



TOOL TALK

A Publication of the Michigan Tooling Association

From Rob's Roost

by: Rob Dumont,
Managing Director



TO PAC OR JUST TO GO!

Political office holders and "Wannabees" are busy sharpening all the tools available to them in their quest to stab the opposition however that might be achieved. At the forefront of the weaponry is that perennial leader, the Sharp Tongue, followed closely by the various versions of devices utilized to sling mud, dirt and deception and, rounding out the lead trio is the latest edition of the political best seller "The Artistry of Smoke and Mirror Usage".

The spawning of election fever, particularly among the candidates, gives rise to a flood of invitations from a host of political friends, allies and powerhouses, each of whom is not the least bit bashful about displaying a finely tuned and quickly opened hand in which the contribution is placed and thus, homage is paid.

Contribution rules being what they are "Corporate and foreign national contributions are not permitted", one quickly arrives at the realization that there is merit in being selective in the acceptance process and so, just this week I declined a most kind invitation coupled with an immodest recommendation that a contribution of \$1000.00 appeared seemly.

The Association does have a PAC although it has not recently been funded. It remains intact nonetheless and has a very modest balance. I must however confess that I am leery to say the least with respect to its operation, particularly the more so with recent news headlines detailing the woes of Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga, State Senator Jim Barsha and Warren realtor Ralph Roberts, all of whom, according to Crain's Detroit Business, ran afoul of rules governing PACs.

Our political efforts on your behalf will continue as will efforts to become not only familiar with the PAC laws but adept at ensuring we remain in compliance at all times.

I would also add that I am most pleased to have had responses from two of our members who are eager and willing to host Plant Tours in our continuing movement to inform and educate our policymakers. We are in the process of assisting in making arrangements for these tours and look forward to gaining ground in our quest.

Grab Your Clubs & Play Around (or a Round)—MTA's 69th Annual Golf Outing Approaches



Thursday, June 24th is the marker for MTA's 69th Annual Golf Outing & Dinner. The back 9, and the front 9 for that matter, will be held at the Wolverine Golf Club in Macomb. There will be a shot-gun start, open bar at the clubhouse, lunch and the very popular "hole-in-one" putting contest.

And you don't have to play for your supper—non-golfers also can enjoy an evening of food, prizes, more food and, well, more prizes.

Reservation forms will be sent out shortly and tickets will be mailed out beginning the last week in May. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost for golfing and the dinner is \$175 per person; the dinner event only is \$80 per person.

So, come out swinging—we hope to see you and your guests there.

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MTA Calendar of Events—May

- 06 MTA Sponsor—ISO 9001: 2000
9:00 a.m. to noon
- 06 MTA Sponsor—ISO/TS 16949: 2002
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 18 Dinner Meeting—"The New Business Model for the Tooling Sector"
Club Venetian, Madison Hts—begins 5:30 p.m.
- 19 MTA Board of Directors meets
- 20 MTA WCF Board of Trustees meets
- 20 MTA Sponsor—"Effective Supervision Seminar"
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mark's Remarks

by: Mark Tyler, General Manager
MTA Insurance Agency



Important Message from Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network:

Retroactive terminations soon to be changed to 30 days

Effective July 1, 2004, a new policy affecting subscriber and member terminations will be implemented for all area and industry-rated groups. The new policy will change the automatic time frame for retroactive cancellations from **60 days to 30 days**.



That means that MTA's access for membership terminations and deletions will be 30 days from the date we receive your requests. We urge all our members to report any of these changes immediately as they occur. And remember, this is 30 calendar days, not one month.

Any requests for employee and dependent terminations from 30 to 60 days will have to be approved by the Blues' underwriting department and will be based on their underwriting guidelines. Any requests for terminations over 60 days will not be approved.

This policy will reduce recoveries and save Blue Cross and Blue Care money on claims that have been paid when a retroactive deletion is made. The change will result in an estimated annual savings of more than \$600,000 in professional and facility claims, and \$1.4 million annually in prescription drug claims.

Your June billings will have a message stating that employee and dependent terminations will be changed from the current 60 day retroactive date to 30 days. All remaining retroactive guidelines will remain unchanged.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat at (248) 488-0300, ext. 1305 or e-mail to pat@mtaonline.com.

