



# LANSING LABOR NEWS

VOLUME 76, ISSUE 5

VOICE OF 28,000 UAW MEMBERS

DECEMBER, 2020

## LOCAL 602

Mike Huerta,  
President



With the election season behind us we can turn our attention towards the holidays. Brothers and Sisters, I would like to wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous 2021.

While COVID prevented us from having a Veterans day event at the union hall that did not stop our Veterans Chair Bernadine Ross from honoring our Veterans at the plant. Thank you Bernadine for organizing a chance for us to thank our active Veterans for their service with some small tokens of appreciation.

I would like to send special holiday wishes to our retirees. This year has brought many challenges and one of them was not being able to see many of you for our normal holiday luncheons. I hope you are safe and well and I look forward to seeing you next year.

It may be easy to reflect on the things that we are missing during

this holiday season, but please be sure to remember the meaning of these holidays. We are coming through one of the most difficult periods of our country's history. We should take a moment to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for, how blessed our families are, and that we may soon have a vaccine for this virus that has shaken the world so horribly. While COVID may force us to change how we celebrate it cannot change who we are. In grim times it is most important to be our best selves. For those that hunger we can offer a meal. For those that are lonely we can offer our voice. Circumstances may separate us physically, but they cannot separate us in other ways. This holiday season many will need more than they ever have, please find a way to be the light of hope during dark days.

Many Charitable organizations have had to change how they are proceeding due to COVID but we can still show our support online:

Toys for Tots Lansing -

[https://marinetoystots.salsalabs.org/localdonationform/index.html?fun\\_local\\_campaign\\_designation=MI-Lansing&scf\\_unit\\_code\\_supporter=MI-Lansing](https://marinetoystots.salsalabs.org/localdonationform/index.html?fun_local_campaign_designation=MI-Lansing&scf_unit_code_supporter=MI-Lansing)

Old Newsboys Lansing -

<https://www.lansingoldnewsboys.org/donate-now/>

Greater Lansing area food bank -

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E344133&id=13>

**UAW Retiree picnic next year (February 2021) will be canceled due to Covid. The hall is reserved for 2022.**

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## LOCAL 724

Todd Collins,  
President



To all our UAW 724 Members. As you are reading this article, we are all experiencing the effects of a second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. All of our Units have been affected in both our work and home lives. Hopefully with the elections behind us and a new president elected we can begin working to help each other and our country to get thru this pandemic. The systemic divide that this election cycle has exposed in our country is a major issue. Our inept ability to have rational, respectful conversation with each other will, I fear, cause an even deeper divide between not only our friends, our co-workers but our families as well. The basic principle of our Union is to come together as One. One common goal. And to look out for one another. We may have differences and disagreements. In my mind those differences and disagreements can, and should, be discussed in a respectful way so that we can all come to an understanding of each other's point of views. With the Holidays upon us I hope that we can all Safely navigate how to spend time with our Family! On the Local front recently our Kirchhoff Unit ratified a new CBA. Congratulations to the Bargaining Committee for bringing the members an agreement that, considering the circumstances, was difficult at best. Our Dakkota Unit is currently in the beginning stages of negotiating an agreement with the company. I have faith that the Bargaining Committee will be able to bring a contract to the members that they can be proud of. My wish for the New Year is that we can look forward to a safe and

healthy 2021 that brings us all peace and prosperity. From my Family to yours I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and the hope and promise of a better New Year.

Solidarity Brothers and Sisters!!

*"IF EVERYONE IS MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER, THEN SUCCESS TAKES CARE OF IT-SELF" - Abraham Lincoln*

## LOCAL 1753

Yvonne Vincent,  
President



Happy Holidays Union Brothers and Sisters,  
I hope you and your family are doing well, despite the current divisions in our society.

We have a newly elected United States President and as with any leader, a person chooses to be a leader for a reason. Biden has stated his intentions to alleviate inequity, unite our communities, and promote justice and equality. But no one can do it alone - WE must do OUR part to help make changes to improve our world.

We also have a new plant manager. Now is the time to call on all of our leaders to be inclusive, value People before profits and build coalitions. More than ever, we have the potential to be heard by the folks in charge, whether here at home or in Washington, D.C. Labor has won a sympathetic ear in the White House, and we must keep this momentum going.

Simply electing pro-worker candidates to office does not mean that all is good and great. Unfairness, discrimination and exploitation still exists. We must stand up for everyone's rights, especially those who have suffered the most, been

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pushed out of the way and vilified - not just over the past four years, but over the last 400 years of our history.

Hopefully our leaders will take the necessary steps to bring all of us into the process. We are fortunate that "The Squad" of progressive congresswomen got re-elected and a new member was added.

#TheSquad now consists of Rashida Tlaib- Michigan, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez- New York, Ilhan Omar- Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley- Massachusetts and Cori Bush-Missouri. These are leaders who stand for Labor causes, as well as Medicare for all, a living wage, stopping global warming, ending systemic racism, and forgiving student debt. Let's hold these and all other leaders who represent us accountable to the People first.

Being part of a Union, I hope that everyone takes steps to unite, in our plant and in our country. Solidarity is the only way forward.

And speaking of togetherness, while I want us to be united metaphorically, what I'd really like is for us to stay six feet apart literally and follow other guidelines put in place by the CDC. Sadly, we are entering into a season that this year will be more defined by separation than by gathering together. While many of us long for the company and warmth of our families and friends in these chaotic times, we know that the best way to show our love for each other will be to keep our get-togethers small in order to keep each one of us safe. The scientists who study pandemics have warned these coming months hold the potential of sparking the biggest outbreak of coronavirus yet, which puts not only Grandma and Grandpa at risk, but our plant, our company and our national economy. Another massive shut-down would be painful for everyone and some businesses would not survive. We all must make difficult decisions to keep ourselves healthy and employed.

