



# Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 67, NUMBER 5

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS



DECEMBER, 2011



Local union officers and members gathered to help unload a big shipment of donated toy trucks for youngsters in Michigan. (Um, the vanity boxes were donated. They're actually full of the toy trucks shown here.)

## Toy trucks donated for children

For the last several years the Michigan Association of United Ways (MAUW) has been the recipient of a donation of plastic trucks, cars, and/or vans. The donation is from a Michigan company who believes it is important to give back to community. MAUW then coordinates with local United Ways across the state to receive cases of the donated toys and help with their outreach within their communities.

This year over 13,000 toy trucks arrived on November 28 to be unloaded. The task is made a little more challenging due to the fact that they are not on pallets and must be offloaded by hand. Another factor involved this year was that the MAUW offices have relocated and their current location could not accommodate the temporary storage of the toys. Bob Cramer, Director of Community Services for MAUW, contacted the United Way liaison from the Capital Area United Way, Dean Poggiali, who made arrangements for the unloading and temporary distribution point of UAW Local 724.

So on November 28 at around 9:00 a.m. approximately 244 union activists helped unload the semi and then load up the cases for the local United Ways that

arrived to pick them up. There were members from UAW Locals 602, 652, 724, and 4911. Also, members of the CWA, IBEW, MEA, Teamsters, and the IIPSA (Ingham Intermediate Professional Staff Association) were on hand to help. Many thanks to all who helped with this endeavor to make the holidays a little better for our deserving youth.

### OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC

UAW LOCALS 652, 1618,  
1753 and LAFCU

BOTH SALARY & HOURLY

**February 21, 2012**

In Bradenton, Florida

American Legion

Kirby Stewart Post 24

2000 75th Street W

(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)

**Register at 11 a.m.**

**Eat at Noon**

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

## Updates and outlooks

By Dean Poggiali, President,  
Local 724

Just a few updates from the Local. The Alliance Unit ratified a new bargaining agreement by a 58% to 42% margin. They made some adjustments in language and wages. It is heartening to know that for this contract they didn't need to walk the picket line.



The Women's Committee had a wonderful "Trunk or Treat" event recently. There were around 100 kids that participated and they all had a great time. The Women's Committee took notes and has already been in discussion about how to make the event next year just as successful. Congrats to Women's Committee Chair Deb Mills and all the Committee for their hard work. Additionally, we would like to thank Local 724 member and City of Lansing Council candidate Jason Wilkes for helping with cooking the hot dogs.

**The Local 724 Christmas Party will be on December 17** from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please join us for activities for children, desserts, punch, and coffee. And Santa will be here! This is sponsored by the Women's and Recreation Committees and is for active and retired Local 724 members and their families. It will be at the local hall, 450 Clare Street in Lansing.

There is a box in the hall for Toys for Tots donations again this year. Please bring your new unwrapped toy to the hall during regular business hours so that we can pass on some joy to deserving kids in the area.

We also have partnered with the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) to collect coats for the community. The APRI Youth have taken on this initiative in their goal to make our community better. Please bring your usable coat donation again to the hall during regular business hours.

The Local and many of our Units participated again with the Old Newsboys drive this year. The sale of the spoof paper was on Thursday, December 1. The sale is by donation and allows the Old Newsboys to purchase shoes and boots for deserving youth in the community.

There is a constant theme with the above events. It is our members giving of their time, donating money and items, and increasing awareness of what we do. As we are attacked in the media, in the community, or by friends and family, let us remind them that we are a social movement and we do things for the right reasons, not for the glory and self-satis-

faction of the one percent.

We mentioned Jason Wilkes earlier. We offer our sincere kudos in his effort to represent the people of the Third Ward of Lansing on City Council. Jason was running against an incumbent who had the backing of the Chamber of Commerce, who are no friend of labor. We don't always like moral victories, but Jason will again be heard from as we go forward in City of Lansing politics, undoubtedly.

Touching on politics for a moment, we are about to go on a whirlwind of unprecedented media and barrage of mailers and ads for next year's election. Organized labor is still being targeted by the forces that wish we were but a footnote in the annals of history. I know many people say they don't want to be involved in politics, but our everyday lives are impacted by politics. We are not talking about the national or state levels, but things as varied as sewer rates, road improvements, our schools, not having items priced at the stores, to name a few.

This only reinforces the notion of being well versed in the issues from all sides. Many of the stories are only told from the slant of the other side, without our side having a seat at the table. The other side may have the money, but we have the numbers and horsepower. That is why it is important for us to make sure that everyone within our inner circle is registered to vote and then gets out to vote.

Another way to help within Michigan is by renewing our voluntary V-CAP dues check-off. By renewing our check-offs every year we enable candidates from Michigan to have the ability to utilize money for their campaigns here versus elsewhere. Many things are decided on a national basis, but when it comes to our livelihood and our futures, we need to make sure we get worker-friendly candidates from Michigan elected.

With that being said, we hope that you have a joyous holiday season spent with family and friends. In 2012 we must energize like we haven't in a while to insure that the middle class doesn't disappear.

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

**Retiree Picnics**  
**Arizona – February 16**  
**Local 602 in Florida –**  
**March 6**

**See page 5**  
**for details on both**

Lansing Labor News

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**Labor News online: [www.lansinglabornews.org](http://www.lansinglabornews.org)**

## The new kid on the job

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. At this time of year I like to tell a good story. This isn't your typical Christmas story, but it talks about the importance of us all working together. Hopefully you'll have a great holiday season. Be safe and enjoy your time with your family.



There was a new kid at the worksite the past few days and the old timers had just about enough of his antics. Sometimes when we're the "kid" on the job we think we know it better than the "old timer." After all we have the latest education, grew up with the technology and may have been the first in our family to go to college. Wouldn't that make us smarter? This new kid certainly thought so. He was a hard worker no doubt; the older crew members respected him for that. It was his mouth, not his muscles that got him into trouble.

One particular gent had a way with getting the young man's goat in a joking manner. He admitted to the young man that the newer generation had one or two up on him. After all, he had to have his ten-year-old nephew fix his computer recently. Coming from a large family who farmed, he had never had the chance to go to college. Getting a job and starting a family was the important thing in life when he was a teenager.

