half the list cost. Go to www.buildingdetroit.org to see what this is about or contact the hall for details.

-In Brotherhood, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98

Condolences. To the families of the following members we wish to share our sincerest condolences on the passing of our members. Alfred Story, Frank Styles, William Prytula, James C Phillips.

Hanging Up Their Bibs. Bernnie Kulkka, Mitch Conn, Preston Banks, Don Baloh, Randy Johnson, Dan Chaffin, Tim McCabe, Frank McMahon, Paul Earforth. We thank you for your hard work and commitment to our local, we wish you all the best in your future.

All Retiree Meetings. Cancelled.

Detroit Plumbers Local 98 Scholarship Fund Golf outing will be held Saturday, Aug. 8 at Oakridge/Marsh Oaks Golf Club. For tickets or sponsorship information call Jon DeRoo at the hall.

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. This program is not only for medical and/or personal issues, they also can steer you thru governmental resources with any consumer rights or child disability and much more. Please don't hesitate and call C.J. Harrison at Work Life Strategies at 313-580-6887 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 on-line or in person to ensure placement on the Out of Work List. If you are out of work due to Disability or Workers Compensation, please contact Jon DeRoo first at 248-762-9238 than BeneSys at 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 The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further notice.

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.

ASSE Backflow Repairer Certification - ** Prerequisite: Must hold a current ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester Certification. Class begins 8/18/2020. Call Training Center for full schedule. Pre-pay by check only to hold your spot before the deadline 7/31/2020.

ASSE Backflow Tester Re-Certification exams are scheduled quarterly. Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. For those who are eligible, please call the Training Center to register and pre-pay by check only before the deadline September 25, 2020. The next scheduled recertification class is **Oct. 27 & 28, 2020.**

If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **WELDING Tests** will be Saturday, September 12, 2020. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the class. The next **BRAZING Cert Sessions** will be Friday, September 11, 2020. 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 Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2020 to be eligible for the \$80 reimbursement.

(Continued next column)



Sprinkler Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704
FARMINGTON – The next regular meeting will be September 9, 2020 at the local union hall at 5:30 P.M. The Executive Board will meet the same night at 4:30 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 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.

Congratulations to retired Brother Dave Palmer who received his 60 Year membership with Sprinkler Fitters Local 704. Thank you for your years of service.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of retired Brother John Voodre who passed on June 22nd. Brother Voodre was a 59-year member of Local 704. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of retired Brother John Minard who passed away on June 20th. Brother Minard was a 57 year member with Sprinkler Fitters Local 704. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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



Local 370 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2020** at 7:00 pm 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 15th. Apprentice day classes will also resume the week of Monday June 15th.

Scholarship Applications for the 2020-2021 school year are now available online at our website UALOCAL370.ORG. The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local Union 370. Complete lists of qualifications are available at Local 370 Hall.

Local 370 2020 Golf outing will be held **Saturday, August 22nd** at Flushing Valley Golf course in Flushing. 9:00 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plumbers 98, continued

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

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

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



Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

Local 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.

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

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

OFFICE HOURS: Effective Monday, February 3rd, 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 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2020 - MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online **ONLY!!!** For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union hall and pick up a copy of the instructions.

UALOCAL 190 WEBSITE: www.ua190.org Current members will be able to log into the "Members Only" section using your last name and UA card number. ****** NEW ON THE WEBSITE****:** Members can now view and sign up for job calls. The same procedure will be used as the call-in line. If you are laid off or go back to work, there are forms available to fill out on the website that will inform the hall.

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

LAI D OFF OR BACK TO WORK – 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

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, October 5th at 5:00 p.m. This is an in-person class, at the Training Center. To register for this class contact Retha at 734-426-3700.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hours): Monday, July 20th at 5:00 p.m. and Monday, October 19th at 5:00 p.m. This is an in-person class, at the Training Center. To register please contact Retha 734-426-3700.

WELDING LAB: Will start back up by appointment only. It will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. LIMITED TO SEVEN (7) PARTICIPANTS. Call Andy Fielder, at the Training Center to be added to the list on a daily basis 734-426-3700.

