



Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 4

VOICE OF 28,000 UAW MEMBERS



SEPTEMBER, 2017

How you can help

By Bill Reed, President, Local 602

The devastation of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma has left tens of thousands of people in search of temporary housing. It is estimated that it will take years and billions of dollars to see any kind of recovery. Hit with gas shortages, skyrocketing prices for food and bottled water, looting and fraud, it's impossible to imagine the emotional toll on the people most affected by the storms. Many have lost everything, and for them recovery may be a lifetime effort.



As of this writing, the death toll from the storm in Houston alone had risen to 37 as the latest statewide damage surveys revealed the staggering extent of the destruction. The Texas Department of Public Safety said more than 37,000 homes were heavily damaged and nearly 7,000 were destroyed. Over 325,000 people have already sought federal emergency aid in the wake of Harvey, while statistics concerning the impact of Hurricane Irma are just beginning to surface. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, residents were left without food and clean drinking water, putting them in a critical survival crisis.

And then Hurricane Maria devastat-

ated the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico, destroying the electrical grid and causing untold suffering for our brothers and sisters there.

I've been asked what we as union members can do to help those in need during this difficult time. One suggestion that comes to mind is our contribution to the United Way. Here in Lansing, the Capital Area United Way is coordinating flood relief efforts through recovery funds created by United Way Worldwide. These funds will support local communities and the surrounding areas affected by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. 100% of individual donations given to these recovery funds will be distributed to the affected areas.

United Ways in the affected areas will continue to raise money locally and respond to emerging needs. The national fund will complement those efforts and provide a single clearinghouse for individual and corporate donors who want to impact all affected areas. This will go a long way in helping local United Ways meet storm-related needs and support long-term recovery throughout the affected regions.

United Way has always supported disaster relief efforts, partnering with the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and others. You can find out more by visiting www.unitedway.org/recovery. Also available through the United Way

is a text-to-give option (simply text UWFLOOD to 41444).

One of the most depended upon charity organizations, the United Way helps millions of people by improving the quality of life for individuals and families in our communities and abroad. Labor has always been welcome at the table. I volunteer my time, as do other local UAW members, as a board member of the Capital Area United Way in Lansing. We see firsthand the positive impact volunteers and donors make in the lives of those needing a helping hand.

I encourage you to support the Capital Area United Way campaign in your worksite, or if retired to support this organization by volunteering your time and giving donations. Every little

bit adds up to become an essential resource for those in need. Enough cannot be said for such a great organization, the Capital Area United Way is surely an organization worthy of our support.

Election endorsements

Our endorsed candidates for the November 7 election appear in the box below. We would ask our membership to please consider your support in the best interest of working people in the entire Lansing area. The CAP Council goes into a screening process of each candidate who has asked for our endorsement. We ask about their positions on issues that concern working men and women. Also, community involvement and supporting labor issues. Thanks again in advance.

Election Endorsements

The UAW Region 1D Capital Area CAP Council has endorsed the following candidates for office in the city of Lansing in the November 7 election. Please consider voting for:

Mayor	Andy Schor
City Clerk	Chris Swope
City Council, Ward 2	Tina Houghton
City Council, Ward 4	Brian Jackson
City Council, At-Large	Kathie Dunbar

The Labor News is also available online at lansinglabornews.org

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The annual Local 652 skilled trades get-together on September 25 was enjoyed by many members. Thanks to Alex McPherson (front row, fourth from left) for once again making it happen! Among others in the front row with him are Local 652 President Randy Freeman, Vice President Ben Frantz, and Financial Secretary Bob Smith.

LOCAL 652
Randy Freeman, President

Costco is coming to town

After two years of hard work, Costco has finally come to town and will be opening its doors on October 27. It is located at 5800 Park Lake Road in East Lansing. We need to support those companies that support labor and Costco is a labor-friendly company. A company that takes care of their people with good pay and benefits, unlike some of those others guys, like Walmart, that don't.



Walmart is antiunion and spends millions of dollars every year on attacking unions and their members everywhere. They pay standard wages and hire a bunch of part-time people so they don't have to give them benefits. So get out and welcome Costco to our community.

Election endorsements

We have elections coming up on November 7 for our local government offices and we have endorsed the following candidates:

Mayor – Andy Schor
City Clerk – Chris Swope
City Council:

Second Ward – Tina Houghton
Fourth Ward – Brian Jackson
At Large – Kathie Dunbar

Please get out and support and vote for the candidates that support us.

We have the Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk coming up October 14 at the Lansing Capitol, starting at 9 a.m. I hope to see you all there.

October 21 at Local 652 is the UAW Region 1D Veterans Committee "Chili Cook Off." It runs from 1-4 p.m.

Also on that day, in the parking lot, the Local 652 Recreation Committee will be holding their annual Halloween Trunk or Treat for all the kids. It will start at 2 p.m. and run until 4 p.m. So dress the kids up and bring them out. It should be a lot of fun for all.

LOCAL 652
Ben Frantz, Vice President

This is who I am

Hello brothers and sisters, my name is Ben Frantz and I am the new Vice President of Local 652. I've chosen to use this first article to provide a brief history of myself so we can be better acquainted. I was raised mainly on the governmental aid and by a few great people and community families who understood my position in life.

Though, as a child I couldn't comprehend how poor we were, I now use those memories often to provide myself



a grounded perspective and to keep myself working hard in all aspects of life. As an adult, I realize that I can teach my three boys that determination and never quitting just because life can be difficult is not the Frantz way nor is it the way of the UAW.

Getting started in the UAW

Hiring into GM in July of 2002, I was fortunate to meet some people who have done great things inside the Local. South Plant (building 32) is where Ted Krumm and I first met; he is now the Chairman of the GM Unit of 652.

Shortly after hiring in, I was moved to the Lansing Grand River plant where Mike Green and I met. Through these encounters and support and encouragement from these individuals and many more, I started my path of representing Lansing Grand River as an alternate District Committeeman on the night shift.

