

# Lansing Labor News

**VOLUME 70, NUMBER 1** 

**VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS** 



JANUARY, 2014

# A piece of the puzzle

By Bill Reed President, Local 602

This year marks the 75th anniversary of UAW Local 602. During my President's report at this month's gen-

eral membership meeting, I tried to paint a mental picture of where we will be 75 years from now. I envision a labor movement that would continue to be the cornerstone of the



middle class, while setting the standard in a segment of society larger than anyone could ever imagine. I see a membership that not only survives near extinction, but rises above adversity, becoming the largest and most successful driving force behind economic and social justice for all.

I would ask that everyone thinks of what this picture would look like. I imagine it would comprise many pieces just like a puzzle. Each piece a different size, shape, and color. Each interlocking together and integral to completing the picture; if one piece is missing, nothing else is available to fill in the void.

As I looked out upon the membership assembled at the meeting, I clearly saw the diversity that makes up who we are. We are truly a blended family. We are young, old, in between, from many different cultures and backgrounds, reside in many places across the state. If we refuse to realize our importance in the overall picture we become the missing pieces. Just like those pieces of the puzzle, each of us brings to the table uniqueness but we still interlock in the picture we portray as a union membership.

In 75 more years we will overcome, we will be the movers and shakers of the social justice movement. The cornerstone will still be in place and the foundation will be strong enough to support anything that we choose to build. We will be a complete and powerful picture

of what can be done when a diverse culture of people come together as one.

In his August 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King spoke of our country's obligation to live up to the promises made by our founders—that "black men as well as white men would be guaranteed the 'unalienable Rights' of 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The "I Have a Dream" speech isn't about being colorblind; it's about the obligation that had to be paid before our society could move forward together. Each of us have an obligation to do what we can in our lifetime to create a better tomorrow for our future generations. Being a member of a Union gives each of us an opportunity to do just that.

# 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)

# 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.

Periodical Postage Paid at Lansing, MI



For the last six to eight years, the Huntsman Unit of UAW Local 724 has taken membership action to allocate funds to purchase items for the Toys for Tots campaign sponsored by the Marine Corps. The Unit, which is the oldest worksite in Local 724, has a long-standing history of helping out the community. After the funds are allocated, the Huntsman Unit elves go into action. Pam Kissane and Teresa Klockziem then make it their mission to purchase as many items as possible; to insure the drive is successful they scour the ads and sales. We applaud their efforts and thank them for their commitment to our kids and the community.

Pictured above are (left to right): Teresa Klockziem, Tony Chandler (UAW Region 1-C Servicing Rep), Marine Lance Corporal Cody Roach, Pam Kissane, and past Huntsman Unit Chair Glenn Morrill.



ABOVE: In a joint effort between the membership of the RSDC Unit of UAW Local 724 and RSDC management and support staff, the mission of loading a truck with donations for the recent Toys for Tots campaign was accomplished. You can see more pictures on the Labor News website, lansinglabornews.org.

Thanks to all those who contributed, the Marines, and Santa for their efforts.

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Labor News online: www.lansinglabornews.org

# 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.

Lansing Labor News

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LOCAL 652 Mike Green, President

# Take back Michigan!

Our message to politicians should be

that we will support those who support working people. What has Governor Snyder done for Michigan?

- Taxed retirees' pensions
- Cut unemployment benefits by six weeks
- Right-to-work (for less) legislation

Surplus funds have come off the backs of workers, retirees, and unemployed workers, while the 1% don't pay any increase. Our retirees and underemployed have to watch every penny to try and make ends meet.

Governor Snyder and his Republican representatives have, through their actions, made it popular to attack the middle class. On the national level, that same political thinking was ready to let GM go bankrupt. If they'd had their way, where would our nation be and what would Michigan look like today?

I and the rest of the UAW leadership and membership believe enough is enough. We must work to elect people who represent the working men and women. Governor Snyder, you told the Michigan voters that right-to-work legislation would bring new jobs to our state. Where are all those jobs you promised?

So far you have created a mystery surplus in the budget. We know that surplus came off our backs. If you use the funds to fix our roads and don't create good-paying jobs to drive to, it could be roads leading nowhere!

Thanks to the UAW and bargaining units across our state—they are the real reason the investment in facilities and new products happen in Michigan. I can't think of a better investment than the American worker.

Our Lansing Grand River members are a great example of when given the opportunity they deliver one of the best products and win awards that shine the light on Michigan and our Capital City!

### Car Show

Our hopes were high as we headed to the Detroit Auto Show to win the North American car of the year with our Cadillac CTS Sedan. We were the only luxury car to compete against the Corvette Stingray and won't mention the other vehicle, as they announced the Corvette won. I felt we were already a winner; it was another GM product. The frosting on the cake came as GM's Silverado truck was named North American Truck of the Year. Congratulations to all the membership for the job you do to help make this happen.

We want to thank all the UAW units who supply our parts to the UAW assembly plants that build the world-class vehicles. There is no workforce greater than the American workers and the UAW membership.

My sincere thanks for allowing me the opportunity to represent you. I never will take you for granted, but will strive to earn your respect and support.