ASSE BACKFLOW RE-CERTIFICATION (8 HRS): This class begins, Tuesday, August 4th and Wednesday, August 5th at 5:00 p.m. This is an in-person class at the training center. Reminders are being mailed out for this, so check you mail and RSVP.

ASSE BACKFLOW TESTER CERTIFICATION (40 HRS): This class starts Tuesday, August 18th and runs for five (5) weeks on Tuesday and Wednesday, from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. This is an in-person class at the training center. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO EIGHT (8). Please contact Retha to register for this class 734-426-3700.

ASSE BACKFLOW RE-CERTIFICATION (8 HRS): This class starts Tuesday, September 22nd and Wednesday, September 23rd at 5:00 p.m. This is an in-person class at the training center. Please check your certifications for the expiration date. A mailing will be sent out. Please contact Retha to register for this class 734-426-3700.

MED GAS INSTALLER AND BRAZER CERTIFICATION (40 HRS): This class starts Tuesday, August 18th and runs for five (5) weeks on Tuesday and Thursday, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. **This is an online class, ran through ZOOM and BLACKBOARD.** You must have a reliable internet connection and a computer to be in this class. Members wishing to be in this class must notify the training center no later than August 11th, so we can get you enrolled in Blackboard. Brazing practice and the tests for this certification will be at the training center

MED GAS INSTALLER UP-DATE (8 HRS): This class starts Wednesday, September 23rd (online) and Thursday, September 24th (in-person) at 5:00 p.m. **Classwork is done online, via ZOOM and BLACKBOARD on Wednesday and test is in-person at the Training Center on Thursday.** Reminders are being mailed out for those who will be expiring prior to the next up-date class. Please contact Retha to register for this class 734-426-3700

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 CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. These meetings will resume in August.

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

"If you smile when no one else is around, you really mean it."

–Andy Rooney (1919 - 2011)

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Nickel - Alloys - Carbide
Radiators - Lead - Batteries

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">McNichols</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Scrap Iron & Metal Co. 5500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) mchnicholsscrap.com (313) 365-6100</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Detroit</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Iron & Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) detroitironandmetal.com (313) 841-5100</p>
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Local 636
Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

Pipe Fitters Local 636
DETROIT – There will be NO July Union Meeting.

The Hall will be Re-Opening on July 13, 2020 to all foot traffic. Masks are REQUIRED. Dues payments or SUB transactions can still be done via email or by phone. SUB email is 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 15th 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 to 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 contractor's. So 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 14th 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 8:00am shotgun start, 4 man scramble. Still only \$50.00 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.

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 September 30, 2020 UA Password is: ESSENTIAL

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan: For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information (Continued next column)



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.

WAGE ALLOCATION RESULTS: The wage allocation vote was held on Tuesday, June 16th. The results from that vote are \$0.75 to Health & Welfare; \$0.25 to Pension and the remainder on the check. The new package is effective JULY 1, 2020.

GOLF OUTING: Anyone interested in helping with the Golf Outing – Please call Elliot Wilcox – Ph# (269) 270-8584 – Event will be held on Saturday, July 18th, 2020 at Pine View Golf Club in Three Rivers with the price remaining at \$300 per foursome. Registration with a Hot Breakfast begins at 7:30 am with a Shotgun start at 8:45 am. A Chicken/Steak dinner and Door Prizes will be provided after golf. Call the Union Hall to register and pay by credit card.

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS: Local 357 is endorsing the following candidates for the August 4th, 2020 primaries:

Oshemo Township: Dusty Farmer-(I) Township Clerk; Grant Taylor-(I) Treasurer; Zak Ford-(I) Trustee; Cheri Bell-(I) Trustee; Kizzy Bradford-(I) Trustee; Kristin Cole-(I) Trustee; Libby Heiny-Cogswell-(I) Township Supervisor

Kalamazoo County: Zac Bauer, Kalamazoo (I) District 2; Mike Seals, Kalamazoo (I) District

Local 636 cont'd

tion and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The new number for the VRU is 877-410-9984. Plan provider number is 7526.

You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's website. Just click on the “Defined Contribution login here tab” and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution website is www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys. All inquiries.

