



# Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 66, NUMBER 5

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS



DECEMBER, 2010

## We helped save GM and others want to take credit

By Mike Green, President  
UAW Local 652

My thanks to everyone who got out to vote on November 2. Results were not what we wanted. Our work will be very tough with Republicans winning a majority in the national and state legislatures. Attacks on labor issues, such as the unemployment compensation extension, will be on the line.

Our membership has gone through a lot of changes which were necessary for the survival of GM and the UAW across our nation. With GM emerging from bankruptcy and now the IPO (Initial Public Offering) of stock, it has everybody's attention across the nation because now the government could sell their share of stocks to start the process of repayment of the \$50 billion dollar ownership of GM stock, as reported by Tom Krisher of the Associated Press in the November 18 issue of the Lansing State Journal.

With everyone excited over the turnaround by the auto company, many will take credit. But the next report from Bloomberg Agency by Craig Trudell on November 19 reported that Senator Bob Corker says he is vindicated by GM's IPO for pressing demands on automakers. Corker said in the article that he knows he's not popular in Michigan for his involvement in the transaction. I want our membership to know that Senator Bob Corker is no friend of labor, nor should he take any credit for making necessary steps for the automakers' success.

Our membership in the UAW took action in October, 2005 on a midterm special agreement upon recommendation by then President Ron Gettelfinger and Vice President Richard Shoemaker that action was necessary to save the health insurance for our retired workers. At that time, GM's market share had dropped from 41 percent in 1985 to

26 percent in May of 2005, with a credit rating of junk status (non-investment) and losses of \$4.2 billion in North American and a forecast that GM would suffer losses in 2006 and 2007.

In the 1970's GM had 490,000 active workers and 90,000 retirees. By 2005 there were 110,000 active workers and over 519,000 retired workers!

To save the health insurance for our retired members, a VEBA Trust was agreed to and funded by a \$3 billion payment from GM, with retirees paying \$10 for single and \$21 for family contribution. Active workers would contribute the deferral of pay increases of \$1 per hour, plus future COLA deferrals of two cents per hour. In the 2007 agreement (which will appear on the Labor News website, [lansinglabornews.org](http://lansinglabornews.org)), entry-level new hires moved to \$14 an hour, with no defined pension plan, no health care in retirement.

You can see that we as UAW members helped save GM and the UAW, not Senator Bob Corker. Some folks would like to drive a wedge between our active and retired members. So let me be clear: we will always protect our retired and active workers.

**OLDSMOBILE  
FLORIDA PICNIC**  
UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753  
and LAFCU,  
**BOTH SALARY & HOURLY**  
**February 22, 2011**

In Bradenton, Florida

American Legion  
Kirby Steward Post  
24000 75th Street West  
(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)

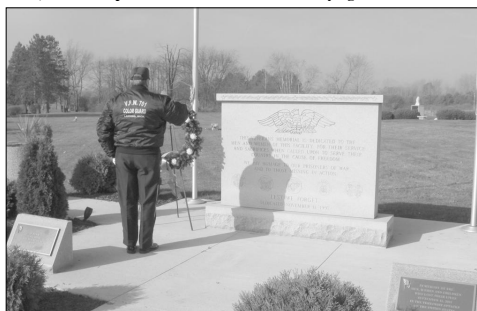
Register at 11 a.m.

Eat at Noon

Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Make plans to attend and see your friends from Lansing. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.



ABOVE, left to right: Hanna Fox, Local 1618's Retiree Vice Chair; Mike Green, President of Local 652; and Brian Fredline, President of Local 602. There were at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens on West Grand River for a wreath-laying and ceremony to honor our veterans. Chapel Hill hosts the fine memorial that once was outside the Craft Centre. Rather than let it be lost or ruined, Local 1618 arranged to have it moved to Chapel Hill some years ago. Our gratitude goes to all who were involved with this year's event, as well as past memorials. BELOW: The laying of the wreath.



### Shop union for the holidays

If you're still shopping after Black Friday and Cyber Monday, the AFL-CIO Union Label & Service Trades Department suggests you start your shopping list with a visit to: [www.unionlabel.org](http://www.unionlabel.org), and click on Union Products.

If you can't find what you're looking for there, move on to the websites of individual unions that show up as links on that page.

### Local 602 Hourly & Salaried Retirees Annual Florida Picnic First Tuesday of March

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Duffy's Restaurant  
6010 14th St. W  
Bradenton, FL  
(One mile south of Stacey's Buffet, which closed)  
\$6.00 - \$7.00 per person  
Questions: Call Larry Miller at  
941/746-6968 (home)  
269/664-6633 (cell)

**LOCAL 602**  
**Brian Fredline, President**

## Keep your eyes on the bad guys

Let me take this opportunity to wish all the membership of UAW Local 602, active and retired, a happy and safe holiday season. Our active employees know what a crazy year we have had at the plant with transfers, maximum overtime, addition of a third shift, and what I would consider to be pretty heavy-handed managers!



Just an FYI for the retired members, we have had members transfer in from all over the USA and Local 602 is now the largest UAW-GM Local in the country. Our membership now represents over 20 different UAW locals from all across the country. This level of change in so short a period of time is extremely stressful and I think it is remarkable that our membership continues to build world-class products each and every day. Thank you for your efforts, and thank you retirees for providing us a strong foundation on which to build. Demand for our crossover products remains strong, and we anticipate a more steady state of production scheduling for 2011.

We will soon be launching our new and improved website, which will keep our expanding membership up to date with news and happenings at Local 602. With the outcome of the recent national and state elections, we expect the attacks on working middle-class families and the unemployed to skyrocket under the guise of "fiscal responsibility"—and I want to keep an eye on the bad guys so we can see what they are up to next.

Just days after the election, the deficit commission has already suggested cuts in Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare, and canceling long-established tax deductions for the middle class. Republican members of the House and Senate are playing poker with the unemployed by betting that we will extend the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy in exchange for unemployment extensions that are critical to the survival of needy families.

