



# Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 68, NUMBER 2

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS



MAY, 2012



Local union members and officers rally against anti-labor Governors Rick Snyder of Michigan and Scott Walker of Wisconsin outside a GOP fundraiser.

## We've always made our own history

By Art Luna, UAW Region 1C CAP Coordinator

As all of you are aware, we continue to see attacks on us here in Michigan—right in the center of Region 1C, at our state capitol in Lansing.

And it's right down party lines: all Republicans in the State Senate and State House have continually passed legislation that has not created a single job or resolved any of the state's deficit. It's all been a direct attack aimed at the destruction of the middle class, destruction of public education and our investment in our children, the dismantling of tax credits, reductions in earned

income tax credits, reductions in unemployment insurance and wages, taxing the pensions of our seniors to give corporations and the wealthy tax breaks—\$1.8 billion dollars worth!

Taking away our rights to democracy when voting for our elected officials through the powers of a financial manager, bills in committee to suppress voters' rights, and yes, trying to eliminate our rights to collective bargaining. That's all we've seen for the past 16 months. With the Republicans controlling every aspect of government, there's NO ACCOUNTABILITY.

See page 5 for how we can fight back.

## In memory of Chris "Tiny" Sherwood

Christen G. Sherwood was born June 11, 1949 in Lansing, MI, the son of the late Gerald and Phyllis Sherwood, passed away April 18, 2012 at the age of 62. Christen was a resident of Lansing his whole life. He retired as President of UAW Local 652. He enjoyed racing and was the owner of his own race team and was an avid golfer. Surviving to cherish his memory are his daughter, Amy (Douglas) Mumby; grandchildren, Christen, Rembrandt and Michelangelo; great-granddaughter, Evelyn; and sister, Kathleen DeForest, as well as several nieces and nephews. Please see Mike Green's

article on page 2 for more information on Sherwood. Those desiring may make contributions to the Greater Lansing Food Bank, PO Box 16224, Lansing, MI 48901 or to the American Diabetes Association, Memorial and Honor Program, PO Box 13067, Alexandria, VA 22312 in memory of Chris. Memories may be shared with the family at [www.grlansing.com](http://www.grlansing.com)



Lansing Labor News

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Periodical Postage Paid at Lansing, MI

## We are in motion!

Dean Poggiali, President, Local 724

Let me first apologize for my laziness in preparing an article for the Lansing Labor News website on a monthly basis. There is no excuse for not properly keeping the lines of communication open. When we had the monthly deadline for the paper version, it seems as though my gray matter reacted more timely.



A few updates from the Local. John Bramble was elected as the Local 724 Sergeant-at-Arms earlier this year. John has served on the Executive Board previously and is also the Local Health & Safety Standing Committee Chair. John has also served in a variety of roles as an elected person from his Unit, RSDC. Normally we would welcome John aboard, but due to his involvement he never left. Congrats are still in order, albeit late.

Jane Woodbury was recently elected to the position of the JLL-Drayton Unit Chair. Jane is relatively new to the union process, so we will make sure that we can help her learn about the Local.

The IMPCO Unit recently ratified a new contract. The Unit has seen its share of difficulties. Our sincere hope is that the management will be able to secure new work for the membership.

The Region recently conducted some training about the petition drive to help secure signatures that will look to place a collective bargaining initiative on the ballot. This measure will make sure that we have protections from the misguided legislation we are currently seeing by our State legislators. In order to sign the petition you must be a registered voter. We have the petitions at the Local and many of our Unit leadership have also attended the training and have the petitions in your worksite.

As stated above, many of the pieces of legislation being passed in Lansing don't do anything but create an unfair playing field for working people. Our ability to provide for our families is constantly being eroded.

The thing that irks many of us is that the changes have not been done to create jobs. They are punitive measures that are clearly being structured by the right wing and business concerns.

By signing the petition we can work at leveling the playing field. Remember the 2010 elections were decided by only 46% of the registered voters actually getting out voting. This is not acceptable this fall. We can't let 2010 be repeated in 2012.

Changing gears, the Volunteers of America will again be holding a Home-

less Veterans Stand Down on May 23 at Riverfront Park. The event connects services with veterans who need some assistance to cope with a variety of issues. They can access legal assistance, health professionals, veteran's services, job related services, and haircuts, to name a few. One way we can help is by dropping off travel- or trail-size items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and like items. You can drop off items at the hall and we will make sure they get to the project. The UAW Region 1-C Veterans Association participates by manning the grill to cook the food for the participants. It should not be permitted to utter a phrase that has homeless and veterans in the same sentence.

Another way we can assist in the community is by being involved with the National Association of Letter Carriers' annual food drive. The event is on May 12 and allows us to put nonperishable items by our mailbox to be picked up and then transported to the central food bank. There are several ways to help. One, you can put food by the mailbox; second, you can work on the 12th at a variety of locations; and lastly, you can help sort the donations after the event. Please call me at 517-203-5027 if you are interested.

The UAW National Independent Parts Suppliers (IPS) Conference was held recently in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference provided the delegates the opportunity to be proactive in the course of the sector within the UAW. There were workshops, panel discussions, testimonials from workers being mistreated by their management, and thought-provoking discussion.

One of the highlights on top of the aforementioned items was the appearance of Danny Glover. The actor best known for his acting roles is a community and social activist of the highest level. Danny discussed the need to engage on a more thorough and passionate level with our communities. He challenged us to return to the grassroots level to take back the community we have helped create.

It will not easy, but in order to have a meaningful and prosperous middle class we must start now. Many of the changes needed may not be fulfilled in our work lives, but the ability to impact our children and grandchildren is sorely needed.

Many thanks go to UAW Vice-President Cindy Estrada and her staff for arranging the conference. Even without the inspiring words of Danny Glover, the delegates were exposed to a world of information to bring back home.

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

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

## A scary future— unless we act!

Thank you for standing in Solidarity and signing the 'Protect Our Jobs Petition' which will allow us to vote on an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Michigan. Once passed, this amendment will protect our collective bargaining rights. Please continue to encourage ALL your friends and neighbors to sign this petition. We have GÖT to speak up.



