



# Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 1

VOICE OF 28,000 UAW MEMBERS



JANUARY, 2015

## Our region resolves to have higher expectations

By Gerald Kariem  
Director, Region 1D

I hope you and your family had a great Christmas and New Year's Holiday. With a New Year comes new expectations.

I always look toward the New Year and ask myself what worked last year and what didn't. I am excited about some of the things we accomplished in 2014 with the new region and the transition. The efforts we have seen in our retiree chapters, local leaderships, CAP Councils, as well as all those committees that have come together, assures me of the positive things we can accomplish when we work together. Every group brought an improvement to the table.

I mentioned we are in a new year, but a new year also brings new challenges and higher expectations. We can only handle those challenges with cooperation and teamwork. I am truly excited about working with all of you.

Almost like a personal New Year's resolution, our organization makes resolutions in hopes of improvement. And like people, our resolutions may focus on relationships, health, or habits, be they good or bad. Sometimes people follow through, and sometimes they don't. Our Union can't afford not to follow through with ours.

One of our regional resolutions is to have higher expectations. The better we do our jobs, the better our members support us. I put this obligation on myself as well as my staff. I am also asking the same of all UAW members. We will better serve our members by better serving our union.

We should be out there in our communities showing them that our organization has been there, helping to support families in trying times. We have been a



voice for people afraid to speak. We have been a force for people without power. We have been a shield for people without defense. It is time our communities, our state, our nation hears about the good we do.

Currently, our region is involved in the distribution of free Child I.D. packs; we are working Change the Face of Hunger Drives; we have committees already starting our annual school supply drives; and several scholarship programs work year round to secure funding for disadvantaged students. If you are interested in lending a hand, see your local leadership for participation. I would ask everyone who can raise a hand to lend a hand. Imagine what we could do.

I would also like to remind you of our White Shirt Day event happening on Wednesday, February 11, at UAW Local 651 at 11:00 a.m. Don't forget to purchase your tickets for a chance to win a beautiful FLINT-built 2014 SILVERADO truck and many other cash prizes. Tickets will also be sold at the event for \$5 each. I look forward to seeing you there.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you as the Director of the Region, and I hope to cross paths with you as we continue to build our great "new" region.

Happy New Year!

### Local 602 Hourly & Salaried Retirees Annual Florida Picnic March 3, 2015

(First Tuesday of March)

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Doors open early

Duff's Original Buffet

6010 14th St. W

Bradenton, FL

\$7.00 – \$8.00 per person

Info: Call Larry Miller

at 941-746-6968 (home)

or 941-920-2988 (cell)



Local officers and committee members at Winterfest 2014. This year's Winterfest will be February 13-15 in Grayling. See page 2 for more info.

## Reflections on 2014

By Dean Poggiali  
President, Local 724

As we embark into 2015, here's hoping that your holiday allowed you to recharge your mental and physical batteries. We all have so much going on in our lives that we sometimes neglect to take care of our own well-being.

We would like to reflect back on the last few months of 2014 for a bit. As in the past, the Local 724 membership stepped up when the community needed our help.

The annual Old Newsboys collections were up by over \$200 with gate collections. When you enter into the Local and Unit donations that were above and beyond the gate collection, we were well over last year's final outpouring. Over the years Local 724 members have donated tens of thousands of dollars to help out this worthy program. If you think that your children or grandchildren could benefit from the outreach, contact the Old Newsboys Association of Greater Lansing at 517-485-9107, visit their website at [LansingOldNewsBoys.org](http://LansingOldNewsBoys.org) or e-mail them at [ONBofLansing@gmail.com](mailto:ONBofLansing@gmail.com).

In that same spirit, the Local Toys for Tots drive exceeded the amount of toys received last year. Many of our worksites received collection boxes and collected donations of unwrapped new items at the worksite. When the Marines arrived at the Local to pick the boxes, there were six boxes that were overflowing. There may have more at some Local 724 worksites who had made arrangements to have the toys picked up at their respective worksite.



The Local 724 Women's Committee collected donations of handmade and purchased hats, mittens, scarves and gloves again this year. The items decorated the Local Christmas tree and will be donated to an area nonprofit that will put them to good use.

The annual Local Christmas Party was again an event for the solidarity of our members. Kids and grandchildren were treated to some crafts, cookies, and a toy from Santa. We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the RSDC Unit, which was able to secure some donations from their vending machine provider, which allowed the families to have a lunch as well. This collaboration of the Local 724 Women's and Recreation Committees could only happen with the many volunteers on Friday setting up and on Saturday helping make everything run smoothly.

Continued on page 6

### OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC

UAW LOCALS 652, 1618,  
1753 and LAFCU

BOTH SALARY & HOURLY

**Tuesday,  
February 17, 2015**

**In Bradenton, Florida**

American Legion

Kirby Steward Post

2000 75th Street West

(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)

**Register at 11 a.m.**

**Eat at Noon**

Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

## Busy start to new year

I hope everyone's holiday was a joyous time for you and your family!