And this is just the beginning. They haven't even been sworn in and they are already shooting across the bow of Labor and the social and economic justice that we fight for.

On the state level, their agenda is to privatize state workers, cut critical social programs for the most vulnerable of our citizens, and in my opinion, "right-to-work" legislation is not far behind! So this holiday season, let's give thanks for the blessings we enjoy, let's celebrate the values of a society that cares for one another, and let's keep both eyes on the bad guys!

### Local 602 meetings

We have a (hopefully temporary) change to our meeting times because of the shift time situation on the plant. On December 12 our executive board meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. and our general membership meeting at 6:00 p.m. Also please note that our hall hours are now 7 a.m.—4 p.m. M-F.



**Local 1618 members gathered with leaders from other locals to remember our veterans in November.**

**LOCAL 724**  
**Dean Poggiali, President**

## In the spirit of the season

As we embark on the holiday season, let us wish to you and yours a time spent with family, faith, food and fun. These last few years have been extremely difficult for many of us in the middle class. We encounter more issues on a daily basis than we could have even fathomed to deal with in our lifetimes. That is why it is important that we try to reflect on what we have versus what we don't have. This may be a concept that is a struggle to realize. If we focus on life-sustaining qualities we can learn to cope with the daily grind.



In the spirit of the holiday events, the Local will again have the hat, scarf, mitten, glove tree in the front hallway. We have already received donations so far. These handmade donations were sewn with love and the gift of warmth for those in need. We have donated these items to the Salvation Army so that they may be given to the folks who seek their services.

We are also collecting for Toys for Tots again this year. At this juncture the pick-up time for the collection is uncertain, so please get them to the hall as soon as possible. We will forward any late arrivals to the appropriate resources as we have done in the past.

Also worth noting is the annual Old Newsboys "spoof" paper sales. The sale will be held on Thursday, December 2. Many of our worksites have participated in the past in this most worthy of causes. The collections again go the most deserving of kids who may go without proper shoes and/or boots to fight the snow and cold of the Michigan winters.

Speaking of the causes we champion, the annual Capital Area United Way drives at many of our worksites have been tremendous. Several Local 724 worksites have exceeded the pledges from the previous year. Again our members have seen the need to help the community. Even with the tough economy the membership has stepped up to meet the challenge. Thanks to all those who have made pledges to help our commu-

nity become a better place to live, work, and worship.

I must beg forgiveness in my absent-mindedness. The One Nation rally held in October in Washington DC was an experience that will live with this humble member for a lifetime. The literally thousands of likeminded participants believed that this is our America, not the special interests, the radical right wing or the Tea Party. As I talked to folks after the event the media slanted the visuals and the commentary to the detriment when comparing the One Nation event to the love-fest Glenn Beck held. A friend of mine from the media in Washington DC noticed that camera angles were less than flattering to the One Nation coverage. Although the bus ride was a rough go on the body, it was worth the weekend. We would like to recognize the following Local 724 members who we were aware made the trip: Debra, Karen, Lear, and Shelley from Dakkota; Jason from Bridgewater; Abeda and Gail from Delta Dental; Kristine from RSDC; Chris and family from the Lear Unit; former Vice President, past Huntsman Chair and current Region 1-C Servicing rep Tony Chandler, and yours truly.

In closing I would be remiss in not thanking our membership for their quality of workmanship, ability to adapt to all the challenges faced in today's volatile economy, being UAW proud and contributing to the quality of life for our communities. Without our presence the middle class would be but a mere footnote in the annals of history. We stand to continue to increase our numbers as new work is placed within our borders. Although this is attributed to the General Motors facilities, the whole community feels the ripple of the impact.

May the wind be at your back and peace and joy within your soul.

### Please Help Local 724's Holiday Warmth Tree

Each year our Holiday Warmth Tree has been a big success because of all of you, so we need all your donations again this year to provide our families in need with new hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to put on the tree. We will get these gifts to needy people in our community. Please drop off your items from December 1 to December 22 at the 724 hall during these hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**LOCAL 1753**  
**Al Vincent, President**

## Time changes

There was a motion to change the starting time and day for our Local 1753 union meetings at our October meeting. The motion passed. Starting in January of 2011, our local general membership meetings will be held on the third SUNDAY of the month at 6:00 p.m. The problem was that our meetings were on Wednesday at 2:15 p.m. And there lay the problem with a 2:15 starting time. This was a perfect time until management changed the starting time for the afternoon shift to 3:00 p.m. Those working that shift had to leave the meeting after 25 minutes. We were hoping the company would change back to their old time, but that has not happened. We will give this new time a go, and see if this brings a better turnout. Remember, third Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m.



**ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE:** Remember to mark your calendar for Thursday, December 9 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. This is the date and time for our annual Local 1753 open house. This is open for active and retired members. There will be food and drinks, but we will not stop you if you want to bring a dish to pass. It is always pleasure to see the ones who made this union a great place to work, retired or active.

**YES, retirees, you will get a Christmas bonus this year.** The rule of thumb is "if you got one last year, you will get one this year."

At our January 16 general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for the Election Committee, for the next three years. Six permanent members and three alternates. Election for this committee will take place at the February 20 general membership meeting. These positions are open for both active and retired members. BUT if you are thinking of running for any position in the general election next May, you cannot be on the Election Committee. You must be present at the January meeting to put your name up for nomination or to accept your name put in nomination by another member.

I truly believe General Motors is on the way to bigger and better things. They are leaner and meaner. Just ask any retiree, they will tell you they are glad they retired when they did. I don't know any that want to go back to work.

Let's see if GM learned who helped them through their tough times the last couple of years. GM might have the upper hand in the 2011 contract negotiations but the UAW is no dummy.

**Al's Food for Thought:** Whiskey makes you think you're smarter than you are. Women and cats will do as they please, so men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea. Merry Christmas and a Great 2011.