Voluntary Re-Rating Requests for Blue Cross and Blue Shield Groups

If you feel that your group has an average age that is younger than 45, and your group also has a larger population of males than females, you may want to consider having your group re-rated before your renewal date. Market Reform provisions may impact you favorably and we can request—on a voluntary basis—that BCBSM rate your group as a Market Reform group **well ahead of your renewal date**.

Market reform groups with renewal dates at least 6 months in the future may request re-evaluation of their rates according to market reform rules (age rating). BCBSM will consider these requests if the following criteria are met:

1. Group must be 100% Blue (Blue Cross and/or Blue Care Network) in all enrolled lines of business or, if not, must submit documentation to substantiate an enrollment increase to 100% Blue by the re-rating effective date. All required "enrollment increase" documentation must be received by underwriting a minimum of 30 days before the proposed effective date.

2. When a group has joint enrollment in BCBSM and/or BCN, the Blues will only re-rate enrollment for the company that has a minimum of 5 currently enrolled contracts.

3. The resulting change in rates must have a rate difference of 10% or greater.

4. Group must be enrolled in a standard benefit program.

Note: A group that meets all transition rule requirements and BCBSM revises (reduces) their rates, will have their rate renewal date changed to the beginning of the current rating cycle (standard lead time requirements apply).

The deadline for these requests is 9/30/04.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ext. 1313 or e-mail to mark@mtaonline.com.



Name Change For MTA Provider

Fortis Benefits has announced that they have officially changed their name to:

"ASSURANT Employee Benefits".

Fortis Benefits has become a public company and has changed their name to Assurant Employee Benefits effective first quarter of 2004. Every part of our policy's pricing, contracts, etc. will remain exactly the same as it has been. Nothing will change except the name. As you receive your billings or other communications, the Assurant name will become more visible. You can check out their stock with the symbol: 'AIZ'.

Contact me at the MTA Insurance Agency if you have any questions or concerns regarding this change.



Life, Short-term Disability, and Long-term Disability Programs Renew July 1, 2004

Assurant Employee Benefits Completes Review of the MTA Program

How Can I Add \$3,500 To My Bottom Line?

Assurant Employee Benefits Partners With The Michigan Tooling Association To Cut Employee Benefit Costs With An Eye On Expanding Our Membership Participation In The Employee Benefit Program

If you do not currently participate in the Michigan Tooling Association Employee Benefits Plan, here is your chance to save money while continuing your own program.

Assurant Employee Benefits has announced that they will offer to **reduce** your current pricing on your benefit program by **10%** and **guarantee** that cost for 2 years!

The MTA program has demonstrated to Assurant Employee Benefits that our program is so well run that they want to help us expand. This is an opportunity for every member of the MTA to save money without lifting a finger. Check your current carriers billings from last month. If you could cut that bill by 10% wouldn't you do it? With only a call to the MTA and just a small amount of paperwork, we can accomplish just that.

Imagine, saving 10% of your total non-health benefit cost! For the average member of the MTA, that would be at least \$3,500 in savings each year for a guaranteed 2 years!! And that's just the average! Your savings could be substantially more!

Why wait? Think of how much additional new business you would have to have in order to generate \$3,500 of new profits directly to your bottom line! We can help you do that with very little effort.

Talk to me today. Opportunity is knocking at the door. Answer by calling me directly at 248-489-8505. Fax a copy of your current bill to us and we'll show you what we can do! Our direct fax number is (248) 489-8436.

The Michigan Tooling Association benefits program has been a quality program offering a wide range of benefit levels with a low cost structure and consistent pricing for over 30 years.

Because of the buying power that the Association affords, we have been able to continue this program while the marketplace continues to reduce benefits for a much higher price.

The benefits' program has not had an increase in over 5 years. The program switched to Assurant Employee Benefits (formally Fortis Benefits) two years ago with the provision that Assurant would not increase any of the costs for at least two years.

The renewal date of July 1, 2004 is fast approaching and we have just completed the review of the program and the negotiations of the pricing changes.

Effective July 1, 2004, the Short-term Disability and the Long-term Disability will remain the same. NO INCREASE will be implemented for these two coverages. They will be reviewed again next year on July 1, 2005.

The Life Insurance program however, will have a 10% increase on July 1, 2004. This is due to the higher than average claims' experience. This increase will effect the average company in the program by only \$25.00 per month for their total bill. These new rates will be reviewed again next year on July 1, 2005.