A year after being elected the District 2A alternate, I ran for the District Committee spot which I retained through three more elections over a five-year span. Many individuals were placed in my path who gave me knowledge on both what to do as well as what to avoid as a representative of the people.

The three years leading up to my election this past June as the Vice President, I represented the GM Unit of Local 652 as a Shop Committeeman representing multiple Divisions. The progression from representing a small group of members on a single shift as a District Committeeperson to the multi-shift and multi-location responsibility of Shop Committee was one that I will always appreciate.

Learning experiences

It was a period filled with learning experiences of long-term goal achievements, patience and issue resolution. As a Shop Committee bargainer, going through local negotiations was an invaluable experience that will pay dividends in this new role of VP.

As I reflect upon this life journey, the similarities are striking and speak to the very essence of the type of person, husband, father and representative I strive to be.

As a child being blessed with uncles who were willing to replace an absent father figure, going out of their way to push me to excel at all things in life. Community families taking me in and showing me the true meaning of family and taking care of one another.

When I entered General Motors, meeting the great leaders that I've met and having them show support and sharing knowledge while challenging me to be the best at representing the membership all correlate so well.

These worlds are so different, yet so similar, and as I have been blessed to receive the trust of this membership to represent their interests as their Vice President, I say only this: I don't take that support lightly. I will never stop pushing those who will come after me to be the greatest they can be, all the while keeping the best interest of the membership at the forefront of all they do—because that's my commitment to you and that's who I am.

LOCAL 652
Bob Smith, Financial Secretary

A tribute to our Yanfeng members

Hello all! I'd like to use my space this month to thank a group of Union

Brothers and Sisters for their hard work, loyalty, and unionism. This group, now known as Yanfeng Automotive Interiors, previously Johnson Controls and before that, Plastech, have been a part of Local 652 since 2008. Near the beginning of 2017 the members of Yanfeng received the news that their plant was being closed in spite of being the top plant in many of the company's metrics.

It was totally unexpected, and when the Local was notified of the closing the UAW attempted to intervene. Local 652 former President Mike Green, International Servicing Rep Jeff Beegle, and Yanfeng Bargaining Chairman Mike Pattison went to great lengths to find work to keep the plant operating.

In concert with the plant's management team, work was identified and a list was given to corporate management. Their answer? Yes, they would gladly take all the work we could find, but it would NOT be done at the Lansing plant. Instead it would be distributed to other Yanfeng plants that were remaining open. This is a bitter reminder that this industry is a callous business and as such, it's driven by money and profit.

What I can't understand is a decision that seems to be illogical. The Lansing site was tops in the corporation. They were #1 in profit margin, quality, throughput, scrap reduction, *everything*—and still they are closing it. Seems unusual until you notice that Yanfeng had previously (July 2016) closed their #2 plant located in Whitby, Ontario.

I guess this should be a warning to the other plants in the corporation. Don't be a top-level plant or you will be closed! That's a hell of a corporate strategy, isn't it?

The real shame in this is the Brothers and Sisters in the plant who are some of the best union people you could hope to be around. They have stood together from their first Agreement through their most recent.

They have acted professionally throughout this difficult time, continuing to perform their duties to the best of their abilities, continuing to produce quality parts right to the end. I'm proud that UAW Local 652 has the privilege of representing this group.

From Plastech to JCIM to YFAI you've been an example for all of us. I thank you for your service, your patience, and most of all your membership in this Union and I wish you all the best.

—Your friend in Solidarity, Bob Smith



LOCAL 4911
Derrick McDuffey, President

A well earned retirement

I recently attended a retirement party for one of our caregivers who worked in the Sparrow Lab and has retired after 40 years of service at Sparrow Hospital. I met Honey Grewal back in 1989 when I was 18 years old. Honey worked in the lab I was hired into. We quickly became good friends and have remained friends over the 29 years I have been at Sparrow.



I am compelled to write this article about Honey because she was a remarkable woman a good friend with a true love of her job. She was very unique in that, in her 40 years of employment she has never called in to work a single time. On top of that, she has never been late to work a single time. That is simply remarkable. Honey was truly dedicated, not to mention blessed, in that she was able to accomplish this amazing feat. She will be missed.

On another note, Local 4911 is a year out from negotiations. Our bargaining team recently met with John Beck, a professor of Labor Relations at Michigan State University for training in collaborative style bargaining. We hope to have more training and team building opportunities over the next year leading into negotiations.

LOCAL 1753
Yvonne Vincent, President

Nomination notice

Hello Local 1753 Members. I again would like to thank everyone that joined a committee and has taken on leadership roles. This Union appreciates your participation.

I have a Nomination Notice for second shift GM Alternate Committeeperson and Euresst Group second shift Committeeperson. (These openings are due to change in shift preference.)

Nominations will be accepted in person only, at Local 1753, 3204 W. St. Joseph St. Lansing, MI.

Thursdays, October 5 & 12, 2017 from 2 pm to 3 pm. The Election will be Thursday, October 26, 2017 at Local 1753 from noon to 1 pm and in the Plant from 2-4 pm. If necessary, run-off will be November 5, 2017, same times and places.

For people outside the Plant, we have plenty of overtime being used and some Saturdays being forced. Your leadership is settling in and being kept busy as well. I would like to encourage our members to come to the general meetings held on the third Wednesday after the first Sunday at 2:15 pm.

Your Local will be throwing the Halloweeny roast October 31st in front of the Plant Cafeteria during regular lunch times. We hope to see you there. Thank you and be safe.

LOCAL 652
Scott R. Lounds,
Recording Secretary

The tyranny of the corporation

In her new book, *Private Government*, University of Michigan professor Elizabeth Anderson reports that audits by the Department of Labor have found “sweatshop-like conditions” in ninety-three per cent of the garment factories in Southern California. She also writes about how in the poultry industry employees are denied relief breaks and are required to wear adult diapers. In the food service industry ninety percent of employees report that they have been sexually harassed, and nation-wide millions of employees are subject to drug screening without cause.