Here's your future and mine: (If we don't stand together and speak up):

Forward to 2013; Well, as I sit here typing my Lansing Labor News article I can't help wonder how different things could have been had we just stuck together last year and did what we said we would do. Actions speak louder than words but we depended on others rather than ourselves to go out and fight to win back justice.

My wife now has to work two hours a day for free or lose her job. We have no more bargaining power, so she keeps working what and where she can or we have nothing to eat or a place to stay.

My employer will NOT be held accountable for ANY injuries on the job or poor working conditions, because our Governor will soon mandate that none of them will have to abide.

My prescriptions are pretty expensive, but I just cut down on what I take. This way, I still have enough left over at the end of the week to buy some food and toilet paper. Only 1 in 25 patients react to not taking their medication timely, hope I'm lucky!

I've added three new walls to my house—we don't have a living room anymore, but at least my children and grandchildren have a place to live. We share incomes so we can eat. We're so glad that the Governor 'likes' us and promised to not take sides when it was time for him to vote on our safety and well-being in the state of Michigan.

After the passage of House Bill 4059 that prohibits paying union officials for conducting union business, the Republican-controlled Senate has introduced a similar bill to do the same for private employers. I estimate our local funds will have all but depleted within weeks after this bill gets passed as we continue to ensure our membership is represented.

It's sad to think of how this country has been turned upside down since the elections. I for one really thought we could get enough signatures on the Protect Our Jobs petition to get collective bargaining on the ballot for Michigan. I also thought we would have enough voters at the polls that understood the importance of workers' rights and social justice. Our new President's speech last night didn't give any indication he would support the rights of the working class in this country and already he has made promises to corporations that will cost the taxpayers dearly, something President Obama would never have done!

**Sign the petition!** Call your representatives in Lansing and Washington.



A recent petition drive at Local 652 to protect collective bargaining rights.

## New member orientation

Welcome to all our new hires. Over the last few weeks, GM started calling our new employees in for orientation. We were able to negotiate one day for union awareness as well.

Norwood Jewell, our Region 1-C Director, attended the new hires orientation and spoke on the union's role and the history of the UAW. Thanks to our Regional Director for taking the time to attend our meetings.



Our local's officers also attended and explained their duties at the local.

Thanks also to our Bargaining Committee and Chairman who were in attendance to answer any questions our new hires had.

It was great news to hear that GM returned to #1 automaker. Thanks to each and every employee who takes pride in their job to help build our products that the public thinks so highly of.

Just think, a few short years ago GM was on the verge of bankruptcy. In December of 2008 a group of Lansing-area labor leaders went to Washington D.C. to talk to any of our representatives who would listen to support the loan to GM. Not a bailout, a loan!

Thanks to President Obama, who led the way to help save GM. The action taken by the President helped save over 1.1 million jobs directly and indirectly related to GM, plus the retirement program and health care for retirees through contract negotiation.

Our people were not looking for a handout but a chance to prove that we are hard-working men and women who love our country and go to work every day to build the best products in the world. We've never believed in the trickle-down theory that the Republican Party believes in. Our membership has been trickled on too many times, and we don't like it!

### CAP News

Election time is near, so the summer and fall airwaves will be filled with those campaign ads. Our CAP executive board will be doing screening on all candidates who ask for our endorsement. These endorsements are done to help each member know who has got their backs

when it comes to legislation that impacts our lives.

President Obama spoke about his position on the loan to GM at the national CAP meeting in Washington. He said that he will bet on the side of labor every time, as it was the right thing to do. On the other hand, Mitt Romney, the current frontrunner in the Republican Party, went on record saying GM should have been let go to bankruptcy!

If for no other reason, President Obama has earned our support.

### Community Services Class

My congratulations to all the community services representatives from the greater Lansing area who attended classes on helping our members in our community when need arises. Dean Poggiali and Glen Freeman are our labor liaisons at United Way and did a great job of instruction and leading the discussions.

The fourth annual Plant 3 Reunion will be held at the Irish Pub on June 12 from 3:00 p.m. till ? For more information, call Al Freeman at (517) 819-8657.

Have a safe and wonderful summer. Check the Lansing Labor News website for updates and information: [lansinglabornews.org](http://lansinglabornews.org)

### Chris "Tiny" Sherwood

I would like to extend my condolences, as well as those of our members, officers, and staff to the family of Chris "Tiny" Sherwood. He was my predecessor in the office of President of Local 652. Here is a list of Chris' accomplishments in the labor movement and the community:

- 6 years President of Local 652
- 9 years Vice-President of Local 652
- 12 years Shop Committee
- 8 years District Committeeperson
- 1 year Alternate Committeeperson
- 3 years Sergeant-at-Arms
- 3 years Community Services Committee
- Delegate to 26th, 28th, 30th, 33rd, and 34th Constitutional Conventions
- Labor Law instruction, Lansing Community College and UAW
- Delegate to 1981, 1987, and 1993 National Bargaining Conventions
- Delegate to 1990 National Resolutions Convention
- Local negotiations: 1976, 1982, 1984, 1987, and 1990
- Board of Directors of Lansing Area Safety Council
- President, Lansing Area Safety Council
- President, Capital Area CAP Council
- Chairman, Lansing Labor News
- Children's Miracle Network—Doug Griffith Community Service Award

## Back to the bargaining table

The winter is past us and summer is around the corner. Who would believe the mild winter that Mother Nature blessed us with? And the beautiful weather the past couple of months. People doing yard work, mowing the yard, etc.—in March! Motorcycles are out, everyone is enjoying it, and most importantly, you feel healthier.

The Shop Committee finally reached a tentative local agreement with management. A vote was taken, with production approving their part and skilled trades turning it down. This means the Shop Committee will attempt to make some corrections and vote on it again.