At the December meeting in Lansing of the Region 1C CAP Council, a check for \$7,500 was presented to the Old Newsboys of Greater Lansing. This charity helps provide shoes, boots, and coats for children in need of them. Shown here in the front row, left ro right: 1C CAP Coordinator Art Luna; Local 724 President Dean Poggiali; Local 652 President Mike Green; Region 1C Director Norwood Jewell; Claire Corr of Local 2256; and Region 1C Assistant Director Steve Dawes.

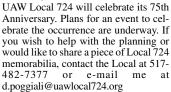
LOCAL 724 Dean Poggiali, President

# Union elections coming up

As we embark on the year 2014,

here's hoping that 2013 ended on a good note for you and yours. We wish good health for you and yours and stable employment for the future.

Speaking of the future, in 2015



We would be remiss if we didn't also revisit the past a little as well. The Local 724 Units again stepped up in the Old Newsboys drive. The total collected was over \$1,500. Worth noting was the tremendous increase at Delta Dental. They collected just short of \$700!! One employee brought in three jars of coins that not only increased the collection, but also caused Gail Douglas to need an extra hand to deliver the collection. Thanks to all those who donated or worked the facilities in this worthy cause

We also received word of the amazing generosity of our membership reaching out at the holidays from the Alliance Unit. The three shifts each adopted a family for the holidays. The second shift, which has the most new or lower seniority employees, collected over \$900 to pass on blessing for a joyous holiday for a family in need. This was a collaborative effort between the bargaining unit and salaried employees and they are to be applauded.

The Toys for Tots outreach was again a success. Many of our units collected either money or toys for the kids. The employees of RSDC filled a semi with their blessings. The elves at Huntsman—Pam Kissane and Teresa Klockziem—again met the task of being the supreme bargain hunters. The

Bridgewater Unit also filled several boxes that the Marines picked up from the hall. We applaud all the generosity of all our members in helping our deserving youth in the community.

The annual Walk for Warmth will happen next month. The Walk for Warmth is traditionally held on the fourth Saturday in February (which will be February 22, 2014). The walk is sponsored by local Community Action Agencies. In our area Capital Area Community Services (CACS) oversees walks in their coverage area of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham (CACS has two locations in Lansing and another covering rural Ingham County), and Shiawassee counties. The walks are held in St. Johns, Charlotte, Mason, Lansing, and Owosso.

Participants collect pledges from family, friends, co-workers or neighbors and pledge to walk. 100% of the pledges collected go to the program which helps folks with their heating bills. CACS coordinates their outreach through a variety of resources that supply the various heating options for the client.

This will be the 24th annual walk in the area and more information is available on the CACS website at: http://www.cacs-inc.org/Walk4W.htm or you can call me at 517-203-5027. With the winter we have experienced so far, I am sure demand for help in heating assistance will go up, so this program helps.

The triennial elections for all Local and Unit level officers at Local 724 will take place this year. The Units will conduct their process separately from the Local. If you are interested in running and need some more information, contact your Unit Chair or the Local.

As we recently celebrated the teachings and legacy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, we could all be refreshed with his thought-provoking words. Dr. King was able to institute change with his words and his wisdom. One such pearl of wisdom that has stuck with me over the years is: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." As working people have been attacked from various fronts, let's make this our time to leave our comfort zone and challenge the haters.

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

LOCAL 1753 Ray Whitford, President

# A Christmas to remember

What a Christmas and kick-off of a New Year to remember! Mother Nature is always testing us. Summertime has the hot days and not much rain, and we know what the winter brings. We live in Michigan, so the old saying about the weather, stay around and it will change—how true it is.

The subzero temperatures and then the rain starts. Power lines and trees were accumulating ice. The excess weight was too much, so limbs of the trees were breaking off and falling on the power lines, bringing them down. Resulting in no power and transformers exploding like it was the Fourth of July.

People were reaching out assist others. Shelters were opened up to help. Some of us were fortunate enough to have generators. I had one, along with one of my sons who also had one. Round up all the gas cans and keep them filled. Normally fill them before bedtime and the next morning.

Some of the people were lucky to get a hotel room. Either way it was expensive. We survived our worst ice storm ever, everybody was inconvenienced. The situation could have been more devastating if it was a tornado and flattened the whole area around us. So be very thankful.

Let's thank all the line workers from BWL and Consumers Power. Additional line workers were brought in from other states to assist. They were also inconvenienced. Away from their families for Christmas, plus working long hours every day.

We can talk about the ice storm of December 2013, telling our grandchildren how bad it was. I heard tall tales from my grandparents and parents about winters when they were growing up. Snow five feet deep and hooking up the horse to the sleigh and across the fields and over the fences.

You were in awe but you believed them. We are survivors, no matter what the situation is, we will make the best of it

### January Meeting

Nominations and acceptances for election meeting. Must be present to accept nomination. Vote at the February meeting.

# 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.

Buy Union! Buy American! LOCAL 602 Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary

# 75 years and counting-on you

Congratulations UAW Local 602! This year, we celebrate 75 years of Solidarity and Union activism. As we re-

flect on our Local's past, let us also look toward our Union's future with clarity and vision.

