



RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 38 – NO. 1



WINTER 2026

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Mark DePaoli



Did you ever think you would witness innocent American citizens being gunned down in the streets by Federal Agents, and the government trying to justify the killings? There could not be a more important time for us to exercise our voice and our rights.

The statewide officials that we elect this coming November will be in office when many of our members' contracts expire, and they will also be in office for the next Federal election. We need people in place who are going to fight for working families across Michigan, protect our collective bargaining rights, our right to strike, and also protect our voting rights that are under attack.

We have been screening candidates and have already made two selections – Karen McDonald for Attorney General and Garlin Gilchrist for Secretary of State, both of whom come from middle-class, working families and have stood on the side of Labor every step of the way.

We have more selections to make, especially for the positions that will be selected at the Michigan Democratic Party State Endorsement

Convention, which will be held on Sunday, April 19th, 2026, at Huntington Place in Detroit, and we need to make sure we fill the hall and get our endorsements on the ballot.

With all of that going on this year, we still have to remember that most of our Local Unions will have their triennial elections over the next few months. That will then take us up to our Constitutional Convention, which leads us to the UAW International Executive Board elections.

With all of that in front of us, we still have plenty of contracts expiring and we will need to bargain new agreements. We also have plenty of organizing drives in the hopper that we plan on aggressively taking on.

While this will be an extremely busy year, I assure you that our active and retired members will continue to receive the best representation possible.

As always, I greatly appreciate all of your support as we take on all of these challenges. Please stay safe and stay warm during these tough winter months we are experiencing.

Greetings Region 1A Retirees,

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and a good start to the new year.

At the time of this writing, we are preparing for our 2026 CAP Conference, where a lot of discussions will focus on our statewide elections coming this November. I know we always hear that this election is the most important, but when you look at what's been going on in this country, this really is an important time for Americans to stand up. To take a line from Vice President Dickerson, "elections have consequences," and I think we're seeing that on a daily basis lately.

2026 UAW INTERNATIONAL E-BOARD ELECTIONS

January 2026: A Convention Call Letter was issued to all Local Union Officers and members.

The 39th UAW Constitutional Convention will be held June 15-18, 2026, during which Convention Delegates will nominate Candidates to run for the UAW International Offices of President, Secretary-Treasurer, three (3) Vice-Presidents, and nine (9) Region Directors. In late August the first formal mail distribution of mail-in ballots will be sent to Active and Retired members of the UAW. Mail your ballots as soon as possible after they are received.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

The deadline for all the ballots to be received will be in early October 2026 by the U.S. Post Office or Postal Facility. After which, Ballot tabulation and vote count will be started.



2026 Elections

ELECTIONS
will be held
March 26th,
at the
RETIRED
WORKERS
COUNCIL
DELEGATE
MEETING.

UAW REGION 1A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

Nominations were made and accepted by the Election Committee at the January 22, 2026 Delegate Meeting by Council Delegates for the 2026 Election of Officers, two (2) Board Members-at-Large, and the Delegate and Alternate to the Advisory Council.

NOMINATIONS ARE:

Chairperson	BOB SISLER, Local 6000
1st Vice Chair	JEAN PITTMAN, Local 735
2nd Vice Chair	RICK KULL, Local 245
Recording Secretary	KIM JANESKI, Local 931
Financial Secretary	KATIE MARTIN, Local 900
Sergeant-at-Arms	ROY GONZALEZ, Local 163
Guide	LINDA HAYES, Local 600
Board Members-at-Large (2).....	RICK CUSTER, Local 600 TONYA RAY, Local 600 CYNTHIA AVERHART, Local 735
Advisory Council Delegate (1).....	REGGIE OSBORNE, Local 600 SHIRLEY POLING, Local 735
Advisory Council Alternate (1)	YVONNE HARRIS, Local 36

by Bob Bowen, Retiree Chair, Local 849

Triplets: Nero, Hitler and Trump

When most Americans think of Nero, the burning of Rome by a violin playing emperor comes to mind. When we investigate history, we find that his aberrant behavior existed long before this incident.

Nero envisioned himself as a champion athlete. To prove this belief, he would travel to Greece and compete against the athletes he most admired. Unsurprisingly, he always won. His warped mind told him that he won because he was the champion of champions. It never occurred to him that the athletes competing against him were purposely throwing the matches.

When the conquering hero returned to Rome, political leaders and citizens fawned over him as they sought to gain advantage over other citizens and avoid punishment. This sort of behavior only heightened his vanity and delusions of grandeur. Being fleet of foot wasn't enough; now he had to demonstrate that he was a musical virtuoso, and great actor. Being the Emperor of Rome wasn't enough.

Adolf Hitler is the next triplet; a man whose name is synonymous with evil, and whom I have refrained from comparing to our President, out of respect for the office and for those who elected him. Hitler is infamous for his hatred of Jews and other minorities. It's time to compare him to the man in modern times he most resembles. Look at just a few comparisons.

Both came to power by using violence to intimidate those with different political views. Hitler and his followers attempted to overthrow a democratically elected government. For this rebellion, they were imprisoned. Upon their release, Hitler and his cohorts were elected by a disillusioned citizenry, who later suffered the Nazi's abuse, but were powerless to stop the persecution and annihilation that cost the lives of millions.

After years of threatening to overrun East European countries so Germany could have "Lebensraum" (living space) between them and Russia, in 1939, the German Army invaded Poland. Following that, one nation after another until all of Europe and the world were at war.

Trump's behavior is astonishingly close to that of Nero and Adolf. Like Nero, Trump's obsessed with trophies, medals, and adulation, and sees himself as a patron of the arts and number one judge of artistic talent. It is obvious that he is showing increasing signs of mental instability – FIFA's medal, his obsession with the Nobel Peace Prize, and plans for a Trump Arch of Triumph in Washington, D.C. are prime examples. But the crown jewel in his derangement crown is his insistence on taking over Greenland, because he thinks we need space between us and Russia. Sounds like Hitler's "Lebensraum" to me.

America has been blessed to endure for over two hundred years without a Trump. Jefferson Davis was bad enough. A Trump with modern weapons is unthinkable. Pray for us.



ADVISORY Council Report

by Pat Greca, Advisory Council Delegate

Welcome 2026

A year of change is coming. I feel it in my heart and mind. UAW Executive Board Elections are this year, plus many mid-term political elections, which I believe will change the landscape and direction of our country for the better.

