



RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 35 – NO. 3



FALL 2023

STAND UP STRIKES HIT BIG 3



REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by **Laura DICKERSON**

Greetings Region 1A Retirees,

On September 14th at 11:59 p.m., a strike was called for the first time on all of the Big 3 – Ford, General Motors and Stellantis. This historic strike called the “Stand Up” strike included 3 plants, much like the GM “Sit Down” strike of 1937.

One of those plants is our very own Local 900, Michigan Assembly Plant (Paint and Final only), which falls under the direction of President Dwayne Walker and Chairman Scott Elliott. The two other plants were Stellantis Toledo Jeep in Region 2B and GM Wentzville in Region 4. The impact of these first three plants has now included Ford ISA under the direction of Chairman Greg O’Neil, as well as, several other IPS facilities.

Then again on Friday, September 22, 2023, more facilities were called to “Stand Up,” which includes an additional 2 facilities in Region 1A. Those facilities are the GM Willow Run and Ypsilanti CCA’s under Local 174 President Charlie Kincaid, and Chairmen Leroy Haskins and Mike Martin. There were 38 facilities called to “Stand Up.” This made the strike nationwide affecting every Region in the country.

Again, on Friday, September 29th, there were 2 more plants called to “Stand Up” – Ford Chicago Assembly, Local 551, Region 4 and GM Lansing Delta Assembly, Local 602, Region 1D, which may have an impact on Ford Livonia Transmission Local 182. They supply both plants.

Also, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan went on strike – Locals 1781, 2145, 2256, 2500 in Regions 1 and 1D. We ask for your support for our brothers, sisters and siblings at Blue Cross Blue Shield!

There are currently 25,000 UAW members on strike across the country. On Friday, September 30th, the Detroit Casinos, MGM, Hollywood at Greektown and MotorCity voted for strike authorization. They could potentially be on strike in the coming weeks.

We have asked everyone to support our striking workers. The outpouring of support is greatly appreciated and refreshing. We are family in this Region and everyone has accepted the call to support. Many of our Locals and UAW-endorsed candidates have donated items to Locals 900 and 174 to help our brothers, sisters and siblings holding the line.

The weather has started to change, which is very challenging. Our members are holding the line. *We are all so proud of them!*

The striking workers in our Region and Region 2B have organized convoys to the picket lines. First, a Jeep convoy came to Michigan Assembly and then the Ford Bronco convoy back to Toledo. Finally, the striking workers organized a Jeep, Bronco, Colorado and Canyon convoy to Solidarity House, where they heard from UAW President Shawn Fain. The spirits of everyone have been uplifted by the convoys. The workers are taking pride in what they build, while being on strike. I hope the companies are paying

attention!

Our striking brothers, sisters and siblings are fighting for a better way of life. The companies have had record profits since emerging from

bankruptcy and the mortgage of the Ford “Blue Oval.” Our members sacrificed to make their respective companies profitable during a very dark period in the automotive industry. They are fighting for their fair share, as many of

you did during your working years.

One thing that has been mentioned is an increase in pensions for retirees. While this is a permissive subject of bargaining, it is definitely one of the demands on the table.

Our members are fighting and sacrificing for actives and retirees. Many have expressed they will be retiring in a few years and while they want a comfortable retirement, they still want to see the newer members prosper. *Solidarity at its best!*

This is our defining moment. Even the President of the United States (POTUS), for the first time in history, joined Region 1A on the picket line. He heard the call by President Fain and answered by visiting the Willow Run CCA, Local 174, Chairman Leroy Haskins. What an honor. Our members truly enjoyed his visit and his standing with us!

We’ve had many high-profile visitors to the picket lines in this Region, such as Congresswomen Debbie Dingell and Rashida Tlaib, as well as Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, and various other Region 1A-endorsed local, state and municipal elected officials. We’ve also had the honor of having AFL-CIO President Liz Schuler visit, not once but twice.

There is a lot on the line. The solidarity shown by all of our members is incredible. The Fight is ON! WE are Ready! WE are the UAW!

**The Fight is ON!
WE are Ready!
WE are the UAW!**

LOOK INSIDE!



PAGE 2
Region 1A Retiree Scholarship Winners



PAGE 6-7
Black Lake Retiree Retreat 2023



PAGE 12
Region 1A Retired Workers Holiday Party



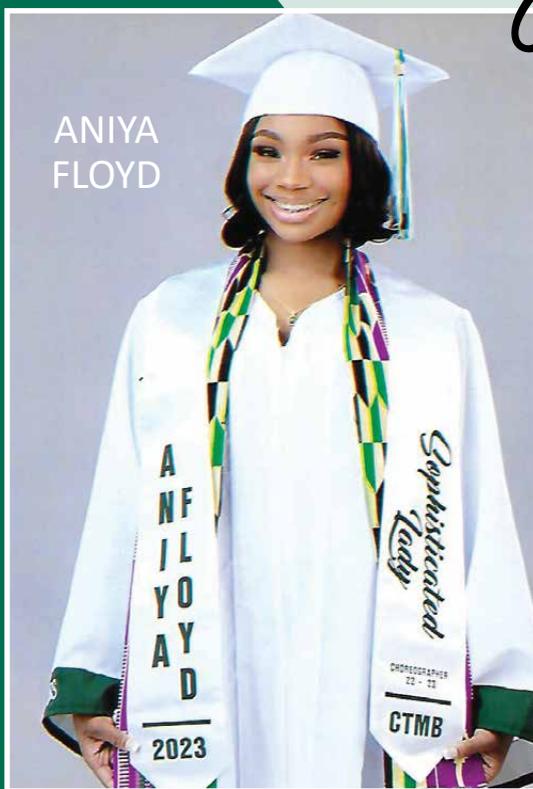
UAW REGION 1A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL



Congratulations to our 2023

RETIREE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

\$1,000 Scholarship Awards



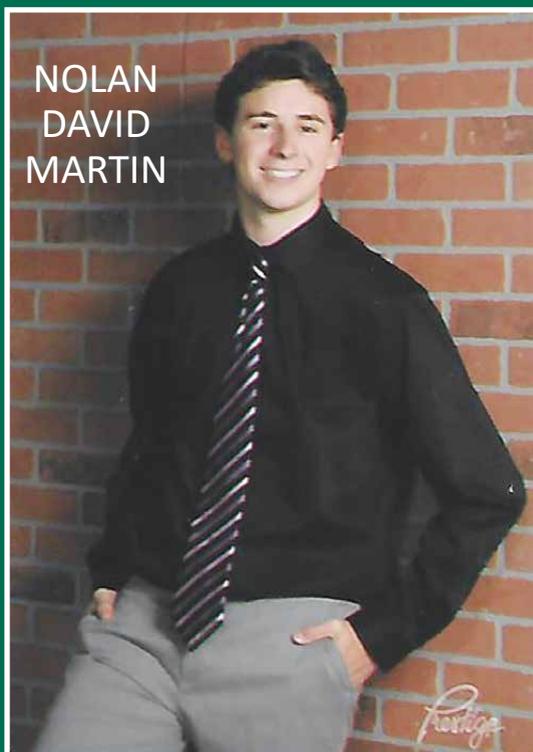
ANIYA
FLOYD

ETHAN O'CLAIR – Michigan Technological University
(Ethan's father is Kent O'Clair, UAW Local 1284)