It's good to see the young seniority members attending membership meetings and volunteering their time. During the month of March, drives and other money-raising events took place in the plant with the proceeds going to the March of Dimes to help families with premature babies. The afternoon captain was Shrae Fultron for Local 1753, and Erin Buckner was the day shift captain for management. A total of \$2,100 was raised. Shrae, we thank you very much for accepting to represent your local in this joint venture.

The June, July, and August general membership meetings have been cancelled for Local 1753 members and also sanitation workers.

Executive board meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month at the union hall, beginning at 2:15 p.m.

## Happy spring!

Although this past winter may not have been one of the worst we have ever lived through, it is still nice to see the season change.

Spring is the season of change and rebirth—new hopes, new dreams, and new hires! Yes, Local 652 and Lansing Grand River are finally putting on a second shift and new hires are coming in for the first time in recent memory! They will build the all-new Cadillac ATS along with all the CTS models currently in production.

I'd like to say "Welcome" to all of the folks that are coming in, whether this is your return to our Local or this is your first time with us. It's certainly a pleasure to see all the new faces. We are proud of the membership of Local 652 and want you to be proud to be a part of the best Local and the best workforce in the world!

The Hall is open 7 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday. Benefit reps are available at the hall Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7 AM to 4 PM and Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM. The general membership meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month at 6 PM. For more info please visit us at [www.uawlocal652.org](http://www.uawlocal652.org) or call (517) 372-7581. We look forward to seeing you.



## LOCAL 602

Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary

# We need you

Unions are under attack in Michigan. Never before have we seen such intentional targeting by the Legislature to dismantle the power of Unions and take down the middle class. Many of the bills that are in the House and Senate right now would limit or eliminate what Unions have bargained for over many years. Politicians and corporate special interests have every intention of stripping basic protections from each and every Union member.



My father was a proud Union member, and like him, I am a proud Union member. My hope is that my children and someday, when I have them, my grandchildren, can become proud Union members. They may never have that opportunity, however, if we do not stand up and become politically active. No one can stand alone in this fight. We need your help and support.

The UAW wheel is not just a symbol to wear at work and forget about when you go home. Take time to remember why you wear that symbol. In Solidarity, we can achieve justice for all. Do you want to stand by and watch everything we have bargained for over entire generations be written off in the passing of a few bills by arrogant politicians? Collective bargaining is our voice. It's imperative that we protect our rights.

Check out any of these web sites for opportunities to become involved:

- uaw.org
- uawregion1c.org
- local602.org
- AFL-CIO.org
- cluw.org
- moveon.org
- wearethepeople.com
- wiredforchange.com

## LOCAL 4911

Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary

# Let's be heard

The Legislature currently in office is making life extremely difficult for many citizens in our state. There are 80+ bills pending that would strip protections from working people. Instead of creating jobs and helping those who have lost their job, they are acting for corporate special interest groups to slash workers' rights, wages, benefits, and pensions. Many are anti-worker, anti-family and anti-union groups who are making it nearly impossible for our friends in office to act in the people's interest.



According to the 99% Spring training book, a recent Supreme Court decision "allows corporations to spend an unlimited amount of money in the political process." The people, on the other hand, don't have unlimited funding for elaborate television commercials, advertising, fundraising events, etc. What we do have though is an opportunity to band

together and have our voices collectively heard through strength in numbers. We can make a difference.

Legislation is also being passed attacking the rights of workers in Michigan to bargain collectively. Petitions are currently being circulated for our membership to sign (as registered voters) to place this issue on the November ballot as a Constitutional Amendment in Michigan. (If you are not a registered voter, we can also help you become registered so you can be qualified to vote in the upcoming elections.)

Your union office has petitions available for your signature. We need 322,000+ signatures by July, 2012. Please visit our Administrative office or the UAW house to sign a petition or simply come to a monthly membership meeting (fourth Wednesday of the month) where petitions are also available.

You may wonder how this destructive group became members of our Legislature. *The answer is because the middle class, the workers and the poor stayed home on Election Day a year and a half ago and kept their voices silent.* (Only 40% of our state voted in the last election.)

**How do we fix the mess we are in?** We educate ourselves with the facts and help to educate those around us. We begin by talking to our families, our co-workers, our friends, our neighbors. Click on the yellow AFL-CIO Legislative Report section on the home page of our website ([www.uawlocal4911.org](http://www.uawlocal4911.org)) to read a listing of the anti-worker House and Senate bills that are pending.

We can also join the 99% Spring movement ([the99spring.com](http://the99spring.com)) or you can visit their tumblr at <http://wearethe99percent.tumblr.com> for inspirational stories of people who are standing up for a change in our society. We all have stories and opportunities which can motivate us to get involved for social change as most of us are in the 99%.

I believe we, as voting citizens, now realize exactly how we all have contributed to our own demise. Therefore, we all have a responsibility to our families, our fellow workers and our society in general to be motivated to vote in the upcoming elections and help "the people" reclaim our country. We cannot afford to let our union voices be silent any longer. The middle class has been under attack long enough—this fight is not just about your future. Your family's future is at stake and it is now up to you to step up to the plate and do your part. Some politicians are counting on you to not pay attention and not go to the polls this year. Let's prove them wrong!

### Don't be fooled – be ready

Anti-worker legislators are trying to pass bills to reduce wages and benefits for workers (union or non-union). In the past, the phony title was called "Right-to-Work." The unaware may be fooled by a new title of the same old scam: "Freedom to Work." No matter what they may call it, don't be fooled, stay informed. Right-to-work (for less) is simply a means for national interest groups to increase business profits while destroying unions, cutting our wages and benefits.

Michigan is a free bargaining state. Union members on average earn 17% more than non-union workers. Unions improve your living standards (through increased wages, benefits, healthcare, pensions, etc.) **not** "right-to-work" laws.

## LOCAL 652

Randy Freeman, Vice President

# Stand up for your rights

Every worker in America should have the right to bargain collectively and the State of Michigan should have that right protected by putting it into the Constitution of the State of Michigan. By signing petitions you will allow us to put on the ballot and vote on a change to the Michigan Constitution that will protect this right.



