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

RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 38 – NO. 3

FALL 2026

Fighting For Families



REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

submitted by

Mark De Paoli

Congratulations!

As fall approaches, we have some exciting times ahead of us. First, we have just completed our elections for the International Executive Board, and the newly elected have been sworn in. I'd like to congratulate the United UAW slate on a clean sweep for all the IEB positions. I know the entire team is excited to start working towards our goals over the next four years. I would also like to thank all of you that participated in this year's election.

I can say without hesitation that there is no greater honor than to run unopposed as your Regional Director. I look forward to working with all of you over the next four years, and I will do everything in my power to ensure Region 1A remains the greatest Region in the country.

Next, we have our state midterm elections, and Michigan has become the main battleground state. We've already witnessed what turned out to be the most expensive Senate primary race in history, and despite all the money that poured in against our candidate, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, we won!

I am a firm believer in our process to select our endorsed candidates, from our screening process here at the Region, to our Michigan CAP Board screening process for the Statewide candidates, and I feel that we have endorsed a very strong group of leaders who will have workers' backs when we need them. We are currently pouring every resource we have into this election to ensure our endorsed candidates get elected, but it takes everyone to do their part. Please make sure you vote, and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same.

It is truly an honor to work for you as your Director. Thank you all for your support!

2026 International UAW Executive Board Election Results



The Results of the 2026 International Union UAW Executive Board Election were submitted by the Monitor's Seventeenth Status Report on October 13, 2026. The Monitor oversaw the tabulation of votes received by the prescribed deadline, as well as the preparation of a document listing the vote count tally for each race. That vote count tally document was generated by the tabulation machines used at the vote count site and reflects the compilation of the vote count for all Regions.

No Run-Off Election

Under the UAW Constitution and the 2026 Election Rules, a Candidate must receive a majority of the vote to be elected; for any race in which no Candidate does so, a run-off election by mail is held between the top vote-getters. However, because a Candidate received a majority of the vote in each race in the 2026 Election, no Run-Off Election will be required, and all International Officer positions have been filled as reflected in the list at right.

President	SHAWN FAIN
Secretary-Treasurer	BRANDON CAMPBELL
Vice President	LAURA DICKERSON
Vice President	KEVIN GOTINSKY
Vice President	RYAN HIESTAND
Region 1 Director	LaSHAWN ENGLISH
Region 1A Director (uncontested)	MARK DePAOLI
Region 1D Director	SCOTT ZUCKSCHWERDT
Region 2B Director	DAVE GREEN
Region 4 Director	LUCAS DeSPAIN
Region 6 Director (uncontested)	MIKE MILLER
Region 8 Director (uncontested)	TIM SMITH
Region 9 Director	JIMMY LAKEMAN
Region 9A Director (uncontested)	BRANDON MANCILLA

To read the entire report go online at: uawmonitor.com/reports

COUNCIL CHAIR BOB SISLER

continued from Back Cover Page

The state spent over $180,000 in 90 days to treat one patient. How did that save the state of Michigan money?

Road workers took pride in doing a good job. If there was a problem with a road, you would get service that day or the next. Today, if you made a similar request, you are told to get another bid from another contractor.

The Liquor Commission was a money maker for the state until privatization under Engler lost income for the state. *How?* The workers made less money, and paid less income tax. It hurt the workers and state income tax revenue, leaving a huge deficit instead of saving money!

The wealthy wanted a part of workers' pensions, because pensions were well funded and Wall Street wanted a piece of that pie as well. Keep in mind, Michigan had the strongest pension laws in the country because of Unions.

Then came the great idea of 401(k)s replacing pensions. In 1997, under Engler's leadership, Michigan closed the State employees defined-benefit pension system to new entrants and replaced it with a defined-contribution plan similar to a private-sector 401(k). Engler's plan did not stop there. We also saw other companies taking over workers' pensions and replacing them with 401(k)s.

Engler privatized almost all of our state government. He promoted the 401(k) movement across this country as the new, better pension program. The goal was to destroy Union power over the years. We were told to give up our benefits and take pay cuts in order to help corporations, even though they were reaping in billions of profits, but paying workers pennies on the dollar.

Workers were told foreign car companies were to blame for stealing our jobs and pay, while Washington, D.C. Republicans were passing tariff laws to make it easier and more profitable for foreign car companies to operate non-union plants in America. Government pitted unionized states against "right-to-work" states to keep corporate profits as high as possible, and cutting union wages and benefits as low as possible.

In the 2005, President George W. Bush tried to let us invest our Social Security money in the stock market. Thankfully, there were enough people who lived through the Great Depression who rallied in Washington, D.C. in their wheelchairs and crutches demanding that Social Security stay in a "Trust Fund" that is backed by government bonds and not in the open market.

Three years later, in 2008, the stock market crashed, Wall Street got bailed out by Washington, D.C., and Main Street got the shaft. It was a good thing our Social Security was *not* in the stock market!

In March 2011, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's Republican-led legislature passed Public Act 4, giving emergency managers unprecedented powers over cities in Michigan. The emergency managers gutted cities of their viable services and contracted them out to private corporations. Things like municipal water departments, parks & recreation, and other city-owned utilities were taken from city control. All the services which were once performed by good-paying union jobs with benefits and pensions were suddenly lost.

In 2012, when the city of Detroit was taken over by emergency manager Kevyn Orr, the AFSCME union reported that their pensions were funded by 100% to 115% to the good. Within months, it was in a deficit, after Detroit's bankruptcy went after the pensions and found billions of dollars. Even though the Federal Banks predatory lending was a major factor in the Bankruptcy of Detroit, the Emergency Managers never held them accountable.

Cost cutting by Emergency Managers at the federal level like those and in Flint, Michigan, caused the Flint Water Crisis. Emergency Managers cut corners, ignored safety regulations, and people died from the poison water from the Flint River. This crisis still exists today.

All of this, just to cut costs for workers and give profits to big corporations. The lesson is *we have been duped.*

Here we are in 2026. UAW President Shawn Fain has noted the top 1% of the wealthy in this country have more money than all of the bottom 98% combined.

In America today, we have 989 billionaires, and one trillionaire, Elon Musk. That is the highest of any nation. This redistribution of wealth to the 1% of society is criminal.

The current administration in Washington, D.C. has done nothing for working families. The military industrial complex has been taking our tax dollars for bombs and endless wars. Billionaires were given tax breaks off the backs of working-class families by cuts to Healthcare, Medicare, Medicaid, the Veterans Administration, SNAP, American Farmers and more. All of those cuts were made so billionaires could be even wealthier.

The UAW has to show government that we are united against this transfer of wealth to the top 1% and shoving the bottom of this nation into bankruptcy, conflict, suffering and death.

We demand a healthcare system that puts us first and takes profit out of the picture. The UAW backs a program called *"Medicare for All."* It works by taking the hard-earned dollars that we are paying now for healthcare, and is held in a Trust that can only be used for healthcare. The people who manage the Trust will be paid a decent wage, but not become millionaires by denying us healthcare.

The time has come to stop the "For-Profit Healthcare System" in America today.

