



RETIREE NEWS

AMERICA'S HUGE TRANSITION



REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by **Laura
DICKERSON**

Greetings Region 1A Retirees,

On January 20, 2025, our country swore in our 47th President of the United States (POTUS), Donald J. Trump, who was also the 45th President of the United States. This day was significant to many, as it was also Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

For some, this day was a day of fear and confusion. While others celebrated his return to the White House. President Trump wasted no time after the swearing in ceremony getting to work. On day one, he signed 26 executive orders, 12 memorandums, 4 proclamations and revoked 78 Biden-era executive actions.

Trump then started nominating persons for various cabinet positions, such as: State Department, Marco Rubio; Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), John Ratcliffe; Department of Defense (DOD), Peter Hegseth; Department of Homeland Security (DHS), South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem; Treasury Department, Scott Bessant; Department of Transportation (DOT), Sean Duffy; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Lee Zeldin; Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Kash Patel; Department of the Interior, Doug Burgum; and probably the most

controversial Health and Human Services (HHS), Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Trump also appointed Elon Musk to the new office of Department of Government Efficiency, otherwise known as DOGE.

Trump's aggressive approach on certain issues has instilled fear and worry in millions of Americans. To many of us, there is not a clear understanding of what direction this country is heading in. He has started making changes, which in some cases are seen as very controversial. One area he has focused on is immigration. Many may remember his approach in his last term as President. He has proposed changes that would end birthright citizenship, a long-followed policy in this country. This change is being tied up in the courts, since ending birthright citizenship is being challenged as unconstitutional.

Trump has gone on to fire multiple people from various federal agencies, including NLRB General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo. Abruzzo, who visited Region 1A last year to assist us in our organizing efforts with Webasto, has done tremendous work in helping workers.

One of the biggest changes, so far, is the elimination of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) mandates, programs and policies. This change poses a lot of questions, especially for our 'Big 3' Joint Programs departments. DEI is one of the programs available to our active members. The impact is unforeseen at the moment.

Keeping with his focus on immigration, Trump also proposed the *Laken Riley Act*, which

was passed by both chambers of Congress. This bill would allow federal agencies to detain any migrant arrested or charged with a crime in the United States. This bill does not provide any lesser penalty based on minor crimes.

We can only wonder what he will do for working men and women in this country, as well as what they plan to do for unions and union members across this country.

UAW President Shawn Fain has vowed that the UAW will work with the President. Fain was highly criticized for this approach, especially because the UAW did not endorse Trump. Fain

should be applauded for putting our differences with the President aside and representing this great membership during a very difficult time.

Keep in mind, we are still in the middle of a huge transition in the auto industry to Electric Vehicles (EV) or Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV).

Lastly, Trump promised on the campaign trail that he would institute tariffs. There is a lot of confusion on this particular topic. Trump has imposed 25% percent tariffs on Mexico and Canada and 10% on China. On February 4, 2025, these tariffs were delayed one month for Canada and Mexico. However, tariffs have still been imposed on China and China is fighting back with tariffs of 15% on U.S. goods.

Many Americans are finding out that tariffs could increase cost on certain items here in the United States. Companies could transfer the cost of these tariffs on to the consumer.

**“We have to
remain steadfast!
Continue to hold
our elected officials
accountable and
stick together!”**



Save these Dates

**UAW Region 1A Black Lake
2025 RETIREE RETREAT**

Michigan Secretary of State **MOBILE UNIT** at
UAW REGION 1A UNION HALL

See page 3 for full details on both these events.



ADVISORY COUNCIL Report

by Pat Greca, Advisory Council Delegate

Welcome 2025!

I am looking forward to many new adventures, gathering helpful information to share with all of you, and simply being of service in

much more restricted budget than in years past. So, scheduling an in-person visit might take months, as they no longer have full-time dedicated office space. They prefer online meetings and communications, when possible, to expedite more efficient services. You can reach UAW Legal Services at 800-482-7700.

MetLife currently handles our life insurance (when I made my will Unicare was the insurance). The phone number for MetLife is 833-552-3673.

In closing, when I hired into Ford, joining the UAW in 1972, my plant employed 6,000 hourly people. Now, it has barely 600. Many plants are no longer in existence and retiree numbers are dwindling, as we lose so many every year.

I was also made aware at a conference last year that the 'Big 3' only make up one third of the current UAW membership. Times are changing, and the dues money that used to flow into our great Union is now much less. Please keep this in mind the next time you ask why we no longer have the same benefits as in years past.

Instead, I say be grateful and feel blessed that we have a pension and healthcare. Many of our Union brothers and sisters in the future will not have these benefits which we enjoy today.

Sending Light, Love, and Peace to all as we begin another year.



Startling Events

The new year is upon us, and 2025 has started with some startling events...

- The horrible event in New Orleans has shown that danger can happen at anytime, anywhere.
- The horrific fires in California are amazing and shocking to say the least. So many folks joining together for the sake of others.
- We lost Jimmy Carter.

There has also been some good news...

- There are new cancers that have been added to the PACT Act. Among them are: Acute and Chronic Leukemia, Melanoma, Bladder, Urethra, and similar cancers. Service times in Somalia, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Emirates, Oman, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, and airspace above these locations on or after August 2, 1990. Post 911 Veterans service locations include Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, after September 11, 2001.
- The Military is going to see a pay raise of 4.5%. Ranks of E-1 to E-4 will be receiving an extra 10% in April, making it a 14.5% increase. This will be an increase from about \$24,000 to \$28,000 for lower-ranking members. However, this is still not enough to cover basic needs for a family. The pay rate is one of many reasons why recruitment goals have been short for years.
- There are Politicians on both sides that have issues with the costs of caring for our Veterans. They seem to have no issues with the costs of conflict, but our Vets are always a topic of conversation. When the 535 members of the 119th Congress convene, there will be 100 members who are Veterans. This will be the highest number since the mid 1970s. It remains to be seen what will happen.



REGION 1A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

RETIREE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



2025 High School Seniors can win one of the following scholarships...

- TWO (2) SCHOLARSHIPS OF: **\$1,200⁰⁰**
- FOUR (4) SCHOLARSHIPS OF: **\$1,000⁰⁰**

THIS YEAR'S 500-WORD ESSAY WILL BE ON HEALTHCARE.

