



# Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 72, NUMBER 1

VOICE OF 28,000 UAW MEMBERS



JANUARY, 2016

## How to keep up the good fight

By Bill Reed, President, Local 602

Welcome to the start of another new year. As we reflect on the past year, it becomes clear we have a lot of work ahead of us. Now is a good time to think about what new strategies we will need to employ in 2016. What worked well the past year? What didn't work? What do we think we can do better? Business as usual won't get us to where we want to go. We will need to be innovative and identify new ways to accomplish our goals.



As unionists, our objectives have changed. We have endured a constant bombardment of attacks on our way of life. We have been forced to change the way we do things, and the onset of new rules have left us uncomfortable and full of questions. Not only is our plate full, but new items are being added, leaving us wondering when it will slow down or if it ever is going to stop.

One thing I am sure of is the fight will never stop. The continuing struggle for justice has been ongoing since the first day a group of people stood together for a common cause. Whether it's standing up to make a difference in our union, or having a desire to reach an important goal in our personal life, we will wander aimlessly if we don't have a plan of action.

Failure, though, should never be an option. The only way to be sure it isn't is to have a concrete plan that's well thought out, but remember the best laid plans don't always bring us success. So what are we to do?

Start Small. A lot of times we jump in full force with good intentions only to be met with disappointment when it's more than we thought we could accomplish. Great ideas will never get done this way and discouragement will be the overriding outcome. Taking a small step

in the direction we wish to go, and doing it successfully, boosts our enthusiasm and shows others that our plan is worth their time and energy if they were to get involved.

Increase your possibility of success by keeping a log of when you're going to do something that brings you closer to your goal. I always say "Document everything;" if it's on your calendar you're more apt to do it. Documentation also gives you a road map of how far you've come and how far you need to go. It will also tell you what is working and what isn't.

Visualize in detail the actions required to implement your plan. You will be successful if you believe in yourself. Stop using words like "can't, won't, sorry, couldn't, wouldn't, etc." See yourself as successful. If your actions didn't work out, try something different, but don't dwell on what didn't work. I knew someone who was about to quit smoking. This person would quit for a while then go back to smoking saying, "I can't do this." I would always say, "Don't think you've failed if you start smoking again. As long as you keep trying to quit, think of it as a success by counting up the days you didn't pick up a cigarette." Eventually those days got longer, and now it's gone from days to years.

When the going gets tough, stick to your goal. Don't let mishaps destroy your plans. Remind yourself that your idea continues to be, just as it has from the beginning, worth the effort it takes to see it through to success.

Find a supporter. We all need to be held accountable but having someone who believes in you is a necessity. Having someone to bounce ideas off of or to lend an encouraging word will get you through times when things seem to be moving slow.

I wish you much success this year. May this be the year you put a check mark next to that one thing you've always wanted accomplish.

## FLORIDA PICNIC

UAW LOCALS 652, 602, 1618,  
1753 and LAFCU

Welcome! This year,  
Local 602 will join us.

**Tuesday  
February 16**  
in Bradenton, Florida

See box on page 5 for more info.

**Winterfest will be  
February 12-14**

**Local 1753  
Election Notice  
Page 5**

## Are you upset yet, Michigan? You should be!

By Gerald Kariem  
Director, Region 1D

*"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."* – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I would like take a moment of silence for those who have passed on to the union

halls in the sky. If not for their dedication and devotion during times of challenge and controversy, our Union would not be the Union we are today. And for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man who was devoutly passionate in making a difference for the causes of civil, human, and economic rights for all God's children, I thank you!



As we approach February 11, "White Shirt Day," let us celebrate those who took on the largest and richest company in the world, those who were willing to put their own lives and jobs on the line. Those who wanted to make a difference for all workers and future generations, those we call the "Sitdowners." From the bottom of my heart, I thank you!

In regards to making a difference and changing the course of Michigan, the current Republican leadership has failed in supporting all working families of Michigan. Since his election in 2010, the Snyder Administration and fellow Republicans have not been held responsible for their actions. They have continuously failed the citizens of Michigan!

In 2011, just 143 days after taking office, the first stroke of business was to pass the elimination of the Single Business Tax, claiming it would open the floodgates for job growth. In actuality, it limited job growth, taxed pensions and other retiree income, eliminated the Homestead Property Tax Credit and reduced the Earned Income Tax Credit. Essentially, taking from the poor and giving to the rich.

December 11, 2012, twenty thousand people rallied at the Michigan Capitol to protest against Right to Work legislation. I remember this day well. We filled the Capitol, the lawn and the streets. When we went outside of the Capitol building for a break, they locked the doors and the House voted on Right to Work. They locked us out of our Capitol claiming there was a fire code concern and with empty halls and a clear rotunda, they voted 58 to 51 to pass Right to Work. This had nothing to do with job growth or economics; this was a pure political attack on working families. Throughout the day the Romney building remained surrounded by state police in riot gear.

Finally, like a thief in the dark of the night, after many of the protestors left, Governor Rick Snyder signed the legislation into law.

Right to Work was supported by the likes of the Koch Brothers, Dick DeVos, American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and Americans for Prosperity. There are witnesses from legislators stating they had to vote in support of the legislation or risk opposition in the next election cycle. Senator Rick Jones of the 24th District was one of those threatened. This is a prime example of how money holds great power and influence in politics.

Once Michigan became Right to Work, the next order of business was to find ways to suppress voters. In May of 2012, Amendments to SB 751 and SB 754 were introduced. These amendments essentially targeted registration drives regarding voter ID laws and allow for purging of voter lists in efforts to challenge voters who haven't voted in the past six years, assuming those voters either no longer resided at the residence or were possibly dead. Although this version was vetoed they are coming back with other bills.

