



RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 35 – NO. 1



WINTER 2023

DEMOCRATS LEAD STATE AGENDA



REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by **Laura DICKERSON**

Happy New Year Region 1A Retirees,

The end of 2022 brought many successes for the UAW within the legislature. The November mid-term elections gave us the House and Senate, as well as Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Attorney General Dana Nessel and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. This is the first time in over 40 years that Democrats have had a trifecta in Michigan. This allows us to entertain legislation that has been on our agendas for many years.

On the agenda is repealing the pension tax, which will provide on average \$1,000/year for retirees in the State of Michigan. This will allow retirees to retire and live with dignity.

The Governor also mentioned several other items on the agenda, which include expanding the working families tax credit, pre-K education for all Michigan families, make it in Michigan, repeal of the 1931 law banning abortion, stronger gun control, infrastructure and climate change. Michigan also has a \$9 billion surplus. The legislature will be charged with how to get some of this money back to working families.

Another item that most Unions in the State of Michigan have on our agendas is repealing Right to Work. Right to Work became effective on March 18, 2013 under former Governor Rick Snyder. It has been in effect for just under 10 years and it has had a drastic impact on our Union. Repealing this

legislation would mean “no more free rides” for those who choose to opt out.

This will likely be a huge fight with Michigan Senate and House Republicans, as well as, outside special interests. The legislation to repeal this has been sponsored by Michigan State Representative Regina Weiss and our very own Michigan Senator Darrin Camilleri. Should this legislation get repealed, Michigan would be the first state in nearly 60 years to do so. This would help Unions in the State regain their strength!

“Once again, I appreciate everyone’s support as we work hard to protect our Union and fight for working families!”

2023 will bring a lot of challenges for our Union. The transition to Electric Vehicles and all of the associated technologies, as well as Big 3 bargaining for the UAW with Ford, General Motors and Stellantis. We are ready to meet these challenges. We will not be defined by our past. *We are stronger than ever, We are resilient... WE ARE THE UAW!*

UAW Region 1A Retired Workers Council CALENDAR 2023

All meetings are on a Thursday and start at 10:30 a.m., with the exception of this year’s Holiday Party, which will be on Tuesday.

RETIREE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The deadline to apply is April 28, 2023. For an application to enter contact your Local Union or Nova Schollenberger at 313-291-2750.



BLACK LAKE RETIREE RETREAT

JULY 5-8, 2023
The deadline to register is June 23rd. Contact your Local Union or Region 1A Retiree Rep. Jeff Morris at 313-291-2750 for an application.

- JANUARY 26Delegate Meeting
- FEBRUARY 23Open House Meeting
- MARCH 23Delegate Meeting
- APRIL 27Open House Meeting
- MAY 25Delegate Meeting
- JUNE 22Open House Meeting
- JULY 27Delegate Meeting
- AUGUST 24Retiree Picnic
- SEPTEMBER 28Delegate Meeting
- OCTOBER 26Open House Meeting
- NOVEMBER 16Delegate Meeting
- DECEMBER 5Retiree Holiday Party

Advisory Council Report

by Yvonne Harris, Retired Workers Delegate



Information from Your International UAW Retired Workers Advisory Council

Hello Everyone,

I pray all is well. I would like to welcome all new

Retirees. Please sign up for the (*voluntary*) V-CAP and (*voluntary*) Retiree Union Dues. Spouses/surviving spouses can sign up to become an Associate member. The *voluntary* minimum monthly dues are \$3.00.

Please stay active, informed, and attend your meetings. As your Retired Workers Advisory Council Delegate, I would like to share some important information with you.

Congratulations Region 1A

Congratulations to Region 1A Director Ms. Laura Dickerson, who was re-elected. We appreciate her leadership and support. Many thanks to Assistant Director Dave Pagac and the great staff.

The UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust

VEBA Trust has started attending in-person meetings. Hopefully, you were able to attend your UAW Local meetings to hear and ask questions concerning the changes coming in 2023.

By now you have received your new insurance and/or prescription drug cards. Please keep all 2023 Benefits Highlights booklet information. For any questions, feel free to contact the VEBA Trust at the numbers listed inside each booklet. Remember BCBS prescription drug plan is now OPTUM RX.

If you have any questions or want to make changes to your coverage, contact Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC) at 866-637-7555 or UAWtrust.org.

New Over-the-Counter (OTC) Program

Please remember to use the new Over-the-Counter (OTC) Program (Annual Allowance). You can place your order by *phone*, *online* or with the *order form*. Remember, the unused benefits will not carry over into the next year. You must use your full benefits amount before December 31, 2023.

Depending on your insurance, the Annual Allowance is \$50.00 to \$150.00 to spend. Items are shipped directly to your home. This is a great benefit. If you have used the program, you are in their system. You can place two (2) orders a year toward your total amount. For example, if you don't use all the money at that time, you can place another order.

I encourage you to *use it, do not lose it*. To request a new catalog, call 1-877-218-9951.

Update Your Information

Please remember to update your personal

information with your Local Unions and/or your Retired Regional Coordinator – change of home address, phone and email address. It's vital that you keep your information current. Contact Region 1A Jeff Morris at 313-291-2750.

Legal Service Plan

UAW-Stellantis-Ford-General Motors, it's your benefits use it – Active, Retired and spouses/ surviving spouses of eligible members. A case intake specialist will verify your eligibility, explain the coverage available for your matter, and refer you to an attorney. They emphasize service by phone at 313-202-8099 (direct office) and email at georgiba@uawwsp.com.

Region 1A

Plan your trip for the Black Lake Retiree Retreat, July 5-8, 2023. More 2023 retreat information to follow.

Silver Sneakers

Just a little humor... Yes, some of us have made New Year's resolutions to become more physically active. I don't plan to try to become the next "Bay Watch" lifeguard, but I do plan on including the Silver Sneakers program into my life style. Treat yourself to some body and mind therapy.

