



# Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 5

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS



JULY, 2009

## Uncertainty – but with hope

By Dean Poggiali, Local 724 President

As we enter the summer months, there is still a degree of uncertainty as to where the economy is headed. It seems as though the stock market climbs slightly, only to have one of the so-called Wall Street experts make a projection that sends the market sideways. With so many of our pensions now in the form of the 401(k) model, the average family has to make difficult decisions as to their future.



Speaking somewhat of the future, the Lansing area was relatively unscathed by the General Motors announcement in the long-term picture. That is not to say that short-term we may not see some tough times this next month or so. The Dakkota, Lear-Mason, and Woodbridge Units supply the LGR facility which is scheduled to be down for the last week of June, the entire month of July, and the first week of August. Our sincere hope is that by that juncture, the landscape will be somewhat clearer and working families can start to get back to some sort of normalcy.

In June the membership took action to suspend both the Executive Board and General Membership meetings for July and August. The Local will remain open, but due to some staff vacations, please call first if you need anything at the hall.

The Union Family Fair Day will be August 6 at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. Pre-event tickets are for sale at many union halls at a cost of \$10 for an all-day ride band and \$2 gate admission. The normal cost is \$18 and \$5, so the saving is considerable. The tickets will only be available until August 3.

The Mystic Lake Union Camp Committee concluded the scholarship program. The committee granted scholarships for 55 deserving union kids and collected over \$11,000. This partnership has afforded kids a rewarding experience at a quality YMCA camp at no cost to the parents other than some spending money for their kids. Thanks

Lansing Labor News



Duane Zuckschwerdt, Region 1-C Director, joined the greater Lansing area UAW leadership to kick off the United Way drive. Zuckschwerdt talked of labor's role in helping support the United Way and all its fine programs.

to all who have supported the committee and its endeavors.

Organized labor in the Lansing area continues to show support for the Capital Area United Way. On June 23, union members from the Capital Area UAW CAP Council and the Greater Lansing Labor Council showed up at Hawk Island Park to help kick off the United Way campaign. With so many of our members laid off, our donations are more critical than any time in recent history.

In closing, our support is with our troops, our thoughts are with those who are struggling, and our prayers are with those who need our compassion.

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

## Primary endorsements

Following are UAW Capital Area CAP Council endorsements for City of Lansing positions in the August 4 primary:

**Mayor**  
Virg Bernero

**City Clerk**  
Chris Swope

**Council At-Large**  
Kathie Dunbar  
Brian Jeffries

**Council Ward 2**  
Sandy Allen

**Council Ward 4**  
Tom Truscott

Periodical Postage Paid at Lansing, MI

## Changes at the Labor News

“The Lansing Labor News, founded in 1945, has been a strong voice for the Lansing workers and their families. It has been recognized as a tool the workers need in our continuing struggle for social and economic justice. It is also recognized that these goals cannot be met without the efforts of many ‘friends of labor.’” – These words appear on the Lansing Labor News Distinguished Service Award that honored the first editor of the Labor News, V.E. Vandenburg, awarded April 28, 1978. Vandenburg served as editor from the beginning in 1945 until 1960.

Thanks to our union leadership in the beginning who made sure we had a communication tool like the Lansing Labor News, which now serves over 27,000 UAW members, both active and retired. As our union membership drops and our retiree ranks increase, the ability of active workers to fund the paper is in real jeopardy. Active workers have been able to fund the paper being sent to your homes as retirees.

We have decided to produce a quarterly paper and a website for our Lansing area locals.

Our union leadership and board members, along with the staff of the Labor News, are committed to continue our communication tool. This year will see another paper in September and in December, with next year's schedule to be announced at a later date. Buy union, buy American!

## Notice to all General Motors Retirees

If you are retired on a disability pension and receiving workers compensation, you should be aware that recent changes in the contract could cause a reduction in the amount you will be receiving.

A meeting will be held on July 20, 2009 at UAW Local 652 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss these changes.

The Rapaport, Pollok, Farrell and Waldron law firm will be present to give a brief presentation and answer questions.

– Russ Emmons, Workers Compensation Rep

**Local 2256 Election Notice ... Page 5**  
**Local 602 Picnic Notice ... Page 5**  
**Lots of golf outings ... Page 5**  
**Vets golf outing ... Page 2**

## Lansing Area Wide Retirees Picnic August 13

August 13 is the Lansing Area Wide Retirees Picnic. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. The picnic will be held at Hawk Island Park, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Rd., Lansing, starting at noon. This event is for retirees and spouses only, please

## Great news – at a price

Finally, the wait for the fate of our plant is over and as many of us had guessed, it was great news for our workforce at Local 602. The great news comes with a price, and our hearts go out to our UAW Brothers and Sisters across the country who may have their jobs placed in jeopardy.



Our economy is beginning to slowly recover, but employment is a “lagging indicator,” and we expect the job picture to remain bleak in the near term. We look forward to the addition of shifts and jobs at LDT and our suppliers, which will help stimulate our local economy, but remain saddened at the net effect of the GM bankruptcy.

By the time you read this, the announcement for the “small car” plant will have been made, and we will be putting together our plan for a strong and secure future for our Local. LDT will be a busy place in the coming months, as we prepare to welcome back our membership.