The new year starts with a very busy schedule, starting with GM Subcouncil 5 (skilled trades) and GM Subcouncils 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The Oldsmobile Outdoor Club's Winterfest will take place February 13-15 in Grayling. That is also free fishing weekend. Please see more information on page 5. If you have questions, please call Mike Bokovoy at 517-420-5335. The Olds Outdoor Club does a wonderful job to make sure everyone has a great time.

March 24 and 25 will see the UAW Collective Bargaining Convention held in Detroit.

Local 652's Recreation and Conservation Committee will hold a Cabin Fever Game Night at the local on February 21, for adults only. It will include a euchre tournament and other games from 1:00 p.m. to ?

In his article on page 1, Region 1D Director Gerald Kariem talks about our region being more involved with our community. I am very proud of the efforts in the Lansing area that our local unions have been involved in. These include breast cancer walks, Toys for Tots, Old Newsboys' paper, Walk for Warmth, the school backpack program, Greater Lansing Food Bank, United Way, American Red Cross, and the many boards and service organizations our members serve on to make our community a better place to work and live in.

Concerning the child ID pack that was mentioned in our Director's article: the UAW has joined the American Football Coaches Association to offer **free** ID kits. A gift of safety from our UAW family to yours, each kit contains two inkless fingerprint cards, two DNA collection swabs, and one activator card. All this information is stored and kept with you, so you can give it to authorities if ever needed.

At this year's Winterfest in Grayling we will be passing these kits out. We will also have the kits at the Local 652 union hall, 426 Clare Street in Lansing. We have already had a request for 500 kits from Clinton Area Fire & Rescue/St. Johns Fire Department.

Thanks to everyone who called or sent a card to congratulate Pam and me on our first grandchild!

### Local 652 Benefits

To talk to a Benefit Rep, make a request through your Supervisor.

For those who are retired, on sick leave, lay-off, etc., Benefit Reps are at the Local 652 Union Hall Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except closed 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch.



### WINTERFEST 2015

**February 13-15**

**GRAYLING, MI**

**Host Hotel: RAMADA INN**

**989-348-7611 2560**

**S. I-75 Business Loop, Grayling, MI 49738**

**Kids/Adult fishing contests**

**Bingo Prizes**

**And much more!**

**Grayling, MI – Lake Margrethe**

**For more information check out the website at**

**[www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com](http://www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com)**

### LOCAL 652 Bob Smith, Financial Secretary

## On Day One ...

I recently came across an interesting article by Los Angeles Times reporter Michael Hiltzik titled "On Day One, the new Congress launches an attack on Social Security" and what it contained sent chills up and down my spine. The story describes a rule change in Congress that will seriously undermine efforts to keep Social Security solvent.



The rule hampers an otherwise routine reallocation of Social Security payroll tax income from the old-age program to the disability program, reallocations that have taken place in both directions at least 11 times since 1968.

Without the transfer the disability program is expected to run dry next year; but with the reallocated income the programs will be solvent until at least 2033, allowing politicians plenty of time to work out a long-term solution.

The rule enacted by the House Republican caucus will prohibit the reallocation unless it's accompanied by "benefit cuts or tax increases that improve the solvency of the combined trust funds."

This effectively makes reallocation an impossibility since across the board benefit cuts aren't politically acceptable and politicians that support tax increases aren't electable.

The Republican caucus claims the rule is necessary to "protect the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund from diversion of its funds to finance a broken Disability Insurance system."

The problem is disability isn't broken, it's been meddled with. Funding shifts in 1983 and 1994 have hurt disability's funding and if the rates had stayed at pre-1983 levels the fund would be flush today.

A lot of factors play into Social Security's problems today: the aging of the American population, the entry of more women into the workforce, and the increase of the full retirement age above 65. But the system has been successful for decades with just minor tweaking.

The solutions are simple to describe but extremely difficult to implement. One simple solution would be to increase the payroll tax from its current rate of 12.4% to 15.28%. Since the payroll tax is split between employer and employee, it would be an increase of only 1.44% to each. Done, problem solved for the next 75 years! Like I said, simple!

The problem? No one likes a tax increase! Other ideas are benefit changes (read reductions), combating fraud, or increasing the full retirement age even further, perhaps 70 or more.

Would you be willing to contribute 1.44% more to Social Security if this meant that everyone would get what's coming to them for the next 75 years? Would you be willing to accept some of these other changes? It's time to start thinking about what IS acceptable. Something needs to be done and the Congressional rule change assures that the discussion will happen, whether we like it or not. Until next time...

## Are you "attractive"?

Our attitudes not only have a direct effect on our life, but they affect the lives of everyone we come into contact with.

It's virtually impossible to get through our day without influencing those around us. What we do and say, either positive or negative will also come back to us in one way or another.

Remember the saying "what you sow, you will also reap"?

We all have equal opportunity when leaving a long lasting impression on those around us. When it comes to influencing the lives of others, our status in this world goes out the window. Rich, poor, CEO or stay at home parent, you name it, none of that matters. Some celebrities or famous athletes may have a big influence on certain things in our lives. But as an example, which is more memorable: a celebrity who made you want to buy something, or the person who stood by you when you needed them most?

The UAW is simply all of us standing by each other, fighting for a better future. Those who are not a part of our organization may think the UAW is only beneficial to its membership. We know that the UAW is a social movement. A large part of the needs being met in our communities would suffer if it weren't for the generosity of our members.