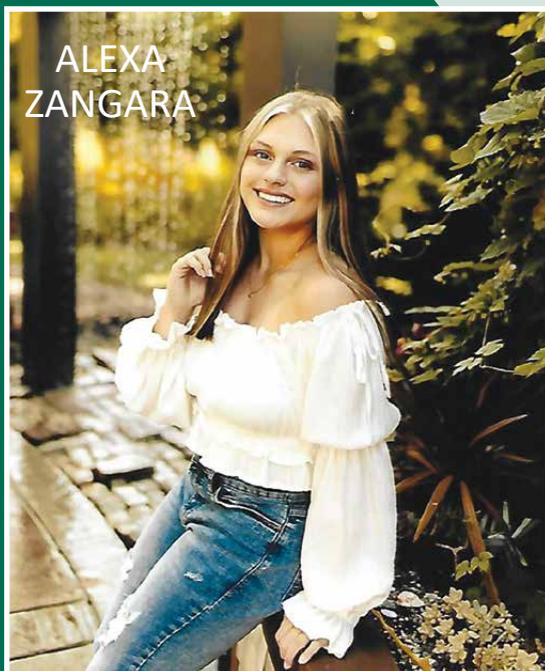
NOLAN DAVID MARTIN – Michigan State University
(Nolan's father is Jason Martin, UAW Local 845)

ANIYA FLOYD – Central State University
(Aniya's grandfather is James Settles, Sr., UAW Local 600)

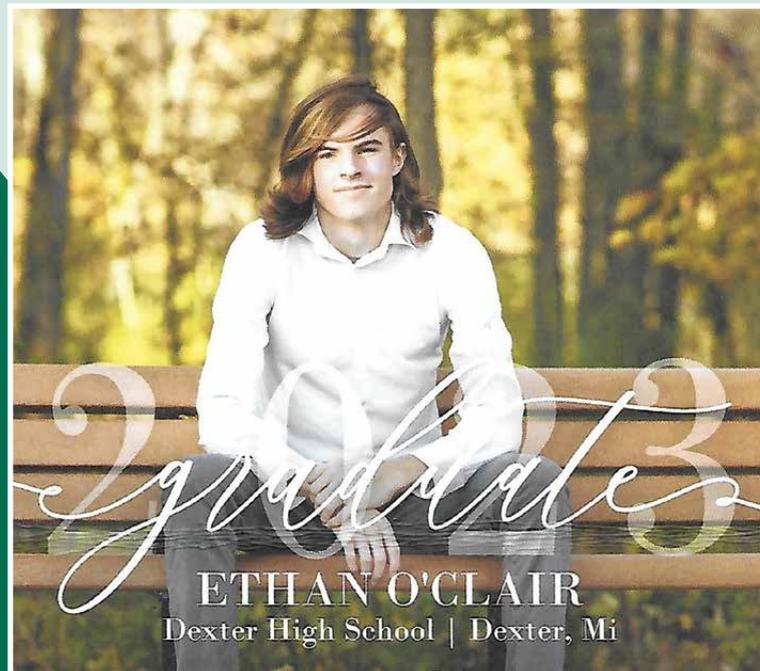
ALEXA ZANGARA – Grand Valley State
(Alexa's father is Santo Zangara, UAW Local 3000)



NOLAN
DAVID
MARTIN



ALEXA
ZANGARA



ETHAN O'CLAIR
Dexter High School | Dexter, Mi

The Region 1A Retired Workers Council is proud and honored to provide financial assistance to these fine young people in their higher education pursuits.

ADVISORY COUNCIL Report

by Pat Greca, Region 1A Retired Workers Advisory Council Alternate Delegate



Retiree Council Conference at Black Lake

I am writing as the newly elected Retirees Advisory Council Delegate representing UAW Region 1A.

discussed; specifically, how we might assist the active members should there be a strike. There were presentations about Social Security issues, health care plans, and various other topics.

All in all, I was very impressed by the abundance of knowledge and activities each member contributed to their home UAW Regions as I listened to all the reports. I look forward to growing, learning, and sharing information and innovative ideas at future meetings and in future articles.

If you or someone you know is not receiving these mailings, please contact your UAW home Local, so that they can update your contact information.

Yours in Solidarity...

This summer, in July, I attended my first Retiree Council Conference, which was held at Black Lake. I was amazed at the volume of information we covered in just a few days. I also enjoyed getting acquainted with the other members from near and far, and all were very welcoming.

We discussed the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust mailing, which should have been sent by the time this issue of the *Retiree News* reaches you, regarding the updates to our health benefits for 2024.

The upcoming contract talks were also

Union Label Committee Report

by Linda (Kay-Kay) Hayes



My Sisters and Brothers,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my intention to retire from my position on the Region 1A Retired Workers Executive Board as Recording Secretary, a position I have held since 2006, and also writing the

Rosa Floyd.

I have loved every minute of my time at Ford Motor Company and of course my home UAW Local 600. I appreciate the chances you have provided for me during my time here, however I am looking forward to my departure. I will miss working with the most dedicated group of people I've met in my life. Union is my life, but remember... *"I am the Union Label. And remember the "U" in Union is you."*

In Solidarity...

NOTE: The Executive Board of Region 1A would like to thank Kay-Kay for all she has done and her dedication throughout the years as Recording Secretary, Union Label Chair, and always volunteering to help. Her commitment and loyalty to the UAW has always been there for everyone to see. She has been a vital part of the Region 1A Retirees Workers Council Executive Board and we will all miss her.

Union Label column in the *Retiree News*. This is my last article.

It has been an honor to be part of this talented and dedicated team on the Executive Board. I have truly enjoyed serving and being a servant of the UAW Region 1A Retiree Council and definitely my home UAW Local 600. I have met some wonderful people and been mentored by the best, including Pat Murphy, Jimmy Settles, Albert Stevenson, Wardell Johnson, Rory Gamble, Peaches Anderson, my cousin Gerald Bantom, and

RETIREE RETREAT enthusiast EUGENE HAMAN

Eugene Haman attends the Region 1A Black Lake Retiree Retreat every year with his son, Jeff. Eugene was born on October 15, 1929, and at 93 years old goes on hikes with Jeff early every morning, but they always make a special time to go down to the beach to say hello to his son, Tim, whose ashes were spread in Black Lake in 2005.

