

# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN



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## SHORT CUTS



### Right-to-work gets put in its place

The continuing drive by the corporate class to impose "right to work" around the U.S. took hits in Republican-run Montana and West Virginia on consecutive days in early March.

The bigger triumph for workers and their allies came in Montana. For its 50,000-member labor movement, battling RTW was a fight for life. In the Montana House, where Republicans hold a 67-33 majority, union foes wanted to pass a so-called "right to work" bill, banning any requirement that workers pay dues to the unions that represent them.

Twenty-seven states, including Michigan, have such laws, intended to weaken unions by starving them of resources. West Virginia, also GOP-dominated, is also one of the 27. The laws let workers protected by union contracts and union services to get away without paying one cent for them.

"So-called 'right-to-work' is wrong for Montana and will lead to lower wages, weaker local economies and dangerous working conditions," Montana AFL-CIO President Al Ekblad tweeted the day before the vote.

As the vote neared, hundreds of union members packed the state Capitol's hallways in Helena for two days straight, and filled the gallery when the vote was scheduled. On March 2, the bill, HB251, went down hard, 38-62, with 29 Republicans joining all 33 Democrats voting "no."

"If you argue against the political speech of union workers on HB251 it is a safe assumption you are arguing for the special interest PACs from out of state promoting union-busting work on behalf of monied interests," Rep. Jessica Karjala, D-Billings, told colleagues.

Montana supporters of right to work say they plan to bring it up again in the 2023 legislative session.

Over in West Virginia, GOP Gov. Jim Justice, the state's wealthiest person, didn't call for repealing RTW. But in a zoomed town hall on March 3, he "ate crow" about it – and the rest of the corporate agenda Justice and the GOP legislative majority pushed through.

The video, posted on YouTube, shows a chagrined Justice, in coat and tie, seated at his desk in front of the state and national flags, enumerating the various policies, and saying they didn't work. "Really and truly, let's just be brutally honest," he said. "We passed the right-to-work law in West Virginia. And we ran to the windows looking to see all the people that were going to come – and they didn't come. We got rid of prevailing wage. We changed our corporate taxes and we've done a lot of different things. And we've run to the windows and they haven't come."

(From the *Northwest Labor Press* and Press Associates)

### Employment up, but room to improve

Employers in the U.S. employed added 379,000 jobs in February, and January gains were revised higher to 166,000 jobs, according to a Labor Department report on March 5.

The numbers reflected a lower 6.2 percent jobless rate, well down from the 14.8 percent peak in April. The economy remains more than nine million jobs behind where we were at the start of the pandemic, however.

### Quotable

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."  
—Benjamin Franklin, 1706-1790

## Apprenticeships get mojo back as Biden puts pin back in IRAP grenade

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – It's safe to say that organized labor universally hated the Industry Recognized Apprenticeships (IRAPs) introduced by the Trump Administration, and the construction unions specifically considered the initiative a fundamental threat to their existence.

IRAPs were a 2017 invention of President Trump, who issued an executive order directing the Department of Labor to develop a new kind of apprenticeship system that could be designed and

overseen solely by employers and employer groups. It would have basically privatized the entire system of U.S. apprenticeship programs – allowing individual employers the authority to decide a worker training regimen and how and when an apprentice would be considered a journeyman.

A massive campaign led by North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) to exempt the building trades from IRAPs rules eventually worked. The Labor Department received some 326,000 comments from union

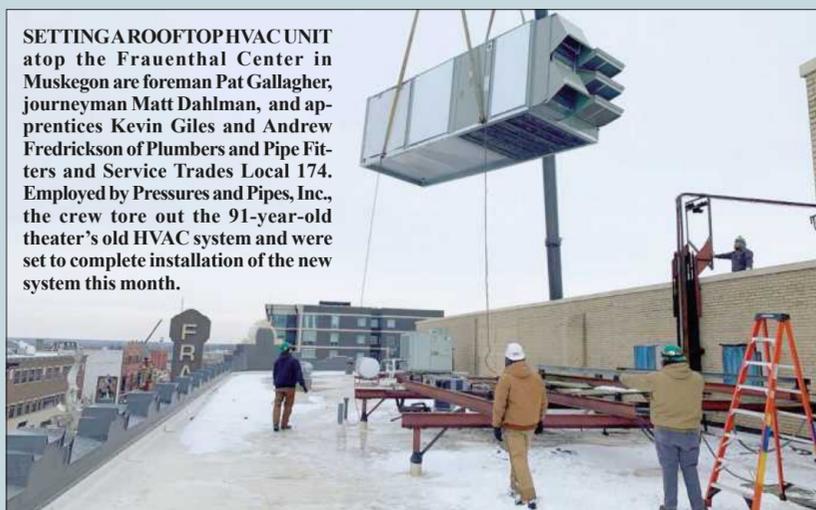
members who opposed the rules – historically a huge amount of input – and in March 2020, the agency exempted construction unions. On Feb. 17, President Biden's Department of Labor took the exemption even further, suspending the IRAP concept for new applications for all employment sectors, while leaving in place those programs that have been approved, and re-launching the federal Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship

"We applaud the decisions by the Biden-Harris Administration to both eliminate Industry

Recognized Apprenticeships (IRAPs) and bring back the Department of Labor's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, which provides much needed industry-based input on policy, quality assurance standards, and equitable enforcement," said NABTU President Sean McGarvey. "The untested, second-rate IRAP program was set to undermine the gold-standard Registered Apprenticeship model that has increased safety, skill and productivity in the construction industry for over 80 years."

(Continued on Page 3)

**SETTING A ROOFTOP HVAC UNIT atop the Frauenthal Center in Muskegon are foreman Pat Gallagher, journeyman Matt Dahlman, and apprentices Kevin Giles and Andrew Fredrickson of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters and Service Trades Local 174. Employed by Pressures and Pipes, Inc., the crew tore out the 91-year-old theater's old HVAC system and were set to complete installation of the new system this month.**



## Behind the scenes, new HVAC, electrical, improve historic theater

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

MUSKEGON – The city's landmark Frauenthal Theater probably got its money's worth out of some of the ancient air handling and related equipment that was finally taken out of service and removed last month – often in big, heavy pieces – from the mechanical penthouse of the four-story building.

After all, elements of the behemoth air handler had helped keep patrons warm in the winter, and cool in the summer, for much of the lifespan of the historic theater, which opened in 1930. But the theater's operators decided that with the downtime brought about by COVID-19, now was an opportune time to rip out the old works and install a modern new heating and cooling system.

And the Muskegon Heights company doing the work is Pressures and Pipes, Inc., a sister company of Andy J. Egan. They were set to successfully wrap up work on the project this month. Also on site: hometown Newkirk Electric, whose Local 275 electricians are wiring the new HVAC system and installing new panels, and will soon be upgrading the lighting system in the front of the building for LEDs.

The Frauenthal Theater will now look forward to operating with a much more modern, efficient and dependable heating



**THE FRAUENTHAL THEATER at Third and Western streets in Muskegon was the beneficiary of a new HVAC system set this month by Pressures and Pipes, Inc. We featured the beautiful theater in our History in the Making column in our Feb. 26 edition.**

Photos: courtesy of Pressures & Pipes, Inc.

and cooling system, as well as upgraded electrical works. "I'm very proud of what our crew was able to do on this project," said Pressures and Pipes Project Manager Scott Plummer. "It was obviously an outdated and not very efficient system. It took quite a bit of thinking about how to get everything out of there. But we were able to put our plan together, take the old

system out safely, and install the new system, and executed everything very well."

A crew of Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Service Trades Local 174 members employed by Pressures and Pipes had a major hand in the project, first tearing out the old HVAC system, which filled the penthouse area with the air handler and duct

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### 'It is a godsend'

## Dems use massive COVID relief bill to gain bailout of multi-employer pensions

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – "Never let a good crisis go to waste," Winston Churchill suggested, and Democrats in Congress used that advice by including \$89 billion in funding to prop up failing multi-employer pension plans as part of the massive \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package that was adopted last week.

The most notorious part of the relief package is the direct payment of \$1,400 stimulus checks to Americans, which would begin to phase out for individuals making more than \$75,000 and for couples making more than \$150,000.

Getting less notoriety, but of huge significance to many retirees in multi-employer pension plans, including those in building trades unions, is that after

years of wrangling, Congress has finally injected money to support failing plans, and to halt the process of individual retirees seeing benefit cuts.

The Senate parliamentarian on March 1 issued a ruling that the "Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act (EPPRA) of 2021" has the necessary budget impact to remain part of what is to be a budget reconciliation bill that will need only majority approval in the Senate. That approval meant that Dems, who control the House and have a one vote advantage in the Senate, could pass the legislation without Republicans in that chamber being able to use the filibuster to kill it. And the measure passed the Senate without GOP help, 51-50.

Said Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-Ore.):

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## State Dems attempt to re-start process of boosting jobless benefits

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

LANSING – Michigan House and Senate Democrats on Feb. 25 unveiled the "Hardworking Michiganders Recovery Plan," a package "that will immediately put more money in the pockets of Michigan's working families and help make sure no worker is left behind during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," a statement by the Democratic caucus says.

The bill was introduced in a state capital where Republicans hold the majorities in both the House and Senate, and where no GOP co-sponsors signed on to the legislation. Still, it might be the beginning of compromise on permanently improving jobless benefits in Michigan.

"While unemployment

claims have declined, there are still nearly 1 million residents out of work across Michigan, and many businesses have closed down temporarily – and in some cases permanently – to help slow the spread of the virus," said Sen. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids), who is sponsoring the legislation. "Our plan helps revive Michigan's economy and gives workers a leg-up at a time it's needed most."

The Democrats' bill would:

- Increase the weekly maximum for unemployment benefits from \$362 to \$593, and one year later restore indexing this figure to 58 percent of the state average weekly wage annually.

- Restore the number of benefit weeks from 20 weeks to 26 weeks, reversing the reduction to 20 weeks passed by legislative Republicans in 2012. That year the state's the GOP lawmakers made our state the first in history to permanently reduce unemployment benefit weeks.

- Increase what unemployed workers who don't qualify for the weekly maximum unemployment

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## Canadian study: the union safety advantage is real

By Scott Schneider  
Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America

There are lots of advantages for companies that use union labor, including better quality and more efficient work, highly trained workers, access to a qualified labor pool and, of course, improved

safety on the job.

Six years ago, the Institute for Work & Health (IWH) in Toronto published a pioneering study that used workers' compensation data to compare safety performance on union construction jobs to non-union construction jobs. Their findings, which we

covered at the time in *Lifelines*, weren't surprising – union jobs were safer. The study found that unionized employers had 14 percent fewer lost workday claims and 29 percent fewer claims for "critical incidents" as well. The study also found union firms had more workers' comp claims for

non-lost-workday injuries, showing that workers did feel comfortable reporting injuries when they occurred.

"There are many advantages to using union workers on construction projects, and a better trained, safer workforce is at the

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## Average pay rose in 2020 – because low-wage workers lost their jobs

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

The COVID-19 virus has skewed just about every facet of our lives – might as well throw wages into the mix.

In an odd statistical consequence of the pandemic, U.S. wages grew in 2020 in a manner that really moved the charts. According to a Feb. 24 report by the Economic Policy Institute, inflation-adjusted average hourly wages grew a whopping 7.2 per-

cent between 2019 and 2020.

"These average and median growth rates between 2019 and 2020 far exceed any single-year wage growth over the prior 45 years of data available, and exceeded the second fastest single-year wage growth by 80-90 percent, depending on the measure," said the labor-backed EPI on Feb. 24.

The reason? Mainly, it's because the pandemic has been a job-killer for lower-income work-

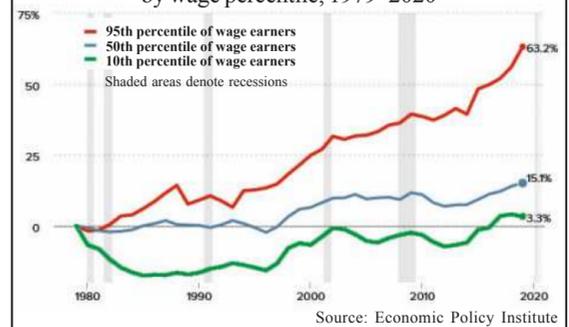
ers, especially in the service sector. Take their wages out of the mix, and the average U.S. wage moved up, a lot.

"Wage growth in 2020 is neither a cause for celebration nor a reason to inject fears of economic overheating into policy debates," said EPI economist Elise Gould. "Faster wage growth between 2019 and 2020 is largely a result of the changing composition of the workforce. It is not an

(Continued on Page 2)

### The rich... get richer

Cumulative change in real hourly wages of U.S. workers, by wage percentile, 1979–2020



# Viewpoints



## Biden's union manifesto

Editor's note: A vote to unionize an Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Ala., is taking place this month. If it succeeds it would be the most significant union organizing win in the South in decades, and perhaps ignite organizing drives at other properties held by Amazon — a notoriously anti-union company that employs some 1.2 million workers and is fighting union efforts in Bessemer.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos personally earned \$70 billion last year during the pandemic, growing his wealth to about \$186 billion, the *Washington Post* reported in early January, illustrating the divide between the haves and have-nots. There was no profit-sharing plan with Amazon workers.

On Feb. 28, President Joe Biden, who pledged to be the most "pro-union president you've ever seen," issued a remarkable two minute, 20-second video, with a nod of support to Amazon workers unionizing and an overall manifesto advocating for unions across the nation.

Labor historian Erik Loomis, in a post on Twitter, called Biden's remarks "arguably the most pro-union public statement by a president in support of unions in the entirety of American history."