The good news is, as far as I know, Cyber Monday has not been canceled! (Please don't use Amazon.)

Take care of yourself and your loved ones.

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## LOCAL 652

Ben Frantz,  
President



Season's Greetings Brothers and Sisters. Looking back through this Calendar year, there are so many events and actions that provided us opportunities for negativity and division. This pandemic has changed our lives, at least for now, in so many ways. The least of which were the closures of our favorite businesses, wearing masks, and not being able to visit family in person. If this virus has negatively affected you or your family, I pray for peace and healing to you and yours during these trying times. It seemed like daily we were seeing actions taken to counter the devastating effects of Covid-19 on our Nation. If someone would have told me at the beginning of the year all of this would transpire, I would not have believed them in the least. Now here we are at the end of the year looking to 2021 to bring us back safely to a pre-corona normal. Though these actions were taken to protect human life, it made them no less irritating to our daily lives. I am the husband of a medical professional, so I have learned these measures are necessary to help protect myself, my in-laws and others in my community. It doesn't mean I have to enjoy them, I just choose to do my part and participate in these preventative measures. As we look to 2021, I hope we can look past the craziness and frustration that presented itself this year and look to find hope and peace in the new year. I plan on making a conscious choice to look for a positive in all situations, which at times feels impossible, and avoid the divisive elements in my life that consistently took me to a negative place. Maybe we can see the realization that living in real life with friends and family is a positive to pull from all of the closures this year. I hope that we as a union and nation can look for reasons to come together once this dark season has passed, instead of reasons to be angry and

divided. Though this year has brought us adversity, through conscious choice, we can be a mechanism of change for the good in our personal lives, worksites and hometowns. Tearing situations and people down will never bring lasting satisfaction, but when we are built up or acknowledged for the efforts we put forth or we acknowledge the efforts of others, we can start to drive the positive change in our country and our lives that is well overdue after the memorable events of this past year. I choose to be a force for good pulling in a forward direction never dwelling on the negative that will inevitably find us all at some point. It is in that light that I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving filled with fun and family. I also would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season with health and prosperity coming to us all in the new year.

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## LOCAL 652

Lena Wyeth,  
Vice President



Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and WOOHOOO!!!  
Joe Biden was elected President of the United States of America!!

I'm so excited and relieved that many our endorsed candidates were elected by the great voters of Michigan. Labor had a great year and we saw record turnout across the state, for sure. Congratulations to those that put in hours of phone banking, making and delivering yard signs, lit dropping and more. Your hard work is appreciated and it definitely didn't go unnoticed. I am especially happy to see the 1st female Vice-President elect of the United States. As VP Harris said, "Dream with ambition and lead with conviction". I have all the confidence in the world that the Biden/Harris ticket will do just that and take this country in the right direction. If you know someone that voted for the other team, please be humble and kind. It's a start in healing our souls as a nation.

We can't relax just yet, however. There will be a senate runoff in Georgia. The future of the PRO Act will be decided in that senate race. The PRO act would be so good for unions and especially good for some friends and workers I've met who hit road blocks when trying to make their facility a union shop. Call your friends and family in Georgia and explain how important it is to vote in the Senate runoff on January 5th, 2021. The senators that supports unions and the PRO act are Dr Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff. If you would like to help Flip Georgia Blue and give to the campaign that supports both candidates, go to <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/flipgeorgiablue>

I hope all of you have a wonderful, yet safe Thanksgiving. My family decided not to get together for our Thanksgiving feast, due to COVID. Despite us not being able to get together, I have so much to be thankful for. As the old song goes, "God's given me a pretty fair hand. I've got a house and a piece of land, a few dollars in a coffee can. My old truck is still running good and my ticker's ticking like they say it should. Lord knows, I'm a lucky (wo)man." I'm so thankful for the people in my life. I'm thankful for my family. My daughter is a hard-working, strong young lady making a life for herself, my parents are still healthy, my brothers gang up on me and tease me as usual. My grandma Wanda is still a spunky 95-year-old, I have great friends, and union brothers and sisters that believe in me and my 2 dogs Lila and Luka are silly and fun as well as my grand-dogs, Sky and Nova. As long as we are all staying healthy and COVID-free, I have an ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE!

More than likely, Christmas dinner will be canceled too, but there will still be magic in the air. Don't forget, Jesus is the reason for the season. If you are in the giving spirit, there are several community charities to give to or volunteer your time. Here is the link to Michigan Capital Area United Way's list: <http://micauw.galaxydigital.com/need/>

Merry Christmas to all and have a safe and happy new year.

**LOCAL 724**  
Gabriel Cabrera,  
Fin. Secretary



Season's Greetings to all my UAW Sisters and Brothers

It is that time of year we all feel that extra joy the season can bring. Minus the amazing weather conditions we have to look forward to!

This year has absolutely been one for the books. With the situation we are facing during this difficult year, we can all be blessed that we have come so far in these trying times. I, for one, am always happy to hear from and see who I can during this pandemic. Technology definitely helps us stay in contact with our loved ones.

As testing continues to keep going, I truly hope we can combat this virus and come up with a solution as to how we can beat it. I urge everyone to do their part and mask-up. As difficult as it may seem to wear one, the consequences of not doing so are far worse.

Online shopping and curbside pickup are best to consider when shopping this holiday season. Staying safe at home and still being able to spread cheer amongst your loved ones should help lighten the blow of our current emergency orders.

Although we have to stay home, this can give us time to spend with our family and digging into some fun activities that does not allow you to leave the comforts of your home. I have found a link to fun activities and crafts that can help the time pass during this period of time things are shut down.