UAW The has a long history and legacy of fighting for social and economic jus-



tice. Some of our victories include civil rights, health and safety protections, a social security system, healthcare for the elderly, minimum wage, overtime, and environmental protections. Let these victories compel us to fight for our future.

Over the past few decades, our goal of reaching social and economic justice has become more difficult as Union density has declined. As a Union, to continue this immense work, our challenge is to rebuild our power through increased membership. We must look at home as well as beyond our own borders. Workers around the world share the same concerns and have the same basic needs as each of us.

Our UAW wheel represents the unified front that is created when we work together to build a solid core of Union activism. It's imperative that we take an active role in the future of our Union; if we do not stand up, then who will? It's important for our members to understand the issues that affect organized labor and working people and to elect workerfriendly candidates who look out for our

It's up to you, through Union involvement, to help determine the future of our success.

# **LOCAL 4911** Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary

# **Mother Nature's** one-two punch

I hope everyone had a safe and

happy New Year celebration. This past holiday season turned out to be like none other compared to the last several vears. The week of Christmas was an exasperating event for so



many of us who endured the challenges of living days without power.

One thing was very apparent to me, friends and neighbors gathered together to help each other. Generators wouldn't start for some and had to be worked on; neighbors depleted their supply of firewood for their fireplace which was their only source of heat. A heart-warming fact is that disasters usually bring out the best in many people.

Chain saws buzzed throughout neighborhoods clearing the debris from roads and sidewalks the week of Christmas and well into the next week. I found the nights were extremely eerie outside seeing blackness everywhere you looked. The only sounds were the hum of the generators running. I thought this is how living "off the grid" might be.

Late on the evening of the third day without power, a caravan of six Consumers Power trucks came down our road. I covered my face in my hands in relief - my prayers were answered. I felt so grateful for this blessing of men and women who were engaging in the most beautiful gift for so many of us restored power. Many of these workers left their families behind in other states to come to Lansing to help us.

Our area made the headline news which generated a myriad of phone calls to see how we were surviving the ordeal. Would we still make it home for Christmas? Not this year I'm afraid. Maybe in several days we could leave to celebrate our out-of-town Christmas. A thick coating of ice was weighing down the power lines and tree limbs were still randomly snapping and falling to the ground or hovering dangerously over our power lines. It was such a hopeless feeling knowing that we were powerless to help ourselves and totally dependent upon Consumers Power to return to a normal lifestyle.

Then Mother Nature gave us her second punch – a significant snowstorm which dumped 15 – 19 inches of snow on our area. High winds and bitter subzero temperatures followed. Schools and business' closed. Many roads were impassible and travel was restricted in Lansing. Didn't we just recover from an ice storm and major power outages? Once again, I witnessed neighbors and friends helping each other dig out from the significant snowfall.

Immediately following the snowfall, the drifting began which occurred with the high winds accompanied by the subzero temperatures. I was concerned with frostbite, sub-zero temperatures and breathing ice cold air. Many layers of clothes later, I could hardly bend over to put my boots on or start the snow blower. The only visible surface exposed to the harsh elements was my eyes. I walked like the proverbial abominable snowman. Please, Mother Nature, I have a request: spare us from any future winter storms and hurry Spring along.

For me, this experience was a lesson on how much we take for granted living our daily lives. We expect our days

Continued on page 5

LOCAL 724 Debra Mills, Financial Secretary

# To a brighter vear ahead

Happy New Year to everyone. As we look back on 2013, we have since

seen improvements on our economic decline which touched everyone in our nation. We all have family and friends who have been impacted by the loss of a job, home, or savings.



As we move into 2014, let's hope for a brighter and secure future.

All of us at Local 724 would like to thank everyone for their donations to the Tree of Warmth. I would like to thank the retiree that sends her handmade hats and mittens. Also thanks to Rod and Stephanie Duwig for her handmade hats, and scarves, along with Dean and Pat Paseka.

Our Holiday Tree of Warmth was a success, the hats, mittens, scarves and gloves will be given to the community for those in need.

Local 724 held the annual Children's Christmas party for its members on December 15. The party was wonderful, the families had a nice time, and the children saw Santa Claus.

They had many activities to participate in, and received a present from Santa. There where lots of smiling faces, so needless to say this event is not possible without the help from Local Staff, Officers, and local members and their families-especially the Women's Committee, along with Mary Holmer's donation of decorations and dedication, the event was again a success.

And big thanks to Santa, he was a hit, and he does carry a Union card!

The Local Toys-for-Tots drive was a big success this year. Thanks to Huntsman, RSDC, Alliance, and Bridgewater units as several boxes were filled. Thanks for all your time making sure the children received toys.

So as we continue in the 2014 year, let's still remember to buy American and buy union. We still have many of our sisters and brothers out of work, so let's continue to help our own and make 2014 even more successful.