**December General Membership meeting is canceled.**

**Membership meetings for 2011:**

Sunday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m.  
EXEC. BOARD Wednesday, December 22 at 2:15 p.m.  
January and February — see postings

**LOCAL 602**  
**Connie Swander, Fin. Secretary**

## Facing the political facts

The election is over, and it didn't turn out as I had hoped. Wouldn't it be nice if both sides, Democrats and Republicans, could work together for the good of the people as they say they will do? I often wonder what people they are talking about. Because far too often, it doesn't feel like it's good for me. How about you?



It's always been said the Republicans are for big business, and the Democrats are for the working person. I think overall it still pretty much plays that way.

In all my working years, I have always made more money and had better job security under a Democrat than I have ever had under a Republican.

Lots of people get upset because they feel the UAW tells them who to vote for. The UAW supports those who support the UAW family, and that's you and me.

It is only trying to stand with the people who stand up for us when it comes to making a living or having benefits. That's what I want the UAW to do. What do you want it to do?

Let's hope this Republican regime does not cost us everything the UAW has helped us gain and that we are able to continue to prosper and live with dignity.

**Local 602  
Holiday  
Open House**  
**Retired/Active  
Members & Their Families!**  
**Friday, December 17**  
**5 am-10 am Breakfast**  
**12 pm-4 pm Refreshments**  
**UAW Local 602 Union Hall**  
2510 W. Michigan Avenue,  
Lansing, MI 48917  
517-372-4626  
**Join Local 602**  
**in celebrating the season**  
**with food, fun,**  
**and fellowship!**  
**Hope to see you there!**

**Buy Union!**  
**Buy**  
**American!**

### Local 2256 meetings

Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The executive board meets at 6:30 p.m. and the general membership meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are at the hall, 2114 N. East St., Lansing. Phone 485-5883.

**LOCAL 652**  
**Randy Freeman, Vice President**

## Submit contract concerns

The 2011 local and national negotiations are fast approaching. Every member is urged to submit concerns to their committeeperson or the Local 652 union hall. You can get blank concern sheets from the Labor News website at [lansinglabornews.org](http://lansinglabornews.org), from the Local 652 hall, or from your committeeperson. We will need these returned for national negotiations by January 7, 2011. We will also be addressing local concerns with a deadline of June 6 for returning your concerns, which is also on the same form as the national concerns.



Our Toys for Tots campaign raised over \$4,000. Great job, thanks to everyone who volunteered and to all of you who contributed.

We officers of Local 652 are looking forward to seeing everyone at Winterfest again this year. See page 5 for more details.

### Christmas Bonus

I have been getting a lot of questions on the Christmas bonus. To all our retirees, we recently received a letter from Vice President of the General Motors Department Joe Ashton, informing us that your lump-sum payment (Christmas bonus) will be paid out on December 13, in an amount up to \$700. Eligible surviving spouses will receive 65%, or an amount ranging from \$151 to \$455.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from me and my family to you and yours.

**LOCAL 652**  
**Bob Smith, Financial Secretary**

## Season's greetings!

Wow! What a ride this fall has been! We've had a mid-term election that didn't turn out quite like we wished, a major investment announcement at our Lansing Grand River plant, and now GM is once again a presence in the stock market! All of these are tremendously important to anyone who makes their living in the auto industry.

First, the national and state mid-term elections. The Republicans rode a tidal wave of anxiety and apprehension to a nationwide "Redwash." Everywhere you looked on November 2, Republicans seemed to be making gains. At the state level Michigan has undergone a huge change. The GOP now holds a majority in all areas, administrative, legislative, and judicial. What this will mean to those of us in the UAW remains to be seen, but I expect a hard road ahead.

New Governor-elect Rick Snyder made mention in his campaign that the wages and benefits of state workers



needed to be looked at. I believe his statement was to the effect of finding a long-term solution to the "problem" of wages and benefits. He has stated he doesn't want to keep coming back to these employees with nickel-and-dime solutions. His statements lead me to believe that his "solution" could mean massive pay and benefit cuts to our brothers and sisters in public service. This on top of the cuts that they have already experienced!

And we can be assured that with their gains the GOP agenda of making Michigan a "right to work" state will be attempted! Do yourself a favor and investigate this play on words! The "right to work" name on this bill means anything but a right to work. It means a right to work for LESS to all middle- and lower-income wage earners. Contact your representatives regardless of their party affiliation and tell them NO on "right to work!"

Next, some good news. Lansing Grand River Assembly was recently awarded the new Alpha project, the next generation of Cadillac. This is great news for the Lansing area and will mean more jobs in the future. We at the hall have already received many calls on how the needed workers will be chosen. Unfortunately, we have very little news to give out on this issue. Rest assured that as soon as we know anything, you will know. The national and local contracts will be followed and it remains to be seen whether this investment will generate new hire opportunities for our friends and families. Keep an eye on our website, [www.uawlocal652.org](http://www.uawlocal652.org), for updates.

Finally, who would have thought that so soon after bankruptcy, a loan and aid from the U.S. and Canadian governments, and assistance in the form of contract negotiations with the UAW, that GM would once again make an appearance on Wall Street! The sale of stock and the infusion of capital that goes along with it can only help the company and in so doing help the pension fund and the VEBA fund (the source of funding for the Retiree Medical Benefit Trust, our retirees health care program).

Many members and retirees I've spoken to seem reluctant to support the stock sale. Many of them lost money on the "old" GM when it entered bankruptcy. All I can say is remember who you depend on for your income. Good, bad, or indifferent we all have to accept the fact that GM needs to be successful for us to be successful.

Each and every one of us needs to do everything we can to make GM the best in the business. Whether it's performing our job, buying stock, or acting as ambassadors for the company—selling our family, friends and neighbors on the product—we have to make GM successful! Like it or not, GM's future is our future. Let's hope it's good for both of us!

Until next time... Merry Christmas!

**LOCAL 724**  
**Debra Mills, Financial Secretary**

## Happy holidays

Hello Brothers and Sisters, it is that time of year again, the wonderful holiday season! By the time you read this article, the Thanksgiving dinner is past history. I hope you and your family had a wonderful day and enjoyed the Thanksgiving feast.



