# Lansing Labor News

**VOLUME 80, ISSUE 3** 

**VOICE OF 25,000 UAW MEMBERS** 

#### LOCAL 4911 Muhammad Qawwee, President



"Happy Fall to all of my UAW brothers and sisters of this region and beyond!

Fall brings the return of children in schools, pumpkin spice lattes, and my all-time favorite; the return of college and NFL football! With that being said, I want to just remind everyone that with Fall crowds, full classrooms, and packed football stadiums come the opportunity for super-spreader events of infections colds and viruses. Covid-19 has already increased in our community and abroad. We know by past practice that flu season will be coming up as well given the time of year it is currently. As much as we (including myself) have gotten used to not wearing a make on a daily basis, if you happen to be in a crowded environment or just around large group for long periods of time, it is better to be safe than sorry. I hope through prevention and safety measures, our hospitals and healthcare facilities do not get overwhelmed with sick patients or maybe even worse over something we can help to prevent the spread of. Covid and other deadly viruses have not gone anywhere and our health and wellbeing is our greatest asset in this thing we call life! New vaccines are available right now to the public for both influence (flu) and the new Covid-19 strain. Please contact your primary care provider or our community healthcare institutions on how you may receive these vaccines. Many are given free or at little cost if you do not have insurance. Another good thing is to buy or order an extra mask to wear out and about. These help cut down the risk of catching anything that might be present in our communities. The Federal Government also reopened the ability to order free Covid-19 test kits again. Let's all be safe and not sorry in preventing the spread of anything but joy (and football scores) this season!

I would not be doing my due diligence if I didn't mention to make sure you go out and vote in November! Not telling you who to vote for, but the stakes could not be any higher for the future of our nation! Make sure you are registered and know where your polling location is (as it may have changed) or request an absentee ballot. Get all the information you need on candidates to be an informed member of the community and go vote!

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Lansing Labor News

Enjoy your Fall as much as possible but keep yourself and others safe!

Until the next Hail Mary pass,

In solidarity, Muhammad

The Labor News is also available online at

lansinglabornews.org

#### **LOCAL 602** Mike Huerta, President



I hope you had a great summer and in the coming months you are able to enjoy the amazing fall colors this year.

I want to give a big thank you to our Retiree Chair Marta Bobillo for putting on a great picnic for the retirees this year! It was great to see everyone relaxing and breaking bread with brothers and sisters that they haven't seen in a while.

I also want to thank the membership for your patience during the transition back to three shifts. It has been a long wait and we have gone through and are still dealing with some growing pains. We hope the chaos that this change has brought begins to settle down in the coming weeks.

With the Presidential election cycle in full swing, we are getting a lot of calls asking for yard signs. We, like everyone else in Lansing, are still waiting for the Harris and Walz signs to arrive. In the hall currently, we have the signs for Curtis Hertel, Angela Witwer and Elissa Slotkin who have all joined local 602 on our picket lines during the 2019 and 2023 strikes. With less than 60 days left in the election, please take time to make sure your family is registered and informed about the candidates up and down the ballot. Please go to UAWendorsements.org to find UAW endorsed candidates not only from our area but that site has the candidates for the whole country.

Please, please, please take the time to vote, a democratic union AND a democratic country require participation. Voting is the absolute minimum for our country and for our union to remain effective. It is the

#### SEPTEMBER, 2024

absolute least we can do; choosing not to vote is as ridiculous as voting for someone that thinks firing striking workers is funny. We need to take our obligation to vote seriously, many fought and died for us to be able to participate. Michigan will have more access to voting by mail and in person than ever before, so there is no excuse to not participate, see you at the polls!

In Solidarity, Mike

LOCAL 652 Ben Frantz, President



Greetings brothers and sisters. It is finally our favorite season; political season! Now, of course, I am being facetious. I am sure, between the endless mailers, phone calls and texts, many are ready to go off -grid until after November 5th. When I write my articles, I try to write very common tongue articles that relate to situations in our lives and I want to thank all of you who call and reach out thanking me for this style of writing. I have decided to try and write about a technical problem as plainly as I feel possible. The topic is bias, now we all know, or think we know, about bias but I will try and highlight how they can lead us astray subconsciously.