Edgar Loring, Local 2256 Tammy Thompson, Local 2256

Joe Douglas, Local 4911 Rose Van Schoick, Local 4911

JANUARY, 204

**LOCAL 652 Bob Smith, Financial Secretary** 

# **Budget surplus?**

Michigan budget officials recently announced that they expect the state to have in the vicinity of a \$971 million dollar surplus this year and everyone in our

state government had an idea on what to do with the money. Republicans are calling for a tax cut. Democrats would like to increase funding for education, restore the Earned



Income Credit, and repeal the pension tax that was imposed last year. Local governments would like to get back some of the revenue-sharing that they've lost. Others are requesting more funding for roads, highways, and other infrastructure. Still others are suggesting to bank it or to use it to pay down the debt. Whichever strategy is used, I think we should first look at where the surplus comes from.

When Governor Snyder came to office he proposed a series of cost-cutting austerity measures. These included cuts to education, cuts in state revenue-sharing to local governments, the elimination of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. The list goes on and on. But let's not forget what else he did. The \$1.8 billion dollar gift in tax concessions to Michigan business was the crown jewel of his first years in office. So, in essence, he robbed from the poor and gave to the rich. (Funny, but that's not how I remember that old Sherwood Forest story.)

So, here we are a couple years down the road and we have a surplus which in my opinion is largely attributable to the success of the automobile industry recovery. What to do with it? If our law Continued on page 6

LOCAL 652 Randy Freeman, Vice President

# For your calendar

Upcoming important dates at UAW Local 652

February 9 Membership meetings February 14-16 – Oldsmobile Outdoor Club "Winterfest" in Grayling February 18 Oldsmobile Florida Picnic



March 1 - Women's Mini-Expo 2pm-6pm, celebrating Women's History Month

March 9 - Membership meetings (Daylight Savings Time begins)

March 13-15 - American Legion Veteran's Resource and Job Fair at Local 652

March 29 - Cesar Chavez Celebration April 13 – Membership meetings

May 16 - Pride Ride for Motorcycle Safety Awareness

Scott Lounds'article is on page 6.

# Lansing Labor News

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# **Dorothy Stevens**

# 602 retirees

As we enter a new year, we are faced with many challenges. Millions of seniors will continue to see their earned benefits on the chopping block. We cannot afford to sit back and allow Social Security and Medicare to continue to be used as scapegoats for Washington's spending problem.

Wall Street bankers, powerful insurance companies, and their deep-pocketed special interest groups are sparing no expense to win the battle to scale back your earned benefits and preserve tax loopholes for the wealthiest Americans.

The year 2014 is an election year and it will be necessary for everyone to jump in to help defeat the Tea Party Republicans and elect a Democratic majority in Congress to work with President Obama to keep America moving forward by helping its citizens to build better lives for themselves.

All euchre players, mark your calendars for April 30. The tournament will be held at Local 602 at 8:00 am with lunch being served at noon. Can we keep the trophy in Lansing another year? We'll see!

The session for retirees at Black Lake following Memorial Day will soon be here. I need an updated list of all retirees interested who have never gone before as a retiree. Please call me at 517-627-3542 to get your name on the list.

White Shirt Day is February 11. Don't forget to honor the SitDowners.

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

For those who are ill and homebound we wish you a speedy recovery in hopes you'll be well soon.

# Mike Bauer

# 652 retirees

Happy New Year everyone. 2014 has started out with a bang—ice storm, power outages, heavy snowfall, and extremely cold temperatures. Having gotten that out of the way, let's look forward to spring and a great year for everyone.

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 April 8. Social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only no guests.

The Oldsmobile Outdoor Club has supplied us with the following camping dates and locations:

May 16-17-18 Camp Michawana, Hastings

June 13-14-15 White Cloud Campground, White Cloud July 11-12-13 Leisure Lake Campground, Sumner

Aug. 8-9-10 Lakeside Camp Park, Cedar Springs

Sept. 12-13-14 Rocky's Campground, Albion

Oct. 10-11-12 Michigan Trap Shooting Association, Mason

For further information, call Wagon Master Jay Courser, 517-323-2331. Camping is not limited to retirees; active workers who are members of the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club are welcome

to join in the fun.

The Oldsmobile Florida Picnic is Tuesday, February 18, in Bradenton, Florida. It will be held at the American Legion Kirby Steward Post, 24000 75th Street West. Register at 11 a.m., eat at

The Region 1C Retiree Recreation Committee is having a euchre tournament for the Lansing area retirees on April 30 at Local 602, starting at 9:00 a.m. Please arrive by 8:45 a.m. You do not need a partner to play. Please call 372-7581 ext. 147, and leave your name and phone number if you wish to play. The winners of this tournament will play the winners of the Flint tournament in the afternoon, at Local 602, following lunch.

The retirees are having a trip to Chicago September 9-12. Call Marni for details. 517-321-6871.

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 all the families who have had a loved one pass.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Joyce and Herb Fernholz, Dave Hodges, Don & Helen Hogan, Dorothy Hoisington, Leonard Schneider, Bob & 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 this email address: retiree652@hotmail.com

# 000000000

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.

# Laura Clark

# 1753 retirees

Hello everyone, Happy New Year! Thank you to the retirees executive

board and all the holiday revelers who attended the 1753 Christmas party. Special thanks to Sharon Knopf, Denny Slowinski and Nancy Munchbach, who came early to set up.