Eugene and his family have been coming to Black Lake since 1967, when it was a forest campground. When the UAW campgrounds first opened, his family camped at Black Lake every year for \$6.00. That price went up \$22.00 when the golf course opened.

They also came to Black Lake twice a year for the UAW membership weekends. In 1979, most of the family was able to attend the Family Scholarship week. His wife, Mary, sons Steve, Jeff, Tom, and Tim were under eighteen and enjoyed a wonderful week, but Karen and David were too old to join the family. To say Eugene loves coming to Black Lake is an understatement.

He has been a proud member of UAW Local 723 since 1950, and has now been retired for 36 years. He worked in Tool and Die for 37 years before he retired. Eugene is also an Army Veteran.



REGION 1A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

- REGION 1A DIRECTOR**
Laura Dickerson
- ASSISTANT 1A DIRECTOR**
Dave Pagac
- DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY**
Christine Neal
- RETIREE COORDINATOR**
Jeff Morris
- EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**
 - BOB SISLER, LU 6000, *Chair*
 - PEACHES ANDERSON, LU 600
1st Vice Chair
 - JAMES BARCZYK, LU 372
2nd Vice Chair
 - MARIA WINTERS, LU 845
Recording Secretary
 - KATIE MARTIN, LU 900
Financial Secretary
 - CYNTHIA "LIL-BIT" AVERHART, LU 735
Executive Board Member-at-Large
 - RICHARD CUSTER, LU 600
Executive Board Member-at-Large
 - ROY GONZALEZ, LU 163, *Sergeant-at-Arms*
 - CHARLES MARTIN, LU 227, *Guide*
 - PAT GRECA, LU 36
Advisory Council Members Delegate
 - YVONNE HARRIS, LU 898
Advisory Council Members Alt. Delegate
- STANDING COMMITTEES**
 - Union Label.....Linda K. Hayes, LU 600
 - Legislation..... Richard Custer, LU 600
 - Bylaws Katie Martin, LU 900
 - CAP.....Leroy Watson, LU 600
 - Veterans.....Pat Greca, LU 898
Richard Custer, LU 600
 - Civil Rights.....Peaches Anderson, LU 600
 - Consumers/
Protection IssuesLinda K. Hayes, LU 600
 - Finance Katie Martin, LU 900
 - Scholarship Richard Custer, LU 600
 - Resolutions..... Sterling Mullins, LU 735
Shirley Poling, LU 735
 - Fundraising Katie Martin, LU 900
 - Healthcare Jim Barczyk, LU 372
Gwen Lester, LU 735
 - Black Lake Retreat Program
Yvonne Harris, LU 36
Linda K. Hayes, LU 600

Region 1A RETIREE NEWS

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
MARIA WINTERS, Editor, LU 845
BOB SISLER, Ex-Officio
Published periodically by the Retired Workers Council, Region 1A UAW, 9650 Telegraph, Taylor, MI 48180.
Address all communications, including change of address, to: **Editor, Region 1A UAW, 9650 Telegraph, Taylor, MI 48180**
All communications become the property of the Retiree News. Letters to the Editor should be kept to 200-250 words and the Editorial Committee is solely responsible for selecting any correspondence for reprint in the Retiree News. All items selected are subject to edit.

CHAPTER 36 REPORT



Chair – **YVONNE HARRIS**

Hamilton (A.M.), Ken Carpenter, Willie Hamilton, Greg Wilson, and Rhonda Carpenter.

I am very proud and honored to report to you, as the first female elected as Chair of UAW Local 36 Ford Wixom Retiree Chapter. Congratulations to all our elected Board members.

The summer of 2023 is now a memory, as the UAW is facing many challenges with the Contractual Bargaining with the Big 3. To my fellow retired brothers and sisters, we stand in support with them, and we remember the struggles *very* well of yesteryears.

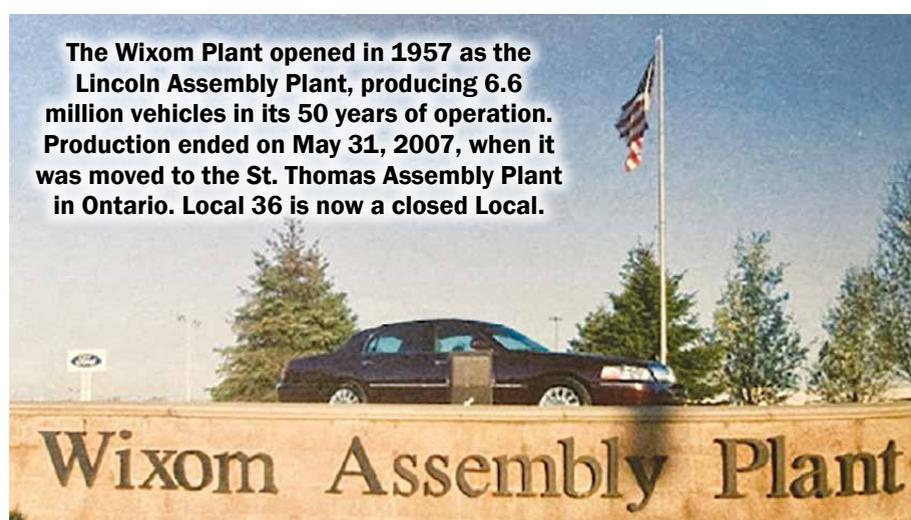
The future of our active members and the Union is completely at stake, as well as future retirees. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, to give support where you can – water and food.

Our meetings are the third Monday of each month, 10:30 a.m., at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

Dates To Remember

Mark your Calendar

- 10-16-2023 ... Regular meeting
- 11-20-2023 ... VEBA Trust/Thanksgiving Luncheon. Spouses are welcome.
- 12-5-2023 Region 1A Retired Workers Christmas Party, Crystal Gardens. Get your tickets early
- 12-18-2023 ... Meeting/Christmas Luncheon, Spouses are welcome.



The Wixom Plant opened in 1957 as the Lincoln Assembly Plant, producing 6.6 million vehicles in its 50 years of operation. Production ended on May 31, 2007, when it was moved to the St. Thomas Assembly Plant in Ontario. Local 36 is now a closed Local.

Remember, this is the season to get vaccinated. Take care of yourself.

