



Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 1

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS



JANUARY, 2009

The fate of the Big 3

By Al Vincent, Local 1753 President

This was an article send to me by one of our retirees. It was a letter to the editor of a paper in West Virginia. I could not have said it better. As I watch the coverage of the fate of the U.S. auto industry, one alarming and frustrating fact hits me right between the eyes. The fate of our nation's economic survival is in the hands of some congressmen who are completely out of touch and act without knowledge of an industry that affects almost every person in our nation.



The same lack of knowledge is shared with many journalists whom are irresponsible when influencing the opinion of millions of viewers.

Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama has doomed the industry, calling it a dinosaur. No, Mr. Shelby, you are the dinosaur, with ideas stuck in the '70s, '80s and '90s.

You and the uninformed journalist and senators that hold onto myths that are not relevant in today's world. When you say that the Big Three build vehicles nobody wants to buy, you must have overlooked that GM outsold Toyota by about 1.2 million vehicles in the U.S. and Ford outsold Honda by 850,000 and Nissan by 1.2 million in the U.S. GM was the world's No. 1 automaker beating Toyota by 3,000 units.

When you claim inferior quality comes from the Big Three, did you realize that Chevy makes the Malibu and Ford makes the Fusion that were both rated over the Camry and Accord by J.D. Power independent survey on initial quality?

Did you bother to read the Consumer Report that rated Ford on par with good Japanese automakers.

Did you realize Big Three's gas guzzlers include the 33 mpg Malibu that beats the Accord. And for '09 Ford introduces the Hybrid Fusion whose 39 mpg is the best midsize, beating the Camry Hybrid. Ford's Focus beats the Corolla and Chevy's Cobalt beats the Civic.

When you ask how many times are we going to bail them out you must be referring to 1980. The only Big Three bailout was Chrysler, who paid back \$1 billion, plus interest. GM and Ford have never received government aid.

When you criticize the Big Three for building so many pickups, surely you've noticed the attempts Toyota and Nissan have made spending

billions to try to get a piece of that pie. Perhaps it bothers you that for 31 straight years Ford's F-Series has been

the best selling vehicle. Ford and GM have dominated this market and when you see the new '09 F-150 you'll agree this won't change soon.

Did you realize that both GM and Ford offer more hybrid models than Nissan or Honda. Between 2005 and 2007, Ford alone has invested more than \$22 billion in research and development of technologies such as Eco Boost, flex fuel, clean diesel, hybrids, plug in hybrids and hydrogen cars. It's 2008 and the quality of the vehicles coming out of Detroit are once again the best in the world.

Perhaps Sen. Shelby isn't really that blind. Maybe he realizes the quality shift to American. Maybe it's the fact that his state of Alabama has given so much to land factories from Honda, Hyundai and Mercedes Benz that he is more concerned about their continued growth than he is about the people of our country. Sen. Shelby's disdain for "government subsidies" is very hypocritical. In the early '90s he was the driving force behind a \$253 million incentive package to Mercedes.

Plus, Alabama agreed to purchase 2,500 vehicles from Mercedes. While the bridge loan the Big Three is requesting will be paid back, Alabama's \$180,000-plus per job was pure incentive. Sen. Shelby, not only are you out of touch, you are a self-serving hypocrite, who is prepared to ruin our nation because of lack of knowledge and lack of due diligence in making your opinions and decisions.

We live in a world of free trade, world economy and we have not been able to produce products as cost efficiently. While the governments of other auto producing nations subsidize their automakers, our government may be ready to force its demise.

While our automakers have paid union wages, benefits and legacy debt, our Asian competitors employ cheap labor. We are at an extreme disadvantage in production cost. Although many UAW concessions begin in 2010, many lawmakers think it's not enough.

Some point the blame to corporate management. I would like to speak of Ford Motor Co. The company has streamlined by reducing our workforce by 51,000 since 2005, closing 17 plants and cutting expenses.

Product and future product is excellent and the company is focused on one Ford. This is a company poised for success. Ford product quality and corporate management have improved light years since the nightmare of Jacques Nasser. Thank you Alan Mulally and the best auto company management team in the business.

The financial collapse caused by the secondary mortgage fiasco and the greed of Wall Street has led to a \$700 billion bailout of the industry that created the problem. AIG spent nearly \$1 million on three company excursions to lavish

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What would Dr. King have said?

By Winston Williams, Jr.

January 15, 2009 would have marked the 80th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We can't begin to imagine with the recent political events that have taken place in America, what impression would this have made upon this great man.



We can only dream what he might have said, given that from November 4 to December 19 our union brothers and sisters have experienced an emotional roller coaster of events. From rejoicing at experiencing the euphoric moment of Barack Obama elected as the first African-American President of the United States, to listening in horror as a couple of U.S. Southern Senators in Washington D.C. led vicious assaults along with their uninformed colleagues on hard working domestic auto workers. What would Dr. King have said?

When my good brothers, Ron Gettelfinger, President UAW International; Mike Green President, Local 652; Brian Fredline, President Local 602; Virg Bernero, Mayor of Lansing; and Rev. Jesse Jackson heroically explained the auto workers' position with passion and honor. What would Dr. King have said?

How about Dr. King's reaction when word reached him that President George W. Bush had authorized the bridge loan for the domestic autoworkers of America? (By the way, it's a bridge loan, not a bailout. Plus we would not have needed a loan if Wall Street had not ripped off Main Street. I mean created a financial meltdown.)

We can all attest to one point: Dr. King would not have been uncertain in his explanation. He might even have quoted the Bible, Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, or all three great documents. Sometimes he did this.