SB 571 currently helps educate voters on municipal and educational bonds and proposals 60 days before elections. Republicans do not want voters educated so they amended the bill to prohibit use of funds or resources for communications in regards to local ballot questions and eliminated our right to a V-CAP program to support those who support us. But here is the icing on the cake, this amendment allows for candidate committees to use contributions **not designated for a specific election cycle** to pay outstanding debts from past cycles regardless if those funds place the candidate over their contribution limits for the past cycle. Isn't that interesting?

## Are you upset yet?

Guess what, they are not done. On December 2015, SB 13, Straight Ticket Voting was introduced. Governor Snyder stated, "It's time to choose people over politics." The Republican legislature feels voters need to get educated on who the candidates are; all the while, Michigan County Clerks oppose SB 13 stating it will create longer lines at the polls and increases in spoiled ballots.

And you have heard about the Flint crisis with lead levels in the water that are affecting children, babies, seniors, our members who reside in the city of Flint. As a parent I would be beside myself with the damage and concerns these would have on my family now and in the future. This governor turned his back to the essential rights of safe clean water. And we are surrounded by the Great Lakes.

Continued on page 6

**LOCAL 652**  
**Mike Green, President**

## Gains and losses in 2015

The new year at Lansing Grand River has been very busy. Here at Local 652 we have been welcoming the 500 new members to fill the third and build our new 2016 Camaro.

Our goal has been to make sure our plant is fully utilized to build the world-class product produced by our membership.

Congratulations to everyone at the plant. Your work and dedication help to ensure future products built here in Lansing!

2015 ended with the Old Newsboys collection. Thanks for your donations to help our less fortunate with boots and shoes for the winter season. Several local presidents and officers from the Lansing area joined together at LAFCU's main office to help collect donations, along with Local 652 retirees. Thanks to everyone who helped collect donations and bought the spoof newspaper. (See the photo to the right.)

### This last year we lost:

**Dorothy Hoisington**, spouse of past 652 Retiree Chair Henry Hoisington, who served many years on elections, rallies, and anything else that needed to be done.

Local 652 retiree **Willa Wright**. Vice President Randy Freeman and I had a chance to visit her, and brought her a chocolate malt. She was able to get out of bed and enjoy her treat and visit with us. Willa was always available for anything she could help with. I will miss those pecan pies and special cookies and desserts only she could make.

**Dorothy Stevens**, Local 602's Retiree Chair. Dorothy was a great asset to our CAP Council when it came to phone banks to get out the votes for our endorsed candidates. She will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of these fine ladies' families.

### Flint water

On Tuesday, January 19, we attended a rally at the Capitol to call for action to meet the needs for safe drinking water in Flint. I can only tell you what I think about those who created an atmosphere to jeopardize our families, children, and grandchildren. They must be held accountable. Hopefully, if rallies are called, you can attend, or write, phone, or visit your representatives.

How could this happen, the lead poi-



**Local 652 officers and members collecting money for the Old Newsboys drive in December.**

soning of Flint's drinking water? And Detroit schools with floors demolished, mice running around in the school, and security doors rusted with no money to repair them!

The Lansing State Journal reported that Region 1D Assistant Director Steve Dawes stated that Governor Snyder and his crony Republicans created the crisis and refused to acknowledge the problems.

The voters of our state have voted in the past that they did not want the emergency manager law. The legislature passed the law again and did so with an appropriation to make it referendum proof.

What has happened in Flint is proof enough that the governor and legislature are responsible!

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

## Surviving in uncertain times

Happy belated New Year. As we are about to enter February, the grips of winter have finally arrived full force. On one hand, we have been pretty lucky so far and it is Michigan. Another spin is that we have gotten through November, December, and hopefully January in relative good fashion.

The last time we sent an update, the Alliance & Bridgewater Units were able to find some common ground and ratified new collective bargaining agreements. The process was a long, involved one and congratulations to the bargaining committees and membership at both facilities. In order for us to survive in these uncertain times, it is important that our membership continues to produce a high-quality component for their customers. This will only insure their viability and allow for growth the membership.

That being said, the Woodbridge Unit is into talks for their next contract. There have been preliminary meetings, with more to follow. We wish the committee and membership well in their quest.

The Local 724 Old Newsboys collections were higher than last year by



several hundred dollars. This has been a labor of love for many of our units to help our kids in the community.

The annual Walk for Warmth will be on Saturday, February 27 at various locations around the area. Walkers collect donations from family, friends, and co-workers and then pledge to walk between 1.5 to 3 miles, many times in cold temperatures. 100% of the collections are administered to the program. This will be the 26th year that the Capital Area Community Services holds the Walk for Warmth. If you would like more info, please contact me at 517-203-5027.

The YMCA Mystic Lake Union Camp Committee will again start meeting to solicit donations and find deserving children to send to the Mystic Lake YMCA Camp in Lake, MI. The partnership between the camp and organized labor is decades old and contains to flourish due to the thoughtful contributions from many union locals and councils in the area. Again, if you would like more information, please contact me at 517-203-5027.

The annual community services classes are about to begin. The sessions begin on Monday, February 8 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm with the last session being a dinner on Monday, March 28. Many locals have already taken action to send activists to these sessions, but there is always room for more. Please contact your Local Union President, Financial Secretary or Community Service Chair for more details.

The call to action for the Flint water crisis is loud and clear. The outpouring of support is immeasurable. This issue is long-term, so be aware that the help needed today will also be needed in months and years to come. The United Way of Genesee County and the information and referral line 2-1-1 has been a powerful force in dealing with the outpouring of calls for help. Please consider calling them first to see where the demand is needed.

As we recently honored the legacy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, we are reminded of a quote from him that resonates during these times for the citizens of Flint: "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."

Organized labor has never been satisfied with idly standing by, but meeting challenges head on and with conviction. Peace be with you and yours.

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

## Legislature must repeal emergency manager law

By now everyone is probably aware of the problems facing Flint. The water crisis has attracted national attention. The Department of Justice and Attorney General have announced independent investigations. Our Governor has formed several



task forces and declared a state of emergency while the Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and his spokesperson have resigned. President Obama is providing federal support for the problem. But little is being said about the root of the problem, PA 436 or the Emergency Manager Act (EM Act).