If you truly want your voice to be heard, please vote and encourage others to do the same. Even if it is difficult and requires extensive effort, our country needs all of us to stand for Democracy. I urge you to participate in the process proudly. It is a privilege denied to so many around the world and even some in our own country. Voting is where we have the power to make changes, if we unite as one voice.

Most elections in recent years have been won with a very small percentage of our population actively voting. I believe if we all show up and urge everyone we know to do the same, it will more accurately reflect the will of the people.

There are also plenty of volunteer opportunities available to observe and be part of the election process through this year.

As I gaze out on this wintery day from my living room, where the woodstove is burning brightly, I am reminded of what you observe in life and how many people can be deceiving. For example, today, it appears from my window to be a beautiful sunny day with a breeze. However, stepping outside, it is quite frigid. The wind is gusting and the temperature with windchill factor is below zero.

Please be aware that what is said doesn't always match with what an individual's real intentions and/or actions will be.

Scammers are calling, texting, emailing and even coming to your door to convince you of things that are not true. Why? Because we become more vulnerable as we age for many reasons; such as health issues, mobility, loneliness and stress, which are all part of aging.

Please know there are plenty of helpful services available to combat these predators. Don't let shame or pride keep you from reaching out to someone who loves you for help. We all need each other to navigate these golden years.

Ford, GM, and Stellantis retirees will receive increases in 2026 for their WEX Benefits of \$1,000 and OTC Benefits of \$400. If you are having any trouble accessing these benefits, please contact your Local Benefits Representative and/or the NESC Retiree Benefits office for help.

As I close, I wish all of you peace, prosperity, health, and love throughout 2026



George Turner, Chair

VA Health Care Benefits Expanded

The PACT Act (*Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act*) expanded VA health care and benefits eligibility to include more Veterans who were



exposed to toxic substances during military service. This law ensures that generations of Veterans – and their survivors – receive the care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

If you are already signed up and not receiving 100% disability benefits, contact your VSO officer to request an increase. If you are not receiving any benefits, call the number below to reach your neighborhood VSO officer and begin the process.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

Veterans and families may also call VA at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711) for assistance.

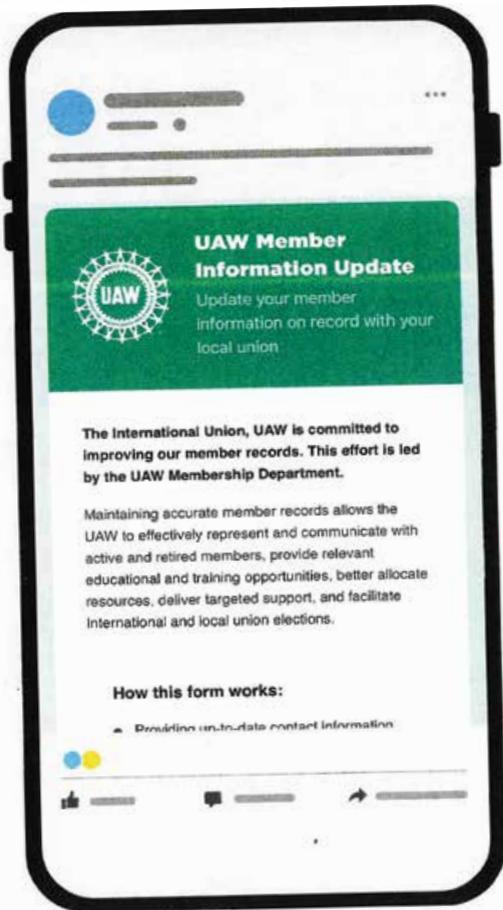
Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ UAW Retired Members

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE UAW



**FILLING OUT THIS FORM
ALLOWS THE UNION TO:**



Send you important communications, news, and updates



Ensure you receive a ballot to vote in the 2026 UAW International Officer Election



Share this QR code with a UAW member, active or retired.



 myinfo.uaw.org

MK:lhk
opeiu494afi-cio 

Brought to you by the UAW Membership Department



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9650 TELEGRAPH
TAYLOR, MI 48180**

All communications become the property of the RETIREE NEWS.

UPDATE ALTERNATIVE

If you do not have a smartphone or email address (required to scan the QR Code), please return this form to: **UAW RETIRED WORKERS DEPARTMENT**
8000 E. JEFFERSON, DETROIT, MI 48214

FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE NAME _____

LAST NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

COMPANY RETIRED FROM _____ UAW LOCAL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

CHAPTER 36 REPORT



Chair – **YVONNE HARRIS**

Happy New Year

Hope all is well with you and your family. Winter is here, halfway through, and cold; however, spring is in the air (lol).

Let me start off by thanking you, the members and associate members, for your participation in 2025, by attending Local 36 Chapter's monthly meetings, as well as attending Region 1A events. It was a pleasure to have you in my company, at the Retired Open meetings, Annual Retiree Picnic, Train the Trainer one-day Conference, Black Lake Retired Members Retreat, and the Region 1A Retiree Christmas Luncheon.

FYI... our first Chapter meeting of the year will be on April 20, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI 48150.

Signing up for "One Call" will help keep you informed. Also, sign up early for the Region 1A

Retiree Black Lake Retreat.

Our future agenda so far for 2026 includes: UAW Legal Aide, UAW International Reps, VEBA Trust, Region 1A Retired Coordinator *and much more.*

Please keep your 2025 *Trust Highlights and Benefits* information until you have received the 2026 *new* booklets.

We are glad to inform you that the Over-the-Counter (OTC) card is now \$400.00. You can request an OTC catalog by calling (877) 218-9951, or you can visit the website at uawtrust.org/otcbenefit.

The WEX/HRA (Reimbursement) card is \$1,000.00 this year. For the HRA, it is best you wait until May 2026 to file your claim, to receive your check. Remember, you will need your 2026 Social Security statement for HRA reimbursement.

Also, if you used the WEX card, but did *not* spend all the \$600.00 for year 2025, they are allowing you until April 2026 to use it up; however, you must have a claim open in 2025. *Use it, or lose it.*

Please beware of fraud and scammers. They are always looking for victims. *Do not give out your personal information, over the phone, or through emails or text!* They pretend to be policemen, calling about loved ones in trouble, your bank/credit cards, and even a doctor's office. Stay safe,

review your doctor, and bill statements.