The younger worker admitted that if it weren't for the older guys on the crew, he wouldn't have learned some of "tricks of the trades" that required a fair amount of skill. He respected the older man he worked with but still believed he could get the job done on his own.

It was a hot summer day as the two of them worked on opposite walls laying the brick for a new building. The young kid would glance over every once in a while to see how the old man was coming along. The older man would glance over every once in a while to see how the young kid was coming along. Both of them forged on and struggled with the bricks until both were so tired and worn out they had to take a break from the heat.

"Look," said the young kid, "if you need me to help load up the bricks or mortar just ask."

"If you are having trouble pointing the grout lines I can show you a faster way," said the older man.

Both of them knew they needed each other to get the work done correctly and with less effort but each went back to work, neither one saying much to the other.

The older man started to feel bad for not helping the kid out. He had a whole list of aches and pains and his hands were calloused and rough from the many years of strenuous work. He looked at the younger man and saw himself when he hired on with the crew many years ago. He remembered "knowing everything" and the "old man" he made fun of who eventually taught him a thing or two, especially about himself. He thought

Local 602 President Bill Reed is shown here helping to move the semi-load of boxes of toys for deserving youth. He was one of many union volunteers who helped with a job made bigger because each box had to be moved by hand, in a chain of volunteers. See more of this story on page 1. Our thanks to everyone who helped!



about how it changed his life and made him who he is today. It's not knowledge he said to himself, it's wisdom. It's not strength, its stamina.

He had come to a point where he just wanted to give up on the kid and let him figure it out on his own but he knew deep down it was his responsibility to teach the young man about the trade and how to do it well. This kid needed to carry on the reputation the older crew worked so many years to achieve. He knew this kid would be just like him someday, passing down not only the skills but the life lessons needed to be successful in his career choice. If he didn't take this kid under his wing, who would, he thought. He had to admit he needed the young man's skills while getting the kid to admit he needed his as well.

After thinking all of this through, he finally decided he had enough. He yelled over to the young kid and said, "You might be tougher than me, but I bet I can haul something in this wheelbarrow over to that wall you're working on that you won't be able to haul back!"

"Oh yeah, I'll take you up on that one ol' man," the kid said with a big grin on his face as he flexed his muscles.

Just then the older worker grabbed both handles of the empty wheelbarrow, stood up straight, looked the kid square in the eye and said "Okay, now get in!"

### LOCAL 1753 Ray Whitford, President

## Active Veterans Committee

The following acknowledgement is from the Battle Creek VA Medical Center: Throughout the years, Local 1753 has looked at our every need. Providing coffee supplies, computers, desks, chairs, clothing, personal care items, movies, lap robes and large, flat screen, High Definition plasma televisions for each of our wards and the new Patient Dining Room, complete with wall mounts for installation, is only a fraction of what they do for the VA.

With the support of UAW management and the Lansing General Motors Plant, an employee, Dan Arens, painted the murals in our Community Living Center and the patient dining room. The Veterans Committee of 1753 raised funds through pop can drives, raffles, T-shirt sales, and other fund-raisers to supplement Dan's gas to cover the extra miles to drive to the medical center.

Dan alone contributed 1,064 hours to provide a home-like atmosphere for our residents. The Hero's Diner Mural on Ward 83-1, valued at \$20,288; two murals in the Extended Care area; and the

canvas in the Patient Dining/Canteen area, valued at \$7,200, have brought so much enjoyment to those who walk by.

People often stop and study the wonderful artistry. The attention to detail that was put into each painting portrays an appreciation and dedication to Serving Those Who Served.

The members continue to contribute their time and talents by assisting Community and Volunteer Service throughout the year during special events, distributions and holidays. The UAW provides hand-quilted lap robes to distribute during the holiday season.

To UAW Local 1753, on behalf of our veteran patients, the medical center extends a special thank you for your continued support. Please know the joy that your continued support and contributions bring to our veterans, their families, and staff each year is greatly appreciated.

—Battle Creek VA Medical Center  
Past Chairman of the Veterans Committee Ron Van Dorpe was instrumental in getting this committee where it is at today. Through their hard work we also have a veterans memorial area in front of our plant. This area is where we fly our flags.

In the plant, by our first aid department, they have erected an armed services board. This board contains all the branches of the armed services. Our members who have served have their names inscribed on a plaque with their name, branch of armed service and the years they served.

In recognition of the past chairmen of the Veterans Committee, we also thank the following: Roger Waugh, Bob Starr, Phil Hnatiuk, and current Chairman Bob Davis. These chairmen have spent countless hours of their own time. This includes purchasing pop and snacks, collecting pop cans throughout the plant, and returning the pop cans to the store. Most important, keeping count of all the money. I would be remiss if I forgot to mention past chairman Larry Hall (deceased).

This thank-you from all your local officers and members is long overdue. We also thank the Veterans Medical Center in Battle Creek. Keep up the excellent work!

### Local 1753 meetings

**January.** Executive Board meeting on January 17 beginning at 2:15 p.m. General membership meeting on January 18 beginning at 2:15 p.m. Sanitation workers membership meeting on January 15 beginning at 3:30 p.m.

**February.** Executive Board meeting on February 21 beginning at 2:15 p.m. General membership meeting on February 22 beginning at 2:15 p.m. Sanitation workers membership meeting on February 19 beginning at 3:30 p.m.

## Congratulations all around

I hope everyone's Thanksgiving was a good time with your family! How fast we seem to go past summer and into our fall with the Christmas holiday upon us.

I want to thank all our members for the terrific job on the Toys for Tots gate drive.



Our Lansing area plants raised over \$14,000, thanks to everyone's generosity. The Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program has said that over 3,000 families in the Lansing area have requested help for this Christmas.

The CAP-endorsed candidates for Lansing city council—Derrick Quinney, Carol Wood, and Jody Washington—won their elections. Our sincere thanks to our members who got out to vote. We had one candidate who came up short—Jason Wilkey, who ran a good campaign for city council.