Originally the EM Act was designed during the James Blanchard era to provide financial advice and assistance to cash-strapped cities, towns, school districts, etc. The manager would investigate and suggest solutions that the properly elected officials could then act upon. Unfortunately, our business oriented present Governor Tough-Nerd decided that wasn't enough and in 2011 signed a new EM law that gave almost unlimited power to state appointed managers, denying people their democratically elected representation, eliminating the checks and balances that make a democracy functional.

Being the intelligent and thoughtful voters that we all know and love, the people of Michigan promptly, through a statewide referendum, voted against the law and in so doing told the Legislature in no uncertain terms that we like our democratically elected form of government. Of course the Republican-controlled state government recognized that the citizens of our great state really had no concept of what was in our best interests and passed a new Emergency Manager Act within a few months of the referendum. And just to make sure we wouldn't hurt ourselves by voting it down again, added an appropriation to the bill to make it referendum proof! Those Republicans! Always looking out for us! Almost makes me want to cry ... no really, it does make me want to cry. Damn! How the hell did we get to this?

Unfortunately, the EM Act does NOT require an Emergency Financial Manager to have any expertise outside of the financial area—and that fact causes him to focus in that area above all else. With absolute power he is able to stay the course and ignore citizen complaints, scientific processes, and manipulation of data (sound familiar, Flint?), all to achieve the desired results—less cost.

We need to look at the situation in Flint and refocus our efforts. Michigan's Legislature passed this law. They govern this state and they have a responsibility to keep our citizenry safe: ALL of our citizenry, even the ones from areas

### 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 7:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except closed 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch.

that are hit hardest by poverty. It's time for them to repeal the law that made this possible. If they cannot do this on their own, I hope the voters will remember in November!

Conservatives believe that power should be as decentralized as possible. "No one can be fully trusted with public power and ... self-government in a free society demands that we reject the siren song of politics-as-management," wrote Yuval Levin, editor of the conservative journal *National Affairs*, a respected right-leaning national publication. Seems the exact opposite of the track Governor Snyder is taking. Maybe Michigan Republicans should look to their own for advice. There could be hope still.

Until next time ...

## LOCAL 652

**Randy Freeman, Vice President**

## Coming events

The Oldsmobile Outdoor Club is hosting their annual "Winterfest" family event at Grayling on Friday, February 12 through Sunday, February 14.

The weekend starts with family bingo Friday evening. There will be a poker run, snowmobile safari, adult's and kid's fishing contests, great company, good food, and lots of prizes!

Registration starts at noon on Friday at the Ramada Inn of Grayling. This will be the location for registration and headquarters for all events.

Come and join the fun! Rooms may be available at the Ramada Inn of Grayling, phone (989) 348-7611, and other area hotels. Please tell them you are with the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club. For more information, go to the club website at [www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com](http://www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com).

## Black History Program

Local 652 will sponsor a Black History Program on February 28 at 3:00 p.m. at the hall, 426 Clare Street in Lansing. The keynote speaker is the Honorable Judge Donald Allen of the 55th District Court. This is a free event and dinner will be served.

## LOCAL 652

**Scott R. Lounds, Recording Secretary**

## Another attack on working class

On January 6 of this year the Governor signed into law Public Act 269, which when introduced in October was an innocuous twelve-page bill on campaign finance reform. But when it was voted through in the last hours of the last day of the 2015 legislative session, it included 40 new pages of law.

Among the heinous things slipped into the new language of the bill were changes in accounting practices for PAC's that effectively double the amount a PAC can donate in an election cycle and change the reporting date so that contributions will not be made

public until after Election Day. The last-minute changes also made it illegal for companies to deduct union political contributions—VCAP for example—from employees who have requested that these deductions be made.

Sadly, many legislators voted yes on the bill without even reading the new language, urged to act quickly by the Republican leadership. Even some Republicans have since expressed outrage at some of the language put into the bill they voted for. One Republican representative, Dave Pagel, went so far

**Continued on page 6**

## LOCAL 602

**Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary**

## Fighting for a better life

*The UAW website had this important information on the campaign to raise wages in the U.S.*

Marking nearly one year since the first ever Raising Wages Summit, the AFL-CIO today released a new report detailing the successes, struggles and path ahead to raise wages for working people.

The report, "Fighting for a Better Life: How Working People Across America are Organizing to Raise Wages and Improve Work," finds that over the last year income inequality shifted from a problem we discuss to a problem we can solve.

The report points to clear and unequivocal steps for a path forward. Armed with the solutions outlined in the report, the central conclusion is that America is ready to move beyond the discussion of income inequality and is beginning to write new rules that will shape the economy.

"One year ago, we made clear that raising wages for all working people was our number one priority," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "In 2015 we came together in collective voice and action, and made significant progress."

**Continued on page 6**



## LOCAL 4911

**Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary**

## Tragedy of the MI people

A day after the rally at the Capitol in downtown Lansing, I am still trying to warm up. A flood of emotions are coursing through my mind—I have not been able to sleep without waking several times during the night. I ask myself over and over again, how can the Flint water disaster be in existence for a YEAR? Human lives are at stake; the unborn, children, families, elderly, no one is exempt from this tragedy. 10 people have died from Legionnaire's disease in the area, is there a connection? The state health department will investigate and report their findings.

At the rally, I wandered through the crowd masses. One sign being held displays pictures of dark brown water gushing out of a fire hydrant. Another picture displays deep amber colored water in a gallon jug and in a kitchen sink—the text reads: Fix Our Water!

I pass by a mother who is holding a baby bottle with amber water next to a clear colored water bottle. I ask, may I take your picture? "Of course," she responds, "we need your help, thank you for being here with us."