Overall, the rate renewal is FANTASTIC NEWS. The program is maintaining its strong financial position and continues to serve us well. If you have any questions, or are have not yet taken advantage of the MTA's benefit program, please contact me direct at 248-489-8505.

A golfer stands over his tee shot for what seems like an eternity to his partner. He looks up, looks down, measures the distance, wind speed and direction.

The longer he takes, the more his partner fidgets. Finally, his exasperated partner says, "What's taking so long? Hit the blased ball already!!"

The guy answers, "My wife is watching from the clubhouse and I want to make this a perfect shot."

"Forget it", the partner says, "you'll never hit her from here!"



From the Desk of Gary Wood

Administrator MTA Workers' Comp Fund



Workers' Compensation

My everyday world focuses around workers' compensation insurance. The people I spend every day with focus their day on workers' compensation. Those of you that know me could opine that this might explain some personality traits.

How about you, when was the last time you gave workers' compensation any thought? The last time you paid your bill; the last time you had to fill out a form 100; the last time you had to go to trial? In any event it was probably a minute part of your time compared to what we do at the MTA WCF.

While I have been around business a long time, I don't know how to run a tool shop on a day-to-day basis. This fact and the cloistered focus of our world made me realize that many of you might need to know more about this process of handling claims for workers' injuries.

The MTA WCF is not an insurance company. It is an organization run for and by the members of your industry. The money you pay to the Fund, as required by law, is used to only pay for the appropriate expenses of the Fund.

When we look at the results at the end of the accounting period, there should not be any profit. Any equity that does occur is allocated for future return to the members. That is one of the primary differences between what we do and what your insurance agent sells you from the insurance companies he represents. The Fund is all about you and your fellow members. Insurance companies are all about profits and stock options and commission and buildings and everything else that goes with a financial empire.

Whether you are happy with your premium or not, the fact is you are a part of a closed group that is, for the most part, setting their own costs. If your group has no claims, the group prospers; if the claims exceed the expectations of the group, the opposite might occur.

The Trustees and the staff ask you to do many things that may seem to be a waste of time or your efforts. When you see the whole picture, they are all important. When we look at the group intently for as long as we have, we recognize things like drug programs, safety training, maintenance of facilities, good loss reporting, etc, etc. are all a part of saving money for the entire membership.

You may not see how having a drug policy that is "stated, understood, and uniformly enforced" means anything to your conservative, straight-laced employee group—until someone is injured and fails the treating facility's drug screening test. Suddenly because you have not uniformly enforced (for ex-

ample) the policy of not drinking at lunch, you have an unenforceable policy that practically constrains you and us from doing anything that will effectively defend the claim (remember the claim is about using an illegal substance to begin with).

What difference does it make if you file a claim today or six months from now? The answer is simple; there is a prescribed formula for assessing fines and penalties for late reported claims. Who is going to pay for those fines? You are.

There are many areas of the operation of the MTA WCF where costs are supposedly out of our hands; to name a few:

- ❖ The rising cost of excess insurance (due to the insurance industry fears that the USA will be targeted for another terrorist attack);
- ❖ The exorbitant cost of medical treatment. The Fund was billed over \$5,000,000 for medical treatment of members' employees in 2003. That number has increased by 7% so far this year; and
- ❖ The increase in average weekly wage rates as calculated by the state.

But when you look at these factors they are all driven by the claims actually submitted by the members' employees. If there were no claims submitted these costs would be meaningless. In effect, the only ways to control your costs are to control your claims, and if a claim occurs, ensure the efficient handling of the paperwork by you or your staff.

I think we are back to where I started; take a myopic look at the cost of workers' compensation and we see that we need you to help yourselves by keeping the costs down, by not permitting an environment which allows claims to occur, while doing as little as possible to prevent them.

Have a safe and healthy Memorial Day holiday and work safe for the sake of you and your employees.

They Served With Honor



Welcome New Members!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the Michigan Tooling Association:



- ❖ **Creative Automation Inc.** of Ann Arbor, specializing in automation for the MC-Tool industry; machine tool loading, and parts conveying; supplier of gantries, robots, pick & place and conveyors; and
- ❖ **Manus Tool, Inc.** of Harrisville, specializing in tooling for cold heading.

Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.

—Sam Ewing

Surveying the Surveys



Spring has sprung up and so have the MTA surveys. Enclosed with this issue you will find:

❖ The semi-annual **Business Outlook Survey**—in which members forecast where their industry is headed in the next six months. As always, we especially look forward to your comments.