Local 724, along with the Women's and Recreation Committees, is having our first Christmas Party on December 18 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Santa will be here, too! Please come and join us. There will be desserts, punch, and coffee, as well as activities and surprises for the children.

Each year our Holiday Warmth Tree has been a big success because of all of you, so we need all your donations again this year to provide our families in need with new hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to put on the tree. We will get these gifts to needy people in our community.

Please drop off your items from December 1 to December 22 at the 724 hall during these hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or drop them off at your worksite.

Our sincere thanks ahead of time; I am sure that with your help we will have another successful drive.

I know everyone will be out shopping soon. Let's just remember to buy American and buy union. With so many union brothers and sisters out of work, let us help our own this holiday season!

### Local 724 Meetings

Local 724 meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

## Lansing Labor News

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Mike Bauer

## 652 retirees

Our monthly schedule of events is as follows:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. The games start at 6:00 p.m.

Third Tuesday of the month is our Bohemian dinner and business meeting. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Dinner starts at noon.

Fourth Tuesday of the month is card night starting at 6:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652, 602, and 1618.

The December 28 Card Night will be cancelled. Please note this cancellation on your calendars.

Just a reminder, December dinner will be our regular monthly potluck. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

January 11, 2011, will be our next social night from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Carol Albrecht, Jewell Carrier, Marvin Davis, Gary Every, Dorothy Hoisington, Wilfred and Millie Pullman, Hedy Rose, Jean and Leonard Schneider, Wills Wright, and any others we may have missed.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

The Lansing Labor News is now online. You may access it at [www.lansinglabornews.org](http://www.lansinglabornews.org). The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to donate to the area Food Bank when you attend retiree events.

Send your change of address to: Lansing Labor News, 210 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917. Please include your current address and the old address when requesting the change.

You may contact us at the following email address: [retiree652@hotmail.com](mailto:retiree652@hotmail.com)

### OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC

UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753  
and LAFCU,

BOTH SALARY & HOURLY  
February 22, 2011

In Bradenton, Florida

American Legion  
Kirby Steward Post  
24000 75th Street West  
(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)

Register at 11 a.m.

Eat at Noon

Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Make plans to attend and see your friends from Lansing. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

### Annual Skilled Trades Christmas Meeting December 9

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
at Local 652

Beverages and food will be provided. \$3.00 donation at the door. All active and retired skilled trades members of Local 652 are welcome. Any questions, call (517) 372-7581



Local 652 millwrights recently held their annual meeting at the hall. See more photos on our website, [lansinglabornews.org](http://lansinglabornews.org).

Laura Clark

## 1753 retirees

Hello everybody. It's been a busy autumn for all of us. If you attended the last meeting, you know that some of the retirees have been very active. We were lucky enough to have the results of Bruce's fishing expedition. He caught, filleted, and saved for us over 200 bluegills and crappies. We had delicious fish fry with crinkle fries and with chicken for those who didn't care for fish.

This was enjoyed by the whole local and was soundly rewarded by a huge applause for Bruce. Now we're thinking about a wild game dinner someday, where some of our hunters might be able to provide us with venison, turkey, rabbits or whatever. Please give me your feedback on this.

After that fabulous lunch, business was discussed as usual. Since it was Veterans Day, our Veterans Chair and Local Vice President Phil Hnatuk stopped by. He spoke on the past projects of the Veterans Committee and all the support they've given veterans. They raise so much money that they were able to buy a TV for every veteran in the veterans' home that needed one. He told us that ABC Warehouse, where he gets his TVs for the vets, is pleased to extend Phil's discount to you. Please call Nancy at the hall for details.

We thanked Conrad for inviting in a financial representative to our last meeting to talk to us about rolling over our PSP plans. We learned more things for free in one meeting than you can usually get in a paid session. Most of the retirees really liked it and asked many questions.

Our next meeting will actually be an open house for Christmas on the second Thursday, December 9, at the Local from 1:00-5:00 p.m. This is for retired and active employees. Please come and let all your co-workers know about it. We will have snacks, beer, and wine. You are not required to bring a dish, but you are welcome to if you want. Please make sure it is something that can safely sit out for a while.



We have had many questions about the Christmas Bonus. We have received word that the bonus will be paid out on December 13. If you received it last year, you should be eligible for it again this year.

Our next meeting will be on the second Thursday as usual. In January, that will be the 13th.

The euchre tournament is coming up. Because we won this year, we will be sponsoring it in 2011. Make sure you're practicing so we can hold on to the title! I will bring decks of cards to our Christmas party so you can get in super shape for the tourney. In a future issue, I will have more information about the time and place.

I attended the "One Nation" rally in Washington, D.C. It was great to see so many of our Local members there, as well as fellow UAW members from other Lansing and Region 1-C locals. Especially the active members from our Local whom I met there and who helped me get back to Lansing.

Nancy Munchbach thanked our retirees for the get-well card when she was in the hospital. Please remember all she has done for us and tell her thanks.

Please keep Nancy and Jim Stone in your thoughts and prayers. As you may know, Nancy was in an auto accident and is still in Sparrow Hospital at this writing. Also pray for Gabrielle LaBelle (Peggy Music) as she is not well.

If you are having problems with medical coverage, call Chuck or Dotty at our Benefits Office, 517-885-6534. Or you can call Joe Sagy, Region 1C Retiree Benefits Rep, at 517-372-7201 or 1-866-782-6513. You have earned your medical coverage, you deserve it, so you shouldn't be afraid to call and pursue your rights.

UPDATE: The local general membership meetings have been changed to the third Sunday at 6:00 p.m., effective in January.

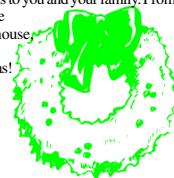
Please come and join your fellow 1753 retirees for breakfast the fourth Monday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Spud's Restaurant, 611 S. Waverly, Lansing.

Please see pages 5, 11, and 12 for long-term obituaries for several of our locals.

Dorothy Stevens

## 602 retirees

As we near the end of the year and the beginning of a New Year, I wish each and every one of you and your families a safe and happy holiday with the hope that the New Year will bring peace and happiness to you and your family. From my house to your house, Merry Christmas!