<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/30-fun-things-home.html>

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and stay as safe as ever so we can have a better and open year next year!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

In Solidarity,  
Gabriel Cabrera

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VOICE OF 28,000 MEMBERS

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**LOCAL 652**  
Scott Lounds,  
Rec. Secretary



In this time of pandemic and in the lead up to the recent elections the conspiratorial beliefs held by many American citizens has interested me. It is not a new phenomenon, conspiracy theories have been around for a long time, but they seem to be more prevalent now. A conspiracy theory can generally be defined as an effort to explain an event or events as resulting from the machinations of powerful people who have managed to conceal their role in those events. Most conspiracy theories have some distinctive features, the most important of which is their self-proving quality; which is to say that the very arguments that give rise to them makes it difficult for non-believers to rebut or question them. Debunkers, by the very nature of the conspiracy theories attribution of great power to the conspirators, are always seen as agents of these shadowy powers and as such any evidence provided by them is seen as disingenuous.

The most worrisome part of the spread of conspiracy theories is that they fertilize a growing distrust of factual information, such that it makes it difficult for some people to believe basic truths or science. Take the spread of holocaust denial, a conspiracy theory that holds that the deaths of millions of Jews, Gypsies, Homosexuals, Jehovah Witnesses, and other groups never took place but were fabricated for nefarious reasons. Photographic evidence, eyewitness accounts, the accounts of survivors of the camps and the soldiers that liberated them, all ignored and discredited by the purveyors of this conspiracy theory. In fact, such evidence is seen as a product of the conspiracy itself. Holocaust denial is only one example of a current conspiracy theory, I'm sure each of you can supply more examples of your own.

The rise of social media has magnified one of the main factors in

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the spread of conspiracy theories, namely group polarization. Which is the way in which members of a likeminded group, when engaging with only those who also believe as they do, tend to move toward more and more extreme positions. This process is fueled by confirmation bias, which is the tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories and is exacerbated by the algorithms used by Facebook and other social media sites to predict which content a user wishes to see.

The spread of conspiracy theories can be dangerous and destructive to society and its institutions. This destructive nature can also be seen when you look at the small-scale conspiracy theories that get generated in our worksites. They are also harmful in that they too generate distrust in our processes and our officials. I often find that those who know the least have the greatest ability and propensity to fill gaps in knowledge with a whole host of conspiracies. President-Elect Biden has spoken of unity and the country progressing together as the United States, not red states or blue states, but the irrational need

to cling to conspiracy theories by fringe (at least what was once considered fringe) elements makes this coming together that much more difficult. As for me, I will continue to try to have rational and fact-based conversations with those who disagree with me, though this seems less and less possible or productive every day. In the end, I feel that the only weapons against conspiracy theories and disinformation are the facts.

**LOCAL 4911**  
Rose  
Van Schoick,  
Fin. Secretary



Proud of Our Healthcare Heroes  
Have you ever met an actual Hero in your lifetime? I would like to proudly state that the 2,000+ health care workers of Local 4911 display, each and every day, the qualities of a hero as defined by Meriam-Webster. A Hero is “a person admired for achievements and noble qualities and one who shows great courage”.

We have all been on an extraordinary journey together since March

2020 battling Covid-19. As we ramp up and enter into uncharted territory, the CDC explains that we will simultaneously battle cold/flu season with skyrocketing cases of Covid-19. The CDC recently reported that wearing a mask protects the mask wearer and also the general public. Weekly news reports from doctors repeatedly explain that most of the spread of Covid-19 happens when you are asymptomatic – you have no idea you are possibly contaminating others and sharing this deadly virus because you do not feel sick.

Your health and safety is paramount to our Covid-19 recovery as a family, as an organization and as households in our surrounding communities. Therefore, please remain diligent in your efforts to mask up and stay safe for the Health and Safety of yourselves, your family, your friends, co-workers and neighbors. Follow the protocols and guidelines of the science community. Until there is a vaccination for Covid-19, we must continue to make extraordinary efforts to stay safe and be cautious. Pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer and Moderna are making great strides in the research and production for a vaccination to combat this deadly virus. They are showing us promises of hope, we can see a light at the end of this dark tunnel.

If you have neighbors, family, friends, etc., whom you know can use a helping hand, please reach out to them. Due to social isolation, you may be the only person they speak to on any given day. A few words of encouragement or a positive remark may make someone’s day a little bit brighter in an otherwise dismal environment. If they are 60+ years old, there is a free resource called GetSetUp to help navigate them through technology. An internet connection is necessary to utilize 150+ educational online classes – for free during the next 6 months. (Examples: how to use smartphones, video conferencing, grocery deliveries, etc.)

Members of the community, if you see a Healthcare Hero, you

may find it in your heart to say “thank you” for your efforts to help keep us safe during this pandemic and the uncharted territory on our future horizon.

Healthcare Heroes of UAW Local 4911, (and everyone in the community), please wear your mask with pride knowing that you are doing your part to stay safe while also keeping those around you safe. We all appreciate your extraordinary efforts in the community. We appreciate you; we thank you for your service and we are forever grateful for your courage.

This Holiday season, we may need to break typical family traditions to keep loved ones safe. Together, we can help each other get through this overwhelmingly extremely difficult time in our lives. Please commit to making sacrifices today for the promise of a greater tomorrow. Happy Holidays and stay safe!

**LOCAL 652**  
Matt Schneider,  
Fin. Secretary



First off, I would like to wish all the Lansing Labor News’ readers Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. As you are reading this edition I can imagine that many of you, like myself, will be working with our families as we try to navigate the best options for holiday plans. Covid-19 has brought to us a year like no other, and one that continues to exhaust even as we continue to try and figure out the “right” thing to do.

