



Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 80, ISSUE 2

VOICE OF 25,000 UAW MEMBERS

JUNE, 2024

LOCAL 652

Ben Frantz,
President



Greetings Brothers and Sisters. I hope this edition of the Lansing Labor News finds you all well. I am excited to share some news with all of you who enjoy reading our beloved paper. Over the past several months the Executive Board of the Lansing Labor News has been working with Michigan State University Libraries to digitize the entire history of the Lansing Labor News. This digitization project is not the chronological history of the Lansing Labor News but every single edition the paper has ever published.

I'm truly excited about the digitization of the Lansing Labor News because it means that the history of our paper will be preserved for future generations. This effort will allow easier access to the wealth of knowledge and history that the paper holds, and it's great to know that people will be able to explore and learn from the historical editions of the Lansing Labor News.

It's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and honor the legacy of our publication. But, as with any large endeavor, it will not be fast nor will it be easy. I thought it may be interesting to share with you just a bit of what has happened in this journey thus far. It all began last year with a proposed opportunity to have all of the work done by the Michigan State Library Digital Initiatives team. We then had to present the information to the entire Board of Directors here at the Labor News. In this proposal, we had to donate the seed money to give the project traction. I then worked with the Library team and we wrote letters to our Michigan Senators for grants to support this enormous project. Long story short, we have been able to secure enough funding to move the project forward! Make no mistake, capturing every page of the paper's editions will take some serious time and money. In our history, we have published over 17,000 pages and counting. To put this into perspective, as far as taking paper to high-quality digital print; it takes roughly six minutes to digitize four pages of print.

Though this will take the library team a long time to accomplish digitizing the entire history, the exciting announcement is that we have been given confirmation that coming this fall, it is highly likely we will have some editions digitized and online. Though we don't have any of the particulars, it gives me great pride to know that we will be giving our UAW family and the families of past UAW members the ability to go back in time and read the articles from their Local Union leadership dating as far back as they care to read and to understand the issues they were facing and felt worthy to write about. In short, I am proud to be a tiny part of bringing our storied history here in Lansing more closely to the public for their

enjoyment.

As this project moves forward I will make sure to update everyone on the progress. I hope you all have a great summer and we will see you in the next edition of the Lansing Labor News.

Ben

LOCAL 602

Mike Huerta,
President



I hope you all get a chance to enjoy some time off during the summer; Michigan is truly amazing this time of year!

Local 602 is in the strange position of having layoffs and hiring at the same time. As you all know, layoffs seem to be part of the job in the auto industry. I hope that GM will start to understand that we can avoid some of these supply chain issues by bringing work back to the United States instead of trying to ship parts from all over the world to Lansing. I know you have heard this before but American workers shouldn't have to hope that parts from one part of the world get shipped to another part of the world to get packaged and sent to Michigan in time for us to build a car, what a joke! On a more positive note, GM has been hiring new workers so that we can start a third shift. Four thousand people applied for around 600 jobs at

LDT! I explain to each group of new hires that the ground work for these new hires to get hired in off the street has been years in the making. The long road from bankruptcy time frame to now has been filled with battles and strikes making the new starting wage structure and benefits package possible for this incredible opportunity. I tell them "we have been fighting for you years before we ever get the chance to meet you!"

A few days before Memorial Day UAW local 602 held a VFW Buddy poppy drive at the LDT plant gates. Even with a shift on layoff LDT workers donated nearly three thousand dollars! If you have not heard of the VFW poppy program it provides compensation to those who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home. I think it is a very fitting way to start the Memorial day weekend, thank you to Veterans Chair Bernadine Ross, the entire local 602 Veterans committee, everyone that helped with the collection and everyone that donated. It was a special honor to have Bill Ames a Vietnam War Veteran and Marvin Moorehouse a World War II Veteran Join us at LDT to pick up the donations, thank you to both of these heroes and to all of our Veterans!

Mike

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LOCAL 4911

Muhammad
Qawwee,
President



Good day and happy summer to all my UAW brothers and sisters! I hope everything is going well and our members are staying healthy, fit, and in shape.