April 17th is the deadline to submit an application for the 2026 Retiree Award Scholarship for high school graduates. Rules do apply.

It is a pleasure to announce and welcome former Active members, who are now Retired, back to the membership. A reminder to all that you can transfer back to your original Local.

Remember too that you can increase your \$3.00 voluntary Union monthly Dues and CAP contributions. *It's tax deductible.* What better organization to be a member of, with the Benefits we receive. Thank you to the UAW Bargaining Team of yester-years to the present.

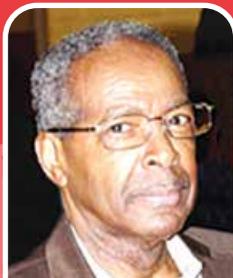
Thank you also to Board members – Mr. Jasin, Vice Chair; Mrs. Carpenter, Recording Secretary; Mr. Love, Financial Secretary; Ms. El and Mr. Nunnally, Executive Board; and Mr. Griffin, Sergeant-at-Arms, and our gracious Chaplain, Mr. Wilson. Thank you also to our volunteers for their helping hands.

Thanks again, Local 182, for your great hospitality.

In closing, our deepest heartfelt condolences to the families of our members, who have passed. We are praying for a speedy recovery, for the sick and shut-in. You are in our thoughts.

In Solidarity, my brothers and sisters. Stay safe and may God bless you, America, and the UAW. *Until next time...*

CHAPTER 78 REPORT



Chair – **NATHANIEL 'DAN' BISHOP**

Greetings to our Retirees and Spouses

May I extend a hardy welcome to each of you in this new year of 2026. It is truly my desire for

each of you that this will be a year of uplifting and great encouragement, in spite of what we are currently seeing and living through.

It is without question that 2025 was one of the most devastating and heartbreaking years for us all. We have lived through the unbelievable – lies, deceit, and rivers of corruption from this Administration. It feels as if we have been hit by a tsunami. I can only imagine that for the majority, it feels as if we are living in the *Twilight Zone.*

Our nation has changed for the worse right before our eyes; the very fabric of our communities is unraveling, and the foundation of our everyday life has been shaken to its core. We are only a month into 2026, and the chaos on our streets and in our communities is already impacting us and our families.

Looking at what this Administration has done and continues to do, one thing comes to mind, how so many voters believed their promises.

We need to face the truth. Even with everything that has happened – and continues to happen – with the hurt and harm of so many people, there is still individual support and giving allegiance to this Administration that has created a culture of corruption beyond what we could ever imagine.

Personally, I hope and pray that individuals in media positions and news outlets stop "becoming pretzels" by bowing to this Administration. We are seeing American citizens killed on our streets, people being prosecuted illegally and intimidated, and freedom of speech becoming a thing of the past – all driven by an Administration funded by the taxpayers.

I hope we may find solace in the coming days by looking to the coming election and to be ready to fight like never before to win back our nation. Believe what you see, and not what you hear from this Administration!

SENIOR ALLIANCE INFORMATION 1-800-815-1112

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

REMINDERS

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

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

REGION 1A

9560 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180

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

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

DETROIT RETIREES, CALL:
**ZF (TRW) Service Center
877-698-7910, press "2"**

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

ROMULUS RETIREES, CALL:
**PBGC – Customer Contact Center
800-400-7242**

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



**Our lives
begin to end the day we
become silent about things
that matter**

– DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

CHAPTER 163 REPORT



Chair – ROY GONZALEZ

more every day, with no let up in sight.

During World War II, there was the Nazi's Gestapo doing out-of-control atrocities to Jews and millions of other people, for their own murderous reasons. Here in America, we have the American Gestapo (ICE) getting away with all kinds of madness with impunity.

If the six supreme beings on the Supreme Court, who give Dictator Trump almost everything he wants, don't change their ways by stopping Trump from his monstrous actions, it will be the end of the *Good Old USA*. With Trump's out-of-control actions not giving him the results he wants, it is not out of the question that Trump would get so desperate that he would start a war that could lead him to even consider using atomic weapons.

Trump's continuous outrageous claims that Greenland has to belong to America because after 250 years of America's existence with no problems with Greenland, he makes up the crazy claim that Greenland is a security risk to America. Trump is trying to set a precedent, and it's not going to come to fruition.

The mad man Trump has got to be *stopped*, and the way to do this is *vote Democratic*. Also, we must be aware that Trump could already be planning a scheme to suppress, stop, or steal the 2026 mid-term votes.

Take care, and be well (if you can be with a Trump tyrant as President).

CHAPTER 174 REPORT



Chair – CYNTHIA NEWTON

Happy New Year 2026

UAW Brothers and Sisters,

Have you eaten too much during the Holiday Season, enjoying time with family and friends?

The WEX and OTC cards have been loaded with the 2026 allowance. Some members at Local 174 had problems with their OTC card after activation. They called representatives and were sent a new card, and once activated, it wouldn't work at the stores. I'm sharing this message to inform everyone there is a problem.

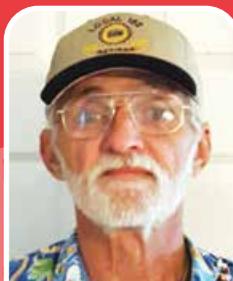
It happened to me "fraud." I received a Medicare Summary Notes. Once I read the statement, I found a procedure charged to me that I didn't have done. I called the number on the statement and talked to an agent who took the information listed on the summary. She made a file of the fraud and gave me a claim number.

She also gave me the number for BCBS, which isn't on the back of the card, to report the fraud. Once talking to the BCBS agent, they let me know they didn't pay for the procedure because the company is on their *Fraud List*. Make sure to read your Statement Notice, because they are stealing our benefits.

January 15th was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, which was celebrated on January 19th. Did you know Dr. King and then-UAW President Walter Reuther found each other in their individual fights for human rights and doing so helped shape the future of our nation?

Local 174 Retiree Meetings return this April 22th. Meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. until November.

CHAPTER 182 REPORT



Chair – GEORGE 'MICKEY' HERRICK

our dark months of June, July, and August.

Our Local is in the process of planning many events in 2026; including Detroit Pistons, Detroit Red Wings, and our Local 182 Family Day Picnic, just to name a few.

2026 is an important year for us Democrats. I watched him run amuck, and now it's our turn...

Vote! Vote! Vote!