Local 602  
Hourly & Salaried  
Retirees  
**Annual Florida Picnic**  
**First Tuesday of March**  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Duffy's Restaurant  
6010 14th St. W  
Bradenton, FL  
(One mile south of Stacey's  
Buffet, which closed)  
\$6.00 - \$7.00 per person  
Questions: Call Larry Miller at  
941/746-6968 (home)  
269/664-6633 (cell)

Lois Schultz

## 1618 retirees

Ted's breakfast was a big success. We had about 60 people show up. I called about 90. His next breakfast will be on Tuesday, December 14 at Guerrazzi's Restaurant, 15643 US Hwy 27, Lansing. You can call Ted at 517-321-4754.

Our Thanksgiving dinner was nice. They had the 25-cent auction then.

On our sick list: Terry Scarton had a triple bypass. Jerry Raymond had a five-way bypass. Betty Groh was in the hospital as of this writing, and Ed Groh is in a nursing home in Holt. Russ Little is in the nursing home off Saginaw Street. Me, I am doing better now.

Our veterans memorial was once again a great success. This is important to a lot of us, as the flagpole was on the east side of our plant. The Chapel Hill people did a great job and said they would be there for us in years to come.

Kelly Robertson and Tina Oliver from Chapel Hill gave away six copies of the book *The Wall*, the book about the Vietnam War memorial. Winners were: Dick Slocum, Curtis Dunn, Bud Hall, Joe Droste, Wayne Owens, and Dick Kline. Bob Harrington, Fred Kohagan, and Gary Sunkin came this year. Hopefully more will show up next year.

Mike Smith, a Local 1618 retiree, played Taps, and Local 602 President Brian Fredline sang the national anthem. Thanks to everyone for their help.

I hope you voted in November. I was sad about the way things turned out, but



that's the way it goes. Two years ago when President Obama took office, what a mess he walked into. Did they give him a chance? I don't think so. We the people didn't give him much of a time-frame. People soon forgot what happened with the banks and the stock market.

Some people say the union never should have taken over the VEB. Well, if they hadn't, GM would have dropped the retirees' insurance.

Beware of the so-called "right to work" bill. They're trying once again to break the unions. Without the UAW and hard work, I would not have been on Trades or drove a forklift. I am proud of my job, my union, and the friends I made in the UAW. GM and the UAW were good to me and my kids. Let's be proud of what we do and who we are.

Connie Dunn is working on a casino trip for March 21-22.

Till we meet again, keep smiling.  
Till we meet again, keep smiling. My phone is 517-543-5385.

## Retiree health benefits changes

By Joe Sagg, Region 1-C Retiree Benefits Rep

Since January 2010, the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust has been providing health care benefits for UAW auto retirees and their dependents. Joe Sagg, our Region 1-C Retiree Benefits Rep, has sent us the Addendum to the 2010 Schedule of Benefits and Summary Plan Description previously published.

Your 2011 benefit design includes:

- \* Coverage for new diabetes education, smoking cessation and cardiac rehabilitation programs

- \* Expanded coverage for: Dependent children to age 26, Urgent Care at a flat rate copay of \$50, Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant provider types, and Shingles Vaccine

- \* No increase in the monthly contributions you pay to the Trust

- \* No increase in your deductible or out-of-pocket maximums

- \* No increase in the generic prescription drug copay -- remains at \$10 retail and \$20 mail

- \* Increase of \$5 in the brand drug copay -- now \$30 retail and \$60 mail

See the full information on our website, [lansinglabornews.org](http://lansinglabornews.org).

## Arizona Picnic

The GM Hourly and Salaried Picnic will be held at the Red Mountain Park, 7745 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, Arizona on Thursday, February 17 at 12:00 noon. Bring a dish to pass and drinks. Meat will be furnished. For more info, call 517-282-6775 or 517-803-5651. Or email at: [jmsfern@aol.com](mailto:jmsfern@aol.com).

## 1753 obituaries

Phyllis E. White  
Clara Hazel Parr  
James Michael VanDenDriessche  
Kimberly Ann Snow  
Flavio A. "Floyd" Guerrero  
Robert "Bruce" Unkefer  
Ethna (Geovanes) Haggerty  
Beatrice C. Long

## 652 Obituaries

**Bibles were sent to the families of:**  
Lena Adams – Wife of Bernard Adams  
Edward Beaune – Brother of Bill, Tom, and Joe Beaune

Camela Becker – Mother of KC Frankovich and Shannon Becker  
James Benjamin – Retiree  
Pauline Bunker – Retiree, Mother of Dennis Bunker

Richard Burl – Retiree  
Eleanor Clark – Mother of Fred Clark  
Sue A. Crews – Wife of Gary Crews, Sister-in-Law of Alan Crews

Gerald Danek – Retiree  
Dessie David – Wife of Gerald David, Sister of Kenneth Kirchen

Wayne Dungey – Retiree  
Allen A. Elliott Sr. – Retiree

Elikplim A. Gordon – Wife of Robert Gordon

Dale O. Gray – Retiree, Father of David Gray

Nellie Harvey – Retiree, Mother-in-Law of Charles Higelmire

Jerry Hidecker – Retiree  
Kimberly S. Howard – Daughter of Dallas Blanchard

Ronald Jessup – Father-in-Law of Kenneth Vastine

Roy A. Kramer – Retiree, Father of Richard A. Kramer

Margaret Law – Mother of Lester Law

Jose Lira – Brother of Edward Lira

Julia Lonier – Daughter of Charles Lonier

Royal McQueen – Retiree, Brother of William McQueen

D. Eugene "Gene" Miller – Retiree

Robert Moore – Retiree, Brother of Steve and Rex Moore

Clara Parr – Wife of James Parr, Mother of Richard R. Parr

Vernetta Price – Mother of Ken and Bill Price

Marvin Prikasky – Retiree  
Bernice Robinson Snell – Daughter of Robert Cook

Betty Lou Snyder – Mother of Richard Snyder

Robert "Bob" Terry – Retiree  
Shirley J. Terry – Wife of Thaddeus Terry

Jonathan Watts – Retiree, Father of

Regina Brown, Brother of Doris Donowa, James Watts and Joseph Watts

Richard Wilkins – Father of Gary Wilkins

Don Wilson – Retiree

Bernice Wohlfert – Mother of Keith Wohlfert

Jack Zimmerman – Retiree

Continued on page 11

Please see page 10 for a complete roundup of Local 602 obituaries that have not yet been in the printed edition of the Labor News.

