



Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 4

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS



DECEMBER, 2013



ABOVE: Members of various local unions helped unload toy trucks donated by American Plastic Toys Incorporated. These will then be distributed throughout the state by the Michigan Association of United Ways.

Winterfest 2014 February 14-16

Join the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club at their annual winter get-together! This year's outing will be held in Grayling, hosted at the Ramada Inn. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, see the club's website:
www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com/
or call 517-420-5335.

OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC

UAW LOCALS 652, 1618,
1753 and LAFCU
BOTH SALARY & HOURLY

**Tuesday,
February 18, 2014**

In Bradenton, Florida
American Legion
Kirby Steward Post 24000 75th
Street West
(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)

Register at 11 a.m.
Eat at Noon
Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

**Local 1753 Election Committee
Notice, page 9**

**Local 602
Hourly & Salaried
Retirees
Annual Florida Picnic
March 4, 2014**
(First Tuesday of March)
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Duff's Original Buffet
6010 14th St. W
Bradenton, FL
\$7.00 – \$8.00 per person
Questions: Call Larry Miller at
941/746-6968 (home)
941-920-2988 (cell)

Inside: Region 1C Director Norwood Jewell, page 8.

A time of transitions

By Dean Poggiali, President,
Local 724

It just seemed the other day that we were enjoying the sunshine and warm temperatures of summer. Now the sun only makes a cameo appearance and we are talking in terms of wind chill as it pertains to our temps.

Let us first start by again sending our condolences to the family of Dave McClelland on his recent passing. Dave was an integral part of the fabric of Local 724 for many years. From his time at Lindell Drop Forge, to his years of service as Financial Secretary at the Local, to his work as the Labor Liaison at the Capital Area United Way, Dave exhibited the right stuff in his advocacy of union people and the community. He was proud of his family, his country and his union. He was a source of information from the days of the past at the Local.

On a personal note, I was never able to, nor ever will be able to, repay his confidence as he supported my efforts to follow him at the Capital Area United Way. Without his support and mentoring I would not have even thought that such a pathway was possible. I can honestly say that although we had not always kept in regular contact he was more than just my union brother, he was a friend. We will deeply miss him. Dave, as you look down from that big union hall in the sky, we will continue to make sure the print on the monthly Local Financial Report never goes back to being too small to read.

As we change our focus slightly: the JLL-Drayton, JLL-LGR, and JLL-TEAM Units ratified a new collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement included improvements in both economics and language. Congratulations to the membership for a job well done.

The local annual "Trunk or Treat" event was again a success. This year the Local 724 Women's Committee partnered with the Local 652 Recreation Committee. The event allowed the kids to collect their much-desired treats in a safe environment, while allowing parents and grandchildren to spend some quality time together.

The annual Local outreach for hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, etc., will commence with the Holiday Tree of Warmth. Right around Thanksgiving the tree will go up and you are encouraged to bring in new or handmade items to place on the tree. Then the Local Women's Committee and Community Service Committee will make sure that a deserving agency gets the outpouring to help the community.

Also, a reminder that the Local is collecting for the Toys for Tots drive. There is a collection box inside the hall

and will be there until December 12. Call Dean at 203-5027 if you need to have someone collect your donations or would like to have a collection box at your worksite.

On December 15, the annual Local Christmas party for kids will be held. Because of some scheduled overtime was made to have it on a Sunday from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Please bring the kids and grandkids for some holiday fun.

We have touched on the community spirit exhibited by our members who have helped make our community a wonderful place to live and raise their children. We have also backed that spirit with our worksite United Way drives. The recently concluded drive held at RSDC yielded results that were close to \$1,800 over last year. Bridgewater members helped contribute donations that were the highest total in their history with running campaigns.

Speaking of Bridgewater, they ran a successful V-CAP facility drive. The outreach was favorable and many of the members took pride in the seats they build for the Cadillac.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of engaging in conversation with a variety of people in different locations. One such location is the grocery store. I have had the occasion to speak with a retiree from UAW Local 652 on a variety of topics and at some times we just say hi. Recently we stopped to discuss the notion of restricting the right to vote, especially in the South. (I must apologize because I never got his name and I want to credit him for this profound insight.)

He mentioned that where these laws are being either instituted or proposed, the culture is anti-government, NASCAR and college football. What would happen if some of the socially conscious football or basketball recruits let their suitors know that until they have equal voting rights within their state they will not consider enrolling in their university and playing collegiate sports? Wouldn't that get the alumni in a tizzy if the Crimson Tide or the Tarheels can't field a competitive team? This isn't just a racial thing but a quality of dignity. It would just take one brave recruit to take a stand.

We have touched on how we interact in our community in a variety of ways. For many of our families things are still a little uncertain and daily challenges still occur.

Let us take solace that we do live in a wonderful community that reaches out to those in need whenever possible. We can continue to honor the legacy of union activists like Dave McClelland by continuing to LIVE UNION and BE UNION.

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

The laws that affect unions

Everywhere we turn, we hear that politics are what's important in winning the fight for union benefits and if we are to survive, we must become involved and informed voters.

These words are expressed by many for good reason. Of the people shouting this from the rooftops, some are the very people who not long ago were unaware of the issues affecting their pocketbook. These same people lost good-paying jobs and benefits due to their own apathy and a belief that "it won't affect me."

A lot of what happens around us isn't important to us until we are forced to confront it face to face. Though we may have "received" the message, too often we don't "get" the message until it's too late.

There have been many laws and amendments made that have impacted workers' rights in the United States, including the Right to Work laws that are again becoming an ever-present platform in politics. Prior to Right to Work, there were two important pieces of legislation that are important to understand; they are the Wagner Act (officially known as the National Labor Relations Act) of 1935 and the Taft-Hartley Act (officially known as the Labor-Management Relations Act) of 1947.

