



Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 79, ISSUE 3

VOICE OF 25,000 UAW MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER, 2023

LOCAL 724

Todd Collins,
President



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer whatever you chose to do. By the time you receive this, what I'm sure, is on every one of our members' minds is what will happen with the impending threat of a UAW strike at the Big Three. Will I be laid off? Will I still be able to work? What will happen to my benefits? How long will the potential strike last? While our members will 100% support our fellow Brothers and Sisters when, and if, a strike happens the impact of it will undoubtedly be different for the members who supply these big three plants. I understand that our members will have many questions and I encourage you to reach out to your respective elected leadership at your worksite. The Local will provide whatever information that is available to our members as we receive it. The Local will provide whatever resources that are available to our members that are impacted. Please contact the Local if

you have any questions or concerns related to the status of the potential strike and your status as it relates to your job at your particular site. Your respective Leadership at your worksite will be working with the company to work through any potential issues related to the potential strike. I hope that if there is a strike that the impact on our members is minimal and our brothers and sisters get a fair and equitable agreement that provides job security for the members in the IPS sector as well.

In Solidarity,

Todd

LOCAL 4911

Muhammad
Qawwee,
President



Greetings my UAW Brothers and Sisters. Fall is among us and we are still experiencing summer like weather. As our brothers and sisters in our UAW family are possibly on the verge of a strike, let us keep in mind how those of us between contracts can support our fellow UAW members. Nobody wants to strike, but if we don't stand for something, we will fall for anything. Our members, most who have been working 7 days a week and double shifts, deserve to be compensated and taken care of with decent benefits and adequate time off to recharge and enjoy family time. I hear some in the community say they are asking too much. Well, they have no idea what it is like standing on a line for 8,10,12, 16 hours a day in sweltering heat, and barely given enough time to use the bathroom. I have toured a couple of plants and will never complain about what we do in the hospital compared to their workday. If you can give a little extra to the food pantries this month, donate anything

you can to emergency agencies that help the unemployed and raise a hand (or two) to help someone in need. You never know when it could be you.

In Solidarity,

Muhammad

LOCAL 602

Mike Huerta,
President



I hope you all had a great Labor Day weekend and enjoyed the time off with family and friends. With summer behind us the UAW moves to our busy season... contract negotiations! During the next few weeks please check in on your UAW family. We are all anxious for the outcome of the negotiations and we can be very stressed so if you are able - drop a text, make a call or stop and visit each other just to make sure.

Unions are the last, best hope for working families to be able to demand fairness from giant multi-billion dollar corporations. With the big three contracts all set to expire on September 14th it seems that public opinion is in our favor. A recent poll of registered voters conducted by the AFL-CIO suggests voters across the board strongly see labor unions as beneficial, needed now more than ever and yet harder to join. Support transcends partisan groups, with Republicans and independents supporting unions, and younger voters particularly likely to support them. An overwhelming majority supports unions and strikes, even majorities of Republicans and independents. Seven-in-ten (71%) approve of labor unions, while less than a fifth (19%) disapprove. Labor union approval transcends party—with 91% of Democrats, along with more than two-thirds (69%) of independents and half of Repub-

licans (52%) approving.

Support for strikes further exceeds union approval. Three-fourths (75%) support “workers going on strike to negotiate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions” with nearly half (47%) strongly supporting doing so. Again, clear majorities of Democrats (93%), independents (73%), and Republicans (58%) support strikes. As far as the UAW; 75% of Americans sympathize more with the UAW than with the auto companies (19%) in their current negotiations.

It seems like the wind is at our back. In 2019, our community blessed us with a remarkable outpouring of support during our strike and I have already had dozens of calls asking how to help. Let's hope the Auto companies understand that our communities and America has our backs and they want us to be fairly compensated for our labor. Our active members are ready, our retirees are ready and should we go on strike our communities are ready.