The election of officers for the CAP Council was held at our November meeting, for the 2012-15 term. They are as follows:

President, Mike Green, 652  
1st Vice President, Bill Reed, 602  
2nd Vice President, Sandy Masarik, 6000  
3rd Vice President, Tammy Thompson, 2256

Recording Secretary, Dean Poggiali, 724  
Guide, Ray Whitford, 1753  
Sgt.-at-Arms, Edgar Loring, 2256

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Eileen Brooker, 4911  
Joe Douglas, 4911  
Russ Emmons, 652

### At Large (7):

Lyle Birchman, 602  
Anita Dawson, 602  
Curtis Dunn, 1618  
Maria Enriquez, 6000  
Harold Foster, 652  
Christine Rogers, 925  
Deb Ruiz, 6000

Congratulations to everyone and I look forward to working with each of you on behalf of our membership.

Our congratulations go to our brothers and sisters at Local 602 for the one-millionth vehicle produced at the LDT plant.

Lansing Grand River celebrated our 10-year anniversary. My congratulations to our members for helping make our plant the award-winning plant that it is and also helping secure a new product in 2012.

The Christmas holiday is sneaking up on us, so I would like to say to your family from mine: I hope your holiday is great and the new year is bright for all of us. Don't forget to buy American and buy union.

### Attn: Local 652 Skilled Trades

The Annual Skilled Trades Christmas Meeting will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 15 at the Local 652 Union Hall. All active and retired skilled trades members of Local 652 are invited to attend. There will be a \$3 donation required at the door.





## LOCAL 652

Randy Freeman, Vice President

## Spreading joy

Our UAW locals have again helped the Marines (shown above) raise money for Toys for Tots. LGR raised \$3,160; LRS raised \$1,272; CCA Lansing raised \$1,025; and LDT raised \$8,626. Thank you all for your generosity!



I would like to wish everyone and their families a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Please send our service men and women who are away from home in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

## LOCAL 652

Bob Smith, Financial Secretary

## Attack on workers' rights, part 2

I just wanted to share a few thoughts about Michigan's House Bill 5002, the Republicans' idea of Worker Compensation reform. As of this writing, the bill is in the Senate Reforms, Restructuring and Reinventing Committee and is being considered. This bill, if passed, could reduce the amount of workers compensation available to you if you are injured on the job.



It would do this by reducing your compensation by the amount of wages you could theoretically earn while restricted, whether or not you could find a job or earn those wages. It would cut benefits for older workers by subtracting what your pension might be, even if you are not financially able to retire.

The worker's compensation laws in Michigan have been good enough for almost a century and I have a hard time believing that a massive overhaul is truly needed. It seems that House Bill 5002 is just another example of the Republican Party agenda of disembowelment of all worker protections. I found the following items online. I thought they might interest you.

## Top 5 misconceptions about work-

## ers compensation in Michigan

**Number 1. Michigan's workers compensation law is social welfare.** Workers compensation is not welfare. It is insurance that most employers in Michigan are required BY LAW to purchase. It protects both employer and employee in the event of a work-related accident.

**Number 2. Workers compensation benefits are grossly oversized.** Nobody gets rich from workers compensation. Employees give up the right to sue in civil court in exchange for what are essentially no-fault benefits. Workers compensation pays lost wages, medical care, and vocational rehabilitation. Pain and suffering compensation is not available. The amount of money that a person will receive is approximately 60% of gross pay and there are no increases for inflation.

**Number 3. Workers compensation will put you on easy street.** Not true! Workers compensation benefits will be stopped if you decline reasonable employment. You can't refuse to work if a job is offered within your restrictions. You must also show that your wage loss is related to your injury. If you are not working for any reason other than injury, benefits can and will be terminated.

**Number 4. Most Workers Comp cases are fake.** In reality workers compensation fraud is extremely low. Insurance companies say it occurs in less than 4% of claims. Many times employees will be examined by insurance or company doctors and could be followed by surveillance. Fraud is not a major problem.

**Number 5. Most workers comp cases are settled in court.** No, the vast majority of work accident claims never go to court. Workers compensation benefits are provided and people get back to work. The idea that someone would stay home and avoid work when they are able is an urban legend. There are some bad apples but these people are few and are quickly weeded out.

Please call, e-mail, or write a letter to your Senator and tell them not to support this bill. Ask your friends and family to do the same. Special interest groups and Big Business are spending a lot of money to make sure this passes. We can stop this if enough people contact their elected representatives but time is running short. Demand that workers' rights be protected!

## Upcoming Holiday Events

- A Special Skilled Trades Christmas Meeting will be held at the Local 652

Continued on page 10

## LOCAL 602

Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary

## Be thankful but not complacent

During the holiday season, I would like everyone to take a moment to reflect on our great Union and give thanks for all the UAW has negotiated for us. The past struggles of our Union brothers and sisters have allowed us to enjoy a wealth of benefits and a decent standard of living. The benefit I appreciate most this time of year is paid holidays. This allows me to spend quality time with my family during Thanksgiving and Christmas.



I am truly grateful for all I receive. But with that being stated, I don't take what I have for granted. Unions are being politically attacked on many fronts, and with a stroke of a pen, many of our accomplishments could be reversed. Whether you like it or not, politics affects your daily life.

Don't sit around and be complacent about where you are today. We all need to become politically involved in what is happening in our communities, as well as our Union. You can no longer accept the response that "I don't have the time to be political, that's what I elected the Union officials to do" or "Someone else will take care of that for me."

If you want your children and the next generation to enjoy Union jobs and the benefits that come along with them, you need to make a stand. Become involved. It's not hard to do. Stand up now and be counted before we have nothing left to stand up for. Sign up to volunteer at [www.gimmefiveuaw.org](http://www.gimmefiveuaw.org).

I wish you and your family happy holidays.

## Local 602 meetings

The next meeting will be on **January 8**. The Executive board meets at 4:00 p.m. The General Membership meets at 5:30 p.m. at the hall.

## Local 2256 meetings

Fourth Wednesday of the month. The Executive board meets at 6:30 p.m. and general membership at 7:30 p.m. at the hall, 2114 N. East St., Lansing.

## LOCAL 724

Debra Mills, Financial Secretary

## Happy holidays

Hello Brothers and Sisters, it is that time of year again, the wonderful holiday season!

By the time you read this article, the Thanksgiving dinner is past history. I hope you and your family had a wonderful day and enjoyed the Thanksgiving feast.