I was so impressed and moved by the variety of people I saw and spoke with. A mother, holding a bundled up toddler next to his stroller, is chanting with the crowd. A woman, standing alone, chanting—her battery powered Christmas lights decorating her walker so she wouldn't get run over by the crowd because she walked so slowly. A gentleman in a high powered wheelchair with a United States Marine Corp emblem proudly fastened to the back of the headrest—chanting with the crowd at the base of the Capitol steps. How did he get here safely? There is snow and slick ice still covering some of the downtown parking lots and sidewalks.

What did they all have in common? They were all committed to helping save precious lives—despite the elements of the cold weather, despite giving up their personal time, despite this, that, or the other thing, they all gave up something



to be out here with the masses in support of the people of Flint.

As a society, have we failed in our duty to protect our children, our families, our brothers and sisters? Have we become too complacent thinking someone else would protect them for us? Are we so self-absorbed that we feel too busy to get involved? How many people are not aware of the tragic events unfolding in the Flint water crisis or the severity of health risks to the public population? Flint's drinking water is poisoned with lead! *One year in the making*, shame on us for not being informed and getting involved earlier. Can you imagine not being able to take a shower every morning, brush your teeth, give your pet a drink of water, wash the dishes, do a load of laundry, etc.?

An investigation of the state and local government's actions is being conducted by the Justice Department. Our Michigan leaders will become a public embarrassment for the national news. As Michiganders, we all deserve better. The future of Michigan is not dependent upon a few, it is up to each and every one of us. We are the people and we can demand accountability. We are living proof of a toxic political failure.

Former Congressman Mark Schauer was one of the speakers at the rally. He said, "The one thing missing on the spreadsheet/balance sheet of Michigan's current leadership was a column called 'people!'" Corporate and/or budgetary interests and cost-cutting measures should never be placed above the common good for the people. Let's all play a key role in making our state government accountable to the people.

## Flint Water Crisis

### Donations/Volunteer

Go to [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)  
Click on the block: Taking Action on Flint Water.  
Scroll down to: Media Center.  
Look in center section: News Updates.  
Choose bullet point: Information for Donation/Volunteer

## LOCAL 724

**Debra Abent, Financial Secretary**

## Union Plus

With Union Plus benefits, your union membership "pays" at work and at home — through your major life milestones, your celebrations and hardships. By using the collective buying power of unions, we are able to offer valuable, discounted products and services **exclusively** to working families.

Backed by the AFL-CIO, the Union Plus brand promises the value, quality service and competitive cost-savings that union members deserve. Since Union Privilege started in 1986, union members and their families have expanded and tailored Union Plus programs to serve today's working families in their lives off-the-job. Union Privilege is committed to improving the quality of life of working families through unique products and services. Visit [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org)



## Lansing Labor News

(ISSN 0023-8384)

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES:

LANSING LABOR NEWS • 210 CLARE STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harold Foster – Editor  
Mike Green, Local 652 – Chairman  
Bill Reed, Local 602 – Vice Chairman  
Bob Smith, Local 652 – Treasurer  
Dean Poggiali, Local 724 – Recording Secretary  
Doreen Howard, Local 602  
Russ Emmons, Local 652

Debra Mills, Local 724  
Hollis Barker, Local 1753  
Nancy Munchbach, Local 1753  
Dennis Parker, Local 2256  
Tammy Thompson, Local 2256  
Joe Douglas, Local 4911  
Rose Van Schoick, Local 4911

Tim Bogar and Nancy Sears, Staff

An award-winning, non-profit newspaper, established March 15, 1945, and dedicated to the interests of the community and to the interest of Labor here and elsewhere. Published January, May, September, and December. Periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI and at additional offices. Three percent per month from UAW Incorporator Locals' monthly dues is for this publication. The opinions expressed by the columnists are not necessarily those of the affiliated Local Unions and the Lansing Labor News.

USPS NUMBER 304-840

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lansing Labor News, c/o Allied Mailing & Printing, 240 N. Fenway Dr., Fenton, MI 48430.

VOLUME 72, NUMBER 1

VOICE OF 28,000 MEMBERS

JANUARY, 2016



## 602 retirees

As the New Year begins, I have accepted great responsibilities, and challenges as the UAW 602 Retiree Chair. I pledge to serve my God, and the memberships of all who know me. I learned and I will continue to learn to always put 110% forward in all the work that I do, and with the help of the rock of 602, the late Dorothy Stevens, a great friend and a supporter to me and others.



Most people may know that Dorothy was always very determined, and once she had a goal set, Dorothy did all that she could possibly do to reach the goal. She achieved and worked so hard for our union up until her very last breath.

Dorothy started off her work in the Cushion Room in 1952. At the time, women were being paid less and the seniority list was maintained separate from men. In 1957, Dorothy and a group of other women were laid off before men with lower seniority. More events happened that set Dorothy on a rage to fight, and she was transferred to Trim, where men worked and had higher pay. She begged the other women to fight and beg to get transferred, but none would join her.

Once she got in, that didn't stop her rage. With Dorothy's determination, independence, and commitment she was elected committee person in 1967. She served and was reelected, fighting non-stop for all the members she represented. Her strong leadership got her elected the first woman zone committee person for the Bargaining Committee.

Dorothy was never scared to be in the front line. After 32 years of service she retired, but that wasn't the end of it for her. She was elected to Retiree Chair and she loyally served for another 32 years until her very last breath.

As you see, I have very big shoes to fill, but I will continue to share the determination as Dorothy would expect me to. All her work was done with a purpose, and I have to follow that. I am asking for all in this union to stand with me, so we can find and make ways to make a bigger and a better union with peace and justice. I extend an invitation to all 602 retirees to join us on the third Wednesday of every month at 12 pm where we will have lunch as a family that we are, a meeting at 1 pm and then it will follow with bingo. Thank you.