We are accepting donations of socks, gloves and scarves for “Keeping our Seniors Warm” and “Coffee for Vets” for local nursing homes and V.A. centers. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

To our Chaplain Brother, Greg Wilson, many *thank yous* for your words of prayer.

We appreciate the hospitality of UAW Local 182 – *thank you!*

There will be *NO MEETINGS* in January, February, and March 2024

In closing, we have lost brothers and sisters. Please keep their families in prayers.

Prayers are also requested for any of our brothers and sisters who are sick and shut-in.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

In Solidarity my brothers and sisters, stay safe, and may God bless...

Standing In Solidarity

Greetings My Retired Brothers and Sisters of UAW Local 36 and Associate Members,

I am praying this finds you well. On behalf of the Executive Board, we would like to wish you safe, healthy, enjoyable fall and winter seasons.

Please remember to keep your 2024 Healthcare Highlights and UAW Retiree Medical (Trust) booklets.

UAW Local 36 held their election on July 17, 2023 for all officers, Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms and two Executive Board Members-at-Large.

Results from the Election:

- Chair Yvonne Harris
- Vice Chair: Ken Jasin
- Recording Secretary Rhonda Carpenter, (Associate member)
- Financial Secretary-Treasurer George Love
- Sergeant-at-Arms A. Griffin
- E-Board Members-at-Large Duane Nunnally and Nika (Charlotte) El

All were nominated and won unopposed.

We thank you for your support and thank the Election Committee, for their hard work – Denise

that in mind, I know that many of us are not just focusing on what this fall season will be like, but we are no doubt asking the deeper questions of ‘What’s Next?’ Even though none of us really knows the answer to that question, we do have some ideas.

From what we have lived through thus far this year and the daily challenges that are before us, we can only conclude that it isn’t going to get any better. I don’t want to sound like a pessimist, but reality is reality. From our financial situation to our very safety in coming and going, things are not getting any better.

Whether we want to admit it or not, the political climate of today here in America and around the world is having a negative impact upon all of us in some way or another. We have arrived at a time in our history where we have more news outlets, and each one is reporting different messages throughout the day. Our country isn’t governed anymore by ‘the people,’ but rather by the court decisions and those who have the influence or power to sway the court decisions.

Those things we used to call normal, have been replaced with things that are beyond our imagination. So, my only question is “*What’s Next?*” What lies ahead is anyone’s guess.

SENIOR ALLIANCE INFORMATION 1-800-815-1112

A special expression of sympathy to the family and friends of those members or spouses who may have passed away.

Reminders

We will be meeting during the next few months on the third Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m., at UAW Local 245, 1226 Monroe St., Dearborn, MI. *Come on out and join us.*

Union dues are \$3.00 per month. You can pay at our Regular Meeting or send a check to:

REGION 1A

9560 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180

Local 78 Union Dues – Check payable to INTERNATIONAL UNION UAW.

If you have any questions concerning your pension check or any other personal matters related to your retirement:

DETROIT RETIREES, CALL:

ZF (TRW) Service Center

877-698-7910, press “2”

Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ROMULUS RETIREES, CALL:

PBGC – Customer Contact Center

800-400-7242

Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CHAPTER 78 REPORT



Chair – **NATHANIEL ‘DAN’ BISHOP**

What’s Next?

Greetings,

I hope all may be well with each of you. Now that the fall season has arrived, many of us are looking forward to the awesome fall colors and hopefully a great ‘Indian Summer.’ Even with



CHAPTER
163
REPORT



Chair – ROY GONZALEZ

Democracy For All Americans

With Governor Whitmer, Secretary of State Benson, Attorney General Nessel, and Democrats in the majority in the Michigan Senate and Michigan House of Representatives, we can be very proud and grateful for all these leaders in Michigan, showing how Democracy can work for all the people of Michigan, and how it could work

for all Americans.

We also have to be very grateful and proud that there is a great attorney named Marc Elias, founder of the *Democracy Docket*, and his team fighting the states who are putting in outrageous crazy voter suppression laws that trash the laws our country was founded on to provide democracy for all Americans.

These states are instituting crazy suppression laws. While removing many thousands of eligible voters from voting, they also have threatened death to poll workers just doing their jobs, who are being replaced with people who will do anything they can to make certain the votes will magically go to their candidate who is out to destroy our democracy.

A few examples of their agenda are to defund the FBI, defund the Justice Department, get rid of Medicare and Medicaid, privatize Social Security,

and destroy so many other programs that our democracy provides. For instance, let's take the FBI being defunded. If your child or grandchild is kidnapped – *too bad* – there is no FBI to go after the kidnappers. In the case of spies stealing all kinds of American secrets – *too bad* – there is no FBI to go after them. There are so many other examples that it would fill a book.

Currently, the UAW (that's us folks) are on strike against the 'Big 3' to have our workers and retirees receive their just rewards that we deserve because we made these companies so successful. Now just imagine if the President of the UAW, Shawn Fain, his team of negotiators, or the picketers were threatened with intimidation or death just for fighting for what is fair for the workers. Of course this hasn't happened, but if it did, it would be the same fight that is being fought for in our government, American democracy.

CHAPTER
182
REPORT



Chair – GEORGE 'MICKEY' HERRICK

'Labor of Love' Charities

Greetings to All Retired and Active Brothers and Sisters of Local 182,

As I'm sure you all know, the UAW has struck all three companies at once. They are doing it strategically, certain factories at a time. Stay strong in your demands and united, because *united we stand, but divided we will fall*.

At Local 182, this summer went too fast. Our

golf outing was August 12th at Fellows Creek for the "Labor of Love" Christmas charities. We raised \$15,000 (plus or minus) at that charity event. Our next event is the Car Show/Chili Cook-off. Proceeds also go to the "Labor of Love" party, which is held at Christmas time.

We had our Local Picnic here at the Local on August 27th and we brought our dunk tank back to also help raise money for the "Labor of Love." The dunk tank raised \$714 to be added to the "Labor of Love" fund.

At our September meeting after the summer break, we had Mel Leonard from the Better Business Bureau (BBB) talk to us about scams and other issues.

In October, we are having the Trust come and address our retirees about our coverages. We are also having our flu shots, covid, shingles, and pneumonia shots available upon request.

Shingles and pneumonia are a two-stage shot

and Bijo (the pharmacist from Kroger) said for anyone getting either the shingles or pneumonia shot, said she will come back to administer the second shot in three to six months. The covid and flu shots will be here on October 12th.

I didn't make it to the Region 1A Picnic, but I heard that the park was under water and the event had to be cancelled.

Our Christmas Party will be December 14th, and will begin at 10:00 a.m. We will have the usual half hams and poinsettias to raffle off. We are thinking about something other than summer sausages this year. Any suggestions will be considered at the October and November meetings.

