



RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 33 – NO. 1



SPRING 2021

Supporting Health and Working Families

REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

by **Chuck BROWNING**



Six months later, we find ourselves in a very different place as we continue to face the aforementioned struggles. We now have vaccines developed and being administered that protect us from this dreaded COVID-19 virus, which is slowly allowing us to return to a more normal and familiar world.

As a result of the elections last fall, leadership now exists in our country that supports working families and is better aligned with what their needs are. By supporting each other and taking action at the polls, we find ourselves in a much better place than we were those six months ago.

I long for the time in which we will be able to congregate together once again in the halls of our Local Unions and our Regional Office in mass. Although we have all found different ways to conduct the business of our Union during the pandemic, it will be a wonderful blessing to conduct our business once again in person, celebrating the solidarity which has allowed us to weather the storm that begins to pass.

By all indications, this can and will become a reality in the not-too-distant future. We have transitioned from that time of great uncertainty to a time of hope.



We continue to bring the topic of racial injustice to the forefront of discussions amongst one another and equally important, to the White House and the halls of Congress, as we truly strive for a nation that protects the rights of everyone, not just a select few.

In the interim, we will continue to function in a manner that provides the safest environment possible, as we prepare to get back to business the way that we always have in the past. We will keep everyone updated through your leadership at the helm of the UAW Region 1A Retired Workers Council and through communications provided by the Region as restrictions begin to be lifted and operations start to normalize.

In the meantime, I urge everyone to remain diligent in staying safe and to give strong consideration to receiving the vaccine to protect yourselves and your loved ones as we continue down the path to recovery.

You are always in my thoughts and I hope to see everyone soon!

I would like to begin by extending my sincere greetings and appreciation to all of our UAW Region 1A retirees. I would like to thank you all for your lifelong support of our great Union and for all the great support that you continue to provide.

As I reviewed the last article that I wrote in October, I described the great disarray that existed at that particular moment in time and the insecurity that we all faced not, only as members of the UAW, but as citizens of our great nation. I acknowledged the financial and mental stress placed on all of us by what seemed like a never-ending pandemic. I referenced the racial injustices that exist in our country and the movement to demand equality for all of our Sisters and Brothers that our Union so strongly supports and the utter chaos that existed at a time that lacked clarity and leadership from our politicians.

As I look back at what I described in that article, it was a time of great despair for all of us.

FORMER UAW VICE PRESIDENT

RICHARD SHOEMAKER

IN MEMORIAM



Richard "Dick" Shoemaker passed away on Friday, March 12, 2021 at the age of 81. He served three terms as UAW Vice President, including an assignment overseeing the UAW General Motors Department before retiring.

After graduating from high school in 1957, he went to work at Deere & Company Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois (where his father worked) and became a member of the UAW. As a member of UAW Local 865, he was soon elected to leadership positions and became the youngest Local President, at the age of 27.

In 1969, Walter Reuther appointed Dick as an UAW International Representative. He held that position until 1980, when he became the Assistant Director of UAW Region 4.

In 1982, Dick became the Administrative Assistant to UAW Vice President Stephen Yokich. He was appointed by UAW President Owen Bieber as his Top Administrative Assistant in 1984 and five years later as his Executive Administrative Assistant. From 1996-2006, Dick was elected and served as Vice President of the UAW.

Dick was always prepared and had a thorough knowledge of what he would be facing in contract negotiations for what his Union members and their families needed.

His wisdom and mentoring will be missed by all who knew him and of him.

Advisory Council Report

by Yvonne Harris, Retired Workers Delegate



Information from Your International UAW Retired Workers Advisory Council

Hello Everyone,

I pray all is well. I would like to welcome all new retirees. Please sign up for the (*voluntary*) V-CAP and (*voluntary*) Retiree Union Dues. Spouses can sign up to become an Associate member. As your Retired Workers Advisory Council Delegate, I have received valuable information I would like to share with you.

COVID-19

Stay COVID-19 safe, wear your mask, keep your distance, wash your hands. Stay healthy, my friend.

Not much to share, due to the fact the *world* is under attack with this deadly virus. Vaccinations are being administered daily by the thousands. I have had my second dose of the Moderna vaccine and will continue to wear my mask.

Here are a few phone numbers for locations giving the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Residents of Detroit..... 313-230-0505
- Oakland Co..... 800-848-5533
- Macomb Co. 586-463-8777
- Washtenaw Co..... 734-544-6700
- Wayne Co. (as of 2-20-2021)-
Canton & Plymouth..... 734-203-7657
- Hamtramck..... 313-252-0050, ext. 240
- Highland Park
(last name A-L) 313-688-5180
(last name M-Z) 313-590-0470
- Inkster 313-563-4236, ext. 2383
- Melvindale 313-914-2178
- Romulus..... 734-955-4120
- City of Wayne 734-722-2204
- Also, The Covid 19 Hotline 888-535-6136
might help get appointments. Take a relative, friend, or a neighbor who could use a ride.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network have partnered with Livongo to launch a new program to help you manage

your diabetes. They recognize managing your diabetes daily can be challenging and want to help ensure your success.

This program is designed to support the goals set by you and your doctor by providing additional resources to improve your knowledge about your medication, physical activity and nutrition.

Participation, which is voluntary, is available at no additional cost to members with diabetes, and just one of the benefits of being a UAW Trust member. Your decision to participate in this program will not affect your current plan coverage.

Here is what you get with the Livongo for Diabetes program:

- *Unlimited strips and lancets, plus a new blood sugar meter available at no cost* – While you are enrolled in this program, Livongo will ship the strips and lancets directly to your home, with no co-payment or co-insurance. You can order refills of your strips and lancets right from your Livongo meter.
- *Better tracking of your readings* – Livongo’s advanced meter uploads your readings to your private account, no more paper log books. The meter also provides personalized tips after each reading to support you on your diabetes management journey.
- *Expert support available 24 hours a day, seven days a week* – Livongo expert coaches are available to you, on your terms. You can talk with them over the phone about anything from nutrition to lifestyle changes. They can also reach out to you if your reading is out of range to help you when you need it most.