I would like to believe that Dr. King would have outlined how America's integrity was placed on the world stage in all of its glory on November 4. The pride in his oratory would probably have been

too much for any of us to bear, given how excited he would have been.

I would like to believe that Dr. King would have extolled the virtues of maintaining our domestic automobile industry. It has provided quality education for our children, health care, a decent home to live in, a livable wage, and continued access to the American Dream.

I believe Dr. King would have raised the question as to how could those U.S. Senators allow the nature of capitalism to engulf the domestic automobile industry but find it in their best interest to practice the benefits of socialism where the banking industry is concerned?

He may have even answered the question in such a manner as this. Those Senators are individuals who believe in oppressing people through chaos instead of finding answers as to how we can work together as a community. Like George W. Bush did on December 19.

I would also like to believe that Dr. King would take the time to give his definition of power. Back in 1967 Dr. King once asked Walter Reuther what was the definition of power? Walter Reuther replied, "Power is the ability of a labor union like the UAW to make the most powerful corporation in the world, General Motors, say, 'Yes' when it wants to say 'No.' That's power."

Today we witnessed Ron Gettelfinger, Mike Green, and Brian Fredline practice Reuther's definition when they stood their ground together with our support and made the United States Congress and the President of the United States say Yes when they wanted to say, NO! Happy Birthday, Dr. King.



Proposed Local 602 Bylaws Change ... Page 5

Lansing Labor News

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Periodical Postage Paid at Lansing, MI

Progress is being made

As the Lansing Labor News goes to press, we received the best news in weeks: President Bush approved the bridge loan to GM, Ford, and Chrysler. President Bush has thrown a lifeline to the auto industry with many conditions, as we will learn of as the national parties get together.



Many rumors will start. Please find the truth about the subject matter. Here at the hall we will make sure we keep everybody informed as we receive word from the International union. If changes are done at the national level, our active members will vote on the changes that are deemed necessary under the bridge loan program.

Our thanks go to the local and national news stations that have been very fair in presenting labor's side of the story to dispel any myths about our wages, benefits, and our contract.

A big thank you to all our members who contacted your representatives in Washington D.C. or locally. It has had a big impact.

Thanks to everyone who told labor's side of the story to the press. I believe it was important that the rest of the country hear from our members who build the product that is built at GM. It's a real shame to hear legislators like Senator Shelby of Alabama (who is not a friend of ours!) who had stated, just let it die (Big Three auto industry).

Legislators like him feel how dare you ask for a pension after 30 years of labor. How dare you ask for health care in your retirement years. The standard for those same legislators is that after only six years of service they receive lifetime health care.

I have a great idea: why don't those same representatives work for \$1 a year until they actually return our country to prosperity. We cannot be the country that races to the bottom of the wage scale and leaves little hope for average American families.

The UAW or organized labor is not the problem that has caused the economic collapse, but has been the answer for many things we all enjoy, such as:

- Health and safety in the work place
- Working conditions
- Work rules
- Involvement in our communities
- Education
- OSHA and MIOSHA
- Ergonomics
- Seniority rules
- Living wages and benefits

Our retirees worked hard through the years with the expectation of being able to retire after 30 years of service without the fear or worry that someone could take it away.

UAW President Ron Gettelfinger understands the worry and frustration our retirees and active members have, but also understands that if we all give a little we can help attain the objectives that are necessary to keep GM building autos for many years.

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Rev. Jesse Jackson visited the Lansing Grand River plant to offer his support for the auto industry as they sought a bridge loan to survive. Left to right: Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, Local 652 Vice President Randy Freeman, Rev. Jackson, Local 652 President Mike Green, Local 602 President Brian Fredline, and LGR Plant Manager Randy Thayer.

DEAN POGGIALI, LOCAL 724

We need more clear thinking

As we pen this, we are reeling from the facts that General Motors will take the Lansing Grand River and Delta Township facilities out of production mode for the entire month of January, 2009. There were anticipated and scheduled de-rating cuts already instituted, but these announcements increase the uncertainty of the whole economic climate within the region.



Compounding the situation is the arrogance and blatant disregard for working Americans by some Senators from the South. The South, the very region where transplant auto factories are located, where government sponsored tax abatements and incentives are the norm versus the exception. Add in the fact that these states are "right-to-work" states as well, and the veil is lifted. Although they like to blame the UAW for not coming to the table with concessions, they don't even take into consideration that if the UAW was to agree to anything, we follow the very principles of the democratic system. The members or the people vote on the changes, similar to how we elect these very nearsighted representatives of the people.

If clear thinking was the rule, then these Senators would calculate the economic impact on their state's economy. Many of our retirees have either permanent or part-time residency of these sunnier climes. Their pensions, health care dollars, property taxes, groceries, and utilities would be jeopardized if these Senators allow the Big Three to succumb to their no action of support. So go ahead and allow this to happen on your watch. If union busting is your hidden agenda, how long before your transplanted auto facilities reduce their wages, as they no longer have to pay UAW-like wages in an attempt to keep out the UAW and its democratic principles of fairness in the workplace.

We can't stress enough that all the politicians work for us, whether we supported them or voted for them. It is in our best interests that all our legislators get to know us, not just in times of crisis.

We have concluded the Toys for Tots drive. Again as in the past several years, the Huntsman Unit came through with shining colors for the kids. Designated shopper Pam Kissane again went above and beyond in gift purchases and the box was overflowing. Thanks to the Huntsman Unit and to all who donated to this most worthy of causes.