Again, stay strong in unity. Fight for what you believe in and always remember there are *no bad days*, just some are better than others and the good days are coming!

CHAPTER
227
REPORT



Chair – ELMER DUFF

Solidarity forever, for the Union makes us strong!

Yes, we, as retirees, are embroiled in this strike with our working brothers and sisters. Like them, we want better benefits. We know what it is to give up things that were negotiated for us, only to give those things up to save this company, Then, when they get back on their feet, we are left behind. Hopefully, we will get something in these current negotiations.

Our picnic was a success! We had a beautiful day and plenty of food. Our members enjoyed old

friendships and renewed some.

We were asked about the Christmas Luncheon. I explained that we would have to get a caterer that was sanctioned by the Region 1A, or get the funds up front to pay for it and turn in our receipts to get reimbursed.

Remember, the VEBA Benefit Trust will be at our meeting in November on the 15th at 11:00 a.m. They will bring us up to date on our benefits for 2024 and answer any questions you have.

Our sincere prayers and condolences go out to the families of Rico Reaume, Skilled Trades; Mike O'Conner, Skilled Trades; John Lee Carroll and Cecelia Vaught, PQI.

I want to express to the working members of the UAW that we, the Retirees of Retired Chapter of Local 227, are with you all the way. To our members, be sure to get the different points of views from the other articles in this publication.

Our meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month, starting with a social hour at 10:00 a.m. and the meetings start at 11:00 a.m. Remember, the Trust will be at our November meeting.



DON'T GET SCAMMED

Watch out for these Scam Ingredients:

1. Urgent or secret requests
2. Believable stories or connections
3. Financial requests (i.e. accessing your bank account)
4. Unusual payment type (i.e. gift cards)

To report ILLEGAL ROBOCALLS and text messages, visit: mi.gov/robocalls

To report ELDER ABUSE, neglect and exploitation, visit: mi.gov/elderabuse

**The best advice is...
If it sounds too good to be true,
IT PROBABLY IS!**

CHAPTER 387 REPORT



CHAIR - KAREN MAGER

- that workers are paid enough to raise their families.
- They've expanded workers rights by repealing the anti-worker "right-to-work" laws.
 - They've restored collective bargaining rights to teachers and public employees.

Head to miaflcio.org/scorecard to check their voting record.

Our Benefits Rep. Jim Arnold spoke to our members of the gains in our benefits coming very soon (ie: less co-pay for health insurance, and a raise in OTC benefits from \$150 to \$200 per year).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **October 11** – Congresswoman Debbie Dingell will attend our meeting and inform our members what is happening in our area and in Washington D.C. She will take questions from the membership. And Rebecca Bridgewater UAW International Rep, Retired Workers Department will speak to our membership on issues affecting our retirees.
- **November 8** – Medical Benefits Trust will bring all the information about the changes to our benefits along with all the providers to answer any and all of our questions. These presentations are always very informative and helpful to our members. Please try to attend this meeting.
- **December 6** – Christmas get together.

Have a safe fall and winter season.

fellowship with your Union sisters and brothers. When you are out and about and happen to talk to some of our retirees, let them know that we have a new caterer and the food is much better.

The Retirees Chapter is still in need of volunteer help at the meetings from time to time. We still need a Vice Chair and a Recording Secretary for our Board. If anyone is interested in one of these positions, let me know or the Local.

If you are not a UAW retiree voluntary dues-paying member, please do so. By paying retiree dues, you are helping to strengthen the retiree finances, which helps keep the cost of meals for our members at \$5.00. *And the dues are only \$3.00 a month.*

Don't forget to come to the November meeting. The people from the UAW Medical Trust will be here to explain the changes in the benefits and to answer your questions. Save the date for the November meeting.

As retirees, we should still be supporting our Union. It is because of our Union that we are able to have the pension and benefits that we have in our retirement. We must continue to keep the fire burning, just as we did when we were working.

Have a wonderful fall. Wishing you and your family the best of everything and be safe. Thank you for what you have done for our Union and our Local. To our veterans, thank you for what you have done for our country. Our veterans have given us and our country so much of themselves and ask for nothing in return. God bless them and their families.

CHAPTER 600 REPORT



President - PEACHES ANDERSON

We Must Do Our Part

Greetings Sisters and Brothers of the Almighty UAW Region 1A,

Have you heard of the old-folks saying, "Wait and see. There's a rude awakening coming." Well, the time is here now. It is time for us, as Retirees, to stand up and help fight for our rights.

We must stand by our UAW members who are on the picket lines. If you can, go out on the picket lines and walk around with them. Let that be your exercise for the day. I was at one of the sites recently and have seen wheelchairs, walkers, and canes walking with the picketers in solidarity. They need and really appreciate all of the support we can give them. If you can't walk, drive by and honk your horn to show your support.

Remember, some of us have been in a strike before and it's no joke. That's the reason I'm trying to pass along some of this information. In other words, I can say I have been there and done that. Our leaders have and will fight a good battle for us. *But we must do our part!*

We are so much stronger when we come together. Always remember that together we win, divided we fall. Wherever you can, support the Big 3 strikers at Ford, GM, and Stellantis.

Don't forget, if you need help, you can always call the United Way by dialing 211.

Your Over-the-Counter (OTC) catalog is there for you to use, so please use it. You can call 877-218-9951 to receive a catalog, if you need one. Remember, you must place your order before the end of the year or you will lose what you have available for 2023. *It is your money.*

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

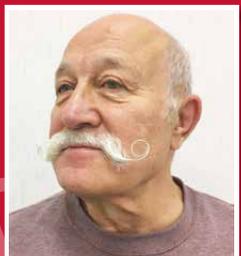
VEBA Trust.....	866-637-7555
Davis Vision	888-234-5164
Midwest Vision.....	313-582-8080
Delta Dental	800-524-0149
Tru Hearing.....	844-394-5420
Nations Hearing (HAP only).....	877-484-7977
OptumRx	855-409-0219
MetLife Insurance.....	833-552-3673
NESC.....	800-248-4444
Ford-UAW Retirement Board ...	800-929-8833
UAW Local Services	800-482-7700
AXZ Plans.....	800-348-7709

Well, this is the last article for the year and with the holidays coming up we must still be safe. Don't forget to get your flu shot and make sure you take your medications.

May you and your family be blessed. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I wish you a wonderful holiday season. Stay safe.

My condolences to out to all those who have lost a loved one. May His power give you the strength to carry on.

CHAPTER 723 REPORT



Chair - ROBERT CEBINA

Attend Your Union Meetings

Greetings UAW Local 723 Members,

I hope that all of you are in the best of health these days. It is with great sadness that I let you know Martin Neadau has passed away in the month of September. If anyone knows of any member who has passed away, please let the Local or myself know, so we can pass this information on to our members.

