Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 78, ISSUE 1

VOICE OF 28,000 UAW MEMBERS

MARCH, 2022

Region 1D Steve Dawes, Director



Greetings Region 1D Brothers and Sisters.

I hope these times find you and your families well, and remember, warm sunshine is just around the corner!

A lot is happening around and in Lansing with great news of the General Motor's investment. The total investment of \$7 billion in Michigan is the largest single investment announcement ever made by GM. Wow! Thank you to all the hard and dedicated work of our Local Union Leadership and Membership. You have shown all the reasons why to invest in our communities. The investment includes \$2.6 billion for a new battery factory in Lansing, giving us a foot hold into a new technology era, and over \$500 million into the two Lansing Assembly Plants that not only protects and secures UAW jobs, but also provides and secures work at all our supporting facilities, our Independent Parts Plants (IPS) and our great support of Technical, Office, and Professional Facilities (TOP). And it doesn't stop there. The job security goes on to support our neighborhood stores, restaurants, gas stations, and infrastructure. The list goes on and on. Congratulations, Lansing.

This doesn't happen without the support and belief in our membership from our local government. Governor Whitmer was the driver in securing the investment. She continues to show her commitment to working families across our state. For example, she has proposed to repeal the tax on all Retiree income. This tax was forced upon us. Never has Michigan had a tax on Retiree income, all Retiree income, not just pensions. This is a tax that that you, and those of us not yet retired, will pay month after month. This tax was forced on us by the former Governor (I don't even like speaking his name), and the Republican controlled Michigan legislation. By the way, this tax affects everyone, Democrats, Trade Unionists, Independents, and all others. Republicans, you are paying this tax, too.

I have been attending Governor Whitmer's Roundtable meetings with Retirees, and it is so sad to hear the affect it has had on our Michigan residents who have already given so much to their communities. Now keep in mind, this tax didn't go into the Michigan economy, but into the pockets of Big Business tycoons. It did not help our economy one bit.

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Here's a thought, let's support the tax repeal. I believe the extra monies that will be put into our Retiree's hands will make it back into our economy, and it will be a winwin for all of Michigan.

Let's keep track of those who support the repeal and those who want to keep taxing you. When it's election time, let's remember who is who at the voting booth.

Thank you to all who participated in White Shirt Day, February 11, 2022. The 85th Anniversary was the largest ever with Local Unions and worksites within the region taking pride in celebrating our heritage.

Once again, we did a virtual celebration that started at 8 a.m. with Face Book posts of pictures, stories, and videos. At 11 a.m. we had the live stream which was followed with more videos, tributes, and stories until approximately 6 p.m.

If you were unable to tune in, or were unaware of the online celebration, you can go back and watch all or parts of it at our Region 1D Face Book page https:// www.facebook.com/uawregion1d

Between shares, shares of shares, and shares of shares of shares, our White Shirt Day online celebration has had over 50,000 views, likes, and shares. Please feel free to share our history with friends and families.

Thank you to all who sent in videos, pictures, and shared family stories. Also, a special thank you to your Region 1D team Scott Zuckschwerdt, Assistant Director; Dovey Richter, Secretary; Shane Dawes, Education Representative; and Tina Sarazin, CAP Representative, who put this all together, along with the help of our Communication Department from Detroit.

In closing, I want to share with you some very disturbing information about a situation I am investigating. There are dealerships that are charging our members, family, and friends thousands of dollars over the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price for new vehicles. That's right. Some of them are charging as much as \$20,000 more than the sticker price. I've also discovered, this is NOT illegal. WOW! Also, some dealerships are not accepting discount programs.

Well, well, maybe it's time we show them what solidarity looks like.

If you know of any dealerships that are doing this to us, the customer, please let me know. I will put together a naughty and nice list for the future, so when they are sitting on a 90-, 120-day supply of vehicles, we will show them the same support they are showing all of us right now.

Be safe my friends.

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give happiness. Bad days give experience. The worst days give lessons, and the best days give memories.

In solidarity,

LOCAL 602 Mike Huerta, President



I was proud to represent local 602 at the State Capitol for the news of GM investing \$7 Billion in Michigan. Portions of the investment are specifically for LDT and LGR. A more significant portion is for a brand new battery plant in Delta Township. There have not been many details released about this facility other than its location. Over the course of the last year, we in the auto industry have been screaming from the rooftops that if our parts were built in the United States we would not be having supply chain issues.