LOCAL 652

Ben Frantz,
President



Hello brothers and sisters. As I write this, I hope you and your family safely made it through the storms and life is settling back down for you all. As we look forward, we will celebrate Labor Day and then watch the clock wind down on our UAW and General Motors agreement. My hope for all of us still active is that the company applies common sense and understands that we, the workers, are the most integral part of the process for them making a Billion plus dollars every month of the last four years. If they are willing to negotiate with our top negotiators, I do not doubt

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we can get a strong agreement and avoid any work stoppage. My next biggest hope is that they are willing to respect the past work of our retirees and bargain for an improvement for all of you as well. But, as I have explained in the past, bargaining on behalf of retired workers is a permissive, not mandatory, topic of the collective bargaining process. With all that is looming in the near future, I decided to look back at our labor history. I was surprised that the first notable strike on record in America was in 1794. It was an organized work stoppage by a printers union. Their main issues were better wages and better work hours. As I kept reading, I read about many small strikes from 1794 until 1866, with similar goals to what we seek today. But, in 1866, the first national labor union was formed. The National Labor Union was born on August 20, 1866, in Baltimore; though it failed fairly quickly, the idea of multiple small Union Locals banding together to gain strength was sound. Today, many national labor unions, such as the UAW, wield tremendous power when the working class decides to unite. Having unity and showing solidarity are just a couple of reasons I am a proud union member and know I will always be. We have been through some stressful days here recently with the storms and are facing many stressful days to come. When the storms hit my community, I witnessed the people put aside all the fractional things that don't matter and band together to help one another get our community back to normal. As we enter what could potentially be the longest strike in automotive history, I will hold to that same ideal that when it truly matters, we as unionists will band together, lock arms, and remember what Walter Reuther said, "There is no power in the world that can stop the forward march of free men and women when they are joined in the solidarity of human brotherhood."

In closing, I have a couple of requests; please look at the gains banding together and embracing our similar goals can achieve for the working class. Also, please try and avoid the pitfalls of seeking to find fault in others, which robs us of solidarity and proves only to divide

and restrict us from what we have earned and must be strong to gain. Stay united brothers and sisters and never forget, Solidarity Forever!

LOCAL 652

Lena Wyeth,
Vice President



Picture this! I'm a new hire in the late 90s, vanpooling with a bunch of guys from Gratiot County, who at that time had over 20 years of seniority at GM. I never worked in a shop before and I was clueless! Yes, the van got a little loud and crazy on our way home from working 2nd shift. Whenever the plant had to shut down early due to a breakdown, you can bet that our vanpool stopped at the party store before we hit the highway back to Gratiot County. My go-to was always Mt Dew and a bag of chips. Larry Rhode was the owner and driver of the van. Doug Terwilliger and Denny Wolfgang were the main jokesters in the van and Eddie Fell was the quiet one. It was the popular vanpool to be in back in the day. Believe it or not, I learned the most from this group of guys. Whatever the boss tried to pull during the shift, was always talked about in that van. My fellow vanpoolers weren't committee men and never held an elected position, but they sure knew the contract. I heard a lot of, "Oh no, they can't do that" and "You make a committee call tomorrow". Back then, contract knowledge was passed on from worker to worker, we didn't have social media and most didn't even have cell phones. The point is, that contract education was talked about all the time. Most people knew the contract, and that was very valuable. I was lucky when I was hired because most of my co-workers working beside and around me were high seniority and they taught me "plant life". The information and history that high seniority knew was passed on to the next generation and that was key. That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history. -Aldous Huxley

I think it is essential to pass on information to the next generation. This is why I contacted a UAW archivist from the Walter Reuther Library at Wayne State University. He said they don't have much information on Local 652 and would like to come to the hall to start tagging information that he would like to have at the Walter Reuther library. We have so much history at Local 652 and it would be a shame if the story was left untold. Once it is at the library, Local 652 history will live on and can be studied by generations to come. The UAW Archivist is considering making a video, so more news to come on that. Some of you just might get a phone call from me, asking if you would give a recorded interview. If this is something you are willing to share, give me a call at the union hall. As always, it is my honor and pleasure to serve as Local 652 Vice President. If there is anything I can do to help, please don't hesitate to call.

LOCAL 602

Isaiah Fuller,
Vice President



"The UAW And the Middle Class Must Thrive!"