TOLL FREE

Livongo Member Support 1(800)945-4355

ONLINE:

Join.Livongo.com/BCBSM-URMBTBLUE/enter

UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust

Let your voice be heard. Your opinion matters. The UAW Retiree Medical Benefits

Trust (the “Trust”) needs your help. Soon, you may be asked to take part in a survey regarding your experiences with your current health plan. In order to better serve your health care needs, it is important that you respond and answer the questions honestly.

This is your opportunity to help us and BCBS focus on health care matters that are important to you. The purpose of the survey – called the *Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems, or CAHPS®* – is to measure your health care experiences in order to improve the quality of services. You will receive your questions either in the mail, or over the phone from an independent and authorized representative.

Your answers will remain anonymous, and your identity will be secure. Your survey answers will be evaluated and compared with other health care providers and used to improve patient experiences. Plus, you can help us know what benefits and services are most important to you. The survey will take about 15 minutes.

Questions will focus on topics such as:

- Your ability to get the care you need
- How quickly you can get access to care
- How well healthcare providers communicate with you
- Satisfaction with your plan’s customer service
- Your overall ratings for your health plan

Remember, you may receive your CAHPS questions either by mail or with a phone call soon. We are always interested in hearing what you think. Make your voice heard and respond immediately.

Important Literature

Please keep all important up-to-date information pertaining to the “Trust” and “Health Benefits.” Feel free to reach out for help from the Reps. listed on the booklets.

Meetings and Events

By the directions of UAW President Rory Gamble, we are following Michigan’s Governor, Health Professionals, and the CDC. It is recommended that, currently, *no* large groups are to gather.

Celebrating Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History month. Learn and share something about the phenomenal women who made this month possible from the past to today. “*She*” is incredibly special, why not celebrate “*Her*.”

Upcoming Holidays

I want to take this time to wish everyone a safe and healthy, spring season, St. Patrick’s Day, Palm Sunday, Passover and Easter. We will make up for it next year!

“We Are One”

In closing, I would like to send my condolences to families and close friends of members who have passed in 2020-2021. I also send speedy recovery wishes to my Sisters and Brothers who are recuperating. Get well soon.

God bless you, God bless America and God bless the UAW.

In Solidarity, Until Next Time...

HELP OUR TROOPS CALL HOME

If you have an old cell phone to donate, you can bring it to Pat Greca, Guide, or Rick Custer, Local 600 retiree, at the monthly retiree meeting at the Region or look for collection boxes in your community. **Help support our soldiers!**

CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

CELL PHONES
—★ FOR ★—
SOLDIERS



Union Label Committee Report

by Linda (Kay-Kay) Hayes, UAW Local 600 Retiree



Protect our Social Security

I've been vaccinated, and hope you have, too. Be blessed and be safe.

Expand Social Security

We must fight to fulfill the promise we have made to our retirees. Today, with so many Americans struggling, especially retirees, we need to make sure this important program is there for everyone. We can do this by urging



Congress to expand Social Security.

Petition to Expand Social Security

Retirees have earned their Social Security benefits over a lifetime of hard work. Sign our petition to demand that Congress take action to protect and expand Social Security, so that it can continue to be there for current and future generations.

From: Your Name

Place Stamp Here

To: U.S. Congress

A quarter of older Americans rely on Social Security for 90% of their income, and half of seniors rely on Social Security for at least 50% of their income.

About 40% of elderly Americans would have an income below the poverty line without Social Security.

That's why we need to make sure that the promise we have made to our retirees is kept and earned benefits are there for current and future generations.

You must help expand those earned Social Security benefits in order to provide real retirement security for all.



Region 1A Retired Workers Council

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All communications become the property of the Retiree News. Letters to the Editor should be kept to 200-250 words and the Editorial Committee is solely responsible for selecting any correspondence for reprint in the Retirees News. All items selected are subject to edit.

Are you paying your retiree dues?

MAYBE NOT!

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

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



40%
UAW Retired
Workers Department

35%
Local
Retiree Chapter

25%
Regional Retired
Workers Fund

**RETIRED WORKERS
DUES ALLOCATION
(\$3.00 Per Month)**

CHAPTER 78 REPORT



Acting Chair – NATHANIEL “Dan” BISHOP

Moving Forward

Special Greetings to our Retirees and Surviving Spouses,

It has been a while since our last News article. It is with my sincere prayers that this year of 2021 has started on a positive note for you and your family. I am hoping that this year of 2021 will be a year where each of us may be able to move forward with renewed strength.

Now that we have the elections of 2020 behind us, and have a newly elected President, Vice President, and two Democratic Senators from the state of Georgia – *how amazing* – hopefully, much of the confusion and disruption of the last four years are behind us and our

nation under a new administration will begin to heal and become united.

I do hope that each of you will make plans to receive your shots for the virus, if you haven't already done so. Also, with the changes in the No-Fault Insurance, make sure you review your policy and shop around to make sure you are getting the best deal.

Our last retiree meeting was in November of 2020, Much of that meeting time was spent discussing the pending changes of the insurance coverage of the Detroit retirees, who retired under the 1998 bargaining agreement.

Anyone who retired from the Detroit Plant and didn't receive a letter from the company concerning the changes in your health care benefits are not affected. Only the ones and their spouse who are in the 'Post Group' are affected. There are about 64 of our retirees and spouses who will be placed into the new Benefit Plan. Letters have been sent out to those who are affected.

I hope we will be able to have our monthly meeting soon. When the International Union gives the go ahead, we will pass on the message.

May I express my condolences on behalf of

our Retiree Chapter to those who may have lost a loved one during these last few months. You have our prayers.