I would be remiss if I did not give the year some credit though. 2020 began as the Lansing area was moving forward from the historic strike against General Motors. A strike where the hardship was overshadowed by the amazing solidarity shown by the membership, the community, and small business. Our GM unit returned to the launch of two all new products for our facility, one of which, the Cadillac CT5, already received the award for Best Midsize Premium Car in the J.D.

Power 2020 IQS. Each of our four units are humming away on overtime and in the constant state of hiring new members, all while donning the ever-irritating mask.

This year has also reminded us to cherish the value of life. We have watched the numerous heart wrenching news specials about life lost, and the struggles this pandemic has caused for so many, including our own members.

Lastly, while in the midst of a pandemic, Americans found a way to get it done, we found a way to vote. We determined ourselves to do it safely, and in big numbers as well. There is no doubt voting was made a lot easier to accomplish thanks to the many states, like Michigan, whose citizens had previously voted to make the process easier, not harder. Though the pandemic and the red herring certainly made things a little slower than normal, it was no less secure than any other vote. The tight numbers, new processes, and Covid-19 will undoubtedly cause the freedom-haters to come out with new ideas to complicate the right to vote, but I am confident that our citizens, especially working-class unionists, will continue the fight for less restrictive voting.

Once the dust settles on this election, we as working men and women must continue to hold all our elected officials accountable to those things that are so important to our livelihoods as laborers. I have faith that we will re-discover the omnipotence of collective voices, and this nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper.

**LOCAL 1753**  
Tammi Ostrander  
Fin. Secretary



Greetings union brothers and sisters, I would like to introduce myself, since this is my first article. In July 2020, I was elected to the Financial Secretary position for Local 1753, and overcome with joy. I've been with GM and the UAW since September of 2016, and was trying to find my place within the union. Within those few years, I experienced a lot on the floor at Lansing CCA and on the picket line, fighting for our rights. The most important lesson I've learned from my experience is strength in solidarity and strength with involvement in your local union.

Nancy Munchbach, our former Financial Secretary, had announced she was retiring from the position. After many hours of soul searching and encouragement from others, I decided this was my calling and chance to become more actively involved with my union. I attended schooling for accounting, and knew this position in the union would be my dream job! The election and transition to Financial Secretary has been a wealth of experience for me. I would like to thank Nancy for her guidance and training, as well as wish her a happy retirement. I would also like to thank all of my fellow union brothers and sisters that elected me to

this position.

The landscape of our future has changed drastically within this age of pandemic. Take the time to follow safety measures in place to secure your health, not just for the union, but also for your family.

We are fast approaching the holiday season, and staying healthy is very important. Family is my biggest priority, being a mother to 5 children (4 boys and 1 girl), the holidays are always important. Take this time to make memories with your family. I hope everyone has a happy and love filled holiday season.

One final note: Thank you all for this opportunity to be more involved in the union, and I wish to encourage everyone to become more active as well. Solidarity forever!

**LOCAL 602**  
Marta Bobillo  
Retiree



Greetings Sisters and Brothers;

I hope everyone is well. Thank God the General Elections are over. No more campaign literature in the mail that can get very annoying and tiresome but is very necessary to get the information. Now that we have elected the next president please let us all get on the same page and support him and each other for the best results of our country.

The coronavirus is now stronger than ever and we need to take it seriously. Take care of your family and yourself. We have lost numerous members to it.

From my family to your family, we would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of love, health and happiness. Let's pray that 2021 will be much better for all of us.

Please be kind to each other because we don't know when is the last time we see each other.

Love, Peace and Justice To All,  
In Solidarity,

**LOCAL 1753**  
Laura Clark  
Retiree



Hello Brothers and Sisters:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Considering this year, you can get looks and or discussion on how merry or happy it is! 2020 has not been the best, but vaccines are coming, and we will get through this like we have other epidemics. It is rough, but when you're down and tired of it all, you/we should have a heart to heart talk with yourself. Laura (your name here). We have survived the election, and we will survive Christmas! We did not lose our jobs, and we did not lose our lives. We have friends, family, neighbors, pets and coworkers. They love and miss us, just as I love and miss all of you.

Speaking of discussions, on police unions becoming part of public unions, I heard this: if we installed red light cameras for traffic, we would avoid harmful interactions, make money on fines and free police to do the tough jobs they signed up for. That would be protecting us and rounding up criminals. We still have unsolved murders and other crimes.

You can be proud though, while we have not been together for our monthly meeting and lunch, we have made sure each month that others in this area might eat, with donations to the food bank. Even though we are not having a Christmas party, you should. If you live alone, you really should! it's time to do a turkey breast. You can buy just one and cook it up. You are worth it, have your own celebration of the season. We will make sure to still donate to our top four charities. We will still have calendars, though they will not be stamped. We still do not know when this will be over and we can get together again. To help, wear a mask and distance yourself from others in public situations. You can stop at the hall and pick up a calendar if you wear a mask and apply social distancing.

I wanted to leave you with a

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thought. After the death of the notorious Ruth Bader Ginsberg, her rabbi was extolling her virtues and all her accomplishments and she said Ruth was one person. We all have that same power of one person. Local 602 was collecting material to take to their leader Marta; she made over a hundred masks. We give to the food bank, what can you do? What can your local do? If you have a great idea call me (517 484-0507) or leave a message at the hall.

**LOCAL 652**

Mike Bauer  
Retiree

Happy Holidays everyone.

As you are well aware the pandemic has entered its second wave, as predicted, and will now partner with cold and flu season. As of this writing the number of cases has skyrocketed out of control. Due to these circumstances the retiree chapter will not be meeting until further notice. There are some vaccines on the horizon that may prove to be effective. As they become readily available the decision to meet as a group will be reevaluated again. Many

factors will play into this determination - how effective the vaccine is, how many are getting it, what stipulations the health department puts on groups, etc. It has also been stated that it is not known how long these vaccines can be expected to be effective. There is still a lot of information for the professionals to sort out before it will be safe to meet again. I will keep you updated in future issues of the Lansing Labor News as additional information is passed down.