Fraud Watch

Talk to your family, your kids, and grandchildren. The risk is growing rapidly today because our children have more access to the outside world through their phones and internet services. Grandmoms and Granddads, please beware. This is a growing concern. *Be your own best security.*

2023 UAW International President and Vice President Run-Off

Hopefully, you have received your Ballot for the Run-Off. If not, please call 1-855-433-8683 or request one online at uawvote.com. The deadline to mail back is February 17, 2023 to ensure that it is received by February 28, 2023 for the count day – March 1, 2023.

If you have family and friends who are UAW members, encourage them to do the same. *Vote, Vote, Vote!*

"WE ARE ONE"

I would like to send my condolences and prayers to the families and close friends of members who have recently passed.

I also send speedy recovery wishes to our Sisters and Brothers who are recuperating from illness or injury. Get well soon!

God Bless You, God Bless America, and God Bless the UAW.

Region 1A Retired Workers Council

REGION 1A DIRECTOR

Laura Dickerson

ASSISTANT 1A DIRECTOR

Dave Pagac

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

Christine Neal

RETIREE COORDINATOR

Jeff Morris

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1st Vice Chair

RICH EBERHART, LU 3000
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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

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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 Retirees News. All items selected are subject to edit.

BOB SISLER *from Cover Page*
 systems causing fear, confusion, and disruptive behavior that can become violent. *Short Changed*

So, what is “Right to Work?” It is a way for companies to lessen unions’ ability to organize, educate, protect, and prosper the membership. Unions have fought to make sure you are not short changed.

Right to work is a way for companies to interfere with the Union’s right to keep their integrity, solidarity, and organize. The studies tell us that a non-union shop worker makes less. The time spent by unions to maintain membership lessens the time unions have to protect and service its members.

Walter Ruether always warned of the division companies use to keep us divided and short change the worker. Imagine a union with just 50% of its dues-paying members taking a strike vote. A company might even laugh at that idea – 50% would get strike funds and 50% would not.

So, we have heard that jobs will be lost if we stand up for jobs with justice and remove right to work. Do we want to be short changed? Do we stand up for “I am a Man?” Do we stand up to corporate greed and become an example for the country, and show that Unions and corporations can have positive outcomes from treating each other equally?

Right to work is the right to work *for less*, but also ask about your dignity and respect as an adult.

Short changed, determined out of fear, or united, organized, educated, and agitated together. Remain a worker, not an indentured servant who is disposable.

Call your Governor, State Senator and Representative and tell them to repeal right to work in Michigan, and strengthen our rights to contracts through unions.

In 2005, Region 1A’s Jimmie Settles wrote an article, *We’re Not No.1 Anymore*. In it he stated, “It is time for our country to return to days when workers and the middle class mattered, not just corporations. We need national health care for the overall physical and economic health and sustainability of our economy and our people.”

It is proven that, if we had a *Medicare for All* system, more money would stay in workers’ pockets, and retirees could look at improvements if healthcare was off the bargaining table.

The proof is there. The Congressional Budget Office reports in 2022 that a *Medicare for All* system would be supportive of families and reduce anxiety and the confusion that exists in the present for-profit health system. The yearly burden and worry of navigating insurance would no longer be. The general health of the population would improve, because barriers would be removed. Healthcare companies could no longer make millions by denying care, and people would not feel pressured to remain in a job to keep healthcare.

Do companies/government want you to have this freedom? A government study shows, when persons do not return to work, the Unemployment system creates family problems (i.e. substance abuse, children having school problems, marital) and a whole list of socio-economic problems.

Minimum wage keeps you in a struggle to survive. The worker who makes minimum wage must supplement that wage with social services (tax) or charity (giving from those who can give). Right to work legislation is a burden for the workers, has proven to keep wages low, and it makes family life a struggle.

If the Cares Act of 2022 can support small businesses that retained workers with cash, why don’t we develop a system that pays companies or small business a living wage. You would not need as many social service programs or charities. The money saved would be diverted to the living wage standard. “I am a Man” would be a reality, and that sense of pride and self worth would be contagious to the family and community. *Medicare for All* would reduce stress, save money and provide security to every man, woman and child. It’s contagious.

Finally, replace the unemployment system with an employment system, by using money from the present education and social support systems. When you lose work, you go to a



employment counselor. If a layoff is temporary, you are given financial help until you return to work.

If you do not expect to return to that job and there is no work available with your job skills, you are retrained. This would involve finding a skill of your liking, a grant for educational services along with living expense until you return to employment.

Detroit is reaching out to unemployed citizens to be retrained and made employable. The program recognizes if a person remains without income that there are social consequences.

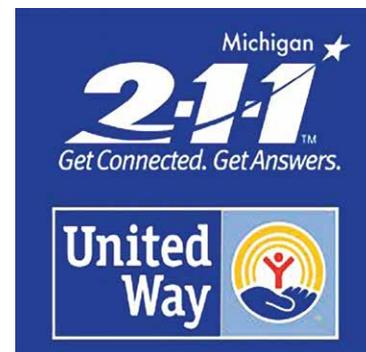
Take money from unemployment to start an employment system, with training and job placement at the end.

Positive approach brings positive outcomes.

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A LIFELINE IN TIMES OF CRISIS – HELP 24/7/365

Provides referrals to programs to assist with food, housing, financial assistance, utility assistance and more. Help is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, from anywhere in the state of Michigan.



988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Provides *free and confidential emotional support* to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States.

VETERANS

As of January 17, 2023, all veterans are able to access emergency mental health care *free of charge* at any Veterans Affairs mental facility or outside clinic, regardless of whether they are already enrolled in department health care services. These expanded benefits for veterans provide:

- Free care for any veteran in suicidal crisis
- Care covered at VA and non-VA facility
- Outpatient care covered up to 90 days



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

CHAPTER 36 REPORT



Chair – **YVONNE HARRIS**

Staying Safe and Informed

Greetings to our Retired Brothers and Sisters of UAW Local 36 (Wixom),

I am praying this finds you well. On behalf of the Executive Board, we would like to wish you a safe and healthy new year. 2023 is already a month old, how time really does fly.