Our Old Newsboy gate collections were down slightly over last year. We collected a little over \$1,200. We would like to thank all of you who dug deep into your pockets to again help the area youth. Special kudos go out to the Delta Dental unit, who collected just shy of \$600 under the guidance of M J Warren. Dean Paseka, IMPCO Unit, collected almost twice as much as last year, which is commendable considering their numbers.

We are still getting collections of hats, mittens, and gloves for our holiday tree of warmth. We will extend the donations a little longer and then report out the recipient of the donations in a future edition.

In the same vein with keeping warm, the annual Walk for Warmth, sponsored by the Capital Area Community Services, will be February 28, 2009. The walks will be held in various locations within the Ingham, Clinton, Eaton and Shiawassee county locations. Walkers solicit pledges and then walk between 1 to 3 miles, with 100% of the proceeds going to the program. We know that walking in the throes of winter is not for everyone, so walk if inclined or, if not, donate to a walker. Please call me at 203-5027 for more information.

As we embark on some uncertain circumstances, we must make our voices heard. We must make sure that our families are safe and secure. We must sometimes put aside our pride and seek help when needed. Be proactive versus reactive in taking care of you and yours. Be blessed in family and your faith.

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

Some relief

I think we can all breathe a collective sigh of relief that GM received the bridge funding necessary to avoid bankruptcy. The funding was due in part to the grassroots effort of UAW members to set the record straight about labor costs.



I think the American public is starting to understand the urban myth of the \$71-an-hour wage, and the fact that the UAW has been proactive in being part of the solution and not the bad guys. Having said that, we still have work to do in promoting our products and getting this economy turned around.

If you compare this economy to a building, the Bush administration has constructed a house with a beautiful, ornate, and expensive ceiling, but the foundation is cracking and the floor is getting heavier. The walls of this economic building represent the middle class who have historically supported the ceiling by their hard work and efficiency.

For the last eight years the walls have been neglected, the beams are rotting, and the black mold of recession has ruined the support. Rather than repair the foundation and shore up the walls, the Bush administration has remodeled the ceiling and added gold-plated skylights.

As you might expect, the walls have now crumbled, the floor has caved in and the ceiling has come crashing down. Now everybody is in the economic basement. This economy needs a complete remodel, and we have chosen a new contractor for our project.

Obama builders is now in the process of pulling permits, arranging financing, and naming a team of highly skilled contractors that will help us re-build. Unless you have a strong foundation and sturdy walls, you cannot support a ceiling. This team understands the fundamentals of construction, and they will help us build a new economy from the bottom up.

With a foundation strengthened by fair trade agreements and sound industrial policy, Obama builders will set the standard for strong secure walls that will support our middle class and rebuild our future and our nation. We look forward to the promise of 2009 with a renewed sense of hope for the future. Yes we can, yes we did, and now we will!

Local 602 Annual Retirees Picnic

for Hourly and Salaried
March 4, 2009

Doors open at 10:00 a.m.

Dinner served at Noon

Ham, chicken, vegetable, dessert
American Legion

Kirby Stewart Post #24

2000 75th St. West
Bradenton, Florida 34209

Directions: Take I-75 S to 220 exit.
Go west on SR 64 to 75 St West.
Turn south. Go one mile to American Legion on right side (between Cortez and Manatee Ave.)

Chair: Larry Miller, 941-746-6968

Buy American

Here we are starting a new year, still with so much uncertainty about our jobs as auto workers. But as bad as it seems to us, think about the people out there who have also lost their jobs because of the Big Three cuts. Many of these folks were barely getting by as it was, whereas most of us have done fairly well for our families with the help of the UAW.



I know it is extra work to look for things made in the USA, or at best assembled in the USA, but we really need to do that. When a company makes things both in the United States and in other countries, only buy what is made or assembled in the USA. That goes for GM cars and trucks, as well. If they are not assembled in the USA, don't buy them. You can find union-made American-made cars and trucks at www.uaw.org. Enter *union made auto* in keyword and click the link.

Our children and grandchildren thank you for your extra effort. They will need good jobs like many of us have had and pray we keep.

BOB SMITH, LOCAL 652

What a year!

We've had some good things happen. There were the Olympics in China where the United States proved once again that some of the best athletes in the world are born, raised and trained right here in our own backyards (thank you Michael Phelps!). Barack Obama won the election. Let's hope there is a country left to govern when he is sworn in January 20th. President Bush/John McCain lost the election. Let's hope they leave a country for Barack Obama to govern. Lots of good things, but ...



We've had some bad things happen. High petroleum costs, high fuel and heating costs, the stock market crash, the credit crunch, massive bailouts of insurance companies, investment companies, banks and other financial institutions, mortgage companies - I've even thought about sending in a request for myself. It seems like everyone that has asked for help has received it except for the U.S. AUTO COMPANIES.

As of this writing we are still awaiting the decisions of the current administration on the bridge loans that our companies have requested. Hopefully President Bush will surprise us all and do the right thing in the final days of his Presidency.

I don't mind telling you that it gives me a little chill knowing that we have to put our futures as UAW members in the hands of someone who has never been overtly friendly to us. Time will tell what his legacy will be to the middle class of America. Keep your fingers crossed.

As for the New Year, we need to focus on what's important. If anything, next year could be even more difficult than

this one. We as Americans have always prided ourselves on "doing the right thing." A good New Years resolution for everybody in the U.S. is try to "do the right thing" in everything that we do. In these times of trouble think of your family, neighbors, and friends. If someone needs help or a hand up, do your best for them. This is the strength of our nation. It is part of our fabric, part of what makes us great, and the major reason that the United States is still the destination of choice for immigrants. From where we sit today the future may look a little bleak but we've gone through this sort of thing before and we'll do so again.

Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

Closing Thought

"A politician is someone who looks to his next election when making policy decisions, a statesman on the other hand looks to the next generation when making his." Who would you vote for?

RANDY FREEMAN, LOCAL 652

Looking ahead

I hope everyone is enjoying your holidays with family and friends. I wanted to express my appreciation for your support and efforts that everyone made in contacting our legislature and representing the UAW in a very professional manner.



I know we have gone through some tough times in 2008. By the time you read this, we may have received our bridge loan. We know there are still challenges ahead of us and many of us are on some type of long-term lay-off. Hopefully, the economy will turn around and put everyone back to work soon.

We're all looking ahead to see how the transition is going to affect us. As soon as we have more information on that, we'll communicate it to everyone.

By now, most everyone has received the GM audit form that is due in before February 1. Please take the time to fill out and return the forms. In it GM is requesting that you send a copy of the first page of your 2007 income tax return (Form 1040). If this isn't filled out and returned by February 1, GM will cancel your dependent insurance.

I believe that with the UAW and GM working together, we can weather this difficult time and come out strong. I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Local 602 Meetings

Second Sunday of Each Month
Executive Board meets at 5:30 p.m., general membership at 7:00 p.m.

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 1618 meetings

The executive board and membership will meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Local 1753 hall on West St. Joseph.



Everyone wanted to thank Rev. Jackson for his support of the bridge loan for the Big Three.

DEBRA MILLS, LOCAL 724

Talking points on bridge loans

When you're talking to your friends and relations about the bridge loan, you might keep these UAW talking points in mind:



1. It's good news that loans have been released to keep America's auto factories open.

- Good news for workers and their families at automakers, dealers, suppliers and others who are part of the auto industry that emergency bridge loans have been released to help America's auto companies weather the current financial crisis.

- This will help save millions of jobs, thousands of companies and hundreds of billions of dollars for taxpayers.

- All this could have been lost if one or more automakers were forced into liquidation.

2. A victory for UAW members and auto industry stakeholders.

- Against tall odds, UAW members and others who are part of the auto industry carried out a successful grassroots campaign to save jobs.

- We convinced a majority in Congress and the White House to back legislation for emergency bridge loans.

- When a minority of senators

blocked passage of this critical bill, President Bush reversed his position and agreed to release Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) funds to help the auto industry.

3. The UAW appreciates President Bush's action to release these emergency funds, but we're disappointed he attached strings which unfairly single out workers.

- These targets were not in the bipartisan legislation which passed the House of Representatives and which won support from a majority of senators.

- It's unfair and unworkable to single out one group to bear the burden of restructuring the auto industry. We will work with the Obama Administration and the new Congress to have these unfair targets removed.

- To succeed in rebuilding our industry, all groups must participate — management, directors, dealers, suppliers, bondholders and workers.

4. Hard work still ahead.

- In the coming months, we'll work with all stakeholders to create a viable long-term future for the auto industry.

- This will include top quality cars for consumers and building the fuel-efficient cars of the future and key components here in the United States.

- Sacrifices will be required from all stakeholders.

- Working together, we can succeed — the same way we won support for the emergency bridge loans which will help save American jobs and American companies.

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VOICE OF 27,000 MEMBERS

JANUARY, 2009

652 retirees

Happy New Year to all our members and associates. We hope everyone had a happy holiday season with their families and friends. 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, 1618, and 1753.

You can also find our activities on the web at www.uawlocal652.org.

Our next social night will be January 13, 2009, from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mark your calendars!

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Marilyn Bolton, Jean Schneider, Rosemary Spitzley, Marvin and Shirley Davis, Bob Abernathy, Al Woodhams, Helen Hogan, and any others we may have missed.

Robert Abernathy is undergoing dialysis three times a week. Shirley would like everyone to keep him in their prayers.

Don Jubb is celebrating his 80th birthday in Arizona with friends. He is playing senior softball and enjoying the Arizona weather (no snow), but does miss the good fellowship at the 652 Retiree Chapter. Don and Maxine, we look forward to seeing you back home.

Abe Saba, Earl Rogers, and Clifford Wesley were the winners of the 50/50 drawing held at our Christmas dinner. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all our members and associates who helped at our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. We couldn't have done it without your help.

The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to donate to the area Food Bank when you attend retiree events.

Snowbirds, send your change of address to: Lansing Labor News, 210 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917, to receive the paper at your winter destination. Please include your current address and the winter address when requesting the change. The paper can also be viewed online at www.uawlocal652.org. Click on the Lansing Labor News link.

You may contact us at the following email address: retiree652@hotmail.com

If you want to feel rich, look around you and count all the things money can't buy.

GM Local 652

Retirees Breakfast Club

Open to all retirees who worked for GM. Meet at Guerrazzi's Restaurant in north Lansing (formerly the old Mijo's Restaurant), 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the last Wednesday of the month.

**Buy Union!
Buy
American!**



Local 724 Financial Secretary Debra Mills with the local's "tree of warmth." Mills said, "With all the lay-offs at Local 724, our members and their families still know the holiday spirit of giving by decorating our holiday tree of warmth in abundance with hats mittens, gloves and scarves. Local area children and adults will enjoy staying warm this winter. I would also like to thank David McClelland for the donation of a beautiful tree. Thank you, for all you do as UAW members in your community. I hope the new year will bring joy to all."

