



# Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 78, ISSUE 5

VOICE OF 28,000 UAW MEMBERS

DECEMBER, 2022

**Region 1D**  
Steve Dawes,  
Director



Greetings to you and your family. I hope this edition of The Lansing Labor News finds you well.

This fall has been extremely busy for all. Thank you to all who took the time to participate in the Michigan midterm elections. If you voted, worked the polls, were involved with your local CAP committee, or volunteered, thank you!

For the first time in forty years, the Democrats will control the House, Senate, and Governorship! What does that mean? We should be able to right all the wrongs that have been forced upon us all. Here are just a few things we should do immediately:

- Restore collective bargaining rights
- Fix our payroll deduction issues for dues collection and V-CAP deductions
- Repeal the Retiree Tax
- Repeal Right to Work

Ten years ago, the Snyder group, in the dark of late night, rammed Right to Work through the legislature. He said it wasn't on his radar, but he signed it anyway. It is time these free loaders pay their fair share of union dues and stop getting a free ride on the backs of our UAW members and thumbing their noses at all the hard work and dedication of our retired workers.

Another "gift" given to our retirees, both current and future, by the Snyder Administration: The retiree pension tax. Remember, this tax went directly from our retirees' pockets into the pockets (tax breaks) of corporations and big businesses, NOT to improve one single road, bridge, or infrastructure in Michigan.

We have done the work to elect our legislators and now it is the time to put pressure on them to do the right thing for our retired workers. **REPEAL THE RETIREE PENSION TAX!**

Here are some of the current retiree numbers across our Region:

Region 1D has 84,919 retirees. 48,453 of them are currently paying retiree dues, 2,586 are paying above \$3.00. That is about 57% of our retired workers paying dues. Congratulations to our Region's retirees, as you are #1 in the country, far above the national average of retirees paying dues. Thank you!

For those who have their healthcare covered by the Retiree Medical Benefit Trust (RMBT), there are currently approximately 600,000 retirees in the Trust. Only 59,000 active employees remain eligible to join the RMBT upon their retirement. The Trust re-

mains very healthy and will continue to provide great healthcare coverage. RMBT is in the process of sending out cards explaining the change to Optum Rx for mail-order prescriptions.

I have had many phone calls and questions regarding rumors and statements made pertaining to our retirees and the Big 3 national agreements in 2023. I will attempt to clear some of these up.

First and foremost, all past and present bargaining groups, from the international leaders to the elected top negotiation committees, have attempted to bargain improvements for our retirees. I will attempt to somewhat explain, realizing that there is a lot of history, legal documents, and information on the ability to bargain on behalf of retirees.

Section 8(d) of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) provides that the parties must meet and bargain over wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has interpreted that and defined the subjects of bargaining as follows:

The subjects of bargaining are defined as:

- **Mandatory Subjects** – These are subjects that directly impact wages, hours, and working conditions. This list is extremely lengthy and contains the subjects which the parties must bargain over if a proposal is made by either party. Some examples are rates of pay, overtime, subcontracting and pension benefits for active employees.
- **Permissive Subjects** – These are subjects that are not directly related to the work. They fall outside of the mandatory subjects. This list can be infinitely long. The parties may agree to bargain over these subjects, but are not required to by law, and can refuse to discuss them without fear of an unfair

labor practice charge. It is also a violation to strike over a permissive subject of bargaining. Some examples are neutrality agreements, designation of a party's bargaining representative, use of union label/flag, and pension benefits for already retired members.

As I stated above, national bargaining teams always want to make improvements for our retirees. The fact is, however, for the last couple of decades, corporations have taken the position that retirees are no longer considered employees, as they do not perform work for the company and have signed retirement papers severing their employment with said company. These companies make it clear that they are not willing to discuss benefits for retirees.

I commit to you, I will do everything in my power to push for improvements for retirees, but keep in mind, the law is not on our side. If someone is trying to convince you otherwise, please feel free to call me and we can discuss and go over the legal documents.

In closing, I would like to thank all

*Please see Dawes page 2*

Lansing Labor News—Periodical postage paid at Lansing, MI and other post offices

**Election notice for  
UAW Local 1753  
page 9**

## **OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC**

**UAW LOCALS 602, 652,  
1618, 1753 and LAFCU  
HOURLY AND SALARY**

**Tuesday  
February 21, 2023**

In Bradenton, Florida  
American Legion  
Kirby Steward Post  
2000 75th Street West  
(between Cortez & Manatee Ave)

Register at 11am  
Eat at Noon

Meal and plastic tableware  
will be provided. For information,  
call Jere Auvenshine  
(517) 285-0320

From Dawes page 1

who took the time to vote in the election of our UAW International Officers and those who have re-elected me as your Regional Director. I am blessed and proud to represent you. We have more work to do!

Our Region has approximately 130,000 eligible retirees and members who can vote, yet we had just over 13,000, about 10%, vote. We can do better. There will be a runoff for our UAW President and one Vice President spot starting January 12, 2023. More information will follow.

If you did not receive your ballot for the election, please contact your local union so they can correct your information for the January 12 mailing.

We are UAW Region 1D proud and we need to show that with a strong turnout in this important election!

Happy Holidays!

In solidarity, Steve

**LOCAL 1753**  
Yvonne Vincent,  
President



Hello 1753 Union Family,

Happy holidays. While this is a joyful time for many people to spend with the ones they love, remember that for some folks, this time of year is a struggle. Please be sensitive to the different ways we all experience this season.

Remember to take some time to look at the posting for information about our Local 1753 upcoming elections for the unexpired term in this edition of the Lansing Labor News. You can also find postings in the plant and at our Union Hall.