The Wagner Act is considered to be the most important labor legislation ever to be enacted in the United States. It institutes rights of employees to organize and join a union and to participate in collective bargaining through their representatives. It also allows workers to place pressure on employers by means of a strike. The Wagner Act was one of the most dramatic legislative measures of the New Deal and was an indication that the federal government was prepared to move against employers to enforce the rights of labor to unionize and to bargain collectively.

While the Wagner Act worked for the unions, the Taft-Hartley Act did the opposite. Vetted by President Truman, the legislation was still pushed through to amend much of the Wagner Act. The act sought to weaken the powers of unions and was seen as a means of demobilizing the labor movement by imposing limits on labor's ability to strike and by prohibiting people who were typically more active in union activities.

The Taft-Hartley Act is still in effect today, although some amendments have been made to it through the Landrum-Griffin Act of 1959, which sought to prevent union corruption and to guarantee union members that unions will be run democratically. It is the Taft-Hartley Act that paved the way for Right to Work laws in the United States, which many argue are also a form of restricting labor unions in order to weaken their effectiveness to fight for workers.

Proponents of Right to Work laws argue that the law promotes economic growth by attracting business which creates more jobs. They also argue that



Local 652 officers with the generous Toys for Tots donations this year. Left to right: Vice President Randy Freeman, Financial Secretary Bob Smith, and President Mike Green.

these laws are not anti-union, but pro-worker, giving workers the right to choose if they want to join in a union or not.

Opponents of Right to Work laws argue the opposite... that the law hurts not only our workers by weakening unions, but also our economy. Job growth may increase; however, wages, benefits and safety standards are historically much lower in Right to Work states. They also argue that it allows for "free loaders," that is, people who take advantage of all of the benefits from a union contract without having to pay their share of the costs involved in representing their worksite.

Statistics are always capable of being twisted into which side you would like to support with them. While studies show job growth in the South since Right to Work laws were enacted—which is a conservative's large point—they also show that on average, these workers make \$5,500 less a year than those in non-Right to Work states.

As Right to Work becomes more prominent, our society will change. The main goal of these laws is to strain and weaken unions, thus weakening a proven and effective system of giving workers a voice and fair play at livable wages, benefits, and safe working conditions. As big business in our country becomes more concerned with their own profits, rather than our economy or our working class, we need unions to step in and advocate as they have done in the past.

As more states pass these laws, or if the Republican Party succeeds in making Right to Work a federal law, we may see these same declines happen across our country. We are entering into new times where these laws of the past are now becoming our present and future and could have long-lasting negative effects on our economy. We may also see unions go extinct, thus losing a long valued system of workers' voices and rights.

So where do we go from here? We must understand what will work and what won't. Getting angry and getting even can go both ways. Both can have positive and negative results. For instance, stopping our dues or voting against our own best interest and the interests of our fellow workers to "prove a point" will do nothing more than accelerate the end to our existence. Standing against adversity with no end in sight requires an enormous amount of faith

Continued on page 9

Reflections on 2013

Jan. 14, 2013 – Our year started out with the best news anyone could have asked for. Cadillac's new ATS was named North American Car of the Year. We set the bar high for quality, shown by the successful launch the ATS had. Thanks for the many honors we



were given from U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, LAFCU credit union, area Chambers of Commerce, and many area businesses. When we're successful, our community shares in that pride also!

Dec. 19, 2012 – The announcement of "The American Muscle Car," the Chevrolet Camaro, would be built at the Lansing Grand River plant by Local 652 members.

March 26, 2013 – 2014 Cadillac CTS sedan unveiled the night before the New York Auto Show.

May 21, 2013 – A new facility, a stand-alone building, will be built at our Grand River facility, which will support the new Camaro launch. The site will bring 200 new UAW jobs to Lansing.

November 7, 2013 – The new Cadillac CTS for 2014 was honored with Motor Trend's Car of the Year! (By anyone's standard, we have experienced as many awards as anyone could wish for!)

What do all the announcements have in common? It's our workforce in Lansing doing the best job anyone could ask for, proving again we can compete with anyone here at home in the U.S. or around the globe. Brought to you by the Lansing area workforce and Local 652 members.

Charitable giving

*The Breast Cancer Walk held in Lansing was another success. Local 652's Women's Committee, Local members, and Region 1C members joined to help find a cure for this dreaded disease. Our sincere thanks to Region 1C Director Norwood Jewell and Assistant Director Steve Dawes for their support of this annual event.

*Toys for Tots was a huge success this year. Lansing-area GM units raised just under \$20,000 and more toys than I've ever seen. Along with other Lansing-area locals' drives, we will help make a difference on Christmas morning. Again our members prove they are always willing to give back to our community where we live and work.

*As I write my article, we will have been out at the gates selling the Old Newsboys spoof paper. This fund-raising effort helps provide boots and coats to the less fortunate in our community. Thanks for your donations!

Congratulations to the JCIM Unit on their ratification vote on their new local agreement, which passed by 83 percent approval. Congratulations to Jim Ward, Unit Chair, and the Bargaining Team for a fine job!

I hope that everyone's Christmas holiday is filled with joy. A bright New Year to everyone in our UAW family!

LOCAL 1753 Ray Whitford, President

Helping our community

It's that time of year again. The local union officers and management have been at the entrance gates asking for donations that involve different charities. The most recent was sponsored by the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots. The total collection from our plant was Days: \$563 and Afternoons: \$667. This collection includes both hourly and management.