Over at one of the premier healthcare organizations in Michigan, we are striving to help our community stay healthy. At the University of Michigan Health Sparrow campus, previously known as Sparrow Hospital, we are moving right along to provide top-notch healthcare in the Lansing area and beyond.

We have expanded our care to the west side of the state, the central area, and outlying suburbs of Lansing, allowing residents to have more accessible care. We are committed to providing exceptional care by recruiting the top specialists in all fields of medicine.

Being a UAW represented hospital puts the gold lining on already exceptional care; but our members go above and beyond all expectations to make sure our diverse community and patients are treated as their own family. While I could not cover every position in the hospital—from surgery, to maintenance, to food service—all work hard to provide excellent care. As we grow, we will continue to hire the most skilled professionals to better serve the City of Lansing and beyond!

Enjoy your summer safely,
In Solidarity,
Muhammad

LOCAL 4911

Charlene Watson,
Fin. Secretary



Hello brothers and sisters!

I am sure most of our readers have heard about, formed their opinions, and acknowledged the merger between Sparrow Hospital and the University of Michigan.

I, for one, am hopeful that the merger will continue to help Sparrow grow into the best Mid-Michigan healthcare facility, one that is convenient (right in the heart of Lansing), offers good paying jobs, ex-

panding its wide range of excellent services, and continues to gently care for all the residents in the Mid-Michigan-Lansing area. We are lucky to have U of M Sparrow and plants of the Big 3 in our town as a place to work, so we can all make a decent living and life for ourselves and our families, for many years to come.

We live in a great state and a beautiful city, with a great history and a hopeful future. Enjoy!

Did You Know?

Sparrow Hospital was founded in 1896, when the Women's Hospital Association supported one doctor and one nurse out of a rented house! In 1910, Edward W. Sparrow donated land on East Michigan Ave. and \$100,000 to help build the hospital. (\$100,000 in 1910 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$3,287,705.26 today).

LANSING TIMELINE

1837-Michigan becomes the 26th state in the union.

1847-48 Lansing, Michigan, our great city then known as Michigan, Michigan becomes the capital of Michigan.

1855-Michigan State University is founded as the agricultural College of the State of Michigan, becoming the first land grant university in the United States. The Industrial School for Boys, also known as the Boys Reform School, is created by Legislature. 1872-Construction of the Michigan State Capitol begins.

1874-The new Lansing High School opens, later known as Old Central.

1880-The Michigan School for the Blind opens in north Lansing.

Fact: Stevland Hardaway Morris, better known as Stevie Wonder attended in the 60's.

1897-The Olds Motor Company is formed in Lansing.

1905-The REO Motor Car Company is established in Lansing by Ransom Olds.

1912-Sparrow Hospital opens.

1928-Eastern High School opens.

1934-Everett High School opens.

1934-The Kern's Hotel in downtown Lansing burns. (It remains Lansing's deadliest fire.) A plaque commemorates the historical site and fire at the 100 block of N. Grand Ave.

1937-Knapp's Department Store

opens their new building in downtown Lansing.

1943-Lansing Sexton High School opens and the Spartan Sculpture on MSU's campus is dedicated.

1951-The Michigan State Football team wins the national championship, thank you Clarence "Biggie" Munn, and it does not stop there... worth the google! (go green).

1957-Lansing Community College is founded. Also, the Michigan State Football team wins yet another national championship.... I told you it was worth the google! 1960-Lansing's population tops 100,000 for the first time! Thank you, Mary and Larry Watson, for helping make this milestone possible with me!

1972-The Thomas M. Cooley Law School is founded.

1979-Michigan State men's basketball team, led by local Lansing athlete Earvin "Magic" Johnson, wins the NCAA Championship. FYI. Earvin went to Lansing Everett High School. I watched him

play our school, Harry Hill, many times!

1987-On January 26th, Michigan celebrates 150 years of statehood.

1996-Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball team begins playing in Lansing.

2001-GM opens the Lansing Grand River Assembly plant, which builds the Cadillac CTS, STS, SRX and V-Series. The architecture of the assembly plant resembles a high-tech research facility instead of a traditional factory.

2002-Michigan elects its first female governor, Jennifer Granholm (D). about time!

2004-The last Oldsmobile is made in Lansing.