Additionally, keep an eye out in mid-January for a possible ballot to vote in a run-off election for our UAW International Executive Board. As I am writing this column, the results have not yet been officially decided, but it is likely that many of the races will require a run-off, since a candidate must receive a majority (not just a plurality) to win. If this election does require a run-off of any of the candidates, and you do receive a

run-off ballot, it should be returned before the end of February. I hope that you voted in the Union election in November, as well as in the U.S. mid-terms. Both of these play a big role in the lives of GM and UAW workers.. As you can see, our elected officials have played a huge role in the recent railroad workers' fight for basic benefits, such as sick leave, safe conditions, disciplinary attendance, hiring, work-life balance, and salary. If the workers lose this battle, it jeopardizes all of our Unions. When politicians prioritize the corporation's billions of dollars in profits over the dignity of workers, we all lose.

Speaking of jobs and benefits, GM is taking strides to be more innovative with the introduction of SEEGRID machines, which pull trains throughout the plant. These machines are predicted to replace the jobs of the human workers who currently do this task in GM plants. While the machines are not going away and jobs will continue to be eliminated by technological advances, the people who work in our plant also contribute to job losses. When one employee does the work of others, or takes on extra duties outside of their classification or current assignment, this provides management with the rationale to merge job titles and cut back on hiring. This also undermines the work of the bargaining team to advocate for job classifications and assignments that are sustainable and fair. When Union workers do more work without being compensated, it results in a defacto wage cut for all of us.

Protect our right to an honest day's work for an honest day's pay by doing only the jobs assigned to you under your classification! "Favors" for the management team or the corporation disrespects the legacy of the Union members who have fought hard to ensure that we are not overworked and underpaid (like the railroad workers!). This has been a long and hard fight – and it is one we must continue to fight.

And on the subject of hard-won fights, one of our greatest allies in the fight to ensure workers' rights is the National Labor Relations

Board, which enforces the agreements Unions like ours enter into with industries. Without this oversight, corporations and managers would be able to completely ignore the rights of workers. The NLRB was established by the National Labor Relations Act to enforce Labor laws related to collective bargaining and to investigate unfair Labor practices. Since 2014, the funding for the NLRB has remained static, meaning that there are fewer resources and fewer staff available and yet, petitions to form a Union increased by 58% in the first half of 2022. Reports of unfair Labor practices also rose by 18%. The NLRB is one of the only agencies with the weight of the law behind them that can combat crimes like retaliation, harassment, intimidation, Union-busting and bad faith bargaining. Take a moment to tell Congress to fund the NLRB with the full \$368 million it needs for its budget. For more information, you can go to <https://aflcio.org/pro-act>.

For a fun and entertaining way to learn more about the NLRB and how it defends worker rights, check out the Factually! Podcast with Adam Conover and guest Jennifer Abruzzo. You might remember Adam from his TV series, "Adam Ruins Everything".

As we look forward to 2023, we are fortunate to have our chairperson, Arniece Stephenson, bargaining for the CCAs in the upcoming national contract. So to help get the best National contract we can, I am going to reiterate to Vote for people who are knowledgeable and will actually back the union members. Only do your job assignment as it is outlined in the Job Element Sheet. Start saving money in case we have to do whatever we have to, to get what we deserve/ is fair. Remember that the union is everyone, so do not do things that are Self Serving and go against the contract or other members. I am hoping we all have a prosperous and productive new year.

In Solidarity, Yvonne

The Labor News is also available online at [lansinglabornews.org](http://lansinglabornews.org)

**LOCAL 4911**  
Muhammad  
Qawwee,  
President



Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year to all my brothers and sisters with UAW Local 4911! Hopefully everyone has plans for the upcoming holidays to do something worthwhile with family and friends.

I am hoping by the time you receive this article, our members will have a new 3 year bargaining agreement. For the last three and a half months our bargaining team has been burning the midnight oil, meeting multiple times with Sparrow's management to come to a pretty good tentative agreement that benefits the majority of our members. We have fought hard to expand coverages in policies like bereavement, violence in the workplace, and harassment just to name a few. Of course we were able to get pretty good wage progression increases throughout each year of the contract. We were able to bargain for no increase in insurance premiums and LOWER premiums for the last two years of the contract also. We maintained all of our current monetary articles in the contract and really didn't have to give up anything.

I would personally like to thank every single member of the current bargaining team for their unwavering dedication and for their hard work getting a tentative agreement to bring forward to our members. Please, if you see any one of them, give them a pat on the back or a handshake for putting in the hard and long hours (sometimes sacrificing family time) to reach this agreement.

Finally I want to thank all the members of UAW local 4911 that took time out to come to one of the many informational meetings we held regarding the tentative agreement. We are only as strong as our members and we encourage everyone to get involved and come find out how we all have been working to serve you. Happy Holidays!

In Solidarity, Muhammad

## LOCAL 602

Mike Huerta,  
President



I would like to recap some of the events going on at UAW Local 602 in the past few months.

Thank you to our Citizenship & Legislative Committee for help producing the wins during this election cycle. Thanks to everyone that helped UAW endorsed candidates this year! Whether you knocked on doors, made phone calls or voted as a family, you helped our candidates get across the finish line and we won big!

Shortly after the elections, our Veterans Committee put together another wonderful event at the plant. We gave our Veterans shoes, other gifts and important information regarding their service and benefits. Thank you Veterans committee and to all who served!

Many members were able to enjoy Thanksgiving with a good meal this year as our Community Service Committee was able to provide holiday meals for families in need.