LOIS SCHULTZ, LOCAL 1618

1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people. Hoping everyone had a safe and happy holiday.

Our next potluck and retirees meeting will be on January 14, the second Wednesday of the month. We had a good group for the Christmas party. The quarter auction went over big. It's such a good time; do come and join us.

Judy Hunt and all of us at the Local 1618 Retirees Chapter would like to thank everyone for the canned goods (70 cans), shoes, and clothing for the mission. We also got hams. There are lots of folks out there who are hurting and can use help.

A very big thank-you to Jean Caudill on the many hats and mittens she knitted in 2008 for the mitten tree. Arlie and Jean Caudill are a blessing to have in our retirees group.

On our sick list: John Westlow got a new kidney. He is home and doing well.

Roger Parks is in the Howell Care Center. Let's cheer him up. The address is 3003 W. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843.

Paula Raffler fell and is in the hospital.

Condolences to the family of Orrin E. (Ted) Packard, 87, of Charlotte. He was in the Air Corps in World War II. He retired from GM as an electrician. He had six children.

What is wrong with GM for letting us get into such a mess? Also the people we put in D.C. letting us down. They don't give a darn about the little guy.

How could they even consider letting the Big 3 go belly up? We are good workers and good people and we will stand tall in the end. I have my faith in President-elect Barack Obama.

My address is 3009 Luella Ln, Springport, MI 49284. My phone is 517-543-5385. Chairman Curtis Dunn's number is 517-323-2146. Joe Sagy's number is 517-372-7201 or 1-866-882-6513. Local 1618's number is 517-543-1651.



Write them in your address book.

Til we meet again, keep smiling. Have a great 2009.

LAURA CLARK, LOCAL 1753

1753 Retirees

Please excuse last month's article, I am still getting the hang of working with the computer. What I should have said is that we are enjoying more and more of our old officers and appointed retired folks attending both at the Thanksgiving meeting and our Christmas open house.

During the meeting we discussed phone scams used in our area. The members voted to have LAFCU do a presentation at a future meeting. Do not give personal information to callers on the phone.

Instead of our normal by-law meeting after the meeting, we trimmed our Christmas tree. We are planning to work on and complete the by-laws early next year.

January's meeting is the second Thursday, January 8. We will be giving calendars with next year's important dates already stamped in, thanks to the Executive Board. Please bring ideas of outings for the upcoming year. Following a short meeting, we will have a representative from LAFCU present information on topics of interest to retirees.

The Christmas open house was fabulous with nearly 100 in attendance. The spirit of fun with long time friends was thick. We filled the hall.

To all you early birds, the Delhi Café hours are changing to 11 a.m., effective January 5.

I suggest that we all meet at Jackie's Diner, 3812 S. MLK, at 8:30 a.m. on January 26.

Local 1753 Retirees' Meetings

The second Thursday of the month at the Local 1753 hall. Lunch at noon, with a meeting following.



602 Obituaries

Janet Gilbert – Sister of Richard Sandborn, Retired and Former Local 602 President

Manuel Gutierrez Jr. – Father of Ruby Cudney, Retired Paint

Francica Mena – Mother of Lupe Mena, Retired Body

Joann Chmiko – Wife of Paul Chmiko, Retired Quality Control

Judy Benjamin – Mother of David Bartkowiak, Body

Leo LaFave – Father of Steve LaFave, General Assembly (Engine Dress)

Evelena Pryor – Mother of Stella Muse, Body

Margaret Steinhauser – Wife of John Steinhauser, Quality Control

Clifford E. Poland – Husband of Marilyn Poland, Retired Local 602 Secretary

Theresa Rapson – Mother of Norman Rapson, Skilled Trades (Paint)

Glenna Ward – Mother of Terry Ward, Former Local 602 President

Donnie Gallimore – Husband of Sandra Gallimore, Retired

Ralph R. Snow – Father of Penny Snow, General Assembly (Chassis 3)

Lorena Miller – Mother of Doug Miller, Retired Trim

Doug L. Martin – Father of Doug Sears, General Assembly (Trim 4)

Dennis Sprague Jr. – General Assembly (AGV)

William M. Miller – Retired Maintenance Wilma Jones – Retired (Sealant)

Arlie Denney – Retired Paint

Mitchell Provost – Retired

Ralph Shappell – Retired

Daniel Shultis – Retired

Donald Campbell – Retired

Ronald Seaman – Retired

Wilma Jones – Retired

Gerald Weller – Retired

Walter Sherwood – Retired

Mary Fulson – Retired

James McClean – Retired

Wyvonne Brown – Retired

602 Thank You

The UAW 602 has always been near and dear to my dad's heart. Thank you so much ... Alberto Cortez, 652 Member LGR Lansing (Family of Jose Cortez)

Rodolfo Rodriguez

Rodolfo "Rudy" Fuentes Rodriguez, retiree, Plant 3 and other plants, passed away September 28 in Lansing. He was a fan of classic cars. Surviving are his wife Christina; daughters Lisa (Wesley) Groot; Diane (Paul) Rand; and Kimberly (Darryl) Newman.