Please see Huerta page 2

UAW Local 602 Election Notice Page 5

Huerta from page 1

I hope that this announcement and investment is the start of GM keeping some of its investments here at home in Michigan. Too often, we have seen these investments go overseas or to southern states which are often not union friendly.

This investment was ushered in by something that is not seen too often these days, a series of bi-partisan agreements in Lansing. Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan State House, the Michigan State Senate, Lansing City Council, Lansing Board of Water and Light and Delta Township officials all agreed to a package of bills that cleared the way for GM to announce its largest investment ever. Of course, not everyone supported bringing and keeping jobs in the Lansing area. Michigan State Senator Tom Barrett, whose district is home to the GM Lansing Delta Township Assembly plant and where the new battery plant will be built, voted against it. Now he plans on running for congress in a district that would represent Lansing Grand River, Lansing Delta Township and local 1753's GM customer care center as well as many of the supplier plants along Canal road. As we all know when a new plant comes in, every full-time factory job also brings several more jobs in the area along with it, I think it's a huge problem for Tom Barrett to be against that. Autoworkers are an important part of Michigan's history and I am glad that most of our elected officials recognize that. Thank you to all of the elected officials from both sides of the aisle that supported Michigan autoworkers and shame on those that did not.

LOCAL 652 Ben Frantz, President



Greetings Brothers and Sisters. I hope this year has started strong for you all. I have decided to write about my mission moving forward for this year and beyond. My focus moving forward is to not give traction to false narratives that are merely designed to divide and distract us from being a united collective of the working class. The fact that I refuse to speak to these issues doesn't mean that I am ignorant of these topics' reality. It merely means that they have no foundation in my thinking or vision to promote unity and a positive collective movement that puts working families' welfare at the forefront. That said, a great example of my goal, and fitting for February, would be the unity of our sit -downers. These great people were a diverse group with many different opinions who united as one and didn't allow differences to deter them from their ultimate goal of creating a better future for themselves and those who would follow. With us hopefully emerging from the gauntlet of worldaltering issues of the past couple of years, I hope that we can mimic their courageous efforts and seize the day when it arrives.

Regardless of our industry, we can use this time to ready ourselves for the fight we will all soon face in our next contract negotiations. We active workers must use the extra hours of labor that we will be working this year as positive stock for the future. We must not allow these corporations who have made record profits on our lives to offer anything less than competitive agreements moving forward. With our ability to quickly determine what these corporations make each year, we need to negotiate and ratify only gainful agreements for our future. Accepting nothing less than our fair share of what we have earned is how we solidify the foundation of those who come after us, just as we must do now to honor those who have come before us. This is the best way to celebrate the courageous men and women who risked everything for us so many years ago.

Speaking of those who have come before us, our retirees, I don't want to fail to honor their efforts in our Labor Movement. With that, I think it is fitting to address one of the most troubling and polarizing questions that cause friction between our active and retired members. Why don't retirees get improvements during contract negotiations? The answer, though restrictive, is one I feel worth sharing. My hope in sharing this answer is to reduce the distance between our active and retired generations. Due to a Supreme Court decision, bargaining to reconfigure retiree pension plans is deemed a permissive category of the collective bargaining process. In short, this means that only active workers can have items like wages, benefits and health care continually renegotiated as an object of mandatory collective bargaining when agreements expire. It isn't that the majority of us have forgotten your hard work and dedication. It means that we can't force corporations to renegotiate those terms as we can for active members, so it rarely happens. This is why we must unite both retired and active Americans in our common cause to come out of this storm stronger with one common goal: to take these corporations to task when the packages they offer don't meet the standards we have earned. We must never forget that the active worker of today will be the retired worker of tomorrow. This is the most significant way to honor our active workers, retired membership and the sit-downers. Remembering what we gain together at the bargaining table benefits the entire working class of America now and for future generations. Solidarity Brothers and Sisters.