The Local 602 Conservation and Recreation Committee invites UAW 602 members and families to join us at the

## 2011 North American Auto Show in Detroit

Tickets are \$25.00 each  
and include transportation to and from show, admission, refreshments, and prizes!

### Saturday, January 15, 2011

Bus leaves at 9 am from Local 602 Union Hall  
Tickets on sale Friday, December 3, 2010  
1 pm - 4 pm  
at UAW Local 602 Union Hall,  
2510 W Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI

Join us in seeing what's new in the auto market today!  
Questions? Call Chairperson Paulina Rodriguez at 517-231-7648 OR see any one of these committee members: Gary Howard, Clarence Jones, Kellyce Kelley, Geoffrey Kerley, Leonard King, or Daryl Smith.



The Bridgewater Interiors unit of Local 724 held their first annual Great Pumpkin Carve-Out on Halloween at the Local 724 Hall. Our members and their families had such a good time that we plan to do it again next year, and open it to all our Local 724 members. Special thanks go to: The River's Bend Restaurant in Eaton Rapids, which provided all the homemade donuts and hot cider for the event; Cub Scout Pack 82 out of Lansing, which came and judged the pumpkins; and the Bridgewater Recreation Committee. See the Labor News website for more photos.

## Join the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club for Winterfest 2011 February 11-13 Houghton Lake

We are now open to all UAW's in a 25-mile radius of plants in Downtown Lansing (Grandriver), UAW Local 652 and the Plant in Delta Township (Delta Plant), Local (602). This is a family club and always will be! There are many different events that we participate in/host as a club. One of our main events of the year is our Winterfest at Houghton Lake this year, on February 11th, 12th and 13th. Host hall for our event is the Knights of Columbus Hall in Prudenville. Please check the club's website at <http://www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com/> for more info.

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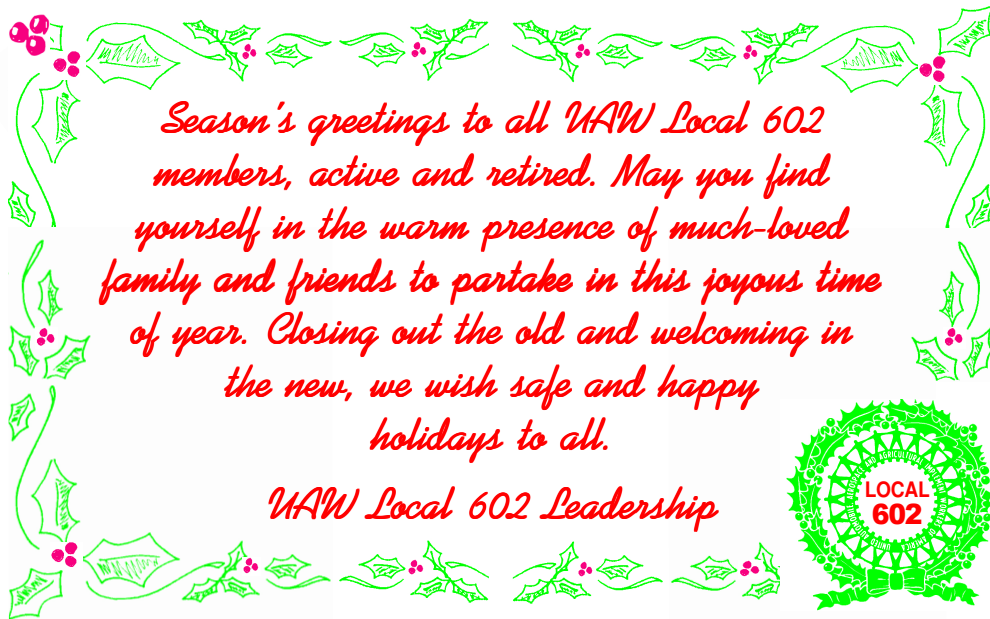
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*Season's greetings to all UAW Local 602 members, active and retired. May you find yourself in the warm presence of much-loved family and friends to partake in this joyous time of year. Closing out the old and welcoming in the new, we wish safe and happy holidays to all.*

*UAW Local 602 Leadership*





**Local 724's  
Amalgamated Units  
wish you a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Prosperous New Year**





**Alliance Interiors • Bharat Forge • Bridgewater Interiors  
Dakkota • Delta Dental • Dimondale Nursing Center  
Dr. Pepper/7-Up • Huntsman • IMPCO • JLL  
Lear • RSDC • Woodbridge**

**Serving the membership since 1940**  
450 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917  
517-482-7377

General Membership Meeting Second Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.