Reminders: When we resume our meetings, they will be the third Wednesday of the month, 10:00 a.m. at UAW Local 245, 1226 Monroe St., Dearborn, MI. Please stay tuned.

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

REGION 1A
9560 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180
Local 78 Union Dues – Check payable to International Union UAW.

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

DETROIT RETIREES, CALL:
ZF (TRW) Service Center
877-698-7910, press “2”
Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ROMULUS RETIREES, CALL:
PBGC – Customer Contact Center
800-400-7242
Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CHAPTER 163 REPORT



Chair – ROY GONZALEZ

Of, By, and For All Americans

Finally, we have a real government of, by, and for *all* American citizens with President Biden's agenda – to get our nation back on track for all of us.

Incredibly, the Trump terrorists party (AKA the Republican Party) are doing all they can to obstruct everything that the Biden/Harris administration and the Democrats in the House and Senate are trying to right from the last four years of outrageous destruction of our nation.

Their crazy stand against the stimulus

package is only the first round of their goal of continuous obstruction into the future. The stimulus package is good for millions and millions of Americans in the fight against COVID-19, and is also much-needed financial help for so many.

Speaking of help, with another large COVID-19 surge last December from gatherings for Christmas and New Year's celebrations, I asked our Local 163 Retiree Board if they would okay a \$2,000 donation to three different organizations that would be hit hard for the holidays. They unanimously agreed that we could help Forgotten Harvest, Red Cross, and the Salvation Army from our funds. I bought three placards, shown below but much larger, and we presented our donations to representatives from these three organizations at our Local 163.

To be sure, there are many thousands of organizations, groups and individuals supporting those in need. *To all of those from Local 163, great thanks for your outstanding humanitarian help in these very trying times.*

As of this writing, there is no set time when we can start our monthly meetings at Local 163. Hopefully, it will be sooner than later when we can get together again.

Take care, and be well.

DECEMBER 2020



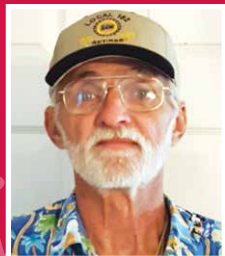
DECEMBER 2020



DECEMBER 2020



**CHAPTER
182
REPORT**



Chair – **GEORGE 'MICKEY' HERRICK**

Remodeling Finishing Up

How are all the retirees doing since the last edition? I hope well.

We are in the process of remodeling our Local during this down time and it's looking wonderful. We have pretty much finished the big hall and the small hall only needs to have our serving area remodeled. Then our kitchen will get worked on. Our goal is to hopefully remodel our offices during the months of June, July, and August.

I really hope that you're having luck getting your vaccine shots. It looks like it depends on how lucky you are when you call. It seems like there should be a better way, but what do I know? I do know that at this time I haven't been called. So, I'll just be patient and wait.

I wrote a letter for our local paper letting our members know that we will be having a meeting on May 13th, and then we shut down for the

summer, only to start meeting back again in September. Hopefully, by then, those who want the vaccine have received it.

The Trust (VEBA) said they will attend our May meeting. I hope by then they received their shots, so they can come. I'm sure people have health questions to ask, so they can at least enjoy their summer.

We at Local 182 hope that all Trust members get their shots. If they don't, we are going to have a meeting anyway just to say, "hey" and do some socializing at a social distance with our masks. At that time, I'm going to get us pizza to snack on until we start in September. We hope to get back to some sense of normalcy in September.

I hope everyone stays healthy. Please keep wearing your mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands when you can.

I was just notified that there is a Region 1A bowling tournament on June 26, 2021 at Thunderbowl Lanes for any Region 1A member and their family. The cost is \$200 per team. *No cash!* You need a *Local Union check* or *money order* made out to UAW Region 1A and mailed to:

UAW Region 1A Bowling Tournament,
Attention: Nova Schollenberger
9650 S. Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI 48180
Call the Region or your Local for more information.
Be Safe...Strength in Unity

**CHAPTER
227
REPORT**



Chair – **ELMER DUFF**

Grants For Wartime-era Vets

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter a new year 2021, it is our prayer that all is well.

Our last meeting was February 2020, and we left on a happy note. Little did we know that was going to be our last meeting of that year. Something called a coronavirus was introduced to us and quickly became COVID-19 throughout the world. Our way of life was changed, with the loss of relatives and friends, wearing masks in public, staying six feet apart, getting vaccinated, and it seemed like it was a death sentence on seniors. The pandemic has taken its toll on all parts of the world. Here in the United States of America, we have lost over a half million people. As of March 12, 2021, Michigan has lost 15,774.

All was not lost during 2020. We had an election, elected a new president, and we (Chrysler) got a new name. We are now Stellantis. Most of us received a stimulus check or two; however, nothing takes away the pain and hurt some of us have felt.

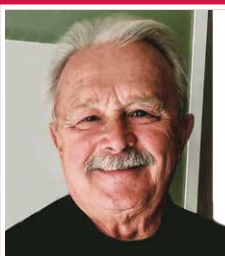
The UAW has not set any in-person meetings, and will notify us when we can resume in-person meetings.

To all Wayne County Veterans, the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund is taking applications for assistance for wartime-era veterans and spouses for grants up to \$3,500. For more information, call MVTF at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838). This also applies to all non-remarried widows and minor children of eligible Veterans who have experienced unforeseen temporary emergency hardship. This program applies to all counties in Michigan.

We extend our sincere condolences to the families of the following deceased members of the McGraw Glass Plant, Local 227: James "Jim" Brown (electrician), Thomas White, Jr., Lawrence Davis, Byron "Bo" McGregor, Nasser Mothana (9820), and Phyllis Johnson (International UAW). May they rest in peace.

Brothers and Sisters, time is short, so let us put away foolish things. Let us check on one another. Until we meet again, let us stay safe by wearing our masks and obeying the rules set for us. This too will pass.

