



# December 2008 Newsletter

## International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 26

From the Desk Of Jeff Kelley BM/ST  
Local 1052

2008 is coming to an end and it is one for the history books. The country in the worst economic climate since the Great Depression, Barack Obama is the President Elect, the Democrats have won several of the seats previously held by Republicans, General Motors and the other American Auto manufacturers are facing bankruptcy, the State of Michigan and almost all of the cities and counties are facing huge revenue shortfalls, yet the District Council 26 is growing and prospering.

Our contractors are reporting bidding is still good and their success ratio is average. They are still having to reach out a lot further than we would like but work is work. We are seeing many projects being delayed but not canceled so lets hope that the new President and his administration will get the economy turned around and get some money rolling in for these construction projects.

Many exciting things are happening at the District Council and the Apprenticeship program. The most exciting development is the purchase of the new Training Center Building in Flushing. After a long and tedious struggle with the environmental company and the MIDEQ we were able to update the existing environmental study furnished by the seller rather than having to do a new complete study at a substantial savings.

The state training grant that we started working on over 1 year ago is very close to being awarded. We have learned a lot about financial grants and the way the government works and our next grant request should be a lot easier to complete. Mott College has been a real friend to the Painters on this process and we look forward to future partnerships with them. The SSPC training should be available very soon. (As soon as we get the money).

The 2009 Organizing Plan for the District Council has been submitted and is being reviewed by the International Organizing staff. I had a meeting with Greg Raftery while at the Finishing Industry Forum in November and although the plan is still being reviewed, we will continue to receive the financial assistance from the International of about \$4,000.00 per month.

While at the FIF, I was able to meet with General President Williams and the International staff on our GO FUND grant request. I had the opportunity to explain that we needed the financial assistance to reclaim our market share in the Northern Lower Peninsula, especially Traverse City and the Alpena areas. It looks favorable for the grant to be awarded.

Three of our contractors, Niles Construction, Boice Bird and Calvin and Co. attended the FIF along with Dennis Redinger and me. While we were there Gary Niles of Niles Construction scheduled a meeting for

the contractors to discuss forming a Finishing Contractors Association for the District Council. The FCA will be the contractors association that will represent all the contractors of the District Council and work with the District Council staff on labor issues and future grants from the state. We hope to have more information after they meet with the other contractors.

### DC 26 FAMILY PICNIC

Local 845 will be hosting a picnic for DC-26 members and their families. This picnic is being held in Lansing on Saturday July 11, 2009 at Hawk Island County Park 12:00-4:00 p.m. We have rented the pavilion named "Red Tail". This pavilion has bathrooms, 2 horseshoe pits, and a volleyball court. The park also has walking trails, fishing and paddleboat rentals. Please mark your calendar early so you don't forget. We will send out maps and more information as we get closer to the summer.

## From the Desk Of Jeff Kelley BMVST Local 1052 (continued)

### “Labor 2008”

District Council 26 can take a lot of credit for winning Michigan for the Obama/Biden team in the presidential election. We were extremely active in the campaign with the Building Trades and the Michigan AFL-CIO.

We were allowed to hire 2 additional staff members to work the election. Daysha Loveland of Local 312 and Ricky Tucker of Local 1052 put in a tremendous amount of time and effort into keeping our members informed on the election and the issues. They attended countless meetings, manned phone banks for hours and worked with the AFL-CIO staff throughout the state. I received several calls from the Building Trades and the AFL-CIO staff members complimenting Daysha and Ricky and the efforts of the IUPAT.

Daysha and Ricky were very instrumental in arranging the Rally in Lansing. We only had a few days to get ready for the General President and his staff and make the rally a success. Daysha made countless phone calls getting our members there, Ricky, Ray Whitaker, Denny Redinger and Steve Ellery worked long hours getting the Sheet Metal Workers hall set up, hanging signs and banners and then everyone stayed after to help clean up the hall. A special thank you to Steve Ellery's wife, Cathy and my wife, Kathy for all their help that night. And of course our members that attended this rally and made it a success and made the District Council look so professional to the General President, **THANK YOU** and we hope to see more of our members at the next event.

In closing I want to recognize the staff of District Council 26 for all the work they do for the members and their families, especially Kelly and Jill in the financial office. Without their help and dedication, the office would not be as efficient as it is. Our elected and appointed staff members do a fantastic job every day representing the members and working with our contractors and keeping me informed about the day to day operations of the District Council which allows me the time to work on our grants and plan for the next year.