How is this possible, you ask? The answer is that almost all employees in this country are at will and are seen as accepting these conditions as consenting adults who are free to seek other employment. So basically, because employees can quit at any time, management is free to treat them however they want.

This treatment includes terminating at will employees for any reason that is not discriminatory. Your boss doesn't like your Bernie Sanders bumper sticker? You are fired. Put something on Facebook they don't like? You are fired. So long as you are not terminated based on your race, gender, or religion there are virtually no restrictions on employers' power to terminate.

Most American workers just live with this. Fortunately, those of us who are blessed to have Unions and collective bargaining have means to combat the power of the company. But, only a small percentage of private sector employees still work under that protection.

The most striking thing about this, to me, is that the one proven method of combating these sorts of conditions, Unions, are shunned and derided by the people they could help the most. This is especially true of the right-wing base of the Republican Party.

Oddly, these same groups will rail against government intervention and interference in their lives and decry their “freedoms” being taken away. Yet, they place themselves under the hegemony of a private company and allow the corporation to subject them to restrictions that would be unconstitutional if imposed by the government.

Wake up, people! This country has too long listened to the praises of unfettered capitalism and the corporations. The very freedoms the American Revolution sought to gain, the escape from tyranny, the right to representation within our government, and the freedom to pursue life as we saw fit are now ceded to the corporations with the acquiescence of a vast number of Americans.

We, the members of the UAW, have protections and freedoms hard won by those who came before us; but these



freedoms still lie out of reach for most of our fellow citizens. It is time now, more than ever, to proselytize on the issues of the Labor Movement to those we live with, eat with, worship with, and work with. If people continue to march forward with eyes closed, what the founding fathers fought and died to wrest from the King will continue to be ceded to the Corporation.

LOCAL 602
Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary

UAW sound car back on the road

Here's quite an interesting article by Vince Piscopo from the UAW website:

Looking at the 1949 Ford “Woody” station wagon, it's easy to imagine it back in another era, a time when a local union would mount a huge speaker on the roof and broadcast messages to members as they left their plants, or maybe one might see it rumbling down a residential street on Election Day in west Detroit, encouraging people to vote for labor-friendly candidates.



Mike Kerwin, 93, a retired UAW international representative and Local 174 member, had driven that Ford while on Election Day duty. He was pulled out of his plant, American Metal Products Corp., to encourage members to vote and to deliver election materials. The car, which has “UAW West Side Local 174 CIO” painted in light blue on both sides on its wood side panels, was a critical part of the local's communications effort. In addition to political work, it was used at rallies, parades, organizing and other functions where the local needed to reach a mass audience.

“I remember driving it around the west side of Detroit from one plant to another,” Kerwin recalled. “For any one of our units on strike, a car like that could be quite useful.”

After more than two decades of service but only 23,314 miles, the car was sold to an employee of the local, Fred Adams in 1973, and it seemingly vanished, its glorious past gone to the ages. But, thanks to some lucky breaks, fine craftsmanship, and respect for our UAW

history from Jim and Cheryl Bassett, a Carleton, Michigan, couple, the West Side Local 174 Ford Woody is again on the road in southeastern Michigan.

Jim Bassett is a retired Ford Motor Co. sheet metal model maker at its Product Design Center in Dearborn, Michigan. His passion is to take an old car or truck and make it into something no one has seen before. His spacious garage is a testament to his talent — and a busy place. At present, he has a tiny Plymouth concept car from the 1940s and a 1956 Chevy pickup truck that he is customizing. About seven or eight years ago, a friend had noticed the Woody in the garage of Billy Adams, Fred's son and a local lawyer. The friend inquired if it was for sale and was promptly rebuffed. But he did leave his card with Adams and three years ago received a call that the Woody was for sale. Jim Bassett's friend called to advise him of the car's availability and, seeing an opportunity to make a really cool hot rod out of it, bought the dusty wagon three days later, something his wife didn't initially support.

But they became intrigued by the car's lettering on the side, a union banner that came with it, and the discovery of some old union buttons in the seats and key chains in the glove compartment. The more they learned about the car, the more it became apparent that this car wasn't simply another old relic. There were two large old dusty signs that came with the car and — after they cleaned them up, read, “This 1949 Sound Car was Used by Walter P. Reuther to Organize UAW Members.” That could not be immediately verified, but the Bassetts and others are still investigating the car's historical background. Reuther was the president of Local 174, but had been elected as a UAW vice president and then president long before the car was purchased by the local.

Either way, it's a significant piece of our history. Cheryl Bassett did a lot of the research — and just in time. Her husband had already begun fixing a few mechanical problems and removing a couple dents in the roof where the sound equipment had been mounted.

“She goes, ‘Don't you take another dent out of that car,’” he recalled.

“When we first purchased the car, we didn't know what it was,” his wife said. “It was like finding a lost treasure.”

Fixing the mechanical issues wasn't time consuming: He replaced the plugs, points and battery.

“We put the battery on it, cranked it about three times and it started right up

Continued on page 6

LOCAL 724
Debra Abent, Financial Secretary

On health care

As we were going to press, the Republicans in Congress were trying to pass an even worse health uncaring bill. Whether or not they get their way now, it's worth keeping in mind the union perspective on this issue:

There is something wrong with our system when working people are forced to forego lifesaving treatments in order to put food on the table. Americans want and need health care that allows children to grow into their potential and grandparents to be an active part of family life.



We have taken important—but imperfect steps—toward providing comprehensive, affordable health coverage for all. Today, the share of Americans who are uninsured is at a historical low. That's thanks to the combined impact of workers' health plans, strong Medicare and Medicaid programs, and the Affordable Care Act's protections against unaffordable private insurance.

Still, too many people do not have health insurance. Medical care and prescription drug prices are too high, which drives up the cost of health insurance and sticks working people and retirees with exorbitant deductibles, co-pays and co-insurance.