Also, thanks to members active and retired who brought treats and helped clean up. Brian Fox, former executive board member, deserves a huge thanks. He got to the party late, but he too brought refreshments.

Brian was not the only elected officer past or present who was there. The retirees enjoyed seeing and visiting with the officers and representatives they have voted for in the past. We did the whole eat, drink and be merry.

Many got photo books out and reminisced sitting by the fire. The fireplace was furnished by Pam and Hal Andrews, and the fire by Nancy Munchbach. Pizza was ordered as needed, Christmas carols sung on the hour. All agreed it was a splendid Christmas party.

We should all be proud of our members both active and retired who were involved in fund-raising. Both local charities, St. Vincent and the Lansing Area Food Bank, will benefit from our busy brothers' and sisters' generosity, thank you.

Last year we had an out-reach to retirees and their spouses to join the membership. We were pleased so many of you responded and were nice enough to include your share. Thank you.

If you pay and have not received your "Proud to Pay MY Dues!" button, see me at the next meeting. Every month is a good month to pay your dues, but the first of the year is a good reminder if you and your spouse were thinking about it.

Reminder, the Florida picnic is coming up! Tuesday February 18 in Bradenton at the American Legion, 24000 75th Street West, register at 11a.m., eat at noon. Call 517-626-2398 for more info. snowbirds.

Speaking of picnics, we are looking to shake up the Region 1C Lansing areawide picnic. The parks are now charging a fee for each car entering on top of a pavilion fee.

So if you know a nice area or a good caterer please let me know. For all that cost we deserve a nice venue and a catered meal with no muss or fuss (no dish to pass) for our retirees.

It's hard to believe that spring will ever come back, but if it does ... think about retirees up north. If you have not been to Black Lake since retirement you and your spouse are eligible. Put yourself on the list. Educate yourself on all manner of issues important to retirees and their associates. Call me or leave your name and number at the hall.

No date is set for elections but look for them to be in May. Remember to vote and support your retired brothers and sisters.

Next meeting is on the second Thurs-

day of the month, February 13. Generally we have coffee at 11:00 a.m., lunch at 12:00 noon and a short meeting to follow. I do hope to see you at the next one!

## **Lois Schultz**

# 1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people! IWhat about this winter?! We

got 22 inches at Narrow Lake. Cold? Yes, it's cold all right! We haven't had a winter like this in forever. Michigan, what can I say? Though it's cold down south, too.



I canceled my appointments, as it's too cold to go out for this old gal.

On February 12 we will have our soup luncheon. That's the second Wednesday of the month.

Associate dues are due now. If no associate dues are paid, they have to pay regular price on the trips and things we go on. This is only fair, as we all work hard to keep our retirees afloat.

People who've recently had or will have birthdays: Richard Zelenka, Connie Gauss, Dick Torguson, Joe Sagy, Dianna Sagy, Margret Mathews, Ted Gauss (March), Jerry Hunt.

Anniversary: 50 years for Richard and Diann Zelenka.

Don't forget our meetings. We would like to see more of you. I am so happy to be home. I do have to be careful not to fall.

# 602 Obituaries

Jacqueline Martin – Daughter of John Polhamus, Retired

Benny Ross – Father of Tameca Jackson, General Assembly Engine Dress Thomas I. Ivan – Father of Nick Waun,

General Assembly Trim 5 (Team 3) Robert Quinn – Retired, Skilled Trades Andrew Taylor – Retired

John Kutchie – Retired Eddies Gentry – Retired

Vincent Adrian Brown – Father of Christopher V. Brown

George Tesarik Sr. – Father of George Tesarik Jr., Retired

George M. Castaneda – Father of Dan Castaneda, Retired

Shirley Webster - Mother of Tim Webster

Sylvester Mahaffey – Retired Donald Jarvis – Retired

Donald Jarvis – Retired Gloria Larner – Retired, General Assembly Trim 2

Roger Pool – Retired Stanley Kioski – Retired Willie Cherry – Retired Leonard Fulcher – Retired

Roseanne Fulghal – Mother of Sue Ellis, General Assembly Engine Dress

Ruth Schank – Mother of Treasa (Plumb) Schank, General Assembly AGV

Helen M. Surateaux – Mother of Sue Surateaux, General Assembly Engine Dress

Walter J. Moore – Father of Ben Moore, General Assembly Chassis ARM Darlene Jados – Mother of Tony Jados, General Assembly Trim 3

Obituaries continue on page 6

# **Veterans report**

### By Michael Melfi, UAW Local 652 Veteran's Chair

Your Veterans Committee of Local 652 would like to share with you some of the events that we have been involved with this past Christmas Holiday and upcoming dates.

On **December 18** members of Region 1-C Veterans Association and representatives from the International in Detroit were present when the Mt. Morris Senior High School A Cappella Choir sang Christmas carols for the ambulatory Veterans at the VA Medical Facility in Battle Creek. Later that evening, additional members of UAW Region 1-C Association helped distribute Christmas gifts for those same Veterans. The experience may have brought a tear to the eye or a lump in your throat, but left you feeling good about yourself.