Are you “Work Ready”? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be “ready” when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENT'S.**

Financial Planning: Call Jason May at Morgan Stanley 248-258-1750 for assistance and consultation relating to your Defined Contribution Investments. He will help with a total financial plan if requested. Services are paid for by the Defined Contribution Pension Fund.

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

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

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

4; Chris Pomeroy, Kalamazoo District 5; Jen Aniano, Augusta (I) District 6; Meredith Place Kalamazoo County Clerk / Register of Deeds

State Representatives: Julie Rodgers 60th District Representative; Luke Howell, 63rd District Representative

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

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Members Access Your Information Here, then click on TIC International Corporation and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and Create your own password.

Once you have completed all the information – click on the **LARGE REGISTER** button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password – and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when hours are posted to your account. **This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.**

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, 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 Shane Kline on the addition of a baby girl, Presley.

We would like to extend a **SPEEDY** recovery to Wiley Boulding and Kim Neeb Get Well Soon!

You Are the Missing Piece.



Attend Your Union Meetings!

“Problems are only opportunities in work clothes.”
– Henry J. Kaiser (1882 - 1967)

“I am not concerned that you have fallen; I am concerned that you arise.”
– Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

“You cannot compile a wit out of two half-wits.”
– Joe Orton (1933 - 1967)



Local 671

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671

MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for **Aug. 6th** at 7pm at the Union hall. The next Executive Board meeting is also scheduled for **Aug. 6^{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. We are asking that only voting members attend the Union meetings until further notice. Please be prepared to social distance and wear a mask during the meeting. There will be masks available at the door.

Notice: The Local 671 family picnic is cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I know we all enjoy our picnic but I am not willing to risk anyone's health over it. I know this announcement is disappointing to many, but please understand that we must remain diligent at combatting this disease by social distancing.

Health and Welfare: Recently you may have received a letter in the mail explaining the potential discounts in auto coverage. The first letter sent out by our third-party administrator (TIC) was a letter meant for Local 370 members and referring to their coverage. At this time, you should have been sent a second letter that explains our Local 671 Health and Welfare coverage relating to **auto accidents not being covered** and that you should maintain proper coverage through your auto policy. If you have any questions feel free to call the hall for any explanations.

Congratulations: I would like to congratulate all the 2020 high school graduates. Good luck on all your future endeavors.

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.** Recently, we have used it to send out Covid-19 related news and insurance information; it is a great way to get news out to the Membership fast.

In Closing: As most of you know we are seeing an uptick in Covid-19 cases in almost every state. Please stay diligent in your social distancing and take all necessary precautions to keep you and your loved ones safe. If you need to conduct business at the Hall, we are using the foyer at Detroit Avenue, and masks are mandatory. As always, you can call the Hall, use mail, or we can make other arrangements if that is more comfortable to you. Please take care and be mindful of the safety of yourself and others.

Mike Jewell cell 419-262-8503 email mike@ualocal671.com
Vinnie Fenech cell 734-693-4082 email vinnie@ualocal671.com

“A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains.”
–Dutch Proverb



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

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

With July 1 in the rear-view mirror and auto insurance renewals taking place, we once again want to remind you that the Local 333 Health Insurance does NOT in any way cover auto-related claims. It is imperative that you do NOT reduce your Auto Insurance Health Care Coverage. If so, it will be at your own risk. Republicans and Democrats who supported and rushed the bill through should be ashamed. This was a gift to the Auto Insurance Companies in an effort to simply get the liability off Auto Insurance Carriers and on to Traditional Health Care Insurance Plans. Local 333 Health and Welfare is doing well at this time but simply not in a position to accept the new risk.

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 by emailing [Joni at jthomas@local333.com](mailto:Joni@jthomas@local333.com) or calling 517-784-1106 ext. #4 and leave a message. Applications will also be available at all three offices when offices reopen.

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

If you're interested in taking any classes please sign up at 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.

Adopt-A-Highway. Battle Creek: July 18. Volunteers will meet at 9am, at the Quality Inn, 11081 Michigan Ave. E, Battle Creek. Please contact Todd Scarbrough, (616) 893-5354 to sign up.