**CHAPTER
372
REPORT**



Chair – **JAMES BARCZYK**

An Injury To One...

"An injury to one is an injury to all" is not just a recognizable slogan, it is the *truth*. We watched, totally stunned, as George Floyd died in front of our own eyes. Because of a young lady, we witnessed that murder and now we must reconstruct law enforcement's role in today's America. Change is not possible if it's not demanded.

Our country was formed by raising armies, not by hiring police. In fact, the police began as union busters in Northern Ireland. The Army used to have that job, but in the early 1800s England, France and Spain were still colonizing the "new world." So, when workers demanded change, the "Bobbies" put them down.

Have you ever wondered why unionized police officers are there to break up our strikes? It took F.D.R. to give unions some protection. Laws that are legislated are not always accepted by society as a whole.

Take *Brown v Board of Education*. That

landmark case was intended to end segregation in schools. Yet, schools today arguably are just as segregated.

Today, because of a more diverse population, change can happen and be accepted because a majority of Americans know "something is broken" with policing in America.

Are Laws Made to Keep Us Safe

The 18th Amendment to our Constitution forbade the manufacturing and sale of alcohol. That change did not keep us safe, it brought on organized crime. Thirteen years later, the law was repealed, yet organized crime had its roots.

So, one hundred years ago, police were asked to enforce laws that the majority did not embrace. Today, police are asked to wear many hats. The Black Lives Matter movement wants to unburden today's police officers of dealing with these problems.

Police departments in big cities have to keep homeless people out of business areas to keep those areas "safe." The mentally ill were defaulted to the police. Sex trafficking is also on the list. Drug wars are being waged by police. Out-of-work teens (gangs, mainly of color) are routinely targeted to keep us "safe."

(continued on page 9)

**AMERICA
works BEST
when we
ALL SAY...**



CHAPTER 600 REPORT



President – PEACHES ANDERSON

it, the sooner we can all come together (with our family and friends) for meetings, picnics, the Black Lake trip, and other social events at our Local and Region 1A.

Our work for the year has already begun. There are many elections coming in the months ahead. As retirees, we must get involved in selecting and voting for candidates who are supporting working families and retiree concerns and issues.

By now, I hope everyone has received their letter from UAW Ford concerning the life insurance changing to MetLife. Please call the new telephone number (833-552-3673) to ask questions about your policy.

There will also be a survey from the UAW Trust coming to the retirees. Please take the time to fill it out and send it back. *“Let your voice be heard.”*

Following is a list of important numbers for you to call. If you have any questions, we are only a phone call away!

- Medical Benefits Trust
- Retirees Health Core Connect ... (866) 637-7555
UAWtrust.org
- Express Scripts Rx..... (866) 662-0274
- Delta Dental (800) 524-0149

- Ford-UAW Retirement Board (800) 829-8833
- NESC..... (800) 248-4444
Myfordbenefits.com
- AXZ-Plans (800) 348-7709
- UAW Legal Services (800) 482-7700
- MetLife Life Insurance..... (833) 552-3673
Mybenefits.metlife.com

For the Retirees Scholarships Program given out at the Region 1A, please call (313) 291-2750. Under the great leadership of our Local Officers and Chairperson with committees, they represent:

- 8 Ford Motor Company Buildings
- 1 Steel Unit
- 17 IPS (Independent Parts Suppliers)
- 16 Technical Office Professionals
- Over 11,000 Retirees

I said that to say, we have lost so many of our members to COVID-19 and other illnesses. I, myself, lost my significant other. I can't begin to write the names of all our lost members because I would be remiss to forget anyone. I always say to think of your special memories and the good times you had.

“Measurements and adjustments go hand in hand. To ensure progress, both must be made with an open mind.”

Please continue to wear your mask!

We Must Continue To Stay Safe

Sisters and Brothers,

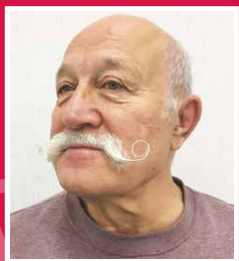
Sunday, March 28, 2021, should have been our first meeting of the year. But as we all know, we are still fighting COVID-19 and the new COVID variants that came out since March 2020, which we didn't know about until later in the fall/winter of 2020. So, we must get safe and stay safe.

Everyone, please follow the three W's...

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Wear your mask.
- Watch your social distance.

For those, like myself and others, who have received the vaccine, congratulations. For those who have not received the vaccine, please think long and hard about it. The more of us who take

CHAPTER 723 REPORT



Chair – ROBERT CEBINA

lost more of our members. If anyone knows of a member who has passed away, please call the Local and let Mike Keck know. I would like to start listing their names, but I do not want to miss anyone. Let us also remember all those who have been taken from us because of this terrible virus.

I am sure you are wondering, as well as I am, just when the UAW Local Retiree Meetings and luncheons will once again take place. There has been no word as of yet when we will be able to resume the Retiree Meetings at the Local. Hopefully, we can get back to having our meetings soon. It would be great to once again be able to see many of our retirees and find out what is going on. Currently there are approximately 1,320 Retirees in our Chapter.

When you are out socializing and come upon a retiree of the Local, remind them about the monthly Retiree Meetings that are held on the third Thursday of the month, starting at 1:00 p.m. There is also a meal that is provided for those who attend, at a cost of \$5.00.

Sisters and Brothers, the Local Retiree Chapter needs someone to step forward to become the Recording Secretary. This position requires very little work. If you are interested, contact the Local.

For those retirees who are not paying voluntary Retiree Union Dues, please consider signing a dues check-off card. The dues are only \$3.00 a month. Contact Mike Keck, the Financial Secretary at the Local, to sign up for the Retiree Union Dues Check-off Card.