A special thanks goes out to Sharon Mower from Local 652. Sharon organized a great meal for all the Marines who donate their times so they can also be at the entrances to all the plants. It started in the early hours of the morning with donuts, cider, and coffee. At lunch Sharon purchased six-foot subs along with our Veterans Committee Chairperson Bob Davis who also purchased one. Nancy Munchbach brought a relish tray. Assisting at lunch time were Sharon, Nancy, Bob Davis, Chuck Walls, and I. Everything was great. Again, thanks to everybody who helped out.

Past activities in our plant included many charity drives, Eaton county Hospice, American Heart Association, Thanksgiving for the Elderly, Breast Cancer, Draper Drive for Siren House, and numerous others. When it comes to donations, both hourly and management always dig deep into their pockets to help others. The leadership of Local 1753 thank you very much. It's better to give than to receive.

Again, as always, summer has passed us by. Summers always seem to be way too short. Working daily overtime and Saturdays doesn't leave much to enjoy yourself. Work has to be done at home, mowing the grass, working in your garden and flower beds. With the good weather behind us, we are facing the long winter blahs, but think positive and spring will be here again.

It seems that the supervisors are more visible in the departments. Walking up and down the aisles while keeping their eyes on you so they make sure you're working every minute. They will tell us they're not watching you, but don't believe them. Yours truly questions them. "No, just walking up and down the aisles." We know better than what they are telling you. Keep your eyes on them.

See election notice on page 9.

LOCAL 602

Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary

Active autumn

I am very proud of all the UAW Local 602 members and our Executive Board and Committees for the hard work they have done over the past few months. They have been very busy working to make a difference in the lives of our fellow members and in the community. The collective effort of the many individuals who volunteer their time and money helps bring joy and happiness to so many lives.

I would like to thank our Civil and Human Rights Committee for putting on a superb Diversity Day. They provided an entertaining way to educate our Union and community members. The committee was able to collect monetary donations to give to the Lansing Area Food Bank. Thanks to everyone who participated and donated to this excellent event.

By mid-October, we turned our thanks to our veterans for their service to this country. The Local 602 Veteran's Committee, in an effort to get veteran information to our members, held a very successful audit campaign. Thank you, Local 602 Veteran's Committee.

We have a very active Recreation Committee that works throughout the year to bring activities to our active and retired members. The Local 602 Recreation Committee sponsored a casino trip in October and is planning a 2014 Redwings excursion.

The Local then moved on to the Children's Halloween Party. What a great time we all had seeing children and adults in their costumes enjoying fun, food, and entertainment. Many thanks go out to our Community Services Committee for putting on a wonderful event for our members to share with their children. The Trunk or Treat was a success thanks to all our E-Board members and committees who volunteered to participate in this fun-filled event.

November was a whirlwind of activities. Local 602 active and retired members started it out with a door-to-door campaign and phone banking. Congratulations go out to all the Lansing area UAW-endorsed candidates who won their elections. The area CAP delegates,



Local 602 retirees, and our Citizenship and Legislation Committee deserve a big round of applause for all their hard work.

The Marines brought in the next
Continued on page 9

LOCAL 652

Bob Smith, Financial Secretary

'Tis the season

Hard to believe that it's almost Christmas again! Time sure flies when you're having fun. I'd like to take a minute and remind everyone that this time of year, the holiday time, is a time of sharing. A time of giving to people that might not have as much as we do.

Many people are still reeling from the great recession and may not be able to provide for their families as they would like to. Local 652 has partnered with many area organizations designed to assist people in need. A couple I'd like to bring your attention are Toys for Tots and Old Newsboys.

Taken from www.ToysforTots.org:

"Toys for Tots" is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, which donates toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The mission of the program "is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted." The stated goal is to "deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens."

On November 9th Local 652 joined other Lansing-area UAW Locals to hold a "Toys for Tots" Drive. The drive was a huge success with \$20,000 in cash donations and many new toys collected.

Since 1924, Old Newsboys of Greater Lansing has been providing shoes and boots to deserving children. Last year we spent \$182,000 on shoes, boots, and socks for 5,800 children. The Lansing tradition of raising money to provide shoes and boots for deserving school children began around 1910 when truant officer George E. Palmer established the Palmer Shoe Fund.



LOCAL 4911

Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary

Holiday greetings!

For the past several months, I have noticed that *each week* I have to change and adjust the "on/off" times on the automatic timer for our living room lamp. It is dark in the house by 5:30 pm! It seems like just a few weeks ago, we were coming in from the garden at 9:00 pm.

This simple weekly act has driven home the fact that the days and months are passing by too quickly. And there is still so much to do.

As of this writing, Thanksgiving is still a week away. However, I am hearing Christmas music on the radio and I am sure many merchants and shoppers alike are gearing up for the Black Friday shopping marathons. Once Thanksgiving has been feasted upon, we all know that Christmas is only a blink of the eye away. The hustle-bustle of the holiday shopping season is upon us. You may want to be making your list and checking it twice. As we approach this blessed holiday season, may we all spend time reflecting upon everything for which we have to be thankful.

Please keep in mind those that may be less fortunate this holiday season. Volunteer opportunities, food and cloth-

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LOCAL 652

Randy Freeman, Vice President

The purpose of unions

Today, unions continue to serve the same purpose for which they were originally founded. CEO and executive wages and benefits are off the charts, while the middle class suffers from layoffs, unemployment and stagnant wages. The average total compensation of a CEO of an S&P 500 company in this country as of 2010 is over \$11 million and even more than that now.

Current union agendas include increasing wages, raising the standard of living for the working class, ensuring safe working conditions, and increasing benefits for workers and their families.

Unions are important because most corporations focus on creating profits at the expense of employees, and are funding political machines to push through agendas that pit local, state and federal governments against the working class.