Jackson: Road construction will cancel Adopt-A-Highway this summer.

Lansing Adopt-A-Highway: July 18, 2020, Volunteers will meet at 8:00am, at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 South Creyts Road, Lansing, MI 48917. Please contact Jordon Grove at (517) 896-9434 to sign-up or if you have questions.



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service 111

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

The next possible membership meeting will be announced as soon as possible.

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

Local 111 JATC has cancelled all Apprenticeship classes including open welding at the training center until further notice, with the exception of Med Gas and Backflow, they are on as scheduled. Please contact Training Coordinator, Jesse Harvala with any questions you may have.

Congratulations: To Jake & Jess Fleury on the arrival of baby Emerson!

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

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

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

2020 Upgrade Certification Class Schedule has been posted to Local 111 web-site (lu111.com).

Please update all Non-UA certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30 etc.) by sending a copy of your certification to the Union Hall.

2020 BTA Class Schedule has been posted to Local 111 web-site (lu111.com).

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

Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site: When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site ua111.com and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

MSHA Training: The 2020 MSHA schedule is on our web site & our Facebook page. Call Cindy at (906) 228-6450 to register. MSHA expires in one year.

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Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – Meeting Notice: THE AUGUST MEETING IS CANCELLED. A recent spike in cases has resulted in our region being moved back to phase three. We need to reach phase five to have a meeting. It is very unlikely that we will reach phase five by Aug. 4. For that reason the Business Manager and Executive Board agreed to cancel the meeting. THE AUGUST RETIREE BREAKFAST IS ALSO CANCELLED.

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

Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: The golf outing will be Saturday, Aug. 1 at The Falls at Barber Creek Golf Course. Registration starts at 8am with a shotgun start at 8:30. The cost is \$65 a player and MUST be paid by check or cash at the Union Hall by July 27. Each group must have at least two UA members.

Local #174 Golf League: The golf league has begun, but you can still join. The league takes place a Hickory Knoll Golf Course in Whitehall at 5pm on Wednesdays. The format is 2 person teams, if you do not have a partner let us know and we'll pair you up. If you would like to join or have any questions contact Ryan Bennett.

Labor Day Events Cancelled: Unfortunately, as we navigate these uncertain times the LPC has decided to cancel the Wild Game Dinner and the Labor Day Parade for 2020. This was not an easy decision, but with the uncertainty of COVID-19 we as a committee feel it is the responsible thing to do. **Labor Fest in Grand Rapids is also cancelled.**

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.

VOTE: Mail ballots are going out and the campaigning is ramping up. Remember in Michigan you can now vote absentee for no reason. You can apply for an absentee ballot and register to vote at www.mvic.sos.state.mi.us/avapplication

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 23rd until the end of April. To file for sub-pay, fill out a sub-pay form. You can find a form on the mem-

bers 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@ua174.org and she will submit them to TIC.

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.

Save the Dates: Union Picnic, CANCELLED.

Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: Saturday, Aug. 1, 8:30am Shotgun, Falls at Barber Creek

November Union Meeting: **MONDAY, Nov. 2 at 7pm**

Medicare Retirees: Effective Jan. 1 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 Sept. 30, 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, ua174.org. You can also go to 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@ua174.org which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch. The dispatch schedule for the next month will be as follows:

Nathan Phillips (616) 916-0667: 6/29/2020 to 7/12/2020

Jason Finch (231) 670-4482: 7/12/2020 to 7/26/2020

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 contact information. Check your info on the website or by calling Cami

at the Union office.

Retiree Breakfast: The status of the August Retiree Breakfast is CANCELLED. 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 - 3rd Wednesday of the month / Labor Temple 918 Benjamin / 5:30 pm

Lakeshore – 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 West-ern / 6pm

All members are encouraged to become active in our area Labor Councils. Please contact a Union Officer for details.