UAW Local 724, along with the Women's and Recreation Committees, is having our Christmas Party on December 17 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Santa will be here too! Please come and join us. There will be desserts, punch and coffee as well as activities and surprises for the children.

Each year our Holiday Warmth Tree has been a big success because of all of you. So we need all your donations again this year to provide our families in need with new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to put on the tree. We will get these gifts to the needy people in our community.

Please drop off your items from December 1 to December 21 at the 724 hall during these hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or drop them off at your worksite.

Our sincere thanks ahead of time; I am sure that with your help we will have another successful drive.

I know everyone will be out shopping soon. Let's just remember to buy American and buy union. With so many of union brothers and sisters out of work, let us help our own this holiday season!

## Local 724 Meetings

Local 724 meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The executive board meets the same Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

## Please see more columnists:

Rose Van Schoick, Local 4911  
on Page 9

Scott Lounds, Local 652  
on page 9

## Lansing Labor News

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VOLUME 67, NUMBER 5

VOICE OF 27,000 MEMBERS

DECEMBER, 2011

Dorothy Stevens

## 602 retirees

The House majority is determined to cut \$4 trillion from federal spending by ending Medicare as we know it and shifting an extra \$6,300 in annual health care costs to the average future retiree.

Privatizing Medicare is a centerpiece of House Budget Committee Chair Paul Ryan's 2012 budget proposal. If it is passed, this plan will send our nation back to a time before Medicare was enacted and when health insurance was unaffordable for millions of seniors.

The real threat here is not a "budget cut" but the powerful right-wing agenda to dismantle Medicare. These lawmakers and many policy experts claim our government can no longer afford Medicare, especially with Baby Boomers beginning to retire.

It's not all the Baby Boomers' fault. Some politicians and opponents of our program just want you to believe it is.

One of the biggest factors straining the federal budget is historic long-term debt created by spending on other priorities. It began with President Bush's tax breaks for wealthy Americans and continues to soar as the Obama Administration must spend to heal the economy.

Steadily rising Medicare premiums have eroded the value of Social Security benefits. Medicare Parts B and D out-of-pocket costs consume more and more of the entire Social Security check.

Ryan's plan would have a devastating impact on seniors at a time when millions of seniors are struggling to afford prescriptions, along with food, housing, and other basic needs.

If you care about future Medicare benefits please write or call your elected representatives in Congress urging them to protest your Medicare benefits now and in the future. They need to hear from you now!

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas to you and your families, and may your New Year be a good one

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

Mike Bauer

## 652 retirees

Seasons Greetings to all. Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

The following is our monthly schedule of events:

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

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

Fourth Tuesday of the month is card night starting at 5:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652, 602, and 1618.

Our bingo nights, potluck/business meetings, and social nights are for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only.

Just a reminder, we will be having our regular potluck in December. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

Please mark the following events on

your calendars:

**The Dec. 27 card night is cancelled.**

Our next social night will be January 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only—no guests.

Condolences to the families of Vic Arens, Jerry Cross, Mike Davis, Millie Pullman, and any others we may have missed.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Sandy Cleveland, Marvin Davis, Joyce and Herb Fernholz, Dave Hodges, Helen Hogan, Dorothy Hoisington, Don Jubb, Brenda Lee, Linda Mogyoros, Wilfred Pullman, Jean and Leonard Schneider, Chris Sherwood, Willa Wright, and any others we may have missed.

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 48917. Please include your current address and the old address when requesting the change.

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

You may contact me at the following email address: [retiree652@hotmail.com](mailto:retiree652@hotmail.com)

Lois Schultz

## 1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people. I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. Now it's time to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

To all our snowbirds, be safe and have a great winter.

President Obama stood up for GM when Mitt Romney said to let them fail—and where would we be then?

We need to take back jobs and bring them home—made in the USA is where it should be. We also need to take back the House of Representatives. They don't like the middle class. And the way people voted in 2010 played right into their hands. The right information has to be gotten out so we can protect the working class, retirees, poor, and disabled.

The Christmas Bonus comes out of the pension, but the pension is down. There are more retirees than active workers. They put the pension in the stocks, so you know all about that. We sure don't want Social Security and Medicare put in the stocks. You have to let them know—tell the Republicans to leave it alone.

The Republicans think the Democrats won't come out and vote. I say, get out and vote, our livelihood is at stake!

They want President Obama to fail. He has done good. We know there is a lot misinformation out there. The "right to work" just makes the rich richer. Start by standing up for us. If we vote wrong again, we're lost.



Our Christmas luncheon will be the second Wednesday, December 14 at the Local 1753 Hall on St. Joe. We eat at noon.

We have charities we support, like the mitten tree. Bring mittens and hats to the luncheon. Thanks to Jean Caudill for all her hand-knitted hats and mittens. Also the Mission—Judy and Jerry Hunt take all canned goods and food.

Make sure you check on the new tax in 2012. Tax of 4.35 percent. Must check by December 5 or you will be in default. Fax the MI W-4P form to 1-877-401-0870 or mail: Fidelity, P.O. Box 770003, Cincinnati, OH 45277. Check with Joe Sagy if you have any questions, at 517-372-7201 or 866-882-6513. He will get back with you. If you were born prior to 1946, your pension may not be subject.

The Veterans Day memorial at Chapel Hill on November 11 was really nice, as always. Next year the veterans memorial will be on November 4 at our Thanksgiving luncheon. We will meet at Chapel Hill at 10:30. Hope all can be there.

On our sick list: Ben Allen and Dick Hegman and Hanna Fox. To all on our sick list, God bless and get better fast.

To all the volunteers, we give thanks for everything you do. Amy McBride and Betty Perkins help on our breakfast. We need more of you.

Condolences to all families on the loss of their loved ones. James Fox passed away. He was an electrician.

I received a letter from Della Messer about the Christmas Bonus. She said:

"Bonus should have been shared. I thought we were all in this together. What an insult to retirees. We built the union, paid our union dues, and are still paying dues. We fought for benefits for all. Remember, we once were employees."