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- Child, Grandchild, or Ward of a UAW Region 1A Member
- A 2025 High School Graduate
- Accepted to a College or Trade School
- *The deadline to enter is April 18, 2025*

These awards are made possible by generous donations from UAW Locals and the Retired Workers Chapters of UAW Region 1A, the Region Director, and caring individuals.

FOR AN APPLICATION FORM, CONTACT YOUR UAW LOCAL OR UAW REGION 1A AT...

313-291-2750

**I AM A
UNION PROUD
DUES PAYING
MEMBER**

Save
the Date

JUNE 29th thru
JULY 2nd
2025

BLACK LAKE RETIREE RETREAT

Each summer Region 1A Retirees are invited to enjoy Walter Reuther's vision for UAW members. Opening in 1970 this UAW center provides members who visit with a feeling of pride in UAW history. There is the golf club, beach, Olympic size swimming pool, exercise and weight room, pool and table tennis tables, but also the beauty and peace of the wooded surroundings.

Please join us at the UAW Region 1A Retiree Retreat, June 29 thru July 2, 2025. Included are the room accommodations, and all meals from dinner on Sunday night to breakfast on Wednesday morning. And, if you don't want to drive, there will be a bus leaving Region 1A on Sunday morning at a cost of \$10.00 to reserve your seat.

There will be many activities for you to participate in, and you will see old friends you may not have seen in years and meet new ones. If you have not been to a Retiree Retreat, you don't know what you are missing.

There is so much to see, learn, and enjoy at the Black Lake Education Center. Walter and May Reuther's ashes were spread on the hilltop overlooking the main lobby. To honor the Reuthers, there is an eternal flame in the Japanese stone lantern which was donated by the Japanese Trade Unions in this location. There is also a large memorial monument with sculptures of the Reuther brothers added to the area in 2003 with a plaque that reads "There is no greater calling than to serve your brother; There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." Just a few of the things that await you.

**Contact your Local or Region 1A
for prices and details, which will be available soon.**



MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE MOBILE IS COMING TO YOU

The Secretary of State Mobile Office will be visiting the
UAW REGION 1A UNION HALL
to provide service to
Seniors of the UAW to complete Secretary of State transactions

DATE:
February 27, 2025

TIME:
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

LOCATION:
**9650 S. Telegraph Rd.
Taylor, MI 48180**

**Book a visit to complete
your Secretary of State
transactions, including:**



First-Time
Michigan ID



Renew Driver's
License or ID



Transfer
Title



Apply for/renew
Disability Placard



For more information or to schedule your visit
during this Mobile Office event, contact...

JEFF MORRIS
jsmorris@uaw.net
(313) 291-2750.



CHAPTER 36 REPORT

Chair – YVONNE HARRIS



Events Abound at Local 36

Greetings to our Retired and Associate members, Brothers and Sisters of UAW Local 36 Ford (Wixom). I am praying I find you well.

On behalf of the Executive Board, we would like to wish you a safe, healthy and prosperous new year, and a warm welcome to 2025.

Many thanks to all our members who could share their time and those who volunteered where needed. We appreciate you very much.

In 2024, we had visitors and representatives at our meetings, sharing information concerning...

- Retirement Strategies of Michigan, Finances/Investments
- Walton Wood Retirement Living
- UAW VEBA/Trust
- Better Business Bureau
- Universal Dementia and Alzheimer's
- Veterans

Members who attended the "Black Lake Retreat" for the Retirees this past summer reported they had a very good time, and would sign up again.

In November, the Trust visited us and shared the changes coming for our 2025 Benefits. Hopefully, you have received your new cards and your 2025 Benefits Highlights booklet. Please keep them for your information. If you have

Benefit questions, please contact the NESC at 1-800-248-4444.

Our Christmas Luncheon was a success. It was great to see the many members who attended for good company and great food. Scarfs and 2025 calendars with pens were given to members in attendance.

We also collected donations from members, for "Keeping our Seniors Warm" with socks, gloves, scarfs, and knit hats. We were able to donate these to "Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries" (DRMM). We also collected "Coffee for Vets" and were able to donate many cans of coffee to, the "Michigan Veterans Foundation" (MVF) center thanks to you, our UAW Local 36 Retirees and Associate members. They really appreciated our donations.

Just a note... a big *thank you* goes to our Local 36 members for attending the Region 1A Retired Workers Council Christmas Luncheon at Crystal Gardens. We had a ball, and nice pictures were taken to remember this event.

Things To Remember...

- Get the Retiree Scholarship Awards applications (with the essay) turned in by April 18, 2025. Call UAW Region 1A for more information at 313-291-2750.
- Use your Over-the-Counter (OTC) allowance, which is \$350 per person (single or married) by the end of 2025. If you have any questions, please call 844-487-2770. Remember, you will receive the \$500 Retiree Christmas Bonus in December of 2025.
- Transferring back to your home Local, simply fill out the form and follow the steps accordingly.
- If you know someone who is *not* getting UAW literature, have them contact the Region to start an investigation on the information in their file.
- Remember, we can/should support the United

Auto Workers of America (UAW) and its Regional Community Action Program (CAP) with our *voluntary* monetary donations.

- Our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (*except January, February, and March*), 10:30 a.m., at the UAW Local 182 Union Hall, 35603 Plymouth Road Livonia, Michigan, 48150.
- On April 21, 2025, our Local Retiree meetings will resume. Our guest speaker will be a representative from the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Hope to see you.
- February is Black History Month, many events will be taking place throughout the month. Take time to celebrate, enjoy, and spread peace, love and happiness toward your fellow man.
- Many *thanks* to our UAW Local 36 Retiree Executive Board, Vice Chair Ken Jasin, Recording Secretary Rhonda Carpenter, Financial Secretary-Treasurer George Love, Trustees Nika (Charlotte) El and Duane Nunnally, Sergeant-at-Arms A. Griffin, for all they do and their support.
- A special *thank you* goes out our brother Chaplain, Greg Wilson, God Bless.
- We appreciate your hospitality, UAW Local 182, thank you.

In closing, sadly, we have lost members. Please keep their families in your prayers. Also, extend prayers for the sick and shut-ins.

