



Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 1

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS



JANUARY, 2013



As everyone knows, the Republicans used the lame duck session to shamefully make Michigan a "right to work" state. If they think that's the end of the fight, they have no idea what we're made of. Union brothers and sisters in our tens of thousands came out to protest. The fight will continue in many venues. Our columnists inside have many excellent insights about this.

Winterfest 2013 February 22-24

Join the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club at their annual winter get-together! **Please note:** This year's outing will be held in Grayling on the **last weekend of February**, instead of the usual second weekend. We look forward to seeing you there! For more info, see the club's website: www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com or call 517-420-5335.

Local 602 Hourly & Salaried Retirees Annual Florida Picnic March 5, 2013 (First Tuesday of March) 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Duff's Original Buffet 6010 14th St. W Bradenton, FL \$7.00 – \$8.00 per person Questions: Call Larry Miller at 941/746-6968 (home) 941-920-2988 (cell)

OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC

UAW LOCALS 652, 1618,
1753 and LAFCU
BOTH SALARY & HOURLY
**Tuesday,
February 19, 2013**

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

**Register at 11 a.m.
Eat at Noon**

Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Make plans to attend and see your friends from Lansing.

Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

Local 724 election notice on page 5

My right to work

By Dean Poggiali, President,
Local 724

First and foremost we hope everyone had a peaceful and joyous holiday season. Time spent away from work and with loved ones can be very therapeutic. Even though we seem to have more activities this time of the year, when they are spent with family and friends it is worth the added confusion. We can only hope that 2013 brings good times and better days to you and yours.



After the last article the labor movement was given the proverbial kick in the hindquarters by the Governor and the Republican majority in the House and Senate with enacting the so-called "right to work" legislation. I use the term so-called because I have had the right to work since I started collecting a paycheck over 40 years ago. Also a point of clarification is that some Republican legislators did cross the aisle to vote the law down.

At this juncture the actual ramifications of the legislation are being reviewed in union halls, regional offices, and International offices. Therefore in order to make sure we are all singing out of the same hymnal, the Local is awaiting direction on the law. As soon as we have some time to digest the ramifications, we will make sure that all the units get information.

Here are just a few thoughts in my humble opinion. They say it is matter of choice. Why do folks seek employment in a setting that is unionized in the first place? It is because the wages, benefits, and working conditions are for the most part better, which allows families to live the American dream of a better life. We made the choice when we sought employment in these workplaces knowing there are obligations that entail paying union dues every month for the benefits we receive. Is it a perfect system? No, but it is better than the alternative of not having a representative advocating for my rights as a working person.

Another thing struck my curious nature during the media frenzy about the "right to work" issue. The Chamber of Commerce, usually not on the side of working people and unions, said that they didn't have an opinion on the issue. Then they changed their stance and came out in support and again mentioned the word "choice."

With that mindset I am curious if a business that belongs to the chamber and pays their dues, chooses to no longer pay dues but still expect to receive all the benefits the Chamber offers, what will be the Chamber's reaction? After all,

whether union dues or Chamber dues, if their stance is choice and still get the service, if they refuse a non-dues payer or "free loader," is that not a double standard and shoots holes in their policy?

It is time to move on to a Local 724 update. The Christmas party at the Local was again a success and well attended. The Local 724 Women's Committee Chair Debra Mills and her committee of elves decorated the hall in a festive mood, had some great activities, some treats, and made sure that every child that visited with Santa got a toy.

A special thanks goes out to Mary Holmer, who continues to remain active in the Committee activities even though she has been laid off.

The Old Newsboys sale went great again this year. Although the total was slightly less than last year, we still collected over \$2,000 when the Unit sales, Local donation and some Local sales were all accounted for.

The "Christmas Tree of Warmth" again was full of donations. Many of the donations were again handmade hats, mittens, and scarves so the warmth they will provide were also knitted with an extra helping of warmth and love.

Recently the workers at the General Motors Lansing Grand River facility who perform non-production related maintenance duties voted to join the UAW. This Unit along with the current JLL-Drayton and JLL-TEAM Units perform various duties within the LGR facility and saw the benefits of joining the UAW. The JLL-LGR Unit recently elected a committee and will be working on getting a collective bargaining agreement.

The Bharat Forge Unit met with some resource providers recently at the Hall to explore what lies in the future. While there have been members looking at retiring, many of the members still look to continue working. We are asking if anyone has any job leads, please forward them to me and I will make sure we get them to the membership. I can be reached at 517-203-5027 or deanpoggiali@yahoo.com.

As 2013 is upon us with some uncertainty, I am confident that the labor movement will still be a force to reckon with. Having joined a union over forty years ago, my family has seen the difference in our lives by paying our way. I look at the fact we pay to have insurance on our dwellings, insurance on our vehicles, and in many cases have life insurance to help provide for our families. I equate my union dues as not a choice but my paying on insurance on my job.

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

Labor News online: www.lansinglabornews.org

LOCAL 602
Bill Reed, President

Speak up!

We spoke, we yelled, we asked, we begged—and yet, our voices fell on deaf ears at the Capitol. Our Governor Rick Snyder went against our pleas and proof, and signed the “right-to-work” legislation. There were **over 300** bills signed into law over the lame duck session. Most of them were pushed through without due process, hearings, or comments from the public.