Protect us from political attacks on basic collective bargaining rights from a bunch of poor politicians making bad decisions that have done nothing to put Michiganers back to work. Instead, all they've done is hurt middle-class families, small businesses and local communities. Instead it would take everyone's vote make such an important change. Please come sign a petition, there is one at Local 652 Union Hall for whoever wants to sign it.

### CPL Class

We will have a Concealed Pistol License (CPL) Class that will be held on May 19 at Local 652 Union Hall. This will be a one-day class running from 8am-8pm and will cost \$115. A \$65 deposit needs to be sent as soon as possible to Ralph Ball at 1490 S. Royston Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 to save a spot. For more information, call Ralph Ball at 517-582-1104.

## LOCAL 652

Scott R. Lounds, Recording Secretary

# Health care, the Supreme Court, and you

The last few months have provided more discussion and analysis of the United States Constitution and the United States Supreme Court than we have seen in decades. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare as it is often called, has been the catalyst for this discussion. The United States

Supreme Court listened to oral arguments on the constitutionality of this act during the last week of March. They are expected to rule some time in June.

What stands in the balance is the only comprehensive healthcare program passed by Congress that attempts to rein in the enormous, ever-expanding burden the price of medical care places on the economy, and more importantly, the working people of this country. The provision of the Act that has been most controversial, and has led to the challenges in Federal Court, is the individual mandate. This is the requirement that most Americans buy health insurance or pay a penalty. Critics claim that this mandate is an unconstitutional overreach by the United States Congress.

As most people realize, many States mandate the purchasing of insurance, such as Michigan's auto insurance law, and in fact Massachusetts requires the purchase of health insurance. The controversy lies in the Federal government mandating the purchase of health insurance from private providers. In order for Congress to pass a law such as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act they have to find a power source in the United States Constitution. The source that they used in this case was the "com-

Continued on page 6

## UAW Local 602

### Proposed Bylaws Changes

First reading at the May 20, 2012 General Membership meeting, 6pm, at Local 602 at 2510 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing MI 48917. (517)-372-4626

## Local 602 meetings

The next meetings will be held on May 20 and June 10.

The Executive board meets at 4:30 p.m. The General Membership meets at 6:00 p.m. at the hall.

## Local 724 Meetings

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

## Local 2256 meetings

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

# Lansing Labor News

(ISSN 0023-8384)

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LANSING LABOR NEWS • 210 CLARE STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917

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An award-winning, non-profit newspaper, established March 15, 1945, and dedicated to the interests of the community and to the interest of Labor here and elsewhere. Published January, May, September, and December. Periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI and at additional offices. Three percent per month from UAW Incorporator Locals' monthly dues is for this publication. Subscription rates for non-members: 6 months \$7.50; 1 year \$13.00; 2 years \$20.00. Member of the International Labor Press Association, the UAW LUPA, the Midwest Labor Press Association and the Michigan Labor Press. The opinions expressed by the columnists are not necessarily those of the affiliated Local Unions and the Lansing Labor News.

USPS NUMBER 304-840

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lansing Labor News, c/o Allied Mailing & Printing, 240 N. Fenway Dr., Fenton, MI 48430.

VOLUME 68, NUMBER 2

VOICE OF 27,000 MEMBERS

MAY, 2012

Dorothy Stevens

## 602 retirees

Seniors must take actions. 2011 saw one bruising fight after another and many are concerned that our future budget deals might include deep cuts to benefits or increased taxes to "save" Social Security. We need to send a strong message to our Congressmen urging them to guard your Social Security benefits, and those of future generations, against any cuts is the wrong way to go!

Now, at a time when retirees need Social Security more than ever, the agenda to cut Social Security continues. Retirees are struggling to afford soaring food, energy, and health care costs. But the forces opposed to Social Security have thrown big money behind campaigns to reduce government spending and, ultimately, cut benefits.

The fastest growing segments of our population, those age 60 and older, are the "powerful force" that Congress will listen to.

Voters who make their wishes unmistakably clear to Congress in overwhelming numbers have the best chance to defeat the special interest lobbies. That's the way the system works. Members of Congress listen to the people and this being an election year, let's make our voices heard loud and clear. Show them that we are sincere and determined. We must all unite to keep Social Security and Medicare on the right course and by doing so it could pay back enormous dividends for years to come for you and future generations.

This will be the most expensive campaign in history, thanks to the Supreme Court's "Citizens United" decision. Republicans are funded by secretive special interest money and are already targeting President Obama and our House candidates with vicious attack ads. Latest being he's the reason for high gas prices.

President Obama needs a strong Democratic majority in the house to fight for policies that invest in the middle class and move America forward.

Thanks to the Supreme Court's disastrous Citizens United decisions, Big Oil, pharmaceutical companies and corporations that ship American jobs overseas can now spend unlimited sums of money to both reward their political allies and punish their political opponents.

Groups led by Karl Rove, the ultra-conservative billionaire Koch brothers, and many others are spending millions of dollars to support the campaigns of Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, and Tea Party Republicans determined to defeat President Obama and expand their House majority.

Democrats need just 25 seats to win the House majority.

The Federal debt crisis in being used as an excuse to push unfair spending cuts to our social insurance safety net, at a time when the need for Social Security and Medicare is growing to unprecedented levels.

Corporations and individuals who have fared extremely well in the last decade enjoy tax breaks and loopholes that have contributed to today's federal debt crisis.

Congress can cut the deficit without cuts to Social Security and Medicare if it focuses on improving the economy and

asking those who have done extremely well in the last decade to finally pay their fair share.

We must all contact our elected officials urging them to protect the interests of senior Americans in budget decisions and to protect Social Security and Medicare from spending cuts that weaken these programs and threaten future benefits.

We are in the midst of contacting retirees to sign petitions protecting jobs and will be at the Hall weekdays 10 am-4 pm. For those unable to come to the hall, we will get your name and address and make every effort to come to you.