In Memoriam: Barbara Brantley, Lorraine Winget, Sally Harris, Barry Short, Clyde Day, Mike Brown, Sonny Adams, Joe Champain, Charlie Braggs, Matt Metz, Jimmie 'Moon Baby' Embery, George Miller, Vance Porter, Gerry Manus, Lalo 'Chico' Zarazua, and Donnie Washington

In Solidarity, my brothers and sisters, stay safe, and God Bless. *Until next time...*

CHAPTER 163 REPORT

Chair – ROY GONZALEZ



America On The Rocks

Now it starts. The Trump train is going full speed ahead, changing rules and regulations with utter disregard, whether it is legal or not, and

getting away with these actions because of his six Supreme Court puppets condoning his actions.

Shortly after his inauguration, he pardoned 1,500 of the January 6th insurrection people, which he said he would. He also said he would stop the Ukraine/Russian war on his first working day, but he hasn't done so. Probably because his buddy Putin still wants to keep it going.

So far, Trump has cancelled funds for the World Health Organization, fired the chief of the Coast Guard, and promises to continue to retaliate on a whole slew of people who are not willing to be his puppets. He has not mentioned making Canada America's 51st state again, but

he wants to impose a 25% tariff on Canada and a 25% tariff on Mexico.

Trump also says he still wants to take over Greenland, and the Panama Canal. Greenland belongs to Denmark, and the Panama Canal belongs to Panama. If he tries to do this, the United Nations, in no uncertain

terms, has to let him know he can not get away with it.

Imagine that one day we had an Indigenous President of the United States (we call them American Indians), and he or she states truthfully that all of the land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean was stolen from the American Indians and the over 300 million people who are not American Indians will be deported and that American Indians once more will have their rightful land from sea to shining sea. Scary, right?

There was a plan agreed to by Republicans and Democrats many months ago to alleviate the problems created by undocumented people and the border, but Trump told the Republicans not to go for it, so that he could put inhumane, mean-spirited methods in, to kick out anyone he wants, and he wasted no time in implementing his agenda.

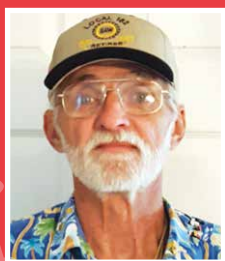
Again, be aware of the new drink: "America on the rocks." That's just where we are going to be with a dictator running the show.

Take care and be well, if you can under this new regime.

MY
UAW
PENSION

"MY PENSION means I can live in modest comfort, with enough reserve to help family members who have not been so fortunate."

CHAPTER 182 REPORT



Chair – **GEORGE 'MICKEY' HERRICK**

Financial, and will be talking to us about our retirement finances.

Then, in the month of March, we will be having the Better Business Bureau (BBB) talk to us about scams of all types.

I am currently working on a speaker for our April meeting to come and talk to us about our A.E.D. machines and also CPR instructions.

Finally, in the month of May, we will have our Health Fair with the Trust.

Over the summer, I will work on getting our vaccines for the month of October, along with the Trust making our annual visit after the summer.

Hope to see everyone at our Local meetings.

Please consider raising your *voluntary* Union Dues to \$5.00 per month. It would help our Chapter immensely. Most people are only giving \$2.00 at the moment, some are giving \$3.00. But we, as retirees, are shooting for \$5.00 per month to help our Local 182 Chapter. I will close by asking everyone to please get involved in your Retiree Chapter by attending meetings and joining committees.

Always remember that there is strength in unity.

Cathy Smith, Bookkeeper..... November
Nancy Scruggs, Electrician..... November
Dave Curson Sr., UAW Int'l Rep.

and father of Dave Curson..... October
Gerald Norman, Electrician..... October
Louis E. Murray, Millwright..... November
Mike Howe, Millwright..... December

On January 16, 2025, we had a guest speaker, Elizabeth Brines (MPH), who gave a presentation on chronic pain. She handed out informational flyers on the subject which was very helpful to those who suffer from chronic pain. To learn more about this subject, you can call 1-844-456-4668 or email STEPS-info@umich.edu.

Please keep the families of our departed brothers and sisters in your prayers.

God Bless America!

CHAPTER 227 REPORT



Chair – **ELMER DUFF**

Welcome to the Year 2025, a Promising and Exciting Year For All

Local 227 ended the year with our Christmas Luncheon, which was well attended with lots of fun and food! Many thanks to those who made contributions to our luncheon.

The Christmas Luncheon for 2025 will be in November, along with the Benefit Trust meeting. There will be no meeting in December!

The shutdown will be for December, January, and February. Our meetings will start back up in March 2025. Our attending members voted on this so as to avoid the snow and ice. The welfare of our members is more important than coffee and doughnuts.

I hope that everyone is staying warm with the weather being downright cold, but better days are coming.

Our condolences to family and friends of our deceased members: Tony Colone, Clerk; Joe Angeliims, Skilled Trades; Phillip Pompura; Floyd Norman "Chip" Boilke, Skilled Trades; Robert 'Lil Bobby' Jones, 9860; Kenneth Darryl Clouse; Brian Burley, son of Willie Bailey and brother of Wil Bailey; Ella Little Dupree; and Kelly Gregory Borowicz.

Let us get acquainted again and forgive. Remember, our Local 227 meetings will resume on March 19, 2025, with a Social hour at 10:00 a.m. and a meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Everyone have a safe and wonderful winter!

CHAPTER 245 REPORT



President – **LARRY F. KELSEY**

Happy New Year Everyone

The following are some items that occurred since my last article in 2024. We had a Regional Christmas Party that was attended by our members. It was nice to see everyone from the different Locals celebrating the holiday.

Our annual Local 245 Christmas Party was held at the American Legion Stitt Post. It was well attended (183 people). Prizes were given out and everyone had a good time. I would like to thank our E-Board for all their hard work in making this party a great event.

We also collected some more e-mail addresses of our retirees, so we could keep them informed of our activities in the coming year.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to President Darryl Schaumburger and the Executive Board for all their help and support over the year.

The following is the list of members who have passed away since my last article:

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 372 REPORT



Chair – **GEORGE TURNER**

Happy New Year from 372

Welcome to 2025! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. As we step into the new year, UAW Local 372 is preparing for exciting developments.