Sisters and brothers, the UAW Local 723 Retiree Meetings and luncheon are still being held on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m., at UAW Local 723. We would love to see more of our retirees coming to the meetings and the luncheons.

Currently, the meals are still only \$5.00 per person. I don't believe that you can find a meal anyplace else in Monroe for \$5.00. Come and check out the new caterer that is currently preparing our meals. The food is a lot better. Even the desserts are much better!

With that being said, I hope that you will start coming to the meetings and enjoying the

CHAPTER 735 REPORT



Chair – **SHIRLEY POLING**

Upcoming Events

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We had our Annual Retiree Picnic back in August and it was a wonderful event. We estimated about 400 people were in attendance. We were able to bring back *Stick a Pig In It* to cater it for us, so we enjoyed a very delicious meal. A huge shout out

goes to the many volunteers who stepped up to help for our picnic. The Board could not do all of the prep and cleanup on our own. *Our volunteers rock!*

October 11, 2023 is our next meeting and it is going to be a Healthcare Fair. The UAW Trust will be present and will be explaining to us all of the improvements we will be receiving beginning January 2024. We already have great benefits and they are set to get even better. Very few people in this country are blessed to have insurance as good as ours.

Christmas Party tickets are available at our meetings in October and November. The cost is \$30.00 per person, and the party will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Once again, this event will be held at Burton Manor in Livonia. Tickets must be bought in advance and are not available at the door.

As this paper goes to print, our Union is in the thick of negotiations with strike actions increasing weekly. If you have time and are capable, please spend an hour or two on a picket line with our active members. It is good for them, and good for us!

Please donate groceries or household products if you are able. Just Google “UAW strike locations” to find a striking Local near you. Finally, please pray for the safety of our striking members, for wisdom for all our negotiators, and for a good contract to emerge from these important negotiations, with gains for all.

If you live in southeast Michigan, hope to see you at our meetings, which are on the second Wednesday of October and November at UAW Local 163, 450 S. Merriman Rd. in Westland.

In December, we will have our Christmas Party, as stated earlier in my article.

CHAPTER 845 REPORT



Chair – **MIKE LAMBERT**

New Chairperson Opportunity

Time seems to go by so quickly anymore. I am sure that when we were still working, we would always think that time just dragged so slowly. Retirement has caused the time to swiftly flow past the seasons.

I have been serving as Retiree Chair and writing articles for the *Retiree News* for most of 17 years now. I have enjoyed reaching out to every retiree throughout the years. I take this time to ask if there is anyone who has retired from Local 845 and would like to help the retirees receive all the information that our Union has to offer. Please

attend our next meeting October 12th to volunteer.

My family has asked that we travel more than we have been able to and possibly relocate to a better climate. We have a fabulous membership and our retirees would like to see someone who wants to continue planning future events.

We just had our annual Sheldon Road Reunion. There were about 70 of our retirees there and many guests. All had a great time, and a few phone numbers were exchanged. It was great seeing everyone again this year. I hope we can continue this in future years.

It looks like there will be a few changes to our medical plans coming January, 2024. The changes that I have seen bring good thoughts. We will be sharing our Local meeting with the UAW Medical Trust on Thursday, November 9th. The Trust has set this date to bring the changes to us and answer any questions that we may have. So, please, if you have any questions, grab a piece of paper and jot down every question you may have. Don't forget to bring that paper to the meeting on November 9th at noon.

Hopefully, we will have a full house. So come

a little early to chat with your friends before the meeting. You can always contact the Trust by phone, as well, at Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC) Customer Service: 866-637-7555 or visit uawtrust.org/healthplancarriers

Now, I mentioned that our retirees are still making more plans. We are currently making plans for a Christmas gathering at our Local. We would like to invite *all* retirees and their guest to join us on December 14th to celebrate the Christmas season and the upcoming New Year.

We would also like to have our retirees continue to bring an unwrapped child's toy for the Marines' *Toys for Tots*. We have continued this tradition for at least 17 years. Bring your toys to the Local on December 14th and we will see that the Marines receive them in time for Christmas.

I was asked to keep my article short. I do not think that I have succeeded. Maybe the next Chairperson will have fewer words.

I hope to see everyone at the next Retiree Union Meeting. Please be safe, and have a blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas and the best New Year ever!

CHAPTER 849 REPORT



Chair – **BOB BOWEN**

The Stakes Are High

In the coming year, we will face an unparalleled challenge, choosing the leader of the free world. It appears that Biden and Trump will battle it out once again. This rematch will test the durability of our eyes, ears, brains, souls, and friendships. The stakes are high. Please weigh your voting decisions carefully, and do your best to sort through the mountain of information that will be mailed, texted, emailed, and broadcast.

Our work experiences have taught us not to believe everything we read or are told. Any Union Representative worth his pay knows that the truth isn't always easy to find, but it can be discovered if we carefully investigate what's been said, written, and done.

In some respects, checking the veracity of political leaders is easier than looking into violations of the contract by members of management. Politicians leave paper trails, and videos that detail their thinking and their actions, unless they steal or destroy the documents and tapes that record the history of their tenure.

The stakes will be higher than ever in this upcoming election cycle. Carefully sort facts from fiction, truths from falsehoods, and understatement from exaggerations. Vote as if the nation's survival depends on your vote.

All of us have heard politicians quote the words of Jesus. The most used, is John 8:32: “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make

you free.” Unfortunately, some politicians are not noted as being honest discerners of the truth. That leads us unknowingly to quote Pontus Pilate: “What is truth?” [John 18:38]

Vote for whoever you like, but do so with integrity and the knowledge that a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community is detested by our Creator [Proverbs 6:19].

By November 2024, let's hope that enough of us have discovered the truth and will vote to save this nation, our families, and our Union from the disaster that another Trump Administration would bring.

Our Meetings Schedule

We meet at 12:00 noon on the third Thursday of most months to fellowship and enjoy a potluck. Please bring a dish to pass. Our business meetings follow at 1:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Local 898 Union Hall.