The first of these is identified as the confirmation bias. This is the most natural mental road that most of us travel. Confirmation bias is the tendency to seek out and recognize only information that supports what we already believe or feel.

The second of these biases' is the Halo effect. This cognitive bias causes people to form an overall positive impression of someone or something based on a single favorable characteristic, ignoring all

#### Frantz, from page 1

others, which can lead to poor decision-making.

The last of these is the horn or devil effect. This is the reverse of the halo effect. This bias tends to highlight a single disliked or negative aspect of a person or thing to form an overall negative impression. This again provides us the opportunity for poor decision-making.

Now that I've explained these biases, I would ask that you take a moment to reflect on them as they relate to this political season. Let us attempt to inform ourselves without falling into the trap of only seeking what we hope to find to confirm what we feel to be true. This year let us seek out only facts for the sake of finding the truth, whether it is what we want to find or not. If we do this, I believe, we can truly begin the process of making more informed decisions.

When we investigate the facts of a matter, or in this case, our candidates, we must then try and shed the last two biases to make fully informed decisions. We must avoid scenarios like these; If we fall prey to the halo effect, maybe we fall into supporting only candidates who are veterans. Even though their legislative and voting record is against nearly everything we support. If we fall into the horn or devil bias, then we don't vote for a person we've only heard was weak although they have a proven track record of legislation and voting to support what will help middle-class America. What if we take all biases and prejudices and hide them, only reviewing factual data about the candidates? Let's say we ignore age, sex, race, personality and political party and only look at proven accomplishments, legislation and voting records. Couldn't we make better and more informed decisions for ourselves? I believe so, and this is what our goal must be in this political cycle. Let's stop the self-confirming biases and stop listening to other potentially biased opinions on television and social media to form our beliefs. Voting records and legislation are public information to which we all have access. We need only to take the time and research the truth and history of our candidates. I hope that after reading this, some of you

decide to look a little deeper and gain a stronger understanding of who deserves our votes. Efforts like these can only help us pick what we believe to be the best choices for our beliefs. Thanks for reading and we will see you next edition.

Great sites for research:

https://www.legislature.mi.gov/ https://www.house.mi.gov/

https://www.nouse.nn.gov/

https://www.congress.gov/roll-call -votes

https://www.senate.gov/ legislative/votes\_new.htm

https://www.govtrack.us/congress/ votes

LOCAL 602 Doug Fox, Rec. Secretary



Every election cycle we see one side going after the other. It's ok, and encouraged, to express your viewpoint. But differing political views does not mean we cannot show each other respect. In politics, where people with different ideologies and opinions often collide, having respect can serve as a way to have meaningful conversation. It's essential to recognize that holding differing political views does not prevent showing respect to one another. In fact, having mutual respect in political discourse is crucial for promoting civility, empathy, and constructive conversation. Just because we don't see eye to eye on every issue doesn't mean we have to engage in verbal attacks. Respect plays a crucial role in how we can have political discussions without resorting to donning our ideological boxing gloves and going for the knockout punch.

Respect boils down to treating others with dignity, even when we disagree with them. It means acknowledging differing perspectives and refraining from turning debates into personal attacks. In simpler terms, it's about keeping the conversation open and on topic without purposely trying to attack the person. By listening actively, acknowledging different viewpoints, and responding thoughtfully, we can create a dialogue that helps us understand each other better, even if we may not agree.

Through respectful dialogue, we can pave the way for collaboration and compromise. In a world where political echo chambers are way too common, valuing diverse perspectives can build consensus for ideas that are beneficial to all of us. Listening to different opinions isn't always easy. However, it does give us opportunities to grow, learn, and expand our viewpoints.

Empathy isn't just a feel-good concept; it's something that can mend the tears in our political fabric. By putting ourselves in others' shoes, listening with an open heart, and practicing kindness, we can build bridges that go beyond politics. By engaging in respectful dialogue, we promote social unity and uphold the democratic values of free speech and open-mindedness. By trying to understand others point of view, we're building trust in our institutions and showing the younger generations you can have differing viewpoints, but still have civil conversations. People are more likely to have faith in the system when they see others engaging in civil discourse, rather than hurling insults like a group of angry toddlers.