Christmas Party Success

A big thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas party a huge success. It was wonderful seeing familiar faces and enjoying camaraderie with one another. Let's continue building this sense of community and connection throughout the year.

Upcoming Initiatives and Updates

We're excited to announce some important updates and programs for our members...

- **Asbestos Testing** – Ongoing testing is being conducted to ensure safety standards are met for our facilities and members.

- **CPR Classes** – Learn life-saving skills by enrolling in one of our CPR certification sessions. Stay tuned for dates and locations.
- **Gun Turn-In Initiatives** – Designed for retirees, this program promotes safety and the responsible disposal of unwanted firearms. Details will be shared soon.

National Leadership Updates

With new leadership in the White House, we're closely monitoring policies affecting seniors, retirees, and working families. Things are moving quickly, so stay informed and engaged.

Scams Targeting Seniors

As we enter the new year, we want to remind our members to stay vigilant against scams. Here are a few tips...

- **Phone Scams** – Be cautious with calls requesting sensitive information.
- **Online Payments** – Use apps like *Cash App* with care and avoid third-party transactions.
- **Door-to-Door Scams** – Verify the identity of anyone claiming to represent a utility company.
- **TV Ads** – Be wary of offers for medical insurance or other services. Always consult your benefits representative before making changes.
- **With tax season approaching, protect your personal information**, including Social Security numbers, to avoid identity theft.

Enjoy Life.

It has an expiration date.

Updates on Stellantis Leadership

Stellantis has introduced new leadership, which has led to significant changes, particularly in car purchasing contracts. Review all contracts carefully to ensure you are receiving what has been promised. Stay informed and protect your interests.

Veterans Report

Veterans, don't forget to register for the PACT Act to access additional benefits, even if you are already receiving them. This act includes updates related to lead paint exposure on ships and other new provisions. Make sure you are taking full advantage of the benefits you have earned.

Retirees Monthly Meetings

Join us for OUR UAW Local 372 Retirees meeting, held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4571 Division Street, Trenton, MI 48183, at 11:00 a.m. Dinner will be served, and your presence is highly encouraged. Let's come together and support one another in retirement.

As always, remember... *If you love your freedom, thank a vet.*

CHAPTER 387 REPORT



CHAIR **KAREN MAGER**

Welcome to the New Year

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and are enjoying a happy new year.

Our retiree Christmas Party is always so enjoyable, with many gifts, new faces and long-time members, festive clothes, and happy times. I personally want to thank all of the bakers who brought such an array of holiday goods for our members to enjoy. The dessert tables keep getting longer.

Thank you to Debbie Gruse for organizing and maintaining the baked goods.

We are very fortunate to have our UAW

Representatives bargain on our behalf and attaining a Christmas bonus in our current contract agreement. You should have received your second \$500.00 by the second week of last December. Thank you, UAW Leadership.

As our workforce dwindles, so does the amount of our eligible retirees. Please consider, if you have retired from Local 387, to attend our retiree meetings. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. The first half hour is our social time to chat with our fellow retirees.

Our Benefits Rep., Jim Arnold, secured the Medical Benefits Trust to come to our meeting and report to our members the changes in our medical benefits which began in January. Please read his report in the *Local 387 News*.

Monthly Retiree Meetings

- **January 8** – We will have the Brownstown Fire Department and the Brownstown Police Department come and get us up to date on the daily issues affecting us in our daily lives and try to help us get prepared to tackle the winter. I am sure the Fire Chief will help to identify if our homes are safe from fire dangers, and the

Police Chief will help us identify issues in our communities.

- **February 12** – Gary Schack will be running the meeting. He is looking into getting the Wayne County Road Commission to attend and explain the road work projected in our area. Gary is also trying to secure the Brownstown and Gibraltar Mayors to come speak to our members.
- **March 12** – No speakers lined up yet. *Any Suggestions?* Please contact me, Gary, or Tony Pascarella with your ideas.
- **April 19** – We will be accepting any nominations for our Retiree Leadership – Chairman, 1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Guide. If you want to get involved, please consider running for one of these offices.
- **May 14** – Election of Officers

On a personal note, I want to thank all the bakers who made items for our Christmas Party attendees to enjoy. I so much love all the new baked goods and recipes I get to try. Many of our members have told me they really enjoy having all of these goods, too.

Another personal note, I want to express how honored I have been to be involved with Toys for Tots for over 20 years. With, hopefully, many more to come. I also want to thank the many retirees who personally gave me money and gifts for this toy drive. Year in and year out, these members come through for the kids. Thank you so much!

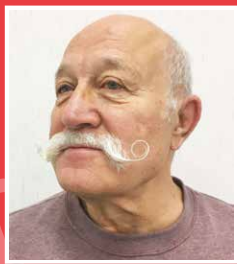
If you or someone you know is in emotional distress,
visit www.988lifeline.org, or call/text 988

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



CHAPTER 723 REPORT

Chair – ROBERT CEBINA



Local know if anyone passed away, so we can let the retiree members know who has passed on.

Since our last Region 1A RETIREE NEWS, we have lost Ed Kane.

Sisters and brothers, the UAW Local 723 Retiree meetings and luncheon are still being held on the third Thursday of the month, 1:00 p.m. at UAW Local 723. We would love to see more of our retirees coming to the meetings and of course enjoying the meals that go with the meeting. Currently, the meals are \$10.00 a person. I don't believe you can get a meal anyplace in Monroe for \$10.00 that includes dessert. With that being said, I hope that you will start coming to the meetings and enjoy the fellowship with your sisters and brothers, and to check out the food. We are averaging 40-50 members coming to the meetings.

Currently, there are about 1,240 retiree members in Local 723's Retiree Chapter. If you are out and about and see a retiree from the Local, let them know of the meetings.

Our Local 723 Retiree Chapter is still in need of members to come forth and to fill positions of the Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, and Financial Secretary, along with members to collect the money at the door. These positions do not involve a lot of work or time. If anyone is interested, please contact the Local or me.

With these positions open, we are in violation of the Bylaws of the UAW, Region 1A, and the Local.

Let us not forget our Veterans who have given our country and us so much, asking nothing in return. For those members who are Veterans, we thank you for your service.

CHAPTER 735 REPORT

Chair – SHIRLEY POLING



this second Trump presidential term will mean overall for our country. I think there is wisdom in having a 'wait and see' approach from either viewpoint.