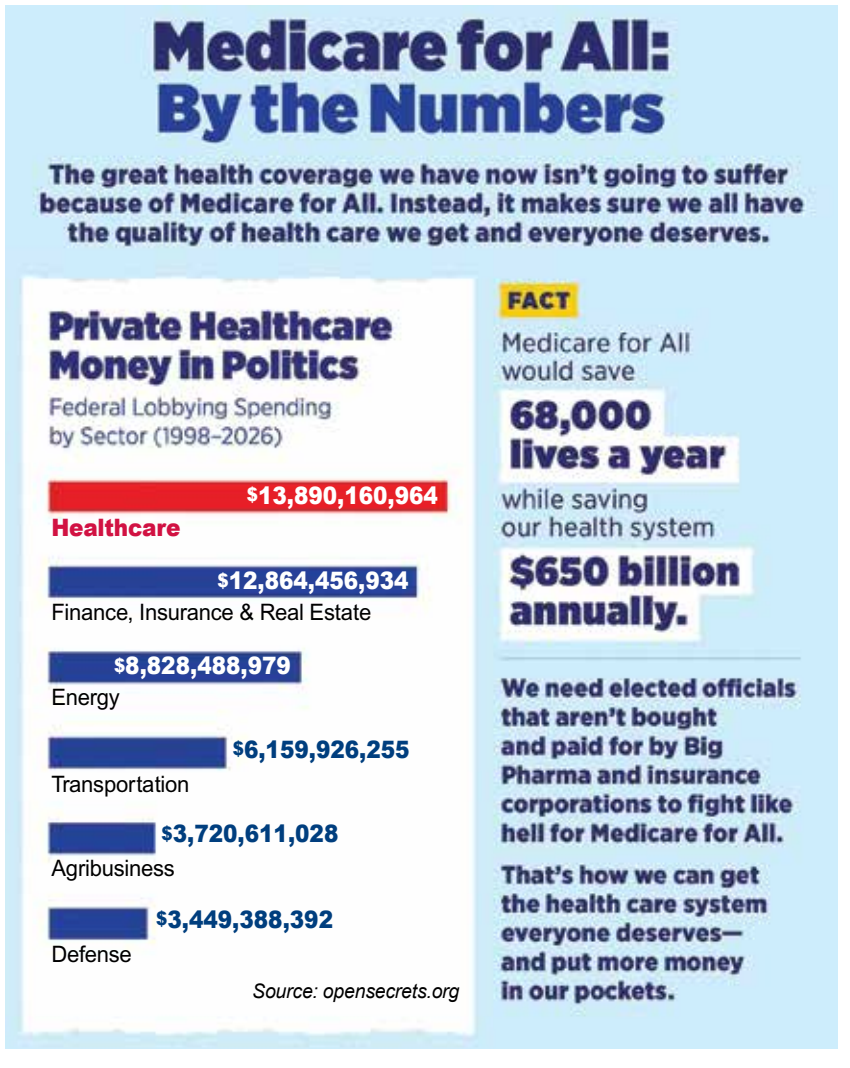
I would like to address the fear tactics that the other side uses when we talk about healthcare for all. The word *"socialism"* is used all too often to scare the American public into thinking a "Healthcare Trust" and "Healthcare for All" will make us a "socialist" nation. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Every wealthy person in this country has their own "Trust Fund." No one called it "socialism" when the Rockefeller Family created their trust fund. It wasn't socialism for General Motors founder William C. Durant, Ford Motor Company founder Henry Ford, or Chrysler founder Walter P. Chrysler when they created "Trust Funds" to protect their assets for future generations. Don't be duped!

How can we continue on this track? Do we give up all that we have fought for in our lives to the billionaire class? Or, do we start to elect people who are concerned about putting food on every table? Making a living wage? Making sure that people have a place to live? That we have access to healthcare without bankrupting our lives? Stop the endless wars and invasions of other countries?

Vote and support the UAW-endorsed candidates who reflect our values and get rid of the representatives that did not fight for us in Washington and Lansing.

As Brother Art Reyes says, "It is time for the UAW to lead in Michigan and Washington by electing candidates that support Labor."

Remember to vote the other side of your ballot for State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regents, Michigan State Trustees and Wayne State University Governors, along with Justices of Michigan Supreme Court, and other District Court judges that the UAW has endorsed.





New Leadership



Hello Everyone,

I hope all is well, it's been a busy summer.

Our UAW Region 1A Veterans Council is now under new leadership...

- Chairman.....Jorge Rodriguez UAW Local 163, and also serves on the International Union Veterans National Advisory Council
- Co-Chair ..... India Tuggle, U.S. Army UAW Local 900
- Treasurer.....Pat Graco, UAW Local 898
- Sergeant at Arms..... Mike Larson UAW Local 900

I attended the 39th UAW Constitutional Convention, June 15-18, 2026 and was honored to be part of the Opening Ceremony Military Honor Guard.

Special Report from the 39th UAW Constitutional Convention:

UAW Veterans Affairs Department Director Matthew Uptmor

"The mission of the UAW Veterans Affairs Department is to represent the interests of all active veterans, veteran advocates and their families. The Veteran Affairs Department is committed to responding to the political and social needs of those veterans and family members by providing leadership, guidance and education on matters concerning to veterans. The department will continue to encourage veterans to become more active within their local union standing committees to participate in community activities, support and promote the policies and goals of the UAW that benefits veterans, veteran advocates and their families. We will continue working to honor our members who have served their country and to promote the respect and dignity all veterans are entitled to.

National Veterans Advisory Committee

The National Veterans Advisory Committee (NVAC) supports the mission and goals of the National Veterans Affairs Department. The NVAC is currently made up of 22 members. Each Region has one appointed NVAC that falls under the International Union President's office, and there are 4 International Union Staff Representatives appointed by the Director of the Department.

The NVAC regional representatives also make up the Color Guard, which presents colors at the beginning of many national events including the Constitutional Convention, CAP Conferences, Financial Officers Conferences and other events when requested by the International Executive Board.

Since the 38th Constitutional Convention in July, 2022, we have held three National Veterans Conferences at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center at Black Lake. In 2022, the conference theme was *UAW Veterans New Decade, New Challenge* to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Women's Armed Service Integration Act.

The 2023 Veterans Conference was dedicated to our women veterans, the theme was *True Courage, UAW Women Veterans.* There were several outstanding Veteran Women speakers who advocated for women veterans and the battles many faced during their service in the U.S. armed forces.

In 2024, we celebrated our 30th Anniversary of the National Veterans Conference. This was just after the Big Three Stand-up Strike and our theme had a very special meaning to veterans as well as the UAW. It was *Veterans Stand Up, Sound Off.*

The 2026 conference took place August 9-14, 2026, and we continue to fight for veteran's rights as we are being attacked by the current administration in Washington, DC. The proposed changes to VA healthcare and the attack on service-connected disability benefits, outsourcing of care for veterans and cuts to the VA budget will affect the services that so many veterans depend on. We have also seen in the last year the use of the National Guard and other federal agencies against U.S. citizens and immigrants.

The NVAC had extensive discussions at our pre-conference planning meeting and decided on the 2026 conference theme, which was "*Defending Freedom at Home and Abroad."*

Regional Activities

All UAW Regions and the National Department will continue to support all veterans in a variety of ways. The last two years, the Veterans Affairs Department has partnered with UAW Staff Counseling and Region 1A and Region 1D Veterans Council to sponsor golf outings, with the proceeds benefiting the VFW National Home, Stephen P. Yokich Duplex. Other activities include volunteering at veteran's homes, VA hospitals and supporting veterans' events in the local communities.

UAW Veterans Committees have also supported their surrounding communities by building and maintaining veteran monuments and memorials, participate in various fundraisers, Honor Color Guard, Stand Down events and parades to support our fellow veterans."

– Director Matt Uptmor, UAW Veterans Dept.

National Veterans Committee Conference

UAW Region 1A had 19 members attend the 2026 Annual UAW National Veterans Committee Conference, at Black Lake. The theme was: *Defending Freedom at Home and Abroad*.

President Shawn Fain opened the conference to a lot of new faces and many returning Veterans. There were many good speakers. One of the best was Dr. Kenneth T. Jackson, a Marine who authored a book *"From the Outhouse to the White House: A Fatherless Journey."* His memoir told how, as a black child from rural Alabama, he persevered in life, through the many changes in America. He was a Vietnam-era veteran, a USMC Presidential Honor Guard for President George Bush and Ronald Reagan, became a basketball coach and a retired school superintendent.

My classes this year were "PTSD post-traumatic stress disorder" and "Veteran Benefits" with VSO officers. The storytelling we shared is the most powerful way to activate the brain. All of the classes were very educational and I always learn something new. It was a great conference and the shared camaraderie with my fellow UAW Veterans was something I will cherish and take back home with me.