So, next time you feel the urge to unleash your inner beast, take a deep breath, remember these strategies, and keep the peace like the respectful adult you are. Embracing respect as a guiding principle in our political exchanges paves the way for a more harmonious and democratic society. By valuing diverse viewpoints, engaging in constructive dialogue, and cultivating empathy across divides, we can bridge gaps, build connections, and work towards a common understanding that benefits us all. All of us want to succeed and have things better for the following generations.

So as the political season heats up, try to remember the following: Listen to each other. Be empathetic to others' views. Understand we are not all the same and we have differing opinions – and that's OK. How we act towards each other is seen by the younger generation, lets show them how people can have differing opinions and still be civil. And finally, remember to VOTE!!

LOCAL 652 Matt Schneider, Fin. Secretary



There seems to be no quenching the thirst of Americans looking to be connected and entertained. Whether it be the twenty-four-hour cycle of cable networks purporting to be news, social media, or podcasts, the opportunities are almost endless. In addition to endless choices, we can choose the outlets that feed our implicit and conscious biases. More alarming, if we don't choose based on our biases, computer algorithms will help nudge us along. Something that these outlets all seem to share, is spreading the message of how completely polarized we have become as a nation.

Now, I won't claim that divisiveness doesn't appear to be on the rise, but are we really all that different? Recent research from PEW shows that when Americans are asked to choose one word to describe politics today the most popular response is divisive. It's true that on this policy or that policy people who call themselves conservatives or liberals still disagree on many of the same issues we have for decades. These are the classic debates or the classic dividers, but there are also a whole lot of things we actually agree on.

For starters, we tend to worry about the same kinds of things. How artificial intelligence will affect our world, getting scammed, and we worry that our kids spend too much time on their phones. And no matter the particular political party we align ourselves with we all tend to have positive feelings toward similar things. Statistically, we all seem to love the National Park Service, we like NASA, and even the U.S. Postal Service. Then there are the things most of us universally dislike. We are not big fans of people having affairs, the idea of cloning humans, or even Kim Jong Un.

The similarities go even further. Almost all of us watch fireworks on



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the 4th of July, leave tips for servers (or say we do), keep our phones nearby at all times, and decorate our homes for major holidays. We have common beliefs. We believe in the freedom of speech and the right to privacy, and that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. Above all, we fiercely believe that everyone deserves equal treatment under the law.

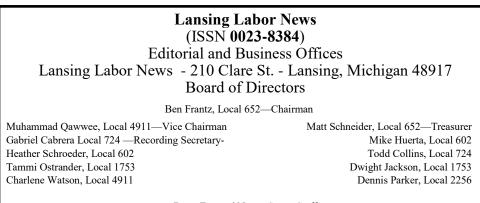
So yes, the angry pundits, entertainment "news" shows, and social media influencers give us the impression that we are a wildly divided country. Since they say it that's what we wind up believing. Recent data shows that compared to ten years ago 77% of Democrats, 85% of Republicans, and 79% of independents believe that we are more divided. But you know what, we might just be a little wrong about that.

The idea that we might have it wrong is supported by study after study. It appears that we have an exaggerated idea of what the "other guys" believe and they have an exaggerated idea about "us". For example, a 2018 study found in the University of Chicago Journal of Politics collected some interesting information. It discovered that Republicans believed that roughly 37% of Democrats were Union members, while the actual number was 11%. Meanwhile, Democrats believed that 33% of Republicans earn more than \$250,000 a year. The real number? It was 2%.

So it's true, when it comes down to it, we are not as far apart as we think we are. And that is the reality. The socials, news outlets, and cable media play up the us-versusthem narrative of political polarization. Whether the reasons are something nefarious, or the simple fact that we as consumers drive that delivery with our increased consumption of divisive information. Regardless of the cause, we can choose to understand each other better and in this age of algorithms, keep fighting for human connection.

#### ATTENTION: UAW Local 4911 Retiree Chapter #881 2024 Union Meeting dates Wednesday, April 24 - 3:00pm Wednesday, October 23 - 3:00pm VEBA Update - Union Mtg will follow 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\*

We need your email address! Updates & special events will be communicated via email. Contact our office with your email and whenever you have changes to your address or phone. 517-372-7201 x10 or info@uawlocal4911.org www.uawlocal4911.org



Doug Fox and Nancy Sears, Staff

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VOICE OF 25,000 MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2024

**LOCAL 4911** Charlene Watson, Fin. Secretary



"Hello brothers and sisters! Welcome to Fall 2024. While this should not be news to any LLN readers, this is a presidential election year—and it's one of the closest presidential races in our history.