Our society has succumbed to a life that places the American dream in a china cabinet, in a room, in the house that nobody goes in unless they have company or its election time. We say we want change but what we need to change ourselves and start by putting the future of the working middle class citizen first. Our founders had a similar battle ahead of them and learned they had to stick together for it to get better for us all. The purpose of a union is to fight for things to get better and to ensure that those coming after you don't have to go through the same as those before them.

As time has gone on from our past and where we came from corporations and those who have wealth and are unwilling to share with those who have none; and have silently won wars using their

wealth to write laws and put people in places where they could control and know they would ensure that the working class Americans would have to fight to get anything; but yet still be able to gain no ground to keep up with the rest of America.

The purpose for the American union has not changed, it's us who have been led astray and become complacent and turned on our own brothers and sisters.

We've been made to individualize so much that we have even helped politicians into office that may agree with our individual needs but in the long run affect our wallets and our families' futures by their own greed.

There was a time where this country was booming and those who were in working families reaped the benefits of it, but then we allowed greed to come in and influence our government and our so-called leaders. Corporate American used money and other tactics to influence us to push for and or vote on laws that have come to haunt our existence.

For the longest our unions and middle-class Americans have been just surviving and being kept quite due to being given a little here and there just to make us happy and so that we exist. But are we really meant to be subservient to the wealthy corporations in this country in order to insure they stay on top and control what we can and cannot do?

I was told once that one of the greatness powers a man can have over another is when he can dictate how much money you make and what kind of lifestyle you can have. I'm not calling for a revolt or a revolution; but we as working citizens must wake up and start wanting to thrive and to prosper, develop, and grow and build for those who are in our families and communities that we care about; and for those who are in the working middle class families that we care about.

We have been put in a place blindly because of the wealthy not having empathy for their fellow man and filtering that into our heads to be the same way. I'm not saying give us hand outs and free stuff. I'm saying we have stop fighting amongst ourselves in society and in our unions to get anything done. We must not only

From Schneider page 3
coverage. If you do not use a traditional bank, pay cards and apps still have routing and account numbers associated with them. Members without smartphones may consider bringing a helper with them, depending on hall capacity. At registration the member will scan a unique QR code or enter the site URL, they will then receive an e-mail to create a membership file within the strike assistance portal. Members will need to create a username and password to access their file in the portal, so plan a method to memorize those.

Once your profile is complete, the information will be processed electronically. The Financial Secretary of the local will confirm members against the local membership list as well as strike duty cards or sign-in sheets. These actions will allow the distribution of funds via direct deposit. I am hopeful this will be an improved and seamless process for the membership. As with life, nothing is without glitches, but in addition to the Strike Assistance Helpline, we have our fellow members here to help us through.

LOCAL 1753

Laura Clark
Retiree



Greeting Sisters and Brothers and friends

It's great to be writing to you again. I've missed visiting with you the last two meetings. I think at this age we all understand how health issues can derail your direction, and get you off track. With any luck I will see you at our next meeting and lunch in September on the 14th, and maybe more importantly, October 12th meeting and lunch. Many are interested in the benefit meeting, though I think there will be more of the same coverage and possibly some added good news. Both of these meetings, are planned to be at Buffet World and Grill at 12:00 noon. We are hoping for more folks to come to the Christmas party, planned for December 9th at the hall. I would be open to any of your ideas, interests and thoughts on these meetings if you care to share. As you

know the answering machine is on, call 484-0507.

September 14th, our next meeting, is an important date in history, and probably in our future. This is the day the active members get ready to walk out, if we get no contract settlement. This was one of the topics at the last active meeting. I was asked what the retirees were going to do about the strike. I told them how I myself tried to help during the last strike. I liked to bringing lunch to workers at both gates once a week while I was here. And the help I had with that was from Eagle Monk Brewery just down the road. They matched each pizza I bought with one from themselves. I was very impressed, and I hope you are also and will remember them when out and about. On the bigger questions, the retirees have given workers the game plan. This includes winning respect from the management, shorter work days, safe work space, no child labor and benefits. Our generation scrimped and saved to pay off our hall. During the last strike, our 1753 retirees bought every active worker a red

Local 1753 shirt to support the Wednesday turn out. We lent our popup tent and grill as well. The retired workers are always supportive and stand behind the active workers. What can you do?