In the meantime, if you need assistance from the Benefit Reps they are at the hall Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They generally go to lunch from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. They can be reached at 517-372-7581 ext. 500. You may need to leave a message.

Everyone entering the union hall must wear a mask. This is for your protection and to protect the workers at the hall. The health department has made it clear our best defense is to wear a mask, wash your hands, avoid crowds. The end of the pandemic is potentially in sight. Let's all do what we can to make it end sooner rather than later.

Take care - stay safe.

**Capital Area  
United Way  
Dean Poggiali**



2020 sure has been a rollercoaster in our lives. This has been without precedent in my lifetime. Also I recently spoke with my dad who turned 91 in September and he was equally baffled by the circumstances we have been encountering. Both of us hoped that we will turn the corner soon so that we can find some semblance of normalcy and also plan a face to face visit.

As we navigate these uncharted waters, please know that if anyone has an issue within their family circle by all means contact me. I may not have the answer, but am willing to problem solve with your family to find that middle ground of help. You also have the 2-1-1 information and help line at your disposal. They have updated information of services available within our respective areas. The capital Area United Way (CAUW) and other United Ways in the area have participated on a weekly call with their Central MI 2-1-1

call center for updates and information sharing.

Recently CAUW was the recipient of an anonymous donation of shoes and boots. It involved picking them up, bringing them back to town and then sorting them out for distribution to area non-profits in the tri-county area. On group that received some of the shoes was Footprints of Michigan. Footprints was started by a former UAW member, Geronimo Lerma who saw an unmet need for footwear in our community. At first Geronimo did the work with a band of volunteers all while continuing to work. Finally the outreach expanded and he was able to devote his passion and time full time. This is what we do in our community, try to make sure that we commit to our fellow human beings. It was good to see Geronimo again as my grandson Emilio and myself helped him load up the donations before he was on his way again.

Many of the time honored events in the community will undoubtedly take a form due to the virus. This includes but not limited to the Old Newsboys, the Toys for Tots, and the Walk for Warmth. These event still will need to receive our support. It may take a different approach for our support as gate collections may not be either feasible or allowed.

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

**UAW Local 602  
Leadership**





# We wish you Happy Holidays and a bright New Year !



Ben Frantz, President  
Lena Wyeth, Vice President  
Scott Lounds, Recording Secretary  
Matt Schneider, Financial Secretary



Rollin Green, GM Chair  
Annie Rankin, GM LOC Chair  
Mike Luna, Ryder Chair  
Jake Jacobson, Avancez Chair



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



Another event that happens after the first of the year is the labor/United Way community service classes. Usually starting in February and running for about eight weeks may have a different feel this year. At this juncture there have been some plans to still conduct these sessions via the Zoom platform for the safety and well-being of all involved. Hopefully the letter will go out to the local union halls within the next several weeks. If you have any questions you contact me at [d.poggiali@micauw.org](mailto:d.poggiali@micauw.org)

As we approach the holiday season and celebrate our families and our traditions, please remember those who have been struggling in this pandemic. A simple blessing in your heart may be passed tenfold in the community

Be safe and may peace be with you.

**LOCAL 4911**  
Muhammad  
Qawwee,  
President



Happy Holidays to all UAW members and I know none of us thought we would still be isolated going into the holiday season. Along with the increases in the virus around us, at

least in our world more of our co-workers are being infected and putting a heavy burden on the staff that are still working hard to service our community. All of the UAW leadership and members in and outside of our community appreciate you and look up to us. Your devotion is not going unnoticed and I have people comment on the excellent job we are doing here at Sparrow. If you get a moment to reflect on this crazy year, patience and courage should be a badge of honor of what we do every day. Take time (if possible) to appreciate yourself and find time to recharge your spirit from the inside out. Look at this special time of year to enjoy the small things in life because as we see in the numbers of those who have not won their battle with this virus, the next day is not promised to anyone. God bless all the members of the UAW and non-members the same. In Solidarity



### LOCAL 602 Obituaries

- Robert L Getter - Retired
- Norman Jones - Retired
- Russell A. Sharkey
- Frank Martemucci – Retired
- Roger Glumm – Retired
- Vivian Speck – Retired
- Jeffrey Sprague – Retired
- Charles Coleman – Retired
- G. Jean Olsen – Retired
- Barbara Mayes – Mother of Kevin Mayes, Quality Care
- Carol Gorman – Mother of Scott Merchant, Paint
- Nicholas Curry – Step Son of Jon Faynor, Paint
- Monette Burk – Step Mother of Dustin Burk, Materials Trim
- Judy Kathleen Elliott – Spouse of Cecil G. Elliott
- Terry Lewis – Father of Terry Lewis, Quality/Body Paint
- Nikolaos Pehlivanoglou – Retired
- Kimberly Mailand – General Assembly

- George Urdiales – Retired
- June M. Ferrell – Body Doors

### LOCAL 652 Obituaries

- DeSenthia Barry – Member, Daughter of Bonnie Degree
- Sheena Leigh Erin Coleman – Daughter of Melvin Coleman
- John Earls – Member, Son of Jerry Earls
- Jane Haney – Spouse of Joseph Haney, Mother of John Haney
- Russell “Gene” Lewis – Retiree
- Ramon “Ray” Lira Jr. – Retiree, Brother of Edward Lira
- Lavern Lyons – Retiree
- Gary Moyer – Retiree
- Lawrence “Jack” Peak – Retiree
- Steve Schelter – Retiree, Father of Katelin Schelter, Brother of Andrew and Joseph Schelter
- Terry “Big T” Southerly – Retiree, Father of Jay Southerly
- Barbara Turnley – Daughter of Bonnie Degree
- Joe Zimmerman - Retiree



*Here is some information on this great organization from their website*

The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is directed by the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, with the assistance of his staff, from the Marine Forces Reserve.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Marine Toys for Tots. An IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity, it serves as the authorized fundraising and support organization for the Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation provides the leadership, funding, and support needed for successful annual toy collection and distribution campaigns. The Foundation staff is headquartered in the Cooper Center located just outside the Main Gate of Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia, about 35 miles south of Washington, DC.