Following are President Biden's comments

*"I have long said that America wasn't built by Wall Street. America was built by the middle class, and unions built the middle class. Unions put power in the hands of workers. They level the playing field. They give you a stronger voice for your health, your safety, higher wages, protections from racial discrimination and sexual harassment.*

*"Unions lift up workers, both union and nonunion. But especially black and brown workers. I made it clear when I was running that my administration's policy would be to support unions organizing and the right to collectively bargain. I'm keeping that promise.*

*"You should all remember, the National Labor Relations Act didn't just say that unions are allowed to exist, it said that we should encourage unions.*

*"So let me be really clear. It's not up to me whether anyone should join a union. But let me be even more clear. It's not up to an employer to decide that either. The choice to join a union is up to the workers. Full stop. Today and over the next few days and weeks workers in Alabama and all across America are voting on whether to organize a union in their workplace. This is vitally important — a vitally important choice. As America grapples with the deadly pandemic, the economic crisis and the reckoning on race — what it reveals is the deep disparities that still exist in our country.*

*And there should be no intimidation, no coercion, no threats, no anti-union propaganda. No supervisor should confront employees about their union preferences.*

*You know, every worker should have a free and fair choice to join a union. The law guarantees that choice. And it's your right, not that of an employer; it's your right, no employer can take that right away. So make your voice heard.*

*God bless you all and may God protect the workers and their families who are trying to figure out how to make it fairly. Thank you."*

*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 —

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ON HAND to deliver the \$8,375 donation to Care House in Mount Clemens are (l-r) Alex Brzuszek (Sheetmetal 80); Rob Williams (Sprinkler Fitters 704); Jason Grunenwald (Sheetmetal 80); Tom McWilliams (Plumbers 98); Care House Executive Director Dorie Vazquez-Nolan; Kevin Zimmerman (Operating Engineers 324); John Sape (Painters 2352); Jim Horvath (Iron Workers 25); Jeremy Haviland (Painters 2352); Robert Gonzalez (Painters District Council 1M); Joe Hallman (The Local Credit Union); Jim Ritchie (BAC Local 2); and Don Stepp (Glaziers and Glassworkers 357).



## A care package for Care House

MOUNT CLEMENS—Building trades union representatives on Feb. 26 donated \$8,375 to the operations of Care House, a facility that helps women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The money was donated in the form of \$25 Meijer gift cards, which are distributed throughout the year for clients at the facility to use for food, gasoline and personal items.

This is the 21st year the union reps have made a similar donation, and the gift cards are in a particularly useful form for the Care House staff to distribute.

"This is really amazing to get this gift year after year, we are very appreciate of you guys thinking of us," said Care House Executive Director Dorie Vazquez-Nolan. "Last year we had some left over gift cards and we gave \$125 to some families for them to use as Christmas gifts for their kids. More than one mom started crying, they said they

never expected the help and they could really use it."

She said the gift cards are also useful as gas cards for client transportation and purchasing food for Care House support groups.

Located in an old home on Market Street, Care House's mis-

sion is "to prevent and reduce the incidence and trauma of child sexual and physical abuse in Macomb County through collaborative, multidisciplinary and effective family-centered activities." Since it opened in 1996, Care House has coordinated more

than 8,500 forensic interviews of children who were suspected victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse or were a witness to a violent act. Care House has also provided support services to more than 11,500 families, all at no cost to the families they serve

## Average worker pay rose in 2020

(Continued from Page 1)  
accurate indicator of the amount of economic devastation and pain experienced by millions of workers and their families in 2020, nor is it an indicator that workers found themselves in a better bargaining position. It is indicative, however, of increasing inequality where those at the top have largely been spared from the recession while those at the bottom have been absolutely devastated."

According to Pew Research, year-over-year income growth in the U.S. was mostly in the 2-3

percent range since 2013. But in the years just before the 2007-08 financial collapse, average hourly earnings often increased by around 4 percent. And during the high-inflation years of the 1970s and early 1980s, average wages commonly jumped 7-9 percent per year.

"Most workers are still suffering from a relatively weak bargaining position that prevents them from securing pay raises sufficient to make up for decades of slow wage growth," said the EPI's Jori Kandra. "There are numerous ways policymakers can

restore bargaining power to workers during the recovery from the pandemic, including raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 and passing the Protecting the Right to Organizing Act." The PRO Act, currently legislation in Congress, would change federal law to allow easier union organizing rules, among other pro-worker changes.

*"Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."*  
—Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)



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# BUILDING MICHIGAN!

## Michigan Bell's Saginaw legacy

### HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE FORMER MICHIGAN BELL Building at Washington Avenue at James Street in Saginaw, now owned by AT&T, continues to be one of the city's most prominent structures. Outside of Detroit, it was the largest of more than 40 Michigan Bell buildings erected in our state. The eight-story, limestone-clad building was given two architecturally unfortunate additions in the 1970s, a ugly tower on top, and a plain addition on the building's south side.

Photo credit: Marty Mulcahy

One of the great, unheralded contributors to Michigan's cityscapes is the local collection of telephone buildings.

Michigan Bell, part of the behemoth Bell Telephone System which connected North America with copper-wired voice and data communication, sponsored the construction of a huge collection of buildings, big and small, often on main streets in Michigan communities, and often architecturally significant.

Michigan Bell Telephone Co. was founded in 1904, one of 22 original local carriers of the nationwide Bell System, named for the telephone's inventor, Alexander Graham Bell. Not unlike the electrification process that was going on at the time, installing a phone system was much more than just mounting a phone on a home's hallway wall and attaching a wire. The wire, of course, had to go somewhere, and the company's billing, customer service and administration had to be housed somewhere, too.

Michigan Bell's flagship building in the state was its headquarters tower at Michigan and Cass avenues in Detroit, which grew to 19 stories with an expansion in 1927. But Bell was also erecting numerous other buildings around the state, many of which continue to be used today with functions that relate to telecommunications, cable television and internet service. And thanks to Michigan Bell's original generous design and construction budgets, the buildings have almost universally been tremendous assets to their downtowns over the past century.

The phone company went all-in with its building in Saginaw, an eight-story, 122-foot-tall gem at 309 Washington Street. Designed by noted architect Wirt Rowland of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, the building would house new dial telephone equipment for Michigan Bell's mid-Michigan operations.

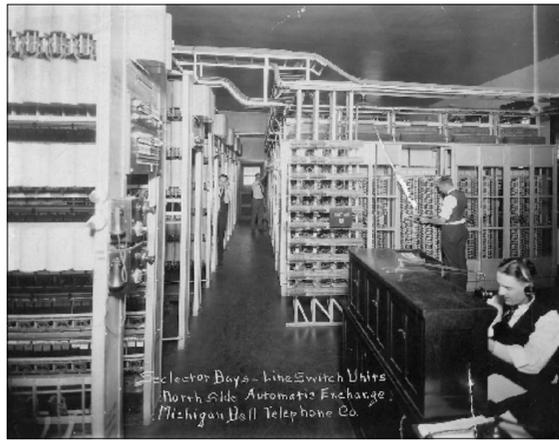
"With the exception of the main headquarters building in Detroit, this combination central office and business office in Saginaw was the largest building constructed by Michigan Bell during the 1920s," said Detroit-area architectural historian Michael Smith.

The Saginaw building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Construction started in 1929, and was completed in 1930. The cost: \$2.5 million. An unfortunate top of the tower structure was added in 1974.

"The Michigan Bell Telephone Company's Saginaw office building served as headquarters for the northern part of the Lower Peninsula and housed new automatic dial telephone equipment for this central Michigan district," wrote Kathryn Eckert for *Archipedia*, a publication of the Society of Architectural Historians. "Michigan Bell prided itself on its construction of fine buildings to enhance the communities that it served. Between 1925 and 1930 it erected 45 practical and attractive buildings.

The Saginaw office was among the largest and most imposing – second only to the headquarters in Detroit. Termed by the company 'a modern American style of architecture,' the squat, eight-story building is one of the few Art Deco buildings in Saginaw."

The application for national historic designation said the



THIS 1933 photo of the Michigan Bell Building in Grand Rapids – which, like the Saginaw Bell building, was designed by architect Wirt Rowland – illustrates the presence of some of the heavy switching equipment that had to be taken into account with the beefed-up structure of the buildings.

Photo credit: History Grand Rapids

Saginaw building was "typical of Michigan Bell construction in the 1930s." It said the building's first two levels were disguised between tall, two-story windows, wide stone bandcourses separated the third through sixth floors, with the top two floors set back and crested with low-relief chevrons.

"The telephone equipment for all of Michigan Bell's service area in the Thumb and Saginaw Valley was placed in the building, necessitating unusually heavy construction," the national historic application said. "Office buildings of the 1930s were usually designed to carry 75 pounds of weight per square foot. Michigan Bell's buildings, however, was designed to accommodate 175 pounds per square foot. The ceilings were constructed especially high to accommodate tall equipment and extra space was designed into the building to allow for future telephone company expansion. Michigan Bell's foresight in providing a building of extra heavy construction allows it to remain in use today."

Eckert's *Archipedia* entry says the Saginaw building "was constructed to be fireproof; gray limestone clads its steel reinforced-concrete and brick skeleton. Its sturdy construction of 74 cement footings buried 18 to 22 feet underground and 74 reinforced-steel columns supported the installation of heavy machinery and could accommodate the addition of three more stories."

Architectural historian Smith called the interior "exceptionally lively and vibrant. Stenciling in angular shapes of turquoise, coral, silver and rust decorated the upper sections of walls and columns. Below that was wood paneling in light and medium tones, and a terrazzo floor with diamond patterns of complimentary cream and pale green colors. All in all, an outrageously bright and attractive scheme."

Communities across Michigan were fortunate to have Rowland – a major league architect – design their phone build-

ings. A Clinton, Michigan native, Rowland worked with industry giants Albert Kahn and George Mason and managed the design of three of Detroit's most praised and prominent downtown towers, the Penobscot, Guardian and Buhl buildings.

"One of Detroit's most prolific architects, Wirt C. Rowland's hands touched the blueprints for many of the city's most show-stopping early 20th century buildings. During his 50-year career, he worked with four of the city's most prominent architectural firms, drafting or designing an impressive range of building types and architectural styles," writes Denis McGreen for *Historic Detroit*. "As an avid modernist and supporter of the Arts and Crafts movement, he is best known for contributing Art Deco-style skyscrapers to Detroit's skyline."

Michael Smith wrote an entire book about the architect, *Designing Detroit: Wirt Rowland and the Rise of Modern American Architecture*. "Having Michigan Bell as a client entailed certain advantages of particular interest to Rowland," Smith wrote. "Their structures were, for the most part, industrial buildings, reducing some of the often confounding challenges entailed by office buildings, banks and schools."

"The importance of Bell as a client, particularly in light of the genuine design challenges posed by their buildings, dictated that Rowland handle their design work. The considerable number of Michigan Bell buildings produced by Rowland during these years – nearly all of which still stand – provides an extraordinary record of his rapidly evolving vision of modern design as well as his facility in adapting a wide range of historical styles to modern use."

Michigan Bell and the rest of the Bell System was broken up into smaller companies in a 1984 anti-trust case. Michigan Bell was eventually absorbed into Ameritech and then into AT&T. The building continues to be used today by AT&T.



THE NEW Saginaw Michigan Bell Building was deemed important enough to put on a postcard in the 1930s.

Image credit: Detroit Public Library

## Jobless benefits boost on agenda

(Continued from Page 1)

benefit receive from 4.1 percent to 6.1 percent of their highest quarter earnings.

Through an executive order last year in the early days of the pandemic, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer extended jobless benefits to their old level of 26 weeks. Together with federal pandemic relief, claimants were eligible for up to 59 weeks of benefits.

Whitmer's executive orders were invalidated by the state Supreme Court last fall, but the state Legislature continued the benefits extension until Dec. 31, 2020.

Things got confusing in January. Whitmer issued a line-item veto to halt money from going to legislation that would have more fully funded the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The governor called it a corporate tax break – even as her action reduced benefit weeks from 26 to 20, the level where it stands today.

State Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) said in early January that whether the governor "admits it or not, the facts are clear – anyone filing for unemployment between now and April will have fewer benefits because of her veto. People need the truth."

Whitmer – who championed

the return of a 26-week benefit period long before COVID-19 hit – noted that Republicans chose to tie together a so-called corporate tax cut with the extension of benefits, and said they should

immediately pass a law extending benefits. Since early January, they have yet to do so. The Dems' legislation is an attempt to kick-start the resumption of those extra benefits.

## Dems push bailout of multi-employer pensions

(Continued from Page 1)

"This economic crisis has hit already struggling pension plans like a wrecking ball, and the retirement security of millions of American workers depends on getting this package across the finish line."

Congressional Republicans had been loathe to give a "bailout" to union pension plans – even though those who are hurt the most, individual retirees – were not at fault for the crisis. According to the House Education and Labor Committee, the pandemic could have caused an additional 180 multiemployer plans to become insolvent, bringing the total of plans facing failure to 300, covering 2.5 million participants. Economists have said failure of those pension plans would have created an economic depression.

"It is a bailout, and it is a godsend for underfunded multi-employer plans," said Michigan funds attorney John Tesija, whose firm Novara Tesija & Catenacci P.L.L.C. administers about a dozen union pension plans. "This is going to be enough money to inject certainty into the viability of failing plans, going forward."

Tesija pointed out that many multi-employer plans are holding their own in the "green zone" (greater than 80 percent funded) or "yellow zone," (65-80 percent funded). But one plan, the Teamsters Central States, is mired in the red zone (less than 65 percent funded) and only has about 44 months of benefits remaining for its retirees.

The provisions in the plan to prop up failing multi-employer plans create financial scenarios and funding nuts and bolts that only an actuary would love. The law injects money into the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC), that is supposed to act as a backstop for failing pension plans, but itself has been slated to run out of money by 2026.

According to *Pensions and Investments*, the new law will "expand the PBGC's authority and resources to help troubled plans through partitions. It would also double the PBGC guarantee level for plan participants from the current maximum of \$12,870 for 30 years of service."

The *National Law Review* said the PBGC would now "send payments directly to eligible multiemployer pension plans," and would create additional funding for itself by raising premiums. Current premiums are \$31 per participants, that will go up to \$52 per participant by 2031.