How many of your family and friends know about the good we do as an organization? Do they think we only care about ourselves? Have you talked to them about the issues we are passionate about? Did you let them know it's because we care about their future too? It's not just about meeting basic needs, it's also about educating, fighting anti-worker legislation, women's issues, veterans issues and protecting civil and human rights. This is why it's so important that we try to be a positive force that will draw people to us.

It's not hard to see ourselves being like a magnet. A magnet produces a magnetic field that either attracts or repels other objects having the same makeup as itself. If an object that is attracted to a magnet "sticks" around long enough, that object becomes magnetized and will attract other ferromagnetic materials. We as people seem to have the same effect with our "magnetic" field.

The strength of our own magnetic field is in direct correlation to our desire to share issues we believe in. This becomes a driving force as we try our best to make everyone around us believe that our issue should be just as important to them. There is strength in numbers. In order to grow and secure the future of the UAW, we must have the support of those in our communities. In order to get their support they will need to know what we've done in supporting them.

Let's not forget that magnets have two poles. If the poles of two magnets are not aligned they push each other

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**LOCAL 652**  
**Scott R. Lounds,**  
**Recording Secretary**

## Wage Stagnation Nation

Clearly, this is a bad time to be a working person. The economic recovery has largely skipped those of us who make an hourly wage. The Snyder administration and their cohorts in Washington have done all they can do to make sure that businesses have come back in the last few years. They have shown great empathy for corporations, partnerships, and business of all kinds. Their empathy for the plight of the working people of this country and state has been sorely missing.

For years, even as the economy recovered and the stock market soared, most American workers saw little evidence of better times in their paychecks. However, in November of 2014 overall wages increased 0.4, with the gain for lower-paid workers in production jobs increasing 0.2 percent. In a not shocking at all development, Representative Kevin P. Brady, a Texas Republican who is chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, has called on the Federal Reserve to move quickly and raise interest rates to stave off inflation.

That's right, a 0.2 wage increase has thrown the conservative ranks into a panic. Keep in mind that 0.2 percent for a worker making \$25,000 a year equals \$50 a year; but hey, on the bright side, if you are fortunate enough to make \$50,000 a year that skyrockets to \$100. God forbid. Those greedy workers might actual buy their kids new shoes, or coats, or school supplies with all that loose cash. The continued war on the working class by the conservatives brings two questions to mind.

First, how long will some workers believe that these pro-business politicians have the best interest of any worker in mind? Clearly, the wage stagnation, loss of pensions, benefits, MIOSHA, workers compensation changes, and higher taxes for workers and lower taxes for business hasn't convinced them they have no friends in the right wing, so I fear nothing will. Though I continue to try to convince them.

The second question that runs through my mind is what these conservatives and their corporate fat-cat buddies are scared of; do they think a prosperous middle class would see through their hate mongering and their economic shell games? They might be right, it was a prosperous middle class that led to the social justice movements of the 1960's as well as the legislation that makes sure our air and water are clean and our drugs and food are safe. But, they should remember that it was a put-upon and desperate working class that led to the sit-down strikes of the 1930's, the gaining of legal rights for unions under the new deal, and other Depression-era legislation that led to the creation of the middle class in the 1950's.

I struggle, and have for a long time,



to understand what makes people worry more about a business's health and prosperity than the prosperity of actual human beings. Having been to law school, I fully understand the need for the legal fiction that grants corporations legal rights on some scale, though taking it to the extremes found under the Citizen's United ruling seems absurd. But, that said, companies who are unwilling to budge on worker wages in a time when they are making record profits are shameful, and in my mind immoral. And, for members of our government to put business first over people is wrong and unforgivable.

I fear a time when unions are no longer around to fight the economic, political, and social battles that we as individuals cannot.

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

## Social Security resources

Are you planning ahead for those "golden years" of retirement? It pays to begin the research now to determine what age is suitable for you to retire from your employment. Many people are depending on Social Security to help ease the burden of financial woes during retirement years.

How do you qualify for Social Security retirement benefits? By earning "credits" when you work and pay Social Security taxes. If you were born in 1929 or later, you would be required to have 40 credits (10 years of work) to receive retirement benefits. Currently, about 10,000 people reach retirement age daily. You have the ability to view many sources of retirement publications and information on the following websites or choose to join 14 million people who have opened a personal mySocialSecurity account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

For the average worker, about 40 percent of your pre-retirement income is replaced by Social Security. The website [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire) has a retirement planner for your use to answer questions and help you prepare



financially for this life-changing decision. (Some financial experts believe you may need up to 70-80 percent of pre-retirement income to live comfortably in retirement.)

In the past, Social Security sent our earnings history in the mail annually. After age 60, you will receive a Social Security statement every year in the mail about three months before your birthday, unless you have a mySocialSecurity account online. Your complete earnings history is shown, which will allow you to verify the accuracy of your earnings. Your benefit amount is based on your *earnings over your lifetime*.