As a retiree, you are still entitled to attend the Local 723 General Membership Meetings. As a

retiree, you also have a voice and a vote at the meetings. Consider attending the Membership Meetings, when the meetings are once again held at the Local. Come to the Local and be part of the Democratic process of the General Membership Meetings. Also, by attending the meetings you will be helping strengthen our Local and keeping yourself abreast of what is going on.

As a UAW Local 723 retiree, you are also entitled to attend the UAW Region 1A Open Membership meetings held every other month on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m., on Telegraph in Taylor. A meal is provided after the meeting is over.

At the Regional Meetings, the Retiree Workers Council provides the attendees with useful information for the members. Some of the information will pertain to what is going on within the UAW, the labor movement, and the latest on what is happening in Washington, D.C. and Lansing.

Let us take a moment to remember those members of the UAW who stood fast against the companies in forming the UAW, and for the benefits that they fought for, to give us a better life for our members and their families. Remember Brothers and Sisters, *you* are the strength of the UAW.

Remember our service men and women who are serving around the globe, protecting our freedoms that so many have taken for granted. Also, let us not forget those who work in the health care business for their tireless work ethics, and caring for us and others during this current health crisis. *God bless all of you.*

Solidarity In Spite of COVID-19

Greetings Fellow Retired Brothers and Sisters of UAW Local 723,

I trust that all of the Retirees are doing well in spite of what is going on during this pandemic crisis.

At this time, let us all take a moment out of our busy schedules and pause with what we are doing and offer a prayer of remembrance to those sisters and brothers who have passed on since our last newsletter. Our prayers and thoughts go to the families who have lost a family member.

Since our last *RETIREE NEWS*, we have

IAMA
UNION PROUD
DUES PAYING
MEMBER



REGION 1A, UAW UNION PIONEER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



2021 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

can win one of the following...

- ◆ TWO \$2,000 each **DIRECTOR'S AWARDS**
honoring *Benny Napoleon*
- ◆ SIX \$1,000 each **RETIRED WORKERS AWARDS**
honoring *Richard Clayton*

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

*“How has the pandemic affected you
and what have you learned”*

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- Child, grandchild or ward of a UAW Region 1A member.
- 2021 high school graduate.
- Accepted to college or trade school.



Union Pioneer Scholarships honoring BENNY NAPOLEON

BENNY NAPOLEON, Wayne County Sheriff, died of complications from COVID-19 on December 17, 2020 at the age of 65 after serving over 45 years in public service. He dedicated decades of his life to public service, and became a household name to metro Detroiters, always giving of himself to others, and always had a big smile while doing good for his constituents.

Benny was appointed Wayne County Sheriff after the position became vacant in 2009, was elected to remain in the position until 2012, and was re-elected every four years since. He joined the Detroit Police Department in 1975, worked his way up to Police Chief in 1998, retiring in 2001 to become the Wayne County Assistant Executive in 2004.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said it best “He was a beloved, iconic, and respected law enforcement official. He was progressive, and he was old school. He was tough and had a heart of gold. But most of all, he was a genuine, caring, and loyal friend, and colleague.”



Union Pioneer Scholarships honoring RICHARD CLAYTON

Richard Clayton passed away on January 19, 2021 at the age of 79. He was born in Detroit, and after graduating he served in the U.S. Army from 1966-68 in Vietnam. Dick was employed at FCA Trenton for 42 years, with the last few years of his employment as the Vice-President for UAW Local 372 before retiring in 2006. But he continued to serve the UAW in many ways including serving on the Regional Advisory Council and as the Vice-President on the Region 1A Retiree Workers Council. His dedication and loyalty to the men and women of the UAW will live on in their memories.



THE GOALS

This program has been undertaken by the Retired Workers Council because neither the Michigan legislature nor Congress have provided the kind of educational opportunities needed by young adults in our complex world. We continue to struggle to remove the economic barriers to full educational opportunities while at the same time trying to help a few families provide their children with an education beyond high school.

ELIGIBILITY

To be a contestant, the student must be the child, grandchild, or ward of a member in good standing, working or retired, of a Local in UAW Region 1A. She/he must be graduating from high school in the year of the contest and must have been tentatively accepted by an accredited college, community college, or career-training institute. Each applicant must submit an original essay of 500 words or less on the subject designated for that contest. There must be NO mention of a family member or UAW Local in the essay. Please make sure that all essays are double spaced and with the correct spelling and grammar.

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

Two (2) awards of \$2,000, each honoring Benny Napoleon will be presented to the authors of essays.

RETIRED WORKERS AWARDS

Six (6) awards of \$1,000 each honoring Richard Clayton will be presented to the authors of essays.

THE JUDGES

A panel of UAW Retirees will read each essay without knowing the identity of the author. The content, clarity, and reasoning of the essay will determine the decision of these judges.

THE AWARDS

These awards are made possible by generous donations of UAW Locals and the Retired Workers Chapters of UAW Region 1A, those of the Director, and of caring individuals. Each year the awards are presented in the memory of an individual who made significant contributions to the UAW and to our community.

**DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:
MAY 14, 2021**

For additional application forms,
you can contact:
YOUR LOCAL

~ or ~

UAW Region 1A at (313) 291-2750

CHAPTER 735 REPORT



Chair – STERLING MULLINS

that we may honor their memories, their lives, and ask God to comfort the family.

I have asked brother Melvin Robinson to write a prayer for this article, and we are listing all those who made their transition since our last meeting. So, I ask you, after you have read the prayer for this article and the list of names, please give them a moment of silence. Let us never forget the ones who left us too early.

Thank you and God bless.

“Father God, we cherish the memories of our Brothers and Sisters who have crossed over to the other side. The numbers are many and our hearts are heavy with grief. You, oh God, are the lifter of our heads when the circumstances of life would have our heads hang low. Father God, we trust you that better days are ahead and we give thanks unto you for all things, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.”