The following is a list of currently planned events for this year. All Chapter Meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

April 9 Chapter Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

May 14..... Retiree Healthcare Fair, 10:00 a.m.

May 15..... Bus Trip to Firekeepers Casino,
Bus will depart from Local 163
at 8:00 a.m. (cost to be announced)

June 11 Chapter Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

June 25 Bus Trip to Shipshewana.
(cost to be announced)

July 9 No Meeting,
due to hall being unavailable

July 11Retiree Reunion Golf Outing
at Rolling Meadows in Whitmore Lake
(cost to be announced)

August 13 Annual Retiree Picnic

September 10 Chapter Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

October 8 ... Retiree Healthcare Fair, 10:00 a.m.

October 9 Bus trip to Gun Lake Casino
(cost to be announced)

November 12..... Chapter Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

December 10 ... Annual Retiree Christmas Party

We post updated information on our Facebook page *Local 735 Forever*. I encourage each of you to join the group and check on it often. The Facebook page is the best way for your Executive Board to communicate with our members. We answer many questions regarding life insurance, health insurance, prescription drug coverage, legal plan help, and many more topics. You can post a question about any problem there and usually get an answer pretty quickly.

Please plan to attend your Chapter Meetings. We serve a hot lunch at a cost of \$7.00 per person. Good food, good information, and great friends are waiting for you!

You Are Invited...

Greetings UAW Local 723 Retirees,

I hope that all of you are in the best of health these days since our last meeting. If you happen to know of one of our retiree members who has passed away, please let me know so I can let the other retirees from the Ford plant know. Or let the

Upcoming Events

Dear Local 735 Brothers and Sisters,

We have left 2024 behind us and have begun the new year of 2025. Sadly, we lost many of our members during 2024 and we take time now to honor their memories.

As I write this article, we are just a few days past the latest Presidential Inauguration. While I know we have members who are excited about this presidency, we also have a number of our members who are hesitant, even afraid, of what

CHAPTER 845 REPORT



Chair – MIKE LAMBERT

Verify Your Beneficiary

I guess 2025 has shown up at everyone's doorstep. It is wonderful to greet the new year with hopes of a fabulous future. Our Southern retirees have been demanding that those of us still up North come down to get this cold and snow out of their Southern yards. Just to let you know, we did not purposely send you the colder temperatures and the white moisture.

Now onto a different subject. As time passes, there are many issues that our retirees face. Each of our retirees' situations are slightly different, so it is impossible to address everyone here in the *RETIREE NEWS*.

Some of the issues that I have been asked to help with is survivor's pension benefits and life insurance beneficiary. In the past, I have asked that our retirees verify who the beneficiary of their life insurance is. It seems that sometimes the beneficiary may have passed and the retiree has not changed who is to receive the proceeds.

Most all retirees have this life insurance from the company. Some retirees may have taken incentive retirements that have eliminated the insurance. Please check your status.

The second issue is with our spousal (survival) pension coverage. Each retiree who has a spouse will normally have coverage that their spouse will receive a portion of the retiree's pension after the retiree's spouse passes. Sometimes, as time passes, we may find that our loved one leaves before we do. Please contact the company that you retired from to report the loss of your loved one. The company will help you to correct the paperwork.

You may have found a partner, this partner or a new partner, may be eligible for benefits as well. Please contact the company that you retired from to see what may be done.

A retiree's spouse should also benefit from the Christmas bonus benefit. It seems that many are not receiving this contractual benefit. Again, please check to make sure your loved ones are protected.

I am not going to list several numbers here that just may confuse many retirees or their caregivers. I will only give one number that has been of great help in getting information. The number is for Ford Retirees. The Ford Retirement Board has always treated me with total respect and has always directed me to the right people to talk with. Their phone number is 800-829-8833.

This number is only good for Ford retirees. Other retirees should call their Local Union office to get information.

Now, for UAW Local 845 retirees. The new year brings hope for a bright future. Our retirees meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Local building, 3113 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, Michigan at 12:00 noon. We will be discussing our summertime Reunion in the next couple months. Reserving the park and planning takes several months to complete. Come join us as we plan coming events.

CHAPTER 849 REPORT



Chair – BOB BOWEN

Hail to the Chief, or Heil to the Chief, Which Will It Be?

As I begin this report, it is January 20, Inauguration Day. I plan on being busy painting and watching *Law and Order* reruns, so I will not be watching the commotion going on in Washington, D.C., and that makes me feel guilty.

I respect my fellow citizens, and know that I should be watching the celebration and cheering every word the new President says, even though he is not worthy of the office.

That is the dilemma many of us face after every election – how to be loyal to someone we did not vote for. I admit I am a sore loser, and more than likely always will be, but I believe the will of the majority should be honored. Therefore, I pledge to respect the office of the President, and pray Trump gains the wisdom he will need to bind this divided nation together again. Regrettably, I do not think he wants to know the truth, and would not acknowledge it unless there is a profit in it for him.

Local 849 Continues to Fade Away

Currently, Local 849 has a total of 979 members, however, that 979 number is not an accurate count. One hundred and nineteen

members cannot be contacted. Some have moved and we have not received address changes. Undoubtedly, some have died, and their deaths have not been reported to us. In 2024, 19 deaths were reported.

Of our 'unofficial' 979 members, 447 pay dues to our Retired Workers Chapter. In addition to retired Local 849 members, we have 259 surviving spouses.

Over-The-Counter (OTC) Cards Reactivated with More Money For 2025

On January 1, 2025, every retiree and their eligible dependents had \$350 put in their Over-the-Counter accounts. You can use your OTC card to buy non-prescription medicines such as bandages, aspirin, cold and sinus medicine, vitamins and minerals, pain killers, and first aid supplies.

Keep in mind that at the end of 2024 your account was zeroed out. The \$350 for each eligible person was added to your old card and account.

You use the UAW Trust OTC benefits in three different places...

- 1. In-store Purchases** – You can use it in around 68000 retail stores with OTC Network logo. Some of the main stores include CVS, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Rite Aid, Stop and Shop, Walgreens, and Walmart.
- 2. Online** – As a member you can also place orders on the official UAW OTC website. Create an account there and select the specific products.
- 3. Phone Orders** – You can also call on the special given numbers to order the products. They will arrive at your address. For information call (844) 487-2770.