2006-GM opens a state-of-the-art facility in nearby Delta Charter Township. As with the 2001 assembly plant built in Lansing, the Delta also resembles a high-tech research facility and not a traditional factory.

2009—Lansing celebrates its Sesquicentennial (150 years).

Whew, how about a little relaxation? Check out this free music schedule!

Every Wednesday, starting June 12th, 2024, you can enjoy a FREE concert in the park. The parks will vary, and the music will vary. Do I

have your attention? For the full free music in the park series, go to: <https://www.lansingmi.gov/994/Concerts-in-the-Park> Just click on Other Things to DO for more ideas!... You're welcome!

Make those precious memories and always stay safe UAW brothers and sisters everywhere!

Char

LOCAL 602

Doug Fox,
Rec. Secretary



Union density, the percentage of workers who are union members, is important in the labor market because of the way it affects workers, employers, and the broader economy. High union density often correlates with better wages, improved working conditions, and greater worker protections.

Union density has fluctuated over time, influenced by economic, political, and social changes. In the mid-20th century, union membership was at its peak in many industrialized nations, driven by the post-war economic boom and supportive labor laws. However, since the 1980s we have seen a decline in union density due to factors such as globalization, technological advancements, politics, and changing labor market dynamics.

High union density is often associated with numerous economic benefits for workers. Unions play a crucial role in negotiating higher wages, which helps reduce income inequality. Research indicates that unionized workers earn significantly more than their non-unionized counterparts. This wage premium is especially beneficial for low-income and middle-class workers, helping to lift many out of poverty.

Unions also negotiate for better benefits, including health insurance, retirement plans, and paid leave, which contribute to a higher standard of living and economic security for workers. These benefits often extend to non-unionized workers in similar industries or regions, as employers may raise wages and improve conditions to avoid unionization.

Beyond economic factors, high union density has substantial social and political implications. Unions have historically been at the forefront of advocating for social jus-

tice, equality, and workers' rights. High union density ensures a strong collective voice that can influence public policy and labor laws, promoting legislation that benefits all workers, such as minimum wage increases, workplace safety regulations, and anti-discrimination laws. Walter Reuther once said *“There’s a direct relationship between the ballot box and the bread box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls.”*

Unions also foster a sense of community and solidarity among workers, which can lead to greater civic engagement and participation in democratic processes. This collective power is vital in counterbalancing the influence of corporations and ensuring that workers' interests are represented in political decision-making. Union members also sit on various boards and committees as well as donate to area organizations.

High union density contributes to improved workplace conditions, unions are instrumental in negotiating safer working environments, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries. They fight for reasonable working hours and job security, which can lead to better mental and physical health outcomes for workers. Moreover, unions provide a mechanism for addressing grievances and conflicts, promoting a more harmonious and productive workplace.

Despite the clear benefits, increasing union density faces significant challenges. One major obstacle is the growing prevalence of precarious and gig economy jobs, which are often excluded from traditional union structures. The rise of temporary, part-time, and freelance work makes it difficult for unions to organize and represent these workers effectively.

Employer resistance to unionization is another critical challenge. Many employers engage in anti-union practices, such as intimidation, misinformation campaigns, and legal challenges to union activities. In some regions, weak labor laws and enforcement mechanisms make it easier for employers to undermine union efforts.

Globalization has also played a role in decreasing union density. The shifting of manufacturing and other labor-intensive jobs to countries with lower labor standards and weaker unions has eroded the bargaining power of unions in higher-wage countries. Additionally, the increasing complexity of supply chains makes it harder for unions to organize across borders and advo-

cate for global labor standards.

There are some things to be done to address union density and recent wins at the bargaining table have created a stronger desire for unions across all sectors as people realize the benefits of having a union. Modernizing labor laws to protect the rights of gig and precarious workers is crucial. This includes extending the right to organize and bargain collectively to all workers, regardless of their employment status. Unions can also leverage technology to reach and organize workers more effectively. Online platforms and social media can facilitate communication, education, and mobilization efforts. Building alliances with community organizations, advocacy groups, and international labor movements can also strengthen the position of unions.