Now, Republicans are trying to ram their ill-conceived plans through Congress. If they succeed, millions of working people and retirees will be stripped of their health benefits, coverage will be far more expensive, workers' health plans will be taxed and federal health care funding will be raided to give huge tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations.

We will continue to advocate for affordable health care for all Americans and to protect and strengthen the family protection programs that provide vital care to millions of children and seniors. — aflcio.org

LOCAL 4911
Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary

UAW resource

Maybe you've been to the uaw.org site, but have you explored all it has to offer? There's a

tremendous amount of information and assistance for all manner of union interests and activities. Want to check the UAW Constitution? It's under the About dropdown menu. Under the Members dropdown, you can learn about the standing committees, the history of the UAW, educational resources, health and safety, and much, much more—including “Labor Lab.” Labor Lab examines core areas of building a strong union and highlights the experiences and best practices in our union. Check it out, you may be amazed at all there is to learn.



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VOICE OF 28,000 MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER, 2017

Marta Bobillo, 602 Retirees

602 retirees

Greetings, sisters and brothers. I hope today you are all well with the passing of the hurricanes, fires, floods, and the disasters in our country. Thank you to everyone for providing ways to help the victims.

I would like to thank everyone that took the time to call their Congressional representatives about the affordable health care.

With differences made, we still have it, but the difference was made by sticking together and making all those calls. But our fights are not over. This bill is going to be revisited and we have to do it again.

Senator Sanders is introducing a bill that is health care for all. It reflects the health care that Canada and all the other developed countries in the world have. When this comes to a vote, we need to again call our Congressional representatives and ask them to please pass it. We have to remember the teaching of our union movement that "An injury to one is an injury to all."

With Halloween coming up and the holidays, I ask that you all please purchase products that are labeled "Made in the USA" so we can keep our people working.

Also on one more note, we will be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at noon for a lunch potluck and a meeting, followed with a good time of Bingo.

Peace, love and justice. In solidarity, Marta Bobillo

Mike Bauer

652 retirees

Summer is about over. Fall is right around the corner. Enjoy the colors of the season.

The following is our monthly schedule of events:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. Games start at 10:00 a.m. Participants bring your own snacks. **If the Lansing School District is closed due to inclement weather our Bingo game will be cancelled.**

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 cards starting at 10:00 a.m. Participants bring your own snacks. **If the Lansing School District is closed due to inclement weather our Card game will be cancelled.**

Upcoming event cancellations – please mark your calendars accordingly:

November 28th: Cards cancelled

December 26th: Cards cancelled

The annual VEBA Trust Informational Meeting will be Thursday, October 19 at Local 652, starting at 10:00 a.m.

The Region 1D Retiree Travel Committee has an upcoming **Pigeon Forge**



Shown here at the annual retirees luncheon are the board members for the Region 1D Lansing Area Retirees Council. Thanks to them and to everyone who helped or attended for another fine time!

trip April 9-14, 2018. For additional information on Lansing buses call Diane Bauer at 517-627-5895 or Connie Garner-Dunn at 517-323-2146. People wanting Flint buses, call Linda Francis at 810-423-8661.

There is also a **Niagara Falls/Toronto trip** planned for the weeks of October 1-5, 2018, and October 8-12, 2018. For the first week Lansing buses call Connie Garner-Dunn, 517-323-2146 or Linda Francis, 810-423-8661. For the second week (Lansing) call Diane Bauer, 517-627-5895. Anyone wanting info for the Flint buses call Linda Francis, 810-423-8661.

If there is enough interest there is a possibility of having a bus to the Detroit Auto Show in January. Details are still being worked out at this time. If you are interested please call 517-372-7581, ext. 147, and leave your name, phone number, and mention the Detroit Auto Show. I will get back with you when the details (date, cost, any other activities during the trip) are available.

For any of our members or their families, who are ill or have lost a loved one, know that we are thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers. Condolences to all families who have had a loved one pass.

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

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

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

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

You may contact me at the following email address: retiree652@hotmail.com

October 21 will see the Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Region 1D Veterans Council (see p 5) and Trunk or Treat (See Randy Freeman's article on page 2)

Laura Clark

1753 retirees

Hello, everyone. The leaves are turning, the fall is almost on us. I will fill you in on what we have been up to. Annually, we have a picnic, and we did this year. Traditional style, we had burgers and dogs on the grill. Thanks as always to the chefs and all the people who helped make it a fun day. Dale won the dessert contest; as you know, chocolate is always a favorite. We also had some raffle prizes.

We've had meetings with great discussions on fraud against seniors, including the IRS or the police calling you for money. In fact, they won't give you a cold call, only if you have previously dealt with them on a specific item. Many folks gave examples where they thwarted wrongdoers. The best was a call about a hurt child, possibly a niece. Because of what was taught at our meeting, Norm asked, "Do you mean Suzy?" And the voice said yes, so he knew he had them, for his nieces did not have that name. You can do that also. Be sharp, don't give info or money over the phone.

We also have some shared interest in some of the news items we see on TV or the internet. When they were talking about cuts to Social Security and Medicare we sent postcards to our representatives in Washington saying hands off! This affects everyone; this is our future.

August saw the luncheon at the Royal Scot. This was our fourth time there, and each time we see more of our 1753 retirees come out. Is it their great food (succulent chicken)? Or our fabulous cookies? And bonus this year, we had cake that was provided by Costco. They're moving into our area and we hope they will unionize here and join us in brother- and sisterhood. Also attending were the wonderful vendors from our health providers and credit unions. They provide prizes for our raffle as well as our host, Royal Scot. These are the people we trust and rely on every day, thank you.

At our September meeting, we had



a great sunny day for getting the grill out and finishing off leftover dogs and burgers. With the help of Denny and many of the members we made a hotdog bar with chili, cheese and guacamole. Linda brought sauerkraut to top it off perfectly. It all went so well with the salad dishes and fixings that our members brought to pass. Walt donated back to the local a free bowling card he won at the August luncheon, thanks. The raffle was a lot of fun.