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR (TIC), West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No. 174 Fringe Benefit Funds

6525 Centurion Drive

Lansing, MI 48917-9275

(517) 321-7502 Phone

(855) 40-PLUMB Toll Free

(517) 321-7508 Fax

BENEFITS WEBSITE:

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

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

Contract Requirements: Please remember Section 5.7 of our collective bargaining agreement states, "Persons called from the unemployed list will report to work with a UA/WMMCA issued drug card." Section 18.5 states, "...employees...shall be required to maintain the following Safety Training Certifications: First Aid/CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens and OSHA 10." Please make sure you 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 Bylaws. 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: Congratulations to Zac Prince on fulfilling his apprenticeship obligations and becoming Local 174's most recent journeyman!

We are happy to announce that the Training Center has reopened to daytime as well as nighttime training as of 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 in to 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, Aug. 13 and Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020.

Due to the current indoor social distancing restrictions, we are unable to start open welding. 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.



PAUSING FOR A PHOTO in front of the Park Avenue Building in Detroit that's under renovation are Project Supt. Jeff Cusin and mason Bob Pugno Jr. Both are Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 members employed by Grunwell Cashero.

UA LOCAL 85



Plumbers & Steam Fitters

SAGINAW, MI

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

SAGINAW - All Union Meetings are postponed until further notice. Currently we have canceled July Meeting. We will make decisions on all future meetings as we get closer.

Annual Local 85 Picnic 2020 is cancelled.

Annual Local 85 Golf Outing 2020 is cancelled.

We 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

Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 15

jbador@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 14

tdanielak@ualocal85.org

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330

csteele@ualocal85.org

Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 12

rjanderson@ualocal85.org

Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 11

ktuthill@ualocal85.org

Feather Reige, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 10

freige@ualocal85.org

The next **Northern Meeting** is postponed until further notice. I hope everyone had a happy and safe Independence Day. Please stay conscious to this pandemic Covid-19, adhere to all social distancing and mask recommendations.

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

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

GODBLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

Training Center News: JATC interviews will be held the middle of July for the purpose of selecting a new class of apprentices.

The UA Local 85 JATC also held interviews for a new Service Instructor. Congratulations and welcome to Jason Boensch, I am certain you will be an asset to the Service Training Program.

SUB Fund:

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

Where to submit documents: Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, P.O. Box 6547, Saginaw, MI 48608 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: SUB@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

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

CONDOLENCES: We extend our condolences to the family of Gerald Walters who passed away on June 25, 2020.

Remember you all are essential to me.

Justin M. Pomerville
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

SMART union endorses Biden, who in turn backs key union causes in video

WASHINGTON (PAI) – The board of SMART, the combined union of the Sheet Metal Workers and the old United Transportation Union of rail workers, formally backed presumptive Democratic nominee Joseph Biden for the U.S. presidency in an unanimous July 1 vote.

In turn, in his thank you video posted on the union's website, the former Vice President strongly supported SMART-specific causes, which are also important to other building trades and railroad unions.

They include Project Labor Agreements and Davis-Bacon wage requirements on all federally funded construction projects, both key building trades goals. And Biden backs two-person crews on all freight and passenger trains. Freight railroads, and the GOP Trump regime, push one-person crews, which workers and unions point out is a large safety hazard. Further, Biden, an Amtrak commuter for 36 years, would triple federal transit dollars.

Biden also said that if elected, he would propose a \$1 trillion plan to rebuild, update and modernize U.S. infrastructure. The same day he spoke, the Democratic-run U.S. House approved a \$1.5 trillion plan. The AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department endorsed it, but GOP President Donald Trump's advisers want him to veto it. That plan has a big "green" component, which gives construction unions qualms. But Smart had no qualms about Biden.

"SMART engaged with and listened to our members from coast to coast about their views and opinions regarding our union, their jobs and current events that affect their future. This was launched to ensure members have a say in shaping the course of our union as it proceeds to advance needs and viewpoints of the membership," union President Joseph Sellers said.

SMART members also met with hopefuls from both political parties, including Trump, about issues important to the union. Sellers did not discuss the Trump meeting, other than to say SMART members "can no longer wait after four years of empty promises for new infrastructure initiatives from the current administration."