Region 1-C Veterans Association will be holding their first quarter general membership meeting on Monday, February 10, at 9:30 a.m. at the Region 1-C Office in Flint. This meeting, as all of our Veteran meetings, is open to ALL hourly and salary employees of GM and our ISP employees. Everyone is welcomed to attend and be part of the business conducted on behalf of all Veterans, in our plants and our communities. The Executive Board will meet at 8:30 a.m.

On Tuesday, February 11 we will be celebrating "White Shirt Day" on behalf of our UAW/GM "Sit-Downers", who were courageous in a time when our voices needed to be heard and the birth of our UAW organization at GM.

This will be in Flint at UAW Local 599.

The State of Michigan American Legion Headquarters here in Lansing is going to host a "Job Fair and Veteran's Benefit Forum" from Thursday March 13 to Saturday March 15 at the Local 652 Union Hall. The event is open to all UAW/GM hourly and salary Veterans as well as our community Veterans. As soon as all details are finalized we will post morel information in the LGR newsletter, Delta's weekly newsletter, UAW 652 website, and Region 1-C website.

Once again we are collecting for our annual "Coats for Veterans." This event is to help the homeless Veterans in our Lansing community in these below average winter temperatures. Now that the holidays are gone and you have new coats, this would be a great opportunity to make your donation on behalf of our homeless Veterans. A box is set up in the lobby of Local 652 for your donation. Please remember, the articles should be CLEAN, slightly worn coats and jackets. They are also accepting women's and children's coats. These will be forwarded on to the Women's & Children's Shelter here in Lansing.

We owe each day of security and freedom we enjoy to the members of our armed forces, veterans, the fallen and their families. Behind our brave service men and women are the family members who share in their sacrifices. On behalf of all the UAW Veteran Committees in Region 1-C, to include Region 1-C Veteran's Association, we thank you for your support of our homeless and disabled veterans and military personnel serving in our Armed Services.

# NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOTICE FOR UAW LOCAL 2256

Nominations and Elections of the Local Election Committee Nominations for up to four (4) Local 2256 Election Committee Members

will take place:
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Time: 7:30 p.m. Place: UAW Local 2256 Union Hall

Candidates must accept nomination at the nomination meeting or if not in attendance, submit a written acceptance to UAW Local 2256, 2114 North East Street, Lansing, MI 48906, by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

# NOMINATIONS OF UAW LOCAL 2256 OFFICERS AND THE 36th UAW CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

We will be accepting nominations beginning Monday, March 17, 2014 through Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at Local 2256 and at the Local 2256 Membership meeting, March 26, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Candidates must accept nomination at the nomination meeting or if not in attendance, submit a written acceptance to UAW Local 2256, 2114 North East Street, Lansing, MI 48906, by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2014. Nominations for the offices of President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, three (3) Trustees, Sergeant-at-Arms, Guide and the 36th UAW Constitutional Convention Delegates.

### Eligibility Requirements as per Article 8, Section 11 of the UAW International Constitution

"No member is eligible to serve as a delegate from her/his Local Union unless s/he has been in continuous good standing in this International Union for twelve (12) months immediately preceding the first day of the month in which the convention is held and shall also have been a member of the Local Union electing her/him for three (3) months immediately preceding the first day of the month in which the Convention is held. For the purpose of this Section of the constitution, members must pay their dues or secure out-of-work credits receipts in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

# Election of UAW Local 2256 Officers and the 36th UAW Constitutional Convention Delegates will take place:

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2014 Time: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: UAW Local 2256, 2114 North East Street, Lansing

**RUN-OFF ELECTION (IF NECESSARY)** 

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2014 Time: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: UAW Local 2256, 2114 North East Street, Lansing

- UAW LOCAL 2256 ELECTION COMMITTEE

# UAW LOCAL 724 NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOTICE

### Nominations & Election of the Election Committee

Nominations for up to nine (9) Local 724 Election Committee members will take place:

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: UAW Local 724 Hall

Candidates must accept nomination at the nomination meeting or, if not in attendance, submit a written acceptance to UAW Local 724, 450 Clare Street, Lansing, MI 48917, by 4:00 p.m., on Friday, February 14, 2014. (*Units will conduct their own nominations for Unit level election committee members*)

# Nomination of UAW Local 724 Officers and 36th UAW Constitutional Convention Delegates

Nominations for the offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, three (3) Trustees, Sergeant-at-Arms, Guide and 36th UAW Constitutional Convention Delegates will be conducted at the date, time and place indicated below:

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: UAW Local 724 Hall

Candidates must accept nomination at the nomination meeting or, if not in attendance, submit a written acceptance to UAW Local 724, 450 Clare Street, Lansing, MI 48917, by 4:00 p.m., on Friday, March 14, 2014. (Units will conduct their own nominations for Unit level officers & committeepersons)

### Eligibility Requirements as per Article 8, Section 11 of the UAW International Constitution

"No member is eligible to serve as a delegate from her/his Local union unless s/he has been in continuous good standing in this International Union for twelve (12) months immediately preceding the first day of the month in which the Convention is held and shall also have been a member of the Local Union electing her/him for three (3) months immediately preceding the first day of the month in which the Convention is held. For the purpose of this Section of the Constitution, members must pay their dues or secure out-of-work credits receipts in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