"Our Christmas bonus was very small compared to the new GM contract and their bonus. It's outrageous and stinks. —Della Messer, Local 1618 Retiree"

I did write Della back and I hope I explained it so she understands. We all have a right to our views. Let the right people know how you feel.

Happy birthday to Barb Kline, Noland Douglas, Tom Sutton (87), Mariann Anthony, and Jessica Anthony.

**Ted Gauss' breakfast** will be on January 3 at Guerrazzi's Restaurant, 15463 US Highway 27, Lansing. It starts at 9:00 a.m.

### Proposed calendar of events for 2012

January 11, Luncheon  
February 8, Valentine Luncheon  
March 14, St. Patrick's Luncheon  
March 26-27, Casino Trip  
April 11, Easter Luncheon  
April 27, LAFCU Reception, Royal Scott - 6:00 pm  
?May 27, Euchre Tournament - Local 602  
May 4, Lunch - Old Country Buffet - 11:30 am  
June 13, Cook-out Luncheon  
July 11, Luncheon - "No Bake" Bake Sale  
August 13, Union Picnic, Hawk Island - Noon  
September 12, Luncheon  
September 22, Pancake Breakfast/Bake Sale  
October 10, Halloween Luncheon  
October ?, Michigan Princess color tour  
November 4, Thanksgiving Luncheon

and Holiday Auction  
November ?? Veteran's Memorial  
December 12, Christmas Luncheon  
My phone number is 517-543-5385.  
Till we meet again, keep smiling.

Laura Clark

## 1753 retirees

I would like to start and end with a reminder of our Open House on Thursday, December 8 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Local 1753 hall. We hope that this time range will work with all shifts and, of course, retirees' timetables. It's a great way to kick off the season's festivals, let's deck this hall. We will have finger food and adult refreshments. I can hardly wait. Maybe we can sing Christmas carols!

Our last month's lunch and meeting started with song, thanks to the golden throats of Ruth and Al Mix. Thank you for starting off our Thanksgiving dinner so well, it gives you a warm fuzzy feeling when we all sing together. We had the regular baked turkey, we had barbecued turkey, and even turkey roll-ups! We loved seeing the variety of all the homemade dishes our folk brought to share. It was a big turnout as well. Thank you, everyone.

As long as I'm handing out thanks, I must speak to a special group: the retirees who always run to help their brothers and sisters. Volunteers (we had a great turnout for the Weenie Roast on Halloween), organizers, cooks, and prep workers. Both active and retirees on both shifts, with "box lunches" for our mid-night shift workers. We had a lot of fun and we got to visit with a lot of nice people.

The same goes for political action. Bob Monschien, Arnice Stephenson, and I attended the Region 1-C CAP Conference. Arnice is 1753's new CAP Chairperson, and it was great for all of us to see some of our area leaders in person.

I spoke to the Mayor about the 99% occupying Lansing. I thanked him for his patience with the group. He said it made more sense than throwing them in jail (the cost).

I think we all got something out of it. I found out the Democrats' vision of when a company has the same rights as a person ... when one is executed in Texas!

It was Bob's first CAP Conference and he said he enjoyed it.

I want everyone to know that whether I call with a question I can't answer, or I call for an action when I need help, or I call for support—I rely on our great 1753 retiree volunteers and Executive Board. You know you are a part of the best group around. We are in a group I'm very, very proud of.

Reminder to watch for January's Labor News paper, as we are planning a local Euchre party for early next year. If you like to play, help, or just party, get a hold of us.

I hope we will see you at the Local 1753 Open House on Thursday, December 8 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Let's get together and eat drink and be merry.





**A Pre-Holiday Observance of  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Thursday, January 12, 2012  
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Clark Conference Center at Sparrow's St. Lawrence Campus  
1210 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan 48915

**PROSTATE CANCER**  
**Diagnosis, Treatment, and Making an  
Informed Decision Forum**



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

*-Martin Luther King Jr.*

*Prostate Cancer is a matter we cannot be silent about.  
It is a disease that affects all men.  
African American men suffer particularly.*

**Free and open to the public. Space is limited.**

Registration required at 517-203-5022 or email:  
p.hemingway@capitalareanetway.org

**Local 602 Hourly & Salaried Retirees  
Annual Florida Picnic  
March 6, 2012**

**11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Duff's Original Buffet**

**6010 14th St. W in Bradenton, FL**

**\$7.00 – \$8.00 per person**

**Questions: Call Larry Miller at 941-746-6968**

**Retirees' Arizona Picnic**

**UAW LOCALS 602, 652, 1618, 1743 & LAFUC**

**Both Hourly & Salary**

**February 16, 2012**

**In Mesa, Arizona**

**Red Mountain Park, 7745 East Brown Road**

**Beautiful view of the mountain!**

**Register at 11 a.m. – Eat at Noon**

**Meat and plastic tableware will be provided.**

**Bring a dish to pass and drink.**

**A great time and place to see all your Michigan friends and  
all the Michigan License Plates. See you there!**

**Call Ron Van Dorpe at (517) 712-6164 for information.**

**Local 602 will have a  
holiday open house  
on Friday, December 23  
for active and retired  
members and their families.  
Breakfast and lunch will be  
served. Please see full  
information on page 10!**

**WANTED:** your old 45 rpm  
records. Are you between the ages  
of 60 and 80 and have a collection  
of records you don't play anymore?  
Or do you know someone who has  
an old 45 collection? I might be  
interested in buying them. Call me  
at 517/775-3989 or 517/645-2508.