"Biden has a long history of engaging with SMART members and working families in both the sheet metal and transportation industries. The endorsement decision was based on Biden's strong support of the concerns most important to our members, including the need for two-person railroad crews, retirement and pension security, protection of prevailing wages, and a prioritization of workplace safety."

The AFL-CIO, IBEW and Iron Workers, among other building trades unions, have also endorsed Biden.

"It's about time our government fought for you as hard as you've been fighting for our country," an animated Bidensaid in the video, punctuating his three-minute talk with frequent hand gestures. You need to do your jobs without risk or fear. You deserve a safe workplace and an administration that actually enforces workplace safety rules. You deserve a government that not only encourages but protects organizing and collective bargaining and advances workers' rights across the board."



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 JULY 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.



CURT MCGLONE

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.

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

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

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

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

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

"The mind of a bigot is like the pupil of the eye. The more light you shine on it, the more it will contract."

—Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (1841 - 1935)

"First learn the meaning of what you say, and then speak."

—Epictetus (55 AD - 135 AD)



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47 Lansing – Local 47 Lansing Office, 419 S. Washington Square, Suite 301, Lansing, Michigan 48933. Ph.: 517-708-0665.

Local 47 regrets to inform our members that the 2020 Annual Golf Outing has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to seeing everyone for next year's Annual Golf Outing.

Breath of Life Gun Raffle and Scholarship drawings will still take place on July 24th. More information will be coming.

To combat and limit the spread of Covid-19, Local 47 encourages all members to work safe, and if you feel sick contact a doctor immediately.

Any retirees wanting to go to work, please call the office. The Funds Trustees have waived the 79-hour rule. Remember that all Union Meetings have been suspended until further notice.

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.

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 Number: (800) 323-8079; Telephone No.: (517) 321-7502; Fax Number: (517) 321-7508

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.

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: Get well to all our sick or injured members.

State jobless agency says it is making progress on claims backlog

LANSING—The Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency has had an awful record in paying the flood of jobless claims during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the agency now says it met its July 4 deadline of making determinations on "all currently eligible, certifying unpaid claims that were filed before May 1."

Since March 15, the agency said in press release on July 6, around 2.1 million eligible claimants have applied for state and federal benefits, with over \$15 billion in benefits paid to more than 2 million workers. In addition, 97.2 percent of potentially eligible, certifying claimants have received or are approved

for benefits.

Of the remaining unpaid claimants, most are flagged for potential intentional fraud. Currently, less than 39,000 unpaid claims have yet to be resolved, the UIA says, and are being held for additional identity verification while only around 20,000 unpaid claims are held pending adjudication for other reasons.

"The UIA remains committed to quickly processing claims. While there is only small percentage of eligible workers who have yet to be paid, we know that is no consolation to the thousands of claimants who are frustrated, desperate and owed the benefits they were promised," said UIA Director Steve Gray. "We will not rest until the claims backlog is eliminated and all eligible Michigan workers get every single dollar they are entitled to."



Regional Local 207 Abatement Workers

Abatement Workers Local 207 TAYLOR—Hope all members enjoyed the 4th of July with their families. The great weather, although extremely warm surely made for a great day.



DAN SOMENUER

Work continues to improve although somewhat slower than last year at this time. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed

for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic.

The General Office has not yet lifted the ban on Union Meeting and Elections. Our current election process is still on hold until an ok is given to proceed. All members will be notified by mail when the election can resume.

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!



A RENDERING OF the completed Henry Ford Allegiance Hospital in Jackson.

New way to welcome patients going up at Henry Ford Allegiance

(Continued from Page 1)

"Most importantly, we want to make it as easy as possible for patients and customers to find their way to the services they need. With simpler way-finding, lots of natural light and comfortable surroundings, we hope patients will feel more relaxed before even reaching their destinations."

The project began last year, and the main entrance to the hospital was shut down in early March, with an entrance usually reserved for health care professionals slated to be used by the public through November. The entire project is expected to last 18 months, and when completed will include covered lanes for patient drop off and pick up, a two-story atrium, central relocation of the outpatient pharmacy, private patient registration bays, expansion of the coffee shop and the lobby's gift shop.