I want to talk briefly on the importance of what is just around the corner; something that can potentially affect your quality of life and most importantly, the lives of your children, grandchildren, and all generations to come.

All elections are important, from local school board elections to presidential elections. This year, 2024, is no exception and the race for the next Head of State seems to have swallowed up all the media airtime with never-ending, negative ads and campaign materials that do not seem to align with anyone's moral compass.

I am a firm believer that knowledge is power and that the best, most logical method of obtaining your knowledge (power) is to educate yourself on the important topics that you hold most dear. Use your investigative skills to seek out information on issues that are dear to you, but make sure that the information you seek is not biased to your own opinion. It is crucial to look at things from all sides to ensure you are making an informed choice, especially this election season.

Do NOT rely on only one source of information when you are seeking your knowledge (power). Always very the information your sources are using to educate or persuade you. Remember, the sources' conclusions are opinions that you can choose to agree or disagree with, allowing you to divert your power.

Statistics can help identify issues, but without vetting the source and the accuracy of the information being presented, you may not be making an informed choice if the statistics are biased. Statistical data can be easily manipulated to support a source's main premise or goal.

Polls can also be used as a form of manipulation if the sample size is taken from a pre-determined polling base. This alone should be a red flag of how accurate a poll is, so make sure you know the creator of the poll, the base demographic area, size of the population polled, and all questions that were included in the poll. Regarding the accuracy of political polls, polls are only a snapshot in time and will probably become obsolete shortly after the poll is completed and released.

It would be logistically difficult to pose poll questions to every single person in the United States (not to mention costly), so a sample size is often used as an estimate for a larger group. Some sample size polls can be as little as 1,000-1,500 people, which could be enough to estimate a national opinion, but could also implies that it may not be enough to estimate a national opinion.

Think about recent presidential election polls; some polls predicated that Hillary Clinton had a 98% change of beating Trump in 2016. We all remember the outcome of that election, and this clearly shows that pollsters can be incorrect. Other polls correctly predicted that Biden would defeat Trump. These are just two examples of why polls can sometimes be useful, but demonstrates that the accuracy is up in the air.

This alone should be enough to be a red flag and an alarm in your head. Remember to research the poll information so that YOU can make your informed choices when voting and do not forget that your brothers/sisters/neighbors are your family too.

Please register to vote if you haven't and go out and vote in this especially important election in November. Registering to vote is easy! Just visit

www.sos.state.mi.us/ to see if you are registered and where to go if not. As always, it is my pleasure to serve this great membership! Make those precious memories and stay safe UAW family! Go VOTE!!!

In Solidarity, Char

**LOCAL 602** Marta Bobillo Retiree



Greetings Sisters and brothers

I hope you and yours are doing well. We had another amazing retirees picnic last month at Francis Park that we could not have done it without our retirees Executive Board and volunteers that grilled, made salads and served our guest. I'm so happy and proud of our membership that is supportive and looks out for each other in solidarity, keep up the good work.

I know that we heard in the past that this is the most important election but siblings this time it is for real. We have our Democracy , education , health care, Benefits , jobs, all that our ancestors fought for is on the line. Please check the facts, get involved, make sure you and your family are registered and cast your vote. After watching the debate, there is no doubt in my mind that we have only one clear choice to help the middle class which is Kamala Harris to lead us forward .

We have our Region 1-D Euchre tournament coming, for more information look at the flyer on page 7. Hope to see you. Come and join us for our monthly meeting 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon for lunch and meeting followed with bingo. Hope to see you.

Love peace and justice

In solidarity, Marta

LOCAL 652 Arlene Pesik Retiree

#### Greetings

UAW Local 652 retiree events are on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The first Tuesdays are BINGO starting at 10:00 am. The third Tuesdays are lunch and business meetings beginning at 12:00 pm. A boxed lunch is provided. Our October 1st meeting will feature a guest speaker concerning retiree healthcare. The November 19th meeting will be our retiree Thanksgiving potluck beginning at 12:00 pm. To accompany the meal, please bring a dish to pass and your disposable table service. Your attendance and assistance are surely appreciated. Condolences to those who have lost loved ones since the last Labor News edition.

