



Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 79, ISSUE 4

VOICE OF 25,000 UAW MEMBERS

DECEMBER, 2023

LOCAL 652

Ben Frantz,
President



Season's Greetings brothers and sisters. It is the time of year when many of us can celebrate the events and blessings we have experienced this year. I thought I would briefly update everyone on some Frantz family milestones for 2023. The biggest blessing would be celebrating my twenty-fifth wedding anniversary with my beautiful wife, Kristin. As if that weren't enough, Kristin and I were blessed to witness our oldest son, Carter, marry his high school sweetheart, exactly what his mother and I were all those years ago. Carrying on the significant life events, my middle son Matthew graduated from the fire academy and EMT school and turned twenty-one. Still further, our baby boy Drew started his senior year of high school, opening the door to Kristin and me being empty nesters as soon as next spring!

As it relates to our Local, the year brought a variety of highs and lows

with blessings and sadness. We have a new product that will keep our Lansing Grand River assembly plant and supplier units busy for decades to come, which is a huge blessing. With that comes a heavy burden; we will have to shut the plant down for an extended amount of time for remodeling, which will stress our membership, the likes of which many currently working have never experienced.

The blessings that we have been provided this year need not overshadow the tragic losses that our local has faced. When we look back, as a union family, on this past year, we must not forget those we lost far too soon. We must remember that many of us enjoy holidays and family more than anything else in life, but this isn't the case for many of us. Holidays present a particular stress to many we hold near and dear to our hearts. We can be thankful for all the blessings but challenge ourselves moving forward to try and reach out to old friends and be more aware of those around us. I want to ensure those in my life know I am thinking of them, even if it is just a text message saying, "Hey, hope all is well." If we can all make a small move in this direction, maybe someone in our lives who needs a person to talk to, whether it shows or not, can get that chance and we won't lose any more brothers or sisters. If we all look out for each other and make the extra effort, I am hopeful next year, we won't have the same burden on our hearts.

The coming year will present many scenarios for our units that will drive opportunity, stress and uncertainty. We will have one unit laying off a couple hundred members and other units hiring a few hundred new members. This is the first time Local 652 has faced such challenges since 2009. We will work tirelessly to ensure all members are taken care of per their

agreements; nonetheless, this will drive a lot of emotional stress on the membership. We in leadership will work to provide the support necessary as we move forward toward the next chapter here at Local 652.

As this year ends and the new year begins, we must remember that we are union and our brothers and sisters' keepers. If we all look to come together and unite to move together as a union family, we can weather any uncertainty and accomplish great things. God bless, and I hope you all have a blessed Christmas and holiday season.

In solidarity!

Ben

LOCAL 4911

Muhammad
Qawwee,
President



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my brothers and sisters of the UAW. Hopefully, everyone has big plans, and you get to enjoy the festivities and your family and friends around this season with all it has to offer. Remember, and be conscious, that not everyone is merry, jolly, nor filled with the Christmas spirit this time of year. Depression, suicide, and an unhealthy mental state, unfortunately, can spike tremendously around the holiday times. Be observant of your fellow co-workers, family members, and friends who may retreat or isolate themselves more than usual around these days and months ahead. Have positive, heart-to-heart conversations to see what may be causing their grief and bringing on their depression. Let them know they are not alone and maybe invite someone who is not a part of your everyday interactions into your fold. Many just want to be heard and know that

someone cares and understands why they are in a depressive state. If the individual is contemplating hurting themselves, please encourage them to seek professional help for emotional support. There are all types of free mental health resources throughout the state of Michigan and also other states too. There is a new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline that is 24/7, free and confidential support for individuals in distress, with prevention and crisis resources for them and their loved ones. We all, at some point and time, go through high and low times in our lives. Knowing someone cares, understands, and that there are resources to help lift people up and defuse grieving situations is priceless. May you all be safe and blessed throughout the Holiday season and beyond.

In Solidarity,

Muhammad

The Labor News is also
available online at
lansinglabornews.org

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1618, 1753 and LAFCU
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LOCAL 602Mike Huerta,
President

I would like to wish all of our members a joyous holiday season and hope that the season brings you all some rest and time with loved ones. Please remember to check in on those that may be alone over the holidays, sometimes this time of year is difficult for many so please do not forget them.