And of course we would not be a Union with out you, our members. So to each and every one of you and your families:

**HAVE A HAPPY AND JOYOUS  
HOLIDAY SEASON.**

**CONTINUE TO WORK SAFELY  
AND ENJOY LIFE EVERYDAY**

### District Council 26 Finishing Trades Institute “Update”

The name of the new training center in Flushing will be the “District Council 26 Finishing Trades Institute”. Currently we are in the process of merging the Flint Painters JATC and Local 1474 Training funds into the new Institute and forming the trust agreement. In the mean time we are working on the building, doing the demolition work, cleaning up the building and getting ready to start renovations. We are looking for volunteers to work on the building. In order to keep the expenses down and provide training opportunities for our apprentices we are doing most of the work ourselves. There is a lot of painting to be done and vinyl wall covering to apply. We are going to shotblast and epoxy the classroom and meeting room floors. There are walls to build and windows and doors to install. The only requirement for construction is that as much of our trades be used in the renovations. The doors and windows will be made and installed by our members using the products we install. The floors and walls will be coated and covered with products that our trades use and install.

If you can spend some time helping get the training center ready contact Wayne Farr, Al Knowles or me to get a schedule. We can use all the help we can get.



New Training Center in Flushing Michigan



General President Williams talks to District Council 26 members at the Lansing Rally

Rich Gabera, Danny Koole, Keith Comer, Dan LaClair, Daysha Loveland and Shawn Dye.



Senator Stabenow with GP Williams



Local 845  
Warden Clarence  
Scarbro with  
IUPAT  
General President  
Williams



District Council 26 members

## From the Desk Of Jim Anderson Marketing Representative

Happy holidays to all the members of District Council 26 and their families. This is a special time of the year to enjoy our family and friends and to remember those who are no longer with us, and those who are unable to be with us for the holidays.

This year it is especially important to make our dollars count by patronizing the store, retail shops and restaurants that support Union workers. I would also like to encourage everyone to support the Salvation Army. With the economy in the tank they really need our help so they can help those truly in need.

As some areas of the Upper Peninsula are receiving record amounts of snowfall. The snow banks are going up and the man-hours are going down and the light at the end of the tunnel is pretty dim. We need to take advantage of this down time and do

some Journeyman updating and safety training.

Speaking of safety training, the Upper Peninsula Building Trades and several General Contractors sat down and had an open discussion about the different safety requirements at various work sites, Abbottsfield, Ole and now MSHA and Safe to Work for Tilden and Empire mines, after some brainstorming it was decided that we would put together our own safety program that would cover all the work sites. This safety program tentatively called UP 2 work will be a ten hour class designed to meet the owners requirements. More information on this as it becomes available. Apprenticeship classes are in full swing, and so far eighteen apprentices have been suspended for excessive absenteeism. Hats off to those who are attending regularly, it shows that they are serious about learning our trade and acquiring

the skills necessary to become a Journeyman.

Congratulations to all the successful Deer Hunters, I'm sure their will be some great stories told at the Christmas Party on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Wishing everyone the warmest of Holidays and a safe and prosperous 2009.

**In Solidarity,  
Jim Anderson**



Local 1011 Apprentices

## Michigan State Painters Insurance Fund Update

Members that have Blue Cross, Blue Shield Health Insurance through the Michigan State Painters Insurance Fund should have received a **Coordination of Benefits Questionnaire**.

It is very important that they return these questionnaires or call 866-611-7474 and update your benefits information.

If you do not return the questionnaire or call the toll free number Blue Cross Blue Shield will assume that you have other insurance coverage and will become the secondary provider.

If you do not update your benefit information, payment for services and Doctor's fee may be delayed and create problems for your credit rating.

If you did not receive a questionnaire or do not remember what you did with it, call the Financial office at 877-231-0005 and we will help you get your Benefit information updates.

Just a reminder effective January 1, 2009 your Dental Insurance benefit will increase to \$1,500.00 per person and Delta Dental Premier Coverage is in effect. Also remember that your benefit year runs January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31.

## From the Desk of Ken Pifer Business Representative Local 312

I hope everyone had a very good Thanksgiving Day. Work in the Local 312 area has started to slow down, some of the Casino is going but very slow, from what I gather from all the news it is going to take about six months for Obama to figure out just what Bush has screwed up (ha ha).

Well I would like to thank everyone for their participation in all the political events and outings that we put you through, at least it paid off. We put pretty much all the candidates in that we were supporting, when it comes to getting things done in America, it's the Unions that step up to the plate and do what has to be done, so don't think your deeds go unnoticed, the world is a better place because you guys care.

I hope everyone that wanted to take the OSHA 30 Class got their name in so they could take this class, if not we will be putting on more of these classes as soon as we get the new training center opened. Please make sure that you get these classes, this makes you more valuable to the Employers and helps assure that you go home safe at night.