*We wish you happy holidays  
and a bright new year!*

*Mike Green*

*Randy Freeman*

*Robert E. Smith*

*Paul Charles*



*John Durbin*

*John E. Lettich*

*Jake Jacobson*



*From the officers and shop chairmen of the  
GM, JCIM, Ryder, and AI Units of Local 652*



**Happy Holidays to Everyone!**



**From UAW Region 1-C  
Norwood Jewell, Director  
Steve Dawes, Assistant Director  
Staff and Support Staff**



Wishing you a  
Merry Christmas and a  
New Year filled with  
Peace and Happiness  
UAW Local 4911



**Season's  
Greetings**  
from  
the officers  
and  
members of  
**Local 2256**

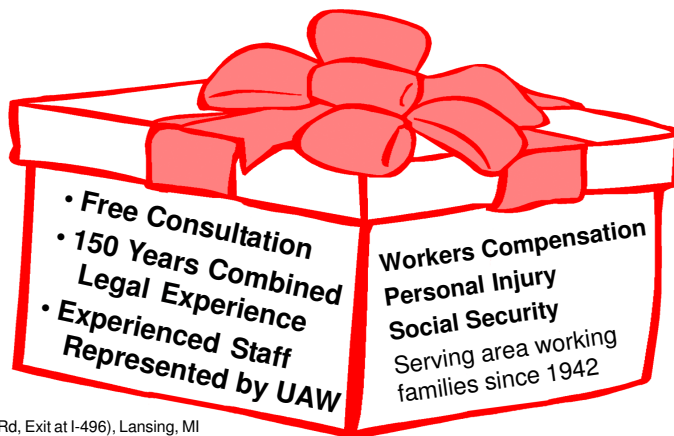
**The Executive  
Officers and  
Committeepersons  
of Local 1753  
wish you  
all the joys  
of the season.**



**Happy  
Holidays  
from the  
staff of the  
Lansing  
Labor  
News**



**Season's Greetings from**  
**Rapaport, Pollok, Farrell, & Waldron**  
**Our Gift to You for the Holidays – and All Year Long**



3626 Dunckel (Jolly Rd, Exit at I-496), Lansing, MI



## Dr. Jack Adkins & Associates Welcomes GM Employees!

*We Offer Value & Service For All Your Eye Care Needs.*

### PROUDLY SERVING GM DAVIS VISION PATIENTS

Discounts on eye exams, contact lens exams, contact lenses and supplies for all GM employees, retirees, and families without vision insurance. Other vision and medical insurances accepted. Comprehensive eye exams include visual field screening and retinal imaging.

- Experienced & Friendly Staff
- Complete Medical & Ocular History
- Thorough Eye Health Evaluation
- Explanation of all Conditions
- Accurate Eyeglass Prescriptions
- Complete Contact Lens Service
- Cataract Evaluation
- Glaucoma Testing
- Diabetic Eye Exams
- Evaluation & Co-Management for Cataract & LASIK Surgery
- Treatment of Eye Infections
- Emergency Service
- Medicare Provider
- BCBS Medical & Vision Provider

### All GM Employees & Family Members w/o Vision Coverage Present This Ad to Receive:

**\$49 Comprehensive Eye Exams**  
(Reg. \$59)  
Includes visual field screening & retinal imaging

Eyeglass exam only. Contact lens exam not included.  
No other discounts/coupons/insurance benefits apply. Some restrictions may apply.

**\$15 off Contact Lens Exams**  
(Reg. \$55-\$75)  
Current Comprehensive Eye Exam Required (within 1 year)

No other discounts/coupons/insurance benefits apply. Some restrictions may apply.

117 RCP 12/1



Jack Adkins,  
Optometrist

Saturday Appointments Available! Call to Guarantee an Appointment.

**(517) 323-3399**

5020 W Saginaw Hwy. • MON-FRI: 9-6 • SAT: 9-3

[www.primaryecp.com/drjack](http://www.primaryecp.com/drjack)



Darin Arrell,  
Office Manager

**DR. BARNES' EYEMART EXPRESS**

## Welcomes GM Employees!

### Now Accepting GM Davis Vision Benefits Include:

**Complete Pair of Glasses with Frames up to \$80, Covered 100%**  
Includes Single Vision Lenses or Lined Bifocal Lenses

**&**

**Your 2nd Pair of Glasses is 50% Off!**

**OVER 2000 FRAMES TO CHOOSE FROM!**

### All GM Employees & Family Members w/o Vision Coverage Present This Ad to Receive:



**1 COMPLETE PAIR \$38<sup>74</sup>** | **2 COMPLETE PAIRS \$57<sup>92</sup>**

**WITH SINGLE VISION LENSES**

Frames from Value Collection and single vision plastic lenses. Some restrictions apply. No insurance discounts apply. Bifocals extra. Doctor's prescription required.

**2 COMPLETE PAIRS \$97<sup>92</sup>**

**WITH ESSILOR NATURAL NO-LINE BIFOCALS**

Frames from Value Collection and Essilor Natural, no-line lenses. No insurance discounts apply. Doctor's prescription required. Some restrictions apply.

**LANSING**  
(517) 323-3490  
MON-FRI: 9-7 • SAT: 9-5

5020 W Saginaw Hwy.  
East of the Lansing Mall  
[EYEMARTEXPRESS.COM](http://EYEMARTEXPRESS.COM)

Now accepting VSP  
members out-of-network

117 RCP 12/1

## 602 Obituaries

**Editor's Note:** Local 602 has requested us to print all the obituaries we have received from them and that have been posted online, so that those who do not see them on our website can see them now. If they have appeared in print prior to this, as in the May and September issues, they will not be reprinted here. We believe this is all of them:

### November 15, 2010

Rickie Flotka – Retired Member and Brother of Curtis Flotka, General Assembly (Final 1)

Betty Mae Pierce – Wife of Leon Pierce, Retired Material Handling (Quality)

L.V. Hill – Mother of John Hill, Retired

Russell (Rusty) David Morris Jr. – Father of Ben Morris, Material Handling

Hennery M. Badon Sr. – Father of Clinton Badon, Material Handling

Janice M. Farquharson – Mother of Dawn Davis, Quality Control (Status 80)

Ernest Lee Preston – Father of Sherrie Gonzales, Quality Control

Cynthia Casteel – Wife of Mickey Casteel, Retired

Sue A. Hamilton – Mother of Kristy Coan, Door Line (Team 1)

David King – Retired

Janice L. Cook – Mother of Todd Cook, General Assembly (Final 1) and Aunt of Kevin Cook

Meryl Carolyn Stimer-Skinner – Mother of Sharon Skinner-Bigelow, Retired

Trim and Mother-in-Law of Chris Bigelow, Retired Trim

Dorothy J. Dunbar – Mother of Darryl Dunbar, General Assembly

Harriet Hasse – Mother of Joseph A. Hasse, Material Handling (Body)