If do not have an OTC card, call 1-844-487-2770.

2025 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.

Upcoming meeting dates are...

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| • January (No Meeting) | • September 18 |
| • February 20 | • October 16 |
| • March 20 | (59th Chapter Anniversary) |
| • April 17 | • November 20 |
| • May 15 | • December 2 |
| • June 19 | (Christmas Party) |
| • July (No Meeting) | |
| • August 21 | |

In Memoriam

Mourning the loss of Local 849 Members whose deaths have been reported since the last edition of the Region 1A *RETIREE NEWS*:

Carl Masino 11/29/49 - 04/10/23
William E. Samples 12/23/52 - 10/19/24
John Cross 10/21/55 - 12/01/24
Daniel Warner 04/20/37 - 12/08/24
Thomas Price 04/18/47 - 12/25/24

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

Email Problems

Some members are not getting Chapter emails because we do not have their correct email address. If you are not getting our email messages and want to receive them, send an email to Bob Bowen at bowl59@gmail.com, or leave a phone message at (734) 482-6213. Please leave your name and phone number.

CHAPTER 892 REPORT

Chair – JIM PEDERSEN



A Labor-Friendly Agenda

Although we didn't get all of the desired outcomes in last November's election, there was plenty to celebrate over the holiday season and going into the new year.

We have a new labor-endorsed U.S. Senator, Elissa Slotkin, starting her tenure as the successor to retiring Debbie Stabenow. Sen. Slotkin has pledged to defend Social Security and Medicare from cuts and gimmicks like raising the age to 70 and privatization. She will defend unions' bargaining rights and power, and she has a record of working hard on issues that matter to Michigan, avoiding partisan bickering and the nasty divisiveness that has so deeply infected Washington.

Voters in Flint and Grand Rapids areas, especially seniors, returned two pro-worker, pro-retiree Congresspersons to Washington – Rep. Kristen Rivet and Rep. Hillary Scholten. These two Democrats, like Sen. Slotkin, are on the side of working families, and will help us in the fights for better wages, health care and a dignified retirement, which are sure to come in the next

Congress.

After the election and before they were sworn in, President Trump and the Republican incoming leaders were already talking about attacking Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, as well as federal programs like the Veterans Administration and OSHA, the EPA, safe drinking water, the Food and Drug Administration and immunization programs.

Make no mistake, when you hear "cut regulations, reduce the federal workforce," that means getting fewer services and longer wait times for the things retirees rely on for day-to-day living. We need more allies in Congress and in Lansing, and getting these friends elected is a good thing.

Perhaps the best thing to come from the last Congress, for retirees and surviving spouses, is the 2024 Social Security Fairness Act, which was passed in December and signed into law right around Christmas, with our *Alliance for Retired Americans* coalition at the signing ceremony.

This important law fixes previous cuts to the Social Security benefits for workers and surviving spouses of federal and state employees who spent some time in both public and private employment. This legislation rescinds the *Windfall Elimination Provision* and the *Government Pension Offset*, which were enacted over 40 years ago.

The *Windfall Elimination Provision* trimmed benefits for public employees who received pensions not covered by Social Security payroll taxes. The *Government Pension Offset* cut Social Security spousal or widow benefits for those who also received public pensions not covered by

employment barriers, and many other things are kept from you. Apparently, no one should have to report on applications their criminal record, since we have become a nation of unruly criminals.

So, today, I know some people are betting gas goes to \$.99 and eggs to \$1.00. Do not hold your breath. It's embarrassing that people cried over this while travel was at an all-time high, sports events were packed and sold out – priorities folks!

Then, there is the big, ugly elephant of social media. Everything on the internet is not true. I stopped watching TV after President Biden was forced out of the race.

On to *Project 2025*, which has been renamed "*Mandate for Leadership, the Conservative Promise*," but it's the same thing – the playbook to destroy America. If you want to know more about *Project 2025*, we have a work group studying its effects on retirees. Contact me at sheilakp@yahoo.com. There is room for you in this group.

At the State level, look for the return of the tax on our pensions. The Republicans are back in control. Good luck folks! I hope I'm wrong, and that things go back to normal and retirees are given the respect we deserve.

UAW Local 898 continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m.

Social Security.

Please mark your calendars and come to the next *Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans* First Quarter 2025 meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Michigan AFL-CIO Building, 419 Washington Square, Lansing, Michigan 48933. We will discuss our 2025-6 legislative agenda, get reports from our labor leaders, eat lunch, and then walk or ride over to the Capitol and meet with our newly elected and re-elected State Legislators.

This is an important opportunity to meet and speak with our State Representatives and State Senators, and with the switchover from Democrat Party control in the House, our message should be "there is no going back" to the anti-union policies they had last time, and that we fixed in the last Legislature.

We need to pass the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) legislation, which will help keep many life-saving drugs affordable. And we need to continue to roll back anti-union, anti-worker, anti-retiree restrictions on collective bargaining and pensions; things we didn't get done in the last Legislature.

Our Brothers and Sisters in state employee unions are still hampered by restrictions on negotiating health care and representation, and we need to make fixing these a priority in the new Legislature.

DON'T GET SCAMMED!



**Watch out for these key
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)

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

To report **ILLEGAL ROBOCALLS**
and **TEXT MESSAGES**, visit:
mi.gov/robocalls

To report
ELDER ABUSE, NEGLECT
and **EXPLOITATION**, visit:
mi.gov/elderabuse

CHAPTER 898 REPORT

Chair – SHEILA PEDERSEN



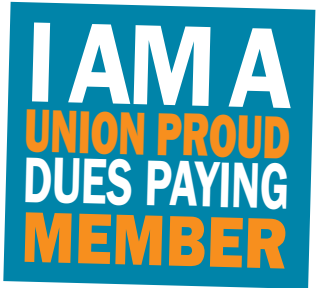
Peaceful Transfer of Power

That, folks, was a "peaceful transfer of power." No one stormed the Capitol, crapped in the hallways, toted in a losing flag, stole from offices, killed or injured Capitol officers.

I still do not believe he won fairly. Yes, I said it, so prove me wrong. All that work bringing justice to lawbreakers from January 6th, for what? Yesterday, he pardoned all of them.