Another big political hur-

dle we have to get over is to get the Employee Free Choice Act passed through congress, this act will enable Employees to vote for a Union and not be stalled by the NLRB or the Employer for up to a year to get a Union in their work place. This is a big bill for Unions and the Building Trades. We are going to push this bill with Obama right after he gets inaugurated.

Local 312 Glaziers- Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 your Blue Cross Blue Shield hourly contribution rate will drop from \$5.66 to \$5.36 and the \$.30 savings will be added to your hourly wage. This increase applies to all of Arnie's Glaziers and all Class 1 Glaziers at Battle Creek Glass.

In addition to the wage increase, your Health & Welfare Fund is adding the following Fringe Benefit:

1. \$50,000 Term Life Insurance (as long as you have hours in your hour bank)
2. Hour Bank-to cover your health care and life insurance when you're off work. (up to 6 months) All hours worked over 134 hours per month go into your bank.
3. Work Loss Benefit of \$300 per week when your off work due to sickness or injury (not

job related) up to 26 weeks, depending on your hour bank balance.

4. Dental Insurance-Maintenance Program (2 check-ups, 2 cleanings and 1 set of x-rays in a 12 month period).

Local 312 will hold a special membership meeting shortly after the first of the New Year to explain your Fringe Benefits and offer Pension options for Arnie's Glass employees.

**Ken Pifer**



# Happy Holiday's!

## From the Desk of Ray Whitaker Business Representative Local 845

I'd like to start off by saying Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the members of District Council 26 and for anyone else who may be reading our quarterly newsletter.

Thank you to those of you who took the time to vote in the election last month. Your efforts have won us a lot of clout locally and throughout Michigan as well as the United States. The economy already shows signs of encouragement in anticipation of Political change.

As we all know, work has come to a massive slow down. It appears that the bad economy has finally caught us and put us in a chokehold. At this point it looks like at least half of the local members are unemployed. But on the bright side, work will begin picking up in spring and looks like it will give us a good run through the summer. A lot of this is due to the 5 Project Labor Agreements that I have signed for work in the Lansing area. Those agreements ensure that work on the 5+ biggest projects coming up in the area will be done with Union members. There are a couple of large projects going on right now: MSU Mayo Hall with painting being performed by Niles Construction Ser-

vices and drywall/repair being performed by Reichenbach Co., the Casino in Battle Creek with the painting being performed jointly by Valley Painting and Niles Industrial the drywall being performed by Denn Co. of Detroit and the 6 story Michigan State Police Headquarters with the painting being performed by Niles Construction and the drywall being performed by Reichenbach.

One of the District Council's larger painting contractors is in a financial bind right now. They have been slow to pay the benefits for the months of September and October. Many members have received a self-payment notice from the Health Fund office. Benefits for the month of September have just been paid up and Octobers are scheduled to be paid soon as well. This should keep the insurance from reaching the point of members actually needing to make self-payments. If you worked for a contractor, and received a notice stating your benefits have been terminated please call me immediately.

Do not take this as a precursor to the contractor going bankrupt, they are still bidding strong. Their financial strife is due to jobs still owing

them \$100,000, \$140,000 and \$400,000 for work completed.

Apprenticeship and Training- The local apprentices have been busy painting our Union logo and the logo for the Operators Union on the wall of our Local Union Hall. Make a point to come in and take a look at the great job they did on these. Thanks go to Marshall Sowles, Andrea Symonds, David Davison, Chris Smith, and Gerald Meters, they put a lot of effort into these and it really shows.

Training for Lead and CPR are expected to be held soon. If you are interested in training please call or check our website for upcoming dates. ([www.dccouncil26.net](http://www.dccouncil26.net))

Congratulations to members Jeremy Cherrette on his marriage to his new bride Tina and to Chris Minix on his long awaited marriage to his wife Paula.

As a reminder, effective January 1, 2009 your Dental Insurance benefit will increase to \$1,500.00 per person and we'll have Delta Dental Premier Coverage in effect. That gives us some of the best Dental coverage available!

## New Apprentice Instructor for Local 1803 Casey Hathaway



## From the Desk of Brook Manley Business Representative

### Merry Christmas!!!

Our new President doesn't take office until January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This leaves the Bush Administration almost 2 months to implement the last of their agenda. Most will be against the middle class and organized labor. They will also have bills that benefit only themselves and their lobbyists. Watch the news to keep informed.

Unions reinforce the middle class; they raise wages for ALL workers. Union members earn 30% more than non-union workers. They have access to more training and have safer work places. 80% of unionized workers have health insurance compared to only 49% of non-union workers. Union construction workers are more productive too, 17%-38% more. For additional information and statistics please visit [this website www.americanrightsatwork.org](http://www.americanrightsatwork.org).