Joe (Buck) Rodriguez – Retired

Donald Cremeans – Retired

Brian Stevenson – Retired

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Thank you for your love and support during our time of sorrow... The Family of Ruth Jones

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Feldpausch, Retired General Assembly and Ed Feldpausch, General Assembly; Brother-in-Law of Julie Feldpausch, General Assembly/Alternate Committee and Karen Feldpausch, General Assembly and Keith Vrooman, General Assembly

Larry Fleming – Retired

Richard McIntyre – Retired

James Middleton – Retired

Paul King – Retired

Ronald Schomisch – Retired

Brenda Gunn – Retired

Lawrence Wiggins – Retired

Ion Andrews – Retired

Ralph Onstott – Retired

Leon Miller – Retired

Jack Kzeski – Retired

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered... The Roy Wireman Family

Your thoughtfulness means a lot to us, more than we can say ... The Family of Burt Minard

September 16, 2010

Rodney Griffin – Father of Michael Griffin

Paul Binkowski – Father of Cathy Bennett, Retired Body Shop

Tonya Gardner – daughter of Yvonne Chaffin, Quality (General Assembly)

Roy Wireman – Retired and Husband of Pauline Wireman, Retired Paint

Beverly K. McNary – Wife of Shane McNary, Retired Electrician

Ruth Joyce Price – Mother of Eugene Price, Pipefitter (Paint)

Robert Jones – Retired

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Craig Cook – Retired

Francis Heckman – Retired

John Bonilla Jr. – Retired

John Dempsey – Retired

Gordon Cochran – Retired

Benjamin Pulver – Retired

Robert Vanliew – Retired

Dale Griffin – Retired

June, 2010 Obituaries

Erma Vrooman – Mother of Brad Vrooman, Metal Finish

James E. Meyer – Father of Michelle Parsons-Chipps, General Assembly (Trim 5/Team 4)

Thelma Dotson – Retired Cushion Room

Martha Johnson – Mother of Darlene Neal

Winifred Topp – Mother of Lamont Topp, Paint

JoAnn Jane Butler – Mother of Jeff Butler, Retired Material Handler; Sister-in-law of Julian VanDenAbee, Retired Trim; Aunt of: Bill Delaney, Retired Body, Terry Delaney, Retired Trim, and Steve VanDenAbee, Trim

Ron Curtis – Father of Andrea Jordan

Dolores Grant – Mother of Dorinda Grant, Retired Body

Erasmus Hernandez – Retired

Stanley Wajda – Retired

Paul Chmiko – Retired

Michael Stambesky – Retired

Thanks to the Officers, Staff, and Members of 602... The Bible presented to Virginia, the prayer plant and the conversation of VP Brother Reed will be fondly remembered. After the family, Local 602 was Bill's greatest passion. He kept track of 602 and the UAW always. The Labor News and Solidarity were always on his stand.... W. Ingram Jr. – IBEW 1106,

Thank you for your love and support during our time of sorrow... The Family of Ruth Jones

Thank you for the Bibles. They are beautiful... The Family of SPC Bradley Rappuhn

To UAW Local 602 Executive Board and Membership... Thank you for thinking of us during our time of grieving. My grandmother was a special lady. We will miss her... Norwood Jewell

Thank you so much to members and staff of Local 602 for the beautiful Bible in memory of my dad, Paul Binkowski ... Cathy Bennett and Family

Thank you for the beautiful Bible... The Baur Family

To the Local 602... Thank you for all your help in my time of need when my husband Vernon (Frog) Bayne passed away. Thank you also for the lovely Bible. I will treasure it forever... Sandra Bayne

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To the Local 602... Thank you for all

Ellen Dargan  
 Elizabeth Hughes – Wife of David Hughes  
 Kevin Kenroy – Son of Marjorie Kenroy-Staples  
 Jeffrey "Jeff" Loveall – Retiree  
 Jim Lovett – Retiree  
 Grace McMahon – Mother-in-Law of Laurel Lindstrom  
 Alex Mizger Jr – Retiree, Father of Gerald Mizger  
 Gerard Pierce – Father of Jack Pierce  
 Verda "Betty" E. Rutz – Mother of Jack Rutz  
 Ralph Shepard – Retiree, Father of Rod & Kim Shepard  
 Warren Slivensky – Father-in-Law of Jim Cullimore  
 Eugene G. Smith – Retiree, Father of Gary Smith  
 William Stierley – Retiree, Father of Pamela Martin  
 Denis Lee Wooliever – Retiree  
 Thank-you's were received from the following families:  
 The Charles Koos Family  
 The Ralph Shepard Family  
 The Richard Smith Family  
 The Marvin Prikasky Family  
 The Royal McQueen Family  
 The Shirley Terry Family  
 The Vernetta Price Family  
 The Julia Lonier Family

Former Local 652 President Ralph W. Shepard of Grand Ledge, age 73, went home to be with his Lord on May 2, 2010. He was born August 29, 1936 in Grand Ledge, MI, son to Ralph and Anna (Sweet) Shepard. Ralph was a graduate of Grand Ledge High School, Class of 1955 and a retired employee of General Motors. He served as Vice-President of the Local 652 from 1987 - 1993 and President from 1993 until his retirement in 2002. He was a member of the Grand Ledge Church of the Nazarene; an avid golfer and loved his time spent with his grand and great grandchildren. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Sandra, three children: Rodney (Janet) Shepard, Kevin Shepard, and Kim Maloney all of Grand Ledge; 6 grandchildren: Kira (Jamey) Quick, Kyle, Sarah, and Harley Shepard, Chase and Ryan Maloney, 2 great grandchildren Tyler and Brenner Quick; three sisters: Donna Johnson of Sunfield, Melba Cooper and Sharon (Sam) Dukes both of Grand Ledge; one brother Greg Shepard of Grand Ledge; sister-in-law, Dawn (Jim) Glasgow of Mulliken, brother-in-law Spike Cooper of Lewiston, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; grandsons, Brent Shepard and Luke Shepard, and son-in-law Larry Maloney.

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