The LDT gate collection on November 3rd raised more than \$8,500 for Toys for tots.

The Local 602 Women's Committee held a "Holiday Expo" at the union hall to raise money for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. They were able to raise \$2,300.

The LDT gate collection on December 1st raised \$6,300 for Old Newsboys.

In the span 28 days our unbelievably generous members, and our amazing standing committees raised over \$17,000. The money will help make sure kids have presents at Christmas, help to find a cure for cancer, and to make sure kids in our community have boots this winter. Thank you to everyone that donated, volunteered, or helped organize these events - Amazing job 602!

On Dec. 2nd two full trailers, and two full truckloads of toys, gifts and bicycles were loaded up from LDT GA, Body and Paint shops.

They were taken to the Toys for Tots building where the toys will meet their new owners!

We had to wait for nearly 3 years, but we finally were able to hold our UAW Local 602 Children's Christmas party on December 4th! Thank you to the Women's Committee, Santa AND the Grinch for helping make this event an enormous success!

Every year I am left speechless when I witness the enormous amount of generosity, kindness and caring that our membership produces for our community.

To all, I wish the gifts of love, of joy and of peace during this holiday season and always.

## LOCAL 652

Ben Frantz,  
President



Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings Brothers and Sisters! The Holidays are here again! My family and I genuinely enjoy the entire holiday season because it is a time of togetherness and family. I decided to write about things we can appreciate during the recent months and opportunities moving forward. Since our last publication, Local 652 was able to get our retiree meetings going again and it has been a great success! Seeing all the old friends reconnecting, laughing, and having some fellowship has livened up the Local. UAW Local 652 partnered with UAW Local 724 in donating our combined parking lots for a wonderful charity event sponsored by

Footprints of Michigan on Veteran's day. They held a drive-through boot and shoe giveaway for veterans with a strong turnout and excellent volunteer support. We have had another great year of collecting donations for our local area children through the Old News Boys organization and the Marine Corp. with our Toys-for-Tots campaign. It fills me with pride and makes it easy to represent Local 652 when you have a fantastic membership that proves year-over-year that they are some of the most giving and caring members in the UAW. With all there is to celebrate, this year has not fallen short of providing some steep challenges. I, however, choose not to allow those challenges to distract me from what a good year 2022 has been. At work, I want to thank every single member who fought through those challenges with us and emerged stronger for it. At home, I must thank my amazing wife, Kristin, for supporting me on the late nights, board meetings, stacked weekends, and weeks away from home. She provides me this gift while raising our boys and being a full-time medical professional. Without Kristin's support and the fact that my sons are a blessing to our family, I don't know how I could do what I am blessed to do. As we see the sun setting in 2022 and anxiously await the beginning of 2023, we already know that some residual challenges will linger and present us with more reasons to get angry if we so allow. A new year also means getting older. I no longer fear this, as age has given me the gift of perspective. This year I found myself learning

about my opportunity and obligation to control what is under my control and release all that is not. I use a great quote from coach Tony Dungy to continually remind myself of this opportunity, "You can't always control circumstances. However, you can always control your attitude, approach and response." As a leader, I am constantly pulled into situations where I am providing information or answers to members who are upset, confused, or unsure of what is happening to them. Most of the time, the members are agitated and the goal is to provide information and answers, do it calmly, and work to ensure the members understand when we are done speaking. Getting to this understanding is rarely done calmly; working to control our attitude, approach and response are vital to moving forward in these situations. In the coming year, I look to improve myself and better serve our membership by putting this into practice. As I finish this article, I look back on 2022 with a thankful heart, thankful for my family, friends, the active and retired members of Local 652 and the opportunity to face 2023 positively.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas, New Year, and holiday season!

## LOCAL 724

Todd Collins,  
President



Hello Brothers and Sisters. As we enter the Holiday season, I hope all of you get the opportunity to spend time with your Family. The new year brings new hope and new opportunities for our members. However you choose to celebrate the Holidays and New Year I wish you a Happy Holidays and New Year. On the Local front the Old Newsboys and Toys for Tots campaign just wrapped up for the year. Thank you to all of the members who graciously donated to these worthwhile charities that do so much good work in the community. Thank you to all of our members for doing the quality work that only we can do. For all of the time

*Please see Collins page 4*

### Lansing Labor News

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VOICE OF 28,000 MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2022

From Collins page 3

that we spend away from our family to provide for them and for the dedication to make the companies that we work for the best in the business only because of the quality of the Union workforce that we are. May 2023 be the best and most prosperous year for all of us.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters.

*“All Labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence”* Martin Luther King Jr.

In Solidarity, Todd

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### LOCAL 652

Lena Wyeth,  
Vice President



The UAW Constitution sets out fundamental principles by which the UAW is governed. In other words, it's the rules that the local has to follow. My favorite Article in the Constitution is Article 41, section 2. It says,

“It shall be the duty of each member to render aid and assistance to brother or sister members in cases of illness, death or distress, and in every way acquit her/himself as a loyal and devoted member of the International Union.”

I have seen our members following this, even when they likely didn't know this article existed. Our members are genuinely wonderful people. I want to share a couple of situations that will back my statement up.

One of our members is undergoing chemo treatment because of a cancer diagnosis. She needed a little help with getting her brakes fixed on her car, so she would be safe on her drive to her treatments. It was posted on our plant's Facebook page that help was needed. One of our union brothers who work in our trim shop, Kevin Bell, was a great help. He is what I would call a mechanical guru, aka car nut, aka car enthusiast. He donated 100% of the labor and several members sent money via cash app to purchase the parts. Kevin also went to her home to pick up the car and returned it.