652 Obituaries

Bibles were sent to the families of:

James H. Carter - Retiree

Terry Duffy - Brother of Jerry Duffy

Eugene Force - Retiree

James Fox - Retiree

RoseMary Fretter - Wife of Robert

Fretter, Mother of David Fretter Rene

Madison Fournier - Member, Grand-

daughter of Leon Fournier Robert

Gaedke - Retiree

Linda Gaffner - Mother-in-law of Tho-

mas J. Galbaui

Ernest Garner - Father of Jerry Garner

Bobby Ann Green - Sister of Moses

Hobbs

James Jackson - Retiree, Grandfather of

Obituaries continue on page 9

Old Newsboys drive



ABOVE: Back row, left to right: Bob Warner, Community Services Chair at Local 652; Dean Poggiali, President of Local 724; Mike Green, President of Local 652 joined LAFCU staff and Local 652 Retiree Chapter President Mike Bauer and his wife Diane to help sell the popular spoof newspaper that raises funds for children in need. Thanks to everyone who helped make the holiday season brighter for the less fortunate in our community!

BELOW: Mike Green, President of Local 652, and Brian Fredline, President of Local 602, joined our Old Newsboy cooks at Local 652. Soup and hot dogs were served to all the volunteers who helped sell the paper. Thanks to all who helped!



Rev. Jackson in Lansing



Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and Rev. Jackson were interviewed in a live broadcast from the Lansing Grand River (LGR) plant.

UAW Local 602 Proposed Bylaws Change

1st Reading, December 14, 2008 General Membership Meeting

UAW Local 602 Bylaws Change, Proposed

Current Article 13, Section 2 reads as follows:

Compensation for Lost Time:

"When the officer or member is required to perform services for the Local Union requiring lost time, the member shall be compensated for all lost time away from the member's regular plant job, not to exceed what the member would have been entitled to including any paid overtime, had the member worked. Pay to be at the member's regular shop rate. If the person involved should receive compensation for these services from another source, the member shall not be compensated by the Local Union unless the other compensation is not equal to the amount that would have been received under general provisions for such compensations. If it is not, the Local shall pay the individual the difference between two different amounts."

Proposed changes: Article 13, Section 2 are underlined:

Proposed language would read as follows:

"When the officer or member is required to perform services for the Local Union requiring lost time, the member shall be compensated for the hours worked or their regular shift whichever is less (up to 8 hours, no overtime) of lost time away from the member's regular plant job, had the member worked. Pay to be at the member's regular shop rate. If the person involved should receive compensation for these services from another source, the member shall not be compensated by the Local Union unless the other compensation is not equal to the amount that would have been received under general provisions for such compensations. If it is not, the local shall pay the individual the difference between the two different amounts."

First reading of this proposed bylaw change was held at the UAW Local 602 General Membership Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008.

Second reading of this proposed bylaw change will be at the UAW Local 602 General Membership Meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2009.

Local 602 Annual Retirees Picnic

for Hourly and Salaried

March 4, 2009

Doors open at 10:00 a.m.

Dinner served at Noon

Ham, chicken, vegetable, dessert

American Legion

Kirby Stewart Post #24

2000 75th St. West

Bradenton, Florida 34209

Directions: Take I-75 S to 220 exit.

Go west on SR 64 to 75 St West.

Turn south. Go one mile to American

Legion on right side (between

Cortez and Manatee Ave.)

Chair: Larry Miller, 941-746-6968

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L.A.F.C.U.

UPGWALocal 149

BOTH SALARY & HOURLY

February 17, 2009

In Bradenton, Florida

American Legion

Kirby Stewart Post 24

2000 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. Co-Chairs: Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398 and Bud Everts, (517) 623-6065.

Arizona Picnic

For GM/UAW & Salaried Retirees

from Lansing Area Plants

The fourth Arizona GM/UAW & salaried retirees picnic will be held at Prospect Park, 3014 N. Idaho Rd., Apache Junction.

Thursday,

February 19, 2009

at 12:00 noon.

Bring your own meat to grill and a dish to pass and drinks. For more info contact Joyce at 517-282-6775 or jmsfern@aol.com; Vi Hawkins at 517-803-5651 or hvhawk46@aol.com; or Ron Van Dorpe at 517-712-6164 or vanderpe51@yahoo.com

Region 1-C Bowling Tournament

January 24-25, 2009

Nottke's Bowling Alley
775 W. Columbia Avenue
Battle Creek

For active & retired UAW members

Singles & Doubles Events

9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 24

Team Event

Noon on Sunday, January 25
Men's & Women's Prizes

Your local union should have entry forms; if not, please call (810) 767-0910 and ask for Marcia Braden or Randy Eding.

\$15 per event includes prize money, bowling fee & tournament expense



Martin Luther King, Jr.

I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one with no thought to their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we bring into full realization the American dream—a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men will not argue that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a nation where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone, but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of the human personality. That is the dream...

AFL-CIO Convention, December 1961

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A tribute to the vision and courage of Martin Luther King Jr.