Unfortunately, we heard of more senior fraud alerts from our friends at AARP. There were so many I made copies for everyone to take home. You should also pay attention to the Equifax security breach, follow the steps to see if you may be affected by it.

Next month on October 12 our retiree lunch will be catered. We wanted to do something a little different to encourage more attendance. It's also a nice way to say goodbye to some of our snowbirds and get out of cooking lunch. We will still meet at 11:00 am for coffee and donuts, 12 noon lunch, and 1:00 meeting. Hope to see you there.

Lois Schultz

1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people.

I just got me a new walker, which I needed. Lucky me. I sure like to go out in my little pontoon boat. If you want a ride, come on over.

Once again, the Area Retirees Council did a great job with the annual luncheon.

Good food, lots of drawings, good friends, lots of laughs and hugs. My daughter Mariann Anthony said the prayer. Plan to be there next year, the retirees are the best! We are all a little sassy and a little older, but that's okay! Our thanks to all who made it to the event.

Condolences to the family of Helen Estell Cleaves at age 75. A good friend, as was her daughter Debbie.

Condolences to the family of Richard Benjamin Smith, age 78. He leaves his wife of 55 years, Arlene, who worked at LAFUCU. His father-in-law was Maynard Kempf. Whenever they sent him back to Plant 2, he would bring two donuts—one for him and one for me on our break. He will be missed.

Condolences to the family of Joyce Coats, a good neighbor and wonderful friend. She sold Watkins for years and I was her best customer. She was loved by many.

We received a thank-you from the family of Claude Harris.

Travel Committee trips are on: Myrtle Beach Show trip and Charleston, South Carolina, October 1-7 and October 8-14, both leaving from Lansing.

Someone took the American flag at Chapel Hill, but I see it's been replaced.

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Breakfast with us

GM salary, hourly & skilled trades Retirees' Breakfast, last Wednesday of the month, at Flap Jack in DeWitt next to LAFUCU from 7:30 till 7: Phone 517-374-6456.

United Way and the UAW

Dean L. Poggiali, Labor Liaison
Capital Area United Way

Greetings, same person but different role as a columnist for the Lansing Labor News (LLN). I truly appreciate the request from LLN Editor Harold Foster, who asked if I could continue to compose a few thoughts from the community services realm. I humbly accepted and will offer a few things from time to time. Also many thanks go to long-time LLN staffer Tim Bogar for all his kind words and thoughtful conversation.



With it being late summer/early fall we are in the throes of worksite United way campaigns. As I compose this we have already completed several campaigns. The Alliance and RSDC Units for Local 724 have wrapped up with good results. We have also conducted round one of outreach at Ryder. The Ryder corporate office would like to be more engaged with the local campaigns so we will be out at the facility later this month and/or earlier in October.

Upcoming drives at Dakkota and Woodbridge are forthcoming. One particular positive note is the campaign at the newly organized UAW worksite Kirchoff Automotive. Sometimes this

takes a while, but we had the UAW Region Servicing Rep Brian Bosak advocating for us; so we will be at Kirchoff in October. Also, the newly organized facility, Faurecia, will hopefully be on board as well. Thanks go to Tony Chandler for assisting with this as well.

At the recent UAW MI State CAP conference a collection was taken by the delegates to assist those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. In a little over ten minutes, over \$1,200 was collected. This again shows the great spirit and commitment to community of the UAW and its members. Then on the backs of this event, Hurricane Irma hit. We have fielded several calls about what is the best way to help. That is a personal choice, but you can research options through the local United Way chapters and American Red Cross chapters as well. The thought has been to donate dollars in order to stimulate the impacted local economy. This way, donations of items may not be lost in the shuffle, especially if the local infrastructure is compromised.

Although it will happen before the LLN is delivered, the Capital Area United Way is coordinating efforts to help non-profits in the area to conduct some projects at their location. The annual Days of Caring utilizes community volunteers to help these projects get completed. Some of the projects will be cosmetic in nature, while others will major in scope.

Please feel free to contact me if anyone has any questions about the community, and we can problem solve together.

A LAFCU community champion



Delta Township firefighter and paramedic Matt Ash is honored at a Lansing Lugnuts LAFCU Fireworks Spectacular as the recipient of the 2017 LAFCU Community Champions scholarship. He is with his wife, Michelle, at left, and, from center, LAFCU's Alyssa Sliger and Kelli Ellsworth Etchison.

Matt Ash of Lansing is the recipient of the 2017 LAFCU Community Champions scholarship awarded by the mid-Michigan credit union.

Ash is a firefighter and paramedic with the Delta Township Fire Department. He was awarded the \$1,000 scholarship to Lansing Community College based on his essay about what compelled him to serve his community.

"I cannot imagine doing anything other than serving my community as a first responder," Ash said. "It's a blessing and humbling experience to help those in need. The scholarship will fund

continuing education that will keep me up to date with medical advancements and better prepare me for continued quality service."

The LAFCU Community Champions program recognizes police, fire and medical first responders as well as current and veteran members of the military at Lansing Lugnuts LAFCU Fireworks Spectaculars.

The honorees receive free game tickets, the opportunity to throw the first pitch and in-game recognition on the field and on the stadium's video-board.

Working with Sparrow and labor unions

By Claire P. Corr
Labor Community Liaison
Sparrow Health System

Greetings from Sparrow. I am thrilled to have been asked to write an article for the Lansing Labor News and to continue with a quarterly update. Thank you to Harold Foster and his team for recognizing the importance of supporting our hometown hospital and the position of the Labor Community Liaison at Sparrow.



As most of you know, Sparrow recently opened the doors to the Herbert-Herman Cancer Center (HHCC) across from the main hospital. The cancer center is a world-class treatment center in the fight against cancer and providing individualized treatment plans, housing medical and surgical oncologists in one location. It is home to the region's only cancer genetics counselor, and reciprocates the transfer of information and input directly from Mayo Clinic oncologists and surgeons.