Have safe and Happy Holidays, and may God bless you in the New Year.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

DIAL **988**

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

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

VETERANS

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

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

Veterans Crisis Line

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

chapter 36 report



Chair – YVONNE HARRIS

Stay Active and Educated

Hello UAW Local 36, Wixom Family, Retired and Associate members.

I pray all is well with you. We were blessed to have enjoyed another summer and to welcome the fall season. Summer got off to a slow start, not as hot as I have seen it. I was born in September, so I really don't care for *hot* weather.

To our snow birds, safe travels on the highways and byways and see you soon.

Many, many, thanks to all of you who attended our monthly meetings. I look forward to seeing you more than you know. *We are Family!...right?*

To our transferred back members, welcome home. We appreciate and need to do more to make transferring back happen. We must stay present. It's important to our history and our future. We encourage more to transfer back to carry on our legacy.

Please understand that we must *educate* and keep our Active members involved the best we can. I'm not only encouraging Retirees to attend our meetings, but we must encourage the Active members to attend their meetings. Your sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and friends who you have helped or you know who are UAW members – we must *educate* them.

This is a very serious time in all our lives. With all of the concerns in the world, losing a job or getting laid off today would be devastating for anyone. Jobs are hard to find and the cost of living is off the chart.

The flu season is upon us. Stay safe and healthy.

SCAM ALERT!

If you don't know who's calling, *do not pick up that phone!* Let your answering machine do its job. They can leave a message if it's important. *Do not* give out your personal information to anyone over the phone or email.

Stay on guard, watch your bills, don't get overcharged and make sure there are no unauthorized charges on your accounts.

Watch your back. There are crooks everywhere. There's a lot of good information that my brothers and sisters have put in this newspaper...*use it!*

Election Results

Our Local 36 Retiree Chapter had our election in July for Officers. The results are:

Chair ..... Yvonne Harris
Vice Chair ..... Andrew (Andy) Kierzek
Recording Secretary..... Rhonda Carpenter
Associate Member,
Financial Secreary/Treasurer .....George Love
Sergeant-of-Arms..... A. Griffins
Executive Board..... Nika El
Executive Board..... Duane Nunnally

Thank you to Election Committee members Lula Shaw, Marie Gunter, and Associate member Denise Hamilton. We appreciate a job well done.

We would also like to thank former Vice Chair Ken Jasin for his hard work and dedication to the membership. Ken is a team player and we appreciated his support.

The UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust will visit us again in October, bringing very important information for the coming year, 2027. What a great program. Please come and hear the information for yourself. Most times, when you get it second hand, it's not completely right.

WEX and OTC 2026 benefits expire 12-31-2026 – *use it or lose it.* Remember to keep all important information that pertains to your Benefits until you receive the *new* 2027 booklets.

Look for the $500.00 Bonus in December 2026 for Retiree and Surviving Spouse members who retired before September 14, 2023, which was won during Collective Bargaining.

Thank you to those who attended the Region 1A Retiree Retreat at Black Lake, and our Retiree Council Picnic. I appreciate your support, my Local 36 Brothers and Sisters! I was so proud to have you in my company and that we wore our matching shirts. *We looked good.*

Both events were well attended. Great job to my counterparts – Region 1A Retiree Coordinator Jeff Morris, and Region 1A Retired Workers Council Executive Board members.

See you at the Region 1A Holiday Luncheon, to be held Monday, December 14, 2026, 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., at Crystal Gardens Banquet Hall in Southgate. Tickets go fast.

Once again, please support and attend your Union meetings and, if possible, bring a fellow member. That would be great.

Plans are in the making to have a Wixom Family Reunion on September 11, 2027 at Local 182. More information to follow in the near future. More details and information will also be featured on the Wixom Homepage.

We appreciate all of the invited guests who came to our meetings and shared their time and very useful information, including: International Reps Lisa Rink, Kevin Gotinsky and Sherry Blondino; the Medical Benefits Trust Reps; UAW Social Security Dept. Rep. Angela Bantom; Larry Robinson, UAW Civil Rights Dept., and Region 1A V-CAP Rep. Michelle Thomas.

Condolences to our members who have lost loved ones. Rest in peace Brothers Lloyd Poole, Jack Underwood, Jim Babb, Bob Churhan, Herman Slack, Sr., and Joseph (Nick) Rocco.

Condolences also to Nick Katalis and his family in the loss of his mom.

Speedy recovery to all our sick and shut-in members. Get well soon.

In closing, we appreciate the encouraging words and prayers from our Chaplain Brothers Greg Wilson and Willie Montgomery.

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



chapter 163 report



Chair – ROY GONZALEZ

America Still in Trump Crisis

During World War 2, America, France, England, Russia and the Allies were fighting the "Axis" of Power – Germany, Italy and Japan. As the war progressed, the actions of Russia's Joseph Stalin became more hostile to our American military.

In July 1944, a damaged American B-29 from the 771st Bombardment Squadron was unable to reach its landing target in Northeast Asia, and landed at Vladivostok, Soviet Union. The Soviet Air Force kept the aircraft and crews, refusing U.S. demands for their return.

During the course of WW2, three more American B29 bombers landed in Russia that were retained by the Soviet Air Force. Stalin ordered the B-29s to be reverse-engineered, adapting the B-29's new technology, to fit their own weapons and aircraft. This led to the development of the Tu-4 "Bull", the USSR's first long-range heavy bomber capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Those B29 bomber planes that the Soviet Union kept had a profound impact on Soviet aviation technology, the Cold War, and hostilities around the world which continue to this day.

Now, in 2026, we have Trump, who campaigns against "Communism" and how it is going to destroy our Democracy. He does nothing to stand up to Russia's Valdimir Putin, or North Korea's Communist Dictator Kim Jung Un, who *have* nuclear weapons and missiles that can travel the globe for 9,300 miles.

Trump does nothing to restrain North Korea or Russia from their nuclear weapons, but on April 21, 2026 he started a war with Iran, who does not have nuclear weapons, calling Iran an "imminent threat" capable of making a nuclear weapon. Iran immediately closed the Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping channel, and the world has been in turmoil ever since. Trump continues to threaten to "annihilate" the 90 million people in Iran if they don't do what he wants.

And here we are, fall 2026, over 225 days of his war later, and Iran still *does not have a nuclear weapon*. We have lost too many American soldiers and our military supplies have been damaged. The world economy has suffered from his reckless war with Iran, and he has damaged our standing in the world.

His friends in the House, the Senate, and the Supreme Court are doing nothing to stop this downward spiral of the United States of America. In November, we have a chance to use our power to vote for representatives who can stop this.

Remember what Nathan Hale, the Revolutionary War patriot, is proclaimed to have said... *"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."* Let us not lose our country to the whims of Trump. Vote in the November, 2026 midterm election for representatives who will save our country.

Take care, and be well.

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chapter 182 report



Chair – GEORGE 'MICKEY' HERRICK

Strength In Unity – Vote!

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Region 1A,

Vote! It's that time of year when summer leaves us and fall arrives. *Vote!*

Local 182 has been very busy this year. Starting with our Valentine's Dance in February, our membership then started out March with a Family Night at a Detroit Pistons Game on March 3rd. The annual President's Bowling Tournament was March 14th, and our annual Casino Bus Trip to Firekeepers was on March 21st.

Then, *summer fun* began! Our Retiree Golf League kicked off on May 6th, with the end of the season League Banquet on September 2nd. Our Local Union Golf Outing was held this year at Fellows Creek Golf Course on August 15th, and our UAW Local 182 Day of Family Fun was at Midway Entertainment Center in Taylor, MI on September 12th.

We finished our scheduled plans with the Local 182 Car Show and Chili Cook-Off on October 3rd, in the parking lot of Local 182.

Oh, yes, also in 182's parking lot, will be our *Trunk or Treat* event on Saturday, October 24th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. – come one, come all. *Vote!*

The annual UAW Region 1A Retiree Council Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 14, 2026 at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St., Southgate, MI from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be on sale at our next Open House Retiree Council Meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2026, 10:30 a.m. start. *Vote!*

As you can see, I'm a strong supporter of our right to *Vote!* So please vote in November. It's your right, it's your voice, please use it!