LOCAL 724 Todd Collins, President

Hi fellow Brothers and Sisters. As you are reading this, Spring is on our door step. The hope of warmer weather and sunny skies. As we transition seasons the hope is we also are transitioning away from the effects of the pandemic. From the chip shortages, part shortages temporary layoffs and uncertainty of the Auto Industry has had an effect on our members. Most of our Units are still hiring. With the

added stress of having to pick up

members are certainly gong above

opened up opportunities for our

members to receive free online

the slack due to the number of

openings in our facilities, our

and beyond. Region 1D has

training on a number of different topics. If you would like further information please contact your Chairperson or contact the Local. As far as the Local goes we have been making progress in making sure that we are addressing the needs of our members in an open, honest transparent way. The Local membership meetings that take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 5pm are a great way to have your voice and input heard and hopefully take an active role in making this Local even better. It looks like some training opportunities may be coming available as the weeks progress. Keep an eye on the boards in your Unit to keep up to date . Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank you to our Administrative Assistant Stacey Fortino. Stacey has officially retired after more than 33 years of service to the members of this Local. Thank you Stacey for all of your years of service and dedication. We appreciate everything you have done for all of us and wish you a happy next chapter in your life. You will be missed. As for the members of Local 724, as always, it is an honor to be the President of our Local.

In Solidarity

LOCAL 1753 Yvonne Vincent, President



Hello 1753 Brothers and Sisters,

As February is soon ending, I hope you have taken part in African-American History Month in some way. We have a diverse country and a diverse plant. Education is key to building a better, more harmonious future. Most TV stations make some effort for easy access to a history lesson/story that would help grow our understanding of and connection to others. On the service committee board at work. located across from the cafeteria, the civil rights committee will continue to post educational things that have to do with the current national history month topic. Please take a moment to stop by and read the communication provided the committees there! One of the suggestions for this month is the podcast "1619" by the New York

Times. This would be helpful for most Americans to educate themselves about our history and issues of equity.

Equity and equality is something that Representative Elissa Slotkin is trying to achieve with her work in the US Congress. She was kind enough to stop by our local Union hall on Feb. 11, 2022, and listen to members' thoughts and concerns. Some topics of her platform and backed by her voting record, are pro -Union initiatives, Social Security protection, and access to health care services for limited-income households. She will need our help as Elissa Slotkin is running for reelection – this time in the newly formed 7th District, that will now cover all of Ingham, Eaton, Livingston, Clinton and Shiawassee counties, as well as small portions of Genesee and Oakland counties. She stood by our side during our 2019 strike, and helped bring relief to our fellow UAW workers at Sparrow Hospital this month. Please keep this in mind for the August 2, 2022, primary and November 8, 2022, General Election.

March is International Women's History Month, so keep an eye out for opportunities to learn about and support the women who are leading the charge to create a better world for all of us.

In solidarity

LOCAL 652 Lena Wyeth, Vice President



We have a newly elected (by acclamation), Women's Committee chair for Local 652, Patty Haindel. Patty was elected just in time for Women's History Month (March) and International Women's Dav on March 8th. The Women's Committee, as well as all standing committees, is an important piece of a highfunctioning local

The Women's Committee has several purposes. They educate the women in the plants about labor's position on local, state, and national laws regarding women's issues. They provide some type of educational training for members so that they become more active in the local union and eventually seek leadership positions. The Committee encourages women to become more politically active, to discuss problems of women workers in the workplace with the local union leadership, they become active with other labor and women's organizations supported by the International Union, UAW in order to promote labor's agenda and support the local union's program. Last, but certainly not least, the Committee helps build selfesteem.

The Women's Committee should have a Chair, Co-Chair, financial secretary, and recording secretary along with members at large. The Chair should lead with a vision to further the agenda of the labor movement. They should plan the order of business and set the agenda for the meetings with the Committee Secretary before the meeting. Preside at all meetings, or make arrangements for the cochair to preside in the absence of the Chair. The Chair should conduct the meeting following Robert's Rules of Order and in accordance with the UAW Constitution.

The Co-Chair should preside in the absence of the Chair, and upon request, assume the other duties of the Chair. The Co-Chair should assist in implementing the programs and activities agreed upon by the Local Union Executive Board.