This time around, there are too many billionaires buying their way into our government. All this leaves me wondering about what is going to happen in four years. Will he go peacefully? He didn't last time.

With this many felonies, should he be able to hold office? Think about how felons are treated in real life. You can't get into housing, face



CHAPTER
931
REPORT



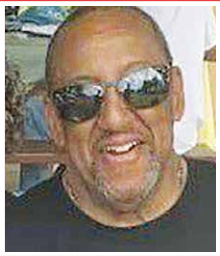
President – SYLVIA GRIFFIN

Hello and Happy New Year

Welcome to 2025! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season. A new year brings about new things, and this year, a journey of differences it will be. Stay alert, informed, and aware of changes slated to happen in 2025.

I wanted to lift a topic that frequently comes into the conversation with retirees, the topic of

CHAPTER
1776
REPORT



Chair – DERIC TWIGGS

Changes and Challenges

Retirees of Local 1776,

Happy New Year to all retirees of Local 1776. I hope everyone had a safe and merry Christmas. We had a very nice holiday meal in December. It was great to see some additional faces.

We had a UAW Region Representative who

dues. Dues are voluntary and are never forced upon retirees, and it’s my responsibility to highlight a few things regarding our dues, which are just \$3.00 per month – *that’s 10¢ a day*.

Now, let me tell you a few things that your dues help to fund:

1. **The Annual Retiree Retreat** at Black Lake where we come together to socialize, learn and enjoy all of the facility amenities.
2. **Our Annual Christmas Party** where we gather for festive fellowship at the end of the year.
3. **The Year-end Appreciation Celebration** hosted by UAW Region 1A.
4. **The Annual End of Summer Cookout** for retirees and their families to enjoy food, games, and entertainment.

Don’t enter another year trying to decide if you should set aside \$3.00 per month to pay

Union dues. Join me and hundreds of others who have made the commitment to continue to support our Union and its activities.

Before closing, I’d also like to send a special *thank you* to all our members who made holiday donations to support \$500 to the National Veterans Housing Program in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and \$500 to the Melvindale School Angel Program. Through your generosity, we were able to spread holiday cheer to many students and numerous veterans. *Thank you!*

Stay warm, and we hope to see you at our next Retirees meeting to be held on March 19, 2025, 11:30 a.m., at *The Golden Corral*, 14691 Huron in Taylor, Michigan.

presented new benefit information for the coming year. As we begin this new year, we face many changes and challenges as the country changes Presidents and their cabinets. It is important to keep up to date of the daily news and understand any and all changes to Medicare benefits and Social Security benefits.

We received our annual bonus in December. Some of the changes for 2025 include, but are not limited to, an increase of the Over-the-Counter (OTC) to \$350. Make sure you use it, so you don’t lose it.

Social Security gave us an increase beginning January 2025.

I would like to thank our Local 1776 Retiree Committee – Edna Smith, Ann Carter, and Rose Davis – for their committed and loyal participation in planning our Christmas Luncheon.

We welcome any members who would like to volunteer to assist with any activity planning. Don’t hesitate to let our E-Board know.

It is important to sign in at our Retiree meetings to ensure we have a current cell phone number, so you can be called or texted, informing you of any updates or changes to our meeting days. Feel free to bring your spouse to join our meetings.

Let’s continue to keep our bereaved, sick and shut-in retirees and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Please continue to encourage our members to join us at our regular monthly Retiree meetings. Each meeting has coffee, doughnuts, information, and fellowship. Monthly Local 1776 Retiree Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, 11:00 a.m., at the UAW Local 182 Union Hall, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

BOB SISLER continued from Cover Page

regulations, protections for workers, and the environment. He has removed the cap that seniors pay for medication.

Low wages (which equals poor living) *is not* caused by immigrants, *is not* caused by environmental protections, *is not* caused by public schools, etc.

The real reason for blaming regulations and helping others is to keep focus away from the billionaires getting ready to make the first trillionaire, and tax breaks for the wealthy with more fees and burdens for the non-millionaires.

We will keep you informed of possible attacks on Social Security and Medicare.

January 20th – Inauguration Day and MLK Day

Remember that MLK was not in Memphis about civil rights. MLK was planning a National occupation in Washington, D.C. to be called *“The Poor Peoples Campaign”* when he was assassinated. MLK was there saying every *man* should be paid a living wage, and workers should not be deposited in the back of a malfunctioning

garbage truck, just because it makes more profit not to have safe conditions.

Poor Working Conditions, Low Wages, and the Right to Unionize

Sound familiar? The present billionaires fear when people (white or black) come together at an event similar to *“The Poor Peoples Campaign”* (striking all 3 automakers at one time) demanding the same wages, working conditions, the right to Unionize.

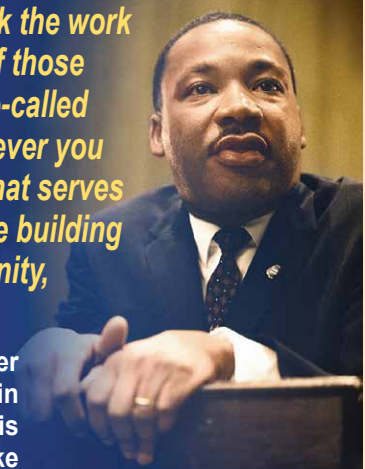
MLK had brought people together (black and white) to gain civil rights. Integration was not accepted in many cities. They would close public facilities and open private ones. MLK was going to unite all working people to demand a just piece of America’s wealth.

Read about the Memphis strike and how people were energized. Over 20,000 students joined the march. It was going to go to Washington, D.C. to demand living wages and strengthen unions. MLK’s wife, Coretta, would lead the workers to a Union and contract weeks after Dr. King’s death.

UAW International President Shawn Fain

“So often we overlook the work and the significance of those who are not in...the so-called ‘big jobs.’ But...whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity, and it has worth.”

– from Martin Luther King, Jr. speech in support of the Memphis sanitation workers’ strike



agrees that the billionaires should share with their workers, wages and benefits. We need to hold back our labor when we are abused.

We will see swift changes. I hope they will help you. Maybe 10 million voters will see a need to vote next time.

The cost of living would come down if the President, Senators, and our Representatives made \$7.25 an hour, making it illegal for them to get extra money, and they received no overtime.