Also, Local 182 will be having a Vaccine Clinic available to Retirees and current members at our October 8th Retiree meeting. Anyone interested should have their ID and Insurance card.

November is our time to *Vote!* Please do so. It's your *right!* There is strength in unity.

REGION 1A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

REGION 1A DIRECTOR
Mark DePaoli

REGION 1A ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Dave Pagac

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY
Roseanne Scott

RETIREE COORDINATOR
Jeff Morris

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

BOB SISLER, LU 6000
Chair

JEAN PITTMAN, LU 735
1st Vice Chair

RICK KULL, LU 245
2nd Vice Chair

KIM JANESKI, LU 931
Recording Secretary

KATIE MARTIN, LU 900
Financial Secretary

CYNTHIA AVERHART, LU 735
Executive Board Member-at-Large

RICHARD CUSTER, LU 600
Executive Board Member-at-Large

ROY GONZALEZ, LU 163
Sergeant-at-Arms

LINDA HAYES, LU 600
Guide

REGGIE OSBORNE, LU 600
Advisory Council Delegate

YVONNE HARRIS, LU 36
Advisory Council Alternate Delegate

STANDING COMMITTEES

Bylaws ..... Bernard Nowakowski, LU 6000
Legislation/CAP..... Rick Custer, LU 600
Veterans ..... George Turner, LU 372
Civil Rights .....Jim Barczyk, LU 372
Consumers/
Protection Issues.....Pat Greca, LU 898
Scholarship..... Richard Custer, LU 600
Healthcare ..... Katie Martin, LU 900
Black Lake
Retreat Program..... Yvonne Harris, LU 36

Region 1A *RETIREE NEWS*

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
KIM JANESKI, Editor, LU 931
BOB SISLER, Ex-Officio

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chapter 245 report



President – LARRY F. KELSEY

Express Your Choices – Vote!

Well, another summer is behind us. As we move into fall, not much has happened as the Retirees were adjourned in July and August.

I hope everyone received their International Union Executive Board Ballot in the mail. You have a say and a choice in who you want for our next UAW President, Vice Presidents, and Secretary Treasurer. Our Region 1A Director, Mark Depaoli, was re-elected by acclamation at the 39th UAW Constitutional Convention in Detroit on June 17, 2026.

We have the Mid-Term Federal and State Elections coming up in November, so please get out and vote. This election is extremely important for the direction of our country. You have an opportunity to express your choices as to what things will be like going forward for the next 2 years. Change only happens when people get to the polls and vote for the candidates they feel will make these changes.

I ran for Precinct Delegate in my city and was elected. This is just one of the things that you can do to get involved with government and have a say in what is happening within your city.

If you purchased a Ford Optional Life Insurance policy through MetLife, this is the Optional Life Insurance policy that you pay for through your pension check. Please realize that your premium for that optional life insurance goes up every 4 years. This applies for all policies from $10,000 to $700,000. I would advise everyone who purchased this additional, optional life insurance to take another look at your policy through MetLife and make sure you understand what you signed up for.

For more information, you can access your policy through the Ford Benefits Alight website at: *https://worklife.alight.com* scroll down to *"Additional Benefits"* and then to the "*Life Insurance"* icon, or call Metlife directly at 833-552-3673.

Lastly, on a sad note, our Trustee, Timothy O'Brien, passed away August 24, 2026. He was a very valued member of our Union and he will be greatly missed.

Other deaths include James Sproviero (Electrician), who passed on 8/29/26, and David W. Flood (Janitor), who passed on September 2026.

chapter 372 report



Chair – GEORGE TURNER

New Officers and Events

Hello Everyone,

I hope all is well after a very busy summer. Now it's time to get ready for fall and the Holiday Season.

We just had our Local 372 Retiree Executive Board Elections and I was re-elected as your Chairman for next three years. Also elected were: *Vice Chair* – Cathy Smith; *Recording Secretary* – Doris Northern; *Financial Secretary* – Sharon Scott; *Executive Board Member* – Ted Elswick; *Sergeant-at-Arms* – Warren Toliver; *Trustees* – Carl Zapatuy and Anthony Everett; and *Guide* – Shirley Hicks.

Your Executive Board is getting ready to start our new term by putting into place good speakers for our meetings. As Retirees, we need to continue to educate ourselves on living safely and protecting ourselves from those who are trying to take advantage of us. There are many groups and resources in the UAW community that will come to our meetings and give us information to enjoy our retirement years.

I especially worry about our retired members who live alone. If you do too, please reach out to your Local 372 brothers and sisters, share your contact information with your fellow members, and have someone check in with you. A phone call from a trusted friend is always welcome, especially during the Holiday Season, which is coming up very fast.

Come out and join us for our meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at UAW Local 372, 4571 Division St., Trenton, MI.

In 2027, we will have a lot of exciting things happening – CPR classes, fire prevention classes, financial classes, baseball games, camaraderie, lunch, and lots of good information. Also, our Benefit Rep., Jerry, is always there to help you with your benefits needs.

Alliance for Retired Americans

STOP THE SCAM!

Protecting Older Adults from Social Media & AI-Enabled Scams

COMMON SCAM PATTERNS

- **Impersonation**
- **Urgency**
- **Pressure**
- **Secrecy**
- **Too-good-to-be-true**

HIGH-IMPACT SCAM TYPES

- **Government impersonation scams**
- **Romance scams**
- **Healthcare & Medicare scams**
- **Distressed family member scams**

Older Americans reported $4.8 billion in losses from internet scams in 2024; up 43% from the prior year, according to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center Report. Social media was the leading contact method for fraud affecting adults 60 and older, both in volume and in total dollars lost.

Today's scammers are using the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to make their schemes sound convincing and the reach of social media to target millions of Americans. Our best defense is education, information sharing, and advocacy.

CORE SAFETY MESSAGES

- ***SLOW DOWN***
- ***VERIFY* independently**
- ***NEVER* share personal/ financial information**
- ***TALK* to someone you trust**
- ***CREATE* a family password**

WHAT TO DO if you're targeted:

- **Stop communication**
- **Save evidence (screenshots/messages)**
- **Report it, even if you didn't lose money**

TAKE ACTION - SHARE YOUR STORY!

Have you or someone you know been a target of a scammer?

Use this QR code to SHARE YOUR STORY to help protect others and build momentum for change.

We will never share your story without your permission.

By raising our voices, sharing our stories, and demanding for meaningful protections and accountability, older Americans can help secure safer online spaces for everyone.

For more info, visit ***RetiredAmericans.Org/StopTheScam***

UAW LOCAL 372 CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 8th, 2026 at **11:00 AM**

UAW REGION 1A

9650 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180

TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT THE LOCAL

Join us for the start of the Holiday Season!

• If you love your freedom, thank a Vet •

chapter 387 report



Chair – KAREN MAGER

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Hello Members,

Welcome back from the summer break. I hope everyone enjoyed their time with friends and family. I know I did.

At our September 8th meeting, our Benefits Rep. Jimmy Arnold gave a report about our new benefits taking affect the first of the year 2027. Most importantly, our benefits are going up next year. WEX spending account will go from $1,000 to $1,500 per family, and our Christmas bonus of $500 for members who retired before September 14, 2023 will be paid out the first week of December. Thank you to our Bargaining Reps for negotiating that for us.

Also at this meeting, we had Larry Ferguson and Jacob Weise from Molnar Funeral Home speaking about end-of-life options. Quite a few retirees have been asking me to get a speaker from a funeral home. I have been reluctant to do so (I was afraid I would jinx myself), but finally I agreed. They gave us a very informative presentation. I definitely learned a lot and I think the members did too, because they were attentive to the speakers.