The most important duty the Committee's Recording Secretary has is keeping accurate records of the Committee meeting (minutes). The minutes should include the type of meeting, date, time, location, roll call, the action taken on reports, and record the motion information and the time of adjournment. Too, the Recording Secretary preserves all important papers and documents of the Committee, provides the Chair with a list of members, records, and correspondence, assists the Chair in preparing the agenda, keeps attendance, records report summaries, and keeps a record of all subcommittees of the Committee.

The Women's Committee Financial Secretary should receive and record all monies raised by the Committee and turn ALL monies to the local union Financial Secretary and receive a receipt indicating the amount and date of the transaction. Money cannot stay in the possession of the standing committee. The Committee Financial Secretary should also maintain a record of all financial transactions of the committee and give reports to committee members upon request.

The role of a committee member is an important one. The committee members and officers are the teams that develop and implement the committee plans and activities. Effective committee members should educate themselves on the purpose of the committee, attend and participate in meetings, offer facts, opinions, and suggestions, make recommendations on projects, see that goals are completed successfully, gain skills to assist in their responsibilities, and be willing to compromise.

A big thank you goes out to our previous Chair, Liz Arcaute. If you are a member of Local 652

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Lansing Labor News - 210 Clare St Lansing, Michigan 48917	
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and interested in joining the Women's Committee, please contact Patty Haindel, or feel free to contact me at Local 652 Union Hall.

LOCAL 4911 Rose Slone, Fin. Secretary



Local 4911 Retirees will resume meetings!

Beginning in April, 2022 the retirees of Local 4911 will resume their meetings!

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Local 724, 450 Clare Street, Lansing, MI.

Date: Even months only (ex: April, June)

Please bring your masks to wear as we continue social distancing efforts for your safety concerns as we gather, talk and socialize in community with one another.

Also, please stay tuned for an upcoming spring/summer retiree event to celebrate the beginning of a much -needed new season in Michigan!

LOCAL 652 Scott Lounds, Rec. Secretary



CHANGES AT THE NLRB

If you are looking for yet another example of why elections matter look no further than the NLRB. President Biden has stated that he "intends to be the most pro-union president you have ever seen." His reshaping of the National Labor Relations Board backs up this intent. Biden fired the Trump-appointee Peter Robb from the position of NLRB General Counsel and replaced him with Jennifer Abbruzzo who served as deputy General Counsel during the Obama administration and previously held a position as special counsel for the Communication Workers of America. Robb, by contrast, had spent years representing anti-union companies in fights to fend of Union organization, prior to being appointed

Please see Lounds page 4

Lounds from page 3

General Counsel. (Note: Robb was fired because unlike every single previous General Counsel in history he refused to resign when the president who appointed him left office.)

The General Counsel for the NLRB is an important and powerful position from which Abruzzo will establish NLRB policy and set the agency's agenda. Having someone who represented a Union in that position, instead of a Union buster, is a win for all unionized workers. Also important is Biden's appointment of pro-labor members to the board itself.

The Biden appointees have publicly stated that they intend to significantly shift the balance of power to unions and workers. The new NLRB will undoubtedly be labor friendly creating an environment for increased union organizing and elections. The pro-business Trump era at the NLRB is gone.

Hopefully these moves will lead to the return to rules and legal precedents that had stood for a generation of boards, appointed by both Republicans and Democrats, prior to the Trump board's repeated overruling of established board precedent. Among the areas that should see a return to normalcy are the rules regarding what constitutes protected concerted activity, the core right necessary for the organization and function of Labor Unions. Under the Trump board the breadth of what was considered concerted activity was severely curtailed including in areas such as health and safety and the types of arguments and behaviors Union representatives could use during bargaining.

The NLRB was created to foster a more level playing field between the rich and powerful corporations and the worker. At its best it can create a more equitable society. Let's hope that it is moving in that direction.

LOCAL 602 Doug Fox, Rec. Secretary



Have you ever been in a "discussion" about unions with some anti-union folks? Do you know any talking points to back up the many benefits of having a strong union presence (known as union density) in the community?

I came across the following information in a great article I thought I'd share with everyone. It has good data, with the references, showing how unions help not just their members, but everyone in the communities where union density is stronger. I strongly suggest you read the full article here <u>https://</u> www.epi.org/publication/unionsand-well-being/. There is a lot more detailed information available in the article.