**OLDSMOBILE  
FLORIDA PICNIC**

**UAW LOCALS 652, 1618,  
1753 and LAFUC**

**BOTH SALARY & HOURLY**

**February 21, 2012**

**In Bradenton, Florida**

**American Legion**

**Kirby Stewart Post 24**

**2000 75th Street W**

**(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)**

**Register at 11 a.m.**

**Eat at Noon**

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

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

## ***Happy Holidays***

*to Local 602 active and retired members.*

*May this holiday season find you  
in the company of beloved family  
and cherished friends*

*and may everyone's hearts  
be filled with cheer.*

*Best wishes to all in 2012.*

*Wishing You  
Joy of the Season!*

***– UAW Local 602 Leadership***



***Local 724's  
Amalgamated Units  
wish you a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Prosperous New Year***



**Alliance Interiors • Bharat Forge • Bridgewater Interiors**

**Dakkota • Delta Dental • Dimondale Nursing Center**

**Dr. Pepper/Snapple • Huntsman • IMPCO**

**JLL-Drayton • JLL-Team**

**Lear Mason • RSDC • Woodbridge Lansing**

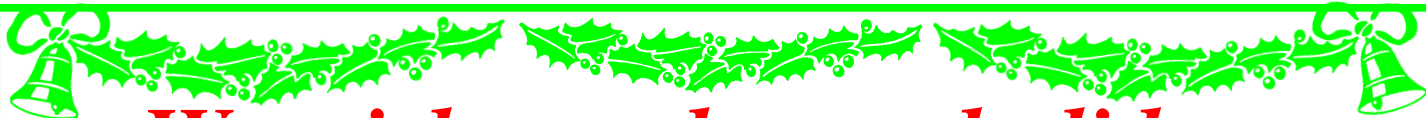
***Serving the membership since 1940***

**450 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917**

**517-482-7377**

**General Membership Meeting Second Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.**





*We wish you happy holidays  
and a bright new year!*

*Mike Green*

*Randy Freeman*

*Robert E. Smith*

*Scott R. Lounsbury*



*John Gubler*

*John E. Lippert*

*Jake Jacobson*



*From the officers and shop chairmen of the  
GM, JCIM, Ryder, and AI Units of Local 652*



***Happy Holidays to Everyone!***



***From UAW Region 1-C  
Norwood Jewell, Director  
Steve Dawes, Assistant Director  
Staff and Support Staff***



Wishing you a  
**Merry Christmas**  
and  
**New Year**  
filled with Peace and  
Happiness  
**UAW Local 4911**



*Season's  
Greetings  
from  
the officers  
and  
members of  
Local 2256*



*The Executive  
Officers and  
Committeepersons  
of Local 1753  
wish you  
all the joys  
of the season.*



*Happy  
Holidays  
from the  
staff of the  
Lansing  
Labor  
News*

*Season's Greetings from*  
**Rapaport, Pollok, Farrell, & Waldron**  
*Our Gift to You for the Holidays – and All Year Long*



3626 Dunckel (Jolly Rd, Exit at I-496), Lansing, MI



## LOCAL 4911

Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Holidays are upon us, which means old man winter is right around the corner. As many of us hibernate inside during the winter months, we have the opportunity to reflect upon all of the wonderful things in our lives for which we are blessed and for which we are thankful. Let us hope and pray that 2012 will be a much happier and more prosperous new year for all of us to enjoy.



### HELP SAVE A LIFE

UAW Local 4911 is proud to co-sponsor an educational forum along with APRI, Sparrow Cancer Center, Capital Area United Way, etc., to help educate men about prostate cancer. This program will cover topics such as Diagnosis, Treatment and Making an Informed Decision. Our panel of speakers for the evening includes: an internist, urologist, radiation oncologist, and prostate cancer survivors. Additional topics include nutrition and its effects on cancer and the benefits of a prostate cancer support group.

With prostate cancer, African-American men have a particularly higher risk of incidence at a much earlier age as compared to Caucasian men. Therefore, we are offering this educational program

free and open to the public to help inform all citizens of this disease. Space is limited so please register early by calling (517) 203-5022 or email p.hemingway@capitalareaunderway.org

This educational session will also offer prostate cancer literature as well as other health materials free for the taking. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us as we inform our citizens about prostate cancer and help us to save a life.

Thursday, January 12, 2012  
Clark Conference Center at  
Sparrow's St. Lawrence Campus  
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## LOCAL 652

Scott R. Lounds,  
Recording Secretary

## On my mind

A few things are on my mind. Maybe they should be on yours, too. For example, "Right-to-Work." Ohio voters just overturned public sector "Right-to-Work" laws in a blow against the wealthy industrialists and financiers who have driven the "Right-to-Work" scam for the last 50 years. Unfortunately, the push toward making Michigan a "Right-to-Work" state is getting stronger.

Even more unfortunate is that most people, including our fellow Union members, really don't understand what "Right-to-Work" laws do. The propaganda from the right claims that "Right-to-Work" is about freedom of choice for workers to join Unions or not. But workers already have that freedom under the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

A worker cannot be forced to participate in the Union, even if they work in a Union Shop. All that is required of them is to pay their fair share of dues, that portion that goes directly toward bargaining. "Right-to-Work" laws allow the employee to completely withdraw support from the Union and pay no dues at all. "Right-to-Work" does not, however, allow the Union to withdraw its support of the employee. The Union is still obligated under these laws to provide representation to these freeloaders.

That's right, the non-member still has the same representation as a dues-paying member. Why, you might ask, would those supporting right-to-work draft the law in such a way? Well, it is quite simple, they aren't interested in the employee's rights to be in a Union or not, they are interested in burdening the Union financially, with the end goal of destroying Unions completely.

### About the Occupy movement

Another topic in the news is the "Occupy Wall Street" movement and reactions to it. This movement is in protest of the power the financial sector holds over our political process and the gap in economic opportunity between the top 1% of the citizens and the other 99% of the people.

This movement has spread out from Wall Street to many other cities; in fact, we have a branch of that movement occupying a park on Capitol Avenue in Lansing, just three blocks south of the Capitol itself.

The movement is trying to bring to light and bring change to the economic disparity that currently exists in America. This swiftly increasing distance between


the haves and the have nots, and the horrible inequity between executive pay and worker pay, is a problem the UAW has been railing against for decades.

Now there has been much wringing of hands by the media and among members of the right wing. But what troubles me is not the protests, but the reaction to them in some cities. Mayor Bloomberg of New York, for example, after using force to evict peaceful occupiers from a park made statements saying that public health and safety were more important than free speech.


Without even getting into the truth or fiction of that statement, what health or safety concerns were there? None until the police started dragging protestors out of the park. But even for the right wing of the political spectrum, to actually state that you are sweeping aside a right guaranteed under the Bill of Rights for dubious health and safety reasons seems a bridge too far. Of course the fabulously wealthy Bloomberg is firmly entrenched in that top 1%.