On another occasion, one of our members, Steve McKellar, had a house fire where they sadly lost everything to the fire. I received a message from a member, Scott Zimmerman, General Assembly, Quality, saying he had a donation for Brother McKellar. Brother Zimmerman had trash bags full of clothes, shoes, and coats in great condition. (If I'm being honest, the shoes took up 1 bag because of the size shoe they both wear.) Brother Zimmerman didn't hesitate when he realized they wore the same size and I'll add that he doesn't even know Brother McKellar personally. Without hesitation, he packed up some bags and brought them to work.

We have a member whose son was ill and, in the hospital, long term. A union member in the Paint shop, Jareb Fosket, called me and wanted to brainstorm different fundraising opportunities for this family that he could pursue. He ended up designing a shirt that incorporated everything the little boy likes, the boy's name, and a skywalk that had an entrance into the plant with Wynken, Blynken, and Nod in the background. I assumed that the union sister worked with Brother Fosket in the Paint shop because he was so passionate about helping her. To my surprise, Brother Fosket didn't know the union sister and she doesn't even work in the same shop. Brother Fosket knew she needed help and didn't hesitate.

These 3 members stood up, raised their hands, and rendered aid without hesitation. To them, it was the right thing to do, to the receiver, it meant everything in the world! I know there are several more situations like these and I would never have enough room on this page to list all of them.

It's stories like this that fill my heart with joy. It is my greatest honor and pleasure to represent you as your Vice President. It's because of all of you that this position is so fulfilling and I thank you for that. If there is anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to call. (That includes our AWESOME retirees!) 517-372-7581 extension 132. Enjoy the Holidays and please be safe!

P.S. Totally unrelated, don't forget to vote in the International Executive Board Run-off elections. You should get your ballot in January. Solidarity Forever!

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### LOCAL 2256 BCBSM-unit

Christy Jones  
Vice Pres.

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What is union made all about?

Union made is about bringing conscious awareness to the products made, assembled and services performed by union labor.

Across America, men and women of unions are part of industries that produce some items we use. We simply have no collective awareness of who produces them. Did you know union workers make food, clothes, and beauty products? Also, union workers are employed at prestigious hotels and casinos.

Support unions: Before we can be supportive of others, we need to be supportive of ourselves. We can start by being actively involved with the union. For example, we can learn more about the benefits and protection by union just by attending membership meetings and being involved with committees. Additionally, unions support the well being of the employee overall in the following ways

1. Work Environment: Unions negotiate workplace health and safety standards to ensure the environment is safe and supportive for their employees.
2. Healthy Living: Unions offer access to healthcare that is affordable and reliable.
3. A Future: Unions provide retirement and other benefits that ensure a secure future for employees and their families.
4. Opportunities: Unions offer employees the opportunity to grow and learn on the job. They also help employees find new opportunities as they advance in their careers.
5. Raise awareness: During the cold, dark days of winter let us raise our awareness beyond the commercialization of the holiday and mindless mass consumption of goods and services. Let us recog-

nize the men and women who bring those goods and services to us every day in a very simple way. Let's buy what they make. Buy union made.

6. Learn More: Here are some resources to find out information on Union/American made products.

- [UAW.org](http://UAW.org)
- [Unionlabel.org](http://Unionlabel.org)
- [AFLCIO.org](http://AFLCIO.org)
- [Nosweatshop.org](http://Nosweatshop.org)
- [Allamericanclothing.com](http://Allamericanclothing.com)
- [Bac-America.org](http://Bac-America.org)
- [Usstuff.com](http://Usstuff.com)
- [Theunionshop.org](http://Theunionshop.org)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Christy Jones, Vice President- Local 2256-BCBSM unit.

Make a conscious consumer choice.

We can learn about the products that are made by labor unions. How to show your family how to be conscious consumers during the Christmas holiday.

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### LOCAL 602

Doug Fox,  
Rec. Secretary



The national elections are over, our IEB elections are almost over. I hope everyone voted in both and will also vote in the runoff next month for the remaining IEB positions. We need to remember that we are stronger and get more done when we work together. We are allowed to have differences, but when we come together for the benefit of all, we ALL come out ahead and become stronger because of it. So, let's all work together to make this Nation and this Union the best we can for all of us.

The holiday season will be in full swing by the time you are reading this. Please take a moment to remember those who may need something during this time. The holidays, though filled with love, joy, and time spent with family and friends, can be a rough time for some. It could be someone who recently had a loved one pass and

needs to hear from friends and family. Maybe an elderly neighbor who doesn't get out much, would love a visit. Consider volunteering some time at a soup kitchen – they can always use help throughout the year. Check in on people just to say "hi". It can make a huge difference. For volunteer or donation opportunities, check below.

City Rescue Mission <https://tinyurl.com/4vm7xrsr>

Salvation Army <https://tinyurl.com/yxcenb7r>

Old Newsboys Donate <https://tinyurl.com/3fj82sez>

Toys For Tots Donate <https://tinyurl.com/2cr4hkuw>

Depression and anxiety rise over the holidays. Make sure to be aware of your mental well-being. Don't let the pressures of the holidays get to you. If you start feeling overwhelmed, below are some links.