With the changes in vacation policy, working hours, recalling a shift, manpower placement, plant shutdown, etc., our membership will again face some transitional challenges. There will be some confusion, there will be some frustration, but at the end of the day, our challenges will come as a result of new opportunities earned by our world-class workforce, and not the prospect of a closed plant and an uncertain future.

I know these past few weeks have been very hard for our active, laid-off, and retired membership, but Local 602 has the rare opportunity to celebrate the hope of a bright future for our people, our product, and our plant. Thank you for your patience.

### Local 602 and the Veteran’s Committee Present 1st Annual Charitable Golf Event

**Sunday, August 23**  
12 noon shotgun start  
at Centennial Acres

(12485 Dow Rd., Sunfield)

Proceeds to benefit Volunteers of America Hotel for Veterans, VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, and UAW Veteran’s Committee

Support the Veterans and receive: 18 holes of golf, cart, beverages, chances to win big, skins games, putting contests, all you can eat barbecue (roasted pork, hamburgers, hotdogs and fixins)

\$60 per person or \$240 per team  
*Veterans receive a \$5 discount*

Entry forms available at Local 602 (2510 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing) and must be returned by August 21. Questions? Contact a member of Local 602’s Veteran’s Committee: Billy White, Chairperson (517/372-4626), John Ward, Glenn Schroeder, Leo Cowdry, or Fred Rocheleau. No refunds. The course reserves the right to call off play in adverse weather.



**Local 2256 delegates listen as Region 1-C Director Duane Zuckschwerdt discusses the political climate in our state at the UAW 1-C Leadership Conference in June.**

AL VINCENT, LOCAL 1753

## Lansing SPO still a player

Things are kinda quiet here at Lansing SPO. We have put in for up to 30 summer vacation replacements. We will probably need all 30 with just a couple of months to go this summer. Our goal was to let any non-skill employee have at least one week off in the summer, if they so desired. I am not sure that can happen now, being one month of summer is already gone.



I believe Lansing SPO is still a major player in the future of GM. If you don’t know, three more SPO’s will be closing: Boston, Columbus, and Jacksonville. They were supposed to close by the end of this year but now we believe it will be at the end of 2010, or who knows when.

The Local 1753 picnic that was held a couple of weeks ago, I thought was a success. The retiree board didn’t know what to expect for a turnout, since the Lansing Labor News has been down.

We had about 80 retirees plus spouses.

The Lansing Labor News board has decided to print this edition and two more for the rest of 2009. This should give the paper time and money to get back on its feet. The paper gets its income mostly from “working” UAW employees. This is not been happening. Lansing SPO cannot support the paper alone. The Delta plant has been somewhat steady with one shift and another shift coming. The Lansing Grand River plant will get back on its feet later this summer. When everyone’s working there is no production problems at the Lansing Labor News. Also, remember how many employees Lansing had just a few years ago.

I want to thank everybody who helped with the car show. This came about quickly and we didn’t know what to expect. Well, with a little luck and good weather the car show raised enough money to send four kids to the YMCA Mystic Lake camp this summer.

NO general membership meeting for this summer.

My food for thought: Life is short, Break the rules, Forgive quickly, Kiss slowly, Love truly, Laugh uncontrollably, And never regret anything that made you smile.



**ABOVE: Among those who enjoyed the Local 1753 retiree picnic were (left to right): Cindy Stairs, Bill Dawson, Gary William, and Richard Stairs.**  
**BELOW: A scene from the Local 1753 car show.**



## Setting the record straight

Congratulations to our GM plants which took 7 out of 10 spots in the J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Initial Quality Study that was announced on June 19. Our Lansing Grand River plant placed 10th. Our sincere thanks to all our membership. Even during these tough times you have helped maintain the quality in what we build to help secure the future for GM and the UAW.



Gary Cowger, GM Group Vice President for Global Manufacturing and Labor, announced that the Harbour Report for North America is in for 2009. Our assembly, powertrain, and stamping plants improved overall productivity by 1.3 percent, despite an overall unit volume loss and several new launches in 2008.

In presenting the results to GM, Ron Harbour said, “By far, 2008 was GM’s most difficult test in its 100-year history. With the auto industry ravaged by the worst economy since the Great Depression, GM sales dwindled and as a result plants paid the price. Head count was drastically reduced and every factory went through the turmoil of reassignment and rebalancing of work. It’s a testament to every member of the GM team and flies in the face of every erroneous perception in Washington, D.C. and among many of the general public.”

Key achievements highlighted in the 2009 Harbour Report are:

- 1.3% overall productivity improvement
  - Assembly hours per vehicle
  - Engine productivity up 7.9%. GM becomes the benchmark!
  - Transmission productivity up 1.7%. GM becomes the benchmark!
  - Stamping productivity up 2.7%, with three of the top 10 stamping plants.
- Congratulations to everyone!

Alan Reuther, our UAW Legislative Director in Washington, sent out a letter to all our Representatives and Senators that sets the record straight on what our active and retired membership has given to help keep our GM plants viable for the future. It read:

Dear Representative/Senator:

As the GM restructuring proceeds, the UAW wishes to set the record straight on the enormous sacrifices that have been made by active and retired workers. These concessions will save the company billions of dollars, and are a critical component of efforts to restore its long-term economic viability.