Here are some highlights, some of which you may already know, but some may also surprise you. Areas with the highest union densities:

• Have state minimum wages that are on average 19% higher than the national average and 40% higher than those in low-uniondensity states

• Have median annual incomes \$6,000 higher than the national

averageHave an uninsured (without



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health insurance) population 4.5 percentage points lower, on average, than that of low-uniondensity states

• Are more likely to have passed paid sick leave laws and paid family and medical leave laws than states with lower union densities

• On average, a worker covered by a union contract earns 10.2% more in wages. When union density is high, nonunion workers benefit, too, because unions effectively set broader standards—including higher wages—which nonunion employers must meet to attract and retain the workers they need. The combination of the direct wage effect for union members and this "spillover" effect for nonunion workers means unions are crucial to raising wages for working people and reducing income inequality.

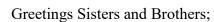
• Unions also help to reduce gender and racial/ethnic wage gaps. Hourly wages for women represented by a union are 4.7% higher on average than for nonunionized women with comparable characteristics. Black workers represented by a union are paid 13.1% more than their nonunionized Black peers, and Hispanic workers represented by a union are paid 18.8% more than their nonunionized Hispanic peers.

• Union workers are far more likely than nonunion workers to be covered by employer-provided health insurance, have retirement plans, paid sick days, vacation and holidays, more input into the number of hours they work, and more predictable schedules.

• Strengthened health and safety. Unions also improve the health and safety of workplaces by providing health insurance and paid sick time, requiring safety equipment, and empowering workers to report unsafe conditions without fear of retaliation

So read the article and arm yourself with facts of the many benefits of unions.

LOCAL 602 Marta Bobillo Retiree



Hope you're doing well, I had a rough 2021 but thank God I'm back.

We have lost many members of ours my condolences and heart felt prayers for their families and friends. There have not been meetings or bingo for two years but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I'm happy to announce that we are going to be back to our Bingo night on April 4th and hopefully everything goes well and we can have our regular meeting on April 20th at this time we can't service food yet and will follow mask and distance protocol. If anything changes I will post on the 602 website and the Fisher Body page on Facebook.

Also we received a blue booklet from UAW Retiree medical trust titled 2022 Over-The-Counter (OTC) Product Catalog. You can find out how much allowance you have to spend by calling 877-218-9951 or online at uawtrust.org/ otcbenefit; follow the steps to login.

Can't wait to see you all.

Remember to be kind to each other because we never know when is the last time we see each other.

Love, Peace and Justice - In solidarity

LOCAL 652
Mike Bauer
Retiree

The retiree chapter activities remain suspended until further notice. We owe it to all retirees to exercise caution for the health and wellbeing of our members and their families. When it is considered safe for the chapter activities to resume it will be announced in the Labor News.

Everyone take care, stay safe and healthy.

LOCAL 1753 Laura Clark Retiree



If anyone is interested in being a backup writer for Local 1753 retirees, please contact Laura at (517) 484-0507 and leave a message.