Mayo Clinic <https://tinyurl.com/yew9b4z3>

Every Day Health <https://tinyurl.com/ekwf3bf3>

WebMD <https://tinyurl.com/3zs579vy>

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Call or text 988 or <https://988lifeline.org/>

I hope you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy the time with your family and friends and let's work together to make next year the best ever. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

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



By the time you receive this edition of the Lansing Labor News, we'll be in the midst of the holiday season. Between the crisp fall colors, breaking bread with family or friends, and the whimsy of a snowy Christmas, the holiday season is a spectacle many look forward to all year long. It's to you, along with all the members of UAW Local 652 and the readers of the Lansing Labor News, that I wish Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

With the year drawing to a close,

we have much to be proud of here at Local 652. As the situation with the ever-present Covid-19 evolved, we were able to start doing those things that we had previously taken for granted. Things like working without the annoyance of a mask or just seeing a person smile. Potlucks with our fellow members at many of the worksites became the norm once again. With parts restraints and staffing issues looming over our heads, we put in the work to meet the high demand for our products. These vehicles are the bread and butter of all our units at the local. We ramped back up engagement with members and the community through events put on by our standing committees. The Election Committee successfully conducted local elections with the guidance of the UAW Constitution and state and federal law. Finally, we are happy to see our Local 652 retirees meeting at the hall for luncheons, bingo, and fraternizing.

Along with this positive news, we have a few things to watch as we move toward the new year. LGR has great-selling Cadillac products with enhancements on the way,

but the local members and leaders must keep reminding management that Lansing is the place for new products. The GM Unit members are submitting contract demands as the UAW-GM labor agreement expires on September 15th. Bargaining in 2019 was tough, and 2023 may be more challenging, but we have the membership and the know-how to get through. The parts and staffing issues are projected to continue, but hopefully, improvement will come later in 2023. Local members and leaders must continue to educate themselves on unionism and work to improve communication. Last but certainly not least, we need to work on setting aside conspiracy theories and mistrust as we navigate this new system of elections in our International Union. With only 15% of the membership voting on the referendum decision and only 11% voting for the IEB elections, I am keeping my fingers crossed that we are only experiencing growing pains. I do not have the magic solution, but I believe we can improve where we are currently. The positive futures of our members and the working class depend on it.



We wish you all a  
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays



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  
Doug Elders, Avancez Chair



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



**Local 724's  
Amalgamated  
Units**  
wish you Happy Holiday's  
and a prosperous New year

Alliance Interiors - Bridgewater Interiors - Dakota  
Delta Dental - Diamondale Nursing Center  
Dr. Pepper/Snapple - Huntsman - IMPCO  
Jll Curest - JLB LGR - Team Solutions  
Kirchoff Automotive - RSDC  
Woodbridge Lansing

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www.uawlocal724.org

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



Season's Greetings to all my UAW Sisters and Brothers

It is once again that time of year we all feel the joy the season can bring. We can still take what the weather gives us with sunshine and also enjoy the snowfall from a warm window.

At the end of each year, be sure to reflect on everything that has come and gone from you. Appreciate what you have gained whether it is knowledge, growth, friendship, etc. Also appreciate everything you have lost with memories, lessons, and new beginnings.

I want to take this moment to remember my mother, Stella Cabrera. She was a UAW member with local 6000 and worked with the state police. She was always well known for her kind and caring words that always came with a smile. We lost

her on November 4, 2022. I will miss her dearly.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and stay safe so we can have the best 2023!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

In Solidarity, Gabriel

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



Hello UAW!

I am Charlene Watson, Local 4911 newest Financial Secretary. Our previous Financial Secretary has moved onto greener pastures, and I sure do wish her all the happiness in the world!

Happy Holidays and all the best to you in the year to come!

A bit about me.... I have worked for Sparrow Hospital for over 37 years, every single year in the in-patient pharmacy, providing my customers with the best of service

and care. My "customers" were not only the patients, but also much of the healthcare support staff throughout the hospital, in almost every department, including management.

In my healthcare career, I have seen my share of managerial, policy, and financial changes-some good, some not so good. I believe that one of the hardest obstacles/challenges to overcome for the healthcare folks began with the start of the Covid pandemic, and for me, the saying "flying by the seat of our pants" had new meaning!

In the beginning, hospital employees were very worried about the PPE shortages and how we could protect our patients, ourselves, and family especially since the virus was lacking the historical data, and its predictability, was at best (my opinion), an educated guess for the experts who were trying to keep our country safe and guide this country through the uncharted waters known as the Covid Pandemic!

Now, its Flu and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) season, and Covid is still here! These are all respiratory viruses with similar symptoms. A good avenue to protect yourself and family starts with education!

The UAW knows and understands that people are the most important asset in any situation. In the workplace, human safety should be the top concern and personal safety, at work or home, should be everyone's concern. Let us all fight a little harder using the knowledge we have, continuing to increase our knowledge and pay it forward by taking opportunities to teach everyone how to stay safe.

1. Wash-wash-wash-your hands. (If soap and water are not available, CDC recommends consumers use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
2. Keep your hands off your face-eyes-mouth.
3. Wear a mask if you feel the need.

These are basic protection steps we all should know by now and

still be practicing as needed. These basics can help protect everyone against Covid, Flu or RSV.

I would like to suggest a visit to [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com) as a source of education.

Just by typing in key word(s) in the search bar, you can find a wealth of information that you can decipher and devour at your leisure, information that I hope will help protect you, your family, and your co-workers!

Enjoy your families this holiday season and stay safe UAW brothers and sisters!

Char

**LOCAL 652**  
Arlene Pesik  
Retiree

Welcome back!! It's good to see everyone again after two years. A special thank you to Mike and Diane Bauer for all of their help. We all wish them well, have fun at your cottage! Watch your mail for information regarding the switch from ExpressScripts to OptumRx beginning on January 1, 2023. The Retiree Chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00am for Bingo and the third Tuesday of the month at 12:00 noon for business meeting and luncheon. For the December Christmas luncheon please bring a dish to pass. In January we will be going back to box lunches for our meal on January 17, 2023. Thanks to all of you for your help, our new Retiree Board is here for you. Stay Safe and healthy! Merry Christmas to all!