Regardless of your own personal feeling on which party does what, keep in mind that the bills that were pushed through by the Republican Party over the lame duck are extremely hurtful to us, the taxpayer. Our retirees are already taxed on their pensions, more than ever before. Our children suffer in our schools with the lack of necessary tools for learning, and have fewer teachers each year. There are no facets left untouched by the Governor’s swift pen.

Although our hearts may be heavy, and our signs worn, we must continue the vigilant effort to bring justice to our world. Our Michigan is growing weaker by the minute, and it is only going to continue. We must stand up! We must rise and show our solidarity. It does make a difference.

We may not be able to always show our presence at the Capitol, but we can always write a letter, or make a phone call to the elected that are representing us. Call Governor Rick Snyder today at 517-373-3400.

Would you also like to call your State Representative? Or your State Senator? These are the people in power that have the ability to help or hinder you. Make the choice to not sit back and watch. We all need to get, and stay, involved.

Together we bargain. Divided we beg. Please remember that.



LOCAL 652
Mike Green, President

ATS awarded car of the year

I would like to welcome everybody back from the Christmas holiday. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays.

We welcomed the new year with the news that our ATS Cadillac would receive the Car of the Year award at the Detroit auto show. I want to congratulate everyone for your efforts in building a world-class vehicle. Your efforts have been rewarded. Our launch of the ATS was difficult and I know personally everyone rolled up their sleeves and went to work making sure we overcame any and all problems related to this launch of the ATS.

Our CTS Cadillac was a finalist for car of the year in 2008 and again that was made possible by your efforts then!

Camaro—American muscle car—comes home

It’s an honor and a privilege to be the president of Local 652 and receive the news our plant will be building the Camaro. Congratulations to all our members for all your efforts in building world-class products. Your efforts are being rewarded. I want to say thank you to “world-class workers who build world-class products.”

Governor *Sniper* and the lame duck representatives go on a hunting trip!

The Governor of Michigan stated he had no argument with labor and “right-to-work” legislation was not on his agenda. When Proposal 2 was defeated, that’s all they needed to call an all-out war on organized labor and working people across the state.

UAW Dateline reported that the bill was rammed through an abbreviated process in the legislature, bypassing the committee process and denying Michigan workers the opportunity to speak out against the bill in public hearings. Substitute versions of the bill were quickly adopted in the Senate on December 6, with final approval by the House just days later.

More than 17,000 union activists and their allies rallied at the Capitol in opposition to the legislation. At several points access to the building was shut down, leaving thousands out in the cold.

The House vote was 58-52, mostly along party lines. Six Republicans joined the Democrats—including Forline, Goike, McBroom, Somerville, and Zorn.

In the Senate it was 22-16 with four Republicans joining Democrats in opposition—Casperon, Green, Nofs, and Rocca.

Legislative assault on middle class

The process the legislature and Governor Snyder chose was an assault on the middle class and organized labor, UAW Dateline reported. The day-long assault on the middle class made a mockery of the legislative process, bypassing public input and using parliamentary procedures to ram the legislation through both houses.

The perversion of regular legislative procedures included no public hearings



or committee meetings, discharging the bill from committee to the floor, substitute versions adopted on the floor, the combination of multiple amendments into one vote, and fast gavel maneuvers where presiding officers dismissed amendments without a record roll-call vote.

The right-to-work (for less) bill was not the only one that was passed. The emergency manager law that was turned down by the voters was repackaged under SB 805. The bill ratifies all action under PA4 and includes an appropriation so there can be no referendum on it.

Other actions included:

SB 878 – prison privatization

Recall elections made more difficult

Business tax cut

Elimination of the Job Safety Commission. You can find explanations of these bills on the Labor News website.

I want to thank everyone who has come to the rallies at the Capitol to help the cause!

LOCAL 1753
Ray Whitford, President

CC&A employees once again show their generosity

The employees of CC&A, both hourly and salaried, showed their caring again. Recently we held fund-raising events to benefit the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. This money was raised through the sales of burgers, hot dogs and brats at lunch times. You donated a total of \$1,000! Keith Jones was instrumental in putting this together.

When we prepared to send the money, representatives from Sandy Hook sent out numerous emails and news reports stating that there had been such an outpouring of support from all across the United States that they did not need any more money. They did request that any additional donations be made to other deserving groups in memory of the Sandy Hook victims. Therefore, we have donated the funds to the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey relief fund.

CC&A employees have always made generous donations no matter what collection takes place at plant entrances.

Our society is an everyday changing of events. When growing up there were always disagreements, but we didn’t turn to using firearms and assault rifles to settle them. Settlement was normally a fist fight. Whoever thought that sending your child to school, they may never return home?

There is talk of arming teachers and principals so they have some way to protect themselves and the children they are teaching. I couldn’t imagine receiving a phone call or hearing it on the news that the school was in lockdown because there was someone in there shooting teachers and five- and six-year-old children. As a parent this would be extremely hard to handle—children just getting a start, going to school to learn, get an education—and their lives coming to a sudden end. What a sad society we live in.

The leadership, hourly and salaried, thank everyone for their donations.

LOCAL 652
Bob Smith, Financial Secretary

True freedom

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. I know my family and I had a great one. Nothing like a new product announcement wrapped up in a new Camaro wrapping to make Christmas special! The American muscle car coming back to the States! How cool is that?! This will be huge for our Local. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in bringing this to fruition. That includes every single member of 652. Once again you’ve proven that we have the best, most skilled workforce in the world! Congratulations!