The Congressional Research Service said the new funding allocated by Congress will aim to prop up the 10-15 percent of multi-employer plans that are "in critical and declining status," and "establish a fund within the PBGC and appropriate amounts as necessary to provide special financial assistance to certain multiemployer plans. The special financial assistance would not have to be repaid."

According to the labor law firm Jackson Lewis, the new law "emphasizes the 'partition' of troubled multiemployer pension plans. Partition is a procedure where a multiemployer pension plan is divided into two plans, with the PBGC accepting financial responsibility for the more troubled portion of the plan representing the benefits of participants for whom no contributions are being made."

Importantly for individual retirees, Jackson Lewis said, "In addition to expanding the current partition program, EPPRA would repeal the benefit suspensions that were introduced in 2014 by the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA). Under these provisions, many troubled multiemployer plans had applied for approval to suspend and possibly reduce the accrued benefits of certain participants. If enacted, EPPRA would prohibit any future suspension of benefits applications (or approvals) under MPRA. It does not appear, however, that EPPRA would affect MPRA benefit suspensions that were approved prior to the date of enactment."

## Study: union safety advantage is real

(Continued from Page 1)

top of the list," says LHSFNA Management Co-Chairmen Noel C. Borck. "Studies like this confirm that investing in safety, empowering workers to speak up about hazards and maintaining a strong relationship between labor and management makes a real difference."

With six more years of data since the original study, the IWH did a follow-up to see if their conclusions still held up. The follow-up study used data from approximately 60,000 companies in Ontario between 2012-2018. The results showed an even stronger union safety effect than the original study:

- Union firms had 25 percent fewer lost workday incidents
- Union firms had 23 percent fewer lost workday claims from musculoskeletal (i.e., sprain and strain) injuries
- Union firms had 16 percent fewer claims for critical or severe injuries
- "The data doesn't lie, and reaffirms what we have always suspected," says Robert Bronk, CEO of the Ontario Construction Secretariat. "Putting an emphasis on worker training, safe work practices and giving workers a voice in the workplace makes a positive difference for workers and for contractors."
- The "union safety effect" found in the study was strongest for companies with more than 50 employees, where there was a 44 percent reduction in claims. The effect was consistent across multiple construction sectors, including industrial maintenance workers, sheet metal workers and roofers.
- The authors of the study attribute this "union safety effect" to several factors, including:
  - Better training of the union workforce
  - Union workers are more comfortable raising safety issues
  - A higher journeyman to apprentice ratio
  - Less worker turnover

### Just joking

A guy goes to the doctor and says "Doc, you gotta check my leg. Something's wrong. Just put your ear up to my thigh, you'll hear it!"

The doctor cautiously places his ear to the man's thigh only to hear, "Gimme 20 bucks, c'mon, I really need 20 bucks!"

Taken aback, the doctor said, "I've never seen or heard anything like this before! How long has this been going on?"

"It's been a while, but that's nothing. Now put your ear to my knee!" the man said.

The doctor put his ear to the man's knee and heard it say, "Man, I really need 10 dollars, just lend me 10, that's all I ask!"

Dumfounded, the doctor said, "Sir, I really don't know what to tell you. I've never seen anything like this!"

"OK, hold on now Doc, we're not done. Now, just put your ear up to my ankle!" the man urged him.

The doctor did as the man said and was blown away to hear his ankle plead, "Please, I just need 5 bucks. Lend me 5 bucks please, if you can, or whatever you got!"

Still amazed, the doctor told the patient to wait a few minutes while he did some research. Finding nothing, he went back into the exam room.

"There's nothing about this in my reference books, or any of the online medical journals," the doctor told his patient. But I can make an educated guess though. I believe that based on what I've heard here today, I can tell you that your leg appears to be broke in three places."





**IBEW Local 131**

**KALAMAZOO** – The March General Membership meeting is cancelled, the business of the Local Union will be taken care of by the Executive Board on March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m. We fully anticipate holding April's meeting either outside or indoors dependent upon weather and the current DHHS regulations.

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

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

**Work Outlook:**  
The work outlook is strong. We expect to have a busier than usual spring and continue into winter. If you are aware of interested electricians working in our jurisdiction, please have them visit [www.poweringkalamazoo.com](http://www.poweringkalamazoo.com) or call the office.

M.J. Electric, Van Ert Electric, and KEI Electrical have all secured work at the Graphic Packaging Paper Mill expansion; **most calls right now are working overtime and going into Book 2.**

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

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

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

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

Life events happen, and we'd always like to make sure you have updated beneficiary forms. If you're questioning whether yours is up to date, stop on down to the Hall to get new documents.

If you're interested in receiving updates from the Hall, please email Christine at [cbhms@ibew131.com](mailto:cbhms@ibew131.com) to get your email address added.

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

**Condolences:** Brother James Stewart passed on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Gary Yack passed on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

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

**FROM THE APPRENTICESHIP: Journeyman Upgrade Classes:**

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

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

Please visit our website [www.kalamazoojate.com](http://www.kalamazoojate.com) or stop in to sign up for the Code Update Class. September 3, 2020. Call Nicole at 269-388-4434 with any questions.

(Continued next column)



**IBEW Local 557**

**SAGINAW – COVID-19:** Thank you to our Brothers and Sisters for their continued efforts to stay safe and healthy through these difficult times. Also, thank you to the members who helped make our first in-person meeting in several months safe, and successful.

The office has ordered masks with our local number on them. If you have not picked yours up yet, please call ahead and we will be happy to help you through the service window. Members can stay up to date on the latest changes by checking their e-mail and Facebook. With the production of vaccines continuing to increase, we look forward to as close of a return to normalcy as possible.

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

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

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

-The April meeting will be held at The Carpenters Local or outdoors (depending on weather).

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

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

-The school continues its hard work of keeping our apprentices safe and staying on schedule. Apprentices should regularly check email notifications for either in-person, or online class. Please keep up-to-date with work reports and book payments.

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:**  
We hope to hold our April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Carpenter's Local, 3160 Commerce Centre Drive, Saginaw, MI 48601. Or if weather permits, Roberts Park Pavilion. Please monitor your email and Facebook for the most up to date decision. The Local 557 Executive Board is scheduled to meet again on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**INSIDE NEGOTIATIONS:**  
As you may know the Local's Inside Wireman Agreement expires on May 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Negotiations will begin soon between our negotiating team and NECA. It is the intention of this Local for all to have a chance to participate in this process. At our March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, members were able to discuss their concerns and raised valid issues for the negotiating team to focus on. Brothers and Sisters, we are in this together. With our solidarity, and strong negotiations team, we hope to bring about the best deal we can for this local and its membership. Remember: united we bargain, united we beg!

**IBEW 131, con't**  
**Drug Test Renewals:** Please keep track of your drug test expiration date through [www.safe2work4you.com](http://www.safe2work4you.com). It is your responsibility to stay current on your drug test. Please contact Nicole (269) 388-4434 to get your authorization form printed for you to pick up. If you don't want to come to the Hall to pick it up, please email Nicole and request your form to be emailed to you. [nwolf@ibew131.com](mailto:nwolf@ibew131.com).

**Negotiations:** The Local Union has set its bargaining team for upcoming negotiations. Thank you to the following Brothers and Sisters for volunteering: Tim Haydon, Scott Mueller, Kari Collison, Scott Bryer and Brian O'Donnell. We are continuing to process feedback from the Negotiations Survey. At this time, we have officially entered into our negotiations process, our next meeting is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**IBEW LOCAL 557**

divided we beg!

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS-** The Union Hall is open. Please limit visits to the Hall for critical business if possible. We ask that if business can be taken care of with phone calls, emails, or a fax that you please do so. Otherwise, the glass service window in the front of the building should be utilized as much as possible to keep everyone as safe as possible.

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

**WORK OUTLOOK-** Local 557 would like to thank our neighboring Locals that have continued to put our traveling members to work. Here in Saginaw, Conti hopes to hire soon for Hemlock Semi Conductor, and Theil has secured the expansion for Jolt Credit Union, but isn't expected to start until the fall. Work at Mary Free Bed continues to ramp up.

Projects that remain on the radar in the near future include the Caro Mental Hospital, Saginaw County Animal Shelter, Dow Event Center, and the Saginaw City Schools. All of these projects have an excellent chance of going fair and putting our members to work. The leg-work to secure these projects is ongoing and results are promising.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CONTACT NUMBERS-** Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, [www.mielectricalhealth.org](http://www.mielectricalhealth.org)

**Breanna DePotty**  
Press Secretary



**IBEW 58**

**DETROIT** – The Local 58 General Membership Meeting scheduled for **TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021** is CANCELLED due to COVID-19 Restrictions on gatherings. Stay tuned for the next meeting notice. We remind everyone to follow COVID-19 guidelines on safety.

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

**Local 58 Dues Information:** Dues should be paid by the first day of the quarter. You can pay your dues with an APP. Go to Apple/Google Play and download the IBEW 58 APP. In the APP go to My Profile, My Member Tools and that's where you find the information to pay. We will call you to verify all information prior to processing your payment.

**NOTE:** Your payment is not completed until you receive a phone call from the dues department and payment gets processed. Please make sure you put your phone number on the submitted form. You can also pay by phone with credit/debit or mail a check/money order.

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

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

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

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The Wobbly Kitchen is up and running again and we are assisting them every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday with food prep and distribution at Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 am to help with the Wobbly Kitchen program. To get involved with future community service projects contact Mike Conflitti or Rob Z at the union hall.

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

**EWMC of Southeastern MI** – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2021. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement for the year 2021. What can we safely participate in that continues to promote the IBEW in the community? Bring your ideas.

Thank you to those who continue to attend our Zoom meetings as we navigate through these difficult times. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Sending continued healing and comfort to those who were/are affected in any way by this Covid-19 pandemic.

Please continue to stay safe at work, home, and in the com-

**IBEW LOCAL 58**

**IBEW 58**

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

**The Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

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

**The Political Action Committee (PAC)** meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month Via Zoom. To be added to our email list please contact Jeannette Bradshaw (313-408-1287). PAC contributions can be made through the APP, and at the Union Hall. You can contribute more than the \$4 dollars that is suggested on your quarterly dues, but you cannot exceed \$175.00 per calendar year. The loss of our deduction cut our resources in half, and we would like to assist local candidates and our members looking to run for office.

**Local 58's Women's Softball team, The Live Wires** will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary this year and welcomes new players. Season begins April 26<sup>th</sup>. We play single recreational games, USA Softball rules, Monday nights at Claude Allison Park in Redford on Beech Daly Rd. All skill levels welcome to join the camaraderie and solidarity. If you or someone you know would like more info please contact Grace Trudell at 313-244-2268.

**Local 58's Women's Committee-** Our next regular meeting is Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm on Zoom. Please watch for emails with further updates and hopefully we will be meeting in person soon. ARC Scholarship and Awards are back for 2021! Scholarship applications and award nomination forms are available under the Women's Committee tab on the app/website. Scholarship applications are due Friday, April 30, 2021, award nomination forms are due Wednesday, March 31. ARC Awards dinner is being planned for July 17. Bids have been opened for catering, music/entertainment, photography, tent rental. If you or someone you know offers these services and would be interested in participating in this event please contact the women's committee. You can Email us at: [58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org), or call committee chairs Angela Panicucci (586) 291-8014 or Kayla Pauli. Follow us on Instagram @ibewwomen58; Check us out on Facebook.

**IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association:** It continues to be a "stay at home" time as covid-19 is still keeping us from our regular activities. Retirees Association luncheons and other activities are still suspended. We know that patience must prevail, vaccines need to be given, masks need to be worn in public places, and we must continue to distance in groups and be cautious. We expect all of us to come together in the future, just not sure how near in the future that will be.

Dues were due January 1, 2021, \$8 a year, per person. Please send your dues (payable to the Retirees Association) to Ray Owen, 428 Welch Rd., Northville 48167. If you still owe dues for 2020, please include them. If you haven't sent us your email address yet, please send it to [58retirees@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:58retirees@ibewlocal58.org). As winter continues, reach out to your fellow retirees, family and friends, these are tough times to live alone or be away from close family. Stay safe, take good care.

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

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Duane Pullen.

**Members that have passed away-** Theodore Burkland, pension member, 61 year IBEW membership; Lucille Cooper, widow to the late pension member James Cooper; Norman Katanick, pension member, 66 year IBEW membership; Robert "Bob" Lapinsky, Stepfather to Technician I Edward "Cowboy" MacPherson Jr.; Denny Taylor, pension member, 68 year IBEW membership; Janet Thomas, widow to the late pension member William Thomas.

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



**IBEW Local 252**

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

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

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

**TRAINING CLASSES 2021: All classes start at 5 p.m.**  
1. CPR/First Aid- April 13, 2021  
2. OSHA 30- Monday nights, Feb. 22 – April 19, 5-9 p.m. This class is worth 30 BICSI credits.  
3. JOURNEYMAN PREP CLASS- Thursday nights, Feb. 25-April 1, 5-9 p.m.  
4. Instrumentation Part B hands-on- Tuesday nights, March 9- April 27, 5-9 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CREDIT CARDS:** The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. There is a fee of 3.5% to use your card.

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

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



**IBEW Local 948**  
**FLINT** – Our March Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 22, 2021, 4:30 pm. The Retiree Club Meeting will return in April 2021.

Do not forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. [www.local948.com](http://www.local948.com).

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

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

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

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

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



**IBEW 665**  
**LANSING – WORK OUT-LOOK:** Spring is just around the corner and Local 665 is projected to have another busy Spring and Summer. We continue to have full employment and currently have over 200 traveling brothers and sisters working in our jurisdiction. Local 665 is still accepting initial sign by fax or email from a member's home local.

**LOCAL 665 RETIREE DINNER IS CANCELLED:** The Retiree Dinner normally scheduled for May is cancelled this year. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we believe it in the best interest of our retirees to take this action for the safety and wellness of us all. We do however want to say thank you to those of you that have been a huge part of this local and we hope that retirement is treating you well.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASS:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 5-7 PM at the Union Hall. All new members are invited. Please call the hall to register at 517-393-5530.