Recent wins at the bargaining table have raised public awareness about the benefits of unionization and combating negative stereotypes. Educating workers about their rights and the positive impact of unions on wages, benefits, and working conditions can encourage more people to join unions.

High union density leads to better wages, improved working conditions, and stronger worker protections, benefiting both workers and society as a whole. While there are significant challenges to increasing union membership, strategic efforts to modernize labor laws, leverage technology, and build broader alliances can help revive and sustain union density. The importance of unions in fighting for workers' rights and social justice underscores the need to support and strengthen the labor movement in today's economy.

In Solidarity,
Doug

LOCAL 652
Matt Schneider,
Fin. Secretary



It seems like no matter how much we try, the month of June is always a busy one. On the home front, many are consumed by outdoor chores, wrapping up school sports, and answering the endless barrage of open house invites. Here at the Local, June is shaping up to be a busy one as well. Our Human & Civil Rights and Community Service Committees are preparing for a month full of events. Working to encourage members to volunteer and attend Lansing Fiesta, the Lansing Juneteenth Parade, and Lansing Pride to name a few. Even our Recreation and Conservation Committee is hard at work preparing for our Local 652 Picnic planned for August 3rd. In addition, local CAP members are working hard to screen candidates for this year's busy political season.

It has been said many times here in the Lansing Labor News, but politics cannot be ignored. Not only does the political process affect our daily lives, but it can also have a great deal of influence on how the labor movement can or cannot support its members. The UAW CAP committees are charged with ensuring only those candidates who have committed to or have a track record of supporting the interests of working-class labor get our endorsements. Indeed, not every member will care for the candi-

dates who are endorsed, particularly in this hyper-partisan society. Though it cannot be said enough, these candidates are screened with the interests of working-class labor in mind, not the sensational talking points of the week.

While we are on the topic of this political season, I would like to wrap up by sharing a few thoughts on elections. For a multitude of reasons, the election process has become a hot-button item. Concerns range from legitimate to delusions, all of which leave us with the task of trying to decipher what is rational. As I have been watching this play out nationally, my fingers have been crossed that our union elections would remain resilient to the worst of these ideologies. Recent UAW elections at the local level have made it clear that we the members, need to stand firm against election propaganda.

Let's not beat around the bush, minus actual evidence to the contrary, elections will produce a winner and a loser. The candidate who succeeds did so by receiving more votes than their opponent. While not everyone will like the result, it is the members who decide the outcome. Social media can skew perceptions by allowing a vocal minority to make it appear that “nobody” wanted that person to win, and it must have been something more nefarious that led to the result. The election committee, made up of fellow members, takes an oath of office to ensure this process is fair and secure. Instead of thoughts, theories, and emotions, they utilize common sense, laws, and guidelines. Whether it be lost-time wages, man-hours of preparation, or fees related to professional election consultants, the local expends a great deal of resources to provide an election process the members can trust. I am confident in our locals' elections and hope to continue and work hard with the election committee to maintain our members' confidence as well.

Enjoy your summer and make sure that you and everyone you know are voting this November!

In Solidarity,
Matt

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Doug Fox and Nancy Sears, Staff

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LOCAL 602
Marta Bobillo
Retiree



Greetings Brothers and Sisters;

I hope this reaches you doing well. Recently, I had the privilege to attend the Retiree Conference at Black Lake. In addition to being warned about scams, insurance and health care, we also learned about the gains in the National Agreement.

UAW International President Fain explained how the aggressive way of negotiations allowed for us to make the largest increases for our members. And with the help from the current labor friendly administration, we were able to have the resources available when needed and it made the difference.

President Biden is the only sitting president to walk a picket line with striking UAW members. That action was very inspiring to our membership and that's why the UAW is endorsing him, because we support those who support us.

Reminders: State Primary election is August 6, 2024. We are having our Local 602 Annual Retirees Picnic at Frances Park at 3p-7p on August 21, 2024. Please call the Hall (517-372-4626, ext. 0) to have your name added to list (headcount).

Tomorrow is not promised, please be kind to one another.