Let me start off by thanking the membership for their support by attending the meetings since the pandemic. It has been two years, and we were happy to see members return. A slow start, but the numbers are building. We have had masks and hand sanitizer available, and the tables were spaced safely apart. Thank you for trusting us to keeping you safe.

In October, dues-paying members/surviving spouses and associate members were sized and able to order and receive a jacket and cap at our Christmas Luncheon.

In November, the Trust visited us and shared the changes coming for the 2023 Benefits.

Hopefully, you have received your new cards and your 2023 Benefits Highlights booklet. Please keep them for your information. If you have Benefit questions, please contact NESB at 1-800-248-4444.

Speaking of the Christmas Luncheon, it was a great success. Yes, many members attended, good company, great food, and UAW Local 182 was nicely decorated. We collected from member volunteers "Keeping our Seniors Warm" with socks, gloves, scarfs, and skull caps. We were able to donate to two nursing homes. Also, we collected "Coffee for Vets" and were able to donate many cans of coffee to MVF "Michigan Veterans Foundation" center. Many thanks, to *you*, our UAW Local 36 Retirees. We really appreciate your donations.

The UAW has sent "UAW Run-Off" ballots out as of mid-January 2023, asking you to vote for the UAW President and Vice President. This election is very important to *all* of us, Active and Retired members. It is vital that we vote. UAW Bargaining is coming, and we need the right voices at the table. Please *vote* and send your ballot back ASAP – *Vote, Vote, Vote!*

If you have not received a ballot, call 1-855-433-8683 or visit UAWvote.com. The deadline to return your ballot is February 17, 2023 to be received and ready for Count Day, March 1, 2023. Please spread the word to all UAW members, family and friends.

Our meetings are the third Monday of each

month at 10:30 a.m. (*except January, February, and March*). The location is UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road Livonia, Michigan 48150.

By the way, there is a "One Call Now" reminder sent out each month before the meetings. You must sign up to receive this call.

Dates to Remember:

- **February is Black History Month**, so many events will be taking place throughout the month. Take time to celebrate and enjoy, spread peace, love and happiness toward your fellow man.
- **April 17, 2023**, our UAW Local 36 Retiree meetings will resume.
- **Region 1A Black Lake Retiree's Retreat, July 5-8, 2023**. Further information will be available soon.

Many thanks to UAW Local 36 Retiree Executive Board members Barbara Whatley, George Love, A. Griffin, Nika El and Duane Nunnally, for all you do and your support. A special "thank you" to our brother, Chaplain Greg Wilson. God Bless. Also, we appreciate your hospitality, UAW Local 182, thank you.

In closing, we have lost members in the past months. Please keep their families in your prayers. Also, prayers go out for the sick and shut-ins. We are looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting. I will do my best to keep you posted on any further information.

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

CHAPTER 78 REPORT



Chair – **NATHANIEL "Dan" BISHOP**

Making the Best of the New Year

Greetings Retirees and Spouses of Local 78,

It is my sincere prayer as we start this new year of 2023 that all may be well with each of you, and your families.

As we leave 2022 behind us, I know that doesn't mean that we are leaving all of our

problems behind us. Many of the challenges that we had to deal with last year are still with us, and no doubt we have a few more, even though this year has just started.

I hope that each of us may, in some way or another, find the needed strength to maintain and keep moving forward. Also, let us be mindful that we aren't getting any younger (smile), so you should be ready to ask for help and assistance when the need arises.

Now would be a good time, if you haven't already started, to make a list of family members as well as social assisting agencies that you can call upon just in case the need arises. Also, please exercise caution before you sign any papers or before you agree to anything over the phone. Unfortunately, the number of scammers continues to grow, as do fraudulent activities.

These are those things that will never go away but only become worse.

Let me say this. We still have a small group of our retirees meeting once a month on the third Wednesday. If you have any retiree matters that are associated with the company or retirement benefits, you may come and join us, and we will do our

best to provide some assistance. The time and location are listed below.

I hope the best for each of you in this new year of 2023.

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 are meeting 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 RETIREEES, CALL:

ZF (TRW) Service Center
877-698-7910, press "2"

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

ROMULUS RETIREEES, CALL:

PBGC – Customer Contact Center
800-400-7242

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

Are you paying your retiree dues? Maybe NOT!

Even if you opted at one time to have your voluntary retiree dues taken out of your pension check, they may not be taken out now. Check your pension statement (State Street for Ford retirees). If you don't see "U Dues" under deductions, they are not being paid. Have your Local Financial Secretary, Benefits Rep, or Chapter Chair give you the form for deducting this small amount (\$3) which supports the work going on every day for retirees. We are not "former members" of the UAW, *we are forever members!*

Another thing to check is whether your dues are going to the correct Chapter. Each Retiree Chapter Chair receives a list of members who are paying dues. If your name is not on this list, some other chapter is getting your money. Help us make sure you are supporting *YOUR* Chapter and *YOUR* Region.



40% to UAW
Retired Workers
Department

35% to Local
Retiree Chapter

25% to Regional
Retired Workers Fund

**Retired Workers Dues Allocation
(\$3 Per Month)**

**CHAPTER
163
REPORT**



Chair – **ROY GONZALEZ**

took on the challenge of getting the vaccines to the people as soon as they were available. They were provided for *free* to all Americans, along with *free* Covid home test kits. He provided stimulus money to the unemployed, financial aid to renters and people with mortgages, and family farmers; all while cutting our national debt over \$300 billion.

President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act to bring costs down, reduce the deficit, and take aggressive action on climate control. This was all paid for by making sure the largest corporations and billionaire tax cheats finally pay their fair share in taxes. For our Veterans, he signed the PACT Act to address

our service members with exposure to burn pits and other toxins. He also signed the CHIPS and Science Act (you know, those “chips” we keep hearing about) to accelerate semiconductor manufacturing in the United States, creating good-paying jobs and help us keep good-paying jobs in the America.