Your actual earnings are adjusted or "indexed" to account for changes in average wages since the year the earnings were received. Then Social Security calculates your average indexed monthly earnings during the 35 years in which you earned the most. They apply a formula to these earnings and arrive at your basic benefit. This is how much you would receive at your full retirement age – 65 or older, depending on your date of birth.

**Age to receive full Social Security benefits**

Year of birth	Full retirement age
1943-1954	66
1955	66 and 2 months
1956	66 and 4 months
1957	66 and 6 months
1958	66 and 8 months
1959	66 and 10 months
1960 and later	67

**NOTE:** People who were born on January 1 of any year should refer to the previous year.

Achieving the maximum Social Security benefit would depend upon the age that you choose to retire.

To help you understand how the maximum benefit is calculated, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf) for an in-depth explanation.

For example, if you earned \$\$\$ in social security benefits and you retired in 2014:

Retirement Age	Maximum Benefit
62	\$1,992-Reduced Benefit
66	\$2,642
70	\$3,425

Additional sources of information regarding retirement and Social Security:

Frequently Asked Questions website: [www.ssa.gov/faq](http://www.ssa.gov/faq)

For retirement benefit estimates: [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator)

For information on Special Payments,

such as; pension payments, annuities, interest or dividends: [www.socialsecurity.gov/hlp/isba/10/hlp-isba063-specpmt.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/hlp/isba/10/hlp-isba063-specpmt.htm)

For information on unemployment benefits as earnings: [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/qualify.htm#sb=2](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/qualify.htm#sb=2)

For information on Social Security benefits and military service: [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/veterans.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/veterans.htm)

For information on Social Security if disabled: [www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dapproval4.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dapproval4.htm)

57 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries age 62 and older are represented by women. A staggering 68 percent of women are beneficiaries aged 85 and older. There is a site specifically for women at [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/women](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/women) which has information for widows, working women, wives, etc.

If you know anyone that is currently on Medicare, you may be able to help them if they are struggling financially. "Extra Help" with Medicare prescription costs is available if you have limited income (tied to the federal poverty level) and limited resources. To see if you qualify, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp) or pass along the website address to someone you can help.

Another website address is [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp) or you can call Social Security's toll-free number.

Many people are contemplating retirement and have questions which are unanswered. The websites listed in this article can be used as resources for you to begin your investigation regarding retirement. I also have confirmed with the Social Security Public Affairs department that they are willing to attend one (or more) of our membership meetings to help us understand various topics and answer questions. We are negotiating a convenient meeting date for this spring. Please watch our Worker to Worker and bulletin boards for the announcement of our guest speaker. I will also schedule a meeting for our Retirees in which Social Security will be the guest speaker and answer your questions.

Source: [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

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

## True solidarity

The UAW's *Solidarity* magazine is nowadays mostly online. So I wanted to make sure you saw the following article from the last issue. Also, you can go to [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org) to sign up for email notifications of the publication of the digital version, or even to opt in for the print issue.

When Ann Martin was diagnosed with breast cancer in October 2011, she knew the road to recovery would be difficult. As the mother to a son and daughter, the then 16-year employee of General Motors Fort Wayne Assembly in Indiana was worried about many things — including the toll the disease would take on her health and family.



## Lansing Labor News

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VOICE OF 28,000 MEMBERS

JANUARY, 2015

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## 602 retirees

We are starting a new year with a new Congress and many wonder what will come next.

There is growing political will in Washington to alter our Social Security system. The changes to our country's social insurance safety net appear to be inevitable, especially now, with a new willingness by President Obama and lawmakers in both parties to change Social Security and Medicare and cut your earned benefits.

It has been a constant fight to protect and improve these vital programs for current and future beneficiaries.

Given the federal debt, the anti-Social Security lobby will continue to target the Social Security system in order to pay down deficits while many Washington politicians want to cut Social Security and Medicare and keep tax loopholes for millionaires.

Some of the most harmful proposals gaining momentum in Washington would cut the Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) already too low to keep up with rising costs, end traditional Medicare and privatize the program for the benefit of large insurance companies, increase your out-of-pocket health care costs and undermine the purpose of Social Security and Medicare.

Sending a message to your Representative is very, very important right now. Here's why:

1) As a constituent writing or contacting your representative to urge them to approve any legislation, plan or recommendation that will in any way harm the benefits, or traditional role of Social Security or Medicare are effective coming from you.

2) These are benefits YOU have worked for, paid for, and are counting on for your retirement.

3) The next two years are going to present us with enormous challenges. If we stand together we can stop bad things from happening and make our country stronger and more just.

This is the least we can do to try and leave something for our children and grandchildren. Won't you please take a few minutes and contact your representative now?

For all the sick and shut-ins, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

For those who have lost a loved one or dear friend, we send you our sincere condolences.

**Local 602  
Hourly & Salaried  
Retirees  
Annual Florida Picnic  
March 3, 2015**  
(First Tuesday of March)  
**11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
*Doors open early*  
Duff's Original Buffet  
6010 14th St. W  
Bradenton, FL  
\$7.00 – \$8.00 per person  
Info: Call Larry Miller  
at 941-746-6968 (home)  
or 941-920-2988 (cell)



**Organizers of the 2014 retirees picnic in Florida for Locals 652, 1618, and 1753. They are looking forward to another great picnic on February 17.**

**Mike Bauer**

## 652 retirees

A belated Happy New Year to everyone. 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 and 602.