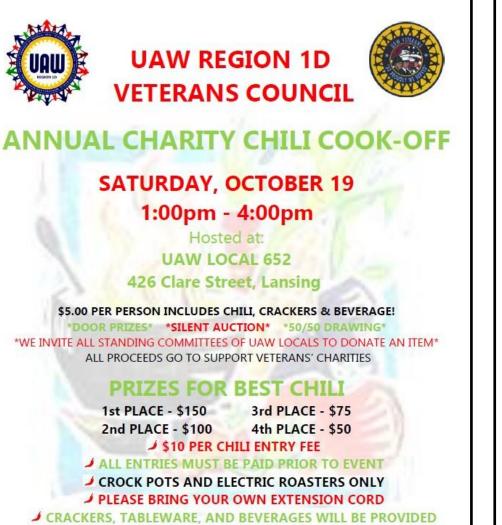
Arlene Pesik

**LOCAL 1753** Laura Clark Retiree



#### Hello Everyone

I've have missed everybody so much. I hope you had a nice summer. Still no word on the hall, so as soon I know anything, I'll let you know, probably through Al Vincent's e-mails. Please sign up to be on his list. This gives us plenty of time to think over the next election. Study the candidates. Are you registered? It takes two minutes to do it on line. Same with voting by mail. I know you have heard this is the most important election in your life. This is the most important in the country's life. We are talking freedom, not just for women but for all. We all have seen what happens when you get a foot in the door. Look up or read Project 2025, the Republican play book to give the next president unlimited powers! I know change is hard, we have never elected a woman leader in this country. That is not true for most of the other countries. Statistically they have found those women less likely to wage war, more likely to work on climate change, more likely to find common ground across the aisles. I believe the most striking feature of women leaders is that they are more likely to treat everyone democratically! I hope you were able to watch the Democratic National Convention, it was fabulous! Besides the fun, it was wonderful to see our own UAW President Sean Fain! Please Google it! HE hit it out of the ball park with his endorsement of Kamala Haris and the Coach! If you want a good time look up the democratic convention, his speech and the roll call! When we voted for UAW president Fain it was a big



ENTRY DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

To register your chili entry and/or arrange donation please contact: Ron Olivarez @ 517-775-4832 Local 652 Lansing Tim Duplanty @ 810-625-8535 Local 598 Flint

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#### Clark, from page 4

change, we were tired of the same old thing. We were paying, twice as much as before and did not feel twice as happy. We changed the way we voted, we bucked the past and made a better future for us! This was the first raise Retirees had in many contracts. We also know that when we got a raise the whole neighborhood got a raise, because we spent it! Not to mention the great gains made by the active folks. This reminds me of the old movie Mouse Land. It's election time and the mice are all a twitter. They look at the record. In the past they voted for white cats, they were not happy. Then they voted for black cats, they were not happy. They voted for cats that were half black and half white, they were not happy. They voted for black cats with white spots, they not happy. They voted for white cats with black spots. They were not happy. The problem with the cats, was lack of a shared vision of the future. cats wanted mice doors bigger to fit their paws! Mice wanted their doors smaller just to fit them! You can see the problem! Much twittering, then one brave mouse had an idea to change what was done in the past. Let's change and vote a mouse in! They did and were very happy! We can do this: we can change and vote for Kamala Harris for President! We can vote for honesty, decency and treating others with respect. Bringing people together, not shutting them out. Let's do this thing, walking, calling, whatever it takes! We know that Republicans have more money because of Greed-flation! We on the other side have more of us, which is way more votes than them. America has always been a place where we've worked towards a more perfect Union. Vote now!

