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BUSINESS

Carpenters union elects new leader

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Michigan Gear

By **JOSEPH SZCZESNY** Of The Oakland Press

The 18,000-member Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights has elected a new leader, installing Mike Jackson as executive secretary/treasurer of the union following a vote by delegates from across the state. Jackson, who received the votes of 37 of 68 delegates from carpenter locals across the state, as he defeated Douglas C. Buckler, the incumbent who had held the post for the past three years. "No one knew what the outcome would be," said Jackson, a Monroe resident. A 20-year member of the union, he served as the council's director of political action for five years. Recent reforms inside the carpenters have centralized authority and given the executive secretary the power to hire and fire business agents. "These are tough times, not just in Michigan but particularly in Michigan," he said. "We are going to do all we can do to get jobs back into our state and get our members back to work. That is my first priority." Jackson is supported in that effort by Rich Davis, the newly elected MRCC president, who earned 38 votes in his favor. The MRCC follows a system of delegates for its elections. Though there are 69 delegates, only 68 cast votes on election day. Each local is represented by three to seven delegates, depending on its size. Davis, a Westland resident and 24-year member of the union, said, "The delegates have spoken on behalf of our members. "We would like to thank Douglas Buckler for his years of service and wish him all the best." Jackson said he intends to restore autonomy among the locals, to foster partnerships with contractors, and to ensure the MRCC remains dedicated to helping those in need in the community. The MRCC represent over 18,000 journeymen and apprentice carpenters across the State of Michigan. The MRCC offers ongoing training and administers health care and pension benefits to its membership.

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