Mike Bauer

## 652 retirees

Happy New Year to all. Looking forward to a successful 2016 for everyone. The following is our monthly schedule of events:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. Games start at 10:00 a.m. Participants bring your own snacks. **If the Lansing School District is closed due to inclement weather, our Bingo game will be cancelled.**

Third Tuesday of the month is our potluck dinner and business meeting.



**Local 652 Skilled Trades retirees gathered in late 2015 for their annual coffee and donuts get-together. There was a great turn-out this year. Alex McPherson, who organizes the event, wanted to thank all who attended and those who helped out. And also for all their donations over the years. This enabled Alex to purchase a new 100-cup coffee urn for the local!**

Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Dinner starts at noon.

Fourth Tuesday of the month is cards starting at 10:00 a.m. Participants bring your own snacks. **By membership action, cards have been suspended until April.**

The Region 1D Retiree Travel Committee has a rail trip to the Grand Canyon/Las Vegas/Zion National Park/Capitol Reef National Park in May 2016. Contact Connie Dunn (517-323-2146) for more information and to make your reservation.

The Region 1D Travel Committee also has an October 2016 trip to Savannah, Jekyll Island and Beaufort. There are two departure dates available. Contact Connie Dunn (517-323-2146) for more info and to make your reservation.

The Red Cross has various volunteer opportunities available for anyone who is interested in doing volunteer work. Contact Chante Alexander at 517-702-3308 for more information.

The Region 1D Retiree Recreation Committee is having a Euchre Tournament for all Region 1D retirees, spouses, and associate members on April 29 at Local 602, starting at 10:00 a.m. You do not need a partner to play. There will be a luncheon following the tournament. Local 602 is located at 2510 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917. Please call 517-372-7581 ext.147 to leave your name and phone number to sign up. Players need to be at Local 602 by 9:45 a.m. to be ready to play at 10.

White Shirt Day is February 11. Sit Downers will be honored at Local 659 in Flint, starting at 11:00 a.m. Local 659 is located at 4549 Van Slyke Rd., Flint.

For any of our members or their families, who are ill or have lost a loved one, know that we are thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers.

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

The Lansing Labor News is now online. You may access it at [www.lansinglabornews.org](http://www.lansinglabornews.org)

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

Send your change of address to: Lansing Labor News, 210 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48911. 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)

Lois Schultz

## 1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people. Condolences to the family of Dorothy Stevens. She will be missed. A wonderful person who was devoted to her 602 retirees and the UAW and what they stood for. Something we should all remember.

We received a thank-you from Dick and Millie Slocum. Jean Caudill sent us a Christmas card. She will see us when the weather is better.

The Region 1D travel committee will have a western train trip May 10-18 and a trip to Savannah, Georgia in October.

Local 1618 retirees will have a northern casino trip March 23-24. Call Connie Dunn on all travel questions, she will help you. Her number is 517-323-2146. We do have lots of fun on these trips.

Happy birthday in December: Sue Fagle—missed her. Calvin Smith, Tom Sutton, Dick Gyer, Noland Douglas, Curtis Dunn. Don't mean to forget anyone, but you do have to let me know. Bud Miller, Dick Torgerson, and Jan Miller.

Happy anniversary to Bud and Jan Miller—47 years of being with his one and only bride.

2016 proposed calendar of events  
January 30-31 – Region 1D bowling tournament

February 10 – Valentine luncheon: soup, salad, dessert

March 1 – Ted's breakfast, Guerrazzi's restaurant, 8:30 a.m.

March 9 – St. Patrick's luncheon  
March 23-24 – Northern casino trip for retirees

April 13 – Easter luncheon

April 29 – LAFCU annual meeting at Royal Scot, 6:00 p.m.

May 10-18 – Region 1D western train trip

May 11 – Luncheon

June 7 – Ted's breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

June 8 – Cook-out luncheon

July 13 – Luncheon and no-bake bake sale

September 14 – Luncheon

September 17 – Pancake breakfast

September 23 – Euchre tournament at Local 652

October 9-16 – Savannah, Georgia Region 1D trip

October 12 – Halloween luncheon

November 9 – Veterans memorial,

Thanksgiving luncheon, holiday auction

December 14 – Christmas luncheon

So good to see Art Sharp and Nick Franko. Please return.

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

Laura Clark

## 1753 retirees

Happy New Year! Hope you had a great time with friends and family over your holidays. We generally stay busy at that time. This year was no different. There was the big Christmas open house from 1 to 5, which allowed people from both shifts to stop in. The tree was up, the fire was roaring. Attendance for active workers was up, and retirees really appreciate hearing the latest info from the plant. Of course the visiting with folks you have not seen in a while and having the finger foods from the local and the great food brought in by our members is pretty good, too. I'd say a good time was had by all.

We did our annual Christmas charity and even got thank-yous back to the meeting in January. The local would like to thank all the members who supported the Old News Boys whether you bought the paper, voted ahead of time to put our name into it or sold them in the plant, like Al Vincent, Harry Emmons, Nancy Munchbach and me. We helped Josh Webb and Brian Wesley from the plant, they were fun to work with.

The January lunch and meeting had a lower turnout, as we expected—the



snow birds were in their warmer climates. Which left way more roast for us! The reward for hanging tough in our own state is to have the secret recipe a la Roast Nichols, they do it low and slow. Thanks to Linda and her husband Lyle, who are great chefs. They repeated what they did last year. Instead of the local buying the main dish, or the executive board or Nancy Munchbach, we gave the check and the shopping list to her and waited for dinner to come to us, yay!

We've had other members do lunch for us, like Peggy Goins with those tasty turkey roll-ups and other dishes. You remember the summer fish fry! Bruce Savage caught and fried all of them. We know there are great chefs out there, let me know if something like that sounds interesting to you.

Next month, White Shirt Day, February 11, falls on our lunch and meeting day. Please remember to wear a white shirt in honor of our original sit-downers who were just looking for respect when they sat down. "We always tried to keep our shirts as clean as our bosses when we worked."