Unfortunately, we never seem to get just good news. There’s always some bad to offset it. I’m talking about the heinous actions of the lame-duck Republican Legislature and our dishonest Governor. Together they took Michigan back 75 years! Right to Work! Governor Snyder had stated repeatedly that he had no interest in this. Suddenly, within three days everything changes. But, he had no interest in it. Yeah, right. And I got a bridge in New York you might be interested in...

The worst part of the whole situation is the hypocrisy. The political right makes claims that this is all about worker freedom, that everyone should have the right to choose a union or not. This is a flimsy excuse, and an absolute charade! Everyone that is a member of a union today had the freedom of choice when they took the job! I chose to work at GM because of the Union! I knew the benefits and pay were better with union representation. Anyone that says different must be related to Governor Snyder!

This is what I propose. If this Right to Work stuff is truly about worker’s rights and freedoms, then let’s truly have freedom. I believe that every working person in Michigan no matter the employer, should be free to walk into their boss’s office and state that they want to join a union and START paying union dues whether the employer has a collective bargaining agreement or not. That would be true worker’s rights! Too bad that this action is considered illegal under the National Labor Relations Act but laws can be changed and changed quickly, as we saw in the last session. I would hope that the Republicans and Governor Snyder will continue their “fight” for worker’s rights and work with us to change this law. If all workers were free to join a union I think we would be pleasantly surprised at the positive response. So, Governor Snyder, I call on you to help, and when pigs fly...



LOCAL 652
Randy Freeman, Vice President

Coming events

Congratulations to everyone on the ATS Cadillac winning the International Auto Show’s Car of the Year award. Again showing there’s no better global manufacturing workers than right here in Lansing, Michigan.



Martin Luther King Day

Remember that Martin Luther King would have been 82 this year. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience.

Cesar Chavez

He was an immigrant farmer who became a labor leader and a civil rights leader. His birthday will be coming up March 31. He would have been 84. There will be a Cesar Chavez program

Continued on page 3, column 4

Local 602 meetings

Following are Local 602’s meeting dates for the coming period. The Executive Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. and the Membership at 6:00 p.m. on:

02/10/13	03/10/12
04/14/13	05/19/13
06/09/13	09/08/13
10/13/13	11/10/13
12/08/13	

LOCAL 4911

Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary

More challenges

Happy New Year! I sincerely hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Each year certainly seems to go by faster and faster doesn't it?



We can expect 2013 to be another year of challenges for our middle-class families who will continue to struggle with rising costs for food and fuel, and increased medical insurance costs being passed along to workers. Unfortunately, we will all see a take-home pay reduction due to the payroll tax for Social Security being reverted back to its normal rate of 6.2% at the end of December. (The temporary payroll tax cut, under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, has been 4.2% since 2011 and was issued by the government to give us extra spending money.) Households will remain under pressure due to the grim job market, continued home foreclosures, and increased expenses.

Corporate special interest groups and billionaires (Koch brothers and Dick DeVos) will continue to march across our nation hoping to influence politicians with their vast bankrolls. They are quite successful as we recently discovered with our own Governor Snyder signing the Right to Work Legislation in Michigan despite his stating for over two years it was "too divisive" and "wasn't on his agenda."

Witnessing the outrage of 10,000+ citizens rallying at the Capitol in December had little effect on the Governor. Was this the Governor's defining moment to "Reinvent Michigan?" The rush to pass the Right to Work bill was completed during the "lame duck" session before the legislators who **were not re-elected** left office. This shortened legislative process was clearly an assault on the middle class and bypassed normal committee processes and public input procedures. Do you realize that only 20 states in our country have "lame duck" sessions?

Page 15 of *Solidarity* magazine portrays Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. giving a speech stating "In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must **guard against being fooled by false slogans**, as

'right to work.' It provides no 'rights' and no 'works.' Its **purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining.**" The ultimate goal of Right to Work is to **silence** our democratic voices in the work place. This new RTW law most certainly has proved the written messages by union leadership in the last two years which warned our membership about the agenda the Michigan Legislature was pursuing in lieu of conducting business at the Capitol to enrich the lives of the middle class, create jobs, etc.

We witnessed the cutting of unemployment and worker compensation benefits, pensions being taxed, job safety rules being dismissed, increased health insurance costs, etc. Legislative hidden agendas are in place to make it more difficult for unions to participate in public policy which would help to give corporate America carte blanche.

An excerpt from Jan/Feb 2013 *Solidarity* magazine reads: "We're at a crossroads as a country, and the choice is ours: We can build an economy that works for all and strengthens the middle class, or an economy that works for the 1% and guts Medicare and Social Security. Make your voice heard!"

Never before has it been so vitally important for us to join the rank and file to protect our families and our collective bargaining rights. The people do not have the funds to purchase television, newspaper and radio ads or produce countless commercials. Some of the viewpoints you may see broadcast on the news or read in the newspapers typically depend on who owns the radio or television network or the newspaper.

Therefore, please stay tuned to *Solidarity* magazine for labor-friendly information. Otherwise, you may see labor being portrayed as "union thugs" as announced by the media regarding the December rally at the Capitol.

I don't know about you, but the last time I looked in the mirror, I certainly didn't think I looked or acted like a "union thug." Apparently, if you are supporting the middle class people (99%) and are fighting for a living wage, benefits, a safe and healthy work environment, collective bargaining rights and respect, you become a "union thug" in the eyes of some.