I want to thank our membership for being ready when we were called to “Stand up” during our nearly 5 week-long strike. Halloween costumes, retirees helping us picket on Wednesdays, Rosie the riveter day, Womens brigade day, members cooking hot meals for picket sites, UAW members from Arlington, Ft. Wayne, Spring Hill, Chicago, Flint, Detroit, Muskegon and Lansing all joining us on the line, it was an incredible display of Solidarity and you should all be proud! The amount of support from the community was incredible and we compiled a list of those that supported us, we will be posting the list to our website, social media and we will be putting it in our local 602 calendar as well. We can give back a little by frequenting their businesses, supporting them as they supported us.

It is said that in a time of peace, prepare for war, whether you voted for the 2023 agreement or against it our preparation for 2028 should begin now. With some big items left on the table it will likely be another tough set of negotiations so please be prepared. If you ask how could I be thinking about 2028 right now it is because I know that we are given nothing. Decades of strong UAW workers fought like hell to get what they could and set the path to get things that they would never enjoy themselves. Our cause is bigger than one round of negotiations; our cause takes longer than a lifetime. We fight for a better life for auto-workers, for working families, for the middle class, for a better country, state, community and union. Our hope is to leave them better

off than we found them, just like the giants that came before us did. They did not quit when all of their goals were not met and neither can we.

You all made me very proud to be part of the leadership of UAW local 602, thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Solidarity Forever!

Mike

LOCAL 652Lena Wyeth,
Vice President

What makes a lion the king of the jungle? He's not the biggest. He's not the fastest. He's not the smartest. So, what makes him the King? IT'S HIS MENTALITY! He has the mindset that he IS King.

This past weekend I was at the state meeting for CLUW. CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women) is a constituency group under the AFL/CIO umbrella. Within the state of Michigan, there are 4 chapters. I am the President of the Capitol Area CLUW Chapter. We chapter presidents didn't get a chance to give our report, as we ran out of time, so I wanted to touch on it here because I think it's an important message.

So, yes, I am the President of Capitol Area CLUW, but I'm not the face of CLUW in the Lansing area, that would be Veronica Johnson. Veronica was President for several years, close to 20, give or take, and did a fabulous job. When COVID hit in 2020, as we are all aware, everything shut down including meetings. In 2022, everything started opening up. I called Veronica to see if/when our next CLUW meeting was. Veronica said, “Why don't you run for President?”. My response to her was if she is sure she doesn't want to, I will run.

I'll be the 1st to tell you that I don't know everything there is to know about CLUW. I agreed to run for President because I think CLUW is important, and especially important for the lower seniority women. The ladies from Local 652 Women's Committee and Capitol Area CLUW, who came

before me taught me how to run a meeting and Parliamentary Procedure. They taught me when to hold, and when to fold. They taught me that every battle isn't worth fighting and to pick & choose the battles. Most importantly, they taught me the importance of sisterhood and to always reach back and lift someone. I ran for President of CLUW because I want the ladies coming up after me to have the same influence in their early careers as I had.

My message to the lower seniority CLUW members is that it's not always going to be easy! The problem with people, me included, (until I check myself), is that you expect others to make your dreams come true. Your dreams and aspirations are not the responsibility of anyone else. Nobody will make your dreams come true, except for you. Make no mistake, success will cost you. It will cost you time, energy, sacrifices, discipline, resources, sleep, and putting in the work that others aren't willing to do. You have to constantly challenge yourself every day. You have to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Push yourself! It's not easy, but it will be worth it. I know some days you feel like you just don't have it in you to keep working towards your dreams. It's this point of challenge that you have to push a little bit harder because that is the point of change/growth.

From this day forward, look at yourself in the mirror and tell yourself how amazing you are and that you CAN do it. Once you believe in yourself and believe you can do it, you will, just like that Lion!

Unrelated, please be kind to people, you never know what someone is going through. I want to lift the families of Jasen Hodge, David Miller, and Gary Lyon. These are active members who are gone way too soon and are greatly missed by their coworkers.

Shout out to my retired van poolers from Gratiot County, I enjoyed our moments reminiscing. To our retiree chapter, thank you for always making my day when you come in for bingo! Lastly, Happy

Birthday to my favorite 652 retiree, my dad, Randy Whitaker.

I want to take the time to wish everyone a very enjoyable holiday season filled with love, happiness, and all great things. As always, if you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to call.

SOLIDARITY!

Lena

LOCAL 602Doug Fox,
Rec. Secretary

The holiday season is finally here. Time for a much-needed break with family and friends.