– MELVIN G. ROBINSON

Local 735 Transitions 2020-2021

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| William ‘Billy Bob’ Adams | Thomas Jamieson |
| Christine Barker | Larry Bowers |
| Robert Beard | Nancy Murphy |
| Bill Bush | Roger Hawthorne |
| Terry Tippet | Howard Reece |

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Donna Maddox | Willie Caughman |
| Larry Blanchard | Clyde Cole |
| Stella Moore | Dorothy Gamble |
| Dennis Mogor | Hazel Walker |
| Bob Elka | Peggy Barber |
| Danny Miles | Jimmie King |
| Harrison Rogers | Theodurus Takken |
| Larry Barker | Hiram Winestead |
| Dee Smith | Daniel Purcell |
| Glenn Clark | Steve Fleming |
| David March | Larry Ward |
| James Cabary | Walter Eggenberger |
| Melvin Pancoast | Gary Owens |
| Keith Stumbo | Robert Heater |
| Daniel Hoelscher | Mike Massey |
| Howard ‘Mickey’ Cole | Ron Howell |
| Doyle Watkins | Anna Mae Rhodes |
| John Lyson | Booker T. Johnson |
| Stanley Boyer | Joe Zielinski |
| Paul Miles | Daniel Nolen |
| Don Basquin | Johnnie Dunham |
| Walter Richards | Frank Murphy |
| Nate Wilson | Lowell Bouren |
| Waddie Dozier | Virginia Johnson |
| John Dubose | Clifford Kitchen |
| Silver Brooks | Ruby McDougle |
| Willie Ransome | |

Honoring Our Brothers & Sisters

I hope this article finds you all in good health and staying safe. We have not had any meetings since December of 2019, so this Retiree Chapter has nothing important to announce at this time. We do not know when our meetings will resume, but it looks as though it might be late summer before we are allowed to meet in large groups.

The good thing is, without meetings and events, our bank account keeps growing, which means when we do start up again we will be able to schedule events and trips like all of us enjoy.

At our Retiree Meetings, we begin with announcing all of our Sisters and Brothers who have left us, then a moment of silence, followed by an invocation from one of our Chaplains, so

CHAPTER 845 REPORT



Chair – MIKE LAMBERT

a much better 2021.

It seems that later in our 2020 year we had a political fight for many of our elected state and federal officials. There are many issues that have not been resolved throughout the years, as our elected officials have chosen to fight each other, instead of fighting for us. The American people deserve more than what we have received from our elected people. This note is just to say that I hope that the arguments can now be reduced to discussions, and debate.

Compromise should be part of government to ensure that the citizens of our great country can achieve a better lifestyle. Each of us should contact our Representatives to ask them to hear our voices.

Now a little about the change for Retiree Life Insurance. Most every Ford retiree knows that Ford chose to change the company that handles employee/retiree life insurance. Ford retirees have had Unicare as the life insurance for many

years. This changed on January 1, 2021. The new carrier is MetLife.

With this change in life insurance carriers, there has been other changes in how you file for your benefits. First, let me say that all Ford Retirees should contact MetLife to ensure that the transfer to them went well. You should check on the amount of insurance that you have, and the beneficiary. Met Life’s telephone number is (833) 552-3673. MetLife has a section that must be filled out to allow them to keep the funds

in an account within MetLife.

Now, for my Local 845 retirees, it has been a year since we have had a monthly meeting. I really do not know how much longer it will be before we are able to hold a group meeting. I have heard a rumor that the Union may permit social gatherings in April. Please call the Local Union Hall at (734) 329-2034 on the second Tuesday of the month to see if we are going to have a Retiree Meeting. I will try to notify as many as I can through email and Facebook when we know that we can meet.

This is once again an election year for our Local. The Triennial Nomination and Elections are coming up real soon. The nominations and acceptances will be March 18, 2021. This will be at Local 845, 3113 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. Come meet the nominees and see our Union Hall.

The Election of Officers will be May 11, 2021 at the Local. Remember to cast your vote for the candidates of your choice. All retirees are eligible to vote for the Executive Board officers.

Our Region is proud to continue with the tradition of providing scholarships for our family members. Our graduating high school seniors can apply this year for one of our scholarships by calling the Local and asking for an application. To be eligible, the high school senior must be a child, grandchild, or ward of a UAW Region 1A member in good standing, and to have been accepted into a college. Each student will be asked to write a 500 word essay to enter. Essays are due May 15, 2021, so please contact your Local to request an application. (See *Union Pioneer Scholarship notice on page 7.*)

Please, stay safe throughout this time of pandemic and always.

Retiree Life Insurance Change

I am hoping that this article finds all of our retirees doing well. We have gone through a very strange year of 2020. Our Retiree Meetings were put on hold, due to the pandemic. The Retiree Picnic and Christmas Party were canceled as a precaution, as well. Most Local functions were placed on hold, so that the virus would not spread. My wishes to each of you for



CHAPTER 849 REPORT



Chair – **BOB BOWEN**

Resuming Meetings June 17

By the end of May, every 849 member who wants to be vaccinated against COVID-19 should have received their shots and be able to safely attend our meetings. However, everyone is asked to please wear a face mask. Tables and chairs will be spread out, so a safe distance can be maintained. The Chapter wants everyone to be vigilant until we are sure this covid pandemic is under control.

The Chapter leadership will stay in contact with the Washtenaw County Health Department, the International Union, and Local 898 and make adjustments to our schedule, if it becomes necessary. If the meeting must be postponed, an email will be sent to everyone on the Chapter's email group.

Local 849 has not met since February of 2020, so the first item on our June 17 agenda will be a review of unfinished business. After that, we will begin to plan a grand 2021 Anniversary celebration.

As we celebrate our being able to meet friends we have not seen in over a year, we will mourn the loss of those who have passed away and recall the countless times we walked across the parking lot or shared stories in a break area with them. They are gone, but not forgotten.