The HHCC will elevate the level of care provided to over 70,000 patients per year with 40 infusion pods, three linear accelerators to provide the most precise radiation treatment to date, additional space for clinical trials, genetic counseling, social workers, palliative care specialists, and dieticians.

Inside the lobby there are two retail stores: Front Room Underfashions and Another Look Hair Institute, to assist in the sense of normalcy for patients undergoing cancer treatments. Hopefully none of you will need the services of the Herbert-Herman Cancer Center but take comfort in knowing you no longer need to seek treatment outside of mid-Michigan!

One of the highlights of my job at Sparrow is to help care for the families of union members who find themselves

as a patient in the hospital (or vice versa). I provide food and parking vouchers along with assurance that you have someone in your corner to help navigate the health system. Being in the hospital can be a frightening experience, but always know I am a phone call away.

It will be exciting to see what Sparrow's next big endeavor will be for the Health System. The Eastern High School project is coming along and a new urgent care clinic will be built inside the parking deck attached to the HHCC on Michigan Avenue.

Built with union labor

An important note, all the projects and remodels have been performed by Trade Unionists since I have been a Sparrow Caregiver; including but not limited to plumbers/pipefitters, electricians, carpenters, sheet metal, laborers, and painters.

Sparrow prides itself on the relationship with labor unions and has a deep appreciation for the attention to detail and the care that goes into every pipe that is welded to every containment room built for safety.

It is because of this relationship that Sparrow hired a Labor Community Relations Specialist. Over a five-year period, Sparrow has invested more than \$285 million in construction and information technology projects.

Sparrow's mission is to put the needs of their patients first to provide quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time.

Until next time, I will continue to update the UAW members about Sparrow initiatives at the CAP meetings. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

I am available to speak or have a presence at your union meetings, your retiree meetings, conferences, and events. I am here to serve the union membership!

My contact information is: Claire.corr@sparrow.org or call my office phone: 517-364-3468.

UAW Region 1D Veterans Council 8th Annual Charity Chili Cook Off & Craft Show Saturday, October 21

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hosted at UAW Local 652 and Local 724
426 Clare Street, Lansing

\$5.00 per person includes chili, crackers & beverage
Door Prizes • Silent Auction • 50/50 Auction

We invite all standing committees of UAW Locals to donate an item.

\$10 per chili entry fee

\$10 per craft show entry fee

Prizes for best chili:

First place, \$150; Second, \$100; Third, \$75; and Fourth, \$50.

All entries must be prepaid prior to event. Crock pots and electric roasters only. Please bring your own extension cord. Crackers, tableware, and beverages will be provided. All entries must be registered no later than Wednesday, October 18. For pre-registration, please contact:

Ron Olivarez of Local 652 at 517-775-4832 or
Tim Duplanty of Local 659 at 810-625-8535

Chicago labor unions help buy the Sun-Times

Editor's Note: The AFL-CIO Label Letter does much more than publish lists of union-made products and services. It has useful info of all kinds for union members and supporters. Here's an article that particularly resonated with us:

In June, a group of investors led by former Chicago Alderman Edwin Eisendrath, that included several labor unions, submitted a bid against Chicago Tribune parent company Tronc, Inc. to purchase the Chicago Sun-Times and weekly Chicago Reader.

Eisendrath and the group of investors, which includes several labor organizations and about a dozen other investors, made a bid of \$15 million to buy the Sun-Times and Reader from Wrapports, LLC. Tronc had published a letter of intent to purchase the Sun-Times, Reader and other media assets.

David Roeder, consultant for the Chicago News Guild, which represents reporters and other media members said that they were "elated that there is at least one strong bid to counter Tronc. We just hope the Department of Justice (DOJ) will look at this and see there are better alternatives to Tronc out there."

The DOJ's Antitrust Division was involved in the sale because of its opposition to a single entity controlling multiple media operations in the same market, as would have been the case if the Sun-Times were sold to Tronc.

In July, Eisendrath and Bob Reiter of the Chicago Federation of Labor said that the group had met a DOJ deadline to prove that it has funds to operate the newspaper, saying that investors had raised in excess of \$11.2 million. The DOJ released a statement saying that the "public sale process resulted in an alternate buyer of the Chicago Sun-Times."

The group purchased the Sun-Times, the Chicago Reader, and Answers Media, a digital production center.

Among the union groups involved in the purchase were:

The Chicago Federation of Labor, the third-largest central labor council of the AFL-CIO in the United States, representing some 300 local unions, comprised of over half a million union members in Chicago and Cook County.

LIUNA Chicago Laborers District Council represents a diverse group of over 20,000 hard working men and women in the construction, municipal, and industrial sectors, belonging to fifteen Laborers Locals in the nine counties covering the Chicagoland area.

The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Labor & Management Committee represents tens of thousands of working men and women throughout 72 counties in Illinois and Eastern Iowa. Members include professionals trained in these specialties: General Carpenter, Residential Carpenter, Exhibit and Display Installer, Interior Systems Carpenter, Lather, Cabinetmaker and Millworker, Flooring Installer, Pile Driver, Millwright, Insulation Installer, Shingling and Siding Installer, and Concrete Forming.

Check out other important labor news at:
<http://wp.unionlabel.org/label-letter/>

Howard

Continued from page 3

and it idled perfectly," Jim Bassett said, adding that he replaced the brake lines, master cylinder and parts like rubber hoses and gaskets that had deteriorated over the years. Safety, not getting the car back to its pristine original condition, was the most important factor.

"We just cleaned it up and presented it as it is," he said.

The couple have driven the Woody around southeastern Michigan, including in Detroit's Labor Day Parade two years ago where they gave Mike Kerwin a ride. They also took it to "The Glass House," the nickname for Ford's world headquarters in Dearborn, where it was received warmly by top Ford executives and Cheryl Bassett's co-workers. She works in the corporation's legal department.