This last quarter has been busy. During the recent contract negotiations when the UAW went on strike, our local was called upon to “Stand Up”. We went on strike from September 29th through October 30th. I am extremely proud of all of our members for the way they conducted themselves. Members went out of their way to assist strike efforts in many different ways. Whether it was donating food, items to be used at picket locations, or just volunteering more time, it showed how strong our membership is when we stand united. And I would be remiss if I did not mention the absolutely amazing amount of support from both the public and businesses that we received. We had so many businesses donate all kinds of things to our members, from food to business discounts to hand warmers when it got cold. These and so many other things showed us they appreciate us and we, in turn, will continue to support those that support us. The amount of support from the public was overwhelming. Driving by and honking their horn raising the spirit of those walking the line, phone calls and emails expressing support, stopping and talking to members and telling them they were behind us when members were out and about proudly wearing the “wheel” – these actions further showed us we had an immense support base and helped bolster our efforts. Thanks

to everyone!!

Now that we are back to work, Local 602 members have been gearing up for our new products which will bring back a 3rd shift. We are excited to have the new and revamped products. Customer enthusiasm has been great towards the early showings. With the ratification, LDT made a lot of our temps permanent. Congratulations to all new hires!!

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone to keep an eye each other during the holiday season. Reach out to those you might not have seen in a while. Let people know you are thinking of them. Holidays can be great for some, but others - some of whom may have recently lost someone - have a hard time. So please: be safe, enjoy yourselves and your family and friends, reach out to others and have a great holiday season !

In solidarity,
Doug

LOCAL 652
Matt Schneider,
Fin. Secretary



It only seems appropriate to start the December edition of the Lansing Labor News by wishing you all a Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Regardless of your Local, your unit, or your worksite, the members of Lansing's UAW Family are some of the most diverse.

The giving nature of working people is no more apparent than in the results of our annual charitable events. Here at Local 652, we just wrapped up our Making Strides for Breast Cancer and Toys for Tots drives with Old Newsboys on deck. Through layoffs, part shortages, and strikes, our members still came together for the less fortunate and raised over \$11,000 for these great causes. That dollar amount

doesn't even include the donations of toys. The Recreation Committee challenged the members with a pillow and bedding collection for Lansing area foster kids, and the members understood the assignment by overflowing the collection bins. The Local also collected personal hygiene items for striking members and adopted a striking family for Thanksgiving.

While we have a lot to be thankful for in the Lansing labor community, we have some challenges as well. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but election season is upon us and working people need to be laser-focused. The divisiveness, false information, punditry, and team sports politics appear to be worse than ever. It's never easy getting large and diverse groups on one page, but these stressors are complicating the process even more.

It's no secret that members of our Union vote for candidates and proposals that are not those recommended by UAW-CAP or UAW leadership. Regardless of these decisions being made purposefully or unwittingly, it is an issue. Candidates who have a track record, or commit to supporting working families and better work rules make contracts stronger. They also help remove many of the landmines our bargainers face protecting members from management. Myself included, sometimes working folks are really good at shooting ourselves in the foot. For instance, let us consider this hypothetical situation. A vast majority

of our members voted for Proposal 12, which has purposely been named, "The Working People Act". Inside this act is a provision that prevents Unions from grieving management over violating overtime provisions. As a consequence, management feels empowered and the committee calls for overtime violations triples. With a state law now superseding contractual language, bargaining is exponentially more difficult. As is the norm lately, we as members then turn to social media to vent our frustration with the "worthless Union". It is a vicious and damaging cycle.

Unfortunately, I don't have the perfect solution to this problem, but I do offer some advice. When I present Union Awareness classes to new hires, I give them a challenge. As a UAW member, you will be asked to consider voting for candidates and positions recommended by the labor movement. There is a possibility that these do not align with your current picks. I challenge you to take the time and make a thoughtful decision. Do you vote for your picks, which may be based on sensationalism, ideology, or personal opinion, or do you choose based on what is best for your pocketbook, health and safety, and contract strength?



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Lansing Labor News
(ISSN 0023-8384)

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An award-winning, non-profit newspaper, established March 15, 1945, and dedicated to the interests of the community and to the interest of Labor here and elsewhere. Published quarterly. Periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI and at additional offices. Three percent per month from UAW Incorporator Locals' monthly dues is for this publication. The opinions expressed by the columnists are not necessarily those of the affiliated Local Unions and the Lansing Labor News.

USPS NUMBER 304-840 POSTMASTER

Send address changes to: Lansing Labor News, c/o Allied Mailing & Printing, 240 N. Fenway Dr., Fenton, MI 48430.

VOLUME 79, ISSUE 4

VOICE OF 25,000 MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2023

*Wishing you the best
holiday season and
a Happy New Year.*

*UAW Local 602
Leadership*



LOCAL 4911

Charlene Watson,
Fin. Secretary



Sparrow Hospital's UAW local 4911 would like to wish peace and happiness to all UAW members and retirees.