LOCAL 602

Marta Bobillo
Retiree



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I hope everyone is doing well! We had our second annual retirees picnic and what an awesome turn out we had. We were able to share food, stories, information, played bingo and raffles.

I would also like to thank Sam, Paul, Randy, and Mike, our grillers that did an amazing job. A huge thank you to all the ladies that helped prepare & serve the salads - it all was great teamwork. Thank you much to our President Mike Huerta for attending and bringing the fruit basket, and last but not



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least my Eboard members. Hope to see more of you next year for continuing success.

Wishing for successful contract negotiations for all and in the event of strike we retirees could show our support by participating by volunteering where needed in solidarity.

Covid and variants are back so let's try to take precautions to stay healthy because we've lost too many in the last couple of years.

Hope to see you at our next meeting, the 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon. (May be subject to change in the event of strike)

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

Love, peace and justice

In solidarity,

Marta Bobillo

LOCAL 1753
Obituaries

Duane Allen Bohnett
Kathy Isham
Steve Martin Dungey
Phil Hnatiuk
Gerald (Gerry) A. Slocum
Michael Lester Host (Bald Eagle)
Lee (Junior) Hazel

LOCAL 602
Obituaries

Lucius Bell – Retired
Teresa Baker – Grandmother of Sunyana Wilson, Active
Shannon Morey – Step-daughter of Fredrick Herline, Active
Earl D. Swan – Active
Jose Barrios - Active
Peter Marinoff Jr. (passed 6/1/2021)
Robert H. Lawson
Ezequiel Ramirez
Lois A. Wicke
Richard L. Breimayer
Duanne E. Vorce

Ronald J. Shepard
Diane M. Michelin
Crystal L. Martin
Debra A. Miller - Retired
Kelly Hart – Retired
Lawrence “Farmer” Townsend – Retired
Leo A. Leveque – Retired
Scott D. Bates – Retired
Donald C. Fickies – Retired
Charles Fredrick Ost – Retired
Denzel W. Mann - Retired
Alfred L. Hairston Jr. – Retired
Bonnie L. Keller – Retired
Cynthia A. O’Kelley – Retired
Michael O. Pulliam – Retired
Thomas J. Lorencz – Retired
Roy J. Rummage – Retired
Craig Whitehead – Active
William Powell – Father of John Groner, Active
Floyd Lee Arnold – Father of Floyd Arnold, Active
Clarence Brown Sr.-Father of Clarence Brown Jr.-Active
Gilbert Elias – Father of Michael Elias, Active
Richard Gilbert – Father of Jeffery Gilbert, Active
Ken Kidder – Father of Justin Kidder, Active
Rosalie Flagg – Step Mother of David Kuechman, Active
Raul A. Sanchez – Father of Rodrigo Sanchez, Active
Andrew Steward Sr. – Father of Andrew Steward, Active
Neil Zeigler – Father of Rusty Zeigler, Active
Larry D. Williams - Retired
Sherwood Jones – Retired
Bryon K. Kincaid Jr. – Retired
Virginia Alexander – Mother of John Alexander, Active
Cindy L. Sanders – Retired
Carlos Tackett – Retired
Gloria J. Hodge - Retired
Ralph Butler – Father of Philip Butler, Retired
Larry D. Greenfield – Retired

Gerald D. Frazee - Retired
Larry Miller- Vol. Quit - 2005
Frederick Schmitz – Retired
Denise Linder – Retired
William R. Farkas – Retired
Nicholas Scott – Retired
John W Boyd – Retired
Donald D. King - Retired
Geary Roe III – Father of Geary Roe IIII, Active
Donald C. Hansen - Retired
Lester G. Norton – Retired
Roy “Ed” McLeod Jr. – Retired
Paul D. June - Retired
Roz Hampton - Active