In the next 2 years there will be a big push to pass a "Right to Work" bill. This would be very destructive to our way of life. It would lower wages

and have little or no health benefits. Safety would be put on the back burner and no job security. Things are tough enough now. There is no way we can allow this to happen. Get involved if this comes about.

Work all over Michigan has slowed. The recent campaign and troubled banks along with the stock market aren't helping. There are a lot of projects being proposed pending funding. The bigger jobs in Local 1803's area are moving at a snails pace. Some other big jobs are moving just as slow to get started. Several small to medium jobs are keeping us about 80% employed.

We worked hard this year to put the people in office that we think will support us. We in turn must support them. Keep on top of the issues, write letters, make calls and stay involved. This is just the first battle of the fight.

Local 1803's new apprentice instructor has been chosen. Congratulations go to Casey Hathaway. Casey

has a well rounded background in industrial, commercial, residential painting, drywall finishing, vinyl hanging and sand blasting. Casey showed great leadership with the apprentices this past year on all their projects. Casey will be receiving continual training himself, to keep up with new products and teaching procedures. This past year we have had 4 apprentices receive their journeyman certificates and 1 more just hours away. We had 12 new 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentices and all are doing very well.

President Milks has canceled Local 1803's December meeting. This is always a busy time of the year, time to share with your loved ones. Our next meeting will be January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!!!!!!

**Brook Manley**

Business Representative

## From the Desk Of Steve Ellery Political Director, Marketing Representative Local 1474

Another year has come and gone. This year I would like to see our meetings become more meaningful to everyone. Contract negotiations are this year and we need your input. Remember that it is your union.

The contractors say they are bidding a lot of work. I hope that they will get their share. After all, they are the ones that hire our members.

I want to thank those members that come to our aid when we need it. I would also like to thank those members that help me and more importantly our local by reporting when they see

something going on, or something that is not right.

We are still trying to make sure that everyone gets the "MUST" program and updates for programs in safety.

We have got the Democratic Majority and a Democratic President; hopefully we will finally get the well earned respect that we deserve.

The new training center is still in the works.

We are still having trouble with the members from outside of our District Council signing dues cards. Remember, it is your duty to call when a new person

shows up on our jobsites.

I would also like to ask that you please remember to sign and send in your Beneficiary Cards.

I hope that everyone has very Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.

**Steve Ellery**

Marketing Representative

Recording Secretary



## From the Desk of Denny Redinger Business Representative Glaziers Local 826

**Reminder: 826 Union Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00pm. These meetings alternate between Flint and Lansing.**

**Flint Painters Hall  
January, March, May,  
July, September,  
November**

**Lansing Painters Hall  
February, April, June,  
August, October,  
December.**

Reminder: When you are working in the Local 357 area you must call in and give Mike Clem the following information:

1. Number of Glaziers on the jobsite and their names.

2. Location of Job.

How long you will be on the site.

It is the Glazier's responsibility to make the call, not your employer.  
Local 357's

Phone # 586-552-4478.

As of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 11 Local 826 Glaziers are on the Out of Work list. It looks like we may have a slow winter.

Apprenticeship classes started on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and Instructor Mark Brink is presenting an OSHA 10 Certification to this years apprentices. Mark recently completed a week long Train the Trainer course for OSHA 500 and previously completed his certification to instruct a course in rigging.

Rusty Risdon of Lansing Glass is this years recipient of the Bob Burley award. This award is given to an outstanding apprentice who demonstrates the skills and attitude to be a well rounded asset to our trade. This award is funded by Calvin & Company in honor of Bob Burley, an 826 Glazier who passed away in May of 2005.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Glazier Jeff Janes, of Calvin & Company was seriously injured when a rented swingstage suffered a structural failure causing the stage and Jeff to fall. Jeff's wife says he is anxious to get back to work but the healing is going to take

some time. We wish you a speedy recovery.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Mike Clem's wife passed away unexpectedly. Mike is the Glazier's Local 357 Business Representative in the Detroit area. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mike and his family.

The annual Health & Welfare and Pension education meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Apprentice Training Center on the corner of Brittin Road and Beardslee Road in Perry, Michigan.

There have been many new developments pertaining to Glaziers Local 826's Pension and Health & Welfare plans. The economy has forced the Fund Trustees to make some changes. Representatives from Comerica and the Blues will be there to make presentations and answer questions. Spouses are welcome to attend.

Have a safe and joyous holiday from all of us at District Council 26!!!!!!!

*Happy  
Holidays*

International Union of Painters  
and Allied Trades  
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