**FIRST AID / CPR CLASS:** Wednesday, April 28, 5-7 PM at the Union Hall, Please call the LEJATC to register, 517-483-9688.

**APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS:** We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program.

To apply, go to [www.lejatc.org](http://www.lejatc.org) and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the first Monday of each month.

**NOTICE: UNION HALL IS OPEN:** The Union Hall is open. Please remember to help keep both our members and staff safe by practicing social distancing and wearing your mask while at the Union Hall.

If you have a special circumstance, please call our office and we will assist you.

For our travelling brothers and sisters, Local 665 is still accepting initial sign by fax or email from a member's home local.

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** Local 665 recently updated their website. Feel free to take a look at [www.ibew665.org](http://www.ibew665.org)

**DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS:** First quarter dues should be paid at this time and we should start thinking about making payment for second quarter. We are currently at death benefit # 317. Please check your dues receipt to ensure that you are current.



**IBEW Local 498**  
*"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"*

**IBEW Local 498**  
**TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.**

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

**MEETING** -Due to Covid 19 and State of Michigan rules the in-person meeting is postponed. Watch this article for further updates. As always you can always call the hall for meeting updates.

**Work Outlook on Mackinaw Island** – Do you know anyone looking for a once in a lifetime crazy fun adventure right here in Michigan? We have short-term work on Mackinaw Island where the guys are riding snowmobiles, flying in airplanes, and cruising on ferry boats. They are also playing street hockey every Wednesday night with whoever wants to participate. They are having a blast up there remodeling 400 rooms at the Grand Hotel and adding a huge pool. Its crunch time and we need the help ASAP.

Free private room including 3 hot meals provided. You can go home on the weekends if you choose and the work is starting to go into overtime. If you know of any brothers/sisters who want an adventure or better yet any non-union electricians are especially wanted. Call 498 organizer directly at 808-214-8214.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)  
 TIC International Corporation, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917  
 NEBF 1-301-556-4300  
 NEAP 1-301-556-4300  
 IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

**DUES RATES**  
 Jan 1, 2021 – No increase. Still remains \$140.10/Quarter

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

Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time. Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 3#



**Local 275**

**IBEW 275**  
**COOPERSVILLE** – Dear Brothers and Sisters: We recently updated the Local's website. When you have a chance, please visit [www.ibew275.org](http://www.ibew275.org) for important member resources, dues payment, information, etc.

The first round of contract negotiations are scheduled for March 16. We received a lot of good suggestions from the electronic poll from the members. I thank all of you who submitted your ideas.

As the Governor has lifted public gathering restrictions to 25 indoors and up to 300 outdoors, we will have March's union meeting in person at the union hall at 6:00 p.m. If we have more than 25 attendees, we will have to have the meeting outside, so please dress appropriately. Also, face coverings and the 6 foot separation rule will apply.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three or more months behind in dues: Robert Akers, Jonathon Alviar, Charles Cross, David Oberlin and Jeremy Rinehart.

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

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

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

*"No, I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb, and I also know I'm not blonde."*  
 – Dolly Parton, (1946-)

*"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."*  
 – William Blake (1757- 1827)

*"If you define yourself through the opinions of others you'll never be defined at all."*  
 – Marika Cobbold

*"A dog is the greatest gift a parent can give a child. OK, a good education, then a dog."*  
 – John Grogan

*"Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness; no laziness; no procrastination; never put off till tomorrow what you can do today."*  
 – Lord Chesterfield (1694 - 1773)

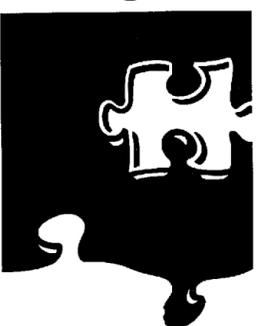
*"When someone does something good, applaud! You will make two people happy."*  
 – Samuel Goldwyn (1882 - 1974)

*"The art of leadership is saying no, not yes. It is very easy to say yes."*  
 – Tony Blair (1953 - )

*"To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men."*  
 – Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

*"Joy is not in things; it is in us."*  
 – Richard Wagner

**You Are the Missing Piece.**



**Attend Your Union Meetings!**



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN**

**IBEW 692**  
**BAY CITY** – Message from the Business Manager. After careful consideration, the Union Hall is open to foot traffic. Until further notice masks and social distancing must be adhered to at all times when visiting the union hall.

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

The April monthly membership meeting is still on track to occur. We are currently monitoring orders coming from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and will update the membership as soon as we have more information. My plan is to resume these meetings as soon as safely possible.

We will begin negotiations with our "Inside" collective bargaining agreement in the next few weeks. Please contact myself or President Pat Nitschky with any changes you would like to see to this agreement. If you haven't taken the time to fill out the survey that was emailed to all members please do so ASAP.

**Work Report.** The new Meijer in West Branch has been bid. Master Electric has been awarded this project. Master Electric has also secured the new Isabella County Jail located in Mt. Pleasant. Both of these projects will have a spring start. Ted's Electric has been awarded some of the work at Midland Public Schools with Barton Malow being the G.C. Ted's was also awarded the Bay County lift station project.

There is also a large energy upgrade project currently being bid for Midland Public Schools. Alpena Schools have been awarded to John's Electric out of Alpena. John's has also been awarded the Alpena library project and a large marijuana grow facility located in Harrisville. Clements Electric has been awarded the Sterling Saw Mill, Monitor Township Fire Department, Bay-Arenac ISD bus garage, the Troll Smokehouse, multiple marijuana dispensaries and the Handy Middle School office renovation. Another nice project for Bay City Public Schools will be out for bid in the next month. Countyline Power has secured Midland/Gladwin County dam work, the Mackinaw City lift station and the Roscommon Airport.

Consumers Energy work for the summer includes Karn 1&2 utility separation, and also work on the generator at Alcona Dam. Northern Valley Electrical has the LaFarge PLC upgrade. Northern Power (Local 498 signatory contractor) has secured work on the Shepler Docks in Mackinaw City. There are also a large number of Solar Projects that are slated for our jurisdiction. We are currently working on a timeline for all solar work. Rest assured both orga-

nizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Work remains very good in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, and Lansing. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

**Organizers Report.** The membership development team here at Local 692 continues to reach out to those workers in the industry not represented by the IBEW. We have made some very fine additions to our membership over the past year, and now with double the manpower tasked to the cause, we have high hopes to start having some serious campaigns with some of the non-union competition in our jurisdiction. Many of you brothers and sisters know electricians on the other side of the fence. Reach out to them, have the conversation with that unrepresented neighbor or family friend, and explain what the IBEW can do for them.

We continue to rely on our membership for updates on smaller projects that are happening throughout our nineteen counties that we are unaware of. If you see something, call. If you see or know of a contractor working in your area let us know.

The same for out-of-jurisdiction union contractors. Lately we have seen an uptick of contractors not checking in when working in the area. When we catch a contractor in our jurisdiction not checked in, that member will be invited to explain their actions to our executive board. With that said, we expect the same courtesy call from our members when traveling outside of 692 to whatever local you are working in. Stay safe out there Brothers and Sisters.

Brian Klele 989.252.9225  
 Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131

**Union Dues.** Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.

2021 Dues (Effective January 1, 2021) Monthly \$41.20 Quarterly \$123.60; 6 months \$247.20; Yearly \$494.40

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

Local 692 Retirement Party  
 The retirement party originally scheduled for May 2021 has been postponed to **March 11, 2022**. It will be located at the DoubleTree in Bay City. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this great event to honor our retirees!

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

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

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



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

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

**Members in arrears are:** Jeffrey Benson, Keith Bostwick, Thomas Daley, Philip Gagnon, Phillip Jarrard, Marcus Nunnally, Brian Phillips, TJ Reese, Rocky Schultz, Andrew Whitaker and Sarah Wilson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Local 692, con't**

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

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



**Pipefitter Apprenticeship**

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

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

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

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

**No resumes please.**  
 For more information please contact our web site at: [www.pipefitters636tc.org](http://www.pipefitters636tc.org).



## Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

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

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

Any retirees wanting to go to work, please call the office.

The Funds Trustees have waived the 79-hour rule.

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

**Per the Rules and Procedures:** Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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

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

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

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

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

**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: (800) 323-8079**  
Telephone: (517) 321-7502  
Fax: (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](http://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.

(Continued next column)



## Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

### Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25

**SOUTHFIELD – REMINDER:** We continue to be under the directive of the International Union and pursuant to that directive, the MARCH 2021 UNION MEETING has been cancelled. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates.

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

**APPRENTICE APPLICATION:** Apprentice applications will be accepted during March 2021 and April 2021. To learn more and apply online, visit [HeatFrostInsulators.org/Apprenticeship](http://HeatFrostInsulators.org/Apprenticeship). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the can contact the Union Office (248) 352-1850.

**QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR AN APPLICANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS LOCAL 25 APPRENTICESHIP**

1. Must be at least 18 years of age by June 1st, 2021, and have a valid driver's license.
2. Complete the application. Be sure that you sign the application and you must upload any required supporting documents, including documents that support previous employment or extracurricular activities.

If you are a current High School senior, you must provide your Diploma or GED certificate (proof of completion) by June 1st, 2021.

Successfully complete an aptitude test when scheduled, (at the applicant's expense of \$30).

Appear for an interview when notified.

Have a residence and live in the Territorial Jurisdiction of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25 as follows:

In the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, and neighboring counties as well as the Townships of Ann Arbor, August, Lodi, Northfield, Pittsfield, Salem, Saline, Scio, Superior, Webster, Ypsilanti, York in Washtenaw County.

Before employment, all applicants accepted for probationary apprenticeship will be required to pass a physical examination and pre-employment drug test as prescribed by the local JATC.

**APPAREL:** New Local 25 apparel is available at the Union Hall. New items include: knit hats and beanies, new hi-vis short and long sleeved t-shirts and hi-vis hoodies. Apparel can be viewed on the Facebook page.

**M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES:** It is important to keep your M.U.S.T. Safety Modules up to date. If you have Modules expiring and needing to be completed, give the Union Office a call to have the testing authorization turned on.

**EMPLOYMENT CHANGES:** All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. The only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remains current and correct.

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

(Continued next column)

## Local 47 cont'd

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

**Good and Welfare:** Get well to all our sick and injured members.



## Abatement Workers Local 207

### Abatement Workers Local 207

TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for Spring so be prepared for work. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement.

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

The General Office still has a ban on Union Meeting and Elections. Our current election process is still on hold until an ok is given to proceed. All members will be notified by mail when the election can resume.

Work in other areas of the region have been picking up over the last couple of weeks in Ohio and West Virginia. Spring outages are coming! With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out on-line renewals is the way to go.

They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell. We are looking at scheduling a new initial class for Late March so please if you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class.

### UPCOMING ASBESTOS TRAINING CLASSES:

Asbestos Supervisor Refresher March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Asbestos Supervisor Initial April 5<sup>th</sup> thru the 9th

**Check with the Office to ensure the classes will occur as scheduled.**

— All classes will be held at Local 207's office @ 26453 Northline in Taylor.

— Classes begin promptly at 8AM and end at 4PM, followed by a Lead Awareness Update.

If you are due to expire and need one of these refreshers now, please call the Taylor Office (1-800-207-5622) to register.

— Class sizes are being limited due to state guidelines currently in place.

**BE SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASKS, & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES!**

## Local 25 cont'd

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

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

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

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

*"Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness; no laziness; no procrastination; never put off till tomorrow what you can do today."*

—Lord Chesterfield (1694 - 1773)



BAC Local 2  
WARREN/LANSING - We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. The health and well-being of our members and their families and continuity of service to our members is our highest priority. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either the Warren office at (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office at (517) 886-9781.



CHUCK KUKAWKA

### MARCH 2021 CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

**MARQUETTE CHAPTER:** Monday, March 15, at 7 PM, 119 S Front St., Marquette, MI 49855

**SAGINAW CHAPTER:** Tuesday, March 23 at 7 PM, 1300 W. Thomas St., Bay City, MI 48706

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

**DEATHS REPORTED:** Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother James Hyatt** (PCC) who passed away on Jan. 28, 2021. Brother Hyatt had been a member for 58 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Jeremy Wilkes** (PCC) who passed away on Feb. 8, 2021. Brother Wilkes had been a member for 22 years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. All information must be submitted by **12:00pm on Friday, March 26, 2021** to the BAC Local 2 Warren office: 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.

7. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for this scholarship. We are not re-

## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

responsible for late, missing or lost documents.

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

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

**SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS:** Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a Signing Bonus for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors for a month. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get the same amount as a Finders Referral Bonus for each new skilled craftworker who they refer, if they work for at least a month for our Union Contractors. For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781. You can view the full Signing Bonus policy on our website.

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

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

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

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

**TMT RTI CLASSES RESUME WITH REDUCED CAPACITY DUE TO COVID-19; REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register visit [detroittradeltrades.org](http://detroittradeltrades.org) and click Calendar. Classes are filled on a first registered first served basis and will be held on the following Saturdays from 7am – 3:30pm: Mar: 20 • Apr: 10 & 24 • May: 1, 15 & 22 • Jun: 5 & 12.

Apprentices, remember that Related Training Instruction (RTI) classes are a requirement of your Apprenticeship, failure to attend will delay your apprenticeship and raises. Additional classes will be added as necessary to accommodate all apprentices.

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

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

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE:** During this COVID-19 pandemic, the IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <http://bit.ly/MAP-BAC> and are also available via telephone at

(Continued on Page 11)



## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

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

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

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

Membership gold cards- Congratulations!

Patrick O'Shea – 30 Years  
Gino Gattari – 70 Years  
Joseph Schifano – 70 Years  
Andrew Dupont – 25 Years

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

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

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

Attention all Apprentices now you will need to go to the website: [www.micementplastertraining.com](http://www.micementplastertraining.com) to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice monthly work form instructions." You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.