Peace, Love, & Justice;
In Solidarity,
Marta

LOCAL 602
Obituaries

- Lloyd J. Bloss – Retired
- David B. Beane - Retired
- Jack McDougal - Retired
- Gary Christensen - Retired
- Orville L. Dent - Retired
- Kenneth Van Alstine Jr. - Retired
- James Thelen – Retired
- Keith Kirschenbauer - Retired
- Ronald Trayer – Father of Randy Trayer, Active
- Dave Fountain – Father of Paul Fountain, Active
- Donald Collier – Stepfather of David Hyde, Active

- Robert Waldo – Father of Doug Waldo, Active
- Bennie Roe – Stepfather of Frank R. Nauman, Active
- Melvin Lilly – Retired
- Steven W. Hamilton - Retired
- Russell M. Winters - Retired
- Lyle S. Royston - Retired
- Katie S. Rider - Retired
- Frank R. Costello - Retired
- Richard J. Buckland - Retired
- Kenneth R. Herson - Retired
- George Switzer - Retired
- Dennis A. Pickelmann - Retired
- Gary E. White – Retired
- Steven B. Mayer – Retired
- Charles J. Anderson III – Retired
- Kurt J. Schaub – Retired
- Elaine Hernandez – Retired
- Bryan R. Jones - Retired
- Charles E. Hawkins - Retired
- Edward E. Bowles – Retired
- Larry D. Davis – Retired
- Jerald Litchfield – Retired
- John D. Jones – Retired
- Robert O'Dell – Retired
- Alexander L. Lawson – Retired
- Mark R. Dewey – Retired
- Fletcher B. Trainor – Retired
- Daniel L. Fairbanks – Retired
- James A. Lumbert – Retired
- Robert F. Gingery – Retired
- Sam T. Kieu – Retired
- Christine Cambric – Daughter of James Cambric, Retired
- David G. Black - Retired
- Benito Zamora - Retired
- Darrell L. Pennington - Retired
- Bill L. Riddle - Retired
- Howard D. Parks – Retired
- Marsha Anne Bowen – Mother of Mark Bowen – Active
- Richard Pollie – Father of Steven Pollie – Active
- Donald R. Ross – Retired
- Sandra Lee Akers – Mother of Charles Walters
- Penny Pardee - Retired
- Terry L. Martin - Retired
- Robert C. Anderson - Retired
- Leland C. Wood - Retired
- Leonard L. Lacourse – Retired
- Marvin C. Brunner – Retired
- Brian S. Morrison – Retired

- Arthur Kosloski Jr. - Retired
- Markovic, Anton - Active
- Robert Williams Lobert – Father of Scott Lobert, Active
- Sirrae Harder - Retired

LOCAL 652
Obituaries

- Elena Hernandez Arevalo – Mother-in-Law of Ruben Martinez
- Amanda Bowman – Spouse of Bobby Joy
- Andrew “Red” Chambliss Jr. – Retiree, Spouse of Lucille Black Chambliss, Father of Ralph V. Taylor, Brother-in-Law of Jay Lester Black and Annie B. Campbell, Uncle of Willie Porter, Dorothy Sanders Alonzo Mans Jr, Bruce Mans and Kenneth Mans
- Larry “Duckie” Fickes – Retiree
- Melissa Gaylord – Sister of Jon VanSolkema
- Larry Horton – Retiree, Spouse of Maria Horton
- John Jones Sr. – Retiree, brother of

- Spencer Jones
- Mittie Louise Keys – Mother of Phyllis Keys
- Conrad Maldonado – Retiree
- Bruce Maltby – Retiree, Brother-in-Law of Pam VanDorpe
- Ulysee McGraw – Father of Raymond Dawson
- Jack Myers – Retiree, Father of Steve Myers, Brother of Alvin and Ernest Myers, Grandfather of Craig Cogswell
- Dawn Robertson – Member
- Ricardo “Ric” Rocha – Retiree, Brother of Armando and Steve Rocha, Great Uncle of Andrew Rocha
- Adeline Schafer – Mother of Joseph Schafer
- Frank Sefl – Retiree
- Jeff Swanson – Member
- Sally Jo Tubbs – Spouse of Michael Tubbs
- Rod Walling – Retiree
- Randall Warnick – Father of Morgan Warnick

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Juneteenth— What's it all about?