The nature of work in America is changing. Employers are trying to shed responsibility for providing health insurance, good pension coverage, reasonable work Companies are making workers' jobs and incomes less secure through downsizing, part-timing, contracting out, and sending jobs off-shore.

More than ever, working people need the collective voice and bargaining power

Continued on page 9



In 1924 the Old Newsboys Association, led by its first president R. Guy Brownson, was organized to assist in the efforts begun by Palmer. The Old Newsboys cooperated with The State Journal and the Lansing Capital News to publish and sell a spoof newspaper during a one-day fund-raising drive.

The "Spoof" Edition sale is held on December 5 every year. In fact, December 5 is declared as "Old News Boys Day" in the state of Michigan. We at Local 652 would like to thank everyone who donates to these fine charities. It's a testament to our workforce that so few can give so much to so many!

Congratulations ...

To all our brothers and sisters who helped make the 2014 Cadillac CTS Motor Trend's "Car of the Year." This is a very prestigious award and as a follow-up to the 2013 ATS being named "North American Car of the Year" proves that the workers in the Lansing area are the best around. Just a little suggestion to GM: If you want it built right, with world-class quality, bring it to Lansing. I can't wait for the Camaro! I wonder what award we can get for that?

And more congratulations ...

To all the volunteers who helped to elect our Lansing area UAW/CAP endorsed candidates. Our winning candidates were Mayor Virg Bernero and City Council Members Judi Brown Clarke, Kathie Dunbar, Tina Houghton, and Jessica Yorko. We look forward to working with this labor-friendly group.

Don't forget the Annual Skilled Trades Christmas Meeting at Local 652 on December 12 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Food and beverage provided with a \$3.00 donation at the door. We look forward to seeing you there!

LOCAL 724

Debra Mills, Financial Secretary

Happy Holidays

Hello Brothers and Sisters, it is that time of year again, the wonderful holiday season! UAW Local 724, along with the Women's and Recreation committees, is having our Christmas Party on December 15 from 1:30 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, 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 23 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 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. Let's 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!



Lansing Labor News

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VOLUME 69, NUMBER 4

VOICE OF 27,000 MEMBERS

DECEMBER, 2013

Dorothy Stevens

602 retirees

From Dorothy Stevens, Retiree Chair, UAW Local 602

This is a time of year for remembering everything that makes us grateful.

It is also a time for giving. Our soldiers in Afghanistan need phone cards so they can call their loved ones back home. Let's make it a Merry Christmas for them and their families.

Following is a poem I would like to share with you:

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,

no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking hung by mantle, just boots filled with sand,

on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
a sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,

I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room is such disorder,
not how I pictured United States Soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play,

and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,

because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,

on a cold Christmas Eve in land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye.

I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,

"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
my life is my God, my Country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,

I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still
and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night,

this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,

whispered, "Carry on Santa, its Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he

was right.

"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.

[Editor's note: This is an anonymous variation of a poem which was written by Lance Corporal James Schmidt and published in *Leatherneck* magazine in 1991.]

Mike Bauer

652 retirees

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. Moving forward into the Christmas season, wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday with your friends and family.

The following is our monthly schedule of events:

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

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

Fourth Tuesday of the month is card night starting at 5:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652 and 602. Our bingo night, potluck/business meeting, and social night are for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only.

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

We will be holding our regular potluck dinner in December.

Due to a scheduling error, Blue Cross Blue-Shield was not at our October 11th informational insurance meeting. There is a meeting scheduled with Blue Cross-Blue Shield on Wednesday, December 11, at Local 652, beginning at 10:00 a.m. They will present the Medicare Plus Blue Group PPO information and answer your questions. There will be representatives from Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Blue Care Network, and the Trust.

The December 24 card night is cancelled.

Any Local 652 retiree that has never been to Black Lake, or has not been since they retired and would be interested in going, should contact me at 517-372-7581 ext. 147. Please leave your name and phone number. Black Lake Educational Center is an integral part of understanding how politics affect our daily lives (and pocketbooks). Members will attend seminars where retiree issues are discussed. While the Center is a beautiful place, it is not a vacation; you must attend the seminars daily.

Condolences to the families of Clifford Stackman, Robert Knowles, Michael Hill, Charles Lonier, Tonia O'Berry, Tom Eveleth, Paul Janetzke, Richard Marietta, Mark Elliott, Joe Defrates, and any others we may have missed.

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

The Lansing Labor News is now online. You may access it at 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

Laura Clark

1753 retirees

I hope Thanksgiving found each of you enjoying your home, family and friends. We as union members have this plus the Union to be thankful for. So many others are suffering through this downturn.

Thinking of the season, at last month's meeting we decided to donate to Toys for Tots; the previous meeting supported Old News Boys. If you bought one of these spoof papers on December 5, you can see our local's name in it as an early contributor. When you buy the paper the money goes to shoes and boots for kids, letting them go to school. We can all be proud of the efforts of our group to help others in the area, especially children.

We like to have fun in between meetings, too. A small crew of us traveled up together to Uncle John's Cider Mill, and met there for a tasting. Uncle John's produces wine, cider and baked goods. We of course tried all of their wares and brought some home. Not straight home, of course. We did a car caravan following each other. We hit Bellingar's for turkey jerky, Shepardsville party store for chicken salad and Tom's Western Store for doodads. A great day was had by all.

Your officers were well represented at this year's Halloweenie Roast in the warehouse. Nancy Munchbach, Dennis Slowinski and I, helped along with a great group of active workers, cooked and handed out hot dogs and treats to both shifts. This yearly event is a great way for the local to "treat" the membership.

Our local also had couples on each of Region 1C's three buses to Branson, Mo. We think this will be only the first of many: Vegas, Cape Cod and New Orleans. All of our people loved it and gave glowing reports, even our first timers.