The way back to normalcy is to *Vote!* Please, it doesn't matter who you vote for, as long as it's for the Constitution and the American Way (*Democratic*).



Stay Safe, See You In March

Our Christmas Party worked out very well with Santa Claus, great music, singing some Christmas carols, and even some dancing. The food was great also and everyone had a good time.

For those who may not know, our Local 163 Retiree Meetings are on the third Friday of almost every month.

With the ever-increasing terrible assaults on our environment in so many different ways, causing all kinds of crazy weather in winter and summer, I have made the decision to cancel our meetings in January and February 2027. We do not need someone to be injured or killed trying to attend a Chapter Meeting.

Making matters even much worse, we are also having the escalating madness of Trump and his zombies making America the *pariah* of the world, with no let up in sight. Here at home, Trump and his zombies are escalating their madness more and

Strength in Unity

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Region 1A,

I hope your Christmas was full of good memories and you are having a happy new year.

We had a great Christmas Party for our retired workers. There were at least 98 door prizes, so almost everybody who attended won. According to our sign-in sheet, there were 109 retirees in attendance.

During the month of January, we had Jacob Financial speaking. Our meeting was set back to January 15th, because the first Thursday of the month was a Holiday. All other meetings will remain on the second Thursday of the month.

In the month of February, we will have Health and Safety from Solidarity come in and give us a refresher course on the A.E.D. machine that we have at our Local. They will also teach us about hands-on CPR.

I'm working on the months of March and April.

In May, we should have the Trust to lead us into



CHAPTER 227 REPORT



Chair – ELMER DUFF

Happy New Year 2026

To all the members of the Region 1A Retiree Chapters from Local 227 Retiree Chapter, we wish you a blessed, healthy, and prosperous new year.

We had our Christmas luncheon in November, along with the Benefit Trust, where good information was given out, the food was great and enjoyed by a congregation of old friends and guests.

Starting January 1, OTC increases to \$400.00, and the WEX card increases to \$1,000.00. To those who have HAP, you received a Health Living Rewards Visa Prepaid Card up to \$2,500.00 that may be used nationwide at stores such as Costco, Kroger, Meijer and more.

Other health and wellness plans may be included in the 2026 upgrade. Be sure to read and keep all letters from Benefit Trust.

Regarding the incident that happened at the Ford Plant where the U.S. President visited, we want our brothers and sisters at Local 600 to know this Retiree Chapter stands with them.

We can see that 2026 will not be ordinary, so be prepared for what may come your way.

We will resume our meetings March 18, 2026. We will decide whether we will have a picnic this year, along with other directions about our future.

As you know, we have lost a lot of members in

our Retiree Chapter, yet we have a lot of members who are still with us. Whatever the reason is for not coming to a meeting is your business, but we would love to see you out this year.

Our condolences to the families and friends of our deceased members:

Charles Martin, Vice Chair of 227 Retiree Chapter and Guide of Region 1A Retired Workers Council; Penny Hopkins; David Thill, electrician; and Fred Comer, husband of Rosemary Comer.

The weather has not been kind to us this year, so let me remind you to take it easy. Try to get someone to do your snow removal, and if you do not have to drive, don't.

Chapter Meetings will start back up March 18, 2026. Social hour begins at 10:00 a.m., with the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Again, enjoy your winter, stay safe and we will see you in March.

CHAPTER 245 REPORT



President – LARRY F. KELSEY

Events Well Attended

Hello, Union Retirees,

I hope everyone had a nice holiday.

At our meeting in November 2025, the VEBA

Trust came to our Local to give a presentation of the new benefits for 2026. The members asked some great questions, and VEBA was able to address all their concerns. Afterwards, we had a great lunch and fellowship. It was a well-attended event.

Since my last letter, we had our Retirees Christmas Party at the Sitt Post American Legion Hall. We had a great attendance of 175 Retirees at this event! The buffet dinner was delicious.

We also had some members pass away recently. We can only give the information that the Local receives on their passing. With that being said, please keep these individuals and their families in your prayers...

R. JESTER (Retired 11/01/17, Died 10/30/25)
Bob was the Safety Representative for many years at the Local.

JEROME SPILLER
Pipefitter. Retired 2/01/07, Died 10/28/25

WHITEHEAD TELEFORD
F-Cleaner, Died 11/29/25

ZILPAH ANN WARMACK
Cleaner, Service on 1/24/2026

Richard (Rick) Kull will be going to Washington, D.C. for the CAP Conference. He will talk to politicians regarding our retiree issues.

Our next Retiree Chapter Meeting will be February 19, 2026.

God Bless America!

CHAPTER 372 REPORT



Chair – **GEORGE TURNER**

Dealing With Winter

Happy new year to each of you, and many blessings to you and your families. As we enter 2026, I hope your holiday season was well enjoyed and that whichever holidays you chose to celebrate they were fulfilling, peaceful, and safe.

The turn of the year gives us a chance to reflect, reset, and look ahead with gratitude for where we've been and optimism for what lies ahead.

We've had a whirlwind winter so far, and as always, I want to pause to encourage everyone to stay safe – both on the roads and at home. Winter weather brings its own challenges, and preparation goes a long way. Appropriate dress, including layered clothing, proper footwear, hats, and gloves, help prevent cold-related injuries.

Vehicle maintenance – good tires, working lights, and emergency kits – can make all the difference if travel becomes difficult.

At home, weatherization such as sealing drafts, checking heating systems, and ensuring walkways are clear of ice helps keep you and your loved ones safe as we push through the colder months toward spring.

Let's also talk about trip hazards. During winter, cluttered walkways, loose rugs, icy steps, uneven sidewalks, and poorly lit areas can become serious risks – especially when snow and ice are involved. Taking a little extra time to clear pathways, secure rugs, install night lights, and use handrails can help prevent slips and falls.

Please look out for yourselves and for one another. A quick check around the home or driveway can prevent injuries that take much longer to heal for us seasoned individuals.

Enjoying life remains an important part of this chapter of our journey. My wife and I are returning this month from travels to Australia, and we are grateful for the opportunity to explore and experience the world together over 50 years of marriage. We've been blessed to visit six of the seven continents so far, and God willing, we will one day see them all.

Life has seasons. There was a time to work hard, a time to build and provide, and now for many of us, it is time to play again. I encourage you to go, see, do, and enjoy. Whether that means travel, hobbies, volunteering, spending time with family, or simply taking a walk and appreciating each day, make the most of this season. We've earned it.