See **CHAPTER 849** on Page 10

CONTINUED ARTICLES

CHAPTER 849

continued from Page 9

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- October 19, 2023 – 57th Anniversary, 12:00 noon social, followed by a 1:00 p.m. meal
- November 16, 2023 – UAW Medical Benefits Trust Rep and approved providers will be present
- December 5, 2023 – Christmas Party
- January, 2024 – No meeting
- February 15, 2024 – Meetings resume

In Memoriam

Mourning the loss of Local 849 Members whose deaths have been reported since the last edition of Region 1A Retiree News:

Cora L. Bowman.....	12/01/25 to 04/18/02
Ralph H. Donovan	02/12/27 to 01/31/08
Larry J. Ring	09/12/18
Lloyd D. Horton.....	06/19/43 to 11/18/18
Doris L. Tolliver.....	11/02/36 to 01/15/21
Gary B. Roberson	06/02/53 to 04/01/21
Johnnie R. Switzer	04/30/47 to 12/19/21
Norman F. Siboloski	07/05/41 to 01/02/22
Eugene F. Cochran	06/01/42 to 06/01/22
Barbara J. Baker.....	05/15/40 to 07/22/22
Eugene Patterson.....	12/09/51 to 11/07/22
George A. Towles.....	12/15/31 to 05/28/23
Garlen Ray, Sr.	05/29/37 to 06/12/23
Iva Jean Roe.....	07/23/28 to 07/04/23
Stephen E. Cook	02/05/51 to 07/21/23
Jerry C. Holder.....	08/04/41 to 08/04/23
Donald Pizzimenti.....	09/04/48 to 08/09/23
Wilburn C. Renfrow.....	02/11/28 to 08/20/23
George O. Cochran	03/30/33 to 08/26/23
Conrad Connelley	09/26/32 to 09/04/23

If you have information about the passing of an 849 Member, please email Bob Bowen at bowl59@gmail.com, or call (734) 482-6213 and leave a message, including your name and a phone number. I will return your call.

BOB SISLER

continued from Cover Page

As I look at Washington, they are focused on a class society with the masses in poverty and struggling while...

They have taken untold millions (billions) that they never toiled to earn... we can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn, that the union makes us strong.

Support the strikers. Help stop poverty. Call your Representatives. Support just wages for all workers. **SOLIDARITY!**

CHAPTER 898 REPORT



Chair – SHEILA PEDERSEN

We Are One!

Happy Holidays to each of you and your family! This is the final report for 2023 and this year, like most contract years, has been a rough one. The looming government shutdown as I write upsets me, as I have been receiving calls about if we would get our checks or not. Elected officials

seem to want to use their office as a place to get revenge instead of doing the work they were sent to do. Shutting down the government only goes to show how stupid some of the members of Congress really are!

Strikes are still ongoing and President Biden is coming to picket with the UAW. He is a true friend of Labor. Hopefully, this all gets settled soon and Retirees will get something for the efforts. Currently, 38 auto plants are on strike but that can change. Remember, if you are going out on the line... be safe.

The Retiree Executive Board would like to extend our sincere condolences to all those who have lost loved ones this year.

We look forward to seeing each of you in 2024 on the third Wednesday each month at Local 898. Meetings start at 11:00 a.m. *We are one!*

CHAPTER 931 REPORT



President – SYLVIA GRIFFIN

Support Our Strikers

Hello Local 931 Retirees,

I hope all is well. With the unfortunate reality of the current strike climate that we find ourselves in, many have asked how we stand united and offer support. Aside from our time, it has been suggested that we can offer additional support to our fellow Union members with donations of hand and feet warmers, water, household cleaning items, paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels), and firewood.

As history repeats itself, we stand together in creating a history that we can all be proud of. We can afford to live comfortably with the necessary benefits to support the lifestyles of ourselves and our families. We know that it is our work that sets the standard for others in and around the world. And, as we represent the hard-working

individuals of the UAW, we will continue to stand together in this fight!

One proud benefit of being a UAW member is the ability to take advantage of experiencing Black Lake. As a Union member, we have all contributed to the property of Black Lake and, as retirees, we should enjoy it! Every year retirees are afforded the opportunity to participate in the Annual Region 1A Retirees Retreat, where we can come together as a retiree family, to fellowship, to relax, gain information, shop, experience good food and leisure activities, and hear from our Union leadership.

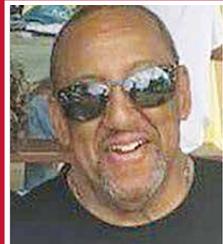
This year, we were fortunate enough to spend a few days with and hear from our Region 1A Director, Laura Dickerson. If you weren't able to join us this year, we hope you can join us next year!

Lastly, I was recently asked about the building I retired from and what happens there, so I wanted to share that it was the New Models Product Development Center (NMPDC), and is where futuristic prototype vehicles are built and brought to life!

I look forward to seeing all of our Local 931 family at the next meeting, November 15th, 11:30 a.m., at the Golden Corral, located at 14691 Huron St. (near Eureka Rd.) in Taylor, MI.

Yours in Solidarity!

CHAPTER 1776 REPORT



Chair – DERIC TWIGGS

Standing Together

Greetings Retirees of Local 1776,

It was great seeing more retirees come out to our picnic in August. We had great fellowship and a traditional meal of hamburgers and hot dogs, with plenty of food for everyone.

As you know, our regular meeting for September was cancelled due to the UAW strike. Our meetings will resume once a contract has been ratified.

Coming from a once strong Local 1776 and a powerful Region 1A, we have a duty and obligation to support those striking and walking the picket lines. There is such a bond with the Union body to hold steadfast in order to get justified pay and benefits. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Please continue to encourage our members to join us at our regular monthly meetings:

Retired Workers Chapter • Local 1776
Every third Thursday of the month, 11:00a.m.
at UAW Local 182
35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150

CHAPTER 3000 REPORT
 Chair – **SHARON HARDING**



The Region 1A Christmas Party will be December 5, 2023 10:00 a.m., at Crystal Gardens. The address is 16703 Fort Street in Southgate, MI 48195. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at Local 3000.

We are pleased to announce that we will have guest speakers at the October and November meetings. In October, Peter Gianopoulos from Retirement Strategies of Michigan will speak on financial securities and investments. In November, we will have Mel Leonard from the Better Business Bureau and she will do a presentation on senior scams and fraud.

We would appreciate donations for the Veterans. Please feel free to bring any new items (socks, T-shirts, underwear) for both genders, to

the October and November meetings.

On December 12th, Local 3000 will host its Retiree catered Christmas Party with a presentation from the VEBA Trust.

Once again, we will be sponsoring our annual Toys for Tots Drive. Please bring toys to the November and December meetings to help put a smile on the children's faces.

Have a safe and joyful Holiday Season!

MEETING DATES:

- October 10, 2023
- November 13, 2023
- December 12, 2023
- January 9, 2024

*All Meetings start at 12:00 noon
 We look forward to seeing you there!*

Attend Our Upcoming Events

Now that fall has arrived, we need to plan for the holidays. The Region 1A Open House will be October 26, 2023. This replaces the picnic that was scheduled for August.