I can't possibly list all of the things we've done. There is so much unsaid and more if you like, it's up to you. We have covered everything from benefits through camaraderie. You can pick what is next!

We are stronger in a group, and get better rates. Tell your co-workers and friends when you see them to come to the meeting the second Thursday of the month. Ask them if they are getting the Lansing Labor News? Tell them to meet you at the hall for the open house and take a marked calendar home so you won't miss a meeting. December 12 is the 1753 Christmas Open House from 1-5, hope to see you.

Lois Schultz

1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people! It's been a while, but I am back. Also, the column is online at the Labor News website when it isn't mailed. [lansinglabornews.org]



Condolences to the family of Robert Arntz. He was Local 1618 President at one time.

Condolences to the family of Anthony (Tony) Gauss, son of Ted and Connie Gauss. He was 50 years old, and a wonderful man.

Condolences to the family of James R. (J.R.) Riggles. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He worked at GM for 38 years and was a pipefitter.

At our Halloween lunch Lois Dyer was the only one dressed up—as the Trashy, Tacky Old Lady. First place, Lois!

Glenn Crain from the Medical Benefit Trust talked. I hope he helped folks understand it better. It started in 2007 independent of autoworkers' settlement agreement.

We have bags with 1618 on for people to take home and bring back the next month filled with food. Then someone else can take it home.

Our trip on the Michigan Princess went well, but might be the last, as we only had 17 people.

The Tigers game was a very good time. We will have another one for sure.

The pancake breakfast was great. The bake sale will be back, as people asked for it. We would like to sell tickets beforehand, so give us a heads-up. Or call Ted Gauss at 517-321-4754.

Happy birthday to Noland Douglas, Tom Walker, Dick Kline, Barb Kline, Harry Henderson (89), Sue Torguson, Bruce Anthony, Hanna Fox, Diana Zalinka, Mariann Anthony, Jessica Anthony, Jim Anthony, Michael Tousley, Dan Schultz, Linda Burns, Tom Sutton.

When they say Medicare and BC/BS won't work, thank the Lord for it. The money it would have cost me was unreal. I know they take out of our Social Security every month, but still, think about it.

Hopefully Connie Dunn is working on some trips. She needs ideas, so help her out. 517-323-2146.

We could use more retirees to check in at the Local 1753 hall on the second Wednesday of the month and join us. We do have lots of fun!

Mark Schauer dropped in on November 13 to let us know he running for Governor. He had a wonderful turkey lunch. Stop in anytime, Mark.

The veterans' memorial went well, but cold. John Taschner and Roland Gaytan brought flyers. They have a Veterans Special. Check it out.

Jean and Arlie Caudill made it up with hats and mittens for the Mission. So good to see them!

Associate dues next month (\$24). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May we all have a wonderful year. God bless each and every one.

Till we meet again, keep smiling.

HEALTHCARE BUILT UAW STRONG

Great News for Lansing Area UAW Members!

HealthPlus is excited to announce that GM employees living in Clinton and Ingham counties are now eligible to enroll in HealthPlus. When considering your health plan options, choose HealthPlus — one of the nations' highest-rated health plans.*

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*HealthPlus of Michigan is ranked as one of the "highest-rated" insurance plans in the nation according to NCOA's Health Insurance Plan Rankings—Private, 2012-13. NCOA is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to measuring the quality of America's health care.

***Warmest thoughts
and best wishes
for a wonderful
Holiday Season
and a very
Happy New Year.
– UAW Local 602
Leadership***



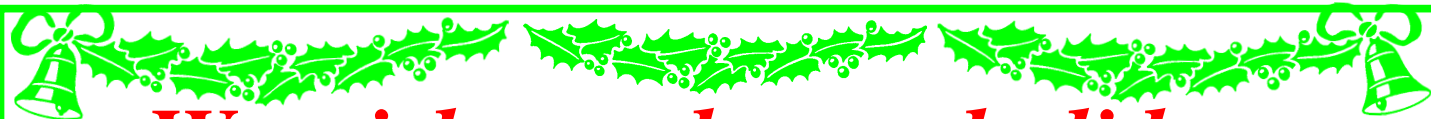
***Local 724's
Amalgamated Units
wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year***



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**450 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917
517-482-7377**

General Membership Meeting Second Tuesdays of the month at 5:00 p.m.



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

Mike Green

Randy Freeman

Robert E. Smith

Scott R. Lounsbury



Jack Gubler

James Ward

Art E. Lippert

Jake Jacobson



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



Happy Holidays!

UAW Region 1C
wishes you and your family a
Safe and Happy Holiday Season



Norwood Jewell, Director
Steve Dawes, Assistant Director
Staff & Support Staff

Happy Holidays

A message from Norwood Jewell UAW Region 1C Director

I cannot believe it is this time of year already. First, I would like to thank and congratulate our members and retirees who staffed the phone banks and walked door to door for our candidates on a fantastic job in helping elect the UAW endorsed candidates for the City of Lansing. With your help and the support of our members we were able to get the job done! I would also like to thank all of you for your support in 2013 when you were asked to march, rally and support our great institution.

With the holidays fast approaching, I am very grateful and thankful to all of you for the many ways you have worked with us by standing up for workers' rights, our seniors and our children and at the same time making our communities and Michigan a better place to live.

With all you have had to endure, it touches me that you still find it in your hearts to donate time, food and money to help those who are less fortunate. This makes me proud to be the Director of Region 1C. Together, we have done a fantastic job of helping and supporting the Old Newsboys, Toys for Tots, United Way, Food Banks and many other great charities this Holiday season. Let's continue to open our hearts and make sure no family goes hungry this Holiday season.