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

The Local's website is: [www.opcmiami.org](http://www.opcmiami.org)

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

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

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

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

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PLASTERERS AND DETROIT COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS:** You can track your annuity fund status at the Wells Fargo website. You may do so by logging on to: [www.retirement.wellsfargo.com](http://www.retirement.wellsfargo.com) or call (866) 640-5138, you can also call the fund office at (248) 645-6550 with any related questions.

**PLASTERERS AND CEMENT MASONS.** It is your responsibility to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the Local 514 area. This will ensure that your hours are sent back to your home fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact the Local. Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficia

(Continued on Page 11)



**Elevator Constructors Local 36**  
**DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED** that our next regular **Membership Meeting** was planned for **Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm**. As of this printing we are having a meeting in the parking lot only, we are seeking alternate ways to communicate if the weather does not cooperate or a venue to accommodate us.

Letters and Emails have been sent all Members. Keep watching your email for possible changes!

**Attention**, our NEBA contract will be expiring July 9<sup>th</sup> of 2022, so we had Nominations for the Delegates for the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Convention at our February Meeting. Congratulations to our Delegates for the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Convention, Michael Vandervennet, Russell O'Donnell, Sean Walker, Jeff Patti and Jim O'Brien. Any Resolutions for the next contract shall be turned into the Hall as per our Local Constitution and By-laws before our April 26, 2021 meeting.

**Attention All Apprentices**, continue accessing the NEIEP website/email frequently for all instructions. Mechanic's review is available and Exam invitation will be coming for those eligible at NEIEP. **Monthly OJL Forms** are now online at NEIEP which must be completed before the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the next month, **if you are working out of our jurisdiction, laid off or a probationary OJT forms must be filled out and turned into the Hall. This is a requirement of the Department of Labor.**

Do not put your apprenticeship in jeopardy by failing to fulfill your responsibility. Reminder to All that the NEIEP website is available to All interested for review and Continuing Education.

**Attention All Members** W-2s should be in your possession. It is your responsibility to comply with Article XIV Sec 2 Par 14 of the Local Constitution and Bylaws, letters have been sent to all Members. Check your pay stubs regularly there have been multiple issues with several Companies with Pay and Rates paid per specific tasks. The hours you are paid should match hours toward vacation, benefits and expenses submitted. Remember our wage increased on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. All may request a copy of the time you submit, according to NEBA Agreement, Article XI, Par 2.

Any changes made to your time are to be documented and given to you, NEBA Agreement, Article XI, Par 1. We recommend all request a copy as issues with payrolls seem to be rising. Put in for your check cashing along with 50 cents per Local Expense Agreement and verify you receive it. All Testing must be done according to Code and your Companies Maintenance Control Program. Document all tests that are due and only tasks you have completed. Keep all job logs current with this information. When paying your next quarter dues card please include an extra \$10.00 for the loss of two members.

All are reminded Construction and Modernization work is Teamwork, keep the hall informed on all jobs.

**All Members**, Local 36, Local 85, Lansing and the EIWP are holding classes on Monday nights, 6:00–8:00 pm. Reviewing and answering any questions pertaining to Michigan and Detroit Elevator Codes.

Contact the Hall if you are interested. The link will be sent to you for either online or phone participation. Maintenance Control Programs reference the Codes, are you being Code compliant? Know what the MCP is referencing for you the Licensed Journeyman.

**Reminder**, please keep your State of Michigan and City of Detroit licenses current.

Please always follow COVID-19 guidelines for your safety and those around you. E-mails were sent to all Members and Companies for the effort to make the Covid-19 Vaccine available to any and all their employees who are requested to visit Front Line Facilities. Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list. Be a Brother to a Brother, regardless of what Local they might belong too. Be Safe and Be Healthy!



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

Monthly Membership Meetings: We continue to monitor new orders and directives pertaining to COVID-19. Decisions about membership meetings will be determined and relayed to you as they approach. Union meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Union hall (except for holidays), next membership meeting will on the 2nd of April, 2021.

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

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

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

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

**Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you.**

**Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!!! To better serve our membership, we are accepting Credit & Debit payments.**

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.mustsafe.com](http://www.mustsafe.com) to see how many modules you have.

**Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules.** You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or visit the training school website [www.mltai.org](http://www.mltai.org) to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241 to use a Local Union computer to complete required modules.

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

**NOTE: Classes & Certifications contractors have been asking for are: OSHA 30, Asbestos & Lead Awareness, Hoisting & Rigging, Pipeline Safety, Class A Cdl License, Asbestos Removal Supervisors Licence, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading & Measuring Tools, Gps Location.** The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not! FYI: By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well. If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

**Referral List:** Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm and put their name on the out-of-work list. You

must have an out-of-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. Also be sure to Check & Update your Skills regularly.

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

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

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

**CONTACT NUMBERS.** Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension & Vacation)

**Telephone: (877) 645-2267**  
**Fax: (517) 321-7508**  
**Website: www.michiganlaborers.org**

**Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149**

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension) \*Telephone: (248) 641-4942 \*Fax: (248) 813-9898  
 Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare) \*Telephone: (800) 228 0048

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Vacation) \*Telephone: (877) 645-2267

**Web Site: www.metrodetroitlaborers.org**

**BENEFICIARY REMINDER:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

**Death Certificates:** Please always notify the Union Hall with a phone call when a member of the Local has passed away and submit a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired member.

**Scholarships. LIUNA members can apply for scholarships for university, college, trade school and technical trainings through Union Plus. Learn more information about Union Plus scholarships at [www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/union-plus-scholarships](http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/union-plus-scholarships).**

*"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."*

–Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973)

*"Avoid the crowd. Do your own thinking independently. Be the chess player, not the chess piece."*

–Ralph Charell

*"Deeds, not words shall speak me."*

–John Fletcher (1579 - 1625)



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the above recent graduating apprentices of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 1-M Apprenticeship School. From (l-r), congratulated by Michigan Finishing Trades Institute Apprenticeship Instructor Shawn Herron, are James Legree, Nathan Lamka and Ian Perkins.



**Michigan Painters District Council**

**Painters DC 1M**  
 WARREN – Dear Members, DCIM WEBSITE: [www.iupatdc1michigan.org](http://www.iupatdc1michigan.org)  
**DCIM FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m**  
**DC 1M UNION CARDS\***

Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DCIM offices at:

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

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

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

For IPHONE go to IOS store  
 For ANDROID got to Google Playstore  
 Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP



**Sign Pictorial & Display 591**  
 WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 6, 2021 at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

Meeting may be postponed due to covid, will notify a.s.a.p.  
 Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with district council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting

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

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

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

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

Username: your member id#  
 Password: painters  
 With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

**GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION! OUT OF WORK/BACK TO WORK:** To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep your union strong, so try to make it to a meeting.



**District Council 1M**

**Business Manager:** Robert Gonzalez

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

**Local Union 312**

**Business Rep:** Tim Schwerin

**Meeting date:** 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

**Local Union 514**

**Business Rep:** Scott Mikulen

**Meeting dates:** 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

**Web site:** [www.iupat-local514.org](http://www.iupat-local514.org).

**Local Union 826**

**Business Rep:** Rocky Ackerman

**Meeting date:** 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

**Local Union 845**

**Business Rep:** Fred Frederickson

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

**Local Union 1052**

**Business Rep:** Jake Fluty

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

**Local Union 1803**

**Business Rep:** Josh Ovalle

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

**Local Union 2352**

**Business Rep:** Jeremy Haviland

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

**Local Union 2353**

**Business Rep:** Keith Anderson

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

**Local 357, con't**

important to keep your union strong, so try to make it to a meeting.

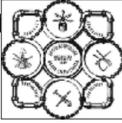
–Business Rep - Don Stepp

## Over 40 years of quality Administrative Services

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

<p><b>THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and Welfare Plans</li> <li>Defined Benefit Pension Plans</li> <li>Defined Contribution Pension Plans</li> <li>Claims Processing</li> <li>Supplemental Unemployment Plans</li> <li>HRA's, HSA's, FSA's</li> <li>Vacation Plans</li> <li>Eligibility Processing</li> <li>Trust Fund Accounting</li> <li>VEBA Administration</li> <li>Web Applications</li> <li>COBRA Administration</li> <li>HIPAA Compliance</li> </ul>	<p>With over 800 experienced and technical professionals on staff, BeneSys stands ready to assist Trustees in providing exceptional service to Plan Participants. BeneSys has clients across the U.S. and 23 regional office locations.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Boston, MA</td> <td>Milwaukee, WI</td> <td>San Diego, CA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bridgeton, MO</td> <td>Omaha, NE</td> <td>San Ramon, CA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Columbia, MD</td> <td>Phoenix, AZ</td> <td>Seattle, WA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denver, CO</td> <td>Pleasanton, CA</td> <td>Troy, MI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Des Moines, IA</td> <td>Portland, OR</td> <td>Washington, DC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hagerstown, MD</td> <td>Riverport, MO</td> <td>West Covina, CA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Las Vegas, NV</td> <td>San Jose, CA</td> <td>Youngstown, OH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louisville, KY</td> <td>Salt Lake City, UT</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Boston, MA	Milwaukee, WI	San Diego, CA	Bridgeton, MO	Omaha, NE	San Ramon, CA	Columbia, MD	Phoenix, AZ	Seattle, WA	Denver, CO	Pleasanton, CA	Troy, MI	Des Moines, IA	Portland, OR	Washington, DC	Hagerstown, MD	Riverport, MO	West Covina, CA	Las Vegas, NV	San Jose, CA	Youngstown, OH	Louisville, KY	Salt Lake City, UT	
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## Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS & HVAC SERVICE LOCAL 357

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

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

At this time, Local 357 will be looking to hire another full-time Organizer. If you are interested in applying for the position, please call Ken Willcutt at (269) 569-3492 or email [kwillcutt@ua.local357.com](mailto:kwillcutt@ua.local357.com), your resume. Interviews to fill Local 357's Organizer position are scheduled for March 18.

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

**WEBSITE INFORMATION** – **FRINGS** – **TIC:** Check out the website at [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com) and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ [www.facebook.com/UALocal357/](https://www.facebook.com/UALocal357/). You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Members Access Your Information Here, then click on TIC International Corp. and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and Create your own password. Once you have completed all the information – click on the **LARGE REGISTER** button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day.

To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password – and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when hours are posted to your account. **This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.**

**CHANGE OF STATUS:** If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, remarried, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call TIC at the phone no. above and Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date. **There seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents.** (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification) Time limits apply for reporting status changes so let the hall know ASAP!

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



Plumbers 98

## Plumbers Local 98

**DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98:** Brothers and Sisters, On behalf of all your officers and staff, we hope you and your family are safe and healthy.

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

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

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

Retiree Meetings remain cancelled.

**OTHER EVENTS.** At this time the Cincinnati Softball tournament has been cancelled.

At this moment, the State Pipe Trades Convention is on for this summer for our elected delegates. More information will be passed on as we get closer to the 2nd week of June.

**DUES.** You can pay your dues online, over the phone, or by mailing in a check. You can also set up auto-payments. If you have any questions or need to pay dues, please contact Kristina Lodovisi at (248) 307-9800 ext. 4 or on her cell at (248) 331-7232.

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

**Vaccines! Plumbers Local 98 is covered in Detroit as an essential worker.** If you are job related to the city of Detroit (this means any plumbing job in the city you may be working on) you can call 313-230-0505 between 9am & 8pm M-F to schedule an appointment at the TCF Center, or go to the website [detroitmi.gov](http://detroitmi.gov) and click on the COVID-19 Vaccine Updates, for the most up-to-date information.

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

**SUBAPPS/OOW CHANGES/BENEFITS.** Due to influx of travelers, we are closing SUB pay to all except for medical or COVID related injuries. It is your responsibility to fill out a SUB App when you are laid off. Please fill out SUB APPS electronically. This can be found on the web page under the **OOWL** section. If you're still having unemployment issues call BAs Gary Glaser or Tom McWilliams. For any issues that are unresolved at BeneSys, please get the name of the person you are dealing with and contact Carlo or Jon or the Union Hall immediately.

**NOTE ON DISABILITY/RETIREMENT.** If you are filing for Social Security Disability you will need to file for your Local 98 Disability Pension at the same time in order to make sure you get all of your pension checks. Social Security normally takes at least a year and sometimes a lot longer. If you file for your Local 98 Disability Pension at the same time, when you receive your award from Social Security we will be able to pay you all the retro money owed. If you are less than a year from retirement, we suggest you set up a meeting with Jon DeRoo prior to your retirement date.

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

You can find these campaigns and more tools to find your elected officials or pieces of legislation at [www.uagetinvolved.org/take-action](http://www.uagetinvolved.org/take-action). We can't hold our elected officials accountable unless we make our voices heard. It only takes a minute to take these simple actions to keep the UA strong.

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

**IN MEMORIAM.** Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of our brothers who we recently lost. Brother John Saie passed on Jan. 13, 2021; Brother Eugene Burke passed on Feb. 9, 2021.

**GOOD/WELFARE.** We are pleased to introduce you to a new United Association Free College Benefit that is being offered as an additional benefit to our members and their families. We have partnered with Eastern Gateway Community College to offer our members and their families a way to work toward obtaining a college degree for free! Join us on Monday, March 15 at 7 pm for an informational virtual meeting. Keep your eyes out for an email, and we will also post the information on our website and Facebook. Please note: As of this time these classes have not been approved by the JATC Trust to take the place of the required Washtenaw Community College classes.

Join us for Macomb County Adopt-A-Highway week on April 17th thru 25th. Please call BA Gary Glaser (313)580-0148 or BA Tom McWilliams (248)752-2994 for more information and to sign up. This is a great volunteer opportunity for any high schoolers in need of volunteer hours.

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

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

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

The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further notice.

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

(Continued next column)

## Local 357, continued

check your own pay stubs.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Congratulations to the family of Brendan Burkett on the birth of a baby boy, Charles.



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

**DETROIT –** The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14th at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M. Please note masks will be required for entry to the meeting.