With Memorial Day approaching I have a tribute to all veterans who sacrificed so much for us;

"They answered their country's call to arms,

into battle they did go,  
Where their final destination was,  
No one will ever know.

May their final resting place,  
under some unknown sod,  
be forever hallowed,

For it is known,  
Only unto God" TMP

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

Mike Bauer

## 652 retirees

Most of our snowbirds have returned. It is great to see everyone back.

The following is our monthly schedule of events:

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

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

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

Our bingo night, potluck/business meeting, and social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only.

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

Please mark the following dates on your calendars. By membership action, the **July 3 Bingo night is cancelled** and the **August 21 potluck/meeting/bingo is cancelled.**

The Lansing Area-Wide Retiree Picnic is August 13, at Hawk Island Park, Lansing. Hawk Island Park is on Cavanaugh between Pennsylvania and Aurelius. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. The picnic starts at noon.

The Safety Patrol picnic is Wednesday, May 16, at Hawk Island Park. Volunteers are needed to work at this event. Call 517-372-7581, ext. 147 to volunteer. Please leave your name and phone number.

The retirees are planning a trip October 5-10, to Mystic, Connecticut; Newport, Rhode Island; and Plymouth, Massachusetts. For more information contact Marni at 517-321-6871.

The Outdoor Club is planning another fun season of camping. The 2012 camping dates are as follows:

May 11 - 13 Camp Michawana, Hastings  
June 8 - 10 White Cloud Campground, White Cloud

July 13 - 15 Leisure Lake Campground, Summer

Aug. 10 - 12 Lakeside Camp Park, Cedar Springs

Sept. 14 - 16 Rocky's Campground, Albion

Oct. 12 - 14 Michigan Trap Shooting Association, Mason

Reservations are necessary. For more information, call Wagon Master Jay Courser at 517-323-2331.

We must stop the attacks on collective bargaining rights, unions, the middle class, small businesses, public education, and seniors! Sign the Michigan Constitution amendment petition to protect collective bargaining rights! Petitions are available to sign at the Local 652 Union Hall. The hall is open Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. You must be a registered voter to sign the petitions. Please make every effort to come in and sign. We need everyone's support.

Condolences to the families of Pat Elliot, Clela Thornton, Hazel McClain, Dave Debnar, John Haruska, Charlie Kyser (a friend to labor), Rick Lewis, Chris "Tiny" Sherwood, and any others we may have missed.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Marvin Davis, Joyce and Herb Fernholz, Dave Fillion, Dave Hodges, Dorothy Hoisington, Don Jubb, Brenda Lee, Bob Mullins, Wilfred Pullman, Leonard Schneider, 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](http://www.lansinglabornews.org)

The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to donate when you attend retiree events. **No expired food, please.**

Send your change of address to: Lansing Labor News, 210 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917. Please include your current address and the old address when requesting the change.

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

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

Lois Schultz

## 1618 retirees

Hi out there all you wonderful people. Keep in mind all we do at our union.

We may be little, but we do have fun. The bus trip was great.  
May 2, Tigers game, \$50

May 4, Lunch - Old Country Buffet, East Lansing - 11:30 am

May 9, luncheon meeting with Bingo  
May 22, Meijers Garden, Grand Rapids

June 13, Cook-out Luncheon  
July 11, Luncheon - "No Bake" Bake Sale

August 13, Union Picnic, Hawk Island - Noon

September 12, Luncheon  
September 22, Pancake Breakfast/Bake Sale at Local 1753 on St. Joe

October 10, Halloween Luncheon.



Dress up! October 15, Michigan Princess color tour, Grand Ledge, \$35

November 14, Veteran's Memorial, then to the 1753 hall for Thanksgiving Luncheon and Holiday Auction. Bring your quarters.

December 12, Christmas Luncheon  
For more information, you can call Chairman Curtis Dunn or Connie Dunn at 517-323-2146.

This year's election is important. I don't know about you, but we must remember what's in it for us. The ones passing the laws herein Michigan sure aren't. Look what they have done to the retirees. Your vote does count.

It's easy to great a ballot and vote at home. The township clerk can help. Ours is great.

Happy April Birthdays to Connie Dunn, Canda Anthony, Dick Raffler, Jerry Hunt, Roy and Helen Spencer. Roy is 90 years young. Dick Slocum is 86.

May birthdays: Bill Anthony, Doris Williams, Betty Varney, and me—Lois Schultz—with the big 85!

Happy anniversary to: Roy and Helen Spencer; Harry and Jenny Henderson (65 years); Red and Betty Varney; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Raymond (50 years); and Doris and Al Williams (24 years).

My barn is back together after the fire next door. When it was hot, we couldn't even go out there. But so far it smells good. We'll have to wait for the hot days, then we'll see.

To all on our sick list, you are in our prayers. Barb Kline goes in the hospital to check on her heart. Take care, Barb. Condolences to all that lost loved ones in the past few months.

Two petitions will be available: one against "right-to-work" laws; and one to recall Governor Snyder. Check with Chairman Curtis Dunn and new Vice-Chairman Ted Gauss.

By-laws are ready to go to Detroit. Next meeting and potluck will be on May 9.

Millie and Dick Slocum, and Jean and Arlie Caudill, visiting from Kentucky, gave a bag of hats and gloves. So good to see them and we hope to see them again soon. Welcome home to all the snowbirds!

Ted's breakfast will be on the first Tuesday of June (June 5) at Guerrazzi's Restaurant, 15463 US Highway 27, Lansing, starting at 9:00 a.m.

**Starting April 16  
a Benefit Rep will be at  
Local 602  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and  
Fridays ONLY  
from 7:00 am-3:00 pm.**

**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.

**GM and Local 652  
Retiree Breakfast  
Last Wednesday of each month  
7:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
Guerrazzi's Restaurant  
in Lansing**

Laura Clark

## 1753 retirees

Hello everyone, I hope you feel the 'spring' in your step, this spring has been wonderful and warm.