In Solidarity, Arlene

Local 652 Skilled Trades  
Christmas Meeting  
December 22, 2022  
from 3pm - 7pm  
UAW Local 652  
426 Clare Street  
Lansing, MI 48917

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**LOCAL 602**  
Marta Bobillo  
Retiree



**LOCAL 1753**  
Laura Clark  
Retiree



Greetings Sisters and Brothers  
Hope to find you and your loved ones in good health.

I'm very happy with the our state election results and the turnout of voters. On the other hand, I'm very disappointed in the National UAW E-Board election. The Retirees and Active membership hardly turned out and this was worse than the last time.

Please, when you receive the run-off election ballot do the right thing and participate. If you have any questions call the hall at 517-372-4626. The ballots will be mailed starting January 12-2023 and have to be back by February-28-2023.

Well, we made another year and we are looking forward to the best year of our life in 2023.

The UAW Local 602 Retirees meet the first Monday of the month for Bingo at 6pm. We also meet the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month at our UAW Local 602 Union Hall for our Luncheon and meetings, with Bingo following.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family to yours.

Come see us next year at our monthly meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

Love peace and justice  
In solidarity, Marta

Dear Sisters and Brothers,


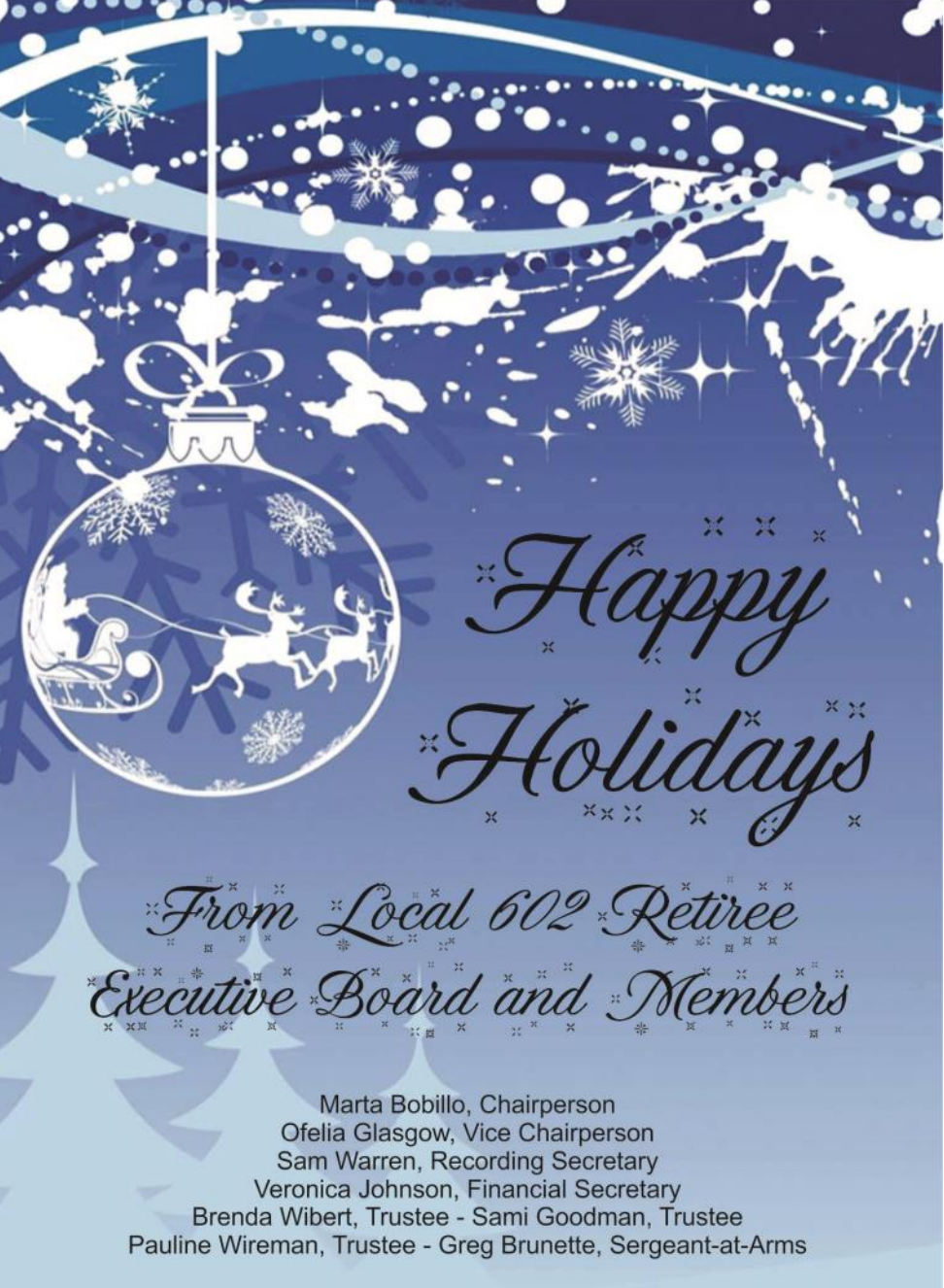
I feel like I should just call you family after we all survived the danger and hardship of the long election cycle! We did it together, all those calls, signs and all the commercials ! No matter who you voted for, Michigan turned out! I would like to thank everyone who worked on the election. Your big or small efforts in volunteering, along with all the hard work by our election staff, made our state shine. Most of our candidates did well and all three state proposals passed. Our Secretary of State said voting was up six percent from the last election. We can feel proud of that, though there is always room for improvement. I would like to have a state where 80 or 90 percent of the people vote. Our Lansing city clerk has made voting easy in the city, not like cities or states who enact repressive and restricting voting laws. He is able to do so within the structure set by three of our great leaders: Secretary of State Benson, Attorney General Nessel and Governor Whitmer -- congratulations on a smooth election and strong campaigns!