Consequently, what we do have is a large number of Michigan citizens who are very upset that their voices are not being heard. We all witnessed firsthand the decisions of some who choose cor-

porate money (the 1%) and letting that money influence decisions over taking care of the people (the 99%). It is very important that you talk to your co-workers, family, friends, neighbors, etc., to help educate everyone on the downward spiraling direction Michigan is taking. Our time will come in 2014 when we as citizens are called to the voting polls once again and are able to cast our vote for turning our state around.

Please take an interest in what is happening in your state. If you don't think you want to get involved for yourself, then do it for your children or your grandchildren. If you don't, you may find them on your doorstep one day wanting to come home to live with you because they may not be able to afford to live on their own in the "Reinvented Michigan."

Save the date:

March 9, 2012

Local 4911 Annual Bowling Event at Royal Scot

LOCAL 602

Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary

We won't give up

I would like to say "Happy New Year" to all my fellow Brothers and Sisters. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with their families. For myself, I spent time reflecting on the last year, but also took time to look forward to our future.



We made many strides this past year as a Union, some forward and some backward. Politicians tried to squash our voice, however we are resilient and the UAW will continue to move forward in a direction that will empower the working class citizens of this state.

Gov. Snyder chose to tear Michigan apart by signing right-to-work legislation rather than secure a future for our state by working with Unions to create good jobs. Do not think for one minute that we, as Union members, will sit by and let right-to-work legislation end our right to be heard. We will continue to have a voice so all Michiganders can have good jobs, decent wages, safe working environments, and good benefits to support their families.

Many young people may not understand what a Union is and why so many people want to be a part of this organization. Unions strive for equality, justice, and dignity for the workers they represent, as well as promote job security and fairness in the workplace. Statistics show that Unions do make a difference and are good for society.

By passing right-to-work legislation, some politicians believed they could undermine the Unions by cutting off their funding.

The strength of the UAW is dependent upon the number of dues-paying members in our organization. However, I know the majority of our members will continue to support their Union.

Furthermore, I foresee us continuing to organize non-union companies and grow our membership base. We will have a struggle, but we will not give up on the workers' desire to achieve the American dream of social and economic justice for all.

LOCAL 724

Debra Mills, Financial Secretary

To a brighter new year

Happy New Year to everyone. By the time you read this, the Christmas holiday has passed and we will have celebrated the 2013 New Year. As we look back on 2012, we have since seen some improvements on our economic decline which touched everyone in our nation. We all have family and friends who have been impacted by the loss of a job, home, or savings. As we move into 2013, let's hope for a brighter and secure future.



All of us at Local 724 would like to thank everyone for their donations. I would like to thank the retiree that sends her handmade hats and mittens, and Rod and Stephanie Duwig for her handmade hats and scarves, along with Dean and Pat Paseka. Our holiday tree of warmth was a success; the hats, mittens, scarves and gloves will be given to the needy people in our community.

Local 724 held a Christmas party for its members on December 15. The party was wonderful and the families had a nice time. The children saw Santa Claus, they had many activities to participate in, and received a present from Santa. There were lots of smiling faces! We had about 100 children, so needless to say, this event is not possible without the help from local staff, officers, and local members and their family, especially the Women's Committee.

However, the person who is the glue behind the scenes that helps above and beyond is Mary Holmer from the Lear Unit. With Mary's time and dedication, and flair for decorating the hall, the event was again a rousing success.

And a big thanks to Santa—he was a hit, and he does carry a Union card!!

The Toys-for-Tots drive was a big success this year; the Huntsman unit and Bridgewater filled several boxes! Thanks for all your time, making sure the children received toys.

As we continue in 2013, let's remember to buy American and union, because we still have many sisters and brothers out of work.

Let's continue to help our own and make this a successful year.

Freeman

Continued from page 2, column 1 at Local 652 Union Hall on March 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Don't forget about the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club's **Winterfest** February 22-24. I hope to see a lot of you there in Grayling. I'm sure we'll have another great time this year.

I would like to thank everybody for all their support down at the Capitol rallying with labor, trying to make a difference. All your support is appreciated and we will continue to fight until we make changes that support labor.

Scott Lounds' article is on page 5.

Lansing Labor News

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VOLUME 69, NUMBER 1

VOICE OF 27,000 MEMBERS

JANUARY, 2013

Dorothy Stevens

602 retirees

As we enter the New Year there are many challenges we will be facing. The "right-to-work" law our Governor signed into law in December has been a big challenge for the middle class. The Governor is now saying it has already created at least two new jobs. These, of course, are government jobs with a salary of \$76,000 to \$106,000 a year, paid for by the taxpayers.

When you file your tax return you are in for a surprise. Seniors no longer can claim the homestead property tax credit along with other deductions we have had in the past. Just so they could give breaks to companies and the wealthy.

We still are faced with a GOP unwilling to work with President Obama and we are looking at a Congress that is trying to change Social Security and Medicare. We need to call our Representatives and tell them to leave Social Security alone. It didn't cause the deficit, so why should it be used to pay down the deficit?

I am updating my list of retirees who have never gone to Black Lake as a retiree and would appreciate your giving me a call at 517-627-3542 or call the Union Hall to get your name on the list.

Retired Fisher Girls, mark your calendar for July 25 for our annual luncheon get-together at Finley's restaurant on South Cedar St at 2:00 p.m. Hope to see everyone there.