For February lunch we would like everyone to bring your favorite soup. This was a sit-downers regular meal for when you don't have much you can add water to stretch it. Don't worry if you can't make soup, bring something else or we have a donation can. The main thing is to bring yourself. Come to the lunch and meeting, we start out with coffee and visiting at 11:00, lunch at noon and a short meeting follows. Generally every second Thursday of the month; don't stay home and get cabin fever.

Another way to beat the fever is to join your Walk for Warmth. This is a statewide program that raises funds to help low income families with utility bills. 100% stays in your city or county. If you don't want to walk, you may still donate. Call 205-5027 for info. I know many other groups who need volunteers, so let me know if you're interested.

The breakfast group wondered if they moved the breakfast around to different restaurants would they see more members, besides trying fun and new places and new food? The idea would be talked over at the retirees meeting and the restaurant would be picked. We will meet

there on the fourth Monday of the month.

In this election year, please remember to vote. You can tell just how important it is as you see our legislators thinking of more ways to slow us down from voting, like voter ID. The city clerk had previously checked you out when he or she gave you your voter registration. How about getting rid of straight ticket party voting? That's a way to make the voting lines longer. You know these attacks on working folks are also union attacks. Like Senate Bill 280. It's crafted to say you don't get your committee-person till after work, on your and his personal time. Please consider writing to your reps and senators on this and other matters that affect you, especially against the TTP which will hurt all Americans and the actual country!

Reminder: The 1753 June 9 meeting is a picnic at the Local. You can still bring a dish to pass.

Region 1D Lansing Area Retiree Council will hold their annual luncheon for retirees on Tuesday, August 9 at the Royal Scot. More information in the next issue of the Labor News.

Local 652 is sponsoring a  
**Black History  
Program  
February 28  
3:00 p.m.**

at the  
Local 652 Union Hall  
426 Clare Street in Lansing  
Keynote speaker:  
Honorable Judge Donald  
Allen  
of the 55th District Court  
This is a free event and  
dinner will be served.

Oldsmobile Outdoor Club's  
**Winterfest  
2016**  
will be held  
in Grayling on  
**February 12-14**  
**Plan now to attend this  
fun family event!**  
For more information:  
Mike Bokovoy at 517-372-7580  
or bigbok@aol.com

GM and Local 652  
Retiree Breakfast  
Last Wednesday of each month  
7:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
Guerazzi's Restaurant, Lansing

**UAW Local 4911  
Retired from Sparrow?  
Call (517) 372-7201  
To Join our Retiree Chapter**

**OLDSMOBILE  
FLORIDA PICNIC**

UAW LOCALS 652, 602, 1618,  
1753 and LAFCU

**BOTH SALARY & HOURLY**

*Welcome! This year,  
Local 602 will join us.*

**Tuesday,  
February 16, 2016**

**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. For information, call Jere Auvenshine at (517) 626-2398 or Larry Miller at 941-746-6968 (home) or 941-920-2988 (cell.)



Local UAW members and officers collected money for the Old Newsboys drive in December. The group, in cooperation with the Lansing State Journal, produces a spoof paper that is sold in many places, including on the plant gates, to raise money for shoes and other winter items for less fortunate children. Shown here at the LAFCU office, above, left to right, are: Local 602 President Bill Reed, Local 652 President Mike Green, and Local 724 President Dean Poggiali. Below, Local 1753 members: Brian Wesley, Community Service Committee member; Arniece Stephenson, Shop Chair; Yushonda Dupree; and Josh Webb, Community Service Committee Chair.



**UAW LOCAL 1753 NOMINATION AND  
ELECTION NOTICE**

UAW Local 1753 will be holding nominations and election for Two Executive Board positions, **Trustee and Sergeant at Arms**, which was previously vacated. **This is for the remaining term of these positions.** Please be advised that all members (active and retired) with one year of continuous good standing in the local union are automatically nominated for elected office. Any member wishing to accept nomination must indicate their intentions in writing using the forms provided. Forms will be available in front of the cafeteria, and at the union hall. Election will take place in the north side of the cafeteria and at the union hall at the following times.

**NOMINATIONS  
PLANT**

February 16, 2016 – 11:30 a.m. – Noon, and 9:00 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.

February 23, 2016 – 11:30 a.m. – Noon, and 9:00 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.

**UNION HALL**

February 16, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

February 23, 2016 – 2:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**ELECTION  
PLANT**

March 8, 2016 – 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**UNION HALL**

March 8, 2016 – 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**RUN-OFF ELECTION (If Needed)  
PLANT**

March 15, 2016 – 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**UNION HALL**

March 15, 2016 – 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The position will be for the remainder of the term of office. Picture I.D. will be required to vote. Election results will be posted in the plant at the usual locations and at the union hall. – Respectfully, the Election Committee 1/14/16



## 602 Obituaries

Dorothy Hoisington – Retired  
Theresa Rodriguez – Retired  
Dorothy Stevens – Retired, Retiree  
Chairperson  
David W. Wright – Father of David  
Wright, Material  
Doreen L. Brown – Mother of Scott  
Brown, End of Line Repair  
John Lemieux – Retired  
Gerald Harmon – Retired  
William H. Fortin – Retired  
Frederick A. Scott – Retired  
Alice C. Jerzak – Wife of Marion  
Jerzak, Retired  
Valerie D. Meeks – Retired  
William A. Riley – Retired  
Theodore Koch – Retired  
John Brooks Jr. – Retired  
Roosevelt Artis – Retired  
Cindy J. Haynes – Wife of Paul Haynes,  
Retired Skilled Trades (Body Shop  
Maintenance)  
Marion J. Haynes – Mother of Paul  
Haynes, Retired Skilled Trades (Body  
Shop Maintenance)  
Joan B. Brookhouse – Wife of Wes  
Brookhouse, Retired Electrician  
(Body Shop)