The December 8th meeting will be our Christmas open house from 1 to 5pm. You only have to bring yourself. Try inviting your old coworkers to meet you at the Union Hall. We can all eat, drink and

Please See Clark page 8

# Peace on Earth

## from UAW Local 1753

**Happy Holidays**

From Local 602 Retiree  
Executive Board and Members

Marta Bobillo, Chairperson  
Ofelia Glasgow, Vice Chairperson  
Sam Warren, Recording Secretary  
Veronica Johnson, Financial Secretary  
Brenda Wibert, Trustee - Sami Goodman, Trustee  
Pauline Wireman, Trustee - Greg Brunette, Sergeant-at-Arms

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From Clark page 7

be merry together!

I have a lot to do before Christmas. How about you? In between planning the big dinner, buying gifts and sending cards, now is the time to think, "How can I bring joy to the world?" Think a bit outside of the box: maybe a card to a service person, in this day of self-serve (and self-serving) everything. Let those helpers around you know we appreciate them! Don't forget our charities, especially the Old News Boys, who support children in need of footwear.

Our next meeting will be January 12th at World Buffet. Lunch at noon with the meeting to follow.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Note: In my last column, I called out some of the pillars of oppression and racism working to dismantle civil rights in the U.S. today. I would like to reiterate that a separation of Church and State is crucial to any free society, especially among the judiciary. This is not a judgement of Catholics or other Christians, as the Constitution

grants all people the right to practice their religion, so long as they do not impose those religious beliefs on others. Secondly, in referring to people who have been enslaved, it is important to recognize their humanity first and foremost, rather than use any term of oppression or suffering to define them. Going forward, I will refer to those impacted by institution of slavery as "people who were enslaved" rather than "slaves". Last but not least, if you were confused by my reference to the Presidential Records Act of 1978 and the former president's acts of criminality under that law, I encourage you to look it up and educate yourself!

#### Obituaries

Robert Cross  
Elze D. Harris  
Charles R. Jonckheer  
Larry Mahan  
Roger Wauch  
Lillian Taylor  
Mike Shumway  
Johnie (JJ) Jones  
Greg Lynn Arras  
Robert Van Vleek Jr  
Ulysses Embry

#### LOCAL 602 Obituaries

Robert R. Dietz - Retired  
Sarah Person - Retired  
John O. Dunkel – Retired  
Karen Ann Wilson – Mother of Jim Schmit, Active  
Linwood Culver Bigg – Father of Larry Bigg, Active  
Morris E. Edgerly - Retired  
Paul J. Bapst – Father of Alan Bapst, Active  
Cirildo R. Silvas - Retired  
Dona J. Gillespie – Retired  
Millard V. Root – Retired  
Timothy L. Allen – Active  
Robert E. Dugan, Jr. – Active  
Eva Evelyn Royale – Mother of Jeane Royale, Retired  
Fred Blocker – Father of Nadine Blocker, Active  
Michael Davis – Active  
William W. Burluson – Retired  
Dennis H. Esch – Retired  
James L. Mc Veigh – Retired  
John G. Malaski – retired  
Jerry L. Lashley Sr. – Retired  
Howard A. Shaw – Retired  
James M. Trendel – Retired  
Francis C. Randall – Retired  
Keith R. Chambers – retired  
Gary D. Royston – Retired  
Homer E. De Waters – Retired  
Ronald J. Wakefield – Retired  
Alfredo R. Regal – Retired  
Thomas J. Weaver – Retired  
Robert J. Rogers – Retired  
William J. Stringer – Retired  
Ike Kinsey – Retired  
Kelly Ann Shaffer – Mother of Alexis Littlejohn, Active  
Kathie S. Collin – Spouse of Gary Collin, Retired  
Bruce G. Knickerbocker - Retired

#### LOCAL 652 Obituaries

Arlene Bigliardi – Mother of James "Jim" Berry  
Allen Clarke – Retiree  
William "Bill" Cook – Retiree, Brother of Larry Cook  
John Crump – Brother of Jerry Crump  
Bonnie D. Curtis – Spouse of Ross Curtis  
Harold Daniel – Retiree  
Robert "Barney" Fretter – Retiree, Father of David Fretter  
Joyce Humble – Mother of Rick Meredith, Mother-in-Law of Neal Hummel  
David Jach – Father of Craig Jach  
Mary E. Kushion – Mother of troy cushion  
Emogene Leek – Mother of Harold Leek  
Jestin Lamar Mendenhall – Son of Brenda Beatty  
Johnnie Mendenhall Jr – Father of Brenda Beatty  
Lula Belle Parish – Mother of Ronald Parish  
Allen "Big Al" Ruthruff – Retiree, Uncle of Robert "Bobby" Ruthruff  
Geraldine Smith – Mother of Christine Shive  
Lynda Morrison-Splitstone – Retiree  
Constance "Connie" Sullivan – Spouse of Cyrus "Cy" Sullivan  
Gary Teelander – Retiree  
Milo Wells – Retiree, Uncle of Gary, Larry and Kevin Wells, Uncle of Bonnie Rowe  
Robert "Bob" Wheeler – Retiree  
Ernestine Williams – Mother of John Williams Jr.  
Thank-you's were received from the following families;  
The Eugene Hoeve Family

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**



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## UAW 1753

### Nominations, Acceptances, and Election Notice for the following election:

Special Election for Unexpired Terms

Nominations and acceptances for the positions listed on this notice may be made at UAW Local 1753 Union Hall, 3204 W. St. Joseph Street, Lansing, MI, 48917 on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, from 1pm-4pm and Thursday, January 12, 2023, from 1pm-4pm. The election will be held Tuesday, January 24, 2023, from 11am-4pm at the Union Hall and 11am-5pm at the Plant.