CHAPTER 6000 REPORT
 Vice Chair – **BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI**



Now that we are past the summer months, our retirees are meeting in person the first Monday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at UAW Region 1A, 9650 S. Telegraph, Taylor, MI. The phone number is 313-291-2269. Meetings are also ZOOMed. Contact Bernard Nowakowski for codes, call or text 586-767-9303 with an email address. If a holiday falls on the first Monday, the meeting is the second Monday. Light refreshments and snacks are provided.

One of our goals for the year is to get legislation on the state level to re-introduce the removal of the \$300.00 annual cost-of-living cap

and replace it with an annual 3% increase for recipients of the defined benefit pension.

Another goal is to educate the public about *Medicare for All*. There is a group of retirees led by Bob Sisler that are making this goal possible. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Bob Sisler at 313-824-0952.

The group is also making sure the federal government knows our retirees oppose any cuts to Social Security and Medicare by contacting our Senators and Representatives and preparing for the 2024 Presidential Election.

The remaining goals are works in progress.

Meetings and Activism

Happy Fall To All,

Protecting our Gains through Political Action

Help the UAW support candidates who care about American workers and our jobs. If you receive a pension, the voluntary checkoff card is attached. If you do not receive a pension, please consider sending a check made payable to UAW VCAP. The goal is to protect our collective bargaining gains through political action.

As a retiree/surviving spouse, I want to continue to protect my benefits and secure my family's future through the UAW V-CAP political action program!

AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSIGNMENT & CHECKOFF OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO UAW V-CAP

To: _____ (Company name) I hereby assign to UAW V-CAP, from any pension payments made or to be made to me as your retired employee or surviving spouse, the sum of (check one) \$10.00 \$15.00 \$25.00 Other _____, each and every month. I hereby authorize and direct you to deduct such amounts from my pay and to remit same to UAW V-CAP at such times and in such manner as may be agreed upon between you and the Union at any time while this authorization is in effect.

This authorization is voluntarily made. I understand that the signing of this authorization and the making of payments to UAW V-CAP are not conditions of membership in the Union or of employment with the Company, that I have the right to refuse to sign this authorization and contribute to UAW V-CAP without any reprisal, and that UAW V-CAP will use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections, that all UAW members may be eligible for V-CAP raffle drawings, regardless of whether they make a contribution to UAW V-CAP, and that monies contributed to UAW V-CAP constitute a voluntary contribution to a joint fund-raising effort by the UAW and AFL-CIO.

I also understand that the guidelines for contributions to UAW V-CAP set forth above are merely suggestions, that I can contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest, and that the Union will not favor or disadvantage me based on the amount of my contribution or my decision not to contribute.

Contributions or gifts to UAW V-CAP are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes. All UAW members and spouses may be eligible for related raffle drawings, regardless of whether they make a contribution to UAW V-CAP.

UAW V-CAP is an independent political committee created by the UAW. This committee does not ask for or accept authorization from any candidate and no candidate is responsible for its activities.

Signature: _____ Date: _____




There's a direct relationship between the ballot box and the bread box. And what the Union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls.
 - WALTER REUTHER

Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

Region _____ Local _____ Soc. Sec. # _____

Name (print) _____ Member retiree Survivor

If survivor, spouse name _____ Spouse Soc. Sec. # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____ Retired _____

I would like to receive text alerts from the UAW. (Text messaging and/or data rates may apply.)

UAW National CAP Dept., 8000 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48214



REGION 1A UAW
8000 E. Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48214



A Publication By and For the Retired Workers of Region 1A

RETIREE NEWS

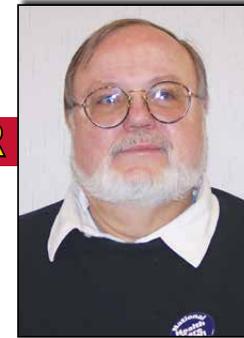
VOLUME 35 - NO. 3

FALL 2023

SO MANY ISSUES, SO LITTLE TIME

RETIRED WORKERS
COUNCIL CHAIR

BOB SISLER



- Climate Change
- Region 1A Events
- UAW Strike
- Poverty & Violence

Climate change is here. Early on the morning of our Retiree Picnic, I was contacted and told that Newport Fireman's Park had flooded, there was no electricity, and the park was closed. Our Director, Laura Dickerson, offered to hold the picnic at the Region as an alternative, but the Region had no electricity.

Our Retiree Picnic will now be the Fall Fest. Instead of an Open House Meeting on October 26th, we will have a presentation by the Tuskegee Airmen, our picnic lunch, bingo, and prizes. Please join us for our reimagined Retiree Picnic, on October 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Region 1A.

We have tickets available for the Holiday Party, scheduled for December 5, 2023 to be held at Crystal Gardens in Southgate.

By the time you are reading this article, I hope the strike is over! As I wrote in a previous article, the UAW can spark a movement to restore lost wages, not only for our members but for the rest of society. The UAW can ignite a movement of Justice!

We are seeing people from various sectors responding positively to the strike. Churches, community groups, politicians, and others are saying it is time to balance the books.

Ford and UNIFOR have reached a tentative agreement. A panel of experts seemed surprised when compared to Ford U.S. One thing became glaringly clear to me though, in Canada, there is no need to provide better healthcare for seniors, nor active workers who have to pay \$1,000.00 deductibles. That big burden for healthcare is covered by the government.

As we see poverty grow due to low wages, there is a direct relationship to violence. Both Republicans and Democrats agree that mental illness is linked to violence in our society.

There was a report on Fox 2, August 31, 2023, where a representative from Hegira Mental Health Services talked about a study

done by Wallet Hub. She asked, "Does someone have a mental illness or is it stress created by living in poverty?"

Detroit ranks in second place of cities with stress due to poverty. Cleveland is ranked first. Poverty is

created by low-paying jobs, and contributes to work and financial stress. Other areas of stress come from healthcare or the lack thereof, availability of quality education, and overall lack of services.

Thank You UAW for beginning a "War on Poverty"

We must support our Brothers and Sisters on strike. We need to tell our Representatives on all levels of government to raise wages and end poverty! Tell them to stop focusing on tax cuts for the wealthy and focus on living wages for all. If we reduce the poverty level, we reduce violence.

See **BOB SISLER** on Page 10



Region 1A Retired Workers Council

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 5, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Crystal Gardens Banquet Hall
16703 Fort Street • Southgate, Michigan 48195

\$10.00 per Ticket
Dues Paying Retirees
and their Guest

\$25.00 per Ticket
Non-Dues Paying Retirees
and their Guest

Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis
at the following Retired Workers Meetings:

October 26, 2023
and
November 16, 2023