**Reminder:** Article V, Section 13 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order. Any project that falls into the jurisdiction of Local 704 shall be manned by not less than two (2) members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

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

NFPA All Access is available for all 704 members. Please contact the Local 704 Training Center for username and password. Phone numbers to remember: NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

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

Our deepest condolences go out to the family and friends of Retired Brother Al Messecar. Brother Messecar was a 66-year member of Local 704. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Please keep your information updated with the union hall.

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

## Local 98, con't

**Michigan State Plumbing License Renewal**-There is not an update required to renew the Michigan State Plumbing License this year. In order to renew your license, go to [Michigan.gov/lara](http://Michigan.gov/lara) and click on License Renewal. Remember to renew by April 30<sup>th</sup> in order to avoid a late fee.

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

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

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

**2021 Course Hour reimbursement forms** are now available at the Training Center. You **must have** 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from January 1 - December 31, 2021 to be eligible for the \$80.00 reimbursement. Deadline for 2020 reimbursement forms is March 31, 2021.

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

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

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



## Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 [csteele@ualocal85.org](mailto:csteele@ualocal85.org)

Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 [rjanderson@ualocal85.org](mailto:rjanderson@ualocal85.org)

Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 [ktuthill@ualocal85.org](mailto:ktuthill@ualocal85.org)

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

The next **Northern Meeting** is postponed until further notice. Please check the [ualocal85.org](http://ualocal85.org) or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

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

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

**GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!**

**SUB Fund:**

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

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

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

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

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

**NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:**

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

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

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

**Website Address:** Please visit [www.ualocal85.org](http://www.ualocal85.org).

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

to keep your Insurance up to date. **RETIREE LUNCHEON:** All retiree luncheons are postponed until further notice. Please check the [ualocal85.org](http://ualocal85.org) or Facebook for all up to date information.

Remember you all are essential to me.

**Justin M. Pomerville**

**Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Local Union 85**

*"It is sobering to consider that when Mozart was my age he had already been dead for a year."*

–Tom Lehrer (1928 - )

*"Everything is in a state of flux, including the status quo."*

– Robert Byrne

*"The Americans have need of the telephone, but we do not. We have plenty of messenger boys."*

–Sir William Preece, chief engineer of the British Post Office, 1876

*"Unfortunately sometimes one can't do what one thinks is right without making someone else unhappy."*

–W. Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965)

*"Who begins too much accomplishes little."*

–German Proverb

*"We are always more anxious to be distinguished for a talent which we do not possess, than to be praised for the fifteen which we do possess."*

–Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)



### CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL

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<p><b>McNichols</b> Scrap Iron &amp; Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) <a href="http://mchnicholsscrap.com">mchnicholsscrap.com</a> <b>(313) 365-6100</b></p>	<p><b>Detroit</b> Iron &amp; Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) <a href="http://detroitironandmetal.com">detroitironandmetal.com</a> <b>(313) 841-5100</b></p>
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Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters,  
Service Technicians,  
Gas Distribution

**Local 190**

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190

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

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

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

**ROBO CALLS:** We are sending out Robo calls to keep you updated and informed, if you are NOT receiving these messages it means we do not have a current phone no. on file for you, please contact the hall to update.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**UA LOCAL 190 WEBSITE:** [www.ua190.org](http://www.ua190.org) Current members 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.

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

**INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:**

**NEW VISION PROGRAM – DAVIS VISION:** Please be advised of the January 1, 2021 change to your vision benefits. Effective January 1, 2021, your vision benefits are now being offered through Davis Vision. Welcome letters and cards, detailing your new benefits, were mailed during the month of December 2020. If you have not received this information, please contact the Fund office at #888-390-7473. You can also go to the Local 190 website [www.ua190.org](http://www.ua190.org) and go to the benefit section for more information.

**NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE:** Attention all members you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation of benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM**

**REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Effective Wednesday, November 25th due to COVID there will be no representative at the union hall the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month until further notice.** You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs):** This class is complete. We will have another class in Sept.

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

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

**ICRA Certification (16hrs):** Looking to put on another ICRA certification class. Next class possibly in-person at the Training Center. In-person class is limited to 8 participants. Call Training Center to get put on the list for the next class. If it is on-line, it will be ran through Zoom. For on-line class, you must have a computer with good reliable internet access and a webcam. You must also have a valid email account. Test day will be at the Training Center.

**CONDOLENCES:** Our member Harold Cole passed away on February 24th. Harold initiated on October 10, 2002 and retired January 1, 2009. To all family members and friends may the love of those around you provide peace to get through the days ahead.

**RETIREE MEETINGS – \*\*SPADES and BREAKFAST MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE BUILDING TRADESMAN PAPER:** Please contact Karen Spearin at the union hall, (734) 424-0962 Ext #210, if you would like to put a special notification in the paper.



**Local 370  
Plumbers &  
Pipe Fitters**

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370

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

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

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

**Committee and Board meetings are as follows:**

Examining Board – Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:15pm

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

**ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing:** MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

Local 370 office hours 7:30am – 4:30pm.

Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am – 11:30 am and 1:30pm – 4:15pm daily.

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

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

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

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

**Our web site is up and running.** Check it out at [ualocal370.org](http://ualocal370.org)

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

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

Remember to keep your dues current. Any member failing to (Continued next column)



**Plumbers &  
Pipe Fitters**

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333

**LANSING –** March's union meeting will be held, March 17, 2021 at 7:30pm. The meeting is virtual and you should have received the details in the mail. A link is also available at UA333.org

April's union meeting **CANCELLED.**

May's union meeting will be held, **May 19, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI. 48933.** We will be voting on a contract proposal and the Lansing Hall remodel. Please plan to attend.

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

**Weld Classes:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our deepest sympathy to Lansing member Robert Livermore on the loss of his lovely wife of 63 years Lois Livermore, who passed away February 22, 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones during this sorrowful time.

**Local 370, con't**

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

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

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

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

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



**Local 671  
Plumbers & Pipe Fitters**

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671

**MONROE –** The next Regular Union meeting scheduled for **April 1, 2021 at 7 p.m.** We would like to make this an **IN-PERSON meeting** if we feel it is safe to do so. If it is a "virtual" meeting, notifications will be sent via our App (UA Local 671). The Executive Board will also meet in person on April 1st at 6 p.m. if any Member wishes to see them.

**Condolences:** We received word that Brother Tom Guthrie who passed away on March 1 after a long battle with some health issues. Tom was a proud Officer of Local 671 for many years. Our condolences go out to all of his Family including the following Local 671 Members: his Brother Dick Guthrie, Nephews Chad Guthrie and Curt Stanifer, and Brother-in-Law Randy Stanifer. He will be missed, and may he rest in peace.

**The Hall is open if a Member needs to sign the out of work list or have any other problems that can only be handled in person, but we still are encouraging everyone to call instead whenever possible. The payments for dues or insurance can be taken over the phone.**

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

**Work Opportunities:** As reported in the last two Informational Meetings, the work outlook for Monroe County has improved recently and we have a lot of upcoming work. Reminder: continue to listen to the job line for Local jobs.

**AFL-CIO Scholarship:** The applications are being accepted for the Bonnie Finsel-Doster Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council Memorial Scholarship Program. The AFL-CIO will be awarding (2) \$1000 scholarships again this year to graduating 2021 Seniors and they are available to the **Son or Daughter of a Member in good standing.** If anyone is interested, contact the Hall and we can send you an Application Packet. **The Application Due Date is April 2, 2021.**

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

**Local Pension:** I would like to inform everyone that near the end of 2020, Jason May, financial advisor for our Defined Contribution Plan, left Morgan Stanley/Graystone Consulting. After discussion with the Health & Welfare Board of Trustees, the decision was made to follow Jason to his new firm of Merrill Lynch/Bank of America. Jason has been very helpful to the members of Local 671 and we appreciate the service and time he has given to all of us. The current Defined Contribution Plan will remain with TransAmerica for administration, and Jason will continue his consulting work with the committee to help provide a best-in-class investment lineup as well as monitor the overall costs of the plan. He will also still be available to the members of Local 671 at any time, just as he was with his prior firm. Once we get past the current pandemic, we will look to have Jason come to the Hall for a day of education, as well as schedule additional dates for one-on-one in-person consultations as we have done in the past.

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

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

**In Closing:** "A wish that every day for you will be happy from the start and may you always have good luck and song in your heart." "May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow. And may trouble avoid you wherever you go." God bless Labor and God bless our Union. Have a safe and happy St Patrick's day.

Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: [mike@ualocal671.com](mailto:mike@ualocal671.com)

Vinnie Fenech: Cell (734) 693-4082 email: [vinnie@ualocal671.com](mailto:vinnie@ualocal671.com)

Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: [carly@ualocal671.com](mailto:carly@ualocal671.com) Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692

**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY**

**REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS**

**BIESKE & ASSOCIATES**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

**Meeting Notice:** ALL IN-PERSON UNION MEETINGS AND RETIREE BREAKFASTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. **Tuesday, April 6th at 7pm we will broadcast our Local Union Update on the Facebook members group chat. We will return to in-person meetings as soon as the capacity restrictions will allow us. We will have an in-person meeting on Tuesday, June 1st at 7pm to allocate our upcoming raise. The meeting location has not yet been determined.**

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

**Condolences:** Local #174 would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of Charles Carey Jr. on his passing. Brother Carey has been a member since November of 1965. Rest in peace brother.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Medicare Retirees:** Effective January 1st 2021 your insurance premiums will be reduced by approximately 12.5%.

New rates are as follows:  
Single Medicare: \$262.55  
Retiree and Spouse Medicare: \$525.09  
Retiree and Non-Medicare Spouse: \$677.55

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

**Dispatch:** We will be split-

**ting up the dispatch responsibilities between the business agent and the assistant business manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.**

**New insurance carriers:** Active and NON Medicare Retirees

Aetna: (888) 290-7241  
Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108  
Medicare Retirees Labor First: (616) 345-0788

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

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

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

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

**Retiree Breakfast:** Cancelled until further notice.

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

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

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

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

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

(517) 321-7502 Phone  
(855) 40-PLUMB Toll Free  
(517) 321-7508 Fax

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

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

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

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

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

**Training News.**

**\*\*Announcements:** Congratulations to Lukus Vandever on fulfilling his apprenticeship obligations and becoming Local 174's most recent Journeyman!

**\*\*MANDATORY APPRENTICE MEETING** scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 @ 6:00pm via ZOOM. Meeting ID: 811 1392 5006 Passcode: 640055

ZOOM Link will be emailed to all apprentices the week prior to the meeting. If your email address has recently changed, please let the Training office know. This meeting is mandatory for all apprentices. Any absences **MUST** be approved by the Training Coordinator, Jeff Rumsey @ (231) 923-8140 or (616) 837-0222 x16.

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

**WELDING:** The next weld test event will be Saturday, April 10, 2021 @ 8:00am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, April 8, 5:00p - 9:00p. Please call and sign up if you plan to test.

**REMINDER:** Open Welding resumed in the Training Center as of Jan 20th and is available weekly on Wednesday evenings from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. In order to continue offering this, participation needs to increase. Open Welding is an opportunity for members to utilize the weld booths to practice and/or work with a welding instructor to improve your skills. Due to class size limits, we ask that you call the Training Office or Training Coordinator, Jeff Rumsey, to register so we know the number of participants to expect.

**MED GAS:** Med Gas Installer recertification class will begin on Monday, March 29 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: March 29, 31, April 5 & 7 (Exam). The cost for this exam is \$49.00 and is due prior to testing.

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

Night classes will be added to the schedule based on student demand and instructor availability.

If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification, please contact the Training Office. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates.

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

*"I think there's a god and I know it's not me."*  
-Michael J. Fox (1961 -)

*"Happy is he who gets to know the reasons for things."*  
-Virgil (70 BC - 19 BC)

*"Holding on to anger, resentment and hurt only gives you tense muscles, a headache and a sore jaw from clenching your teeth. Forgiveness gives you back the laughter and the lightness in your life."*  
-Joan Lunden

*"Experience: that most brutal of teachers. But you learn, my God do you learn."*  
-C. S. Lewis (1898 - 1963)

*"I don't have a bank account, because I don't know my mother's maiden name."*  
-Paula Poundstone

*"The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."*  
-Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)



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

Pipe Fitters 636

**DETROIT -** The Next Union Meeting will be held on April 20, 2021 this will be held person at Burton Manor 27777 Schoolcraft Rd. in Livonia 48150. It will start at 7pm.

March 8th Ballot Count for the 17 Available UA Delegate Positions. There were 519 Voters.

1. Bill Helwig, 367 Votes
2. Bill Holsombach, 308 Votes
3. Tony Sievert, 303 Votes
4. Mike Wright, 290 Votes
5. Frank Grammatico, 287 Votes
6. Melissa Leonard, 274 Votes
7. Ozzie Munoz, 260 Votes
8. Rick Fast, 253 Votes
9. Dave Fox, 248 Votes
10. Jeff Selph, 240 Votes
11. Jeff Lewis, 237 Votes
12. Doug Bardy, 218 Votes
13. Val Pod, 216 Votes
14. Peter Dunn, 210 Votes
15. Jason Selph, 210 Votes
16. Mike Scanlon, 201 Votes
17. Brad Patterson, 194 Votes
18. Jake Regits, 193 Votes
19. Scott Regits, 193 Votes
20. Dan Gurley, 158 Votes
21. Marc Lafferty, 141 Votes
22. Nicky Labute, 113 Votes
23. Lou Hadley, 106 Votes

Ballots opened and counted by the Local 636 Election Committee Jeff Kovach (Chairman), Joe Bourgeois, Tom Atkins, Tom Vickers, Geary Tudball, Mike Spurlock, and Election Source Company.

Pipefitters wishes a speedy recovery to Brother Mike Cashero while he is at home recovering from a back injury.

Pipefitters 636 would like to extend our condolences to the family of Brother Jeffery White on the passing of his father. Also to the family of Brothers Mark and Murry Deagle on the passing of their mother Gladys Lillian Deagle. Gladys passed away on March 1, 2021, and was the wife of late Retiree Brother Robert Deagle.