In the contract that was ratified by UAW members last week, active employees agreed to the following major concessions:

- performance bonuses worth 4% and 3% of pay scheduled for 2009 and 2010 were eliminated;
- cost of living adjustments were eliminated for the remainder of the contract;
- holidays were reduced;
- overtime and relief time rules were scaled back substantially;
- wages for new “entry level” employees were frozen, and the company was

- allowed to increase the percentage of its workforce employed at this much lower rate;
- the company was also allowed to hire part time employees with reduced wages and benefits;
- certain job security programs were suspended, and supplemental unemployment benefits were scaled back for laid off workers;
- job classifications were reduced and work rules were made more flexible.

Taken together, these concessions will save GM billions of dollars over the remainder of the contract, and will make compensation for active workers fully competitive with that paid by foreign nameplate operations in the U.S. Furthermore, it is important to note that the biggest sacrifices will be made by the tens of thousands of workers who will lose their jobs as a result of the numerous plant closings that GM is announcing in its restructuring plan.

- In addition, retired UAW members have made the following sacrifices:
- reimbursements for the Medicare Part B premium (now \$76.20 per month) were eliminated;
  - prescription drug copays were increased;
  - dental and vision benefits were eliminated;
  - premiums and deductibles were increased for retirees with pensions less than \$8,000, thereby tracking increases that were previously implemented for all other retirees.

These concessions also will save GM hundreds of millions of dollars during the remainder of 2009. In addition, GM will be allowed to replace over half of the contributions that it owed to the retiree health care trust fund (VEBA) with stock, and the remainder of the contributions will be replaced with a \$2.5 billion note and \$6.5 billion in preferred stock. These changes will save GM billions of dollars. They also greatly increase the risks being assumed by retirees. Depending on the value of the company's stock, the trustees of the retiree health-care trust fund may have to make further reductions in benefits in the coming years.

Based on all of the foregoing, the UAW submits it is abundantly clear that active and retired workers have made enormous sacrifices to facilitate the restructuring of GM. These sacrifices are on top of the major concessions that active and retired workers previously made in 2005 and 2007.

Some news stories, editorials and op-eds, such as the May 29th editorial in the Wall Street Journal entitled "Political Bankruptcy," have incorrectly charged that the GM restructuring plan treats the

UAW more "generously" than bondholders or other stakeholders, and because of political considerations does not require workers and retirees to give up enough. This is simply nonsense. As indicated by the facts set forth above, the workers and retirees have indeed made enormous sacrifices. Sincerely,  
Alan Reuther, Legislative Director

### BOB SMITH, LOCAL 652

## Layoff tips

Happy Fourth of July! I hope you and yours are having a wonderful summer. Things at Local 652 seem to be following the normal course: get through one emergency, only to be greeted by the next catastrophe. Wow! What a time to be in the auto business.



In the last few months we have heard from literally thousands of members and the experience has only reinforced what I have known all along. We have the best membership in the UAW! Your patience, understanding and support for the whole process that we have been going through has been phenomenal! All the officers and staff of the International UAW and particularly Local 652 want to extend a hearty **Thank You!**

We are coming up on several weeks of layoffs so I thought I would remind everyone about a couple things. **Don't forget to call MARVIN on your "Hit Day" during your third full week of layoff (not vacation).** It can be pretty easy to forget something like this as we are out lounging (or working) around the pool on a hot summer day. Getting unemployment approved for the week generates your SUB pay, so missing your call screws everything else up.

Also, keeping check stubs for a little while can help sort out the issue if a problem develops. Having to wait for duplicate check stubs before unemployment or SUB pay can be corrected is an unneeded delay. Important phone numbers are:

MARVIN ... 1-866-638-3993  
Employer Filed Claims Unit ... 1-866-845-0077  
Local 652 Union Hall ... 517-372-7581  
GM Payroll ... 1-866-245-5957

July's General Membership Meeting has been cancelled by member action. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9 at 6:00 p.m. I hope to see you there. Have a great summer and be safe.

### CONNIE SWANDER, LOCAL 602

## Stand together

Let me start by saying how grateful I am that I and the Lansing area have been so blessed with keeping our plants open and growing. How saddened I am for the less fortunate areas within GM and our suppliers.



We need to step up and help our great country stay great, because I can't think of a better place in the world to live. I know as GM workers and retirees we have taken some pretty hard hits lately, and it's difficult for some of us to see that it could have been a lot worse.

It's like after your home burns down, you have to pick up what you have left and rebuild. Most of the time you have learned things, so you are able to build a better house. We have to do the same thing in restructuring our jobs and workplace. In order to do the job we have in front of us, we have to stand together working, building, playing, and fighting. We are Americans, and that's what we do best.

Don't buy vehicles which are not UAW-made in the US or Canada. Let the Big Three know we don't want their imports. It's not just cars and trucks ... anything you can buy US-made, do it. For a web site to help you buy American-made products, go to [www.americansworking.com](http://www.americansworking.com). Take the time to check it out; it has some excellent information.

We want the people of this country to back us auto workers. We have to back them also.

### DEBRA MILLS, LOCAL 724

## Women's memorial

On June 18 I attended the dedication of the Women's Memorial tribute to women at the UAW Region 1-C office in Flint. Close to 100 people turned out at this event.