We have kept busy. Besides our regular second Thursday lunches and meetings, we tried something new and had a Euchre party at the Local. What a blast! I haven't played in a long time. I thought that I would act as hostess, but since people could come together or single I played to make the count even so we could play with more people. It was great and we all played host since it was bringing a dish to pass.



Reminder: The 12th Annual Pride Ride Friday is May 18. All motorcycles are welcome at UAW Local 652. Registration is 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Any questions, please contact Linda Mogyoros at 517-694-7914.

Also coming up is the Annual Capital Area Stand Down For Homeless Veterans. It will be May 23. They're looking for travel- or hotel-size products. Like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine products, shaving cream, razors, socks, undergarments, healthy snacks and other practical needs items. Please give; for more info please call the Volunteers of America at 489-5278.

**Big reminder here:** our own Local 1753 Picnic will be on Thursday, June 14 at 12:00 and for a new twist ... It will be at our hall! Some of you know this is one of those old-new ideas that we are revisiting. We will still bring a dish to pass and of course the Best Dessert Contest. We are planning good weather for our outside picnic. Still looking for volunteers with pop-up tents to come early—we will help set up your tent with you. We will need help with setting up tables, chairs, grill and what-have-you.

Plan to come early and help, enjoy the lunch and all the people we worked with and their families, stay late and help clean up. Make it a full day that you can

### Fourth Annual Plant 3 Reunion Tuesday, June 12

3:00 p.m. until ?

IRISH PUB

For more info call Al Freeman at 517-819-8657

### Head Assembly Reunion Saturday, September 29, 2012

Fire Mountain

730 Elmwood, Lansing

Eat at 5:00, social afterwards

For more info call Gordon Quinn at 517-882-6715

UAW Local 4911 is pleased to announce:

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May 15 from 5 – 7 p.m. at Sparrow Cancer Center

1215 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912

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Sponsored by the Sparrow Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society  
Please call (517) 332-3300 to register and obtain a time slot for your exam.

remember fondly.

One thing I've learned on this job is just how quick the time of your life clock is ticking, whether or not you are paying attention! I see all the obits coming in and I appreciate you calling me with them. It does make me hope all of you enjoy everyone and everything you can while you still are able to.

On Monday, August 13, Region 1-C will hold its Area-Wide Retirees' Picnic at Hawk Island Park in Lansing. You will want to be there early before 12:00 to make sure to get a raffle ticket and a good place to sit. Please bring a dish to pass. We are always looking for help; if you have extra time before or after, jump right in.

Annual UAW Region 1-C Retirees Golf Scramble, Tuesday August 7 at the IMA Brookwood Golf Course, starting at 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$40 per person. Please call 810-742-4920.

Though the union is always working to better our lives, here are two campaigns that deserve our attention. One is to amend the state constitution to protect collective bargaining rights. The proposal is that no existing or future law of the State or its political subdivision shall abridge, impair or limit collective bargaining rights, with the exception that the State can continue to prohibit or restrict strikes by public employees, as provided in current law. I don't like the sound of the last bit but I love the sound of the first part and it seems necessary with all the attacks on unions. For more info go to [www.protectourjobs.com](http://www.protectourjobs.com).

The next is the "99% spring." As it says on the Region 1-C site: We're at a crossroads as a country. Will you rise with us and join a 99% Spring action training? More info can be found at <http://the99spring.com/>

Local 1753 retirees get together for breakfast on the fourth Monday of the month at Jackie's Steakhouse on West Saginaw in Lansing (west of Waverly) at 8:30 a.m.

From the Local 602 Conservation & Recreation Committee:

### Local 602 Golf Outing

will be on July 29

Local 602's Picnic

will be on Saturday, August 18 at Eagle Park, in Eagle.

More details will be available on the Local 602 website by and by. [www.local602.org](http://www.local602.org)

### Pride Ride May 18

The 12th annual motorcycle Pride Ride will be on **May 18**. You can get an entry form at your local or at the Labor News website ([lansinglabornews.org](http://lansinglabornews.org)). For more info, see the website or contact Linda Mogyoros at 517-694-7914 or [turtlehatch@att.net](mailto:turtlehatch@att.net).

# What we are doing to make our own history

By Art Luna, UAW Region 1C CAP Coordinator

The UAW under the direction of President Bob King and the International Executive Board, along with other labor organizations, decided we could no longer sit idle after attempts have been made to communicate with the Republican-controlled legislature and its leaders, as well as testifying at committee hearings—to no avail. We owed it to our members to take every action possible to protect their rights to a higher standard of working and living conditions.

That is why we are having a petition drive to gather 500,000 signatures to put an amendment in the Michigan Constitution to protect collective bargaining rights. Our deadline is July 9, 2012. We are asking every member and retiree to help us. In the work sites we have our members asking our registered voters to sign the petition, and our retiree chapters are calling our retirees to stop by their union halls to sign our petitions. And it just doesn't stop there: we are asking family members, neighbors, and friends to help as well.

Our focus is on protecting collective bargaining and protecting the middle class. The old quote from Walter Reuther still holds true today "What we have gained at the negotiating table can be taken away in our legislative halls with a swipe of a pen." And that's what going on today. This is our only option to stop the madness in Michigan and the attacks on working families between now and November.

The director and his team have been around the region training and informing our membership on what we need to do in gathering these signatures, and we're going to need everyone's participation to be successful. Together there is nothing we can't accomplish.

Another project we are involved in is the Spring 99% campaign. We are the 99% that pay our fair share of taxes while corporations don't pay taxes after recording record profits and then get billions of tax dollars back in refunds. There is a groundswell of community organizations, students, Occupy groups, faith-based, and labor—over 100 organizations coming together in a nonviolent action to reclaim our country. It starts NOW.

For more information on this and our events, sign up for GimmeFive by contacting our Education/Mobilization coordinator Shane Sack at 1-810-767-0910. GimmeFive is our communication tool between our leadership and our memberships to inform everyone of all of our UAW actions coming up in the future.

Another way you can help us in our fight for equal justice is to sign up for our V-CAP program. It's the only way by law we can raise dollars to help us support candidates that will support our working families agenda.