In the new year, we too will have challenges and opportunities. There will



be Executive Board elections at the Local Unions and elections of delegates to the 36th Annual UAW Constitution Convention in June, 2014. Our goal and focus in 2014 remains taking back the Governor's office as well as the State House and Senate. This is the only way to stop the erosion of workers' rights and rebuild the Middle Class. It will take all of us working together in solidarity to be successful.

I thank you for your support and may you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season. God bless you and God bless the UAW.

LOCAL 652 Scott R. Lounds, Recording Secretary

Thoughts on the new year

This Holiday season I hope you and yours stay safe in your travels and take time to enjoy the fellowship of friends and family. Take some time to give thought to the year that was 2013, what was accomplished, what wasn't accomplished, and then give some thought to 2014 because this coming year will be an important one for the UAW and the Labor Movement.

2014 will be a time of transition in our UAW leadership. At the international UAW, leaders who have dedicated years of their lives to our great union—men like Bob King, Joe Ashton, and



General Holyfield—will be stepping aside and handing the mantle over to a new group of leaders at the 36th Constitutional Convention. At the Local level, memberships will be deciding if their leaders have provided them with good stewardship and service over the last three years as they hold general elections. In these difficult times the choices we make as to who will lead the UAW carry great weight.

Additionally, the coming year will be a time for the voters of Michigan to decide if they want to continue with the pro-corporation, pro-financial elite, anti-worker, anti-woman, anti-family policies of Governor Rick Snyder and his deep-pocket allies like Dick DeVos. Or choose a governor who supports working people and working families, like Mark Schauer. The damage done to the middle class in Snyder's first term is horrific; what would he destroy in a second term?

Yes, 2014 will be a time for Unionists throughout the state to give of themselves, body and soul, in the hopes of making a better tomorrow for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren, and beyond. There will be hard work and hard times, times when tempers will flare and we will not be our best selves. That being said, I have a few things I will be trying to keep in mind for the new year. Not resolutions so much as aspirations.

First, I will ask myself why I am doing something, before I do it. Am I putting that post on Facebook to be informative or am I more concerned with the "look at me, I knew this first" mentality that pervades the social media? Am I volunteering my time or money through a genuine attempt to help, or because of the recognition and accolades I will receive? Am I running for that Union position so I can say I am committeeperson, or trustee, or president, or whichever position because I want to serve the membership, or because I want to be able to say I hold this position or that position within my Union?

Second, I won't limit myself to Facebook activism. I will put boots on the ground, knock on doors, talk to my friends and family about the issues that face working people of this state, not just click on the "like" button; because, when the voices of Labor are found only on-line and not at rallies, protests, fundraisers, or most importantly at the voting booth, we are all weakened.

Third, I will practice face-to-face honesty. If I have an issue with a fellow worker, a fellow Union official, or a family member I will talk to them about it. I won't go behind their back, or spend time

wondering why a particular action was taken or decision made. If I have a question or concern I will address it with that person in an adult manner. Maybe, just maybe, through this I will find some common ground with this person, or come to understand why they did what they did. Hell, I might even learn something.

Fourth, I will have the courage of my convictions. I will strive to do what is right, not what is easy. This can be difficult, we will not always agree, even with those we consider friends. I was lucky enough to hear Vice-President of the United States Joe Biden speak at the Jefferson-Jackson dinner in Detroit last year and he spoke about something that I think each of us must find for ourselves. He was speaking of politics and running for office, but I think what he said applies not just to running for office, or running for a Union office, but to life in general. He said you had to find an issue you were willing to lose over. I think what he meant by this is that you have to believe in some things so much that you are unwilling to compromise even if the costs are dear. For some that cost might be a friendship, or an election, or a promotion, but whatever the cost everyone must find that issue they are willing to lose over.

Fifth, it costs us nothing to be nice, and so, in the coming year I will try to be kind, to be the bigger person. I will aspire to understand things from others' points of view. I won't immediately assume anyone who has a problem is just trying to shirk their responsibility or get out of work. Even with those people I dislike I will acknowledge their accomplishments and try to lift them up when they fail. I will be magnanimous in victory and gracious in defeat.

Lastly, I will try to recognize my own faults and weaknesses. I will try to restrain myself from seeing people as I want them to be, not as they are. And the same goes for me, I will see myself for who I am, not who I want to be.

Certainly, there will be times that I will fail to live up to these goals, but there is, I think, value in the attempt.

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



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



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



Local 652 Skilled Trades Christmas Meeting Thursday, December 12 from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

For active and retired skilled trades employees who are members of Local 652. \$3 donation. Food and drink provided. At the Local 652 Hall, 426 Clare St, Lansing. For more info, call the hall at 372-7581.

For the good of veterans

By Michael Melfi, on Behalf of the Lansing Area UAW Veteran's Committees

As we gather with our families and friends during the Holiday Season,

Let us not forget, our current US Military who will not be home to enjoy the spirit of Christmas;

Let us not forget, the empty seat at the Holiday dinners;

Let us not forget, the families that live day by day with that void especially during this Holiday Season;

Let us not forget, the children whose parents are deployed during their schools' Holiday recitals;

Let us not forget, as we awake Christmas morning to a lighted tree and opening of gifts, some will remain unopened and may be never opened;

Let us not forget, the Veteran who bears the scars from their service; they remember comrades who died, while they have returned;

Let us not forget, those of our current US Military who have given all to further the virtuous goals of those great men and women who first declared and fought for independence; that our country could become this United States of America.