My thanks go out to our Regional Director Duane Zuckschwerdt for helping

make this tribute to women in the UAW a reality.

Women played an important role in the UAW from the sit-down strike, civil rights movement, and Rosie the Riveter during the war years.

To see how you can help support this tribute to women and honor a woman you know, or just purchase a brick in the tribute are, see the Director's article on page 5.

### Flu Shots

Our Region 1-C Capital Area CAP flu shot clinic, along with Blue Care Network and members of UAW Local 1488, will not have a clinic this year.

Blue Care Network is closing with early retirement to those eligible, and is selling the facility at Creyts Road. Our sincere thanks to Local 1488 and our CAP Council, who have for years sponsored the flu clinic.

If your loved ones need flu shots this fall, help make sure they make other arrangements.

Enjoy the summer and remember your union meetings.

**Buy Union!  
Buy  
American!**

### Local 602 Meetings

There will be no Local 602 meetings in July and August. We will resume our regular meetings on September 13. See you then!

### Local 1618 meetings

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

### LOCAL 1753 MEETINGS

General membership meetings are canceled for the summer. The Executive Board will meet July 21 and August 18 at the hall.

### Local 2256 meetings

Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The executive board meets at 6:30 p.m. and the general membership meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are at the hall, 2114 N. East St., Lansing. Phone 485-5883.



The 2009 Pride Ride was held at Local 652 with all Lansing area UAW locals in attendance. Our thanks to Linda Mogyoros and her committee for another successful event.

## Lansing Labor News

(ISSN 0023-8384)

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES:  
LANSING LABOR NEWS • 210 CLARE STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917

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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 monthly. Periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI and at additional offices. Three percent per month from UAW Incorporator Locals' monthly dues is for this publication. Subscription rates for non-members: 6 months \$7.50; 1 year \$13.00; 2 years \$20.00. Member of the International Labor Press Association, the UAW LUPA, the Midwest Labor Press Association and the Michigan Labor Press. 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 65, NUMBER 5

VOICE OF 27,000 MEMBERS

JULY, 2009

## 602 retirees

We are in a recession that started on Wall Street, finally causing a crisis, in the meantime, for families and businesses.

We owe our gratitude to Ron Gettelfinger and Cal Rapson for negotiating an agreement whereby we lost our vision and dental, but we have our medical, which the task force and the Company wanted to take away.

It makes me wonder where these retirees are coming from when they want to cancel their \$2.00 a month dues and say the union hasn't done anything for them. I must ask, who do you think went to the table and got the retirees health care, vision, and dental plus increases in your basic pensions each contract plus a Christmas bonus? It was your union! A retiree pays \$2.00 a month – sure, that's \$24 a year. Seems to me that's a pretty darn good return on your dues.

Also, remember, retirees: the UAW is the only union that bargains for retirees. All others wish you well and you don't hear from them again. I am proud of the UAW and my local union. You should be too!

Fisher Retiree Girls, remember our annual get-together luncheon at Finley's on South Cedar at 1:30 pm on July 22.

Area retirees from all Locals, our annual picnic at Hawk Island Park at 1601 E Cavanaugh Road is on August 13. This is for retirees only. We'll be eating at 12:00 pm. Meat, potatoes, and a drink are furnished. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Following is a letter I received from a retiree requesting that I have it put in the Labor News:

First of all, we would like to thank our Retiree Chairperson, Dorothy Stevens, and all the International Reps – Stan Marshall, Director, Region 1-C Retirees; International Rep Becky Sullivan, Retired Workers Department, UAW International; and Ray Davis, Legislation Chair of Region 1-C – for the opportunity to visit once again the Black Lake Center.

The weather wasn't the best, but the experience was.

In addition to the International Reps we heard talks from Mark Brewer (Michigan Democratic Party), Mark Meadows (Judiciary Chair Democratic Party), and Congressman Mark Schauer, who had just taken delivery on a new Saturn Outlook.

With speakers and the three square meals a day, and the tours of the center, my husband and another 602 member were able to play a round of golf on one of the best courses in the country.

So we encourage all new and seasoned retirees to attend, too, to hear from the people who are looking out for our backs in the upcoming elections of 2010.

We enjoyed ourselves and hope others do the same.

— Thank you, Ernest and Deborah Chedester, Retirees of Local 602

For all of those ill, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

For everyone who has lost a loved one or dear friend, we send our sincere condolences.



**Local 652 maintenance welder retirees got together recently at the local. Mike Ostrander thanked everyone who attended.**

### MIKE BAUER, LOCAL 652

## 652 retirees

Our monthly schedule of events is as follows:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. The games start at 6:00 p.m.

Third Tuesday of the month is our Bohemian dinner and business meeting. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Dinner starts at noon.

Fourth Tuesday of the month is card night starting at 6:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652, 602, and 1618.

Mark the following upcoming events and changes to our usual schedule on you calendars!

**The July 7 bingo night is cancelled** due to the vacation shutdown. The July 21 bohemian dinner will be held as usual.

The Oldsmobile Outdoor Club July Campout will be at Leisure Lake Campground July 10 – 12. The campground is located west of Ithaca. For more information, call Wagon Master Jay Courser at (517) 323-2331. Reservations are necessary.