Obituaries

Mark Francis Simon Herb Whorley



Candidate Elissa Slotkin Curtis Hertel Julie Brixie Kara Hope Penelope Tsernoglou Angela Witwer Emily Dievendorff

Terrance Augustine Landon Myers Jason Peek Brandon Haskell Jeanne Pearl-Wright Jane Whitacre Jacob Toomey Branden Dyer

Alan Fox

**Barb Byrum** 

Derrick Quinney

Chris Trubac

**Myles Johnson** 

**Robert Pena** 

**Ryan Sebolt** 

Irene Cahill

Tanya Pratt

Michelle Rosa

Capitol Area UAW/CAP Council Endorsement List

U.S. Senate for Michigan U.S. House of Representatives D7 73rd House 74th House 75th House 76th House 77th House

Office

#### **Eaton County**

Eaton County Treasurer Eaton County Commissioner D2 Eaton County Commissioner D3 Eaton County Commissioner D4 Eaton County Commissioner D5 Eaton County Commissioner D6 Eaton County Commissioner D10

#### **Ingham County**

Ingham County Treasurer Ingham County Clerk Ingham County Register of Deeds Ingham County Commissioner D3 Ingham County Commissioner D5 Ingham County Commissioner D8 Ingham County Commissioner D9 Ingham County Commissioner D12 Ingham County Commissioner D13

#### **Meridian Township**

Meridian Township Supervisor

#### **Delta Township**

Delta Township Treasurer Delta Township Trustee Delta Township Trustee

Scott Hendrickson

Dennis Fedewa Fonda Brewer Beth Bowen

#### **LOCAL 602**

Obituaries

Larry R. Durrance – Retired

James Fredrick Herrguth - Father of Kara Herrguth

Rick Hager - Active

Calvin Showers Sr. - Retired

Joshua Lee Hoppes – Father of Jada Hoppes

Kenneth E. Schultz II – Father of Evelyn Schultz

Roderick C. Efaw – Retired

John F. Nelson - Retired

Michael D. Newcomer - Retired

Randall S. Cary - Retired

Donald R. Ross - Retired

James L Huhn - Retired

Penny S Pardee - Retired

James E. Albert - Retired

Donny L. Milton - Retired

James F. Cahoon - Retired

Ronald T. White - Retired

William R. Brothers - Retired

David L. Gladding – Retired

Milton (Mel) J. Price - Retired

Elizabeth Ward, Retired and Mother of Tim Ward, Retired

Wilbur Shade - Retired

Fred Davis – Father of Todd Davis, Active

Larry Lee Lanning - Father of Brent Lanning, Active

Vernetta F. Edmond – Mother of John Edmond, Active

Thoms Owen - Father of Aric Owen, Active

Scott C. Parmelee - Retired

Mark J. Esckilsen - Retired

Gerald A. Hoag - Retired

Mark A. Grimwood - Retired, brother-in-law to Jerry Taylor

Mark J. Esckilsen – Father of Mark Esckilsen. Active

Feldpausch, Richard Jr. – Son, Casey Feldpausch, Active

Simon G. Rodriguez – Retired

Paul W. Hedin - Retired

Melvin Brantley – Retired

Betty Ackels – Retired

Pete Lincoln – Father of Dominique Carruthers, Active

Steven Dane – Active

**LOCAL 652** Obituaries

Bessie Cadwell – Mother of Dan and Tom Cadwell

Terry R. Craft - Retiree, Spouse of Helen Craft

Donald J. Ells - Retiree, Father-in -Law of Fred Enos III, Grandfather of Dylan Wilson

Katherine Erbskorn - Mother of James Erbskorn

Pauline Flores – Grandmother of Qiana Flores

Jan M. Ganaway – Retiree, Spouse of Gary Ganaway, Mother of Harold Ganaway

Richard "Dick" Green – Retiree, Father of Mike Green and Cindy DeLau, Father-In-Law of Pam Green, Brother of Pat Evans, Uncle of Ed Sawyer, Grandfather of Rollin Green, Tucker Green, Jade

Green. Garrett DeLau and Gavin DeLau, Grandfather-in-Law of Brian Ariganello

Bruce Hornbeck – Retiree

Russell L. Kiplinger Jr. – Member

Timothy "Tim" Landfair - Retiree, Father of Jeremy Landfair, Grandfather of Tyson Landfair

Gilberto Martinez – Retiree

Frederick "Fred" Mazur – Retiree, Brother-in-Law of John H. Babb

Velma McCarrick – Spouse of Richard McCarrick Jr.

Ruth Miller – Retiree

Carl Neumann – Retiree

Kenneth "Ken" Penix – Retiree

Mason Robinson Sr. – Retiree, Father of Ricky T. Robinson

Charles "Charlie" Ryan – Retiree, Brother-in-Law of John Coleman

Duane Sleight – Retiree

Lillian Woodcock – Grandmother of Blake Costello

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