Let us not forget, those Veterans who took the risk imposed by their oath to defend this nation, and who bear the burdens of Military Service;

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

On behalf of Region 1-C Veteran's Association, the Veteran Committees of UAW Local 602, 652, 724, 1753, we "Thank you" for supporting the causes of our organizations and wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2014 Happy New Year! **And let us not forget...**

Reed Continued from page 2

and dedication, but if we can begin to believe in ourselves and take a stand for just a little while longer, we can and we will make a positive difference. Each one of us who belongs to a union is the union. If we don't like how something is done, we have the option personally to get involved, but only we have the power, collectively, to change it. Without unions, the best defenses we have are written within the guidelines of The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). I'll let you do your own research on that one.

Howard Continued from page 3

event, the Toys for Tots campaign. Once again, this event was a huge success due to our great membership and their generosity. When we come together as one, we can bring about extraordinary results.

Next, we had our annual Thanksgiving dinner drive, sponsored by the Women's Committee and supported by our E-Board and other Local 602 committees. It was our most successful dinner drive to date. Many UAW and community families in need will receive a wholesome meal because of your contributions.

Each year, I eagerly look forward to all the festivities of the holiday season. It's a time to join with family and friends to give thanks and bring joy to others. Year after year, Local 602's committees and members generously donate their time and money to help those in need. I am amazed by our Local's accomplishments. Keep up the excellent work.

When preparing your holiday meals and searching for the perfect gifts, our Union Label Committee encourages you to emphasize Union-made and American-made goods and services. Go to www.unionlabel.org or www.buycott.com for helpful hints. Make your holiday Union-made by taking the "Buy Union Pledge."

As a reminder, the Hall will be closed from December 20, 2013 to January 2, 2014. Wishing all our members a very happy holiday!

Van Schoick

Continued from page 3

ing requests are abundant at many community organizations, such as the City Rescue Mission, Volunteers of America, local area food banks, etc.

Our UAW Labor Liaison, Dean Poggiali, states an excellent resource to utilize for donation opportunities is calling 2-1-1 and simply asking for suggestions of what needs different organizations have. They will help match your blessings of gifts/food/dollars to an agency that is in need as well as give you a location for that organization for dropping off your gifts. To obtain information for counties outside our immediate area, please call Central Michigan 2-1-1 offices at 1-(866)-561-2500.

Local 4911 News

Our most recent union event was a bake sale which we held at Sparrow campus and St. Lawrence campus with all proceeds going to Capital Area United Way. Thank you very much to those of you who baked for this special event as well as those who purchased our baked goods! We had very little baked goods left over which we promptly donated to the Volunteers of America.

After months of waiting, Sparrow has our new contract now available on the Sparrow Intranet. Your union also has posted a copy on our website at www.uawlocal4911.org. If you prefer a hard copy of the contract, please request one at Sparrow Human Resources.

An exciting new chapter of Local 4911 is in the making—our Retiree Chapter! Our first required step in this process was to collect the signatures of 25 current retirees, which we accomplished during our

October retiree VEBA meeting. If you are retired and wish to be included as a member in our retiree chapter, for which you will receive our communications regarding future retiree gatherings and/or activities, please call Rose at 272-5865. We will be happy to add you to our database.

I hope that you enjoy safe travels during your visits to spend time with family and friends this holiday season. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, joy and happiness.

Freeman Continued from page 3

unions provide to keep employers from making the workplace look as it did in the early 19th century.

Without collective representation, the threat of sweatshop conditions, unlivable wages and 70-hour work weeks may become a part of working America's future as well as its past. Just look at the Congresswomen trying to change the laws to eliminate having to pay overtime after 40 hours.

Today and in the future, labor unions will continue to play an important role in our country's work force and the quality of life for working families. America's working families need and deserve the representation, collective power, and pride in work and fair treatment in the workplace.

So remember, "the bread box is connected to the ballot box." The only way we can support those who support us is at the ballot box and we plan on taking back the House and the Senate in Michigan, starting right now. This year is will be a busy one! So Merry Christmas and Happy New!

Local 1753 Election Committee

Nominations and acceptances for the Election Committee will take place at the January 22 general membership meeting. You must be present at this meeting to accept your nomination and acceptance. Voting will be held at the February general membership meeting.

602 Obituaries

November

John Goolsby – Retired Material Handling; Grandfather of Eric Mason, General Assembly, and Father-in-law of Al Mason, Retired Pipefitter (Body)
Duane LaSarge – Retired and Father of Brian LaSarge, Body (Material)

Betty Leda Miller – Mother of Rockne Miller, Retired Weld Integrity (Body)

Andrew Jackson Larsen – Father of Lisa Eastman, Paint

Virginia Schneider – Mother of James Schneider, Retired Quality Control

Betty Lou Faith – Mother of Terri Carbeno, Paint
Sally Dowding – Mother of Leroy Dowding, General Assembly (Engine Dress)

Ford Scheurer – Retired

Pearl Marion Lewis – Mother of Alberta Clair Sally Pratt – Mother of Jerry Pratt, Quality

Dennis Baker - Retired • Gerald Aikens - Retired
Larry Carlson - Retired • Donald Charles - Retired

Vaughn Conroy – Retired • Ray Dunn – Retired
Delora Gipson – Retired • Patricia Guy – Retired

Roger Hinspeter - Retired • Tyrus Stine – Retired
Harold Keesler - Retired • Roland Kohn – Retired

William Nurenberg - Retired • John Snow - Retired
Elias Raad – Retired • Larry Scott – Retired

John F. Bonnel – Father of John Bonnel, Quality
October 8, 2013

Darold Brown – Retired • Dale Wendorf – Retired
Clyde Chamberlin - Retired • John Walker - Retired