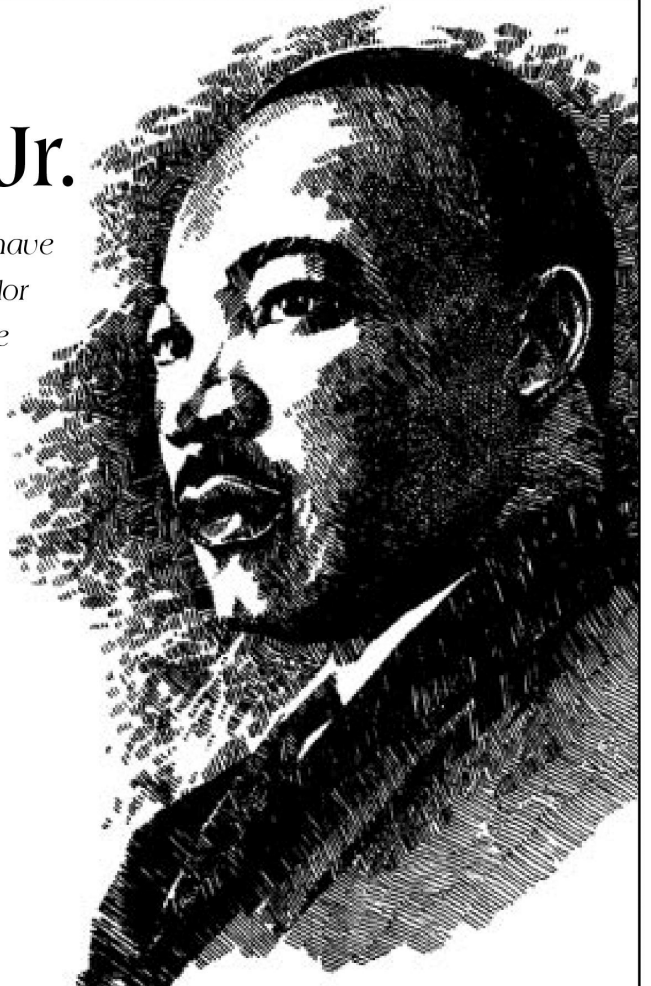
The extraordinary life of Martin Luther King Jr. continues to have a powerful influence on our lives. Dr King's message of "color blind" understanding, respect, and concern is our only hope of survival as a diverse society.

Most importantly, Dr. King showed us the way to bring about positive change through individual responsibility and courageous action. His burning passion for justice is timeless and can empower all of us to transform ourselves, our community, and our world.

The employees, management, and Board of Directors of LAFCU are proud to honor the memory and continuing significance of Martin Luther King Jr.



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dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood."*

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

Ron Gettelfinger

President, International Union, UAW; Chair, UAW CAP

Elizabeth Bunn

Secretary-Treasurer

Ron Bieber

Director, National CAP

Administrative Assistant to the President

Vice Presidents

General Holiefield

Bob King

Cal Rapson

James U. Settles

Michigan Regional Directors

Joseph Peters, Region 1

Rory Gamble, Region 1A

Duane Zuckschwerdt, Region 1C

Don Oetman, Region 1D

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—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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SPARROW

Also featured (from right to left): Muhammad Hamdan, MD, Hematologist/Medical Oncologist; Joseph Meunier, DO, GYN Oncologist; and Pamela Stave, Physician Assistant

Green

Continued from page 1

Gettelfinger has said that in the 2007 National Agreement we addressed the concerns GM had with the wages at half the current wages for future employees, replacing the 30-and-out program with 401(k), going to individual retirement health care accounts, and VEBA accounts for current retirees and surviving spouses.

Remember, we have given and will still work on any further problems we have to ensure that GM remains a profitable auto company.

Special thanks to Body Shop members who signed a card to be sent to Senator Shelby (R) of Alabama, letting him know how they felt about his remarks about the Big Three auto companies. The card was shown on Fox Business News. Special thanks to Tony Morgan and Ken Kramer of the Body Shop for coordinating this effort.

My sincere hopes for a happy new year and a good holiday break.

Vincent

Continued from page 1

resorts and hunting destinations. Paulson is saying no to \$250 billion foreclosure relief and the whole thing is a mess. So when the Big Three ask for 4 percent of that of the \$700 billion, \$25 billion to save the country's largest industry, there is obviously oppositions. But does it make sense to reward the culprits of the problem with \$700 billion unconditionally, and ignore the victims?

As a Ford dealer, I feel our portion of the \$25 billion will never be touched and is not necessary. Ford currently has \$29 billion of liquidity. However, the effect of a bankruptcy by GM will hurt the suppliers we all do business with. A Chapter 11 bankruptcy by any manufacturer would cost retirees their health care and retirements. Chances are GM would recover from Chapter 11 with a better business plan with much less expense. So who foots the bill if GM or all three go Chapter 11? All that extra health care, unemployment, loss of tax base and some forgiven debt goes back to the taxpayer, us. With no chance of repayment, this would be much worse than a loan with the intent of repayment.

So while it is debatable whether a loan or Chapter 11 is better for the Big Three, a \$25 billion loan is definitely better for the taxpayers and the economy of our country.

So I'll end where I began on the quality of the products of Detroit. Before you, Mr. or Ms. Journalist continue to misinform the American public and turn them against one of the great industries that helped build this nation, I must ask you one question. Before you, Mr. or Madam Congressman vote to end health care and retirement benefits for 1 million retirees, eliminate 2.5 million of our nation's jobs, lose the technology that will lead us in the future and create an economic disaster including hundreds of billions of tax dollars lost, I ask this question not in the rhetorical sense. I ask it in the sincere, literal way. Can you tell me, have you driven a Ford lately?

— Jim Jackson, Elkins, West Virginia

It looks like GMSPO's around the USA will be the only GM plants working in January. Customers and dealers

need those parts. Here in Lansing we have been working a little overtime with those 30,000 new parts coming into our plant.

RETIREEES: just a heads ups. The Delphi Cafe will not open till 11 a.m. after the first of the year. This will force the 1753 breakfast to move. So the January 26th breakfast will be held at Jackie's Diner, 3812 S. MLK (between Holmes Rd & Jolly Rd.) in Lansing. We look forward to any suggestions from the retirees as to a permanent breakfast site.