Charles Whitfield: A Standout Member

We mourn the death of every member, but our work environment led us to grow closer to some members than others. One brother I grew close to was Charles Whitfield. We shared a common experience, our families came to Michigan to find work, his family from Mississippi, mine from Wyoming via Arkansas.

Charles' experience was one that many of us shared; however, that is only the beginning of what I remember about Charles Whitfield. Charles was a regular at the after-work gatherings at Ypsilanti's Chick Inn drive-in restaurant. There, young men and women showed off their cars and flirted with the opposite sex. Charles never forgot those he met at the Chick Inn or at the Ford Ypsilanti Plant.

He often called me to pass on the names of those who had died, and to ask about the well-being of those who lived in Michigan.

I don't know how he did it, but he called and visited 849 members all over the country. He knew more about those living in Ypsilanti than most of us who resided here.

We will miss Charles Whitfield's caring nature and loving heart.

COVID-19 Shots at VA

Veterans need not scramble to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Veterans who are enrolled to receive veterans' benefits may visit a VA hospital and ask to be vaccinated. Shots are given from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Appointments are not required.

Deaths of 849 Members Reported Since Last Edition

Guy E. Smith	1/18/24 - 10/15/2014
Willie Jean Greer	1/27/32 - 10/14/2016
Charles Reaford Varney	3/2/32 - 7/5/2018
Earnest Belin	6/8/25 - 6/28/2019
Margaret Brushaber.....	2/6/19 - 12/12/2019
Basil 'George' Kelsey.....	2/27/46 - 10/31/2020
Patricia D. Ware	1/25/49 - 11/6/2020
John B. Parker	2/13/26 - 11/15/2020
Henryka Soja	1/6/51 - 11/15/2020
Silven Creech.....	4/18/34 - 11/18/2020
Richard Goble	1/19/39 - 11/21/2020
Bertha Hartmann	5/19/26 - 11/24/2020
Hubert Woods	2/15/36 - 11/29/2020
James Fleming.....	8/15/29 - 12/2/2020
Daniel C. Murphy	9/21/49 - 12/3/2020
Larry L. Williams	9/7/39 - 12/15/2020
Kenneth C. Harper	12/2/39 - 12/21/2020
Roy D. Beard.....	6/6/44 - 12/23/2020
Otis Vic Jones.....	3/26/38 - 12/23/2020
Hazel Laverne Robinson...	10/7/31 - 12/25/2020
Smitty R. Burnette	8/4/52 - 12/27/2020
Richard L. Schneider.....	12/30/38 - 12/28/2020
Lonathan L. Spoering.....	9/20/53 - 12/27/2020
Marcy A. Wafer	7/23/55 - 1/20/2021
Richard Eppes.....	7/31/36 - 1/25/2021
Hubert Dasil Jackson.....	2/7/2021
Karl G. LaVoy	2/7/2021
Gene Edward Scharp.....	6/29/46 - 2/8/2021
Charles E. Whitfield	4/24/38 - 2/24/2021
Everett T. Blackburn.....	12/24/29 - 3/15/2021

Key Numbers for UAW-Ford Retirees

A & Z Plan Discounts.....	(800) 348-7709
Retirement Board	(800) 829-8833

CHAPTER 372 from Page 5

Thank God we have police in schools. There, they can arrest unruly fifth graders. Some of my favorite police duties are giving out traffic tickets such as for a broken tail light or for not using turn signals, and what about that rolling stop? These fines for minor infractions target minorities, thus they are guilty by driving while black.

So, do we in the 21st century need police to monitor these behaviors or can others be trained to talk to a 5th grader, counsel the mentally ill, find housing for the homeless, and actually handle citizens in need of help from someone trained in those areas?

"Defund the police" is not the slogan needed to trigger society's belief that the police need to stay out of our Union Halls and stop getting bribed by pimps and drug dealers. I don't know what messaging is needed, but I do know society expressed a



- Local 898..... (734) 482-8320
- Local 898 Benefit Rep
- (734) 482-8320
- (At 898 Hall: Tuesday and Thursday)
- In Factory
- (734) 484-9252
- (In plant: Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
- NESC/TEPHE
- (800) 248-4444
- (National Employee Service Center)
- email: myfordbenefits.com
- Region 1A..... (313) 291-2750
- Health Care Connect..... (866) 637-7555
- email: uawtrust.org
- Social Security
- (800) 772-1213
- Solidarity House..... (313) 926-5000
- UAW Legal Services
- (800) 482-7700
- Metlife [FormerlyUnicare]..... (800) 843-8184
- (Optional & Dependent Life Insurance)
- Chapter Email
- bowen59@gmail.com
- Send U.S. Mail to:

UAW LOCAL 849

8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Contacting Local 849's Retired Workers Chapter

To report an 849 member's death, please email bowen59@gmail.com or send the information to:

BOB BOWEN

702 East Grand Blvd., Ypsilanti, MI 48198
or call (734) 482-6213

Be sure to leave your phone number. Please get permission from the family of the departed. Some do not want information published.

desire for change.


Blacks, whites, women and men were on the streets of big cities and small cities all over America this past summer, *during a pandemic*, to support Black Lives Matter. Change has to happen. Change can happen.

Keeping America safe does not have to be the job of the police. Safety will come without terrorizing the minorities in our country. What is missing is a critical approach to what we are asking the police to do and what they are best trained to do. While addressing these problems, we, the citizens, must work for ending this injury to some to keep the rest safe.

Get your COVID-19 shot and let's get to work, because no life matters until Black Lives Matter. Unions made the difference in the early 20th century and Unions will lead the way in this time of unrest.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All...

CHAPTER 1776 REPORT



Chair – DERIC TWIGGS

vaccination, contact your County Public Health Department for more information and vaccine locations. As you know, there are 3 vaccines being given in Michigan. These three injections are given at different locations.