Our bingo night, potluck/business meeting, and social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only.

**By membership action, we are making changes to our Bingo and Card times and refreshments. Effective in March 2015, Bingo will be held the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Participants will bring their own snacks. Cards will be the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Participants will bring their own snacks.**

Our next social night will be April 14. Social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only—no guests.

The Lansing Area Euchre Tournament is April 17, at Local 602, starting at 9:00 a.m. You do not need a partner to play. Please call 517-372-7581, ext. 147, and leave your name and number to sign up.

## OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC

**UAW LOCALS 652, 1618,  
1753 and LAFCU  
BOTH SALARY & HOURLY  
Tuesday,  
February 17, 2015  
In Bradenton, Florida  
American Legion  
Kirby Steward Post  
2000 75th Street West  
(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)  
Register at 11 a.m.  
Eat at Noon**

Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

Condolences to all the families who have had a loved one pass.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Joyce and Herb Fernholz, Dave Hodges, Don & Helen Hogan, Dorothy Hoisington, Jim Halfmann, Roger & Alice Miller, Leonard Schneider, Bob & Lee Vergason, Mason Williams, Willa Wright, and any others we may have missed

The Lansing Labor News is online at [www.lansinglabornews.org](http://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](mailto:retiree652@hotmail.com)

**Laura Clark**

## 1753 retirees

Happy New Year! Hope you had a nice holiday. We here at the local 1753

Christmas open house had a bash. Nancy had a fire in the hearth and carols were being played. The local provided cold cuts, meatballs, dishes of all sorts and we have very nice members who brought extras. We saw many members that we had not seen for some time. It was nice to see the number of active members was up from last year. We tried to encourage everyone to attend future meetings by handing out calendars for this year that are stamped with meeting dates. If you do not have yours, come to the next meeting to receive it and you can get with the times (as they say).

Attendance at the monthly retirees meetings has been up; as you may remember the local usually buys the main dish. Now we have taken to adding a side dish. This is so all people will know that it is OK if you forgot it at home. It's



OK if you made cookies for us and then the grandkids showed up and you let them eat them! It's OK even if you just can't cook! Come to the meeting and eat lunch and visit. Bring ideas for activities. I've suggested Bingo in the past. Maybe you would like to play cards during coffee or after the meeting. Is it time for another card party? These questions and more may be discussed at the next meeting.

Our Region, now 1-D, is into cards and continuing the euchre party on Friday, April 17 at the 602 hall. Remember, you must show up early to register for the 9:00 a.m. start time. There will be cash prizes awarded. If you would like to volunteer to work it, call me.

This year is the 25th annual Capital Area Community Service's Walk for Warmth. The Walk for Warm is a statewide program for assistance for utility bills. This year's walk will be Saturday, February 28. If you can help or have any questions, call 203-5027.

Next meeting is February 12; this will be a soup lunch in honor of our sit-downers who ate not much more. We are looking for all types. Bring your favorites. Looking forward to seeing you—bring a dish to pass or bring yourself!

**Lois Schultz**

## 1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people.

Please put on your calendars: TED'S BREAKFAST at 8:30 a.m. on MARCH 3 at Guerrazzi's Restaurant, 15643 Old U.S. 27, Lansing, MI 48906. [Lin DeWitt Township, a bit north of State Road.] There will also be a breakfast June 2, same time and place.

Remember our monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. Bring a dish to pass, we eat at noon.

Our sick list includes many with the bad flu.

Curtis Dunn is back after a quick recovery. He went to the hospital twice in one day and ended up with a triple bypass. He's doing great.

Jerry Hunt fell and is in rehab, will be there a spell. Ted Gauss fell in Florida. Jerry and Shirley Raymond are back home. Larry Smith is on the mend.

John Dennison had mini strokes but is better. He also broke his heel and has a plate. Bud Miller's back has given him lots of trouble.

Thanks to Barbara Kline for taking place while on the cruise. It was a great trip; me and my three-wheeler got all over the ship. I gave Jeannie and Juan Mendez away. She was a beautiful bride. We all had a part in the wedding. St. Thomas and St. Martin were awesome. My daughter Mariann Anthony went as my buddy. There were eighteen in our group. We danced, laughed, and ate lots of food. Good times!

The Cape Cod trip was a big success with eight buses. Great job by Connie Dunn! They are working on a new big trip in October. Connie also has a casino trip March 24-25 to Mount Pleasant, Petoskey, Traverse City, staying at

**Continued on page 6**

## Local 4911 Nomination and Election Notice

Acceptance for positions listed below may be made at the Local 4911 Union Hall, 2722 E. Michigan Ave. Suite 205 Lansing, beginning February 19 and 20 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. both days. All candidates must accept nomination in person, no acceptance may be made by telephone, mail, fax or email, and you must be a Local 4911 member in continuous good standing for one (1) year prior to acceptance deadline to be eligible to run for office.