Congratulations to Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Big 3 on your contract negotiations!

May all of you find joy this holiday season and have a joyous and prosperous New Year.

Community Service Classes. I was very pleased and excited to recently learn that the Community Service Classes may be returning in 2024. I have attended these classes in the past and found them extremely educational, motivating, and inspirational. The education from attending these classes has proved to be a valuable resource, resources that can be shared with your local, friends and neighbors.

The UAW Community Service Liaison is Mr. Fred Thomas, who

recently communicated that he is working diligently on coordinating the 2024 Community Service class schedule. Fred is lining up interesting and informative speakers for the 2024 sessions. Watch for class registration announcements from your local on when and how to attend the 2024 class sessions. I can attest that these classes provide some of the best community service resource education in Lansing and surrounding areas.

Walk for Warmth will be organizing again early 2024 and is sponsored by the Capital Area Community Services, Inc. in the Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties. Please google walk for warmth for more information on this wonderful fundraising event in Lansing or your hometown! FYI: 100% of the money raised will go directly to client assistance with heating concerns. Hearts & Feet Providing Heat.

There are so many ways you can pay it forward in your hometown. Go to <https://www.517living.com/nonprofits> for much more valuable

information on how our community supports each other and how you and your local can help!

Most of all, make those precious memories with your family and always stay safe UAW Brothers, Sisters, and Retirees everywhere!

Finally, I would like to urge local 4911 retirees (and active members) to update their personal contact information at our local. This can be easily completed by contacting the hall on 1010 River St in Lansing with your current phone number, land address, AND email address.

Let's keep in touch!
(The email address is the most important line of communication for contacting our retirees now and in the future).

Char



LOCAL 602

Marta Bobillo
Retiree



Greetings Sisters and Brothers;

Hope everyone is doing well,

I want to start by thanking all of you that took the time to unite in solidarity with the active strikers on the strike sites, delivered food and various other activities. Your support was very much appreciated.

Now, on a sad note, my past Vice Chair, sister, awesome friend, Jerri Smith, gained her wings November 17, 2023. Her celebration of life showed how many people this caring little firecracker had touched as it was a full house. You will be missed, Sister.

The holidays are coming and for most it's a happy holiday season, but, for some, it is not for many different reasons but mainly because of loneliness. Please take the time to check on your friends, family, and neighbors with that said.

I want to wish the best Christmas ever and the most prosperous year in

2024 from my family to yours.

Please be kind because tomorrow is not promised.

Love, Peace and Justice,

In solidarity

Marta

LOCAL 652

Arlene Pesik

Retiree

Where did this year go? Everyone is busy with families and keeping up with health situations, so keep moving and enjoy your day. Our Retiree Chapter events are the first Tuesday of each month we meet at 10:00am for Bingo, and the third Tuesday of each month we meet at 12:00 noon for a business meeting and luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass for the Christmas Dinner on December 19th.

We want to thank you all for helping out like you do. We couldn't do it without you. Condolences to all who have lost loved ones this year. Stay safe and healthy.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Arlene

LOCAL 1753

Laura Clark

Retiree



Merry Christmas, happy holidays, merry Hanukkah, happy Kwanzaa or what you celebrate at this time.

We sure have a lot to be thankful for, including our Chairman who worked on the new contract. Our President who led us through this strike and all of the workers, both past and present, who helped us through the strike. Many retirees who were not even ours walked with us. I walked with a retired teacher. Retired Democrats from outside our county also showed up. Our retirees also dropped off supplies such as fire wood, ice, house hold items, canned food, snack packs and paper supplies. I dropped pizzas and cookies off to our folk and a pizza to the blue cross worker who were also on strike. Sorry if I did not list your help, I feel that we were very supported in the community!



Best wishes for a joyous holiday season filled with love, happiness, & prosperity!

Your Executive Board UAW Local 4911 www.uawlocal4911.org 517-372-7201

I hope you are able to attend the Christmas party. It is an open house for all on December 14th at the hall from 1-5. We will be having food and drink. You and I, we can provide the fun and sing a few songs around the fire! I hope you and yours's are able to attend.

The Executive Board and I have come up with a new plan for next year. Please keep this schedule for next year. For sometimes it takes a minuet to get use to something new.