Mary G. "Gerry" Ollenburger – Mother of Al Ollenburger, Material

Michel J. Hill – Husband of Connie Hill, General Assembly Chassis 3

Willie T. Hatter – Father of Darlene Hatter, Trim
Robert Hagerty – Retired

Beulah L. Daniels – Mother of Dallas Daniels, Retired Millwright

Keith Beard – Retired and Husband of Carla Beard, Quality Control

Continued on next page

William J. Hamilton – Father of Joe Hamilton, Material
 Pauline Burns – Mother of Barbara Bokovoy, Retired Body Shop and Mother-in-law of Mike Bokovoy, Retired Body Shop and Quality
 Isidro Hinojosa, Jr. – Retired Body Shop (Underbody Pans)
 Chris Jones – Quality Control (Body/Paint)
 Ullah Taylor – Mother of Jill Griswold, Quality Control (General Assembly)
 Denise Jackson – Mother of Tameca Jackson, General Assembly Trim 2
 Richard Jackson – Husband of Kathy Jackson, Retired
 Sharon Kindel – Wife of Raymond Kindel, Retired Trim
 William Newton, Sr. – Retired
 Frances J. Dawson – Mother of Ray Dawson, Material (Body) and Mother-in-law of Anita Dawson, Underbody
 Gene Bancroft – Father of Ronald Bancroft, AGV

Thanks for the lovely Bible and your support... The Family of Mervin Smith
 Dear Local 602: I want to thank you for the Bible given to me in remembrance of my husband, Norman R. Wells. It was greatly appreciated. Sincerely... Joann Wells

652 Obituaries

Don Armstead – Retiree
 Jameson Arnett – Son of Tom and Kristofer Arnett
 Cindy I. Barrus – Spouse of Thomas Barrus
 Patricia Braun – Mother of Mark Braun
 Ronald Levi Brown – Father of Dan Brown
 Pauline Burns – Spouse of William Burns
 Shirley Casner – Retiree
 Rodney Chaffee – Son of Ed Chaffee
 Steven Courtland – Retiree
 Duane Cross – Retiree
 Marilyn Sue Czarniecki – Mother of Don Czarniecki
 Dorothy Degner – Mother of Jerry Degner
 Mary D. Delamarter – Mother of Dick Jensen
 Ross DeLau – Retiree, Father-in-Law of Cindy DeLau
 Mark Elliott – Retiree
 Thomas Eveleth – Retiree
 Connie L. Fish – Spouse of Larry D. Fish
 Michael J. Hill – Retiree, Father of Mike Hill
 Pamela J. Irelan – Spouse of Rocky G. Irelan

Steven Kibbey – Retiree
 Theodore "Ted" Lone – Father of Richard Lone
 Charles Lonier – Retiree
 Jacob T. "Jack" Metzmaker – Retiree
 LeRoy Mix – Retiree
 Charles Moore – Father of Dave Moore
 Larry Morris – Retiree
 Tonia L. O'Berry – Retiree
 Donna R. Roberts – Mother of Gerald "ChooChoo" Roberts
 Gerald R. Roberts II – Son of Gerald "ChooChoo" Roberts
 Donald F. Rockafellow – Retiree, Brother of Robert and Keith Rockafellow
 Eraldo Servantes – Father of Ruben Servantes
 David R. Silvas – Retiree, Spouse of Teresa Silvas
 Robert Smith – Retiree
 Clifford Stackman – Retiree
 Dennis Stanke – Spouse of Alice Stanke
 Ron A. Thelen – Retiree
 Marge Vandecar – Mother of Steve Vandecar
 Clarence W. Weber Jr. – Retiree
 Douglas E. Winnie Jr. – Retiree, Father of Dora Winnie, Grandfather of Chelsea Winnie
Thank-You's were received from:
 The Dorothy Degner family

Local 724 thank you

The family of David McClelland wishes to thank all who have shown support at our time of loss. His friends at Mystic Lake YMCA Camp, and the staff and board of the Capital Area United Way, for the lovely arrangements. The officers, members, and staff of Local 724 for the flowers and the beautiful Bible. His brothers and sisters from Locals 724 and 652, the Lansing Labor News, and all his golfing buddies, for their condolences and a story or two. We truly appreciate what you have done for us at this difficult time. Sincerely, The McClelland Family

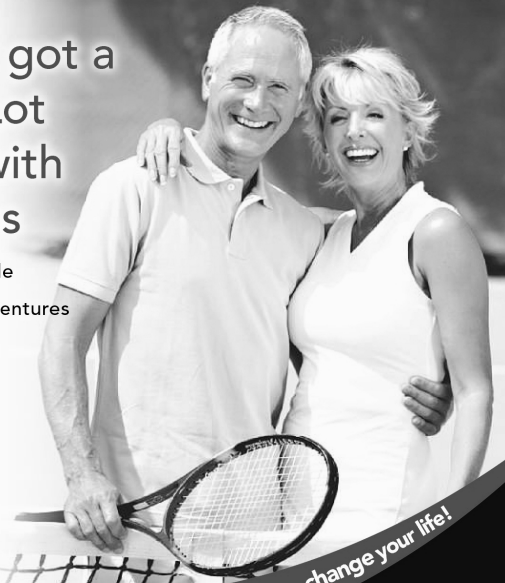
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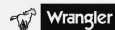
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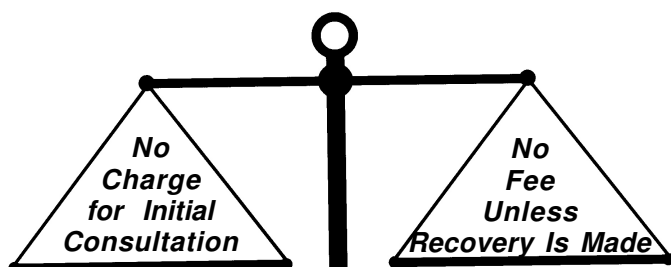
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