❖ The **Fourth of July Holiday Survey**—which will compile what members are scheduling for the Fourth.

Please take a few minutes to fax to us your surveys at (248) 488-0500. Results will be published in next month's **Tool Talk**.

❖ The annual **Hourly and Salaried Wage Surveys** for 2004 were mailed out to all members last month and participants will be receiving the results shortly.

❖ The annual **Personnel Practices Survey** for 2004 will be mailed out to all members in June. If you have any questions or categories that you wish to see included, please contact Ron at (248) 488-0300, ext. 1306. Your suggestions are very important because we want this survey to reflect the working conditions and concerns that are most meaningful to you.

Legislative Update



by: *Judy Augenstein,*
Legislative Consultant, Lansing

Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed two executive directives that are designed to keep jobs related to state government contracts and services in Michigan.

Executive Directive 2004-2 prohibits state departments from giving financial assistance to U.S. based companies so they can relocate production out of the country. It also prohibits departments from spending state appropriated funds to entice a business located in Michigan to relocate out of the state, if shifting production elsewhere will reduce Michigan jobs. The directive also prohibits departments from providing assistance for any program, project or activity contributing to the violation of internationally recognized workers' rights.

Executive Directive 2004-3 gives preferences to Michigan based job providers in the state government contracting process and requires the Department of Management and Budget to consider whether or not a bidder is engaged in exporting jobs or using an offshore tax shelter when determining if a bidder's proposal provides the best overall value to the state.

Because of the loss of so many manufacturing jobs to foreign countries, state tax revenues have dropped, creating a budget crisis for Michigan. At the end of last year, the Republican legislature passed a package of bills designed to aid the manufacturing community which Granholm has signed into law.

The legislature has fixed the "Bad Driver Law" passed into law last year. The new bill waves a \$300 fee for motorists who fail to show proof of insurance when pulled over. HB 4308 allows a driver to appear prior to the appearance date on the citation to show proof that they had auto insurance at the time of the violation. If they do, no court fines or costs may be levied and the citation will not go on their driving record. It also allows for reimbursement of drivers already assessed. The bill provides drivers with 60 days to appear in court and appeal the court's ruling that resulted in the assessment being charged in the first place. The bill does not remove the civil infraction for failure to show proof of insurance. Courts may still assess a \$25 fee for tickets issued, even if a driver appears in court with proof of insurance.

The legislature plans to recess in mid-June to campaign for the August primary.



The Association's Training Center and Board Room are available at discounted rates to our members. If you would like to hold off-site meetings or training sessions (or luncheons or parties), the Association has state-of-the-art equipment and can accommodate between 15-20 people in the board room and approximately 70 people in the training center. For rates and additional information, please contact Jerry at (248) 488-0300, ext. 1308 or e-mail to jerry@mtaonline.com.

Are you ready for RFID? RFID2004 conference and exposition, "New Rules of the Game" will be held June 9th-11th, at the Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. On April 27th, we sent all members a detailed description of the event that is being co-sponsored by NAM (National Association of Manufacturers). MTA, which is a "NAM Allied Association", qualifies our members for an exclusive \$300 discount toward registration.

The Department of Defense is following the lead of top commercial retailers in requiring vendors to place passive radio frequency identification (RFID) tags at the case and pallet level by January 2005. This requirement could spell huge changes for your operations, from sales to logistics to IT to accounting.

Beyond compliance, experts say the benefits of RFID can produce supply-chain efficiencies, improve business forecasting and grab market share for those companies that take advantage of the new technology. To introduce manufacturers to the costs and benefits of RFID, the NAM is working with the Government Contracting Institute and RFID Operations magazine to give NAM members and members of NAM Allied Associations, an exclusive discount of \$300 off the registration for RFID2004. Members can register on-line at www.RFID2004.com, or call (800) 260-1545 or (202) 637-3196 (Dan Akman). BE SURE TO USE THE DISCOUNT CODE: NAMVIP.

For additional details, please refer to our mailing of 4/27, "IF YOU ARE (OR WILL BE) IMPACTED BY RFID IMPLEMENTATION, THIS MAY WELL BE FOR YOU!"

Members that attended the MTA's Annual Meeting & Open House on April 21st, expressed their concerns and views about the state of the industry and issues they would like the Association to address in the upcoming year. They were apprised of the results of the efforts undertaken over the past year on the political and other fronts by the MTA and its Board of Directors.