### Sergeant-at-Arms

### Three (3) Technical Unit Stewards

### Retiree Executive Board:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Financial Secretary
- Recording Secretary

The election will be held at the Local 4911 Union Hall  
on March 11  
from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There is no need to have a run-off for these positions, as they are a  
plurality vote process.

- Joe Douglas, UAW Local 4911 President
- Marsha Mead, Election Committee Chair

## UAW Local 4911

Cordially invites UAW Local 4911 member and one adult guest to our

## Valentine Extravaganza Saturday, February 14

6:00pm-10:00pm

426 Clare St. Lansing 48917 (UAW Local 652)

Appetizers and Beverages provided

We will have a DJ providing music for dancing.

Registration is required, and deadline for registration is February 12.

Contact Natalie Hazel at 517-512-2518 or natalie.hazel@sparrow.org or Mickie Kreft at MickieKreft@uawlocal4911.org

## UAW Local 4911 Retiree Chapter

You are invited to join UAW Local 4911's  
newly formed Retiree Chapter

The first event will be a social forum on

**February 17**

from 1 – 3 pm

Suite 103, Meeting Room

2722 E. Michigan Avenue

Lansing, MI 48912

## Save the date

UAW Local 4911's

**6th annual bowling event**

at Spare Time in Frandor

March 14, 2015 from 10am - 1pm

Registration begins Feb 16

## UAW Local 602 Election Notice

### Veterans Committee Chairperson

(through remainder of term, ending in 2017)

ALL Local 602 members in good standing, active and retired are eligible  
to run and vote.

24-hour election will be held

**11 a.m. Tuesday, February 10, 2015 until**

**11 a.m. Wednesday, February 11, 2015**

at ONE location: UAW Local 602 Union Hall

Run-off, if necessary, will be held at same location

from 11 a.m. Monday, February 23, 2015

until 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 24, 2015.

Bring proper ID (gate card, union card, or driver's license)

UAW Locals 602 and 2256 Civil and Human Rights Committees present

## 2015 Taste of Black History

**Sunday, February 15**

**3:00 p.m. – Doors open at 2:30 p.m.**

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

With speakers Theresa Bullock, UAW International Civil and Human Rights,  
and Travis Erby, retired teacher and former UAW EAP Rep. Please join us  
for this annual celebration of Black History. Food, door prizes, entertainment.

## UAW Region 1D Bowling Tournament March 14 & 15

Royal Scot Lanes, 4722 W. Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI 48906

Singles & Doubles Events on Saturday, March 14

Team Event on Sunday, March 15

*Deadline for registration is February 20*

See Local 602 website for more information: [www.local602.org](http://www.local602.org)

### UAW LOCAL 602 Conservation & Recreation Committee

**Thanks to the following Companies and Individuals for donating to the 16th Annual UAW LOCAL 602 golf outing,** this raised money for VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN IN EATON RAPIDS. The event took place at Timber Ridge Golf Club in East Lansing on July 27. We would also like to give a big THANK YOU to all the golfers who participated!

### MAJOR SPONSORS

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UAW LOCAL 602 PRESIDENT BILL REED & VICE PRESIDENT MIKE

FLEMING

UAW LOCAL 602 RETIREES CHAPTER

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UAW LOCAL 602 WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

UAW REGION 1D

UAW WEDNESDAY GOLF LEAGUE

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Rick Martinez

VFW National Home For Children

Astera Credit Union

Biggys

Glenbrier Golf Course

Carrabba's

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Gary Howard

Gilbert & Blakes

LAFCU

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Meijers

O'Reillys Auto Parts

Paulina Rodriguez

Red Robin

Tiffany's Salon And Boutique

UAW LOCAL 602 CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMITTEE  
Chairperson Paulina Rodriguez, Co-Chair Geoffrey Kerley, Co-Chair Daryl Smith,  
Nancy Minella, Gary Howard, Kellyce Kelley, Rick Martinez, Adrienne McCloud,  
Tony Perez, Percy Stephenson, and Sam Vowell.

# Poggiali

## Continued from page 1

Even better is the fact that the weather didn't impact the day like last year.

The annual Walk for Warmth will be conducted in our area on February 28. The event sponsored by the Capital Area Community Services has walkers and like-minded groups collect donations that then go towards helping with utility bills. 100% of proceeds go towards the program. For more information contact me at 517-203-5027.

On a different note, the Bharat Forge (formerly Federal Forge) had a party that brought together the Unit in early December. This Unit closed in late 2013, but they have never lost their solidarity and union togetherness. With friendships reacquainted and stories to be told, the event was well attended. The Unit at the time was the oldest in the Local. They proudly carried on the tradition of the drop forge industry that at one time was centered right here in Lansing. Local 724 was built on the heritage and unionism of the drop forge members that were part of the Local 724 history. They provided for their families and left us a legacy we can be proud of.

Speaking of our legacy and history, 2015 brings the 75th anniversary of the Local. We are planning to recognize the event with a celebration on May 16, 2015 at the UAW Local 724 union hall. The Local Executive Board has been working on some things, but we will need your participation as well. You can help by volunteering the day of the event, collecting any items that may be part of the Local 724 history, being on the planning committee, and lastly circling the date on your calendar. The Local has had a rich history in the community and we will honor that with the celebration.