The area-wide picnic is planned for August 12 at Hawk Island. There will be more details later on.

Kudos go out to Local 652 and the employees at the Grand River plant where they make the Cadillac that was named Car of the Year! Great!

I just received a phone call from one of my snowbirds, and the weather is fantastic in Florida and they're loving and enjoying every minute of it.

For all our sick and shut-ins you are in our thoughts and prayers and for all who have lost a loved one or dear friend, we send you our sincere condolences.

Local 602

Hourly & Salaried Retirees

Annual Florida Picnic March 5, 2013

(First Tuesday of March)

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Duff's Original Buffet

6010 14th St. W

Bradenton, FL

\$7.00 – \$8.00 per person

Questions: Call Larry Miller at

941/746-6968 (home)

941-920-2988 (cell)

Winterfest 2013 February 22-24

Join the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club at their annual winter get-together! This year's outing will be held in Grayling on the last weekend of February, instead of the second weekend. For info, see the website: www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com or call 517-420-5335.

Mike Bauer

652 retirees

Happy New Year everyone! Congratulations, Lansing Grand River on having the Cadillac ATS named as Car of the Year!

The following is our monthly schedule of events:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. The games start at 5:00 p.m.

Third Tuesday of the month is our potluck 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 5:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652, 602, and 1618. Our bingo night, potluck/business meeting, and social night are for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only.

Our next social night will be April 9 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only – no guests.

White Shirt Day is Monday, February 11, and will be celebrated in Flint at Local 659. Local 659 is located at 4549 Van Slyke Rd. The program begins at 11:00 a.m., followed by a commemorative lunch of bean soup, bread and apples.

The Region 1C Retiree Euchre Tournament is Wednesday, May 8 at 9:00 a.m. at Local 602. Local 602 is located at 2510 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Call 517-372-7581 ext. 147, and leave your name and phone number if you are interested in playing in the tournament. You do not need a partner.

The retiree chapter is taking a trip to New York, September 5 - 10. Call Marni at 517-321-6871, for more information.

The Florida picnic is Tuesday, February 19, in Bradenton. It will be held at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post, 24000 75th Street West. Register at 11:00 a.m. Eat at noon.

There is no Arizona picnic scheduled for this year.

We are updating our list of Local 652 retirees who would like to go to the Walter & May Reuther Educational Center at Black Lake when our retirees have an opportunity to attend. We currently have three pages of names but many of the phone numbers are no longer in service. If you have not been to Black Lake and would like to be added to the list, please email your name, address, phone number, and whether you are married or single (rooms are all double occupancy and you will be given a roommate if single) to retiree652@hotmail.com. If you don't have access to email, you may call 517-372-7581 ext. 147, and leave the information on the answering machine. The retirees attending these sessions attend classes and listen to speakers – this is not a "vacation" – but a learning experience for attendees. There is some free time for retirees to enjoy and explore the complex after the sessions each day.

Condolences to the families of Joe Braska, Larry Ostrander, TJ Evans, Bob Croley, Ted Barnhart, and any others we may have missed.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Marvin Davis, Joyce and Herb Fernholz, Dave Hodges, Don & Helen Hogan, Dorothy Hoisington, Don & Maxine

Jubb, Wilfred Pullman, Larry Salters, Leonard Schneider, Bob & Lee Vergason, Mason Williams, Willa Wright, and any others we may have missed.

The Lansing Labor News is now online. You may access it at www.lansinglabornews.org

The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to donate when you attend retiree events. **No expired food please.**

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

If you have benefit questions, contact a benefit rep for answers. 517-372-7581 ext. 500.

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

Lois Schultz

1618 retirees

Hello out there all you wonderful people! Mark your calendars for March 5 and June 4. These

are the dates for Ted Gauss's breakfast at Guerrazzi's Restaurant. The address is 15643 South US 27, Lansing Township, MI 48906 and the gathering starts at 9:00 a.m. Ted's number is 517-321-4754.

There's lots going on for us. The yearly calendar will be out next month. We have a casino trip March 26-27, an overnighter that hits Petoskey, Traverse City, Turtle Creek, and Little River. With a first stop in Mount Pleasant. Call Connie Dunn at 517-323-2146.

On our sick list

Dick Slocum with a hip replacement
Lois Dyer fell and broke her hip.
Don Marrow under the weather
Fred Kohagen having tests
Gordie Browerman's wife having tests

Get well soon, everybody!

Condolences to the families of: Douglas Duffy; Kenneth Warner, 90, leaves his wife Lois; Robert (Red) Varney, 80, leaves his wife Betty.

Birthdays: Lois Calahan, November 24. Happy belated! Calvin Smith, age 80 on January 5. Bud Miller, the big 65. Curtis Dunn, holding. Happy birthday to all!

Happy anniversary to Ted and Connie Gauss.

White Shirt Day is February 11 at the Local 599 Hall in Flint. Wear a white shirt in honor of the sit-downers.

As you well know, the "right-to-work" got railroaded in. Like I've said before, you ain't seen nothing yet. You may have a good job today, but how sad to have to live with not knowing what tomorrow will bring. Right to work for less and less and less.