For every five dollars given from either your payroll deduction or pension check per month, you will get a chance at our V-CAP prize given away on February, 11 2013—a 2013 Chevrolet Malibu Eco!

You can contact CAP Coordinator Art Luna at 1-810-767-0910 with your questions.



UAW Region 1C Director Norwood Jewell (left) and UAW President Bob King at a recent rally in Troy to protest the attacks on workers' rights.

We must also follow through with what we started. Once we get the petition on the ballot we need to get out in November and vote for it on the ballot, as well as vote in worker-friendly candidates so we won't have our democratic rights violated.

As the weather changes to summer, we will be participating in events such as rallies at the capitol, lobbying, bannering, phone banks, etc. We hope that we will be able to count on your participation.

For the next seven months we will be in our communities, drawing attention to why we represent working families. Our director Norwood Jewell would be proud to stand there next to you.

This fight isn't just about us as workers anymore. It's about the dignity and respect we gained 75 years ago with our Flint sit-downers. It's about our retirees. It's about our children's education. It's about the promise of leaving something better than the way we found it. It's about fairness.

It's about what I started this article with—we make our own history.

## 602 Obituaries

- Paul Orta – Retired
- Elizabeth Mena – Wife of Lupe Mena, Retired
- Amy Hurley – Wife of Mike Hurley, Quality
- Vernon Thompson – Father of Kathleen Carpenter, Retired and Nephew of Davie Thompson Jr., Retired
- Richard Wallace – Retired
- Velma Drew – Retired
- Robert Foster – Retired
- William Harper – Retired
- Inez Pearson – Retired
- Marshall Odell Lackey – Father of Jim Lackey, General Assembly (Chassis 4)
- Zola Bricker – Mother of Diana Ward
- Gayle J. Allen – Mother of Robin Fox
- Kathleen Dexter – Wife of Alfred Dexter, Retired
- Janet M. Young – Wife of Ray Young, Retired Electrician (Maintenance)
- Arthur L. Hall – Retired
- Howard Enyard – General Assembly (Trim 3)

Continued on next page

## 602 Obituaries

Mario Montalvo, Sr. – Retired  
Marion Olson – Retired Cushion Room and Paint  
Billy Page – Retired Paint  
Laquita Renee Baldwin – Daughter of Claude Baldwin, Retired  
John Pardee – Retired  
Pamela Jean Garcia – Mother of John Garcia, General Assembly (Trim 1)  
Berline Beasley – Mother of Rebecca Beasley, General Assembly (Trim 3)  
Douglas James Austin – Father of Doug Austin, General Assembly (Trim 4)  
Dennis Kindel – Retired  
Richard Olger – Retired  
Harold Williams – Retired  
Bruce Herig – Retired  
John Hanthorne – Retired  
Joseph Gavenda – Retired  
Robert A. Parsons – Retired  
Richard C. Pugh – Retired  
Reynaldo Rendon – Retired  
Vernon Ross – Retired Body Shop and Father of Brent Ross, Retired Body Shop  
Edwin D. Clair – Father of Gloria Hodge, Body (Framing) and Brother of Daniel Clair, Retired  
Jeraldine Prenzler – Mother of Jim Prenzler, Electrician (Body – Framing)  
Marvin Peyton – Father of Derrick Peyton, Quality  
Sharon Ray – Sister of Harold Hart, Millwright  
Joyce E. Rennells – Mother of Robert Rennells, Retired Material  
Gary Earvin Francis Esch – Father of Gary Esch, Quality  
Bobby Lee McConnell – Father of Bobbi McConnell, Paint  
Kathleen (Betty) McNary – Retired and Mother of Shane McNary, Retired; Grandmother of Connie Swander, Electrician (Body); and Great-Grandmother of Brandy Morris, District 11 Alternate Committee  
Gerald Clark – Retired  
Clifford Jackson – Retired  
Clair Overly – Retired Paint  
Tom Russell – Father of John Russell  
Ora J. VanCleve – Wife of John L. VanCleve, Retired Trim  
Bonita Gail Luker Harville – Mother of Kevin Harville  
Sarah Pyle – Mother of Nancy Isabell, Paint  
Gordon Piggott – Father of Jim Piggott, Retired Material (Body)  
Zella Curtis – Wife of Russell Curtis, Retired Powerhouse (deceased)  
Richard Quintanilla – Father of Reynaldo Quintanilla, Body (Underbody)  
Caroline May (Deneka) Pryer – Mother of Richard Pryer, Quality (DVT)  
Richard Duchene – Father of Ken Duchene, General Assembly (Trim 3)  
Erma Vogt-Henslee – Wife of Ora A. Henslee, Retired  
Robert Torrez – Retired  
Anabell Kane – Retired  
Donald Kavan – Retired  
Donald Haught – Retired  
Gordon Davis – Retired  
Lewis Gulick – Retired  
Andy Zdurme – Retired  
Eldon Cushing – Retired  
Calvin Heilman – Retired

Thank you for the beautiful Bible you gave in my husband's memory. We will cherish it and the many friends we have at 602... Beatrice Fossum (Family of Norman Fossum)