A Runoff Election will be held Wednesday, February 1, 2023, from 11am-4pm at the Local 1753 Union Hall and 11am-5pm at the Plant, if necessary.

All acceptances must be made in writing. Picture ID is required for both nominations and acceptances. All candidates are required to sign a fair election code. No acceptance may be made by phone or mail. All candidates must meet eligibility requirements found in the UAW Constitution and the UAW Local 1753 by-laws.

#### Offices:

Recording Secretary

Trustee

1<sup>st</sup> Shift Committee Person

Community Action Program (CAP)-Chair

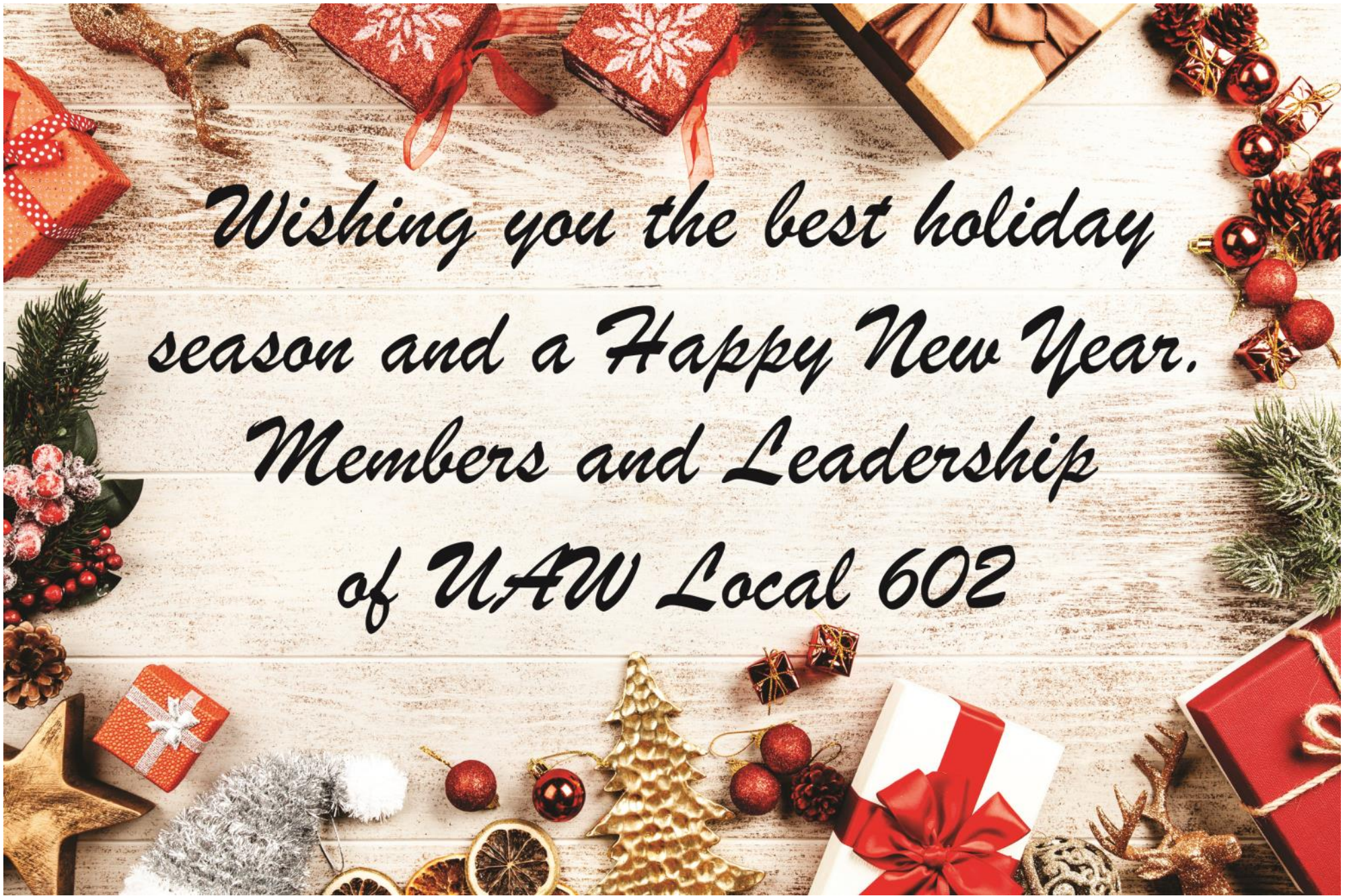
#### Reminders:

Picture ID will be required to vote.

Election results will be posted in the Plant and at Local 1753 Union Hall.



*Lansing Labor News wishes our members  
a safe and happy holiday season  
and we thank you for your support*



UAW Local 602 Trunk or Treat



# UAW Local 602 Kids Christmas Party

Photos by Robert Wade



# UAW Local 652 Trunk or Treat



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