The facility was established in 1918 and known for much of the next 90 years as Foote Hospital. In 2008 the name was changed to Allegiance Health, and then renamed Henry Ford Allegiance Health in 2016. Today Henry Ford Allegiance Health is a 475-bed health system with 40 locations throughout Jackson County and beyond.

"The updates to the hospital's entrance will also

knit together our current and brand new patient towers, and allow for expanded space for our cardiovascular services on the first floor," said HFAH President and CEO Georgia Fojtasek. "We are making these important renovations with our patients in mind, and based on the input of our customers, staff and physicians, so that we can be sure we are meeting their needs."

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Outdoors



Michigan's North Country Trail

By Dakota Hewlett
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

The North Country National Scenic Trail, or North Country Trail for short, is the longest trail in the National Trail System, stretching more than 4,600 miles between North Dakota and New York.

In Michigan, the trail covers 1,150 miles and connects some of our most scenic and beloved destinations, including Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, Tahquamenon Falls State Park and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, along with many small towns and communities whose residents embrace the trail and welcome those who hike it.

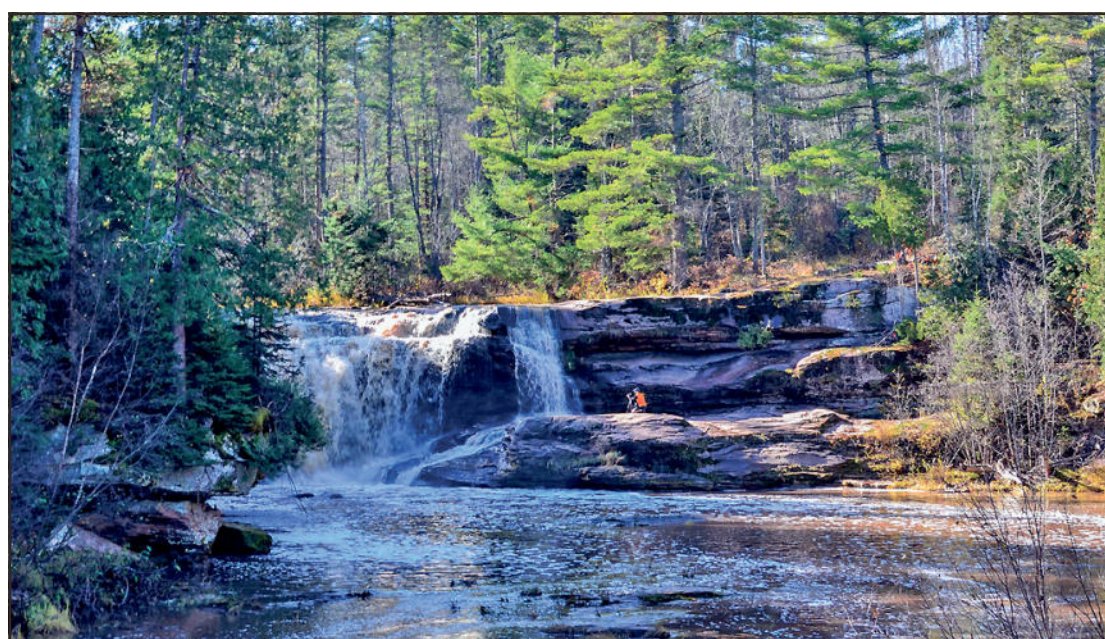
The website for the trail beckons visitors to "Come to the North Country."

"Trek the hills and valleys. Stand on the shores of lakes and streams from glaciers 10,000 years before. Clear-flowing water, red/gold of autumn, a fairyland of snow, open prairies and distant horizons paint the land," the website reads. "Historic sites along the way tell how America settled and grew as a nation. From North Dakota to New York (and soon Vermont), adventure is never far away."

Spawned from the National Trails System Act of 1968, the North Country Trail has grown from a grand idea to a destination for hikers and backpackers looking to experience some of the best small towns and scenic places in the United States.

As a National Scenic Trail, the trail is administered by the National Park Service with assistance from the North Country Trail Association, a nonprofit organization comprised of thousands of members and volunteers who work on building, maintaining, planning and promoting the trail.