– UPCOMING MEETING DATES –

UAW Local 387, 24250 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock

- **October 14, 2026** – 10:00 a.m. Social half hour, meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.
- **October 14, 2026** – We will have Jim Pedersen come and speak to our members on behalf of the Alliance for Retired Americans with the main focus on "Stop the Scam and AI". It sounds very informative and I plan on paying close attention to his presentation. (Side note: I have taken many classes and attended many seminars and Jim is my favorite speaker of all time!)
- **November 4, 2026** – 10:00 a.m. Social half hour, meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

  FYI: Veterans Day falls on the second wednesday of the month this year and the local will not be open. we have moved our meeting to the first wednesday in November which is November 4th. please make note of this change.

  At the November 4th meeting, our Benefit Rep., Jim Arnold, secured the Retiree Medical Benefits Trust to come to our meeting and report to our members the changes in our medical benefits coming in January 2027. Please come prepared with questions to ask and voice any concerns that you may have that can be answered by the Benefits Trust representative. Contact info for the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust is: Phone: 866-637-7555 Website: *https://www.uawtrust.org.*
- **December 2, 2026** – 11:00 a.m. (Please make note of the time) Christmas Party

  December 2nd is our Retiree Christmas Party. It is always so enjoyable, with many gifts, new faces and longtime members, festive clothes, and happy times. We will have our usual bingo games and festive music on the speakers. There will be hors d'oeuvres, along with baked goods for our members to enjoy. I want to thank the bakers for bringing a variety of baked goods and deserts for us to enjoy. (The desert tables keep getting longer) Thank you to Debbie Gruse for organizing and maintaining the baked goods and hors d'oeuvres.
- **December 14, 2026** – Annual Region 1A Christmas Holidary Party, 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St., Southgate. If you need tickets let me know.
- **January 13, 2027** – 10:00 a.m. Social half hour, meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

  We will have the Brownstown Fire and Police Departments come and get us up to date on the 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 to identify safety issues in our communities.
- **February 10, 2027** – 10:00 a.m. Social half hour, meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

  Ken Woody will be running the meeting while I am away from the cold. I hope everyone has a great Christmas and Happy New Year!

UAW Local 387 represents the Woodhaven Stamping Plant, Woodhaven Forging Plant, and DFM Automotive.

We service both active and retired members.

chapter 600 report



President – REGGIE OSBORNE

The Future of Retirement Is Ours to Shape

Brothers and Sisters,

When many of us first hired into the plant, retirement meant working hard for 30 or 40 years and then finally slowing down to enjoy the life we had earned. That dream became a reality for generations of UAW members because of the sacrifices and vision of Union leaders like Walter Reuther, who helped negotiate the first pension agreement with Ford in 1949. His leadership laid the foundation for the retirement security that so many of us have been fortunate to enjoy.

While that dream is still important, retirement today looks different than it did for previous generations, and it will continue to change in the years ahead. We're living longer, staying healthier, and many retirees are finding new ways to stay active. Some choose part-time work, others start small businesses, volunteer in their communities, mentor young workers, or finally have the time to pursue hobbies and interests they've put off for years. Retirement doesn't have to mean stopping, it can mean starting a new chapter.

One thing that hasn't changed is the importance of planning. We all know that the cost of living and healthcare continues to rise, making it more important than ever to protect the retirement security we've worked so hard to earn. That's why our Union has always fought to secure pensions, healthcare, and benefits that allow retirees to live with dignity.

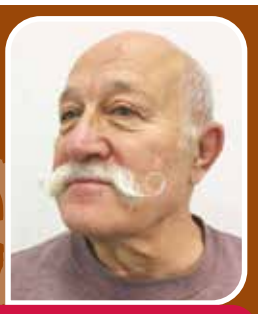
But retirement isn't measured only by our finances. It's also about staying connected with family, friends, and our Union brothers and sisters. It's about continuing to learn, giving back to our communities, and enjoying the freedom to spend our time doing what brings us purpose and happiness.

As your Retiree Chapter President, I encourage each of you to stay involved with Local 600. Attend our meetings, participate in our events, and continue to lend your experience and wisdom to the generations that follow us.

Our Union is stronger because of the foundation you helped build, and your voice remains as important today as it has ever been.



chapter 723 report



Chair – ROBERT CEBINA

Staying Involved

Sisters and Brothers of our Local 723 Chapter,

Our monthly meetings and luncheons have started back up again. It was great to see all of those who gathered at the September 17th meeting after taking off for the summer months of June, July and August. I hope we see many more Retirees at our remaining meetings in 2026.

UAW Local 723 has a new President, Jeff LaVere. Also, our Retiree Chapter has a new Vice Chair, Ben Hawes.

Our Retiree membership has risen to about 1,327. We encourage all retired members of Local 723 to pay the recommended Voluntary Retiree Dues of $3.00 a month, to ensure you get the full benefit of being a UAW Retiree Chapter Member.

Region 1A has the Retiree Dues check-off cards for all sectors of the UAW. You can also get one from the Local 723 Financial Secretary's office, when you are there for a Retiree Meeting.

A portion of your dues goes to provide services for your Local 723 Retiree Chapter, Region 1A Retiree Council & International Union Retiree Department. It amounts to $36.00 a year for all that the UAW does for us.

In memory of those who passed since we last met...

Tommy Marlow – 07/10/2026
Joseph Ornosky – 07/29/2026
Jerry Keck – 08/09/2026
David Etue – 08/23/2026
Alfred Schnorberger – 08/30/2026

In addition, Rick Sommers, Sr. passed last year. He lived in Texas, and we were recently made aware of his passing.

We have Federal, State and Local Elections coming in November. It is important for all of us, as Retirees, to get to the polls and vote for the candidates who will legislate for working-class citizens and for those of us who are on Social Security and Medicare to make our lives better.

I love this country and served in the military to defend it. I serve my country now, by *voting* every year, in each election, for representatives who will serve us. Please, *vote* this November.

For those of you in Local 723 who are Veterans, make sure your DD214 is in a safe place. If you happen to pass away, your DD214 is required for your family to secure the benefits you are entitled to. The VA has come in very handy for me, and my wife and children.

Our annual UAW Region 1A Retiree Council Holiday Party is Monday, December 14, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Crystal Gardens in Southgate, MI. More information on purchasing tickets, it will be announced at the Open House Retiree Council Meeting on October 22, 2026.

Local 723 Retiree Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at the UAW Local 723 Hall, 281 Detroit Ave., Monroe, MI 48162. The meeting meals are catered for $10 per person. Spouses are welcome to join.

Our upcoming meetings are: October 15, 2026, November 19, 2026, December 17, 2026, and January 21, 2027.

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chapter 735 report



Chair – SHIRLEY POLING

Make Your Voice Heard – Vote!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the November Elections, I want to encourage all of our members to vote for the UAW-endorsed candidates. This is not the UAW telling you who to vote for. It is a recommendation for the candidates who have been interviewed and vetted by your Local and State UAW CAP members.

The UAW endorses candidates who support legislation and policies that represent working people, the middle class, families and senior citizens. The candidates have proven to the UAW that they will stand with the UAW and fight for an even playing field for our members. Always remember that what we gain at the bargaining table can be stolen in Washington, DC and our State legislatures. *The UAW supports candidates who support you!*

Right now, our Social Security, Medicare and other benefits that we paid into are being stripped down to fund the tax breaks for billionaires. The biggest hits to our hard-earned benefits are coming after the elections this November. We have a chance in this election to vote for representatives who will turn back these severe reductions of our benefits that *we paid into* with our tax dollars.

The health care insurance industry and pharmaceutical companies have become a "For-Profit" system by government legislation. CEOs of these companies are getting paid millions of dollars to deny us the coverage we paid for.

Our deductibles are outrageous and Americans are choosing whether to eat or pay for medicine. Going to the hospital for care is bankrupting some Americans today. This has to stop.

Look very hard at the people running for office. Who do they represent? *You* or big business? *You* or the insurance industry? *You* or data centers? *You* or their billionaire donors?

Make Your Voice Heard! Your Vote Matters!