We would like to express our appreciation to those members who attended, including **A.B. Heller** of Milford, **Brecker's ABC Tool** of Roseville, **Burkhard Industries** of Clinton Township, **East-Lind Heat Treat** of Madison Heights, **Jefferson Iron Works** of Ferndale, **Lancer Tool** of Wixom, **Siemens Measurement Systems** of Troy, **Superior Cam** of Madison Heights, and **Three M Tool** of Walled Lake.

Remember to mail or fax your response to the "MTA Program/Services Survey" to Elaine's attention. We need your opinions and ideas. Keep an eye out for information on the new MTA website coming in the near future.



Members in the News

From time to time, we like to acknowledge and thank our long standing members for their support and participation in the MTA and its programs.

- * **Reska Spline** of Warren—member since 1941;
- * **Precision Boring** of Clinton Twp.—member since 1942;
- * **Schwartz Boring** of Warren—member since 1942;
- * **Abdite Industries** of Taylor—member since 1944;
- * **Distel Tool** of Warren—member since 1944;
- * **Trio Tool** of Livonia—member since 1944;
- * **Springfield Tool** of Greenville, SC—member since 1949;
- * **Perch Machining** of Detroit—member since 1950;
- * **Buckingham Tool** of Livonia—member since 1951;
- * **Hillside Tool and Die** of Roseville—member since 1952;
- * **Paramount Boring** of Oak Park—member since 1952;
- * **Republic Die & Tool** of Belleville—member since 1959;
- * **Johann A Krause** of Auburn Hills—member since 1959;
- * **Langlois Corp.** of Milford—member since 1959;
- * **BG Industries** of Taylor—member since 1961;
- * **Composite Forgings** of Detroit—member since 1961;
- * **Schwarb Foundry** of Warren—member since 1961;
- * **Atlas Tool** of Roseville—member since 1962;
- * **Rayco Welding** of Warren—member since 1963;
- * **Hydro-Craft** of Rochester Hills—member since 1964;
- * **Royal Oak Mfg.** of Livonia—member since 1965;
- * **Erie Engineering** of Troy—member since 1966;
- * **Colman Machining** of Detroit—member since 1968;
- * **Valiant Ind.** of Sterling Hts.—member since 1969; and
- * **Metro Machine** of Romulus—member since 1969.

The Marketplace



Precision Tooling Shop Wanted:

A company from Iowa is actively looking to acquire a large, profitable manufacturer of precision tooling that is consumed in the production process, die sets and components, tool holders or related products.

Contact: Charles Peterson @ Fundamental Research: (712) 225-5992.

Equipment for Sale:

- 1) Hewlett Packard—Scan Jet IIC—scanner
- 2) Texas Instrument—TI5040—calculator
- 3) Hewlett Packard—Laser Jet III—printer
- 4) Dex Business Systems—Dex 655—fax
- 5) Hewlett Packard—Laser Jet Series II printer Qty: two
- 6) Pitney Bowes 5630—postage machine
- 7) Pay Master Ribbon—check protector

BEST OFFER

Contact: Ron @ MTA at (248) 488-0300, ext. 1306, or e-mail to ron@mtaonline.com.

Press Automation Equipment Liquidation Sale:

Overview:

The Feeder SM5 (also known as DOPPIN) is a product from Volvo, Sweden. The equipment can be used to load and unload stamping presses or to handle parts on assembly lines and similar pick and place operations. The feeder has a fixed stroke with programmable in/outside dip.

The loading and unloading movements are horizontal to the vertical dip movements in the end positions, for pick and place. Both flat and formed parts can be handled with this feeder. The feeder is controlled from a positioning system and a PLC system. Each press is served by two DOPPIN feeders each performing as either loader or unloader, respectively.

Equipment List:

- ❖ 12-SM5 DOPPIN Loaders and Unloaders. Fully piped and wired for plug and play.

- ❖ 12-Vacuum tooling Master Mounts with ISI quick disconnect.
- ❖ 12-Operator Stations with swivel arms.
- ❖ 6-Control Panels fully wired for 480/3/60 power system complete with transformers, Baldor Servo drives, bifas40 positioning system and Allen-Bradley 540 PLC. Panels are wired to US automotive standards. Each panel has the capability to add an inter press Turnover or Transfer unit.
- ❖ 6-Side Shifters to Mount Feeder to the press.
- ❖ 2-PS2 Transfer units.