Local campaigns are conducted annually in over 800 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The Commander, Marine Forces Reserve has under his command over 150 Reserve Units located in 47 states. To cover all 50 states and more communities in each state, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation selects Marine Corps League Detachments and Local Community Organizations (generally veteran Marines) located in communities without a Marine Reserve Center, to conduct Toys for Tots Campaigns as part of the overall Marine Toys for Tots Program.

One individual, either a Marine, member of a Marine Corps League Detachment, or member of a local community organization, is designated the Toys for Tots Coordinator for that community. The Coordinator is responsible to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation for planning, organizing and conducting the campaign in his/her community.

Local toy collection campaigns begin in October and last until mid to late December. Toy distribution

also takes place mid to late December. Members of the community drop new, unwrapped toys in collection boxes positioned in local businesses. Coordinators pick up these toys and store them in central warehouses where the toys are sorted by age and gender. At Christmas, Coordinators, with the assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local community agencies, distribute the toys to the less fortunate children of the community. Over the years, Marines have established close working relationships with social welfare agencies, churches and other local community agencies which are well qualified to identify the needy children in the community and play important roles in the distribution of the toys.

While Toys for Tots Coordinators organize, coordinate and manage the campaign, the ultimate success depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of the people who donate toys.

Local business leaders play key roles. They allow Coordinators to locate drop-off/collection boxes in their stores; provide free warehouse space for storing and sorting toys during October, November and December; provide vehicles to collect toys from drop-off sites; sponsor toy raising events; and help Coordinators arrange media exposure for Toys for Tots in the local community.

National corporations support Toys for Tots by establishing affiliations with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. These corporations make donations to the Foundation or conduct cause marketing initiatives from which they share royalties with the Foundation. In almost every instance, the marketing initiatives of these corporations give significant added visibility and name recognition to Toys for Tots. Such visibility enhances the campaign at the national and local levels. The funds emanating from these affiliations enable the Foundation to purchase toys to supplement local collections; purchase promotion and support materials and defray the costs of annual Toys for Tots Campaigns.



The Old Newsboys Association of Greater Lansing is a non-profit, equal opportunity, charitable organization, whose sole purpose is to provide footwear to children in Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties.

Lansing's tradition of raising money to provide shoes and boots for deserving schoolchildren began around 1910 when truant officer George E. Palmer established the Palmer Shoe Fund.

In 1924 the Old Newsboys Association, led by its first president R. Guy Brownson, was organized to assist in the efforts begun by Palmer. Since 1932 The Old Newsboys cooperated with The State Journal and the Lansing Capital News to publish and sell a spoof newspaper during a one-day fund-raising drive. Clergy, educators, businessmen, politicians and other citizens joined in the effort. The Spoof Journal is annually hawked by Old Newsboys on streets and in workplaces throughout Greater Lansing.

A Michigan Historical Marker in Wentworth Park honors the Old Newsboys.



Nearly half of low-income Americans reported that they or someone in their household experienced some type of income loss during the pandemic, according to information published by Pew Research Center. Because more people are facing hardship this year due to the impacts of COVID-19, more families in your community will likely be in need of assistance this holiday season and into 2021.

Organizations like The Salvation Army estimate they could serve up to 155% more people with Christmas assistance this year, assuming the resources are available, based on increased services already provided during the pandemic. In order to aid those most vulnerable, nonprofit organizations across the nation need your help.

Consider donating gifts in bulk at Christmastime, or explore other ways to make an impact and serve as a beacon of hope for those in need:

**Donate Food** - Gathering around a table filled with homemade food is a treasured tradition for many families, but for others it's a luxury beyond reach. Donating food to your local food pantry or other community organizations can help give the gift of Christmas, ensuring more families are able to come together to enjoy a meal as part of their holiday celebrations.

**Volunteer Your Time** - Not all gifts require spending money. You can give back by volunteering your time to make the holiday season brighter for families and individuals who need assistance. Organizations in your area often need volunteers for projects like sorting food and necessities for care packages, serving food in soup kitchens or making holiday cards to send to nursing homes.

Another example of how to get involved is through The Salvation Army's iconic Red Kettle Campaign. Protocols are in place to ensure the safety of bell ringers, donors and partners, so enthusiastic bell ringers can join the effort and help raise money this holiday season.

**Adopt a Child for the Holidays** - Some local organizations work directly with low-income families in the community to identify their children's specific needs. They gather information on each child in the family, including their special interests, clothing sizes and wishes for holiday gifts. When you adopt a child or family, whether on your own or in partnership with others, you commit to purchasing items on the child's wish list to ensure they have everything he or she needs to celebrate the season, from food and gifts to clothing essentials.

**Give a Recurring Gift** - A staple of the holiday season, The Salvation Army's red kettles raised \$126 million last year. That amount could be reduced by up to 50% due to the closing of retail stores, less retail foot traffic and an increasing unemployment rate, which would significantly limit the organization's ability to provide needed services to the most vulnerable. Enlisting in Love's Army with a sustaining monthly gift of \$25 can help meet the growing need for assistance at Christmastime and into 2021. Your gift is invested locally, so

# LANSING LABOR NEWS WISHES OUR MEMBERS A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



you can be sure you're helping rescue Christmas for those in need in your own community.