### On free speech

Finally, I've been thinking about having an opinion and speaking your mind. I've decided that it's a good thing. Some might disagree. Everyone has a right to their personal beliefs, and regardless of whether they coincide with my personal views it is their right as an American citizen to express that belief. Some might disagree. So as I wrote in an earlier article, stand up and make your views heard. We are the Labor Movement and we need to raise our voices against the tyranny of those who would take our rights away and destroy everything the Unions have built. Some might disagree.



### Welcome GM Employees & Retirees!




**Accepting GM Davis Vision Benefits Include:**


- Complete Pair of Glasses with Frames up to \$80, Covered 100%**  
Includes Single Vision Lenses or Lined Bifocal Lenses
- AND
- Your 2<sup>ND</sup> Pair of Glasses is 50% Off!**
- OVER 2,000 COVERED FRAMES TO CHOOSE FROM!**
- Evening & Saturday Hours • On-Site Lab Same Day Service**

**For All w/o Vision Coverage Present this Ad to Receive:**

**1 COMPLETE PAIR**  
WITH SINGLE VISION LENSES STARTING AT  
**\$38<sup>74</sup>**  
2ND PAIR \$19<sup>18</sup>

**2 COMPLETE PAIRS**  
**NO-LINE BIFOCALS**  
WITH BIFOCAL NATURAL LENSES STARTING AT  
**\$97<sup>92</sup>**


Frames from Value Collection and single vision plastic lenses. Bifocals extra. No insurance discounts apply. Some restrictions apply. Doctor's prescription required. Price valid in-store only.  
**LANSING**  
(517) 323-3490  
MON-FRI: 9-7 • SAT: 9-5  
5020 W Saginaw Hwy.  
Next to Tres Amigos  
**eyemartexpress.com**  
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### Dr. Jack Adkins & Associates

#### Welcome Back Retirees!

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



Darin Arelli,  
Office Manager

5020 W Saginaw Hwy • MON-FRI: 9-6 • SAT: 9-3  
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[www.primaryecp.com/drjack](http://www.primaryecp.com/drjack)

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- Complete Medical & Ocular History
- Thorough Eye Health Evaluation
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- Cataract Evaluation
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- Diabetic Eye Exams

- Evaluation & Co-Management for Cataract & LASIK Surgery
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- Emergency Service
- Medicare Provider
- BCBS Medical & Vision Provider

**Those w/o Vision Benefits Receive:**

**COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAM**  
Includes visual field screening & retinal imaging  
Eyeglass exam only. Contact lens exam not included.

**\$49**  
(Reg. \$59)

**CONTACT LENS EXAM**  
Current Comprehensive Eye Exam Required (within 1 year)

**\$15 OFF**  
(Reg. \$55-\$75)

Lansing Labor News • December, 2011 • Page 9

## 602 Obituaries

Edwin G. Gee – Retired  
 Lucy McQueen – Step-Mother of Larry Harve, Final 1 (Team 1)  
 Vernon Dougherty – Father of Daniel Dougherty, General Assembly (FEM Line, Team 2)  
 Robert W. Baur – Father of Douglas Baur, Body (Material)  
 Dazarene Baisden – Mother of Mathis Baisden  
 Jovita Leos Garries (Uribe) – Mother of Bill Uribe  
 Michael Cates – Retired  
 Norman Wood – Retired  
 Waymon Kelley – Retired  
 Leonard Cross – Retired Maintenance  
 Jay Cressman – Material (Trim)  
 Edward Casper – Retired  
 William Bart – Retired  
 Phillip O'Connor – Retired  
 Marjorie Evelyn Carlisle – Mother of Roger Carlisle  
 Roger Arnold – General Assembly Final 1  
 Theodore Cianek – Skilled Trades (Paint and Maintenance)  
 Debra A. Carter – Wife of Thomas Carter, Quality (DVT)  
 Robert Griffes – Retired  
 Wanda L. Dailey – Mother of Dale Dailey, Shop Committee District  
 Betty J. Goff – Mother of Todd Burns, Quality (Squeak and Rattle)  
 Joyce Glover-VanVleet – Wife of Harvey VanVleet II, Retired Trim; Mother of Harvey VanVleet III, Retired Material; and Mother-in-Law of Randy Mercer (Squirrel), Retired Quality Control and District Committee  
 Cynthia Williams Benman – Daughter of Willie Fuller, Retired  
 Leslie Graham – Retired  
 James Richard – Retired  
 Thomas Zakshesky – Retired  
 Betty Jane Hargrove – Mother of William Johnson, Electrician (Body)  
 Russell Joseph VanKirk – Father of Ed VanKirk, General Assembly  
 Dazarene Perry Baisden – Mother of Deborah Baisden, Quality (Care Line) and Mother-in-Law of Sam Taylor, General Assembly (Chassis 4)  
 Keith Emmet Shirey – Father of Rod Shirey, Material Handling  
 Marjorie May Pavlica-Smith – Mother of Dan Pavlica, District Committee  
 Eldon Edward Hosey, Sr. – Father of David Hosey, General Assembly  
 Mark John Stahl – Son of John Polhamus, Retired  
 Cynthia K. Higelmire – Wife of Steven Higelmire, Retired  
 Wayne Herkimer – Father of Scott Herkimer, Material (Chassis)  
 Ray Bozung – Father of Sally Bozung, Chassis 3  
 Barbara Herman – Mother of Mike Herman, Toolmaker (General Assembly)  
 Helen P. Jackson – Mother of A.J. Jackson, Body (Underbody)  
 Burton Britten – Retired  
 Duane Martin – Retired  
 Paul Minarik – Retired  
 Muriel Hulse – Retired

**Correction** – Please note that Willie Fuller was incorrectly listed in last issue's obituaries. We sincerely apologize for the error.

Local 602 – Thank you so much for the wonderful Bible. We will trea-

sure it always. It is a nice way to honor our mother... The Family of Naomi L. Robbins

The Family of Joyce VanVleet, Wife of Harvey VanVleet, would like to thank you for the beautiful Bible ... Harvey VanVleet and Family.