Retiree lunches and meetings will be held every OTHER month on

the EVEN months of the year (February, April, June, August, October, December)

See full schedule next page

Obituary

Kathy Isham

Steve Martin Dungey

Phil Hnatiuk

Jerald (Jerry) A Slocum

Michael Lester Host (Bald Eagle)

Lee (Jr) Hazel

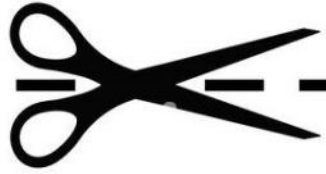
Bradley N Emerick

Vaughn Karl Buchholz

We wish you Happy Holidays and a bright New Year !



From the officers and unit chairs of the GM, Ryder and Avancez units of Local 652



1753 Retirees 2024

Meeting schedule

All events are at noon

February 8th - World Buffet

April 11th - World Buffet

June 13th - Potluck picnic at the hall

August 8th - World Buffet

October 10th - World Buffet

December 12th - Christmas open house at the hall



LOCAL 602 Obituaries

- Dennis J. Cody
- Lester Norton
- Richard R. Beckwith
- Lynn L. Gillis
- Timothy L. Haviland
- William G. Patino
- Charles J. Anderson III
- Jerri L. Smith
- James T. Keyton
- Alexander D. Goudie
- Alexander Lawson
- James C. Radford
- Howard J. Shooltz
- John C. Cockerell
- Ronald J. Betz
- Perry E. Wise
- Benito Moreno III
- Lorn R. Bullock
- Arthur G. Drain Jr.
- Raymond H. Black
- John J. Scheibling
- Daniel R. Ritter
- David A. Stehlik
- Daniel L. Carlson
- Frederick J. Bates
- Keith L. Monroe
- Keith G. Look
- Bob E. Swindlehurst
- Roland E. Peterson
- James W. Rembert
- William McGuirt
- Bingley S. Hannah III
- Maryanne E. Carpenter
- Grady Jackson
- Steven H. Selbig



LOCAL 652 Obituaries

- Danny Arens – Retiree
- Priest “Mike” Brighton – Retiree
- Juanita Herrera Brown – Mother of Felipe Herrera
- Loretta Ann Cichon – Spouse of Patrick Cichon
- Frank Gatlin – Retiree
- Jasen Hodge – Member, Son of Ron Hodge, Nephew of Dan Hodge and Linda Nelson, Cousin of Belinda Hodge
- Maxine E. Jubb – Spouse of Don Jubb
- Gary Lyon – Member
- Howard Lyon – Father of Gary Lyon
- Gerald Mizger – Retiree
- Howard “Murph” Murphy – Retiree
- Donald “Donnie” Rodriguez – Retiree, Father of Donald A. Rodriguez
- Paul Schaefer – Retiree, Father of Tim Schaefer, Father-in-Law of Don Adams
- Rosa Lee Williams – Retiree, Aunt of Hazel Williams





Members of the area locals never hesitate to help out those in need, especially the children



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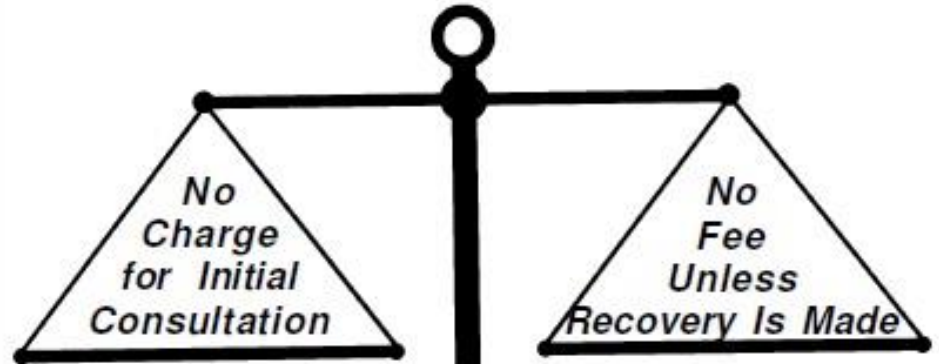
Work when you want, work as often as you want. It's cold outside and now is the perfect time to earn some hot cash for golf and whatever fun stuff you will be doing once that Springtime sunshine reappears.



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**ATTENTION:
UAW Local 4911 Retiree Chapter #881**

2024 Union Meeting dates

- Wednesday, February 28 - 3:00pm
- Wednesday, April 24 - 3:00pm
- Wednesday, May 22 - 12:00pm **VEBA Update** - Union Mtg will follow
- Wednesday, October 23 - 3:00pm
- Wednesday, December 11 - 3:00pm



Meetings held at...

UAW Local 724, 450 Clare St, Lansing MI 48917
You're welcome to wear a mask & practice social distancing

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