Another way to give money is by making a charitable gift in a loved one's name. Many organizations will provide a card acknowledging your one-time or ongoing gift, which you can wrap and give as a gift with a note explaining the thoughtful gesture.

To get involved or find more ways to help, visit [rescuechristmas.org](http://rescuechristmas.org).

## Most Needed Holiday Items

Every Christmas there are families who don't exchange gifts because they can't afford them. However, many communities offer programs that rely on donations to put new clothes and toys under the tree for children and families that usually go without Christmas gifts.

One example is The Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program, which connects a sponsor with a deserving child (or "Angel"). The trees can be found during the holiday season at retail stores, businesses and other locations throughout many communities. Anonymous donors select a

name off of a tree, purchase the items listed on the tag and bring them back to the drop-off location to be donated.

Whether you're able to adopt a child or simply provide a few items, be on the lookout for these commonly requested items as you tackle your holiday shopping this year:

- \* Baby necessities like bottles, blankets, diapers and wipes
- \* Warm weather attire, like winter coats, mittens, hats and scarves
- \* Books or board games
- \* Dolls, action figures or other toys that inspire imaginative play
- \* School and art supplies
- \* Personal care items like shampoo, soap, deodorant or hair products
- \* Cleaning supplies
- \* Laundry detergent and fabric softener
- \* Gift cards to retail stores
- \* Pre-paid gas cards
- \* Restaurant or grocery gift certificates

Source: Salvation Army



## UAW Local 602 ELECTION NOTICE



### DISTRICT SHOP COMMITTEE PERSON

(1 position total) TERM for this position ends June 2022  
(Only current elected District Committee people can run)  
(All active members are eligible to vote)

### CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIRPERSON

(1 position total) TERM for this position ends June 2023  
(All active & retired are eligible to run/vote for this position)

#### **Sign-Up to run:**

**7am-6pm, Monday, January 4 thru Friday January 8, 2021**  
**at UAW Local 602 Union Hall**  
**2510 W Michigan Ave., Lansing MI 48917**

**Election will be held 11am, Tuesday, January 26, 2021 until 11am Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at three (3) Locations:**

**GA Cafetorium, LDT, 8175 Millett Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917**

**Body Shop Grand Am Room, LDT, 8175 Millett Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917**

**UAW Local 602 Union Hall, 2510 W Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917**

RUN-OFF ELECTION, IF NECESSARY, WILL BE AT SAME LOCATIONS AT

11:00AM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021 UNTIL 11:00AM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

**Should business conditions at LDT prevent in plant voting, election will only be held at UAW Local 602 Union Hall.**

**You will need your photo ID, gate card, OR current union membership card to vote**

*Brian Stead*  
Brian Stead, Chair  
Elections Comm

*Jeri Smith*  
Jeri Smith, Co-Chair  
Elections Comm

*Kevin Barium*  
Kevin Barium, Co-Chair  
Elections Comm

*Jennifer Hoerauf*  
Jennifer Hoerauf, Co-Chair  
Elections Comm

*Mike Huerta*  
Mike Huerta, President  
UAW Local 602

sc/meg-opeliu42affcio

POST: 11-17-2020

REMOVE: 1-8-2021pm



UAW Local 602 President Mike Huerta, Shop Chairman Jeff Kosloski and District Shop committee member Brian Worlock met with Rep. Elissa Slotkin to discuss multiple issues regarding the auto industry and organized labor.

### Eat and Drink Smart to Fend Off Cold and Flu Season

It's no secret that a balanced diet with plenty of fruits and veggies can deliver important vitamins and nutrients for better health, but many of your favorite foods can actually help support your immune system, too.

In addition to precautions like avoiding people who are sick and washing your hands often, you can influence your immune system through what you eat and drink.

Keeping well hydrated can be difficult during the winter months, especially if you spend most of your time indoors. A warm drink like this flavorful Orange Spiced Tea provides a strong dose of vitamin C along with a delicious dose of hydration.

Fresh, seasonal fruits and veggies often come to mind during warmer months, but produce like citrus, leafy greens and root vegetables are plentiful during cold and flu season, too.

"Consuming the whole fruit is the best way to ensure you gain the maximum nutritional benefit," Dr. Poonam Desai said. "When speaking with patients, I recommend seeking nutrients like vitamin C from whole food sources, rather than supplements, especially with a vitamin C-rich fruit like California oranges."