My Food For Thought: 2008 has been a tough years for the UAW and its employees and retirees. Over the years UAW workers have ridden out the rough times before and we will do it again. So in closing for 2008: May the Lord be with you, and give you peace and the hope and faith for the future in 2009 and beyond.

652 obituaries

Continued from page 4

JoAnn Bermudez
Rosevelt Jackson - Father of Roshawn Jackson
Barbara Kehres - Mother of Michael Kehres
Ernest Kraus - Retiree, Father of Faye Kraus
Arthur Martin - Father of Steve Martin
Zac McIntyre - Retiree
Lottie Miller - Mother of Daniel Miller
Norma Packer - Mother of Richard Packer
Jim Palmer - Father of Debbie Finley
Adella Phillips - Retiree
Clifford E. Poland - Retiree
Florence Reichstetter - Mother of Edward Reichstetter
Rudy Rodriguez - Retiree
Nancee Rutledge - Mother of Kenneth

Rutledge

Irene Schmedt - Retiree
Gerald Short - Retiree
Sonja Wells - Wife of Milo Wells

652 Thank You's

Thank you's were received from:

The family of Jerry Short
The family of Arthur Lee Martin
The family of Norma Packer
The family of Eugene C. Force

1753 Obituaries

Francine Lewis
Parnell Paul

Don't Forget Your Union Meetings

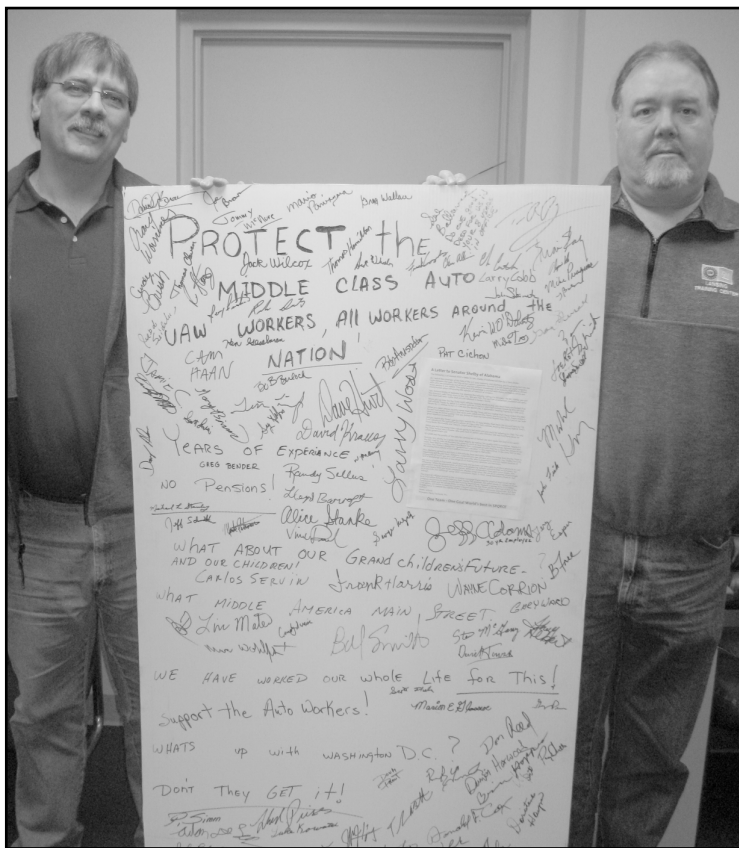


It's a jungle out there.
Here's a machete.



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Bob Smith (left), Local 652's Financial Secretary, and Mike Green, Local 652's President, hold up the postcard that was addressed to Senator Shelby (R) Alabama from the LGR Body Shop. Sen. Shelby said on the national news that we ought to let our industry die. We disagree. Our thanks to Tony Morgan, who took the card around to Body Shop employees, and to Ken Kramer, who delivered it to the union hall.

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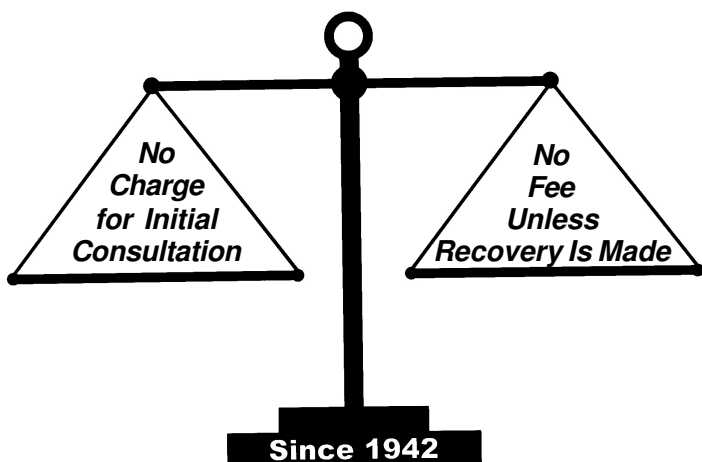
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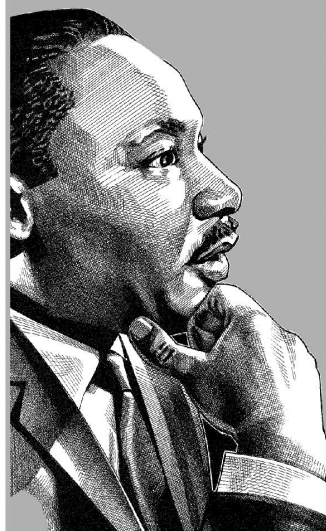
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