As always, thank you for your continued solidarity, support, and engagement. May 2026 bring good health, peace of mind, and joy to you and your family.



UAW REGION 1A RETIREE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2026 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

can win one of the following...

- ◆ TWO **\$1,200 AWARDS**
- ◆ FOUR **\$1,000 AWARDS**

Please submit an essay of 500 words on the following topic:

“How has Social Media contributed to the spread of fear and hate, and what can be done to promote civil unity?”

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- Child, Grandchild, or Ward of a Retiree or Active Member of UAW Region 1A
- A 2026 High School Graduate
- Accepted to a College or Trade School
- Author of Essay (not over 500 words)

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING ENTRY: APRIL 17, 2026

For additional application forms, contact:

Your UAW Local Union or UAW Region 1A at (313) 291-2750

CHAPTER 600 REPORT



President – **PEACHES ANDERSON**
by Reggie Osborne, Acting President

Honoring Our Past to Guide Our Future

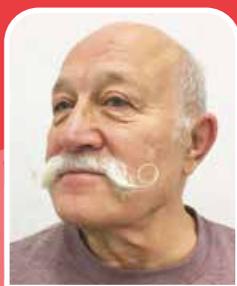
Brothers and Sisters, as we continue to move forward together, I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of remembering

where we came from. For retirees, these are our memories. Our Union's history is filled with courage, sacrifice, and a relentless drive to achieve justice for working families. This history is vital to our identity and future.

Going forward, I'll be including excerpts from *Working Detroit: The Making of a Union Town* by Steve Babson in my articles. This book captures the voices and experiences of the men and women who built our Union and our communities through hard work and solidarity. Their stories remind us that progress didn't come easy. It was fought for, negotiated, and earned by people just like us.

By revisiting these powerful lessons from the past, I hope to keep our shared history alive in every issue, inspiring both our retirees and active members to continue standing strong together.

CHAPTER 723 REPORT



Chair – ROBERT CEBINA

Your Chapter Requests Your Assistance

Sisters and Brothers of Local 723,

For those who did not attend the Thanksgiving Retiree Meeting or the Christmas Meeting and luncheon, all those who came had a good time.

I am sorry that I missed seeing you at the

January meeting, but I had to go to Ann Arbor. I hope all of you and your families had a good time.

Sorry to hear that Gary Gerweck has passed away. For those who did not know Gary, he worked in the East Building.

If anyone else knows of anyone who has passed away, please let me know or the Local.

If any member knows of a member who wishes to attend our meetings and meals, please let them know when our meetings are, and let the Local know they would like to attend.

I will be getting back to going to the Region 1A Veterans meetings and Region 1A Retiree meetings.

At our meeting in February, we will be changing how we run the raffles ticket. Come and help us out and have a good time.

Our Local 723 Retiree Chapter is still in need of a Vice President. Think about helping us out.

At our membership meeting, our members voted to use \$1,000 to buy items for the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital. My wife and I will be taking these items to the hospital soon. If anyone wishes to help out with us, please get in touch with the Local. We could definitely use your help.

We can use toothpaste, toothbrushes, t-shirts, and other toiletry items. We are going to see if we can put a box where people come into the building and from time to time, we will take those items to the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital. *Thank you!*

Local 723 has about 1,327 retirees. I am not sure how many members are paying the voluntary dues. If you are not paying dues, please think about paying them. Paying dues would help us pay for the food at our meals. Also, it would cut the amount of money that would be needed to pay for each meal.

CHAPTER 735 REPORT



Chair – SHIRLEY POLING

Respect, Less Polarization

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I pray the beginning of this new year finds you and your family healthy and well.

As I am writing this article, President Trump recently ordered the capture of the President of Venezuela. This was brought about by the U.S. military invading a foreign country. After the invasion of this sovereign country, the U.S. then insisted on taking administrative control of the Venezuelan government.

I speak against these actions, not because I support their president, Nicholas Maduro, but because I speak against our country invading an independent nation, forcibly taking custody of their highest leader, and then taking over the administration of their government. One only has to ask... Would we, as Americans, support the same actions if it was our country that was invaded? What if it was our President who was captured and removed by force from our country? What if those invading forces then declared they would take over the administration of our government? *The answer is clearly, no!* We would be fully opposed to those actions.

To add further injury to these injustices, President Trump also forced Venezuela to turn over 50 million barrels of oil to the U.S. In my view, this represented a robbing of natural resources from the people of Venezuela. The fact that we, as Americans, have saved a few cents per gallon on gas does not make any of these actions justifiable.

Now, in part because President Trump feels empowered by what he has so far gotten away with in Venezuela, he has set his sight on the country of Greenland. The citizens of Greenland have made it clear they have no desire to become a part of the United States.

President Trump is now saying this decision by him to try to take over Greenland is for national security, as Greenland is strategically located geographically to be an important physical buffer to repel China or Russia should they choose to commit acts of aggression against North America.

That is a good idea, an idea that is so good the U.S. negotiated with Greenland to allow the U.S. to build a U.S. military base in Greenland in 1951, a full 75 years ago. That base is still open. It is still operational. Furthermore, the 1951 Greenland Defense agreement grants the U.S. broad access and the right to build new facilities as both countries are NATO members. In fact, our country is currently upgrading the base, including the runway and port facilities.

The people of Greenland would likely support U.S. investment in even more improvements and upgrades in military and defense equipment there. I believe this is an action and expenditure the majority of Americans would also gladly support.

In short, taking over other countries against the will of the people is not an action our country should be doing. Doing so because we are a much larger country is the equivalent of allowing a 10-year-old to bully a 5-year-old, because the 10-year-old is bigger. Hopefully, we all taught our children and grandchildren better than that.

Let us make our voices heard to President Trump that we likewise expect him to not be a bully to other countries.

CHAPTER 849 REPORT



Chair – BOB BOWEN

UAW Local 849 2026 Meeting Schedule

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

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- February 19, 2026
- March 19, 2026
- April 16, 2026
- May 21, 2026
- June 18, 2026
- July No Meeting

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

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

Dwight C. Porterfield	05/1/48 - 12/01/2023
Rick R. Bailey	09/28/45 - 08/26/2025
Donny L. Miller.....	08/27/48 - 09/22/2025
Ronald Lucas	03/27/46 - 09/01/2025
Terry W. Fondaw	11/5/51 - 10/19/2025
Merle Pratt	10/30/38 - 11/04/2025
Buddy G. Kiebler	06/06/34 - 11/16/2025
Benedict 'Ben' Storemski ...	04/26/47 - 11/28/2025

If you have information about the passing of a Local 849 retired member, please email me at: bowe59@gmail.com.