August 13 is the Lansing Area Wide Retirees Picnic. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. The picnic will be held at Hawk Island Park, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Rd., Lansing, starting at noon. This event is for retirees and spouses only, please. By membership action, the **August 18 bohemian dinner and business meeting is cancelled.**

September 16 – 21 is the chapter trip to Rutland, Vermont. Call Marni at (517) 321-6871 for more information.

October 13 is social night from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

As a cost-cutting measure, **the membership has voted to cancel the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.** The monthly bohemian dinner will be held in November and December. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

The Euchre Tournament playoff between Lansing and Flint was won by Vince Letau of Local 652. The plaque has returned to Lansing. Congratulations, Vince!

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Marvin Davis, Jean Schneider, Bill Smith, Rosemary Spitzley, and any others we may have missed.

Condolences to the family of Harold J. Hurst.

The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to do-

nate to the area Food Bank when you attend retiree events.

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.

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

Happiness is found along the way, not at the end of the road.

### LOIS SCHULTZ, LOCAL 1618

## 1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people. Ted's breakfast was a great success.

I would like you folks to let me know your correct phone or cell numbers, as we don't know as yet about our beloved Labor News. That way, we can call when we have special things going on.

As I have said before, the Labor News receives no money from the retirees, only the active workers. Maybe we as retirees could do something. Any ideas?

Our next meeting is on July 8, the second Wednesday of the month. We eat at noon – and we eat well!

Local 1618 retirees are holding an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Saturday, July 25 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. It will be at the Local 1753 Hall at 3204 St. Joe Highway in Lansing, 48917. Bring family and friends. Adults are \$5.00 and children 5-12 are \$3.00, under 5 are free. There will also be a baked goods sale and a drawing for an afghan. You don't have to be present to win the afghan. We need lots of volunteers for this. Come one, come all. You may also buy tickets ahead of time. Call me at 517-543-5385.

The Area-Wide Retirees Picnic will be at Hawk Island Park in Lansing on August 13. No dogs are allowed in the picnic area. A dog run is just down the road.

I'll be at the sign-in table, so don't forget to **sign in first and get your ticket!** Last year, some people didn't and were upset. We've been doing this for many years; you folks have to do some things for yourself.

It takes a lot of hard work from all of us on the Area Retirees Council. We are there at 9:00 a.m. We try to make this a fun time, so work with us. Thank you. I get to see so many friends at this picnic.

We received thank-you's from Harry Henderson, Big Ben and Joan Allen.

Ted Gauss and Betty Groh were in the hospital. Tim McFarlan's having knee surgery, as are Nolan Douglas, Denny Warfull, and Dick Bauer. Del McBride had four stents. To all on our sick list, God bless.

Recently I've run into Tim McFarlan, Greg Putney, Cliff Jones and Gary Debler from the Tool Room, and Denny Debenoski. I also saw Jim Van Dorpe at Meijers and told him to come to our potluck – and he did. It's so good to see all our old friends.

### Condolences to the families of:

- Edward Bates, age 79. He was our local's president at one time.

- Audris Heggman, 79, who passed away on December 14. Husband Richard was our benefit rep.

- Edith (Edie) Meis, age 75. Her husband was Dale Meis.

- My dearest friend Hilda Fern Braatz at age 94 and a half. She was always

**Continued on page 7**

### LAURA CLARK, LOCAL 1753

## 1753 Retirees

The June picnic was a great success, the weather even held out. The hard work of our Executive Board and the Recreation Committee really showed! The dessert contest went over very well. Especially for our three judges,

as everyone had brought their best stuff. Shelley made wonderful gift bags for our three top winners. I know, I peeked in at one! There was a lot of visiting and talking with friends, including some we had and some we hadn't seen for years. We gave out door prizes and our own credit union, LAFUCU, gave out a couple. We want to thank them as well as the Blues for being there and adding to the party.

We would not have had such a tasty dinner but for the skill shown by our grills on the grill team. The veteran grillers started off flying, and soon more came to help. They showed each other a few flips and hot dogs and hamburgers started sailing off the grill.

We enjoyed seeing past Chairman Ron VanDorpe, Benefit Reps, and President Al Vincent. It was reassuring to hear Art Luna, our service rep, speak to us and bring greetings from our Regional Director. A good time was had by all!

The clean-up crew finished in record time; it looked like we knew what we were doing. This could not have been done with out you! Whether you came early or late, ate or have a good idea for next year, thank you!

You may have noticed the Lansing Labor News is cutting back on issues. They, like everyone, are having to find ways to save money. If your household receives two copies, please cancel one. If you do not receive one, call Nancy at the hall, 487-1753. There will not be another issue till September and then December. For us this means looking at the calendars we handed out, checking dates of meetings, reminding our friends.

The August meeting on the 13th is the Lansing Area Retirees Picnic at Hawk Island Park, lunch at noon. Bring ideas, and yourself to the July 9th meeting, the second Thursday; lunch at 12 noon, meeting to follow. The breakfast at Spuds is the 27th of July, 8:30 a.m.



# Buy Union!

# Support for the Women's Memorial

By Duane Zuckschwerdt  
UAW Region 1-C Director

Since the ground-breaking on June 18, I have had several questions about the UAW Tribute to Women and the varying levels of sponsorship.

As you can imagine, both are topics I enjoy talking about very much.