### Election of UAW Local 724 Officers & 36th UAW Constitutional Convention Delegates, Unit Officers & Unit Committepersons

Date: Monday, May 5, 2014
Time: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Place: UAW Local 724 Hall
RUN-OFF ELECTION (if necessary)
Date: Monday, May 12, 2014
Time: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Place: UAW Local 724 Hall

 Kim Petrie, Local 724 Election Committee Chairperson Dean L. Poggiali, Local 724 President

# **Van Schoick**

### Continued from page 4

to be predictable. We want and need electricity, heat, water, sewer, food, clothing, etc. We expect our winter roads to be cleared daily for safe travel to and from work.

Mother Nature, however, had a few lessons in mind which brought us back to reality. Be grateful for the things that you have and be mindful of what they are. Maybe a part of my New Year's resolution should be to assemble and stock that emergency kit I have been thinking about.

## Contract Security of a New Year

2014 is mid-term for our 3 year collective bargaining agreement. We can expect the contract to be predictable we have security. It is what the bargaining team negotiated. We have wages based on our skills, a set schedule of raises for two more years, Holiday pay, on call pay, vacation time, health care, vision, dental insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, pensions/401's, even tuition reimbursement if we are not satisfied with our hourly wage and wish to challenge ourselves to advance our careers. Mother Nature will not change our contract. We are not "at will" employees and nothing will change our contract until the next time we sit down and negotiate with Sparrow. We have a security knowing we have jobs as long as we are employees who follow the rules of the contract. It is spelled out for us in black and white.

We need to get to work on time, be mindful of our attendance and show respect for our fellow workers. We have a security unlike many of our neighbors, family members, friends and even some of our co-workers. We can go to sleep every night knowing we have jobs the next day as long as we practice and follow the rules which were agreed upon.

I believe that the vast majority of us will gladly pay monthly union dues to obtain that level of security in these troubled economic times - especially with corporate greed at an all time maximum high level.

How many believe that your children will secure a full time job in the very near future with benefits such as we have?

# 4911 members, Save the Date!

Local 4911 will be holding a bowling event on March 22nd at SpareTime in Frandor from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon for UAW Sparrow employees. Registration will begin in February. Please watch the bulletin boards and emails for further information.

**LOCAL 652** Scott R. Lounds. **Recording Secretary** 

# The Legislature, supporting the rich ... again

In December of last year the Republican-controlled State House and Senate passed legislation which was signed into

law by Governor Snyder that doubled-that's right, doubledthe limits on what an individual or PAC can contribute to a candidate for state office. This legislation passed without garnering a single



vote from a Democrat in either chamber. Statistics show that a very small percentage of donors ever reached the existing cap for individual donations. So then why raise the limits? I would say because the wealthy donors who did reach the cap can now give twice as much. These donors were almost exclusively Republican. Additionally, now the Republicans' corporate bagmen can also give twice as much per candidate.

Our political system could do with less money, not more. On top of this, the legislature passed a new law on so-called "issue" ads. The Secretary of State had proposed rules that would have required donor disclosure for ads that were candidate-based if they ran within 30 days of a primary or 60 days of the general election. The Republican legislature shot down these rules and instead required only a disclaimer stating who endorsed the ad. There are no limits on what groups can spend on "issue" ads, and the people who pay for them can remain anonymous.

The Republicans claim this is a free speech issue. Well, no one is trying to limit groups' ability to express an opinion, but the Republicans don't seem to think we even deserve to know whose opinion ads are expressing.

The kind of groups that can now stay hidden by sticking to "issue" ads, meaning ads that do not directly endorse or oppose a candidate, are largely wellfunded conservative groups. Probably the most anti-union, pro-business, pro-free market of these conservative groups is the Mackinaw Center for Policy Research. the largest conservative state-level policy think tank in the nation. It was established in 1987. largely with funding from the shadowy Cornerstone Foundation whose board included John Engler and a number of insurance industry executives. Its original focus was tort reform, driven by the liability of Dow Corning from faulty silicone implants.

According to its current president, some of the Center's policy goals include modernizing labor laws, aligning state spending to its core priorities, protecting property rights, repealing counterproductive regulations and ending economic development programs. They want to attack workers' rights, stop protecting worker safety and the environment, and stop funding programs for low-income areas.

Most alarming for the Labor Movement and Unionists should be the Center's Publication of its "Collective Bargaining Primer" in which it makes the following assertion. That Unions do not necessarily represent the best interests of their rankand-file members, nor do they act according to the wishes of their members. It went so far as to call for making public sector unions illegal in Michigan. But don't think that means private sector unions are not on their radar. They were firmly behind right-to-work with the president emeritus and former economics professor stating, "We have got to do something bold, something dramatic. [Right-to-work] is the one best thing that can break the perception around the country that Michigan does not have a friendly work environment. Nothing would do that better than a right-to-work initiative.'