Please keep your email addresses up to date.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

– REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

CHAPTER 892 REPORT



Chair – JIM PEDERSEN

unemployed workers who use *healthcare.gov*, the online exchange, are seeing premiums double and more. Standard Medicare part B is up. *How are we so fortunate?*

Easy Answer - We have a great Union, and we picked a great time to work and retire.

I used to tell new hires, “if you think you earn all this money and have these benefits because Ford loves you, think again.” Ford took all that away the first chance they got, in 2009. We receive all this because we have a strong Union, backed up by our willingness and ability to strike.

Look around – Ford retired salaried workers gave a lot back, current Ford employees hired after 2010 don’t have a guaranteed pension, “30 and out” may be an artifact, since without a pension or Medicare until age 65, who can afford to quit working?

The “Big Beautiful Bill,” passed by the Republican Congress and signed by President Trump, eliminates health care credits for millions of Americans, cuts Medicaid and shifts a lot of cost onto Americans who are left with coverage.

We saw headlines about “eliminating taxes on

Social Security, overtime and tip wages.” Simply not true. We gained some tax deductions, true, but taxes will still be withheld. We just have to wait for a bigger tax refund. Talk to your tax preparer, see the net results from the BBB. Talk to your family and friends and neighbors, see how they’re doing. For many of us, it’s about breakeven – less income taxes, but more health care costs, and don’t even start on groceries and utility bills.

We all know who really benefitted from the changes – the bosses. Elon Musk, Steve Jobs and Jeff Bezos didn’t invest in MAGA to lose. The tax benefits alone will keep them and their children rich beyond our imagination, while our kids work harder and gain less.

This year, 2026, resolve to pay attention to what Congress and the President do for working families. Never mind the distractions, who uses what bathrooms or competes in what sports, the border wall, even the Epstein files distract from what really matters – our ability to pay the bills and get the health care we need. Real issues. And watch what our Union does. That’s what I’ll be talking about, right up to the elections.

The Real Issues

The new year brought big, positive changes for UAW-Ford retirees. Our Health Savings Account (Wex card) has increased to \$1,000 and our Over-the-Counter (OTC), or CVS card, is up to \$400.

Out-of-pocket expenses for standard medical services, like doctor visits, has gone to almost nothing. *How is this possible, when everybody else keeps paying more and more?*

Low-wage workers, including some of our Brothers and Sisters in the same plant we worked in, are paying more out of pocket and bigger deductibles than before. Other low-wage and

CHAPTER 898 REPORT



Chair – SHEILA PEDERSEN

going to be OK until all these wrongs are righted. I don’t care which party you side with, it’s not right and we all know it!

What should we do? Call your representative, write letters, and do what we’ve done for decades – *protest!* My 5x great-grandfather literally fought his cousins to make America free.

What will you do to keep it free? Rep. Walberg’s office in Niles and Jackson is one place you can go to protest each month. Be forewarned that the doors are locked, even though all these protests are peaceful. It’s our right to do this.

Don’t let anyone intimidate you into an America you don’t recognize. Express your concerns to others, start the conversation.

This year is a General Election year, prepare yourselves. Things have to get back to where the Constitution is the law of the land.

Switching to family and friends, the Chapter had a “Grinchy” Christmas and a wonderful luncheon. At home, my granddaughter Ava helped me decorate our tree. Being autistic, this help was phenomenal. It’s so endearing to watch a child’s innocent love for Christmas and the magic of the season. We all need to be more childlike and give from our hearts.

Join us as the Chapter meets monthly, at 11:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday. Also, join us on Facebook at *UAW Local 898 Retirees*.

In Solidarity...

1 Down, 3 To Go – Where We Are Going Nobody Knows

Happy New Year?...not so much. It’s unbelievable what’s been going on. We are *not*

CHAPTER 900 REPORT



Chair – KATIE MARTIN

My article is going to be on the 2026 Benefit Highlights. There are many questions and they can be answered by contacting the following agencies.

OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC)

The 2026 Benefit is \$400.

Your card was reloaded January 1, 2026

Questions: **Call 844-487-2770**

Monday - Friday, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. (ET)

or Online: uawtrust.org/otcbenefit

HRA/WEX

Your 2026 Benefit is \$1,000.

Your card was reloaded on January 1, 2026

Questions: **Call 844-440-4300**

Monday - Friday, from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. (ET)

or Online: benefitslogin.wexhealth.com

If you need a copy of your

2026 HEALTH CARE BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS

contact:

Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC):

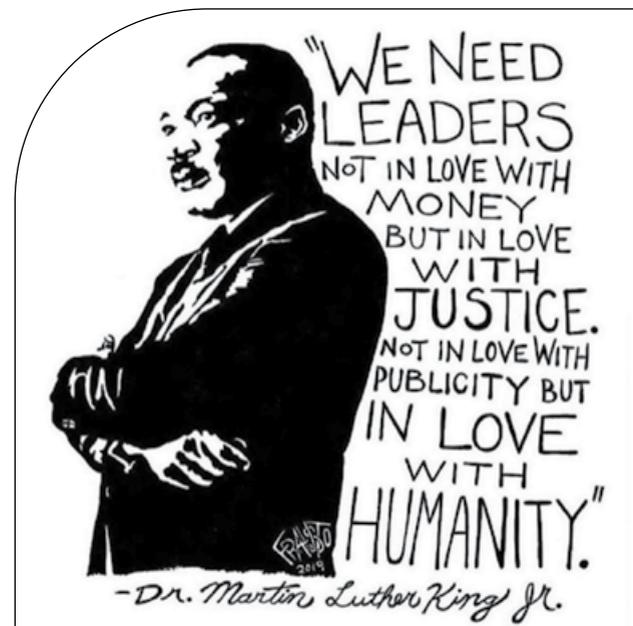
866-637-7555

Monday - Friday, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (ET)

or Online: uawtrust.org/healthplanners

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas Luncheon held at Chrystal Gardens. Almost 700 tickets were sold. Happy New Year to all.

I hope to see you at the next Region 1A Retiree Open House Meeting.