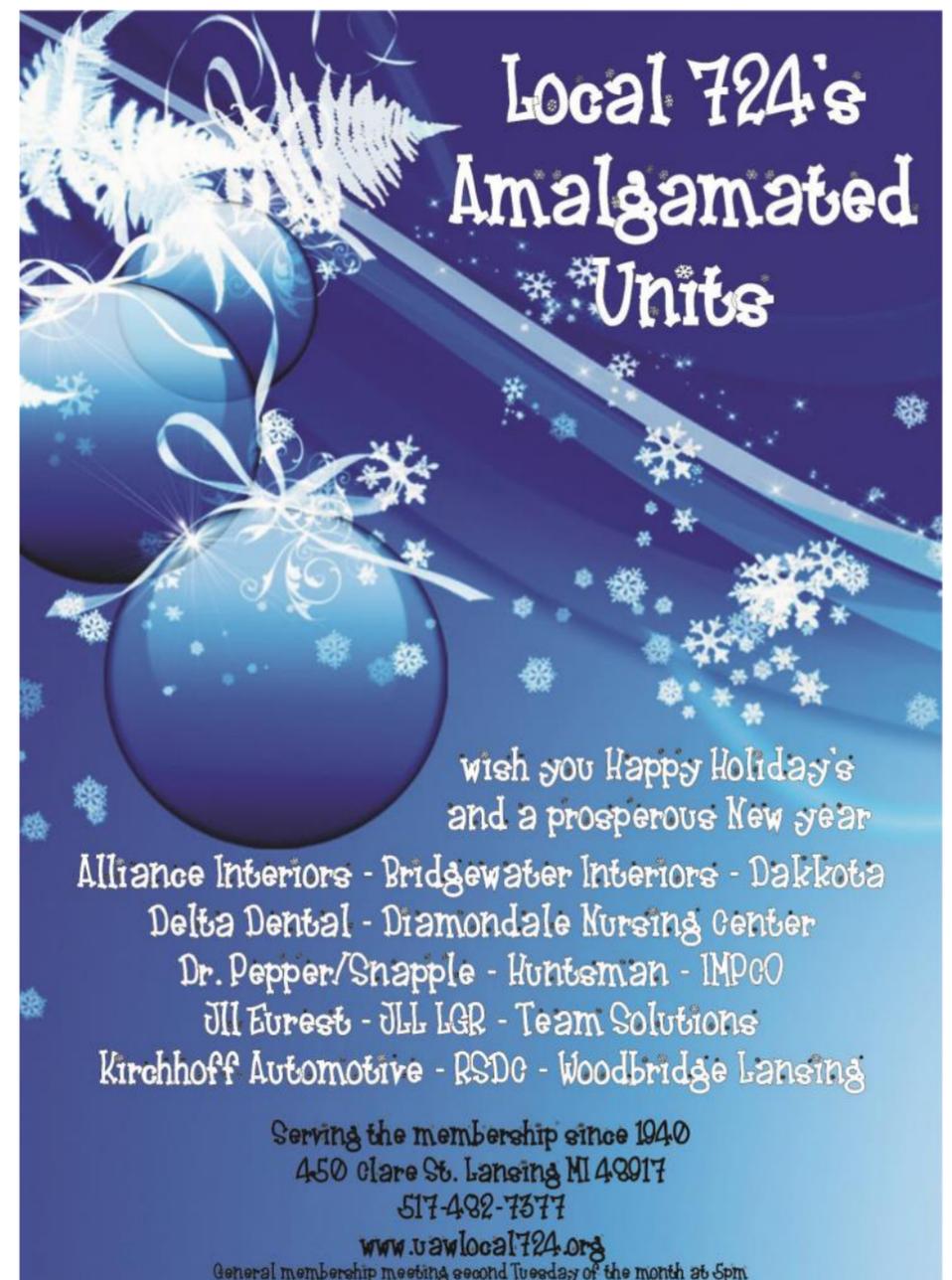
Vitamins A and C, found in fresh citrus, are two key nutrients that support your body's natural line of defense, your immune system. Just one orange offers 90% of the daily rec-

ommended value of vitamin C, and California Navel oranges are in their peak season - just in time for the height of cold and flu season.

Get inspired with more ideas to boost your immune system with essential vitamins and nutrients at [californiacitrusgrowers.com](http://californiacitrusgrowers.com).

#### 5 Ways to Get More Vitamin C

- \* Pick heavy fruit. When shopping for citrus, choose fruit that smells fresh and feels heavy for its size. The heavier the orange, the juicier it's likely to be.
- \* Explore versatility. Fresh citrus like California Navel oranges make a nutritious addition to sweet and savory dishes, beverages, cocktails, sauces and more.
- \* Use the whole fruit. Reduce food waste by consuming the flesh, juice, zest and peel. Try squeezing juice and grating zest into a smoothie, using orange segments for a vibrant salad or combining diced Navels with red onion, cilantro and jalapenos for a zesty salsa.
- \* Retain vitamin C content. Vitamin C is water soluble, so to retain as much as possible, eat citrus fresh, avoid overcooking and use minimal amounts of water.
- \* Refrigerate for longer shelf life. Keep your citrus fresh longer by storing it in the refrigerator at a temperature below 42 F. To get the most juice out of the orange, bring it to room temperature before cooking.



With Covid-19 cases on the rise and the recent MDHHS order, we'd like to remind everyone to be safe during the holiday season. Please practice safe habits. Here are some guidelines as well as what's in the MDHHS order.

## 10 things you can do to manage your COVID-19 symptoms at home

Accessible Version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

### If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19:

- Stay home** from work and school. And stay away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.
- Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.
- Get rest and stay hydrated.**
- If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.
- For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.
- Cover your cough and sneezes** with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.
- Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a mask.
- Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.
- Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# COVID-19 PAUSE TO SAVE LIVES

## Open

- Two-household gathering (high precautions)\*
- Small outdoor gatherings (25 people)
- Retail
- Preschool through 8th grade (local district choice)
- Childcare
- Manufacturing, construction, other work that is impossible to do remotely
- Public transit
- Hair salons, barber shops, other personal services
- Gyms and pools (for individual exercise)
- Restaurants and bars (outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery)
- Professional sports\*\* (without spectators)
- Parks and outdoor recreation
- Funerals (25 people)
- Health care

\*See Social Gathering Guidance.

\*\*Includes a limited number of NCAA sports.

## Not open

- High schools (in-person learning)
- Colleges and universities (in-person learning)
- Workplaces, when work can be done from home
- Restaurants and bars (indoor dining)
- Organized sports, except professional sports
- Theaters, movie theaters, stadiums, arenas
- Bowling centers, ice skating rinks, indoor water parks
- Bingo halls, casinos, arcades
- Group fitness classes

For more information about the order, visit [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus). Questions or concerns can be emailed to [COVID19@michigan.gov](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov).



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\*Annual Percentage Rate. Based on credit approval. Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Rate accurate as of 11/01/20. Twelve monthly payments of \$86.06 for every \$1,000 financed. Additional restrictions may apply. Promotion is good from 11/01/20 - 12/31/20.

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