They spout their conservative propaganda through various media, with the vast majority of the funding for their publication being secret. Until the Supreme Court overturns its Citizens United ruling, this is the world we live in-one where deeppocketed conservatives are spending money to shape the world to their vision.

What it comes down to for me is this. There are two reasons that groups hide behind anonymity and the current laws on disclosure. First, they think that if people knew who paid for the ads they could see the self-serving economic interest behind the millions of dollars spent each year; or second, they are cowards who do not have the courage of their convictions.

# **Smith**

Continued from page 3

makers have any kind of conscience they will first look at the people hardest hit by the austerity measures, the middle class and low-wage workers. Reinstating the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Credit would be great places to start. A reduction or full elimination of the pension tax would be another. Our state recovery should not be on the backs of the poor or those on a fixed income. Increasing school funding across the board, not just to those schools who "earn" it is another worthy cause.

\$971 million may sound like a lot of money but it will be gone in a flash with the huge list of "wants" out there. I want you to contact your legislators and encourage them to help the ones who need it the most, the working poor and pensioners. A tax cut to everyone is a politician's dream, especially in an election year, but I'd like to think that if we all communicate our common desires we may be able to influence them to do the right thing. What can I say, I'm an eternal optimist!

### Don't Forget...

The Oldsmobile Outdoor Club is hosting their annual "Winterfest" family getaway at Grayling, Michigan starting on Friday, February 14 through Sunday, February 16. Registration starts at noon on Friday at the Ramada Inn of Grayling. This will be the location for registration and headquarters for all our events.

The weekend is packed full of events, starting with family bingo Friday evening. There will be a Poker Run, Snowmobile Safari, adult and kid's fishing contests, good food, great company, and as always lots and lots of prizes!

Whether you are an old hand at the club's "Winterfest" or a complete newbie you are sure to have a great time! Please come and join the fun!

Rooms are available at the Ramada Inn of Grayling, phone (989) 348-7611 and other area hotels. Please tell them you are with the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club. For information, www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com.

# 602 Obituaries

Continued from page 4

Charles Smith - Father of Mike Smith. General Assembly Chassis 2

Helen Smith - Mother of Mike Smith, General Assembly Chassis 2

Walter L. Dexter - Father of Ron Dexter, Material

Daniel Vanarsdall - Retired

Beverly Ballant - Mother of Randy Ballant, Material

Ronald Cornell - Retired, Skilled Trades Richard Todd – Retired Harry Sturm – Retired Paint

Michael Osgood - Retired Quality and Committeeperson

Donald Bruce Redman - Father of Melanie Malek, General Assembly Engine Dress and Father-in-Law of Jeff Malek, Shop Committee

William Hoople – Father of Lesley Sherwood, Body Shop D-Rings Chester Savage - Retired

Dale Jones – Retired

Nancy J. Sherwood - Wife of Howard Sherwood, Retired

Archie Gould - Father of Tawnya Miller, General Assembly Trim 2 (Team 6) Roy Knoblauch - Material Body/Paint Larry Malek - Retired; Uncle of Jeff Malek, Shop Committee and Melanie Malek, General Assembly Engine

Lloyd Wolever - Retired Louis Asher – Mother of Craig Asher, General Assembly Chassis 1

Local 602... Thank you so much for the beautiful Bible. It means so much to our family. God Bless... Ruth and John Polhamus (The Family of John Polhamus)

# 652 Obituaries

Merval D. Carter - Father-in-Law of Brian Van Neste

Johnnie Chappell - Spouse of William Chappell

Chad Cochran - Step-Son of Rex Hutchison

Walter Dexter - Retiree, Father of Ronald Dexter

Paula Gates – Sister of Moses Hobbs Elizabeth Condra-Guzman - Daughter of Oliver Condra

Robert Law – Retiree Robert "Bob" L. Lord Jr. – Retiree

Ralph V. Murray - Retiree, Father of Michael and Steven Murray

Douglas Rohrer - Retiree

Joseph Smolka - Retiree, Brother of John Smolka

Elizabeth Maxine Starbard - Mother of Darrel Starbard

David Thayer - Retiree Gene F. Thompson – Retiree

Eva Waltz – Mother of Robert Waltz Jr.

Thank-You's were received from: The Elizabeth Condra-Guzman Family

The Robert Lord Jr. Family The Elizabeth Starbard Family

# 1753 Obituaries

Sam Raleigh Rod McMillian Marvin (Marv) Davis John Rowley Al Mix James Harrison Robert (Biz) Philleson Marilyn J. Schmidt



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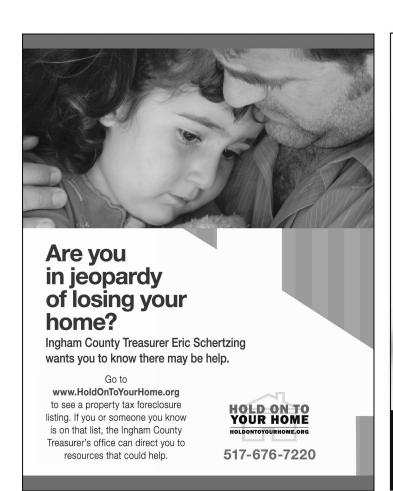
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