2026 Benefits Information

Greetings Region 1A Retirees,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. We are living in a hard time. You don’t know what the next day is going to bring.

There have been some changes made at Region 1A. Ms. Laura Dickerson, Director for Region 1A, has moved on to become UAW Vice President of the Ford Department, and we have the pleasure of welcoming our new Region 1A Director, Mr. Mark DePaoli. He comes from Local 600. *Congratulations to both!*

CHAPTER 931 REPORT



Chair – SYLVIA GRIFFIN

and purpose, and this is the most popular time to consider them.

Although we all have great intentions on keeping resolutions, many fall off in the first two months of the year. The key to keeping resolutions is to keep them realistic. Write them down, share them with someone you trust, and celebrate any progress without being too hard on yourself. Most importantly, remember that consistency matters more than perfection. Each day that you show up for yourself is something to celebrate.

If you're looking for a resolution, consider volunteering. Our UAW is rooted in volunteerism and doing so with an organization that we previously worked hard to help move forward is a gift. Examine your time and make a commitment!

Before I conclude, I encourage you to save the date of April 30th for *Bingofest*, and our next Retiree Meeting on March 18th, 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral, located at 14691 Huron Street in Taylor, MI. Hope to see you there.

CHAPTER 1776 REPORT



Chair – DERIC TWIGGS

Notice of Special Election

We will be starting our year with many changes. I regret that I am retiring from my position as the Chairperson of Local 1776 Retirees Chapter. Over the past several years, it has been a pleasure working and fellowshiping with each of you.

I would be amiss if I didn't give special gratitude and appreciation to Rose Davis, Edna Smith, and Anne Carter, whom I served on the Board with for numerous years. These ladies have kept this Union moving. Not only have they picked up the slack in running the meetings in my absence, they have planned and made the necessary steps to ensure our picnic and Christmas parties were a success.

As a result of my decision to step down, this warrants the need for a Special Election. Voting will not be limited to the Chairperson, but we need to replace other Board Member positions:

- Vice-Chairperson
- Recording Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Sergeant-at-Arms

We are replacing the Recording Secretary, which was maintained by Edna Smith. Unfortunately, Edna passed over this past Christmas holiday. She will truly be missed. The job she did keeping records and working with Region 1A and our Retirees was outstanding.

These nominations and Special Election will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., during our regular meeting. Please keep in mind someone, or even yourself, who you would like to nominate to be on this Board and keep the Retirees of Local 1776 active.

We all have a part to play in this Special Election. It is imperative that we have as many members as possible to come out and participate in this event. Please reach out to each other and remind ourselves how important this meeting is.

Also, please remember to continue to pray for our sick, shut-ins, and members and their families who may be grieving.

Winter is here with cold weather, ice and snow. Be safe and always look out for the other driver.

Our Chapter Meetings are the third Thursday of every month, at 11:00 a.m., held at Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

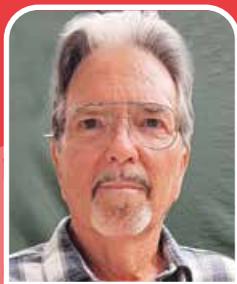
Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by calling me at 313-570-5798, or sending a text message.

Happy New Year, Retirees

As we step into a brand-new year, it's common practice to stop and think about what we would like to add or remove from our lives in the upcoming months, oftentimes in the form of a resolution.

For many, New Years' resolutions aren't always about big changes, but rather about small, personal improvements. The most common resolution categories are: health & wellness, relationships,

CHAPTER 1284 REPORT



Chair – HOWARD STOLL

Appreciation Open House at the Chelsea Proving Grounds. Although the event was quickly planned late in the year, the weather was cool, but dry. Most of all, areas were open and tours of the grounds and test roads were offered.

A crash test was performed in the afternoon, that was a *big hit!* Local members and retirees drove their show cars also to display them. Of course, there was food and drinks available.

Everyone agreed that this event was long overdue and a great success. Hopefully, they will bring back this tradition again.

The Local held a Christmas Party for the children, with a visit from Mrs. Claus. I wasn't in attendance, but from the look of the aftermath, those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Everyone stay healthy and safe. *Think spring!*

Successful Events

As I write this, we are in the midst of the Great Polar Vortex of 2026. I hope everyone is staying warm and safe, if you were here enjoying our "Michigan Winter Wonderland."

In late October, the Proving Grounds' Management and Local 1284 hosted an *Employee/Retiree*

Please join us... at the Region 1A Retiree Retreat from June 28 thru July 1, 2026. The cost has remained the same at \$402.50 per person Single Occupancy, \$275.00 Double Occupancy per retiree, and \$550.00

per couple. This includes your room for three nights, and all your meals, starting with dinner on Sunday and ending with breakfast on Wednesday.

Black Lake is a place that all UAW members should experience at least once in their lifetime, and as retirees we must enjoy the experience sooner rather than later. There are 1,200 acres to enjoy, the picnic on the beach, an olympic sized indoor pool, golf course, informational sessions, and all the beauty of the surroundings.

There will be a charge of \$10.00 to reserve a seat on the bus leaving from the Region. This helps offset the cost of the buses. Please indicate whether you will be riding the bus when you sign up.



CHAPTER 3000 REPORT



Chair – SHARON HARDING

They may be eliminated in the future. Our Over-the-Counter (OTC) card has been uploaded with \$400, and the WEX card with \$1,000 to spend on medical expenses such as: medical, dental, eyeglasses, and medicare payment reimbursements.

We will have guest speakers in the upcoming months. As soon as the dates are verified, we will post the information on the UAW Local 3000 Retiree's Chapter Page. Please join us at our monthly meetings. The entrée is provided, please bring a dish to pass. Meetings start at 12:00 noon.



Chuck Browning with us at Black Lake Retirees Retreat, July 2025

Happy New Year 2026

I would like to thank everyone who donated to *Toys for Tots* again this past year. I was overwhelmed with the generosity of our membership. Please take advantage of these benefits now!

CHAPTER 6000 REPORT



Vice Chair – BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI

backing to remove the \$300 annual cap on the COLA for the defined benefit plan.

The 'Scrap the Cap' movement is still active. The members are contacting legislators to reintroduce a bill to remove the cap.