Financials:

- ❖ Total price for all of the above listed equipment is approximately \$390,000.00 (Three Hundred and Ninety Thousand Dollars), payable in United States currency, FBO Peak Industries Inc, Dearborn MI.
- ❖ Additionally, the purchaser is responsible to reimburse Peak Industries Inc., prior to the equipment leaving Peak Industries facility, for all of the labor and material costs related to the crating, handling, and shipping of the equipment.
- ❖ Purchaser is responsible for all freight/transportation costs, from Dearborn, MI to the final destination.
- ❖ All payments will be made via electronic transfer.

Contact: Jim Kostaroff @ Peak Industries Inc. at mobile (313) 790-0212, office (313) 846-8666, or e-mail to jim@peakindustries.com.

In Memoriam

Al Peplinski, co-founder of **Eagle Design Incorporated** of Sterling Heights, passed on April 1, 2004 at the age of 69. He had over 40 years of experience in the machine tool design and build industry, from project engineer to engineering leader to owner of a contract N.C. machine shop.

Memorials may be sent to either the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association Memorials Program.

Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Five Ways to Boost Participation in Your 401(k) Plan

Some Ideas That Could Help Boost Participation In Your 401(k) Plan & Turn Your Employees Into Retirement Plan Consumers...

1. Put your marketing department in charge of the awareness and motivation aspects of the plan. Employees must be aware of how much their retirement will cost and motivated to learn about the plan before they will gain understanding of the value of the plan and use it to their advantage.

2. Send "congratulations" letters when employees join the plan or increase their contributions.

3. Consider "loyalty." This is an important element in consumer behavior. Are there aspects of the plan that recognize loyalty? Are these publicized and celebrated? Consider a pizza party for two-year or five-year participants.

4. Conduct a "don't miss out again" campaign. Send a personal letter to every employee who is not contributing enough to get the maximum company contribution. Show amount "lost" last year. Or, show how much would be gained by saving an additional 1% or 2% for 10 years using a 10-year average investment return.

5. Send a personal letter from the employee's supervisor (prepared from payroll data)—"Dear John Doe, one of my responsibilities is to make sure you are aware of the valuable ABC Company benefits that are available to you. I notice you are not participating in our 401(k) plan. John, if you would save just 3% of your pay—that's only \$34 each paycheck—your take home pay would be only \$25 lower because of the tax advantage. And ABC Company would add \$17. If you would save this much for just 5 years—assuming your account grew 5% through investments each year—you would have over \$7,000 in your account."

Contact Leslie Goodwin at Freedom One Financial Group for more information at (248) 620-8100, ext. 1130, or e-mail to ljohnson@freedomonefinancial.com.



MTA List of Endorsed Service Providers

- ❖ **Assurant Employee Benefits**
(life, s&a, and dental insurance)
- ❖ **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan/Blue Care Network** (health insurance)
- ❖ **Federated Insurance**
(property & casualty insurance)
- ❖ **Freedom One Financial Group**
(401(k) programs)
- ❖ **Hertz**
(car rentals)
- ❖ **John M. Packer & Associates**
(unemployment programs)
- ❖ **LDMI**
(long distance phone programs)
- ❖ **Lower Electric, LLC**
(energy supply)

For more information, contact MTA at 248-488-0300.

Inflation Talk

CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
March 2004	182.9	544.8	633.6*
Feb	181.9	541.7	630.1*
Jan	180.9	538.7	626.7*
Dec 2003	179.9	536.0	623.2*
Nov	180.2	536.7	624.2*
Oct	180.7	538.2	626.0*
Sept	181.0	539.2	627.0*
August	180.3	537.1	624.6*

CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
March 2004	187.4	561.5	652.9*
Feb	186.2	557.9	648.7*
Jan	185.2	554.9	645.2*
Dec 2003	184.3	552.1	642.1*
Nov	184.5	552.7	642.8*
Oct	185.0	554.3	644.5*
Sept	185.2	554.7	645.2*
August	184.6	553.0	643.1*

Note: March 04 CPI-W represents a 1.4% increase from one year ago; CPI-U 1.7% increase.

* Base Year 1957-59 is no longer released. BLS has issued the following conversion factors from the 82-84 year:

CPI-W—.2886674 CPI-U—.2870447

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