Are you supporting the Republican Party's Super PACs and don't even know it? Have you heard of the Koch brothers? Koch Industries products include: Angel Soft toilet paper, Brawny paper towels, Dixie plates, bowls, napkins & cups, Mardi Gras napkins and towels, Quilted Northern toilet paper, Soft 'n Gentle toilet paper, Sparkle napkins, Vanity fair napkins, Zee napkins Georgia-Pacific paper products & en-

velopes, All Georgia-Pacific lumber & building products, (INVISTA Products), Lycra, Stainmaster Carpet

Let's just hope this will be a better year for us all. It sure didn't start out that way ...

You can call me at 517-543-5385. I like hearing from you folks.

Laura Clark

1753 retirees

Happy New Year! Are you feeling older and wiser? After last year, I know I feel both. Older after living thru the impact of school and weather tragedies and wiser knowing just what the Governor meant when he said Right to Work is not on my agenda.



Thank you to all retired members who gathered together with Dennis, Pam and I at the capital to voice your concern. It is your right, for your voice to be heard and not to be locked out of the process. I know we won't be locked out of the next election process.

Thanks to Region 1-C for providing lunch and a place to warm up. The last day of the rallies was very cold! If you were one of the strong activists who were there and I did not call you, put yourself on the list.

Call the Local or me to leave your number for further action, so you won't miss lunch and other activities. I was pleased and proud when I heard thru Facebook and pictures, about how many members participated.

We heard about a lot of action, fun and just checking in, at our Christmas Open House. The place was packed tight at the end of the day. It was so nice to see about one hundred of our brothers and sisters celebrating the season. Did you have enough time to visit with everyone you wanted to? I did not. Think of ways to improve next year's party.

A BIG "thank you" needs to go out to the Executive Board and volunteers. I could not do this without all of their help. They come early, stay late and help you and I in so many ways. They make our Local feel like home, so much so, some come back!

We have recently welcomed back some members from other Locals. If you are retired and you would like to transfer your membership back to 1753, welcome home! As to the rest of you, are you signed up for your dues? Are you on the list to share your phone number with other retirees? Did you receive your calendar for upcoming meetings and lunches?

For all this and more, come on down to the next lunch and meeting, Thursday, February 14. We have coffee at 11:00, lunch is at 12:00, and a short meeting will follow. With clean up, visiting and/or games.

Last month we set a record for clean up time, more hands make light work! I know this day is Valentine's Day, but we will also celebrate White Shirt Day. We do this by wearing traditional white shirts and eating the bean soup that was a staple of the Sit Downers. Come join us! Bring your spouse or a coworker and a dish to pass. See you there.

Lessons from our history

Seventy-Six years ago today (January 11, 2013) during the Flint Sit-down strikes what was later to be known as the "Battle of Running Bulls" took place. The violence was sparked when General Motors' security personnel at Fisher Body #2 shut off the heat, locked the gate to the plant, and tore down the ladder that was being used to supply food to the sit-downers.

In response the strikers forced open the plant gates. The company called in the Flint police. The police responded with tear gas and bullets. Picketers and supporters outside Fisher 2 turned over county Sheriff Thomas Wolcott's police car and took it apart piece by piece. A report on the battle in The Flint Journal on Jan. 12, 1937, included a list of those seriously hurt in the fighting with injuries ranging from "shot in left leg" to "gassed" to "heart attack." In all 28 people were injured.

The reaction to the violence was swift; Michigan Governor Frank Murphy vehemently stated, "Law and order will be maintained in Michigan." By the next day 1,200 armed and helmeted National Guardsmen began to arrive in Flint by bus and train. The Governor himself arrived in Flint around 1:00 a.m. January 12 and was given a hand-written note from the mayor of Flint and Genesee County Sheriff Wolcott stating that there had been rioting and bloodshed and more was expected.

To Labor leaders this had to seem terrifyingly familiar. Private security and government troops had been killing strikers for decades in the coal mines and other industries. In fact, less than five years earlier the Army had been ordered to clear out thousands of WWI veterans protesting in Washington D.C. and had done so with infantry, cavalry, and tanks.

Violence toward its own citizens was certainly not a foreign concept for the American government of that era. It

certainly seemed that the situation in Flint was heading in the same direction. But, instead of turning the Guard on the strikers and clearing the plant of the sit-downers, the Governor ordered the National Guardsmen to train their guns on both sides of the conflict. This gave the strikers, for the first time, a power and position equal to that of the company, and greatly contributed to the eventual agreement between the UAW and General Motors.

Three-fold purpose

My purpose in recounting this story is three-fold. First, to honor and remember those who sacrificed so much for the rights we as workers have today. Second, to encourage and comfort those who may have to re-fight these battles if the course of our state is not corrected. And third, and perhaps most important, as a reminder of just how much it matters who we elect to government office.

Frank Murphy had defeated Republican Governor Frank Fitzgerald just two short months before the "Battle of Running Bulls" and had been sworn in only days before taking his stance with the National Guard. Yet in the short two years he served as Governor, Murphy did two specific things—the intervention in the sit-down strikes and the passage of a Workers Compensation statute—which helped make possible a better life for working people in this state. Both of these actions were vehemently opposed by the wealthy corporate interests of the time, and as a result Murphy lost in 1938 to Frank Fitzgerald, the man he had defeated just two short years earlier.

What a contrast between Frank Murphy and our current Governor, one standing for workers and the people and thumbing his nose at the wealthy corporate interests, and the other thumbing his nose at the working people of his state and bowing down to the interests of the Chamber of Commerce and wealthy special interests like the Koch brothers.