LOCAL 652
Obituaries

Gerald “Jerry” Bowen – Retiree, Father-in-Law of Dan Wedley
Claude Browne – Retiree
Ralph Butler – Father of Bruce and Steven Butler
Gary Cleveland – Retiree
Judy Ruth DuBois – Mother of Jon DuBois
Sue Ann Earley – Spouse of Gary Earley
Yvonne Harris – Retiree, Mother of Jeff Harris, Sister of Everlene Kinney
Ken Hershberger – Step-Father of Tina Saunto
Stephen Kurecka – Son of John Kurecka, Brother of Sarah Kurecka
Leonard Lutz – Retiree
Zora Lyon – Retiree, Spouse of Carl Lyon
Peggy McElwain – Spouse of Ronnie McElwain
Reo Dwain “RD” Miller – Retiree
Jean Nelson- wife of Roger Nelson
Claude Robinson – Retiree
Felipe T. Salazar – Retiree
Harry William Schaub – Retiree, Father of Keisha Romero
Marie A. Spitz – Spouse of Donald “Larry” Spitz
Donald Swift – Retiree
Roger Travenia – Retiree, Brother of Tola Travenia Jr

Jill Vandavelde – Spouse of Charles “Mick” Vandavelde, Sister-in-Law of Monte Baum
Loren G. Ward – Retiree
James “Jim” Washington – Retiree
Theresa P. Yuncker – Daughter of Barbara Dinn Lewis

Thank-You was received from following family
The Jill Vandavelde family

SKILLED TRADES PARTY

COFFEE, DONUTS & B.S.
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
652 UAW HALL
426 CLARE STREET LANSING, MICHIGAN

Group picture will be taken at 11:00 am
I hope you can attend this year. If you have a skilled trades friend that is not part of our group, let them know and bring them with you, then we can sign them up.
Jim Moubray

The Lansing Labor News is also available online at lansinglabornews.org

**CAPITAL AREA
UAW/CAP COUNCIL
ENDORSEMENT LIST**

Lansing City Council:
1st Ward - Ryan Kost
3rd Ward – Adam Hussain
Ingham County Prosecutor:
John Dewane

*For the most up-to-date endorsements, you can visit uawendorsements.org or contact your Local Union Hall for updates.

No Entry Fee!  Cash Prize Money At Each Site!

EUCHRE

Region 1D Retirees

2023 Euchre Tournament

There will be four separate tournaments, running four Fridays in a row, at four separate Locals. UAW Retirees and their spouses may enter one, two, or even all four events. You do not need a partner to play; one will be assigned if necessary.

Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29	Oct 6
SAGINAW	FLINT	LANSING	GRAND RAPIDS
UAW Local 467 2104 Farmer St. Saginaw, MI 48601	UAW Local 659 4549 Van Slyke Rd. Flint, MI 48507	UAW Local 602 2510 W. Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48917	UAW Local 167 1320 Burton St. SW Wyoming, MI 49509

Tournament Schedule
(All four events will adhere to the same timeline)

9 a.m	Sign In
10 a.m	Play Begins
Noon	Free luncheon (lunch time approximate)

Brought to you by the 1D Retiree Recreation Committee



Hlg/opeliu42

UAW REGION 1D VETERANS COUNCIL

12TH ANNUAL CHARITY CHILI COOK OFF

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Hosted at:
UAW LOCAL 652
426 Clare Street, Lansing

\$5.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES CHILI, CRACKERS & BEVERAGE!
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ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT VETERANS' CHARITIES

PRIZES FOR BEST CHILI
1st PLACE - \$150
2nd PLACE - \$100
3rd PLACE - \$75
4th PLACE - \$50

- \$10 PER CHILI ENTRY FEE
- ALL ENTRIES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO EVENT
- CROCK POTS AND ELECTRIC ROASTERS ONLY
- PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN EXTENSION CORD
- CRACKERS, TABLEWARE, AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED
- ALL ENTREES MUST BE REGISTERED BY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

For registration contact:
Ron Olivarez @ 517-775-4832 Local 652 Lansing
Tim Duplanty @ 810-625-8535 Local 598 Flint

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For a complete list of their USA Made products, go to their website <https://tinyurl.com/4t6hhj54>



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