We mention our generous spirit and our proud legacy of unionism, but we also reminded that many of our members will be going through a difficult period with the LGR second shift reduction. Many of the Units have a relationship with the facility and it will impact their families significantly. Let us not forget they are part of our spirit and legacy as well. We must continue to reach out to them in any way needed.

Please contact me at the Capital Area United Way at 517-203-5027 or d.poggiali@micauw.org and we can problem solve together.

We are reminded of a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." The late, great Dr. Martin Luther King spoke these words over 45 years ago. These words were true then and now.

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

# Reed

## Continued from page 2

away. In our circle of influence we may need to stop and listen to an opposing view. Listening, patience and compromise go a long way in reaching others who don't quite see our side. That doesn't mean we have to change our vision but when we push others away we lose the opportunity to have positive influence in their lives.

Some things won't stick to a magnet. That's ok. We try our best but sometimes it's better to move on and focus our energy elsewhere. Will that focused energy be positive or negative? That's up to you. People will know us by what's in our heart. If we are positive we attract those who want to know more about the issues we believe in. If we are negative we only attract attention.

# Schultz

## Continued from page 4

Holiday Inn Express, includes breakfast and shuttle service. Call Connie to get your name on the list at 517-323-2146.

We received a thank-you from the Old Newsboys for our donation.

Happy birthday to: Curtis Dunn, Bud Miller, Marvin Baker, Jim Anthony, Juan Mendez, Richard Zelenka, Jan Miller, Papa Mendez, and Calvin Smith.

Happy anniversary to: Richard and Dianna Zelenka, 51 years in February; Bud and Jan Miller, 46 years; and Papa and Mama Mendez, 50 years.

Condolences to the family of Arlie Caudill. He leaves his wife Jean and daughter Juanita, and two grandchildren, Hunter and Paige. He will be missed.

## 2015 proposed calendar

February 11 – Valentine lunch, soup  
March 3 – Ted's breakfast, 8:30,  
Guerrazzi's

March 11 – St. Patrick's lunch

March 24-25 – northern casino trip

April 8 – Easter lunch

April 17 – euchre tournament, 8:00 a.m.,  
Local 602

April 24 – LAFCU reception, Royal Scot

May 13 – lunch

May 15 – lunch at World Buffet

June 2 – Ted's breakfast, 8:30

More on this in the May issue!

Thanks to all who make this a great Local 1618 retirees chapter. We need every one of us working together.

Have a great 2015! Till we meet again, keep smiling. My phone is 517-543-5385.

# Mills

## Continued from page 3

By May 2012, she had undergone a double mastectomy and finished five months of chemotherapy. Her final procedure was reconstructive surgery. It was a draining time for her family, including her husband, who also works at Fort Wayne Assembly, in Trim.

Martin and her family were struggling, but something happened on her last day at work that redefined her idea of what "family" meant. As Martin was walking through her department, she started to see pink T-shirts on her fellow Local 2209 members. At first, she didn't take notice, but then she started to see more and more of the iconic shirts symbolizing the fight against breast cancer on the people she worked with.

"I couldn't believe it. These were people I see every day, some I know well. Others I just know through work. But they were all expressing their support for me in the most visible, unifying way," said Martin. The memory still brings tears of joy. "Heading into the surgery, we were all so exhausted. But knowing there was all this love and support for me at work provided such a sense of comfort and warmth."

Teal George is one of Martin's co-workers who organized the show of sup-

port. She said, "When we found out about her diagnosis, it hit a bunch of us hard. With surgery coming, we knew we wanted to do something to celebrate her and show her support. We agreed to all wear pink and spend some time having cake with her and sharing a group prayer. Everyone was supportive and wanted to participate."

That act of solidarity continued when she returned to work. Her hair had still not grown back since the chemotherapy and Martin was self-conscious about it.

"I would wear hats or scarves, even wigs. But honestly, the plant gets very hot in summer months and I didn't want to stick out or have people notice me. I even feared people would say negative things about it. It wasn't until one night when one of my co-workers, Kenny, said, 'Take your scarf off. It's boiling in here!' that I had the courage to go natural and know I was going to be accepted and protected."

Today, Martin is cancer free. But the spirit of the events that unified her and her co-workers' lives on. "I think we all look at other people's struggles differently now," said Martin.

George agreed. "Now, we care about each other not just as union members, but as people. The simple act of showing solidarity as we go through hard times is powerful. Our world would be a better place if all of us did more of it."