In closing I would ask that you remember what the great Walter Reuther famously said, "There's a direct relationship between the bread box and the ballot box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls."

GM, Chevrolet and UAW contribute vans to veterans facilities

By Mike Melfi, Local 652 Veteran's Committee Chair and Region 1-C Veteran's Association Chair

"We owe veterans a debt for their courageous service to this nation," said Joe Ashton, UAW-Vice President and Director, General Motors Department. "The men and women of the UAW, many of whom are veterans themselves, are grateful to those who have worn this nation's uniform and are proud to know that these high-quality vans built by the members of UAW Local 2250 will be used by veterans who have special transportation needs."

The first of the vans was delivered recently to the Detroit VA Healthcare System. The vans, built in the U.S. by GM's Wentzville (Mo.) Assembly Plant and UAW Local 2250 near St. Louis, are specially adapted to accommodate veterans using wheelchairs or who have other mobility issues.

The other four facilities receiving vans are: Battle Creek VA Medical Center, Battle Creek, Mich.; G.V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center, Jackson, Miss.; VA St. Louis Health Care System, St. Louis; and the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc., Philadelphia. Each van has been customized with special equipment that meets the specific needs of each facility.

"Those who serve our country deserve the best, and these brand-new, full-size vans built by our team in Wentzville will help the VA medical centers safely and comfortably transport vets to wherever they need to go," said Cathy Clegg, GM Vice President of North American Labor Relations. "On behalf of our patriotic workforce with nearly 5,000 military veteran employees, and 45,000 retirees who are veterans, we're glad to make a difference in veterans' lives."

With nearly 5,000 military veteran employees, General Motors' support for the United States armed forces spans generations. Today, Chevrolet assists Cell Phones for Soldiers, Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans, the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, a

variety of employment and grassroots initiatives, and is the Official Vehicle of the Army-Navy Game. The GM Military Discount program offers the industry's best discounts on most Chevrolet, Buick and GMC vehicles for active duty, reserves, veterans (within one year of discharge date) and retirees and spouses of the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Guard.

"In Detroit, this van will fill quite a gap in terms of transportation needs for our veterans who are residents of our Community Living Center," said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Medical Center director.

Veterans receiving care at U.S. Veterans Administration hospitals and facilities across the country may soon have a new way of getting around. UAW-GM, General Motors and Chevrolet announced that full-size Chevrolet Express vans will be presented to five hospitals for transporting veterans to medical appointments and other activities.

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

NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOTICE UAW LOCAL 724

Nomination

The nomination for the UAW Local 724 Executive Board position of Recording Secretary will be conducted at the date, time, and location indicated below:

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: UAW Local 724 Hall

You must be a member in good standing of at least one year of seniority in order to be nominated. Term of office will run from time of election until the second Tuesday of June, 2014.

Election

The election for the UAW Local 724 Executive Board position of Recording Secretary will be conducted on the date, time and place indicated below:

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Place: UAW Local 724 Hall

Run-Off Election (if necessary)

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2013

Time: 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Place: UAW Local 724 Hall

– Kim Petrie, Local 724, Election Committee Chairperson
– Dean L. Poggiali, Local 724 President



A picture from last year's Winterfest. This year, the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club's annual Winterfest will be held in Grayling. See their website for more information: www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com

The 13th annual Pride Ride for motorcycle safety will be on Friday, May 17. T-shirt deadline is April 15. We will have more info and a T-shirt form on our website, lansinglabornews.org.

602 Obituaries

Donald Abbott – Retired and Father of Susan Eaton, Body Shop
 Terri Herline – Body Shop (Doors) and Wife of Fred (Fritz) Herline, General Assembly (Engine Dress)
 Bruce Linton – Retired Body Shop; Husband of Sally Linton, former Doorline employee; Son of Ed Linton, deceased; Father of Bridget Skiffington, General Assembly (Trim 1); Brother of Sandy Hansen, Retired General Assembly (Final 1); and Brother-in-law of Ron Hansen, Retired General Assembly (Engine Dress)
 Virginia Creed – Mother of Doug Taylor, International Rep.
 Jill H. Pringle – Wife of Dale Pringle, Retired
 Richard Slocum – Retired Material
 Omar Cooper – Retired
 Vernon Dewitte Montague Jr. – Father of Gary Montague, Skilled Trades
 Fredrick Parks – Father of Scott Parks, Body Shop
 Joanne Adams – Mother of Jeff Adams, Material
 Michael LaChapelle – Retired
 Ernest Dehart – Retired
 Edward Stanek – Retired
 Oliver Bryant – Retired
 Jack Hamilton – Retired
 George (Ben) Bettys – Retired Windshield Glass
 Inez L. Spayde – Mother of Melvin Spayde, Retired Trim 3X
 Gerald B. Heniser – Retired
 Stanley Tarala – Father of Joseph Tarala, Millwright (General Assembly)
 Mary Klein – Mother of Tom Klein, Quality (DBT Driver)
 William Matthews – Step-Father of James Blankenburg, Material
 Edward F. Sluja – Father of Randy Sluja, Quality (Paint Verification)
 Katharine Ogston – Mother of Denise Holmes, General Assembly (Final 1)
 Tollie Sharpe – Mother of Art Sharpe, Electrician
 Albert Clark – Retired
 David Oles – Retired
 Kenard Heiser – Retired
 Kenneth Noyes – Retired, Body Shop (Underbody Pans)
 James Allen – Step-Father of Marshall McNeil, Material
 Bruce Jamison – Quality (General Assembly)

Kenneth Schwartzfisher – Retired Quality (Body/Paint)
 To UAW Local 602... Thank you for the beautiful Bible we received from you in memory of Gertrude I. Hills.