Under President Biden, we have had a historic economic recovery with the greatest job growth under any President in history. Unemployment has dropped below 4%, and our economy has recovered faster than other major global economies. To keep America a winning team for all Americans... *Vote Democrat!*

Take care Be Well...

Historic Economic Recovery

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,
It has been three years now, and after inheriting Covid, President Biden immediately

**CHAPTER
182
REPORT**



Chair – **GEORGE 'MICKEY' HERRICK**

and express your opinion and your right as a member, *please!*

In the month of January, we had Mel from the Better Business Bureau (BBB), and she spoke about scams. Come February, we're having Jim Peterson speak to us about the Alliance for Retired Americans. Jim is familiar with Local 182. He referenced John Caizza, but I had to tell him that John had passed and was no longer with us, so I assumed he knew of our Local. I've already asked Mel from the BBB to come back in September to speak to us about another topic.

I am also contacting the Kroger pharmacy to come in again in September and give us our flu shots and any other shots that are recommended for the public. I will also see if they can come back in October to administer

shots.

I have a couple of ideas for the months of March and April, and also getting the Trust to come in the month of May. My ideas are opioid addiction speakers. They will talk to us about Narcan and how it saves lives from overdoses.

During this past summer, we had our Local 182 golf outing to raise money for the “Labor of Love,” along with a car show and chili cook-off. We raised \$12,000 for the “Labor of Love.” We supported 40 families with a very Merry Christmas.

Normally, we have a party at the Local but, because of Covid, we've been delivering the gifts to the families.

Please stay safe, mind your P's & Q's, and always remember there is strength in unity.

God bless America!

Bringing In Guest Speakers

Hello Retired Brothers and Sisters,
Hope you survived the Christmas holiday. Right off the bat, I'm going to ask everyone to please vote in the run-off election for our solidarity leaders! I'm not going to tell you who to vote for. Please take time out to vote

**CHAPTER
227
REPORT**



Chair – **ELMER DUFF**

four, five or six dollars a gallon? We are asking for a raise in our pension and reinstating COLA to try to keep up with the times.

By now, most should have received their new prescription card from Optum Rx. If not, or you have questions, call Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC) at 866-637-7555.

More good news, your Over-the-Counter (OTC) benefit started on January 1, 2023. Let's take advantage of this benefit. For more information, call 877-218-9951.

A message to Local 227 members: it seems that if we want to continue to have our Picnic or Christmas Lunches, we will have to go into our pockets and pay for them; then submit the receipts to the Region to get our money back. We may get all or some of our money back. We need to talk about this when we resume meetings in March.

We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Curtis (BooBoo) Ingram, 9810, and Pierce Robinson, skilled trades.

I would like for everyone to petition our Governor to restore the tax money that was taken from the Retirees Pension checks, because every little bit helps us.

Here's wishing everyone a blessed and safe new year.

**CHAPTER
387
REPORT**



Chair – **KAREN MAGER**

Guest Speakers at Meetings

At our October meeting, we had Michigan candidates Darrin Camilleri, Rob Kull, and Debbie Dingell come to speak to our members about the Inflation Reduction Act and its benefits to our local communities. Congresswoman Dingell fielded many comments and questions from our retirees.

I did tell Debbie that our membership was 50/50 split Republican/Democrat and for her to be prepared for pushback. Although she did get pushback, she stood her ground. She made me proud.

Our November meeting brought the Medical Benefits Trust representatives to inform the membership about the changes to our benefits.

See **CHAPTER 387** on Page 9

Happy New Year!

Brothers and Sisters,
Hope you and yours had a nice holiday and are looking forward to this 2023 as being the best year ever.

We started the year off with a raise in our Social Security and we didn't get that big snow that was predicted. By the time you get this *Retiree News*, we may have a new President of the UAW. Our congratulations to Laura Dickerson for retaining her position.

Regardless who becomes the President of the UAW, this is a contract year and we, as Retirees, have been overlooked for a long time. All we ask for is to be treated fairly in these times we live in. Who would have ever thought eggs would be over \$5.00 a dozen and gas prices would be over

CHAPTER 600 REPORT



President – PEACHES ANDERSON

Taking Care of Our Members

Welcome Back To All Our Retirees,

I hope everyone had a safe and blessed Holiday. The year of 2023 is here, and it is starting out with a big bang. There is work for us to do, concerning our livelihood. On the 12th of January, the Election ballots were mailed to our homes. This is for a run-off for our President and Vice President of our UAW International Executive Board (IEB). We must vote, and send the ballots back in. All ballots have to be received by February 28th, no later.

We need experienced leadership with strong bargaining skills. We don't want to lose any of our Retiree Benefits. It takes someone who has been at the Bargaining table before to keep what we have.

You must remember that we are Retirees who worked for the Big Three. We don't own any companies. To sit across from them at the table, you must be very knowledgeable and smart.

Retirees, please don't listen to people making promises that they know can't be kept.

This year is contract time, so we must be very careful who we put in office to bargain for our members. Let's make a New Year's Resolution to be more active with the business of taking care of ourselves, by voting and supporting those who support us.

There are a few changes with our benefits. We should be thankful and grateful that we, as Retirees, have the VEBA Trust providing our healthcare. Express Scripts is no longer used for our prescriptions. Now, we have Optum RX. Toward the end of this article, I have listed many important contact numbers, so please read them carefully.

Remember not to go out of your network and, if you have any questions, to contact the VEBA Trust. Make sure you always check to see that you are "in network." There have been so many of us who end up having to pay money out of our pockets because we went out of network.

There are many scams out there that are targeting us, as seniors, so please check all your bills, statements, and bank accounts. Do not give out any information over the phone. Tell them when they call that... "You must already have it. You called me." Then hang up.

You see all the commercials on TV about Medicare, but remember that you have health insurance through the VEBA Trust. So don't sign up for something just because they say

you can save money or receive money back. Be careful. *You must stay with the Trust!* Sometimes, something may sound good but in the long run it will end up costing you more.