Moving forward, please note that our meeting in November has been moved to Wednesday, November 18, 2026, because November 11th is Veterans Day and UAW Local 163 will be closed for the Holiday. So, again, our November meeting has been moved to Wednesday, the 18th, 2026.

Our **CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held on
Wednesday, December 9, 2026
WAYNETREE MANOR
35100 Van Born Rd, Wayne, MI 48184

Tickets are $25.00 each for DUES-PAYING MEMBERS
$38.00 each for NON-DUES PAYING MEMBERS
Or, you can sign up for
Retiree Check-Off Dues of $3.00 a month
to become a "DUES PAYING MEMBER"

Each member can purchase 1 additional guest ticket.

By membership action, this is an ADULTS ONLY party.

Tickets will be available for purchase at Local 163 on:
Wednesday, October 14th and **November 18th**
from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and on
Wednesday, December 2nd
from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

December 2, 2026 is the very last day you can purchase tickets. Tickets can also be purchased by mail, and will be held at the door at Waynetree Manor. Make a check payable to: "Local 735 Retirees" in the proper amount of $25 or $38 for each person, noting your name for the tickets. Mail the check to:

UAW LOCAL 735
450 S. MERRIMAN RD
WESTLAND, MI 48186

Checks must be mailed *no later than November 27th* to arrive by December 2, 2026.

Please vote for your UAW endorsed Candidates.

2027

REGION 1A — 1939 UAW — SOLIDARITY FOREVER

The Retiree Scholarship Committee

is accepting suggestions for the

2027 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY THEME

All written suggestions can be submitted in person
at an Open House or Delegate Meeting at UAW Region 1A
– or mailed to –
Retiree Scholarship Committee
UAW Region 1A
9650 Telegraph Rd. • Taylor, MI 48180



chapter 849 report



Plant Chairman
GERALD WOODRUFF
10/30/36 - 08/31/26

Remembering Jerry Woodruff

Gerald (Jerry) Woodruff passed away on August 31, 2026, a month short of his 90th birthday.

Brother Woodruff hired on at the Ypsilanti Plant of Ford Motor Company on May 9, 1955, and retired on July 1, 1989. Gerald served our nation from 1956 to 1962 in the Marine Corps, including his service in the Reserves. He leaves behind Cora, his wife of 70 years, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, many friends, and a sterling reputation.

Brother Woodruff served the Membership of Local 849 as an elected representative from 1960 until his retirement in 1989. During those years, he held the office of Alternate District Committeeman, Committeeman, Bargaining Committeeman, and Plant Chairman.

Jerry Woodruff's quiet, steady presence brought results – grievances were resolved, problems were solved, and human beings were treated with the respect that God's children deserve. In a workplace known for its characters, Jerry stood out because of his character. The Scriptures tell us to pursue justice, and only justice. Jerry pursued justice every day of his life, on the job, in the community, and in all his endeavors.

Traditionally, leaders are asked how they want to be remembered. In Gerald Woodruff's case, the words should be... "May the work that I have done speak for me."

Difficulty in Contacting Members

Our Local Retired Workers Chapter does its best to stay in touch with the membership. That is proving to be more difficult than it was a few years ago. Cell phone usage is almost universal today. These phones have made communications easier, but have also attracted scam artists who are out to pick our pockets and steal personal information.

It's good to be suspicious, but remember that many of the calls we receive from friends may not show who is calling, unless the caller's name and phone number are on your list of contacts.

Please add important Union and Benefit providers names to your cell phone contact list.

Washtenaw Community College (WCC) classes will be offered on Chapter Meeting days beginning on February 18 or March 18. WCC will offer classes after our meetings. The classes will be paid for through the Retiree Education Tuition Assistance Program. Classes will be one hour long and cover subjects such as: cell phone usage, computer and phone scam detection, gardening, cooking, etc.

For more information, call Marilyn Kapp at (734) 477-8536 or email her at *makapp@wccnet.edu*. Please mention that you are a UAW Local 849 retiree.

– UPCOMING MEETING DATES –

- **October 15**, Retired Workers Chapter 60th Anniversary Celebration at 12:00 noon
- **November 19**, UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust information meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- **December 1**, Christmas Party at 12:00 noon
- **February 18, 2027**, Chapter meetings resume after winter break: Potluck at 12:00 noon, Business meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- **March 18, 2027**, Chapter meeting: Potluck at 12:00 noon, Business meeting at 1:00 p.m.

– 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*:

Eugene James	3/29/1949 - 4/06/2026
Joe "Sqeaky" Kulik	6/24/1947 - 5/16/2026
Dolores (Daniels) (Pruitt) Miller	2/6/1932 - 6/02/2026
Jimmerson L. Nobles	9/7/1944 - 6/09/2026
Jerry J. Sweeney	11/26/1939 - 6/20/2026
Barbara Walter	8/24/1945 - 6/30/2026
Claude D. Payton	10/16/1940 - 7/21/2026
Ray Grady Frasure	1/13/1948 - 7/25/2026
Gerald D. Woodruff	10/30/1936 - 8/31/2026
Gary K. Kilgore	6/22/1948 - 9/13/2026
Michael T. Shingledecker	10/02/1941 - 9/14/2026

If you have information about the passing of a Local 849 member, or have an address, phone number, or email address change, please email Bob Bowen at *Bowen59@gmail.com*.

chapter 931 report



Chair – SYLVIA GRIFFIN

Upcoming Elections

Greetings Local 931,

I hope you all are well. As we come to the end of the summer and leap into fall, we also find ourselves entering another election cycle, not only for the Midterm Federal, State & Local elections, but for the UAW Executive Board election as well.

By now, you should have received your ballot and *Solidarity magazine*, which was sent to help guide you through casting your vote for UAW International Officers. Positions up for vote include: President, 3 Vice Presidents, Secretary Treasurer, and Regional Director. In order to make sure that your vote counts, ballots must be returned by October 5th.

In addition to the UAW election, the General Election will take place on November 3rd. You don't want to miss the opportunity to cast your vote in that election, as well as making your voice heard.

Elections affect our lives, and as retirees we shouldn't have to worry about decisions that could make our lives more difficult. We need leaders who understand our concerns, support our benefits, and are committed to protecting the quality of life that we've worked hard to attain. At this point in our lives, we vote to maintain our lifestyles and to make the lives of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren better.

So many ask, where do we go from here? Well, we research the candidates, we go to the polls, and we take people with us when we cast our votes!

Lastly, the next Retiree Meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th, 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral located at 14691 Huron Street in Taylor. A Representative from the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust will be there to present our benefits for 2027. Please come prepared with questions you have concerning your current coverage, so you can get answers from the people who represent the Trust directly.

UAW RETIREE Medical Benefits Trust

RETIREE HEALTH CARE CONNECT
866-637-7555
Monday-Friday • 8:30am - 4:30pm *(ET)*
UAWTrust@rhac.com
To make changes to your healthcare plan for 2027 contact Retiree Healthcare Connect before Friday, October 30, 2026

wex™

WEX HRA DEBIT CARD
benefitslogin.wexhealth.com
WEX Customer Service 844-440-4300
Monday-Friday • 7:00am - 10:00pm *(ET)*

OTC

OVER-THE-COUNTER BENEFIT
844-487-2770
Any unused dollars as of December 31, 2026 will not roll over to 2027. Be sure to use all of your annual allowance before the end of 2026.

chapter 1776 report



Chair – RAMONA BURRUS

Stay Active, Stay Informed, and Stay Connected

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

Since our last issue, the Local 1776 Retirees have been keeping busy and staying connected. Our Annual Summer Picnic was a great success! We had a wonderful turnout, enjoyed a good meal, shared plenty of conversations, and had the opportunity to spend time with old friends and fellow retirees. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make the day such a success.

Your Voice Matters — Stay Informed

As we move toward the November midterm elections, we are working to make sure our members have important information about voting, including early voting and absentee voting. Midterm Elections are held halfway through a president's four-year term and include elections for members of Congress, State and Municipal Offices, and Ballot Proposals. These elections can have a direct impact on issues that affect our families, communities, workplaces, health care, retirement security, and everyday lives.

