

Michigan AFSCME Council 25
Statewide Road Workers
Coordinating Conference

- Early registration and a hospitality gathering greeted the delegates to the Road Workers Conference Friday evening May 16th, 2008 at the Quality Inn in West Branch.
- Vice Chairperson Tony Newman of Local 1071 called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Saturday morning. The officers and staff were introduced followed by delegates from the following counties; Bay, Clinton, Oakland, Shiawassee and Wayne.
- A motion was made and supported to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and supported to accept the minutes of last years meeting. Motion carried.
- Lee Keuppers from M.I.O.S.H.A. was the first speaker of the day and he spoke on the importance of safety at the workplace and also the seminars that are offered for Safety & Health Training and certification.
- Denis Martin, President from Local 1862 spoke on a resolution which is the Road Worker of the Year Award dedicated in memory of Leonard Cranston. This Award will be handed out each year at the Road Workers Conference and this year's recipients were Robert Smiley, President from Local 101 and Richard Johnson, Staff out of the Detroit office. Congratulations to the both of you. Also a thank-you was extended to Phil Helms for getting the plaques made up.
- Elections were held with Mike McMillian from Local 92 accepting the Vice Chairperson and Jeremy Schlak from Local 1071 accepting the recording secretary position.
- A moment of silence was taken for Ron Smith and his family, Ron was a grader operator from Livingston County Local 1071.
- Representative Joel Sheltroun next spoke on his plans to get more money for roads and one idea presented to us was he would try to

capture some of the income tax. He discussed the current situation with the rebuilding of the Ambassador Bridge. He also explained that he doesn't agree with the gas tax repeal.

- After a short break, Ronnie Peterson spoke on the PEOPLE organization, what it stands for and what it represents to our Union and how important it is to be engaged with our Representatives and the Legislature. All members should belong to PEOPLE and should try to PEOPLE check-off at their place of employment.
- Richard Johnson touched on the petition drive for affordable and comprehensive health care for all Michiganders.
- Our next speaker was Brent Gillette from Michigan State AFL-CIO. Brent discussed the Employer Free Choice Act and explained how bad "Right to Work" in Michigan would be for our unions. Right to work laws make it illegal for unions to collect fees for services that the law requires them to provide. He also gave us a list of some of the people behind the R.T.W. Bill, Rep. Sen. Mike Bishop, Rep. Nancy Cassis, Rep. Jack Hoogendyk, David Brandon from Dominos Pizza, The Walton Family and Dick and Betsy Devos.
- Old Business: None
- New Business: A motion was made and supported to move the meeting to Grayling. The delegates would like to thank Council 25 for having this conference and staff members Richard Johnson, Phil Helms and John Michalec for attending. More thanks goes to MEBS for furnishing our beverages Friday evening and to TMR and Associates for the hors d' oeuvres and the Saturday continental breakfast.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Jeremy Schlak
Recording Secretary
Road Workers Coordinating Committee