The association, headquartered in Lowell in Kent County, has 37 local chapters and affiliates whose members not only help build and maintain the entirety of the trail, but also lead hikes and events promoting the trail.



THE SCENIC O'Kun de Kun Falls on the Baltimore River in Ontonagon County sits along the North Country National Scenic Trail.

Michigan hosts more miles of the North Country Trail than any of the other seven states the trail traverses.

The trail also provides the backbone of the hiking portion of Michigan's signature Iron Belle Trail, which stretches from Ironwood in the far western Upper Peninsula, to Belle Isle in Detroit.

"The North Country Trail is a magnificent asset to the nation, the state of Michigan and the Iron Belle Trail," said Paul Yauk, state trail coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Parks and Recreation Division. "Without the North Country Trail, the dream of creating the Iron Belle Trail might never have been realized."

In 2013, then-Gov. Rick Snyder, who declared Michigan "The Trails State," wanted to showcase Michigan by creating a trail from Detroit to Ironwood. The idea later evolved into one trail with two routes – one for hiking and one for bicycling.

The hiking route of the Iron Belle Trail is 1,273 miles long, sharing 1,033 miles with the North Country National Scenic Trail as it travels through 48 of the state's 83 counties, across the Upper and Lower peninsulas.

The Michigan DNR oversees the trail. Today, the Iron Belle

Trail is 71 percent complete, with many projects underway over both the hiking and bicycling routes to connect the gaps remaining along the trail between Michigan's great natural resources, towns and cities, and endless recreational opportunities.

Some hiking highlights along the North Country Trail's Iron Belle Trail sections in the Upper Peninsula include the spectacular Pictured Rocks cliffs east of Munising, hills and ridges, waterfalls and rivers of state-managed forest lands, five state parks and the Hiawatha and Ottawa national forests.

After shuttling across the Mackinac Bridge, the trail continues south along the western side of the Lower Peninsula, where more state parks, the Jordan River Valley, the Manistee National Forest, Yankee Springs State Recreation Area and the North Country Trail Association's headquarters in Lowell await.

Jane Norton, president of the association's Chief Noonday Chapter in southwest Michigan, has been involved with the organization for eight years. She joined the association as a new hiker, but quickly became involved as she made friends with others in the chapter.

"Now I have something to do all the time – hiking is a year-round activity," Norton said. "I've met a lot of great people."

In 2017, she hiked the entire length of the North Country Trail in the Lower Peninsula, a distance rambling more than 500 miles.

"It was section hiking; I'd take three or four days at a time and drive up to hike the next section. The fun part was being in small towns that I had never been to," Norton said.

She completed her hike of the Lower Peninsula in 34 days, an adventure that started out as a way to celebrate her birthday and ended up becoming a trek across the state.

Norton said Michigan has changing terrain and diverse beauty as the North Country Trail traverses the state.

"Southern Michigan has the most beautiful farmland, unique barns and the most wildflowers I've ever seen in my life," she said.

Recently, as the president of her local NCTA chapter, Norton has seen a very large increase in hiking due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is great to see so many people of all ages outside, so many new people. I hope they continue hiking and become members and volunteers," she said.

Thousands of volunteers along the North Country Trail plan workdays, conduct regular maintenance and, like Norton, devote their own time to the trail they love.

"I'm impressed by the volunteers who come out to work, building bridges, punchion (boardwalk), trimming brush and trees," Norton said. "I greatly appreciate the time that they put in."

Whether you are hiking all the way through from Vermont to North Dakota, walking the length of Michigan, or just out for a short stroll, the North Country National

Scenic Trail will connect you to Michigan's natural resources and provide a premier recreation experience.

With so many unique and scenic destinations to offer hikers along the way, and with its hundreds of volunteers and supporters, the North Country National Scenic Trail – and by association, the Iron Belle Trail – is just one of the many great reasons why Michigan is likely to maintain its status as "The Trails State."

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/DNRTrails.



A COUPLE ENJOYS an autumn stroll along a stretch of the Iron Belle Trail in Bridgeport in Saginaw County.



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