Retirees of Local 600, our first meeting of the year is March 26, 2023. Coffee and doughnuts will be available 9:00-10:00 a.m. The Meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. Other events and meetings are to be determined.

My deepest sympathy to all who have lost family, loved ones, or close friends. May you gain strength to carry on.

Remember that February is Black History Month.

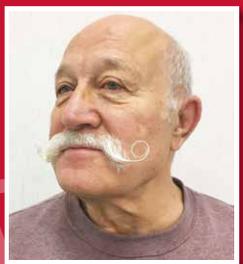
List of Important Numbers:

- 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..... 877-484-7977
- Optum RX..... 855-409-0219
- MetLife Insurance 833-552-3673
- NESC 800-248-4444
- Ford-UAW Retirement Board.... 800-829-8833
- UAW Legal Services 800-482-7700
- AXZ Plans 800-348-7709

"One of the discoveries in life is that concrete decisions are sometimes made from the wrong footprints in the sand."

I thank you for all your support. Stay Safe and see you soon.

CHAPTER 723 REPORT



Chair – ROBERT CEBINA

Local and National Issues

Greetings UAW Local 723 Retirees,

I hope that all of you are in the best of health these days. I trust that the holidays were joyful for you and your family.

At January's meeting, we paused for a

moment of silence for Judy Gagne, William Ford, Frank Furnai, and Roger Bacon, who have passed on.

Sisters and brothers, the Retiree meetings are still being held on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Currently, the meal is still at \$5.00 per person. In the future, we may have to raise the price of the meals due to the rising cost of food.

At present, our retiree funds are OK. We have a new caterer now, and she is definitely working out better in my opinion. If you happen to talk to some of our retirees, let them know that we have a new caterer, and the food is better.

The Retirees Chapter is in need of a Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and volunteers to help out at the meetings. These duties are not difficult by any means, but these positions need to be filled. So, if you can spare some time, let me, Mike Keck, Mike Miller, or our Local President know.

Sisters and brothers, if you are not paying voluntary Retiree union dues, please come to the Local and sign up to become a dues-paying retiree. The dues are only \$3.00 a month. Help support the Local Retiree Chapter by becoming a dues-paying member. Your Union dues will help offset the cost of paying for the meal at our meetings.

Now that the State and National elections are over with, hopefully, we can have our

representatives, both on the State and National level, put aside their differences and get down to the business at hand of running our state and our country. The United States of America is in way too much turmoil for us to be tearing each other down, or each other's political party. If the representatives continue down this path of confrontation, then we need to let them know that we will not stand for that type of representation.

No, the labor issues cannot be ignored by us, as members of the UAW, but we also need to concentrate on all of the important issues that we are faced with. Issues such as the border problem, out-of-control crime, the terrible shape our public schools are in, our state, the financial crisis our country is facing, and so many other issues that need to be addressed. So, let us all do our very best to ensure that the issues we face can be and will be a work in progress.

Both sides of the aisle must come together to bring us a brighter future for our state and our country. If we don't give it our best, then we have failed in our efforts to give our children a better life than we ourselves had.

I apologize to all of you for not having an article in the past issue of the Region 1A Retiree News. It seems that my article somehow got lost between my computer and the Region.

God bless all of you for all that you do for our country and the UAW.

IAMA
UNION PROUD
DUES PAYING
MEMBER

CHAPTER 735 REPORT



Chair – SHIRLEY POLING

Prescription Provider Change

Dear Brothers and Sisters of 735,

On behalf of your Executive Board, I would like to say we are offering up prayers for all of us to have a good year in 2023. Sadly, we also want to recall our Brothers and Sisters who are no longer with us. We will always treasure their memories.

2023 Calendar

At the end of this article, please take note that I am attaching a calendar for 2023, giving the dates for confirmed activities. After the calendar, I will list other possible activities that have not had a date or a price attached to them as of yet (listed as “TBD”). The calendar is meant for informational purposes, so you can plan to participate in the activities that are of interest to you.

Change of Prescription Provider

The first and most important issue I need to address right now is the switch that was made for our prescription drug care benefit from Express Scripts to Optum RX. I have been in communication with many of you, either through Facebook or by phone, and the majority of you are reporting that your services are continuing uninterrupted with the correct medication and no snafus. That is fantastic, and it is nice to hear good news from so many of you. However, the transition has not been seamless for several of our members.

I want to offer the following information for the benefit of those who are having problems. Your first recourse upon finding you can't get the medication you need, that has been prescribed for you by your doctor, is to call the phone number on the back of your insurance card. You want to tell the person whom you are calling that you want to speak with a Customer Care Advocate. The Customer Care Advocate has the responsibility of helping you sort out whatever the problem is.

In some cases, it is simply a matter of the prescription being written by the doctor for the name brand medication, but only the generic is covered by your insurance. In that case, all you need to do is call Optum RX and give them your permission to send you the generic rather than the name brand.

In still other cases, the problem is that the medication you need is not on our standard list of covered medications. In that case, you can file an appeal. If it is still denied, then please contact me on Facebook or you can call me on my cell

phone at 734-560-4347.

Another situation some of our members have encountered is, because of various medicine shortages occurring across the country, Optum RX does not have some of the needed medications in stock. As a result, they're not able to fulfill your prescription. However, some local pharmacies have the medication but they offer it at an exorbitant price compared to what you would pay through Optum RX. If that is the problem you are having, then you need to call the Retired Workers Department at 313-926-5231. You need to tell them you are from Local 735, which is a closed plant, and as a result do not have a Benefits Rep. The Assistant Director of the UAW Retired Workers Department is named Drew Kelly. Drew has committed to providing assistance for benefits to the members of Local 735, when we are unable to resolve those issues for ourselves.

Why Did Our Provider Change?

There has been lots of discussion back and forth amongst our members stating different reasons as to why the UAW Trust signed on with Optum RX versus staying with Express Scripts. At the UAW Region 1A Retiree Council January meeting, we were told the UAW Trust elected to change to Optum RX because they were offering us much more reasonably priced service.