# 724 Obituary

Carl Fox – IMPCO retiree

# 602 Obituaries

RG Whitford – Retired

Donavon Parks – Retired

Ray Young, Jr. – Retired Skilled Trades,  
Body Shop Maintenance

Thomas Carrigan – Retired Skilled  
Trades, WFG

Lorene L. Fischer – Mother of David  
Fisher, Retired

Gordon Church – Retired

Clifford Premoe – Retired

Eugene Schwartzfisher – Retired

Robert Homer – Retired

William Shaw, Jr. – Retired

James D. Hardy – Retired General Assembly  
Repair

Walter Lemm – Retired

Felix Maczarski – Retired

Isaiah Saleem – Retired

Kenneth Sweet – Retired

David VanDeventer – Retired

Terry Vincent – Retired Material Chassis

Serene Reich – Mother of Dennis Reich,  
Health and Safety

Darwin Hunt – Retired

Elena Jean Willems – Daughter of Don  
Willems, General Assembly Repair  
and Stepdaughter of Wendie Willems,  
General Assembly Trim 1

Christine Burkholder – Wife of Ricky  
Burkholder, Quality

Stephen Grosshans – Retired Material

Linda McConnell – Retired Quality Control

Larry Maki – Retired Machine Repair  
and Father of Thomas Maki, Electrician

Dennis Rademacher – Father of Larry  
Rademacher, General Assembly Electrician

Albert E. Goetschy – Father of Ron  
Goetschy, General Assembly Trim 1

Irene Riegel – Mother of Gary Riegel,  
Body Shop Electrician

Arthur Proseus – Retired Skilled Trades

James N. Taylor – Retired

Walter Peffers – Retired

Elizabeth P. Osawamick – Wife of Richard Osawamick, Retired General  
Assembly Trim 3; Mother of Lucas  
Martinez, Paint; and Aunt of Tony  
Perez, Trim and Jose Perez, Paint

Donald "Donny" Miilu – Retired

Alton (Duane) Guernsey – Retired

Larry "Leon" Schafer – Father of Troy  
Schafer, Material

Dorothy Rutledge – Mother of Joyce

Fuller – General Assembly Chassis 3

Terry Gilbert – Mother of Jeff Gilbert,  
Material

Winston W. Ward – Father of John  
Ward, Retired Material

Roger Frayre – Retired Quality Control

Albert Ludwig – Retired

James Bott – Retired

To my UAW family ... Thank you for the thoughts and prayers and kind words concerning the loss of my father. It's comforting to know the support of so many in time of need ... Sincerely,  
Bill Reed and Family

Dear UAW Local 602: Thank you for all the kind words and prayers. Thanks for sending Chaplain Eugene to pray for Elena and all of us. We are grateful ... Family of Elena Willems (Don and Wendie Willems)

# 652 Obituaries

Kenneth Aldrich – Retiree, Father of  
Kris Aldrich, Father-in-Law of Steve  
Wright, Grandfather of Jessica  
Patterson

Lucile H. Alford – Retiree, Mother of  
Bonnie Rowe, Mother-in-Law of  
Newt Rowe

Melvin Alspaugh – Retiree, Brother of  
Jack Alspaugh

Maria "Lupe" Bowen – Mother of Larry  
Bowen, Mother-in-Law of Susan  
Bowen

Max Butler – Father of Kim Workman,  
Father-in-Law of James Workman

Howard C. Cole Jr. – Retiree

Robert "Bob" Lambka – Retiree

Paul Laningham – Retiree

Gary Martin – Retiree

William J. McQueen – Retiree, Father  
of Doug and Dennis McQueen

Richard Mikesell – Retiree

Rose Ochoa – Retiree, Spouse of Frank  
Ochoa

Donna Polhamus – Spouse of Gary  
Polhamus

Fred Rach – Retiree, Uncle of Paul  
Rach

Genita M. Ripley – Mother-in-Law of  
Gary McDiarmid

Dorothy Rutledge – Spouse of Kenneth  
Rutledge

Cynthia L. Sawdon – Daughter of Kenneth  
Spiegel

Eva Lynne Shumaker – Mother of Lori  
Gentz

Donald J. Spencer – Retiree

Phil Spitzley – Retiree, Father of Bruce  
Spitzley

Milan "Roger" Thurston – Father of  
Rick and Roger Thurston, Brother of  
Leo Thurston

Gerald Van Neste – Father of Brian Van  
Neste

Ray Winn – Retiree, Father-in-Law of  
Jim Briggs

**Thank-You's were received from the  
following families:**

The Karen Adams Family

The Maria "Lupe" Bowen Family

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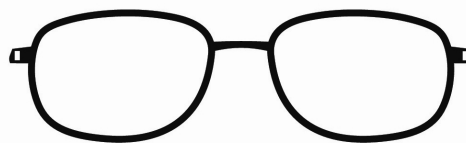
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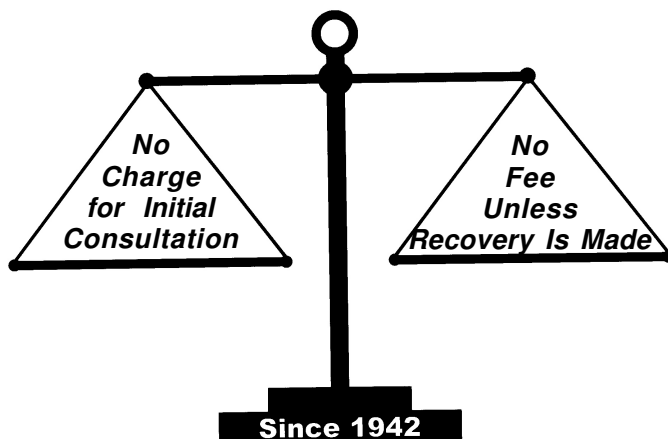
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