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

Receptionist/Dues/Address Changes/General Inquiries:

Craig Harmon email: charmon@pipefitters636.org  
Sub Fund Office: Kristina Springer: Please send all SUB Fund Requests to email: kspringer@pipefitters636.org 248-538-7065

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

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

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

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

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

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

UA password good thru March 31, 2021: UA2021

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

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

**Defined Contribution Pension Plan:** For those members who use the Voice Response Unit,

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

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

**Are you "Work Ready"?** Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association.

**WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENTS.**

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

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

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

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

**WELDING -** Regular night welding from 4 pm to 8 pm on Mondays, and Thursdays. Cost is \$50 for 40 hours. Downhill Welding- 6 Saturdays, call Kurt to sign up, cost \$75

GMAW Welding- 4 Saturdays, Call Mike to sign up, cost \$50

Basic VRF: Monday and Thursday nights starting April 12th, call Kim to sign up.

*"Trust yourself. Think for yourself. Act for yourself. Speak for yourself. Be yourself. Imitation is suicide."*  
- Marva Collins

*"I've always thought that a big laugh is a really loud noise from the soul saying, 'Ain't that the truth.'"*  
-Quincy Jones,



## Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

Plumbers and pipe Fitters 111

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site:** When taking the online safety training, go to our website **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 website & our Facebook page. Call Ann at (906) 226-6511 ext. 4 to register. MSHA expires in one year.

*"The perfect bureaucrat everywhere is the man who manages to make no decisions and escape all responsibility."*  
-Brooks Atkinson (1894 - 1984)



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

- Over 20 years experience in Union worker returns
- Family members over 50 years in Local 636
- Maximize your deductions and returns
- Electronic filing for fast refund
- Call today to begin tax planning now



Kuderik and Associates PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
32121 Woodward Avenue  
Suite 202, Royal Oak MI 48073  
www.kuderikcpa.com



## Local 25 Iron Workers

### Iron Workers Local 25

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

**International Convention.** Nominations are open 7:00 am March 10, through March 17, 2021 closing at 4:00 pm. Nominations will be conducted through The Member Only Section of our Website ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org)). The VOTE for Delegates & Alternates will take place **MARCH 31, 2021** at all Union Halls (Novi, Flint, Lansing, Saginaw & Kent-Ionia Center from 7am to 7pm. This vote will be for the AGC Structural, Rigging, Rod, Conveyor, West Michigan and Erickson Agreements.

The Ironworkers June **Wage Allocation VOTE** will take place **MARCH 31, 2021**, at all Union Halls (Novi, Flint, Lansing, Saginaw & Kent-Ionia Center) from 7am to 7pm. This vote will be for the AGC Structural, Rigging, Rod, Conveyor, West Michigan and Erickson Agreements.

**IN SUMMARY ....** The vote for BY-LAWS, DELEGATES TO CONVENTION AND WAGE-ALLOCATION will ALL take place on **MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>**, from 7am to 7pm at ALL UNION HALLS.

**ZOOM:** If you have not yet signed up for Notifications please sign up as Notification will go out via the APP. To participate in the Zoom Union meeting is very easy ... just be sure you have downloaded our APP or signed up for our emails via our website ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://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!

**CREDIT/DEBIT CARD processing** for Union Dues IS CHANGING the week of April 5, 2021. Comerica has changed the processing platform in compliance with new banking regulatory rules. The new platform will now require all new and existing users to authenticate themselves. Anyone who has used the system in the past will still need to create a new log-in and password the first time you need to update/edit any payment information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Stewards’ Notes: 1) STW Meetings cancelled until further notice. 2) The link for Online Steward Report forms is found in the upper right-hand corner of our website [www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org) LOG-IN DIRECTIONS will follow once you click the link that reads “Electronic Steward Reports.” These forms are much easier than the paper forms, we encourage you to give it a try if you have not yet done so. 3) PLEASE be sure to check dues for members and boomers too AND BE SURE ALL BOOMERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING 4) All members please be sure to keep your Union dues paid up to date as it is criteria for working. You can be asked to leave the jobsite if your dues are not current.**

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

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

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

**To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School,** please go to [ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org) to view the block schedule; we are practicing social distancing protocols, etc.

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

**Welder online Verification:** For an accurate and quick review of welder certifications please visit [www.weldercertification.org](http://www.weldercertification.org) On the homepage click “login” and type “read only” as both your username and password.

Once logged on, type the member’s book number in the column on the left marked “advanced search,” click the “go” button, wait until the name pops up, and then click on the welder’s first or last name. On the next screen, click “list certifications.” Every welding certification the welder has will be available for viewing and you can see that if it has been renewed; it is good until the year 2021. The site also allows you to print out a copy of the welder WPQR if needed.

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

The Novi retiree meeting will be Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.; The Novi retirees Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in Novi at 9:00 am. Jim Hamric is starting up breakfast on the last Friday of the month at Mom’s Restaurant 9:00 am. Located 2691 Fort St, Trenton, MI 48183. All are welcome!

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

(Continued next column)



## Local 8 Iron Workers

### Iron Workers Local 8

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The Membership Meeting will take place by video conference on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CST. Members can gain access to the meeting at <https://meeting.iwl8.org> on the afternoon of the meeting.

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

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

**RETIREE & ACTIVE MEMBER UPDATES:** Vern Erskine, Book #619447, age 99, passed away at his home in Moran, Michigan on February 21, 2021.

Vern was initiated into Iron Workers Local #783 on December 1, 1957 and then transferred into Iron Workers Local #8 on January 1, 1994. He was a 64 year Member of our Union and a Lifetime Member of Iron Workers Local #8.

A spring graveside service is planned at the Brevort Township Cemetery.

Our condolences to the Vern Erskine family.

**IRON WORKERS LOCAL #8 ONLINE STORE:** Check out Local #8’s swag at the online store at [iwl8.org](http://iwl8.org).

### Local 25 cont’d

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

**In Remembrance:** Garry Johnson #752446 passed away February 17, 2021 at the age of 79. He was a 54-year member. Survived by his brothers Hank Johnson #596318 and Harry Johnson #930143. Also survived by his Nephews James “JJ” Johnson #1006530, and David Johnson #1070489. William Palmer #506324 passed away February 16, 2021 at the age of 91. He was a 64-year member. Survived by his son Thomas Palmer #770875 (withdrew 1996). Victor Stevens #487740, passed away February 13, 2021. He was 91 years of age and a 69-year member. Virgil O’Rourke #604998 passed away February 20, 2021 at the age of 90. He was a 63-year member. He was the father of Pat O’Rourke #1107163. Earl Slusser #526976 passed away January 23, 2021 at the age of 90. He was a 67-year member formerly of Local 340. Donald Jardine #1091415 passed away February 20, 2021 at the age of 72. He was a 37-year member. Robert Garcia passed away March 1, 2021 at the age of 67. He had been an ironworker for about 15 years after dropping his book on 1989. He is survived by his brother-in-law Mike Roberts #975834 and many friends in the Ironworking Industry. Bernard Gobeski #1112211 passed away February 27, 2021 at the age of the 73. John Whitcomb #1258268 passed away Thursday, March 4, 2021 at the age of 67. He was an Honorary L-340 member since 2014. His membership was 22 years.

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

**To all Union Members:** Covid-19 has an effect on all of us and our ironworker community. Please do your best to be safe during this pandemic. We hope you and your family take care and stay healthy!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (03/8/2021 11:00 am E.S.T.).

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”

–Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973)



## Protest at Oakland University

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY in Rochester Hills has always built their projects with local workers toiling under collective bargaining agreements. But not now: the university has hired Rockford Construction and Legacy Erectors – both based in Grand Rapids – to build a 40,000 square-foot, four-story building on campus. To protest the non-use of local workers on a local project, a group of Southeast Michigan building trades union workers picketed in front of the campus for four days earlier this month to let the public know there’s a problem. “I know that as far as Iron Workers Local 25 and other trades goes, we have manned every capital improvement project on campus, until now,” said picket organizer Jimmy Horvath, a Local 25 business representative. “We’re trying to call attention to the situation.”

Photo credit: Jim Horvath



## Local 149 Roofers and Waterproofer

### Roofers 149

**DETROIT – Main Office – Southeastern Lower Michigan – Regular Membership Meeting.** The regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**Notice of Election – Business Agent (2 to be elected)**

The following members are running for Business Agent: Joe Gilliam, John Crosby, Gary (Shade Tree) Johnsen, Tim Sampson, Joe Zsembery, John Eggert

This Statewide election will



## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

(Continued from Page 6) (888) 880-8222 and ask for membership assistance Monday – Friday 8 am – 8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

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

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

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

- texting 2MI to 877877
- You’ll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#)
- Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

PENSION AND HEALTH

be a mail out. Please read the following instructions included in your ballot envelope carefully before marking and mailing your ballot. This ballot must be mailed.

**Website for announcements, news, and updates.** [www.rooferslocal149.com](http://www.rooferslocal149.com)

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

**Detroit Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Thomas Jaranowski at the Training Center, 248-543-3847, or TJaranowski@DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements

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

**Reminder.** Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information. Members are reminded to call the Hall (313) 961-6093 to put their name on the out of work list.

**MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office.** The next Mid-Michi-

gan regular membership meeting scheduled for Tue., April 13, 2021 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

At the April 13, 2021 regular membership meeting, we will be taking proposals on administering the \$1.85 raise.

When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up to date phone number. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

The publication above is as 3/8/2021, 11:00a.m.

**-In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofer Local 149**



## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

(Continued from Page 6)

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

“Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.”

–Theodore Roosevelt (1858 -1919)

“You live and learn. At any rate, you live.”

–Douglas Adams (1952 - 2001)

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## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

**SOUTHFIELD – This paper serves as official notice for all meetings and elections.**

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

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



**TIM MULLIGAN**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI

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

**RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE:** The April 19, 2021 meeting is CANCELLED. We will be going month to month for 2021. Please keep an eye on the paper for an updated schedule.

Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

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

**THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE:** Justin Tuthill, Christopher Emmons, Kevin Armstrong, Ronald Mason, Harold Knapp, Anthony Pliva, Scott Cuny, Vincent Vackaro, Jason Lemke, Thomas Senick, Zoltan Szeghalmi, Patrick Karl, Bill Nelson, Scott Zitterkopf, Kevin Marinkovich, Michael Stolber, Kevin Driscoll, Mark Majewski, Charles Flint, Daniel Bulko, Erik Norscia, Robert Augugliarp, Matt Bratten, Anthony Stocker, James Chmielewski, Charles Cook, Mark Monette, Gordon Peans & Michael D. Miller.

**CONDOLENCES:** We are saddened by the passing of retired member Kurt Studer. Kurt passed away on March 4, 2021 and was the uncle to member Mike Dupont and great uncle to member Justin Dupont.

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

**MARCH RE-REGISTRATION!** If you were laid off prior to March 1st you need to re-register by March 21, 2021 to keep your spot on the out of work list. You may re-register at the hall, by email registerlocal80@gmail.com or fax 248-557-0297. You CANNOT re-register over the phone. Please call the hall with any questions.

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

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

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

There will be no custom Ready to Work modules required for the 2020 stipend. In the meanwhile of receiving notice the Ready to Work app is available, it is important to make sure you have all other stipend requirements completed, these are still the same: Current MUST Drug Test, Current MUST 18 Safety Modules, OSHA 30, Current FA CPR certification. Deadline for stipend requirements is March 31, 2021.

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

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

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall which includes the tradesman paper. You will need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 and update your address with them as well.

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

**WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS:** Saturday and Sunday work assignments. Please remember that when performing work on a Saturday or Sunday the steward must report it to the hall, give each members name and obtain a form for signatures. Each member must sign the form along with the number of hours they worked. The completed form must be sent back to by hall by the end of the day on the following Monday. Weekend work assignments must be called or emailed into the hall prior to 3:00 pm on Friday.

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

**LAY-OFFS:** All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list 14 days after receiving an assignment. It is very important to report to the union hall immediately after your layoff. Members get confused because the S.U.B. Fund allows you a period of up to seven days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

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

**S.U.B. BENEFITS:** Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven days from your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

**OUT-OF-WORK LIST:** You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and Sept. 1 through Sept. 20. If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

**SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY:** If you work 16 hours or less in a week or have a short work week due to weather you may collect sub for that week but only if it is at the beginning or the end of a (Continued next column)



## Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be, April 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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



**SAM FULLER**

Please register on our website at [www.sheetmetal7.org](http://www.sheetmetal7.org) for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2021. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

**SMART Union Labels:** Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, which means more money and work for you. Make sure that you are scanning labels in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at [www.labelsanitreport.com](http://www.labelsanitreport.com) and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

**ZONE 1 Info:** We express our condolences to the families of retiree Wilber E. Miller (78) who passed away on Feb. 15, 2021, Philip Densmore (79) who passed away on Dec. 31, 2020 and James L Woodhouse (67) who passed away on Nov. 2, 2020.

Congratulations to the following members who recently retired from the trade: Herb Reed, Dan Cunningham, and Don Zylstra, We wish you all a long and happy retirement!

Work in the Zone 1 area continues to remain strong. Please remember to inform James or Eric of your employment status in the case of a layoff. Apprentices please remember to also inform Kevin at the Zone 1 Training Center of your employment status. If you are experiencing any problems with unemployment, please contact your Business Agent for additional assistance. If you're experiencing any trouble with your insurance, please contact your Business Agent or call BeneSys at (866) 288-7037. Any Journeyperson interested in up-grade classes, contact Kevin at the Training Center (269) 781-7183. Note that class availability depends on the level of interest. The Zone 1 Retiree meetings may resume per the restrictions set forth in the MDHHS Order which can be found on the Local 7 website @ [www.sheetmetal7.org](http://www.sheetmetal7.org). In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.