We encourage our members to check their voter registration, learn the voting deadlines in their area and state, and find out where and when they can vote. Talk with family, friends, neighbors, and fellow retirees about the importance of being informed and participating in the democratic process.

Also, make sure you know who is on your ballot, what offices they are seeking, and what issues you will be voting on. Take time to review reliable information and make your own informed decisions. Remember: *Your Vote is Your Voice.* Your participation matters.

Our Retiree Chapter meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, 11:00 a.m. at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150. Upcoming 2026 meetings will be held on October 15, November 19, and December 17.

November – UAW Retiree Trust Information

November will also be an important month for our retirees. We will have a UAW Retiree Trust representative join us at our monthly meeting to explain any changes to our retiree benefits for the upcoming year. This will be a great opportunity to:

- Learn about changes to your benefits
- Ask questions
- Get clarification about your coverage
- Learn what resources and benefits are available.

We encourage everyone to come out, listen, ask questions, and leave with the information you need to make the most of the benefits available to you.

December – Annual Christmas Party

December will bring our Annual Christmas Party. We look forward to sharing lunch, raffles, fellowship, laughter, and good times with our brothers and sisters. It is always special to see old friends and members we may not have seen in years. Come out and celebrate the season with your Local 1776 Retirees family!

Remembering Our Members

Since our last publication, we have sadly lost at least 11 members and/or spouses of our members. Each time we lose a member of our retiree family, we feel that loss. These are people with whom we worked, shared memories, raised families, and built lasting friendships.

Our hearts and condolences go out to their families and loved ones. May their memories continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved them.

Meet Your Local 1776 Retirees Executive Board

The Executive Board and I have been working hard to keep our members informed and up to date on what is happening within our retiree chapter. For those who may not know all of our Executive Board members, allow me to introduce them:

Ramona Burrus ..... Chairperson
Cleotha Lewis ..... Vice Chair
Rose Davis ..... Secretary
Ann Carter ..... Financial Secretary
Carl Saddler ..... Sergeant-at-Arms
Virginia Trevillion ..... Guide
Janette Jones ..... Trustee
Roland Ray ..... Trustee
Francis Roland ..... Delegate
Rose Davis ..... Delegate
Ann Carter ..... Delegate

I want to thank each member of the Executive Board for the time, energy, and commitment they give to our chapter. It takes all of us working together to keep our organization strong and connected. *Come out and join us!*

For those who still have questions, want more information, or simply want to reconnect with old friends, come out and join us. *This Is Your Retiree Chapter!*

Your voice, your ideas, your questions, and your presence are important. We would love to see you at our next meeting. Come out, stay informed, and enjoy fellowship with your fellow retirees and old friends. And most importantly, let's continue to look out for one another.

UAW LOCAL 1776 RETIREES CHAPTER
Established through the Ypsilanti Willow Run Assembly Plant, a Division of General Motors

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chapter 3000 report



Chair – SHARON HARDING

Upcoming Holiday Events

It is with a heavy heart I inform everyone of the passing of Kathy Gould on September 24, 2026. Kathy retired as our Benefits Rep. and recently won the election as Guide for the UAW Local 3000 Executive Board, and Recording Secretary for our Retirees Committee.

Kathy was a dedicated UAW Representative for over 30 years and a true champion of the working person. She always looked out for others and was there for anyone who needed her. She was especially helpful to our Retirees whenever there was a benefit issue. She was loved by our members and will be greatly missed.

At our October 13, 2026 meeting, Jim Pedersen, Trustee for the Village of Cassopolis, is scheduled to give a presentation about scams and the dangers of AI that are affecting retirees and seniors.

In November, we will be starting our Marine Corps Reserve *"Toys for Tots"* campaign. Bring your new toys to UAW Local 3000, 22693 Van Horn Rd., Woodhaven, MI 48183, or come to our meeting November 10, 2026 at 12:00 noon.

We would also appreciate donations for our Veterans. Please feel free to bring any new items such as; socks, t-shirts, and enderwear for both genders to our October and November meetings.

Please join us for our monthly meetings. All meetings start at 12:00 noon. Our next meeting dates are October 13, 2026, November 10, 2026, and December 8, 2026. The entrée is provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

UAW Region 1A Retired Workers Council

HOLIDAY PARTY

Monday, December 14, 2026

10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

CRYSTAL GARDENS BANQUET HALL

16703 Fort St., Southgate, MI 48195

Tickets are $10 each for DUES-PAYING Retirees

1st Guest of DUES-PAYING Retiree: $10 ea.
additional Guests of DUES-PAYING Retiree: $20 ea.

NON-DUES PAYING Retirees and their Guest(s):
Tickets are $25 each.

EVERY PERSON MUST HAVE A TICKET TO ENTER.
More information to follow.

Are You A DUES-PAYING Retired Member?

For more information to support your Local Union Retired Workers Chapter as a DUES-PAYING MEMBER, contact your Local Union Retiree Chairperson or UAW Region 1A for more information. All UAW retirees are eligible to participate in the three dollar ($3.00) Voluntary Retired Membership Dues.

Thank You!

chapter 6000 report



Vice Chair – BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI

'Scrap The Cap' Continues

Local 6000 retirees had their first meeting of the 2026-2027 season on September 14, 2026 at Region 1 in Warren, Michigan. The group enjoyed a light snack and celebrated the summer 2026 member birthdays. The guest speaker was UAW Retiree Department Rep. Lisa Rink, who gave a presentation on what resources are available through the Retiree Department.

The group unanimously agreed to attempt to have legislation introduced and passed for the State of Michigan retirees who are in a defined benefit plan (pension) dealing with the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) being capped at $300 a year since 1988.

Although it is a lame duck session, we all feel the need for the COLA cap to be raised, as our retirees are in an inflationary cycle that makes the dollar hard to stretch to meet basic needs. Keeping the cap for the COLA at $300 per year covers only a fraction of modern-day essentials.

In October of 1988, the Michigan legislature created the State Employee Retirement Act, which provided for an annual cost-of-living increase of 3% to defined benefit plans subject to a maximum cap of $300. The inflation rate in Michigan has been over 176% since 1987. This limit affects 60,000 defined benefit state retirees.

Several legislative bills have been introduced in the Michigan Senate and House in 2021, 2022 and 2024 only to not advance out of Senate committee, die in the House of Labor Committee and also in the Senate Labor Committee.

In 2023, the actuary firm of Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company, out of Southfield, suggested solutions to fix the impact of inflation for the various Local 6000 retirees in a defined benefit plan for changing the COLA adjustment are:

A) *Annual post-retirement COLAs* (non-compounded) will be based on changes in the Consumer Price index for Americans 62 years of age or older (referred to as R-CPI-E). There will be no cap on the amount of the increase.

B) *Annual post-retirement COLAs* (non-compounded) will be based on an amount equal to 3%, with a maximum $808 annual increase. The $808 annual COLA cap will be increased each year based on changes in the Consumer Price Index for Americans 62 years of age or older.

C) *Annual post-retirement COLAs* (non-compounded) will be based on an amount equal to 4%, with a maximum $400 annual increase. The $400 annual COLA cap does not increase.

D) *Annual post-retirement COLAs* (non-compounded) will be based on changes in the Consumer Price index for Americans 62 years of age or older (referred to as R-CPI-E). The benefit on the effective date of the proposed change (i.e., including any COLAs granted prior to the effective date of the benefit change) becomes the new base pension benefit. There will be no cap on the amount of the increase.

E) *Annual post-retirement COLAs* (non-compounded) will be based on an amount equal to 3%, with a maximum $808 annual increase. The $808 annual COLA cap will be increased each year based on changes in the Consumer Price Index for Americans 62 years of age or older. The benefit on the effective date of the proposed change becomes the new base pension benefit.