Women have been involved in every major social advance this country has seen. Sometimes it was on the front lines, as in the Great Sitdown Strike and the Civil Rights Movement. Other times it was more behind the scenes, like Rosie the Riveter making it possible for soldiers to win the war.

These women and their acts of courage, love and righteousness changed the world, sometimes in a small way, many times in ways still being felt today.

Isn't it understandable that this project is so close to my heart?

Building a tribute like this is costly, which brings me to the other topic that members are asking about. If you would like, there are several ways you can support this project.

Courtyard bricks are available and range in price from \$30 to \$80. They will be placed around the main sculpture. Honorable mention level bricks, for a donation of \$100-249, will be placed in the reflection area surrounding the water feature. These bricks are a wonderful way to memorialize a woman who has made a difference in your life.

Donors gifting \$250-999 will be recognized as Bronze level contributors on a permanent plaque in the courtyard. There will be a Silver level plaque for gifts of \$1000 - \$2499.

Patrons or collectives giving \$2500, our Gold level, will be recognized with their own granite bench in the courtyard, and there are a few Diamond Donor spots left. If you are interested, you can contact Bettye at 810-767-0910.

I have always believed in the power of ordinary people changing the world. This is the perfect opportunity to showcase that power.

# Retiree benefit modifications

By Joseph Sagy  
Region 1C Benefits Rep

GM retirees who retire from an active status have a Basic Life Insurance amount as determined by their hourly rate at the time of the retirement. This insurance is at no cost to the retiree. When you reach age 65 it starts reducing at a rate of 2% per month till it reaches an ultimate amount based on a formula related to credited service.

This formula is 1.5 x the amount of life insurance x the years of credited service. For example, a retiree with 30 years of service and \$60,000 life insurance:  $60,000 \times .015 \times 30 = \$27,000$  which is the ultimate amount.

There also is extra accident insurance provided by GM which is half the amount of the Basic insurance. However, it ceases the last day of the month the retiree turns 65. Please plan accordingly for these reductions. Also, be sure your beneficiary information is current with your wishes. Any changes can be done by calling the

benefit center at 1-800-489-4646 or online at gmbenefits.com.

Obviously the most important issue is the Retiree Benefit Modifications. The changes will be effective 7/1/09, or later if court approval is delayed beyond that date. Everyone should have received this information by now. To make it as brief as possible, prescription drug copay has increased to \$10 for generic and \$25 for name brand at retail for a 34-day supply. Mail order for a 90-day supply is \$20 and \$50. Retirees in the Catastrophic Insurance Plan will all be defaulted to the Traditional with monthly contributions and yearly deductibles. Coverage for ED drugs and drugs such as Prilosec, Zegerid, Nexium, Aciphex, Prevacid and Protonix are no longer covered except in some prior authorized cases.

Vision and dental coverage will be cancelled. Davis and Delta Dental are attempting to develop a program with approval from the UAW and GM for coverage on a self-pay basis by the retiree. Emergency room copay has increased to \$100 if not admitted in the hospital.

The reimbursement of the cost of Medicare Part B - \$76.20 - will no longer be reimbursed. In short, if you are on Medicare your pension check will be less \$76.20. You will still have your coverage through Medicare and GM.

Protected retirees who were not subject to the monthly contributions or deductibles will no longer be considered protected and will be subject to these additional costs. Lastly, there are changes in the dependent coverage for health insurance regarding Principally Supported Children and Sponsored Dependents.

If you have any questions you can reach me at 517-372-7201 or toll free 1-866-782-6513.

## "Save the Girls" Scramble for Breast Cancer

Shot Gun Start - 4 person scramble

**August 22, 2009**

**Centennial Acres Golf Course**

12485 Dow Rd, Sunfield, MI

1:30 registration

2:30 shotgun start

Includes: 18 holes of golf w/cart, Food all day and FREE beer

Prizes: Men & Women's Longest Drive, Putt & Closest to Pin

Please join the Women's Committee and the Recreation Committee to help raise money to find a cure to put an end to breast cancer! All hourly and salary, as well as the community are welcome to participate. Forms are available at the Local 652 hall. Any questions, you may call: 652 Union Hall, 517-372-7581 or Lena Wyeth, 517-282-8689

Region 1-C Veterans Association  
Presents

## First annual bike wash And mystery bike run August 8

Lansing Southside Hooters Restaurant  
Come on out and enjoy the sun, fun, hot wings, bikes, cars.

The mystery run is \$5 per person and registration is at 9:00 a.m.

For more info, call Candice Morrison at 517-749-4896 or see the Region 1-C website.

## UAW Local 2256 - Unit of BCBSM Election and Nomination Acceptance

For the position of:

### 1 Union Steward

Nomination Acceptance letters will be taken from July 6 through July 14, 2009. Letters to be dated no later than July 14, 2009 and sent to the following Election Committee Members:

Vickie Montgomery - Chair Sheila Slentz Mary Holmes

Campaign timeframe is scheduled July 15 through July 20, 2009

Elections will be held

**\*\*July 21, 2009\*\***

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. at the Jackson Office, 1000 Wisner, Ste 3

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at the Flint Office, 4520 Linden Creek Pkwy.

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Lansing Office, 1403 Creyts Rd.