**ZONE 2 Info:** Work in Zone 2 is doing pretty good with only a few off at this time. We will be having a meeting March 16, 2021 at 6pm at the Grand Rapids hall. Strike authorization vote will be held for upcoming contract talks. Two members from floor will be placed for contract talk's team. Masks will be required for this meeting. **Thanks Dave**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw)** Work in Zone 3 is starting to pick up I only have two journeymen and three apprentices off. The Alpena job has kicked off and it has absorbed most of the men that are off, a lot of work is being bid in the area for school projects and looking forward to a good year. Also we have a member Bob Vargas, he has a six-year-old daughter that has to have a heart transplant. It's going to be a long road and we need to help our brother out as much as possible. Anyone who would like to donate can go to Facebook #TrinityStrong or contact my office and we can make arrangements. Also I was informed that John Unger from US Sheetmetal has passed away after a long battle with cancer. I hope everyone and their families are staying healthy everyone have a great spring. **Thank you, Wayne Stover**

**Zone 3 Info: (Traverse City)** The next Traverse City Meeting will be held IN PERSON March 18th 6:00 PM at the Union Hall in Traverse City. Contract Surveys have been sent out, hopefully you have taken the time to complete the survey to provide the negotiating committee with important feedback. Union Meetings are also a time to discuss things that are important to the membership. If Covid 19 restrictions continue to ease up we will be able to schedule some Retiree Breakfast in the near future. **Thank You, Travis Eastman**

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

**ZONE 5 Info:** Work is slowly starting to pick up across the U.P. If you need a MSHA 8 hour Refresher please let me know. **Respectfully Greg Faust**

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

**Dues Department: \*Online dues payment is now available\*** Dues of all members of local unions shall be paid monthly or quarterly, but always in advance. We accept Credit Card Payments in lieu of your monthly dues. If you take advantage of the Credit Card Service, a finance charge will be applied – Please call the Lansing office during regular business hours, 517-882-4064 to make your payment.

**Address/Phone Changes: Article 8, Section 1** of Local 7 Work Rules: *Address Changes:* All members are required to keep the Financial Secretary informed of their correct address. A noticed mailed to the last address shall be sufficient and legal. If you have moved or changed your telephone no., please contact the union hall to update your records.

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

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

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

- Local 7 Officers:**  
**Samual Fuller** (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064  
**Eric Farrington** (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223  
**James Callahan** (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-342-8842  
**David Rutz** (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-458-2313  
**Wayne Stover** (Saginaw) 989-692-0002  
**Travis Eastman** (Traverse City) 231-943-5150  
**Larry Kinzie** (Agent-Flint) 810-785-6831  
**Greg Faust** (Agent-Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

### Local 80 cont'd

**layoff.** You may NOT collect if you are not laid off. You must complete a sub application at the hall, provide a pay stub for that week and the hall will submit it to the fund office. If you are not laid off and it is due to weather the company MUST provide written documentation that it was weather related.

**MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. Ulliance is there to help you with your needs. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or [www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com). Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for. **SAVE THE DATE:** Local 80 Golf Outing: July 17, 2021  
 Local 80 Picnic: August 7, 2021



## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

**TROY – MEETING NOTICE:** The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com) for the location and date.

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

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

**NEW PRESCRIPTION CHANGES:** The Board of Trustees of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 Health Fund (the Fund) is introducing a new prescription drug benefits program effective Jan. 1, 2021. The new program will be administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (replacing EnvisionRx). Since Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan already administers our Simply Blue PPO Medical Plan, your medical and prescription drugs will be integrated and coordinated, which should make it easier for you and lead to better care. The new card will be used for both medical and prescription drug coverage.

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

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

Please contact Fred Engelman at [fred\\_e1@yahoo.com](mailto:fred_e1@yahoo.com) if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

**CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL:** The Constitution and Ritual of the 2nd SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall will also has hard copies for members who want one.

**SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS:** To access your MUST account, please go to [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org) or access it through the "links" tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com). Members please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact Laura or Lee Ann at the Union Hall. With the amount of upcoming in-town work, all current Journeymen and Apprentices should ensure they have 18 safety mods completed and drug test should be current.

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

**MEMBER ASSISTANCE:** Local 292 is now partnering with Ulliance, an employee assistance program designed to assist active members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance at 1-800-448-8326 or [www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com) for completely confidential assistance.

**SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST:** Many members have been receiving Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the member's responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

**DUES:** Membership dues are required to be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online ([sheetmetal292.com](http://sheetmetal292.com)).

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

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

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

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

**THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM:** The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certs) with the 4 Plus logo, along with hard hat stickers and bragging rights. If you would like to be a "4-plus" member contact your Local 292 Training Center: 313-623-9390 (Dave) or Quintin 248.495.6764.

**Attention all Welders!** We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class March 20th & 27th. These classes would be for members that are ready to try and obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or just need to practice welding. **Note:** Anyone that signs up for a class, must pay a \$40 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 and 3 at the Apprentice school. Call the Apprentice School at 248-589-3237. Dave's cell 313-623-9390 or Quintin's cell 248-495-6764 to reserve a spot. Remember we must have the deposit before you will be scheduled in the class.

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A PRESSURES AND PIPES worker guides the placement of HVAC equipment through the roof of the Frauenthal Center in Muskegon. Photo courtesy Pressures and Pipes



## Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – The next Union Meeting, scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2021, will be held in Area One at the union hall – 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, MI 48101. Masks are required for entry.



BOB HUTSELL

Immediately following, there will be a special meeting to nominate the delegates for the 34<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Convention. This convention will be held virtually on July 19, 2021. The Union Hall has resumed “normal” operations with the previous safety measures in place, which include social distancing, mandatory mask use, and limited occupancy. As always, if you do not feel well, do not come to the hall.

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

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

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

**Apprentices:** Congratulations to the Spring 2021 apprentice graduates! Sweatshirts are available for purchase for \$40.00. Payments can be made with cash or check. If you live out of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available.

Retired member, Harold (Continued above)

(Continued from below) thoughts and prayers go out to “Biff” Hoagland, passed away on February 19, 2021. Our family and friends during this difficult time.

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

IBEW Local 58 Benevolent Fund Detroit River Walleye Tournament

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

(Rain or Shine) Outside Event

Masks/Social Distancing Required

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Entry Form & Rules are available at Local 58 or on our website at: [www.ibewlocal58.org](http://www.ibewlocal58.org)

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY WED, APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Make checks payable to: Local 58 Benevolent Fund  
Mail or Bring to: 1358 Abbott St., Detroit, MI 48226 Attn: Michael Bellhorn  
For further information call 313.963.2130

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## Historic theater improved behind the scenes

(Continued from Page 1)

A temporary hole was carved in the building’s roof to create access, and a crane with a hydraulic dumpster at the end of its line, eased the removal process. Then the new system was lifted in.

“I’ve never seen an air handler like that,” said Plummer of the original works. “It had a huge motor, which went bad at some point and was replaced. But the coils and the duct system were just really complex, there was a custom-made diffuser that split up the movement of the air inside the theatre.”

The preferred method for taking apart much of the old system would have been cutting up the works with a torch. But Plummer said the penthouse area was enclosed by dry timber beams, and he quipped that they “didn’t want to be on the news” for sparking a fire. So the mechanical works were taken out laboriously with saws-all and by removing bolts. “It was slower but we got it done safely,” he said.

The modern equipment that was placed by Pressures and Pipes atop the roof and in the penthouse in the \$400,000 project included a new seven-piece Trane air handling unit, a boiler, and boiler pieces. A condensing unit and rooftop unit were set into place, with some of the pieces weighing as much as 6,000 lbs. Helping to feed the system is a new 3-inch natural gas main that had to be routed from the building’s basement to the penthouse.

Newkirk’s electricians also fed the HVAC wiring to two new panels with 400-amp feeds at 480 volts. Project Manager Mike Donahue said the three-person crew of electricians had little problem snaking the wire up through the historic theatre. “We were able to repurpose the existing routes to feed everything up there,” he said. “We pulled out some old wire, but none of it was 90 years old. He estimated that the original wire had been replaced in the 1970s.

Donahue said Newkirk

worked closely with Pressures and Pipes craftspeople on this project and in the past with Andy J. Egan. “Everything has gone very well here,” Donahue said. “It’s such a pleasure to work and coordinate with them and other union shops, because I know they’re people who have their stuff together.”

Located prominently at Third and Western Avenue, construction of the opulent 1,726-seat theater came under the design of prominent architect C. Howard Crane. Opened at the dawn of talking movies, the theater has hosted all kinds of entertainment over the years, from symphonies, to vaudeville to stage productions.

The building features extensive plasterwork, which will benefit by the improved control of humidity that this HVAC project will bring. Also set to benefit are the facility’s wool carpeting, chair upholstery and the masonite stage, which has been known to buckle from changes in humidity.

And it is hoped that “hot and cold” spots in the auditorium will be eliminated by the new ventilation system, which distributes air from ducts hidden in ceiling art work and cycles it back with floor-based returns.

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## Outdoors

# Fish need oxygen, too



A MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources fisheries technician is shown lowering a probe to measure dissolved oxygen. MDNR photo

By Mark Mylchreest and Darren Kramer  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Deep winter snow and prolonged ice cover on Upper Peninsula inland lakes can create conditions that present unique habitat challenges to fish.

Staffers from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, specifically the Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit and Lake Superior Management Unit, annually survey a subset of U.P. trout lakes in late winter.

They do this to determine if habitat variables, such as dissolved oxygen levels, are suitable for survival of fish stocked by the DNR.

**Fish need oxygen.** Trace amounts of dissolved oxygen are required by fish and other aquatic life in Michigan's inland lakes throughout the year. Fish need dissolved oxygen to breathe through their gills. Dissolved oxygen during the winter – after ice covers the lake – got into the lake during the seasons of open water.

The dissolved oxygen content of water depends primarily on three variables. These are the amount of mixing with the air above the lake, the rate of oxygen production by plants and the rate of oxygen consumption by living aquatic organisms.

During periods of prolonged ice cover, lakes are sealed off and cannot be recharged with oxygen from the air. Additionally, ice and snow reduce the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants, thereby reducing photosynthesis and oxygen production. During photosynthesis, living plants use sunlight energy and carbon dioxide to make plant tissue and dissolved oxygen.

Meanwhile, ongoing consumption of dissolved oxygen by aquatic animals and natural processes, like decomposition of plants, depletes the dissolved oxygen supply stored in the lake when the lake froze over.

“The top challenge fish and aquatic communities face in winter is the threat of running out of oxygen before the ice cover melts in spring,” said Jennifer Johnson, a DNR fisheries biologist at Norway in Dickinson County.

Different fish species vary in their tolerance of low dissolved oxygen conditions. Brook, brown and rainbow trout are most sensitive, and walleye, bass and bluegill have intermediate sensitivity. Northern pike and yellow perch are relatively tolerant, while other fish, like bullheads and some minnow species, are very tolerant.

Late winter is usually a critical period for fish in U.P. inland lakes, as this is when dissolved oxygen concentrations typically

reach their lowest levels. So, this is the best time of winter to investigate if these low dissolved oxygen conditions are present and possibly limiting the survival of fish.

“Over the past several years, we have been checking dissolved oxygen levels in stocked trout lakes in the eastern, central and western U.P. to update habitat information needed to guide future management,” said fisheries technician Brad Shucha, from the DNR's Crystal Falls office in Iron County.

**The process.** Surveying dissolved oxygen under ice cover during the late winter is a relatively straightforward process for DNR Northern Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Management Unit fisheries technicians from the Newberry and Crystal Falls field offices. However, managed trout lakes are often located far off main roads and require a snowmobile for access.

Once at a lake, a GPS unit or a smart-phone and lake-mapping application are used to determine the deepest location in the lake. When that location is found, a hole is drilled with an ice auger and the snow and slush is cleared away from the hole.

Next, a probe with sensors is lowered into the open water in the hole. The probe is cylindrical, roughly 2 inches in diameter and about 18 inches long. The probe is linked to a hand-held meter via

a long cable.

As the probe is lowered slowly from the surface to the bottom of the lake, the meter records water depth and dissolved oxygen concentrations along the way. Once a profile of the water column has been completed, it is time to pack up the equipment and move on to the next lake.

**Management decisions.** When the surveys have been completed and the data has been downloaded to a database, fisheries biologists can analyze the information to determine the current habitat conditions and the future direction of trout management for each lake.

Often, late winter habitat conditions are found to be suitable for trout, and the recommendation is made to continue fish stocking to support the recreational fishery for anglers.

If lakes are found with low dissolved oxygen concentrations, then these waters are monitored in subsequent years to determine whether this is a temporary or persistent late-winter condition that may warrant a change in management.

“Most of the stocked trout lakes often have really good dissolved oxygen concentrations all winter long and thus support multiple year-classes of trout,” said John Bauman, a DNR fisheries biologist at Escanaba in Delta County. “However, long and cold winters with high levels of snow (like the winter of 2013-2014) can present challenging habitat conditions, until the spring melt.”

Dissolved oxygen is a critical habitat component of successful trout management and the creation of recreational fisheries.

Annually monitoring a subset of U.P. trout lakes is crucial to update information needed by fisheries biologists to wisely use stocked fish to create popular recreational fisheries for anglers.

Therefore, it is not surprising that future monitoring of late-winter dissolved oxygen levels in U.P. inland trout lakes will continue to be a regular survey activity for DNR fisheries staff in the region.



### This woman in construction...

MARKING WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK, March 7-13, we offer a tip of the hard hat to Gabby Pasillas, a third-year Sheet Metal Workers Local 7 apprentice employed by Cooke Sheet Metal. WIC Week is in place to “highlight women as a viable component of the construction industry. WIC Week also provides an occasion for the National Association of Women in Construction’s thousands of members across the country to raise awareness of the opportunities available for women in the construction industry and to emphasize the growing role of women in the industry.” Gabby has been working in northern Michigan for the past two years and her co-workers report they’re happy to have her on the crew. Gabby said after her apprenticeship is finished, she will be grateful to have zero student debt, a living wage, quality health care and a pension. Gabby is getting married this September to her fiancée Justin. They enjoy outdoor activities, mostly hiking, and have a very spoiled rescued dog named Mia.

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