The Labor News is also available online at lansinglabornews.org

LOCAL 602 Obituaries

Rose M Koch – Retired

Karmond Deatsman - Father of Eddie Deatsman, Retired

Dennis R. Sleep – Retired

Frances M. Swinford – Mother of Bryan L. Swinford

Marilyn Siebelink – Mother of Craig Siebelink, Active

Eladio R. Cruz – Retired

Carolyn J. Lester – Retired

Richard L. Haley – Retired

Joseph G. Trevino – Retired

Jackie Bannen – Spouse of Phillip Bannen, Retired

Walter M. Saxton Jr. – Father of Walter M Saxton III, Retired

Stephen C. Rosebrock – Active

Bruce Soule - Retired

Paulina Smith – Spouse of Mervin Smith, Retired

Brian L. Smith – Retired

Mandy Werner – Active

Brandon Miller – Spouse of Krystle Miller, Active

Charles R. Baker - Retired

Elvin J. Ward - Retired

Gary Selden - Retired

Walter Peterson - Retired

Claude Baldwin - Retired

Donald Faulkner - Retired

Fred Bailey – Retired

Donald Faulkner - Retired

Daniel Hayden – Retired

Wesley Colling – Retired

Hector E. Gatica – Retired

Arthur Sharpe Jr – Active Gary F McDaniel - Retired Joe L. McGee-Retired Gary L. Patterson – Retired Sharon D. Barcelow – Retired Daniel C. Hayden – Retired Brian Ritter – Retired Helen Michaud Houseman (100 years old) – Mother of both Ken and Leroy Michaud, both retired from UAW Local 602 Melva P. Cook – Mother of Dale Cook, Active **LOCAL 652** Obituaries Ronald E. Campbell - Retiree Elizabeth J. Doolittle – Mother of Jim and Ken Doolittle, Mother-in-Law of Tom Wagner Robert "Camel" Estfan – Retiree Roman Goodman – Retiree Curtis Hayes – Member Vance "Russ" Hill – Retiree Sovanna In – Member

Gary M. Anspach - Retired

Barton Jones – Retiree, Father of Michael and Larry Jones

Frank Leven - Father of Roberto Leven

Joyce Martin – Spouse of Michael Martin, Mother-in-Law of Van Frazier

Jeffrey Olney - Retiree, Father of Doug Olney, Father-in-Law of Cheryl Olney

Arthur Orta – Member

Joan Francis Price – Spouse of William "Bill" Price, Mother-in-

eleve erraro

Kevin L. Corrigan

Business Manager

B (17

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Two (2) Executive Board Positions: SERGEANT-At-ARMS

GUIDE

TERM for these positions end June 2023 All active or retired members in good standing are eligible to run and vote for this position.

Sign Up to run:

7am - 6:00pm* daily Monday, March 7, 2022 Until Friday, March 11, 2022 *extended Hall hours to accommodate Day Shift schedule

24 Hour Election:

11am Tuesday, March 22, 2022 until 11am Wednesday, March 23, 2022

ONE Location:

UAW Local 602 Union Hall, 2510 W Michigan Avenue Lansing MI 48917 www.local602.org 517.372.4626

RUN-OFF, if necessary, will be held at the same location 11am Tuesday, March 29, 2022 until 11am Wednesday, March 30, 2022





Mike Huerta, Presider

REMOVE: 3-11-2022pm POST: 2-2-22



Wolodymyr Pytlowanyj – Retiree

Scott Roy – Member

Steve Runyan – Retiree

John L. Shockey – Retiree, Father of Charlie Shockey

Lela Thompson – Retiree, Mother of Cynthia Richardson

Thank-you's were received from the following families;

The Barton Jones Family

The Steve Runyan Family

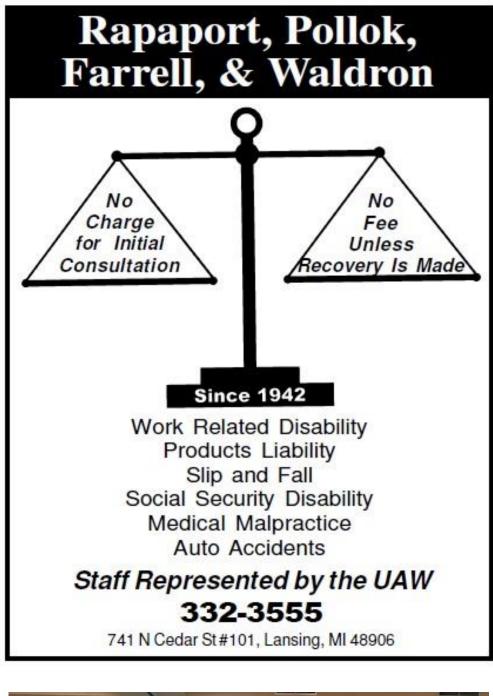
As many of you may now be aware, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission was formed to re-draw Michigan voting districts so they "are drawn fairly in a citizen-led, transparent process, meeting Constitutional mandates." They have completed their task. To see the new districts, go to the website: https://www.michigan.gov/ micrc/mapping-process/final-maps



Oldsmobile Outdoor Club held their 79th Annual Winterfest Feb 19th. The board (pictured above) helped organized many activities such as a fishing contest, poker run, bingo, chili and hot dogs, raffles and more. See the next page for more pictures. For more information, go to their Facebook page at

https://www.facebook.com/oldsmobileoutdoorclub

Thanks to Jill Bowen, Matt Schneider, Amanda Williams and Gary Howard for the pictures.

















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