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. It marks a pivotal moment in American history, symbolizing freedom and the end of slavery. The origins of Juneteenth are deeply rooted in the events of the Civil War and the subsequent liberation of enslaved people, particularly in Texas.

It all began with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. The proclamation declared that all enslaved people in Confederate states were to be freed. However, its enforcement relied heavily on the advance of Union troops, and many enslaved people in remote areas remained unaware of their freedom.

Texas, being one of the westernmost Confederate states with little Union presence, was slow to receive the news. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, that Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas. He issued General Order No. 3, announcing the freedom of all en-

slaved people in Texas. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," blending the words "June" and "nineteenth."

The first Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas in 1866. Freedmen organized festivities that included music, dancing, food, and religious ceremonies. These gatherings not only commemorated their newfound freedom but also served as a means of reaffirming their identity and cultural heritage. Despite the joyous nature of the celebrations, the journey was not without challenges. African Americans faced significant resistance and hostility from those opposed to their freedom. Economic hardships, segregation, and discriminatory laws made it difficult for newly freed individuals to fully enjoy their liberty. Nevertheless, the resilience of the African American community ensured that Juneteenth continued to be celebrated annually.

As African Americans migrated from Texas to other parts of the country, they carried the tradition of Juneteenth with them. The celebration gradually spread to other states, evolving in its customs and significance. Over the decades, Juneteenth became a time for Afri-

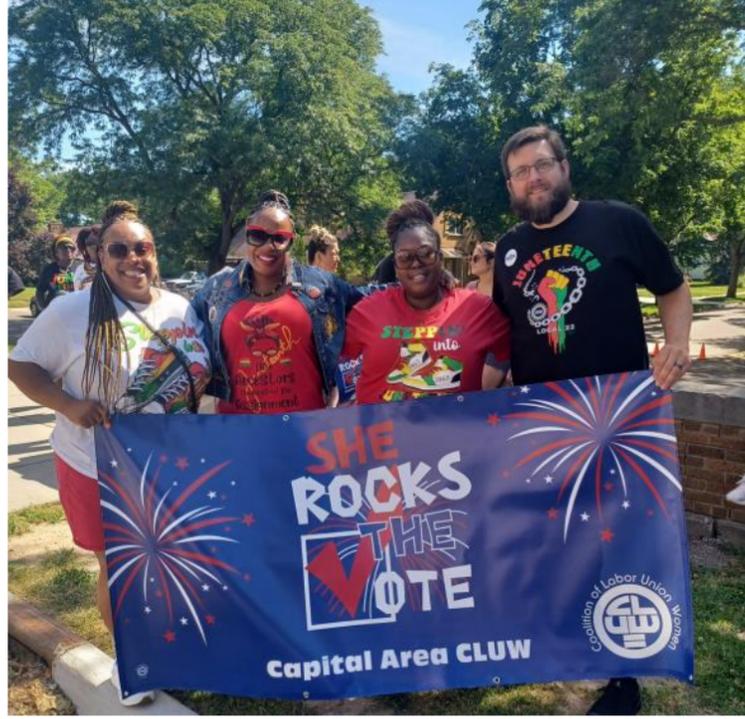
can Americans to reflect on their heritage, honor their ancestors, and promote cultural pride. During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, Juneteenth gained renewed significance. It became a symbol of the ongoing struggle for civil rights and racial equality. Activists used the day to highlight the persistent injustices faced by African Americans and to advocate for social change.

In recent years, Juneteenth has seen a resurgence in national recognition. Various states began to formally recognize the day as a holiday, and efforts to make it a federal holiday gained momentum. This recognition culminated on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, officially establishing June 19th as a federal holiday. Today,

Juneteenth is celebrated across the United States with parades, cultural events, educational programs, and community gatherings. It serves as a reminder of the long and arduous journey toward freedom and equality and the work that remains in achieving true social justice. Juneteenth is more than a commemoration of a historical event; it is a celebration of resilience, freedom, and the enduring spirit of African Americans. From its origins in Galveston, Texas, to its recognition as a federal holiday, Juneteenth embodies the struggle and triumph of a people determined to secure their rights and dignity. As the nation continues to grapple with issues of race and justice, Juneteenth stands as a powerful reminder of the progress made and the challenges that lie ahead.







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