Now, before any of you get angry that the Trust switched from a company that you like in order to save money, please stop and think about the fact that the UAW Trust has an absolute fiduciary responsibility to each and

every one of us to operate the Trust as cost-effectively as possible, in order to provide the best benefits and continue to guarantee coverage for all of us for our lifetimes.

We are experiencing some hiccups, but most are minor and we will be operating smoothly with Optum Rx very soon. But, if you have been denied medication to where you would face life-threatening consequences without, or have been told you can only get the medication from another source at an exorbitant cost, then please call the UAW Retired Workers Department right away at the number given earlier, so you can get the help you need. *None* of our members should go without the medication they need.

Many good things are happening right now and I wanted to share up-to-date information with all of you. Here is the current calendar for the year 2023:

Confirmed Events and Dates

April 12	1st Retiree Chapter Meeting of 2023
May 10	Retiree Chapter Healthcare Fair
June 14	Retiree Chapter Meeting
July 14	Retiree Chapter Golf Outing
Aug. 9	Retiree Chapter Annual Picnic
Sept. 13	Retiree Chapter Meeting
Oct. 11	Retiree Chapter Healthcare Fair
Nov. 8	Retiree Chapter Meeting
Dec. 13	Retiree Christmas Party

Tentative Events

Some possible upcoming events: Mud Hen Game and lunch, Tiger Game, Casino Trips, Frankenmuth Trip, and a Shipshewana Trip

Looking forward to a great year with all of you.

LOCAL 387 *continued from Page 5*

Thank you, UAW and Benefits Representative Jim Arnold, for securing these speakers to our meeting.

Our Christmas Party was a huge success. I want to thank *all* the people (active/retired/spouses) who helped make the party such a success. I especially want to thank President Tony Pascarella, Vice President Gerald Thomas, Financial Secretary Mark Petrlich, and Recording Secretary Traci Gray for making every meeting go seamlessly all year long. We do depend heavily on these four.

I also want to thank the retirees who helped set up tables and chairs, and sell the raffle tickets for our monthly meetings all year long. This year, we had volunteers bring desserts for our members. Many retirees/guests brought special sweets for us to enjoy. Thank you *all* for bringing all these treats. This might be a new tradition.

I especially want to thank our 1st Vice President, Gary Schack, for doing anything and everything that needs to be done while I am running the meeting, and Treasurer Ken Woody for coming early to every meeting to sign in our members and guests.

Our Christmas party was very different this year without our Frank “Steady Eddie” Eritano. He was missed greatly.

UPCOMING MEETING TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

Our future meetings bring many more speakers to make our lives easier and more informed. The lineup is as follows:

- **JANUARY** – Brownstown Fire Chief Jeff Drouillard and Police Chief Jeff Watson will speak about how to be safe in our homes and in our communities.
- **FEBRUARY** – Region 1A Retiree Chairman Robert Sisler will speak about single-payer healthcare and SSI. Region 1A Retirees Representative Jeff Morris will speak about UAW current events, and UAW legal representative Brian L. Walker will speak to our members about our UAW-negotiated legal benefits.
- **MARCH** – Local 387 Veterans Chair Ray Lopez will speak about veterans' affairs.

CHAPTER 845 REPORT



Chair – MIKE LAMBERT

Make Your Voice Heard, Vote!

We have to get something out of my thoughts. "Happy New Year" to everyone. I hope your holidays were terrific. I know that this Santa had a wonderful time with his grandkids.

Now, there are a couple of things that might interest many of you. As you know, the Retirees are able to vote on the International Executive Board. We are all hoping that this change may help the Retirees to receive better benefits and pensions.

During the first ballots, there were many Retirees who did not get their votes counted, due to late mailings, ballot rejections, and because many Retirees did not have up-to-date addresses in the system. If you are reading this *Retiree News* and have not received your ballot,

please call 855-433-8683 to request a ballot immediately. Then call your Local Union office to update your address information.

Remember the ballots must be received by the *monitor* no later than February 28th. Please get your ballots in the mail as soon as you possibly can. Some mail could take up to 10 days for delivery.

The next thing that I would like for everyone to know is about income taxes on our Social Security. Forty years ago, our Congress and then-President Reagan made into law whereby up to 50% of our Social Security could be taxed if our *Adjusted Gross Income* exceeded \$25,000 if single, or \$32,000 if filing a joint return. Most of us were not affected by this law due to low pensions and low Social Security incomes. Today, however, Social Security incomes have tripled or more, and our adjusted gross incomes have skyrocketed.

It seems our government has failed to place a cost-of-living clause in the law, and today we still have the \$25,000 and \$32,000 in place. In 1993, Congress stepped that up a little bit. If your adjusted gross income exceeds \$34,000, you could pay income taxes on 85% of your Social Security.

Remember your 401 Retirement accounts?

Yes, your withdrawals are being taxed, and your adjusted gross income has now been raised, which ensures that many of us are subject to Social Security income being taxed.

I am asking each of you to contact your Representatives and voice your opinion about raising the *Adjusted Gross Income* to allow for an increased cost of living over the past forty years. This tax was never meant to affect those of us who just get by. It was meant for those who had golden pensions that far exceed ours.

I would like to remind everyone that our Medical Trust was able to get us an Over-The-Counter (OTC) benefit last year and it extends into this year, as well. Please use this benefit as it could save you many dollars on your pharmacy purchases.

Now something for my *Local 845 Retirees*. Covid has sure taken a toll on our membership meetings. We have lost several who were regular attendees; however, this has not stopped us from making plans for our Summer Reunion. I do not have a secured date as yet, but plan on late August for our annual reunion.

We meet the second Thursday of each month at noon. Please stop by and we will have a snack and a soft drink waiting for you. Come help us plan our next reunion.