## 602 Thank You

Just wanted to thank you for everything that everyone has done to help us during this time. We really appreciated the luncheon. It was all so nice and meant a lot to us. Love, The Dorothy Stevens Family

## 652 Obituaries

John H. Adams – Retiree, Brother of  
Jack Adams, Uncle of Ruby Adams  
Barry L. Baxter – Retiree, Brother of  
Jeffrey Baxter  
Maxine Brainard – Mother of Steve  
Brainard  
Ted Gibson – Retiree  
Vernon R. Grove – Retiree, Father of  
Jennifer Gilbert, Grandfather of  
Jayson Grove and special Uncle to  
Mary Place  
Dorothy Hoisington – Retiree, Mother  
of Mike Sedore  
Michael R. Jacobs – Retiree, Brother  
of Wayne Jacobs  
Urania James – Spouse of Emmitt  
James  
Kathleen K. Moore – Spouse of Steven  
Moore  
Patricia A. Phelps – Daughter of Robert  
Cooper  
Belle L. Polihonki – Retiree  
Charles Reeder – Retiree  
Jose R. Regal – Retiree  
Linda L. Sears – Retiree, Mother of  
Debra Houk, Mother-in-Law of Chris  
Houk, Mother of Douglas Sears, Sister  
of Dale Bahl and Carol Bidinger  
Freddie C. Sherwood – Brother-in-Law  
of Terry Martin  
Grace Vedder – Retiree, Mother of Loid  
and James Vedder  
Bruce Walker – Retiree  
Willa Wright – Retiree

## 652 Thank You

From the family of Charles A. Reeder

## 1753 Obituaries

Phyllis Michaud  
Mary King  
James(Red) Sullivan  
Fred Burtley

## Kariem

### Continued from page 1

The attacks are endless. Women's rights, voters' rights, seniors'/retirees' rights, workers' rights; health and safety rights; these are all rights we have fought for and struggled to maintain throughout the years. We are going backwards my friends, not forward.

There comes a point where we have to make a stand just as those who struggled, sacrificed and fought before us so bravely did.

We cannot continue with the failed policies of Governor Snyder and his Republican puppets, we must stand together in solidarity.

I would like to remind our members of the White Shirt Day program being held Thursday, February 11 at UAW Local 659 at 11:00 a.m.

In closing, Dr. King said it best:

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."*

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Lounds

### Continued from page 3

as to write a letter to Governor Rick Snyder asking that he veto the bill, even though Pagel had himself voted for it.

This bill will allow the rich and their powerful PAC's to contribute more to the causes and candidates they support while making it more difficult for unions and the working people who are their members to contribute at all.

With what justification, you ask. How did the anti-union forces spin the ban on payroll deduction of political funds for union members? Well, the Michigan Freedom Fund, a conservative, anti-union group with close ties to the DeVos family, claimed the provision would allow companies to focus on their core business and end the long-standing practice of labor unions getting companies to pay the administration cost of political contributions.

This leaves me with two questions. First, are the people speaking for the Michigan Freedom Fund really that out of touch with how payroll deduction actually works? Do they think there is a room full of clerks and scribes doing this work, like a scene from a Dickens novel?

Because, these transactions are computerized and represent minimal expense or hassle for companies. The second question is do they actually believe the things they say?

I say no, these are devious people who justify their anti-union motives in the thinnest and most perfunctory way because the people they serve do not care about anything but harming the unions and impeding candidates who are supported by working people.

Keep in mind that when the Republicans did the same thing to teachers' unions in 2012, the Senate Fiscal Agency, which is non-partisan, stated in its report that the ban on deduction of political contributions would not result in any savings to school districts.

So the people enacting, or at least drafting, these bills know they are nothing more than bald-faced attempts to weaken the political power of the working people and unions and are in no way

a cost savings to companies.

In my December Labor News article I wrote about the ban on straight-ticket voting, which is designed to create longer lines in urban areas and suppress the vote. Now once again through this legislation the Republicans are making it harder for working people to elect their candidates, and easier for the rich to elect theirs.

Unfortunately, I have come to expect this sort of behavior from our current legislature. The leadership of the majority party is so firmly under the thumb of the rich donors and the threat of a well-funded primary challenge that they will do whatever it takes to protect themselves and their position at the expense of those they are supposed to represent.

This will be the legacy of our current legislature and what a shame that is.

## Howard

### Continued from page 3

The report goes well beyond direct wage increases, highlighting successes that demonstrate the all-encompassing nature of the raising wages agenda. Numerous organizing victories, paid sick leave laws in multiple states and municipalities and new protections against wage theft if five states are outlined as part of the effort to create an economy built on raising wages.

The report also outlines hurdles to further victories, and challenges that remain as the raising wages agenda grows.

In December 2015 alone, the report shows, President Obama and Demo-

crats in Congress were forced to fight off six amendments to the budget that would have rolled back protections for working people. And while the unemployment rate continued to fall last year, wage growth showed only modest improvement before grinding to a halt.

Even with modest wage growth and significant gains for working people in 2015, the report is a reminder that more work is needed in order to keep raising wages a priority in political and economic conversations.

"Although the victories and the momentum of the Raising Wages movement in 2015 demonstrate that collective action works, we are still far behind where we need to be and where we can be," said President Trumka. "In the year ahead, we will continue to push for a comprehensive economic agenda that puts working people first. Raising Wages is not a hobby, it is our mission."