F) *Annual post-retirement COLAs* (non-compounded) will be based on an amount equal to 4%, with a maximum $400 annual increase. The benefit on the effective date of the proposed change becomes the new base pension benefit. The $808 annual COLA cap does not increase.

– Actual Report is at: *https://uqs.mif.mybluehost.me/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/cola_actuarial-study-013025.pdf*

The money to cover the initial cap removal could come from retiree health funds. The state employee retiree health fund is overfunded, with a surplus close to $1 billion. Legislators will have to redirect cash through the legislative process to cover the COLA adjustment.

The Local 6000 Retired Workers of Region 1A have contacted the UAW CAP representative to assist in mobilizing members to engage in lobbying and the political advocacy to remove the annual cost-of-living cap of $300 on the defined benefit plan of retired State of Michigan workers and establish a more realistic COLA adjustment.

Something retirees can do while the Chapter is formulating a course of action is to contact your lawmakers in Lansing and ask them to support our cause. Find your Michigan District senator at: *senate.michigan.gov.* Find your Michigan Representative: *house.mi.gov.*

For more information on *"Scrap The Cap"* can be found on our Michigan State Employee Retirees Association website: *https://mi-sera.org.*

– Bernard Nowakowski on behalf of Retiree Chairman Bob Sisler, State of Michigan Workers, Local 6000



UAW Local 1313, Region 1A Salutes 100-year-old Dorothy 'Alabama' Betterton

by Kim E. Janeski, Recording Secretary

DOROTHY 'ALABAMA' BETTERTON was born March 25, 1926, one of 7 children, and grew up on a farm in Gadsden, Alabama. Her father was a Union Steel Worker and she knew how important the union was in the South.

In 1947, when she was 21 years old, Dorothy, who everyone calls "Alabama," came to Ferndale, Michigan to live with her older sister. She applied for work at Burroughs Corporation and Ford Motor Company; each offering her a job. She talked it over with her sister and accepted the offer from Burroughs. Burroughs was a U.S. manufacturer of business equipment, adding machines and the first general purpose digital computer. She hired in at the Downtown Detroit Plant, as a Dura Press Operator, and soon became a leader in the workplace, standing up for the workers against the bosses. After 2 years on the job at Burroughs, she saw that the workers at her plant needed representation, so she helped unionize the Detroit Plants and they joined UAW Local 1313.

Alabama loved her job and took pride in her work, doing extra things to make her coworkers lives better. In the summer, when other coworkers took their "smoke break," she went outside to the field between the buildings and planted a garden of corn, cucumbers and tomatoes, just like she did on the farm in Alabama. Every summer, there were bushels of her fresh vegetables in the lunchroom and for coworkers to take home for dinner.

After working 20 years at the Downtown Plant, the employees were transferred to the Detroit Plymouth Road location. They brought their service time with them, "knocking everyone down the seniority list, they didn't like us very much for that!" The bosses singled them out, always trying to set them up for discipline. Once, she was given 15 days off because of a 4-cent discrepancy on her time card. The Union Steward examined it and saw there was oil all over it and the amount was smudged, not wrong. Thanks to the Union, she got right back to work.

On September 29, 1967, the 4,500 Detroit Burroughs UAW workers went on strike after rejecting the proposed contract. UAW Local 1313 leaders went back to the bargaining table and negotiated a better contract, giving Burroughs workers major wage increases, vacation time and pensions.

She stayed in Ferndale, married, had a son, and later divorced. Alabama had many friends in her neighborhood. She was generous to the younger kids, paying them to carry her groceries and laundry to her apartment. She loved Country Western line dancing and had a whole wardrobe of beautiful skirts, belts, boots and cowboy hats to wear when she went dancing with her friends.

Throughout her life, she had 2 special dogs that she adored. One lived for 10 years and one for 17 years. They went everywhere with her. Her last dog, Zapata, was very special to her. He would fly with her on the plane when she went back home to see her family. Later in life, when she moved to her new home in the City of Warren, she had Zapata reburied in a pet cemetery nearer to her home.

In 1986, the Burroughs and Sperry-Rand Corporations merged to form UNISYS. The Detroit plants were closed in 1987, and after 40 years on the job, she was forced into retirement at the age of 61.

Alabama isn't the type to sit around and do nothing, so she started working at an assisted living home. Feeding and caring for individual patients who needed more attention came natural to her, and she worked at it until she was 84 years old.

She attended our Region 1A Retiree Council meetings, picnics and Christmas parties for many years, until she no longer had someone to bring her. When her son passed of complications from diabetes at 58 years old, she had no more family or close friends in Michigan.

She survived ovarian cancer and fell in her yard one summer, yelling for help for 2 hours before someone called 911 to save her. She had difficulty finding good in-home care, and turned to Ricky, one of those neighborhood kids, who years ago helped carry groceries to her Ferndale apartment. Ricky, now in his 60's, comes by daily to provide everything she needs to live on her own at 100 years old. Although everyone else in her life called her Alabama, Ricky calls her "Miss Dorothy." She said to say "hello" to everyone here at Region 1A, she's still around and hopes that someone from UAW Local 1313 remembers her. After interviewing her for this article, I will never forget her. God is Good.

REGION 1A UAW
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

2026 - 2027

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.

Join us!

October 22, 2026 ..... **Open House Meeting**

October 22, 2026 ..... **TRUNK OR TREAT**
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

November 3, 2026 ..... **ELECTION DAY**

November 19, 2026 ..... **Delegate Meeting**

November 21, 2026 ..... **Chaplaincy Council Brunch**
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

December 14, 2026 ..... **RETIREES HOLIDAY PARTY**
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
CRYSTAL GARDENS
16703 Fort St., Southgate, MI

January 28, 2027 ..... **Delegate Meeting**

February 25, 2027 ..... **Open House Meeting**

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

RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 38 – NO. 3 FALL 2026

THE POWER OF YOUR VOTE

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL CHAIR
BOB SISLER



UAW Michigan CAP held their first conference in 8 years this past September in Lansing, MI. We heard from many of the candidates who were endorsed by the UAW for State and Federal offices.

On the last day of the conference, UAW Michigan CAP Director Art Reyes gave a presentation on Michigan that opened my eyes to events that brought clarity to our current situation.

The first thing we must realize is that Michigan is a union state. The UAW in Michigan has led the way to bring benefits and higher wages to workers across this country. Michigan was the strongest unionized state in the nation in the ’70s and ’80s.

UAW President Shawn Fain brought attention to, at that time, union workers were sacrificing for companies that were posting billions in profit. Because of the UAW, workers across this country went on strike in the 1970s across all sectors of employment. These “strikes” forced employers to concede major wage and benefit gains.

In 1985, the UAW and other unions in Michigan organized its State workers. Some divisions of State employment are still not protected by true collective bargaining as Civil Service controls the final contracts. But, these strong, union-represented State workers were a threat to big business. Was business worried about Union strength? You bet it was!

In 1991, Republican John Engler became Michigan’s Governor. Although Engler signed a law that limited the term of Governor to two terms, he ignored that law and served a third term.

Engler started to privatize state services in 1997, under the guise of saving the state money. This led to the privatization of our mental healthcare system, our roads, and Liquor Commission, giving control and profits of those services to private corporations.

Under Engler, Michigan Mental Health Services were transferred to private groups, cut, or abolished altogether. Mental Health clinics and hospitals were closed and the patients were left to the streets of Michigan cities, leading to a homeless humanitarian crisis.

I personally know of the case of a chronically, mentally ill man who had been receiving in-home care. The shared cost of those services to keep him at home was $40,000 a year for monitoring and support. He had not been hospitalized for years with this service, but to save money, his services were cut. His father noted that after a psychotic event, there was a hospitalization, police intervention, court hearings, and then treatments just to try to stabilize him.

Show UAW Strength!
Show UAW Power!
Show UNITY!
GET OUT and VOTE
for UAW CAP-endorsed candidates in your Districts by November 3, 2026.

See **BOB SISLER** *on Page 2*