CHAPTER 849 REPORT



Chair – BOB BOWEN

Democracy in Action

When this report hits your mailbox, the outcome of the International Executive Board's run-off election will still be undecided. Those of us who think it's important to vote will anxiously wait for the outcome, but our anxiety will pale in comparison to that felt by the candidates. Even to the winners, it must be a daunting experience, to be newly elected, and having to jump right into the fray of collective bargaining, dealing with the U.S. Labor Department, administering a large union, working for justice, and gaining the membership's trust; especially those who didn't vote for you.

Welcome to democracy. It's what most of our members wanted. It's what we have, and we should welcome it. For better or worse, we have abandoned the convention system. Now, it's our responsibility to join those who will be chosen to lead, and give them our wholehearted support.

The membership expects those who lose to willingly accept the results, and put electioneering aside. To the winners, we only ask that you graciously wear the honor bestowed by the membership, and to carry out your

responsibilities with dignity and purpose.

MEETING SCHEDULE

We meet on Thursdays, with a 12:00 noon potluck (bring a dish to pass), and a 1:00 p.m. Business Meeting. The upcoming 2023 dates are: February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July (No Meeting), August 17, September 21, October 19 – 57th Anniversary (Noon social, 1 p.m. meal), November 16, December 5 – Christmas Party.

Local 849 Statistics

As of January 25, 2023, Local 849 has 937 members who we can verify as living. Last January, we had 1,084. That is a decline of 147. Twenty-six members were reported as dying since the 2022 winter edition. What happened to the other 120? We must conclude they have passed away without us knowing, or moved and left no forwarding address. Some may be in long-term facilities, and may be unable to report.

Given the circumstances, Local 849's Chapter is going strong. Our Chapter has 488 dues-paying members, another 449 non-dues-paying brothers and sisters, who we try to serve by communicating the value of continued involvement in the UAW.

My report is purposely brief, so space can be freed up to recognize beloved members who have passed from this life. Please remember their families in your prayers.

IN MEMORIAM

We are mourning the loss of Local 849 members reported since the summer edition of *Region 1A Retiree News*:
Melvin H. Jasper.....11/07/28-10/12/2022

- Leona I. Washington08/14/29-10/23/2022
- Cynthia Roberson-Clayton...09/24/51-10/25/2022
- Robert B. Whalen.....07/07/50-11/24/2022
- James W. Moore05/27/26-12/24/2022
- David J. Hatfield.....03/19/54-12/27/2022
- Kenneth D. Polley..... 10/31/40-01/21/2023

Occasionally, I get a call from a widow/widower who wants to announce the death of their husband or wife. Some of the requests are for those who never worked at the Ypsilanti Plant of Ford Motor Company and as members of Local 849. When that happens, with the assistance of the Region, we try to get the departed brother/sister's name printed in the proper Local's Region 1A Chapter report.

After the last *Retiree News* edition, Barbara Trazakos called to ask to get the news out about her husband's death. Stanley Trazakos died in 2019 and she wanted his friends from Local 15's Machinist Club at the Cadillac plant to know he had passed. Unfortunately, Local 15 no longer submits a report.

With that in mind, Local 849 will gladly honor Barbara's request by adding her beloved husband's name to our report. Thank you, Barbara, for reading the *Retiree News* and for caring about your husband and his friends.

IN MEMORIAN

- Stanley A. Trazakos 11/1/32 - 12/14/2019

If you are not a Chapter member and would like to join up, please email Bob Bowen at bowen59@gmail.com, or call (734) 482-6213 and leave a message, include your name and a phone number. I will return your call and gladly send you an application. Membership only costs \$3 a month.

CHAPTER 898 REPORT



Chair – SHEILA PEDERSEN

It's a new year and a new legislature. A sign of the times, the very first bill is a repeal of the Michigan Income Tax on Pensions – HR 1 and SB 1. Thanks to our friends in the new Democrat majority. Remember, it was Governor Snyder and his Republican legislature that introduced the tax on our pensions. Yes this is true, and yes it makes a difference who you put in charge at the state level. Your vote matters.

Repealing Right to Work is another item on the table. This amounted to nothing less than the Right to Scab.

Triennial elections at Local 898 are this year. Remember to go vote for your Executive Board!

Our 2023 Meeting Schedule:

January 18th, February 15th, March 15th, April 19th, May 17th, June 21st, July 19th, August 16th, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, December 20th.

Time: 11:00 a.m. with a Lunch after meeting.

CHAPTER 3000 REPORT



Chair – SHARON HARDING

Every Vote Counts

We hope everyone had a great holiday!

Our 2023 Triennial Election is to be held on February 14-15, 2023. Retirees can vote at UAW Local 3000, 22693 Van Horn Rd., Woodhaven, MI 48183. Come to our February 14, 2023 meeting, have lunch, and *vote!*

Run-off Election for UAW Executive Board ballots have been mailed out. Make sure you mail your ballot back before the deadline of February 28, 2023.

If you did not receive your ballot in the mail, you can request a ballot by calling 1-855-433-8683. *Every vote counts!*

Speaking of voting, UAW Local 3000 Retirees Committee election for Retiree Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Sergeant-at-Arms is on February 14, 2023.

At the April 11, 2023 meeting, a representative from the Better Business Bureau will be speaking on “Scams targeting Seniors.”

Monthly Meetings

All Meetings start at 12:00 noon.

Our next few Meeting Dates are:

- February 14, 2023
- March 14, 2023
- April 11, 2023

CHAPTER 1776 REPORT



Chair – DERIC TWIGGS

began receiving since January 1, 2023.

We are trying to have a Benefit Rep. at our next meeting. Please bring any questions you may have. It would be great if more members would start back attending the meetings. If you know of a retiree who does not receive the *Retiree News*, please update and remind them we are back in business. We do have masks available for those who need one.

In December, we had our annual Christmas dinner, and we missed immensely those who were not present.

Always remember to keep the sick and bereaved in your prayers.

The Executive Board and I look forward to an eventful year. Come share your thoughts and ideas!

issues that could affect our pension or medical coverage. This is a work in progress. Send your email address to big.cobra@gmail.com to be included in the mailings.