Run-off Election date set for August 11, 2009

**\*\*\*No Absentee ballots\*\*\***

INGHAM COUNTY FAIR

## Union Family Fair Day

Sponsored by Lansing Area Labor Unions

**Thursday, August 6**

Bring the family to a day of Carnival Fun, Food and Rides

\$10.00 Ride Bands good for ALL DAY Noon - Close

14th annual Karaoke Contest for Kids! (At the Shirley Clark Pavilion)

Age Groups: 6-10, 11-14, and 15-18

**CASH PRIZES!**

Entry Donation: \$2.00 per person if purchased in advance, \$5.00 at the gate

Rides: \$10.00 per person if purchased in advance, \$18.00 at the fair

Advance ticket sales available through Monday, August 3, and are available through your local union or the Greater Lansing Labor Council at 485-5169.

UAW Local 602 and the Conservation & Recreation Committee presents

## UAW Local 602 Annual Family Picnic Saturday, August 22 at Eagle Park in Eagle, MI

(Corner of Grange Rd & Grand River)

12 pm - 6 pm

FREE To Local 602 Members & Retirees & their Families!

Lots of Great Food! Plus Music, Info Booths & Giveaways!

**FOOD FUN GAMES HORSESHOES**

\*Music & Entertainment *Adult Bingo* Children's Games *Children's Bingo*

\*Times to be announced

We need volunteers - receive a T-shirt for volunteering! Sign up at Union Hall by calling 517/372-4626. Questions can be directed to: Chairperson Paulina Rodriguez at 517/231-7648 or to a committee member: Phyllis Campbell, Kyle Fullhart, Marcia Griffin, Gary Howard, Kellyce Kelly, Geoffrey Kerley, Leonard King, Teresa Nelson, Retiree Steve Pifer, Co-Chair Daryl Smith, Brian Stead, Tim Wilson

NOTICE: Please be advised that all persons attending the UAW Local 602 picnic under date of August 22, 2009, shall be responsible for payment of medical treatment received as a result of any injuries that occur or are sustained at the UAW Local 602 picnic, which includes but is not limited to responsibility for payment of ambulance bills.

UAW Local 602 and the Conservation & Recreation Committee Presents

## 11th Annual Charity Golf Outing

Proceeds this year to benefit Hospice

**Sunday, July 19 at Brookshire Country Club**

205 W. Church Street, Williamston, MI 48895

at 9:00 am with a shotgun start!

8:00 am Check-In

Teams are limited to 4 people each

**COST is \$260.00 Per Team (NON-REFUNDABLE)**

(Cost includes: Hot Dog, 2 carts per foursome, 18 holes & barbeque ribs & chicken dinner following golf!)

LOTS of opportunities to win prizes for the WHOLE team!

Chance to Win a Buick Enclave

Sponsored by Glenn Buege Buick

The Local 602 Golf Outing is open to all Local 602 members & their families!

Forms available at Local 602 (517-372-4626) or from

Paulina Rodriguez, Chairperson, 517-231-7648.

Questions? See a Conservation & Recreation Committee Member: Phyllis Campbell, Kyle Fullhart, Marcia Griffin, Gary Howard, Kellyce Kelly, Geoffrey Kerley, Leonard King, Teresa Nelson, Retiree Steve Pifer, Co-Chair Daryl Smith, Brian Stead, Renida "RT" Taylor, and Tim Wilson

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS JULY 12!**

Note: NO REFUNDS. The course only reserves the right to call off play under adverse weather conditions.



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Flint (Davidson Rd.) (810) 742-3500

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**Our Union Staff at SVS Vision are proud to offer this exclusive program for UAW GM Retirees and their families**

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FT 28 Bifocal or Trifocal Plastic Lenses & Frame .....	\$79
Progressive Plastic Lenses & Frame .....	\$99

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517/323-8221

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### UAW GENERAL MOTORS RETIREE PROGRAM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Local # \_\_\_\_\_

Present this ad at participating SVS Vision Optical Centers. Valid at participating locations only. Expires 10/31/09

#1019



## 602 Obituaries

Christie Goodman – Retired Final  
 Frederick Richard Nelson – Husband of  
 Kim Nelson, Retired and Stepfather  
 of Erica Rindfleisch, General Assem-  
 bly (Doors) and Bryce Rindfleisch,  
 General Assembly (Engine Dress)  
 Jeffrey Baker – General Assembly  
 Jeane M. Barnes – Mother of Jeffrey C.  
 Barnes, General Assembly (Engine  
 Dress)  
 Arnold F. Bauer – Retired Booth Cleaner  
 and Father of Linda Gavenda, Retired;  
 Father-in-law of Jim Gavenda, Re-  
 tired; and Uncle of Greg Patrick, Re-  
 pair and Phillip Patrick, Retired  
 Barbara Gager – Wife of Andrew Gager,  
 Retired Electrician  
 Richard “Rick” Cascaddan – Father of  
 Nick Cascaddan, Paint and Father-in-  
 law of Joanna McCook-  
 Cascaddan  
 Robert J. Barnes – Retired Trim (A-  
 Line), Inspection, and Sanitation  
 Mary Alice Baur – Wife of Robert Baur,  
 Retired and Mother of Doug Baur,  
 Body  
 Joan Cross – Mother of Robert Garland,  
 Retired Material and Mother-in-law of  
 Deborah Garland, Retired Weld In-  
 tegrity  
 Grant Hath – Father of Jeff Hath, Re-  
 tired Electrician and Cindy  
 Martemucci, Retired Paint and Fa-  
 ther-in-law of Don Martemucci, Re-  
 tired Material  
 Patricia Kelley – Wife of Steven Kelley,  
 Millwright  
 Frederico S. Jimenez – Father of  
 Frederico Jimenez, Body  
 Doris Mephram – Mother of Kevin  
 Mephram, Body  
 Amanda Putnam Brown – Former 602  
 member and Wife of Edgar Brown,  
 Body  
 Herman Joseph Schneider – Father of  
 Gary Schneider, General Assembly  
 Loretta Larner – Mother of Lee Larner,  
 Pipefitter (Paint)  
 Catalina V. Lopez – Mother of Bertha  
 Vasquez, General Assembly (Trim 1,  
 Team 2)  
 Frank Stuer Sr. – Father of Frank Stuer,  
 Retired Material  
 Ascencion L. Escojido Sr. – Retired  
 Paint