### Walk for Warmth February 27

Walk for Warmth is a statewide effort to promote public awareness of people experiencing heat-related emergencies. The event is sponsored locally by Capital Area Community Services. Funds raised are used to assist residents with home heat related emergencies, in the same county in which the funds were raised. For more details, call:

City of Lansing - 517-393-7077  
Rural Ingham county - 517-676-1065  
Clinton county - 989-224-6702  
Eaton county - 517-543-5465  
Shiawassee county - 989-723-3115

## ATTENTION GM RETIREES

### MIRACLE-EAR

America's #1 choice for hearing aids  
We are your Blue Cross-  
Blue Shield hearing provider.  
**You may be eligible to receive  
a hearing aid at no cost!**

**To find out call us at:**

**1-888-636-8290**

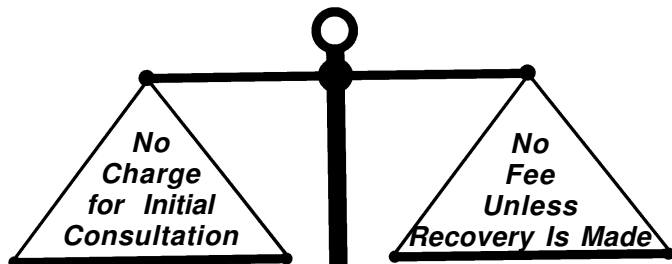
This offer is valid at these  
Miracle-Ear locations only:

Lansing, East Lansing,  
Jackson, Charlotte,  
St Johns, Portland, Grand Ledge  
In-Home Appointments Available



**CALL TODAY!**  
**1-888-636-8290**  
**or 800-546-4949**

# Rapaport, Pollok, Farrell, & Waldron



**Since 1942**

Work Related Disability  
Products Liability  
Slip and Fall  
Social Security Disability  
Medical Malpractice  
Auto Accidents

**Staff Represented by the UAW**

**332-3555**

741 N Cedar St #101, Lansing, MI 48906



Dr. Jack Adkins,  
Independent Doctor  
of Optometry

## Dr. Jack Adkins & Associates Welcome Back, Retirees!

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

We are providers for  
ALL DAVIS VISION plans  
for GM Employees and Retirees.

*We look forward to taking great care of you!*

- Experienced & Friendly Staff
- Thorough Eye Health Evaluation
- Complete Contact Lens Service
- Cataract Evaluation
- Glaucoma Testing
- Diabetic Eye Exams
- Treatment of Eye Infections

5020 W. Saginaw Hwy. • MON-FRI: 9-5 • SAT: 9-1  
CALL TO GUARANTEE AN APPOINTMENT! • (517) 323-3399



Darin Arrell,  
Office Manager



## Welcome GM Employees & Retirees!

### GET MORE FOR LESS!

**We Accept All GM Davis Vision Benefits**

**Benefits Include:**

**Complete Pair of Glasses with Covered Frames**  
From a Large Selection Including Designer Styles  
Includes Single Vision or Lined Bifocal Lenses  
AND

**Additional Pairs of Glasses are 30% Off!**

**Plus! Save 50% on Frames in Your "Off Year"**

Evening & Saturday Hours • On-Site Lab  
Same Day Service

[eyemartexpress.com](http://eyemartexpress.com)

### LANSING

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

5020 W Saginaw Hwy.  
Next to Los Tres Amigos



©2015

# Rxoptical

*The people who care for your eyes.*

**Exams • Glasses • Sunglasses • Contacts**

**LASIK**

Made in Michigan Since 1947.

**Your Davis Vision Provider**

Savings for all GM UAW Members and Retirees

ANNE KLEIN

PRADA

OLIVER PEOPLES

OOVV□□



EST. 1941



Charlotte	1315 Lansing Rd.	517-543-7577
Lansing	6001 W. Saginaw Hwy.	517-886-2888
Okemos	2285 W. Grand River Ave.	517-349-9944

We will bill most insurance plans directly including: BCBS  
Davis Vision, EyeMed, Heritage, NVA, and Spectera to name a few.

**RxOptical.com**

Change the way you  
see yourself.



At SVS Vision, we help everyone in your family look like a million bucks without paying anything close.

And we make using your vision insurance benefits easy. Just come in, choose a great look and we'll do all the rest.

## SVS VISION

OPTICAL CENTERS | [svsvision.com](http://svsvision.com)

(800) SVS-4600



Our proud union employees service thousands of union members annually.

**\$15 off** when you bring  
in this ad



Cannot be used on prior orders or combined with other discounts, promotions, offers, coupons, Groups, Refer-a-Friend coupons, or some insurance plans/programs. Not valid for Maui Jim, Oakley Sun, Chopard, Tag Heuer, or FRED brands. Other exclusions may apply. See office for details. CPN#1014

Caledonia  
1829 Marketplace Dr.  
616-641-2111

Flint  
3192 S. Linden  
810-230-9300

Flint  
3871 Lapeer Rd.  
810-742-6733

Gaylord  
1407 W Main St.  
989-217-3075

Grand Rapids  
5150 Northland Dr. NE  
616-364-4099

Grand Rapids  
2500 E. Beltline SE  
616-245-6300

Lansing  
5857 W. Saginaw  
517-323-8221

Midland  
7207 Eastman Ave.  
989-488-1866

Okemos  
4930 Marsh Rd.  
517-709-8010

Saginaw  
2350 Tittabawassee  
989-791-1044

Traverse City  
1545 S. Division St.  
231-486-0580

Walker  
3150 Alpine Ave. NW  
616-363-9831

West Branch  
511 E. Houghton Ave.  
989-345-3680

Find more locations  
at [svsvision.com](http://svsvision.com)

# Take a Ride with \$100\*

when you switch your auto loan to LAFCU.



Have an auto loan with another lender? Switch your loan from another lender to LAFCU and **get \$100\*** with a great rate as low as 2.43% APR\*\*!

**Apply online at [lafcu.com/autoloans](http://lafcu.com/autoloans)**



**LAFCU**  
— YOUR CREDIT UNION FOR LIFE —

**[lafcu.com](http://lafcu.com) | 517.622.6600**

\*Refinancing offer not available on vehicle loans currently financed at LAFCU. Restrictions apply. \*\*Annual Percentage Rate. Rate accurate as of 01/22/16 and subject to change. Rates based on credit history, terms and security. 60 monthly payments of \$17.72 for every \$1,000 financed.

01/16