652 Obituaries

Jerome Joseph Barker – Father-in-Law of Mark Wohlfert
 Betty Blake – Spouse of Shed Blake, sister-in-Law of William Blake
 Lynn R. Botke – Spouse of Robert "Bob" Botke, Sister-in-Law of Tom Dean, Chuck Botke and Dave Gibson
 Howard Paul Buck – Retiree, Brother of Peggy Byington, Brother-in-Law of Phillip Byington, Uncle of Dennis Mick, Cousin of Francis Bennett
 Karen Butler – Spouse of Jerry Butler, Sister-in-Law of John Butler
 Thomas Cary – Retiree
 Frank Chovance Jr. – Retiree
 Jack Craig Jr. – Retiree
 Robert "Bob" Croley – Retiree
 Lucille L. Dunn – Mother of Joann Costilla
 Terrence "T.J." Evans – Retiree
 Kathy Ann Fisher – Spouse of Randy Fisher, Daughter-in-Law of Dale Fisher
 Christopher Hayward – Brother of Arthur Hayward Jr.
 Frank O. Kreiling – Retiree
 Alvin "Al" J. Mack – Retiree
 Bethel V. McCleod – Spouse of Arnold McCleod
 Shirley J. McDaniels – Spouse of Don McDaniels
 Charles R. Myers – Retiree, Brother of Jack and Ernest Myers
 Louis Nellis – Retiree, Father of Brian, Vergil, and Charles "Dan" Nellis
 Calvin Oles – Retiree
 Tonya Reagan – Daughter of Earl Dennis Jr.
 Betty L. Robinson – Mother of Gary Robinson
 Cindy Ruehs – Spouse of Paul Ruehs
 Tom Short – Retiree, Son of Arnold Short, Brother of Tony Short
 Steven Smith – Brother of Wayne Smith
 Dale Swan – Retiree
 Daland Thomas – Retiree
 Helen A. Vercruysee – Mother-in-Law of Delford "Smitty" Smith
 Gary Wandel – Retiree
 Bettie Marie Ward – Retiree, Mother of James Ward

Willie Ann Wilson – Retiree
Thank-You's were received from:
 The Calvin Oles Family

724 Obituaries

Retiree Christopher Arthur Hayward (retired from Atlas) passed away January 5 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

1753 Obituaries

Fledda Canfield
 Stacy Zinn
 Gabrielle LaBelle (Peggy Music)
 Fred Washburn
 Gloria Heathman

The 13th annual
Pride Ride
 for motorcycle safety
 will be on
Friday, May 17.
 T-shirt deadline is April 15.
 We will have more info
 and a T-shirt form
 on our website,
lansinglabornews.org.



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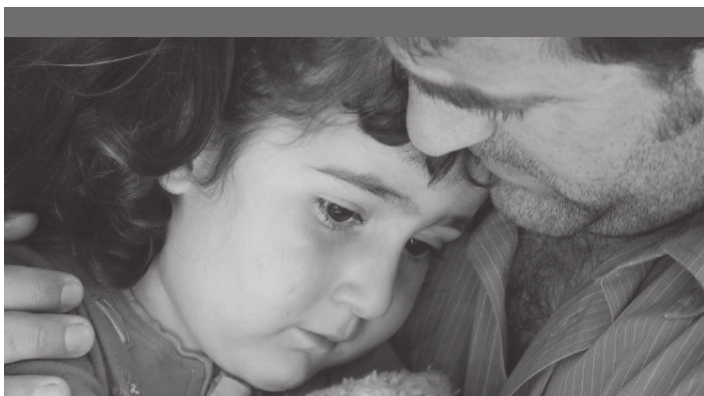
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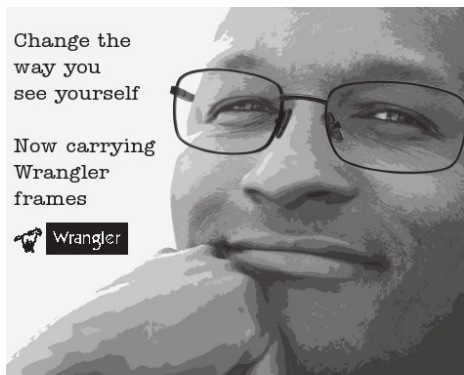
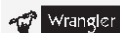
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616-245-6300

Lansing
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517-323-8221

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989-488-1866

Saginaw
2350 Tittabawassee
989-791-1044

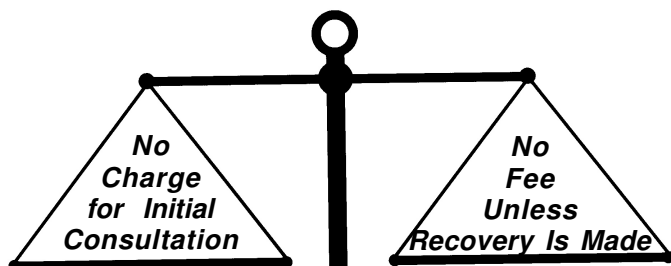
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