Alejandro Trevino – Mother of Juan  
 Trevino, Retired Quality Control  
 Donald Copeman – Retired  
 Linda Klont – Retired  
 Rudolfo Pardo – Retired  
 Leonard Bowen – Retired  
 Lawrence Schneeberger – Retired

## 602 Thank Yous

Please express our thanks to Local 602  
 for the beautiful Bible and words and  
 memory of our mother ... Larry  
 Sklapsky

UAW ... Thank you very much for  
 the beautiful case and the Holy Bible.  
 The family has enjoyed 56 years of be-  
 ing together. God bless ... Robert W.  
 Baur and Family

Thank you for the Bible – it rests in a  
 special place in our home. Thank you,  
 Local 602, and all the members for your  
 thoughts and prayers ... The Family of  
 James Ellsworth

Thank you so much for the beautiful  
 Bible you sent in Barb’s memory. What  
 a special gift for us to cherish ... The  
 Family of Barbara Gager

Thank you very much for the beauti-  
 ful Bible ... Jeff Hath

## 652 Obituaries

**Bibles were sent to the families of:**

Tom Auvenshine – Son of John  
 Auvenshine  
 Joseph R. Bartley – Retiree  
 Theda Bunker – Mother-in-Law of Stan  
 Cogswell  
 Richard Cascaddan – Retiree  
 Joan Garland-Cross – Retiree, Mother  
 of Beatrice Garland  
 Solomon Downing – Father-in-Law of  
 Rocky Irelan  
 Guadalupe Garcia – Retiree, Mother of  
 Noel Garcia Sr.  
 Robert Gilroy – Retiree  
 Richard “Dick” Hasselbach – Father-in-  
 Law of Jerry Ripley  
 Leone Holland – Mother of Wendy  
 McHenry  
 Harold Hurst – Retiree, Father-in-Law  
 of Larry Earl  
 LeAnna B. Kennedy – Retiree  
 LeRoy Knapp – Father-in-Law of Darrell  
 Hudson

Alice Moeler – Wife of Retiree Fred  
 Moeler, Mother-in-Law of Gary  
 Sebrell  
 Jack Tarbell – Father of Brian Tarbell  
 Geronimo M. Trevino – Retiree  
 Arlene Wardwell – Mother-in-Law of  
 Roy Kramer, Grandmother of Rich-  
 ard Kramer, Sister of Orville Swift

## 652 Thank Yous

**Thank yous were received from:**

The family of Roger Bradow  
 The family of Robert Gilroy  
 The family of Arlene Wardwell

## 724 Obituaries

J.B. Finch, Jr. from Bharat Forge (for-  
 merly Federal Forge), former unit  
 chair and bargaining committee mem-  
 ber

## Schultz

**Continued from page 4**

Hildie to me. We carpooled for many  
 years. Good times, good stories. She will  
 always be in my heart.

In April I went to Traverse City with  
 the Red Hats. I ran into the DeWitt  
 Daffodillies, who included Norma  
 Ferguson, Betty Wineland, Reta Veccetta,  
 and Mary Morris. Knew me from the  
 reading my column in the Labor News.

People are so ungrateful for how hard  
 the UAW has worked for the retirees.  
 These people would be the first to cry  
 wolf if they lost their pensions. Instead  
 of writing bad letters, they should go to  
 union meetings. Support our leadership!

Till we meet again, keep smiling. My  
 address is 3009 Luella Ln, Springport,  
 MI 49284. My phone is 517-543-5385.

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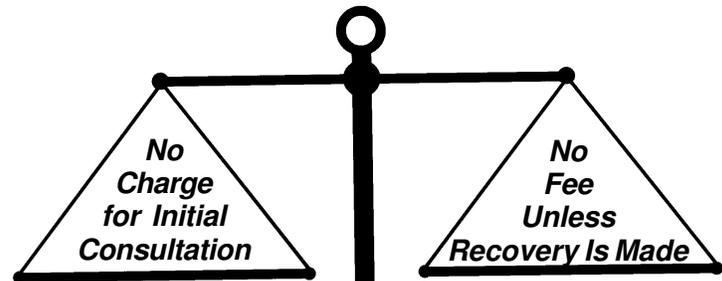
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