On the legislative front, Senate Bill 775, which would have removed the \$300 cap on our annual cost of living for defined benefits, never made it out of the Appropriations Committee, chaired by Jim Stamas (R-Midland). This bill is now dead. However, with the start of the new legislative session, there is still hope.

The Democrats have put forth proposals to exempt public pensions from income tax and restore larger deductions for private retirement income, affecting about 500,000 households. Senate Bill 1046 was introduced by Senator Paul Wojno (D-Warren), and House Bill 6117 was introduced by Representative Alex Garza (D-Taylor). Go to legislature.mi.gov to read the entire bill. Contact your Senator and Representative and express your concerns on these bills' passage.

Members of the group are also involved in the “Medicare for All” movement. The Medicare for All Act (aka the Expanded and Improved



Medicare for All Act or United States National Health Care Act) is a bill first introduced in the United States House of Representatives by Representative John Conyers in 2003, with 38 co-sponsors. This bill has been re-introduced every session of Congress since 2003, and would guarantee medical coverage for all people in the USA.

If anyone has questions or wishes to involve themselves with this movement, email Robert Sisler at robertsisler@att.net.

– reference <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/> for HB and SB info

Yes, Voting Matters

Here's hoping you all sent your ballots in for the UAW IEB run-off. I hope, as you are reading this, we are celebrating a victory for our chosen candidates.

There are still cracks in the process where people did not receive a ballot. Make sure you change your address. If you move, please change your address at the Local. Experience does matter, and so does seniority.

Attend Our Monthly Meetings

Greetings Local 1776 Retirees,

Some of our members have returned to our third Thursday of each month Meetings. Over the past several months, we have discussed some of the new changes in benefits that *our* retirees

CHAPTER 6000 REPORT



Vice Chair – BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI

Happy New Year To Everyone

The officers of Local 6000 Retired Workers Region 1A hope that you and your family had a very blessed Christmas and Holiday season.

Our in-person monthly meetings are the first Monday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at UAW Region 1A, 9650 S. Telegraph Road, Taylor Michigan 48180. If you are unable to attend in person, the ZOOM platform is available. Contact Bernard Nowakowski for meeting codes by emailing big.cobra@gmail.com, or text info to 586-767-9303.

Our retiree group is also trying to establish an e-newsletter to provide information on state



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RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 35 - NO. 1

WINTER 2023

INDENTURED SERVANT

**RETIRED WORKERS
COUNCIL CHAIR**

BOB SISLER



In 1968, MLK was assassinated after working to help the sanitation workers achieve better wages and benefits. Their slogan was “I am a man.” *What?*

Every man or woman wants to be treated with justice, dignity, and respect. Fighting for fair wages sparked violence at that time and it still does. Every member of society needs enough income to care for themselves, their family and the ability to have recreation (FDR Bill of Rights). *Short Changed*

As the colonies first began in the Americas, companies had a system where a person who could not afford the fare to travel to the new America could sell their labor for a certain period of time to repay for the passage. It was called Indentured Servants. Although you were expected to be freed from the debt after the set period, if there was a discrepancy, it was easier for a European to blend into the colony.

Another form of cheap labor was introduced from the West Indies, known as slavery. This was not time limited, but ownership until death, or being freed by the owner. Their complexion was different from the European. Companies always searched for cheap labor without concern for human rights. *Short Changed*

We have accepted the idea that the Company is so important. We have allowed

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

United Auto Workers 313-926-5000 www.uaw.org
UAW Region 1A 313-291-2750

FORD – GENERAL MOTORS – STELLANTIS (Formerly FCA/Chrysler)

Retiree Health Care
Connect (RHCC)..... 866-637-7555 www.benefitsweb.com/rhcc.html
UAW Trust..... 866-637-7555 www.uawtrust.org
Blue Cross/Blue Shield 877-832-2829
Davis Vision 888-234-5164 www.davisvision.com
Delta Dental 800-524-0149 www.deltadental.com
Legal Services Plan 800-482-7700 www.uawlegalservices.com
Silver Sneakers www.silversneakers.com
Tru Hearing..... 844-394-5420 www.truhearing.com/uawtrust
NEW UnitedHealth Care
Medicare Advantage Plan (Medical Benefits)
844-320-5021 www.retiree.uhc.com/uawtrust
NEW UnitedHealth Care
Medicare Rx (Optum Rx Prescription Drug Benefits)
855-409-0219 www.uawtrustpdp.com

LIFE INSURANCE CONTACT NUMBERS

Ford MetLife 833-552-FORD (3673)
Stellantis 888-409-3300
GM MetLife 888-543-3461
Social Security Administration 800-772-1213 www.ssa.gov
Medicare 800-633-4227 www.medicare.gov

ourselves to question our self-worth. Remember, without your sweat, not a single wheel could turn per the UAW solidarity song. Your work makes profits.

After WW II, there was a just sharing of wealth because of unions. Then in the 1980s, the citizens accepted an attack on the air traffic controllers. We became too comfortable and would not boycott the airports. The attacks on workers continues.

Workers were told to give up their pensions, COLA, real good healthcare, defined pensions, etc. in order to keep companies from bankruptcy. After all of our sacrifices and the same companies posting billions in profits, the companies have not given reparation for our sacrifices to avoid company failure – “cannot afford it.” *What?* Don’t want to share billions? *Short Changed*

Our Representatives support laws paying citizens less than a living wage, while the companies will make billions. The worker goes home, unable to provide for his family. That worker has to seek out ways to supplement food, housing, utility bills, etc. It is our tax dollars or our donations that pay for food stamps and other assistance to meet living standards for the abused worker.

Not only do you pay in taxes, but the public is bombarded with commercials to entice you to give. Workers struggle and companies make huge profits. So, it is no surprise that Kroger, Meijer, Trader Joe’s, etc. get tax breaks to help the very people who make less than a living wage.

The recent pandemic provides evidence that healthcare, the unemployment system, and minimum wage are unjust

See **BOB SISLER** on Page 3