The State of Michigan Retirement System had \$10 million in the Israeli Bond/Development Corporation for Israelis invested in the pension funds for public employees. The bonds matured in November 2025, and the State divested these holdings because of pressure from coalition groups that viewed these investments as being used in Israel's escalation of its siege on the Gaza Strip, recognized as genocide against the Palestine people.

Money saving and inflationary protection bills were introduced in the State and Federal Government.

On the Federal level, there are two bills the group found to be of interest.

- The *Social Security Emergency Inflation Relief Act (SB 3078 2025-2026)* bill would provide critical relief to Americans living on a fixed income by providing a \$200 per month

emergency increase to Social Security checks from January 2026 until July 2026.

- The *Social Security Benefit Equity Act (SB 3357 2025-2026)* bill would increase the Social Security lump sum death benefit from \$255 to \$2,900 beginning in 2026.

On the State level, one bill that peaked interest is:

- *Michigan Senate Bill 292 (SB 292) of 2025.*

This bill proposes a property tax exemption for the principal residences of Michigan residents aged 70 and older, effective for taxes after December 31, 2025, requiring them to own and occupy the home and file a claim, with the State planning to reimburse local governments for lost revenue.

The retiree group is still engaged in the 'Medicare for All' movement. Contact Robert Sisler at (313) 824-0952 or email at robertsisler@att.net for information.

Finally, the State of Michigan Retired Workers group meets on the first Monday every month at 10:30 a.m. To get more information on locations, contact Chair Robert Sisler at (313) 824-0952 or, again, email robertsisler@att.net

'Scrap The Cap' Continues

Hope all is well and you had a joyful and blessed Christmas and are having a wonderful new year.

The start of 2025 was a disappointment for approximately 51,000 State of Michigan retirees, because the \$300 annual Cost-of-Living cap for defined benefit legislation ended in committee at the end of 2024. No new legislation to 'Scrap the Cap' has been reintroduced at this time. Retiree advocates claim the State could use the approximate \$1 billion in excess revenue from the Retiree Healthcare Account to provide financial

COUNCIL CHAIR BOB SISLER *continued from Cover Page*

find every reason to get rid of them. Then, we remained focused on the common issue that we may be able to resolve.

I watched John Conyers work with the opposite side. When they verbally attacked him, my gut feeling was to become angry and defensive. He showed it was better to stay calm, point out the issues, and most of the time you could bridge the gap, if you remained focused on the common good.

I remember being told during the last time the Bush Administration tried to privatize Social Security into the Stock Market that "there are more good people in this world than bad people." Moe Greary, leader of Michigan Alliance to Strengthen Social Security and Medicare (MASSSM), fought successfully to preserve those trust funds.

David Greenspan, an attorney, died at age 100. I met him when he was legally blind and needed help getting to the Democratic party, where we worked on the Resolution Committee together. He was a brilliant man who knew how to take practical things, put them into resolutions, and get them passed.

David was very active in the Grosse Pointe Dems. At that time, it was a small group. He was criticized for trying to get people in Grosse Pointe, which were typically Republican, to look at the Democratic viewpoint. He

was passionate about organizing the Grosse Pointe Dems. He said he had to help people recognize their true everyday life values that can be achieved through the Democratic Party. Today, the Grosse Pointe Dems Club leads many charges for social justice.

As a society, we have always believed in due process. When somebody is executed based on allegations, they themselves have been persecuted. In a civilized society, you are not given the right to kill somebody based on the word "allegedly."

So, can we learn to be civil to each other? Can we try to defuse a situation vs anger? Do we learn that there are more good people in this world than there are bad and evil people? Can we demand that due process be practiced at all levels of this government? Can we believe that we can change people's attitudes because we have more things in common than those wedge things that make us think better or pit us apart? Can we change the whole perception of community in a city by working and simply explaining the benefits of the common good for all?

Currently, there is a lot of hatred and misinformation. However, while that is happening, we must judge not on hatred, but on the facts related to the common good. We all do better when we join in common issues to make this society better. If we don't, we will live in fear, and fear is the opposite of love. *God bless all of the USA!*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL



2026

All meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month except in November, starting at 10:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts. Lunch is provided after each meeting. All Region 1A Retirees are invited to Open House Meetings.

January 22 Delegate Meeting

February 26 Open House Meeting

March 26 Delegate Meeting

April 23 Open House Meeting

May 28 Delegate Meeting

June 25 Open House Meeting

June 28 - July 1 **BLACK LAKE RETIREE RETREAT**

July 23 Delegate Meeting

August 27 **RETIREE PICNIC**

..... **Newport Fireman's Park, Newport**

September 24 Delegate Meeting

October 22 Open House Meeting

November 19 Delegate Meeting

December 14 Retiree Holiday Party

..... **Crystal Gardens, Southgate**

Join!



RETIREE NEWS

FOCUS ON THE COMMON GOOD

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL CHAIR

BOB SISLER



We have now completed one month in the new year of 2026. On behalf of the Retiree Board of Region 1A, we wish you the best in the coming year. May God rest with you and your family.

We are living in times where our country and Union are struggling to bring people together. There seems to be more division directed by hatred. Many people say it'll pass, just stay to yourself and it won't affect you.

Just last night on my way home from church, as I approached Mack and Cadieux on the Detroit Grosse Pointe border, there was a set of lights flashing, which later I found out to have been an ambulance and three or four police cars. There were two children in the car with me, along with their mother. The first thought I had was, are we going to be a victim of ICE. What should I do if directed by one officer to leave and the other one shoots at me, or maybe stay still

and be gassed and need medical attention.

A year ago, I would never have feared coming upon any type of law enforcement, including the military that we see from Selfridge at times. It is a shame that we live in fear. There's enough on the news that I don't have to rehash what you already know. I do not believe by saying we caught one or two sex offenders or prisoners of any type is worth the military takeover of our cities, at the same time cutting a local police force's funds and their resources.

In these past few months, I have been approached by individuals, groups, political parties and church members about Mental Health Services and what we might be able to do to reverse the non-service that is given to our brothers and sisters suffering.

A Republican approached me regarding mental health issues for her family. Many in the group blame Republicans. We must learn to work with the other side on common issues. People have the same suffering.

When speaking with the lady, she noted all the immigrant criminals are processed out of the country. My only comment was that it's a shame that we brought people to this country for cheap labor and now we

See **BOB SISLER** on Page 11

There are more good people than bad people, and overall there's more that's good in the world than there is that's bad. We just need to hear about it, we just need to see it.