The couple gets a lot of compliments and questions from people who are current and retired Local 174 members, as well as from the general public. It gives them a chance to discuss local and labor history with young people who may only know that Interstate 696 is named after Walter Reuther, but not much else. For Jim Bassett, it brings back memories of his father, a UAW member, and the union's role in securing advances for working people.

"The car was used to help promote the UAW and it helped change the world," Jim Bassett said.

When they got the car, Cheryl Bassett said restoring it to nearly its original state felt like their mission. But the couple would sell it if the circumstances were right, particularly if the new owner would be interested in keeping the car as is. But it also takes up valuable space in the garage and Jim Bassett is ready to move on to his next project.

John Zimmick, current president of Local 174, said he'd love to see the car put to good use in its current state. The local two years ago raised funds to save a labor mural that had been at their local's previous locations, and was in dire need of clean up due to cigarette smoke damage and age. It is now proudly displayed at the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University in Detroit. The car deserves preservation, as well, he said.

"I'd like to preserve it for sure," Zimmick said. "That's a part of our history, right there."

You can see pictures of the car at uaw.org/solidarity-magazine/local-174s-sound-car-back-road

Schultz

Continued from page 4

Thanks, Dick Torgerson. Our September meeting had pizza and salad.

On September 23 we had our pancake breakfast and bake sale. Thanks to all who took part.

On October 11 we will have our Halloween luncheon.

On November 8, the veterans' memorial, Thanksgiving luncheon, and holiday auction.

December 13, the Christmas luncheon.

Till we meet again, keep smiling.

602 Obituaries

Vickie L. Miller – Retired
Marie Denning – Mother of Paul Denning, Active, Production, Body Underbody Pans
Dallas I. Walters – Retired
Collen E. Krabill – Wife of Robert Krabill, Retired
Robert J. Spangler – Retired
Gerald Q. Eastman – Father of Steve Eastman, Active, Paint Topcoat
Mary Louise Klein – Mother of Mark Klein, Active, Materials
Otis Hall – Retired
James G. Henry – Retiree
Scott M. Dicks – Retiree
Gail A. Zeigler – Retiree
Timothy H. Southwell – Retiree
Xavier Martin – Step-Son of Kevin Nanasy, Active, Final Materials
Rex A. Britten – Retired
Kenneth D. Doten – Retired
Sharon Ann Brown – Wife of Paul Brown, Active, Skilled Trades Zone
Barbara Jean Williams – Mother of Bob Williams, Retired
Goldie F Banner – Retired
Patrick W Hall – Retired
Leonard E Clouse – Retired
Kenneth L Milstead – Retired
Gilbert Cuellar – Retired
William E Johnson Jr. – Retired
James Dempsey – Retired
Cynthia Ann Saxton – Wife of Walter Saxton, Retired
William Lee Epps – Father of Michael Epps, Active, Production 1st shift
Joanne L. Barrett – Mother of Dave Barrett, Retired
Terry R. Jones – Retired
Frederick H. Ellsworth – Retired
James C. Roberts – Retired
Ronald J. Satkowiak – Retired
Athesia "Azzia" Martha Kuri – Mother of Denise Auble, Active, 1st Quality Control Care/WT
Bobbie Bancroft – Mother of Ronald Bancroft, Active, GA Chassis 1st shift
Richard Hands – Retired
Rolland Wing – Retired
Stella Irene Wenzlick – Mother of Tim Wenzlick, Retired
Ronald Pierce – Father of Joel Pierce, Active, Body Maintenance
John Holtman – Father-In-Law of Joel Pierce, Active, Body Maintenance
Gary Allen Knight – Father of Debra Knight, Active, Quality Control
Dale W. Harrison – Retired
Mary C. Reimbold – Mother of Steve Reimbold, Retired
Nancy J. Houghton – Mother of Wes Houghton, Retired
Randall E. Fausett – Retired
Chris Q. Pierce – Father of Angi Dixon, Active, Materials Trim
Thomas Adams – Retired
Alvin L. Dunn – Retired
Lee L. Preston – Retired
Leah Mae Whitney – Daughter of James Stiles, Retired
Virgil E. Stiles Sr. – Father of James Stiles, Retired
Russell Edwin Waters – Father-In-Law

of Charles G. Coon, Retired
Virgil E. Stiles Sr. – Father of James Stiles, Retired and Father of Virgil E. Stiles Jr, Active, Quality Control Engineering
Leah Mae Whitney – Daughter of James Stiles, Retired
Andrew Graham – Retired
Leroy Mitchell – Father of Gail Patterson, Active, GA Chassis 3
Paul A. Richards – Active, Delta Assembly
Albert S. Peacock – Retired
Thomas M. Van Wormer – Retired

652 Obituaries

Kay F. Badge – Retiree
Mary Ann Behovitz – Spouse of Vincent Behovitz
Robert "Bobby" Brown – Retiree
Kenneth Cary – Retiree
Ruby Cornell – Mother-in-Law of William Sherburne
Kenneth Croff – Retiree, Spouse of Velma Croff, Brother-in-Law of Andy, Tom and Dave Kerr, Cousin of Richard May, Uncle of Garland Morgan
Welton "Leroy" Davis – Retiree, Brother of Robert "Bob" Davis, Son-in-Law of James Betz
Keith Eldred – Retiree
Jack Freeman – Father of Randy and William "Bill" Freeman
Eliseo Gauna – Retiree, Brother of Ruben, Manases and Ray Gauna
Vernon L. Grove – Father-in-Law of William Sherburne
John E. House – Retiree, Spouse of Gloria House
David Johnstone – Retiree
Mary Klaker – Mother-in-Law of Ken Ralston, Sister-in-Law of Leon Hundt
Keith Kniffen – Retiree, Father of Karen Kirkpatrick and Ron Kniffen
Luann C. Kramer – Spouse of Frederick Kramer
Delphine Joan Kurtz – Mother of Robert Kurtz
Robert Lira – Retiree, Spouse of SanJuanita Lira, Brother-in-Law of Lupe Torres and Florencio Torres II, Son-in-Law of Florencio Torres, Step Son-in-Law of Mike Peek, Uncle of Anna Perez
Dorothy McHenry-Fones – Mother of Robert McHenry
Louis J. Rademacher – Retiree
Viola Simmons – Mother-in-Law of Robert Kurtz
Fred Smith – Retiree
Trina Villegas – Mother of Mary DeLaGarza
Virginia Wiederhold – Spouse of Jason Wiederhold
Roger Dean Seabrook – Retired
Thank-You's were received from the following families:
The Alden Brewbaker Family
The Jack Freeman Family
The Mary Klaker Family
The Keith Kniffen Family