CHAPTER 3000 REPORT



Chair – **SHARON HARDING**



2024 Local 3000 Retiree Committee

Good News for Retirees

Through the decades, many of our members have transferred to other facilities. Did you know you can always pay your retiree dues to the Local of your choice (*Local 3000*). If you have any questions, you can attend our monthly Retirees' meeting at Local 3000 to learn how to designate your Local of choice.

FYI – Attorney Brian Walker is a cooperating attorney with the UAW Legal Services. Brian is at UAW Local 3000 every Wednesday from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

2025 Scholarship applications are currently available at UAW Local 3000.

Last year's Local 3000 Retirees *Toys for Tots* donation drive was a huge success! Thank you to

all who donated and to our volunteers.

Monthly Meetings

All Local 3000 Retirees monthly meetings start at 12:00 noon. Upcoming meeting dates are...

- February 11, 2025
- March 11, 2025
- April 8, 2025
- May 13, 2025

In Memoriam

Our Retirees Chapter mourns the loss of the following recently departed members...

- Dawn Seals
- Ronna Campbell-Martin
- Cleve Powell
- Dave Pasko

telephone hotline to communicate retiree events and important legislative alerts.

The Region 1A Retired Workers Chapter (encompassing Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties) is now rotating monthly Retiree meetings. The in-person meetings will be at Region 1A, 9650 S. Telegraph in Taylor Michigan, and Region1, 27800 George Merrelli in Warren. All meetings are the first Monday of the month and start at 10:30 a.m. These meetings can be *Zoomed*. Contact or text email information to Bernard Nowakowski at 586-767-9303 for the *Zoom* links.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings and Locations...

- **Monday February 3** – Region 1, in Warren
- **Monday March 3** – Region 1A, in Taylor
- **Monday April 7** – Region 1, in Warren
- **Monday May 5** – Region 1A, in Taylor
- **June, July and August** – *No Monthly Meetings*, Meetings resume in September
- **Monday September 8** – Region1, in Warren
- **Monday October 6** – Region 1A, in Taylor
- **Monday November 3** – Region 1, in Warren
- **December 2025** – Meeting time and place to be announced for the annual Christmas Party for the Chapter
- **Black Lake Retreat** for Region 1A – Sunday June 29 thru Wednesday, July 2, 2025 (*tentative dates*)

Finally, the *Friends of Local 6000* present a Charleston Bus Trip. The coach service is Diamond Tours, 7 days and 6 nights, Sunday, June 1, 2025 thru Saturday June 7, 2025. For information and reservations, contact Earleen McDaniel at (313) 704-0068.



REGION 1A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

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ASSISTANT 1A DIRECTOR

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Christine Neal

RETIREE COORDINATOR

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Region 1A RETIREE NEWS

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

MARIA WINTERS, Editor, LU 845
BOB SISLER, Ex-Officio

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9650 TELEGRAPH
TAYLOR, MI 48180

All communications become the property of the *RETIREE NEWS*.

CHAPTER 6000 REPORT



Vice Chair – **BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI**

State of Michigan Workers 2025 Happenings

Here we are in January 2025. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday.

Our group ended the year without having the legislators approve a removal of the \$300 annual cap on State of Michigan retirees Defined Benefits (DB) Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA).

The MI House Bill (HB 6089, sponsored by Rep. Emily Dievendorf) and Senate Bill (SB 1144, sponsored by Sen. Sam Singh) did not make it out of the Labor Committee for a hearing in the final days of the 2023-2024 legislative session.

Our retiree group will be initiating action to have bills introduced in the 2025-2026 that will remove the cap. We will continue to coalesce with the State Employee Retiree Association.

This may be an uphill battle since the Democrats have lost their trifecta. The House now has a Republican majority, with a make up of 58 Republicans and 52 Democrats. Remember, all pension reforms must go through a legislative process of the Michigan House and Michigan Senate.

Our group is in the process of getting a



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

2025



All meetings held on the fourth Thursday of every month and start at 10:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts. Lunch will be provided after each meeting.

Open House meetings are for all Region 1A Retirees.

Join Us!

January 23	Delegate Meeting
February 27	Open House Meeting
March 27	Delegate Meeting
April 24	Open House Meeting
May 22	Delegate Meeting
June 26	Open House Meeting
June 29 - July 2	BLACK LAKE RETIREE RETREAT
July 24	Delegate Meeting
August 28	Retiree Picnic
September 25	Delegate Meeting
October 23	Open House Meeting
November 20	Delegate Meeting
December 8	Retiree Holiday Party

IT IS OVER-OR-IT HAS BEGUN

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL CHAIR

BOB SISLER



Hopefully, everyone's holiday was joyous. The holiday party was so much fun. Thank you for coming and Crystal Gardens for serving us. Working on next year.

Please beware of scams. There are requests for political action (send money) implying abolishment of electoral college or to an action to remove certain Supreme Court Justices, if you donate. The members thought with the urgent plea it would happen overnight. "Each of these are not dependent on one, simple action." Don't send money unless you are certain of the organization.

The election results were interesting, with more than 10 million voters not voting. The

voters' choice was for someone who uses fear and hate to make change. FDR was right when he said, "necessitous people will accept anything from the government."

Biden did deliver to this country. He took us out of the pandemic, stabilized the economy (earlier prediction was a major recession after the COVID event, it did not happen), our Stock Market did well, gave us a major Infrastructure Bill (promised by the previous President, but never delivered), support of good Union jobs, plus many more relief actions (like student debt relief).

Even with these positives, our populous did not feel better. They were tired of empty promises. They were tired of statements that things have to be done in increments. One man blames 'Obamacare' for increased insurance premiums, never accepting that the insurance companies were just raising profits. The news made it clear from the recent murder of a healthcare executive that Americans are tired of the current medical abuse system.

No business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country.

By living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level - I mean the wages of decent living.



– Franklin D. Roosevelt

Main Street was not satisfied. Had the government delivered on healthcare and a minimum wage to a living wage with a program to help small business pay living wages, the election would have been different. Remember, it was FDR's team that was elected for a 4th term, though he was crippled and dying, because Main Street America knew that team was fighting for them.

The new President will deliver (as we hear), removing

See **BOB SISLER** on Page 10