## 652 Obituaries

Samantha Bahl – Daughter of Jchon Bahl  
William Barrett – Retiree  
Clement Bebamikawe – Retiree, Father-in-Law of Geordie Roy  
Margarethe Beebe – Retiree  
James A. Birchmeier – Father-in-Law of David P. Thelen  
Bruce Bliss – Father of Denise Bliss  
Kathleen Boyce – Retiree  
Steve Castillo – Father-in-Law of Carlos Gonzalez  
Natividad M. Cedillo – Mother of Raul Cedillo  
Della Christensen – Mother of Mel Hansens  
Roger E. Church – Retiree, Father of Lonny and Roderick Church  
Edwin Dewayne Clair Sr. – Father of Edwin D. Clair Jr.  
Zella Arlene Curtis – Mother-in-Law of Gene Zander  
Debra K. Dykstra – Wife of Mike Dykstra  
Patricia Elliott – Retiree  
Frederick Enos Sr. – Father of Randy Enos  
Gary E. Francis Esch – Father-in-Law of Donald W. McJames  
Frances Frechen – Mother of Randy Frechen  
Barbara A. Frizzell – Mother-in-Law of William Russell  
Ron Hunt – Father of Wendy White  
Norman Jackway – Father of Robert J. Jackway  
James Jacobs – Retiree  
Roy Jones – Retiree  
Zera Kuchar – Mother of Sallie Perry, and Mother-in-Law of George Perry  
Frank Lilly – Retiree, Spouse of Mattie Lilly  
Jacque S. Malone – Father-in-Law of Dennis Campian  
Hazel McClain – Retiree, Wife of Duane McClain  
Veva McGeorge – Mother of Roy McGeorge  
Duane Nartker – Father of Kirk Nartker, Father-in-Law of Randy Whitney and Linda Nartker  
Ida Mae Patterson – Mother of Bettie James  
Angeline Pavwoski – Mother of Edward Pavwoski  
Bernard R. Riley – Father-in-Law of Daniel Bellinger  
Lela Dyer Rowe – Mother of Newt Rowe  
Eugenia Schneider – Spouse of Leonard Schneider, Mother of David Schneider, Mother-in-Law of Rodney Adams  
Lonnie Spencer – Stepfather of Tom Swartout Jr.  
Marcella Spitzley – Mother of Steven Spitzley  
Albert Trudgeon – Father of Thomas and Steven Trudgeon  
Irene Turner – Retiree  
Delores Updike – Spouse of Donald Updike  
Frances Vandlen – Mother-in-Law of Gary White  
Walton Wagner – Retiree  
LeeRoy Windham – Retiree

## 724 Obituaries

Retiree Alfonso McFadden from Federal Forge (currently Bharat Forge) passed away on February 19.

## 1753 Obituaries

Doug Krepps  
Marjorie Metoyer  
Dennis Clinton

## Lounds

**Continued from page 3**  
merce clause” that authorizes Congress to regulate commerce among the states.

Since the 1940's, this clause has been broadly interpreted by the Supreme Court. The Court has used a test that has allowed the regulation of activities that substantially impact interstate commerce, even when that being regulated is not strictly commerce, or strictly interstate. It was through the “commerce power” that laws such as the Fair Labor Standards Act—which created minimum wages and overtime for hours worked over 40 each week—were passed on a national level.

The National Labor Relations Act, which gave workers the right to organize and protected Union activists from retaliation from employers, is another law passed under the broad view the Supreme Court has taken toward the Commerce Clause.

In addition to destroying health care reform, if the current court tightens their view on what powers the Congress possesses under the Constitution's Commerce Clause, it could send us spiraling back to a time when the Federal Government could not regulate industries' treatment of workers at all.

Unfortunately, it is likely that the Court will strike down the individual

mandate. If this happens the parts of the act that are widely popular—healthcare for dependents until 26, or not being turned down due to preexisting conditions—cannot stand. They are predicated on the widening of the pool of those insured to lower the cost of these programs. The loss of the individual mandate could well make the continuance of health care reform impossible.

As yet, those opposing health care reform have not come forth with a plan to fix the cost of health care in this country. The Right opposes a single-payer system like many European countries have; they oppose an individual mandate that requires people to be insured. They rant against the burden that giving employees benefits puts on corporations. What they *don't* do is offer a solution.

Strangely, while the Right has long railed against “judicial activism” they don't seem to be creating a hue and cry over the prospect of the conservative justices on the Supreme Court overturning 75 years of precedent when it comes to the Commerce Clause. If this is not “judicial activism” exactly what else could you call it? What's the word I am looking for ... oh yeah ... Hypocrisy?

If we, as workers, learn nothing else from this fight we should once again realize that it is important to elect the right people. To support those who support our rights, as workers, as the middle class, as the backbone of this country's economy. I shudder to think what sort of justices a man like Mitt Romney, a rich corporate raider, would nominate to the Supreme Court. Suffice to say that they probably wouldn't have the best interest of workers at heart



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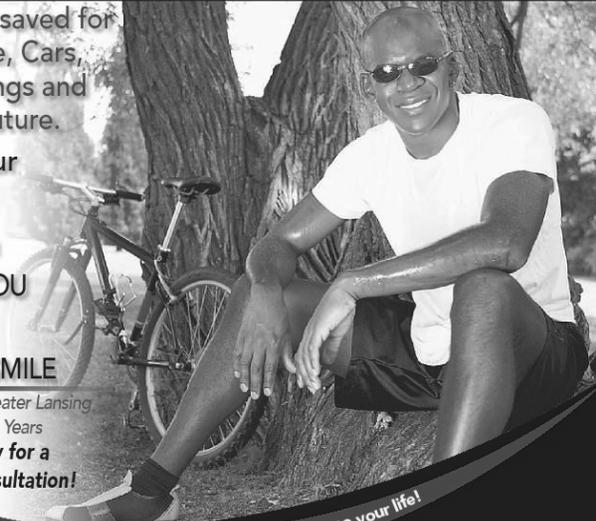
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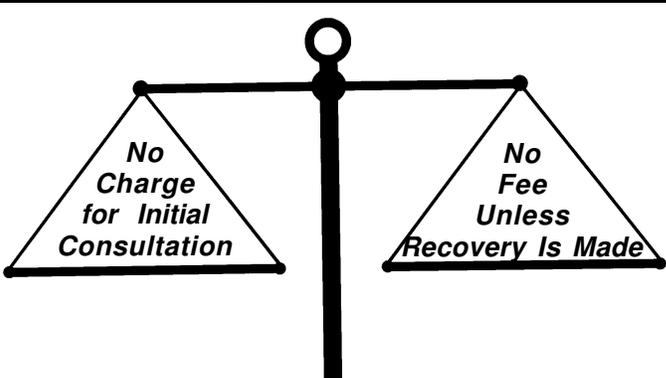


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