## A letter to our Local 602 family

To the Brothers and Sisters of Local 602: For more than 40 years my brothers and I have been union brothers as we worked at Fisher Body and up to the point where we became the Delta Plant. We have received the union newsletters all those years and have read the union building stories, the reminders that union jobs mean a lot to all workers, that our union stands behind all who serve their country, right down to the unique stories and obituaries.

My mom liked some of the stories that came out and also thought that it was nice to read that people received a Bible for someone in their family when someone passed on. She thought that it must be great to be a part of a union when she read some of the many stories where one union brother or sister would help people even if they didn't know them.

My father was a union brother working at Federal Mogul in St. Johns, Michigan. He worked there when it wasn't unionized, but he often said that things really got better when the union got in. Not only did the people receive better wages, but better benefits, and it became safer to work there.

Dad retired from the plant and gave the union the credit that he and his wife retired on union retirement benefits and wages. He was proud of what he got in his retirement because he would say that he saw how much the retirees got when his plant wasn't unionized. And yes, Mom read his union papers when he got them at home.

My brothers, Gary Nethaway and Barry Nethaway, hired in at Fisher Body in 1967 and worked for 39 years, and in 1977 I hired in and retired in 2009. For all those years, we talked with our fellow workers and walked the picket lines when we had to. We read the union paper when we worked there and still do. The union and the union paper are still reminding us that we're a great big union family.

I guess that it's time that I cut to the chase and say that my mother, Pauline Nethaway, has passed on. Though we never lost a direct family member while we were working there, there have been many letters that have expressed their thanks for the beautiful Bibles that have been given out over these many years.

We now have found out why others have said their thanks when we received our beautiful Bible dedicated in my mom's name. My brother (a minister) shed some tears and my sister did also when they saw the Bible and read the dedication, and they add their thanks.

How beautiful and wonderful the gift that our union brothers and sisters have given us. We wish to thank everyone that has been a UAW Local 602 union brother or sister to let you know what this beautiful Bible means to us.

In Loving Solidarity – Gary Nethaway, Barry Nethaway, Gene Nethaway



# UAW Local 602 Holiday Open House

Retired/Active Members & Their Families!

## Friday, December 23, 2011

Breakfast served 5am-9am  
 Lunch served at 12pm-5pm  
 UAW Local 602 Union Hall  
 2510 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917  
 517-372-4626

Join Local 602 in celebrating the holiday season  
 with food, fun, and fellowship!  
*Please bring a non-perishable food item for the  
 Greater Lansing Food Bank!  
 Hope to see you there!*

## 652 Obituaries

Donis Alexander – Mother of William Alexander  
 Victor "Animal" Arens – Retiree, Spouse of Wanda Arens, Son of Bill Arens, Brother-in-Law of Steve Duling  
 Vaughn L. Baxter – Father-in-Law of Jerry Garner  
 Gary Boik – Retiree, Spouse of Sharen Boik  
 Shirley Borring – Spouse of Charles Borring  
 Eva Butler – Spouse of Ralph Butler, Mother of Bruce & Steven Butler  
 Douglas D. Buxton – Retiree  
 Alitza Carnahan – Mother of Christine Barsdale  
 Joyce Charles – Mother of Fred Charles, Grandmother of Eric Charles  
 James Emmer – Retiree  
 Donna Foster – Mother of Mike Foster  
 John Frey – Father of Jean Pollie  
 Mary Gleason – Mother of Wendy Gleason  
 Robert E. Harsey – Father of Robert Harsey  
 Cynthia Higelmire – Mother of Steven P. Higelmire  
 Eldon Hosey – Retiree, Father of Eldon Hosey Jr.  
 Miles "Junior" Hubbard – Father of Darold Hubbard  
 Marion Thomas Jefferson – Son of Edna Brannon  
 Kathryn Mae Lowery – Mother-in-Law of Kim Livermore  
 Oradell Lung – Daughter of Anna Youngs  
 Carlisle Miller – Father of David Miller  
 James Munro Jr. – Retiree  
 Jeffrey P. O'Dell – Retiree, Son of Dennis O'Dell  
 Bill Parsons – Father-in-Law of Rick Lahay  
 Harold Pull – Father of Arlo Pull  
 Mildred V. Pullman – Spouse of Wilfred Pullman Sr., Mother of Wilfred Pullman Jr.  
 Earlie Putman – Grandfather of Kris Putman  
 Larry Riebow – Retiree  
 Ronald "John" Rood – Retiree  
 Norman Rust – Retiree, Father of Will-

iam Rust  
 Keith Shirey – Retiree  
 James "Jim" Sjoberg – Retiree  
 Wayne Stanton – Retiree  
 Gayla Walters – Mother of Patrick Walters  
 Rose Wilson – Mother of Louis Wilson  
 Ed Wirotek – Father of David Wirotek  
 Ernest Woodman – Retiree, Father of Ernest Woodman  
 Dottie Marie Stallcup-Harper – mother-in-law of Carl F. Sisco

## 652 Thank You

**Thank yous were received from:**  
 The Fred Belbeck Family  
 The Alitza Carnahan Family  
 The Ronald "John" Rood Family  
 The James Sjoberg Family

## 1753 Obituaries

James Sutberry,  
 Sue Medcaf  
 Evelyn Whagant  
 Ruth Franks – mother of Gary Franks

## Smith

**Continued from page 3**

union hall on Thursday, December 15 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. All active and retired Skilled Trades are invited to attend. Food and beverage provided with a \$3.00 donation at the door. Come on over and kick off the Holidays with all your friends! Hope to see you there!

• The Local 652 Women's Committee is hosting a "Kid's Christmas" on Saturday, December 17 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lots of fun and games for the kids and adults. Rumor has it that the big guy from way up north is going to show up, so tell all the kids to get their lists together! A special thanks from all the officers to the volunteers that make this gathering a truly great event!

I'll end by wishing you a safe and happy holiday. I feel blessed to be part of this great Union and I hope you feel the same. I am blessed with a great family, wonderful friends, and a good job. My Christmas wish is that everyone has the same or greater blessings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

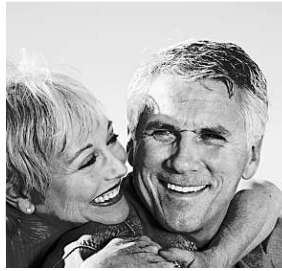
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