UAW files new charges against Nissan

Editor's note: It was big news in August when a UAW organizing drive in Mississippi was defeated. Much of the media did not tell the whole story. Here is background information, along with future plans, from the UAW:

CANTON, Mississippi — Following an unprecedented campaign of corporate threats and intimidation, Nissan employees fell short in their bid for a union.

In a two-day election in early August supervised by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), blue-collar employees at Nissan's Canton plant voted 2244 to 1307 against employee representation. Voting began less than a week after the NLRB issued the latest in a series of unfair labor practice complaints against Nissan.

"The courageous workers of Nissan, who fought tirelessly for union representation alongside community and civil-rights leaders, should be proud of their efforts to be represented by the UAW," said Dennis Williams, president of the UAW. "The result of the election was a setback for these workers, the UAW and working Americans everywhere, but in no way should it be considered a defeat.

Williams added: "Perhaps recognizing they couldn't keep their workers from joining our union based on the facts, Nissan and its anti-worker allies ran a vicious campaign against its own workforce that was comprised of intense scare tactics, misinformation and intimidation."

Nissan's many threats

In its latest complaint against Nissan, the NLRB alleged that the company recently threatened a loss of wages and benefits if employees support a union, threatened closing of the Canton plant if employees support a union, interrogated employees about union support, and promised increased benefits and improved working conditions if employees oppose a union.

During the days and weeks leading up to the union election, Nissan's unfair labor practices significantly intensified at the Canton plant — one of only three Nissan facilities in the world, including two in Tennessee, where workers are not represented by a union.

Acting on behalf of Nissan employees and in response to the events of recent weeks, the UAW filed a new round of unfair labor practice charges with the NLRB shortly before the polls closed in Canton at 7 p.m. CDT.

The charges allege additional violations of the National Labor Relations Act, including widespread surveillance of worker union activity, threats that benefits would be taken away if the Nissan Canton workforce votes for UAW representation, termination of a

pro-union Kelly worker, threatening another worker that she could be terminated if the UAW was to become the representative of Nissan workers, a threat that UAW's bargaining with Nissan would be futile, and Nissan's denial of equal access to voters.

Moreover, the union is asking the NLRB to proceed with a trial to stop Nissan's serial commission of unfair labor practices in Mississippi.

Beginning in November 2015, the NLRB issued a series of complaints against Nissan and the company's temp-worker agency Kelly Services, alleging that they are "interfering with, restraining and coercing employees in the exercise of their rights."

Currently, the complaints are awaiting trial by an administrative law judge. If Nissan is found to have committed the unfair labor practices that are alleged, the NLRB can go to federal court and seek a binding court order against Nissan that will stop the company from committing such unfair labor practices in the future.

"We're disappointed but not surprised by the outcome in Canton," said Gary Casteel, secretary-treasurer of the UAW and director of the international union's transnational department. "Despite claiming for years to be neutral on the question of a union, Nissan waged one of the most illegal and unethical anti-union campaigns that I've seen in my lifetime."

Casteel added: "Clearly, Nissan will not honor workers' right to be free of coercion and intimidation without a binding court order requiring the company to stop."

Nissan employees, with legal and technical assistance from the UAW, on July 11 announced the filing of an election petition with the NLRB. Almost immediately, Nissan managers and supervisors stepped up threats and intimidation inside the plant.

Beginning in mid-July, Nissan supervisors pressured employees with anti-union messages in group and one-on-one meetings. The company broadcast anti-union videos inside the plant instructing workers to "Vote No" and launched a sizable anti-union cable-television buy in the central Mississippi media market.

Nissan made implied threats to close the Canton plant if workers unionized and threatened employees with layoffs if they unionized — similar to the unfair labor practices previously alleged by the NLRB. Additionally, after examining contact lists for Nissan employees — which are required by the NLRB to be shared with union organizers — the UAW found large numbers of errors, including inaccurate names, mailing addresses and phone numbers.

"On top of Nissan threatening and

intimidating employees inside the plant, the company gave us lists that were terribly flawed with inaccurate information which complicated efforts to distribute accurate information outside the plant," Casteel said. "Nissan had unlimited captive-audience access to workers in the plant, but its faulty lists limited the ability of the union to contact workers by phone, email or at home."

Looking ahead: The UAW and the Mississippi Alliance for Fairness at Nissan (MAFFAN), a coalition of faith and community leaders, pledged to redouble efforts to work with labor allies at Nissan plants around the world to keep pressuring the company — and

to educate the French government about Nissan's threats and intimidation against its predominantly African-American workforce in Mississippi. With an approximately 20 percent stake in Renault, the French government is the largest shareholder in Renault, which in turn is the largest shareholder in Nissan.

"American workers need champions now more than ever," Williams said. "The workers of Nissan deserve the job security, safe working conditions and collective bargaining power that come only from belonging to a union. The UAW will continue to be on the frontlines of that fight for all workers."



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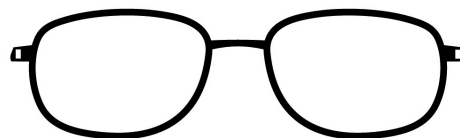
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