1. Moderna – 2 injections
2. Pfizer – 2 injections
3. Johnson & Johnson – 1 injection

Even though we are receiving the vaccine, we must still continue to wear a mask, wash our hands, and continue social distancing. The sooner we all follow these guidelines, the coronavirus/COVID-19 cases will decline, which means fewer people will get sick and more lives will be saved from the virus.

Region 1A recently opened their offices; however, we have not begun to schedule meetings or activities. We will not be scheduling meetings for Local 1776 until we know our meeting facility has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized, which could still be a few months down the road. It is our hope that many of our retirees will have had or will be vaccinated by that time!

Wishing you and your families good health!

CHAPTER 3000 REPORT



Chair – SHARON HARDING

Women’s National History Month

March is National Women’s History month. I would like to thank all the women who came before us. Not the famous ones that we all know, but the not-so-famous – the moms, grandmas, aunts, and the ones we all look up to and who molded us into the strong women we are today. We should praise and be thankful for all the ‘Rosie the Riveters’ and our Union sisters who paved the way for us.

I would also give praise to all the first responders and workers during this pandemic who kept on working and never complained, and the mothers who had to stay home to help educate their children. We thank them all for their service.

Monthly Meetings

We still don’t know when our meetings will start back up. Please make sure the Local has your updated address and phone number. We will be sending out postcards when we have that information. Follow us on Facebook at [uawlocal3000retireeschapter](#) or [uawlocal3000membersinformation](#) for retiree information.

Retiree Obituaries / Seniority Date

- Steven Switala 11/02/1987
- Donna Williams 10/19/1987


Please stay safe, get your vaccine, and we will see you soon.

Schedule Your Vaccine

As we enter into the new season and beautiful weather begins to show, it’s time for spring cleaning. As you clean your closets, garages, and beautify your outdoors, remember the many people who are struggling and would be more than happy to accept new and used items. Keep in mind you can donate not only clothes, but furniture, appliances (big and small), garden tools, etc., to the Salvation Army, Purple Heart, and several other organizations.

While we are still in this pandemic stage, it is important for all of us to get the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have not received your

CHAPTER 6000 REPORT



Vice Chair – BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI

page or contact Bernard Nowakowski at (586) 767-9303 or email big.cobra@gmail.com for meeting information.

This year’s long pandemic has been difficult for many. However, I feel a sense of gratitude. I am grateful that I do not have to struggle and stress over a job and income, because I receive a pension and Social Security. I am pleased that my adult children are able to weather this coronavirus storm, because they are still employed and are able to work from the safety of their home. I am grateful that I was able to get two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. I am grateful that none of my family or friends have succumbed to this virus.

I wish all well and, since St. Patrick’s Day is upon us, I will end this article with an old Irish saying... *“Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away. But never forget to remember the blessings that come each day.”*

Stay safe and well.

Monthly ZOOM Meetings

Greetings To All,

In-person Chapter Meetings have been suspended, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, until further notice. However, the retirees of Local 6000 Region 1A have been conducting ZOOM meetings on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The ZOOM meeting number and ID code can be found on the UAW Local 6000 Retired Workers Region 1A Facebook

BOB SISLER *from Cover Page*

federal investigators were pleased with the safeguards that the UAW Board had put in place under Rory Gamble (*what a good man*).

There will be a monitor for 6 years. This monitor must be approved by the court. No fines were set on the Union, but there were some back taxes owed to the IRS. It would have been another burden on the membership.

With stimulus money going out to Americans, I wonder why the Congress of the United States supports a “*slavery wage*” of \$7.25. However you argue it, that is what \$7.25 represents. Even the State of Michigan will not allow this injustice with a minimum wage of \$9.45. Common good is often common sense.

This concludes my report. Do I have a motion to accept?

May God’s peace rest with you throughout the day.

Confidential help for Veterans and their families



Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Text Message **838255**

Confidential chat at **veteranscrisisline.net**

Guest Writer

INSIGHT



John L. Fosket



Hello UAW Local 849

Brothers and Sisters,

I was asked to write an article for the *RETIREE NEWS* by Brother Bob Bowen. I warned him that it would not be too cheery, due to the trying times we are experiencing.

Black Lives Matter

I would be remiss if I started this article without the mention of the Black Lives Matter movement. There have been some uncalled-for attacks on the movement, and this is why I say that. The movement never said other lives did not matter. The movement is an attempt to get people of good conscience everywhere to help stop the unnecessary and reprehensible attacks on unarmed and non-violent black people.

Simply put, it has to be more than that. Blacks have to be given equal opportunities to succeed in the U.S. Look at the talent they exhibit in sports and the military. Let's make sure they can be doctors, dentists and health care workers, or enter any field their talents dictate.

I have no doubt Blacks would not mind adding other minority groups on the list for equal opportunities, like Native Americans, Hispanics, and Asians, to name a few.

I remember years ago, I gave a little talk at our Local on Black History Month. I ended by saying some day, when we talk about race, I hope it is in the context of our human race.

Remember this folks when you are lying on a table in an operation room and you need a pint of blood to save your life, only the blood type counts, not the pigment or color of a person's skin. The sooner we realize we are all human and in this together, the sooner we become the strong country we are capable of being.

Now, shortly after the Black Lives Matter movement began, all kinds of banners and posters came out saying "all lives matter." I am sure you have seen them, as well. Almost as soon as I saw those, I wondered where in the hell were those posters when the current administration was kidnapping (yes, kidnapping) and separating children from their parents and locking them in cages like animals, and by doing so killing some of them.

No one currently knows how many have died since the operation has been turned over to private companies. Every American should be thinking about this because, when the final judgement day is upon us, someone just might ask what we did to stop it, since it was our tax dollars that paid for it.

For those of you who are younger or who have forgotten history, let me remind you of a fact. When General George Patton liberated

Dignity, Respect and the American Conscience

the Nazi POW Camps in Germany, he made as many German civilians as he could walk through the incinerator rooms and gas chambers and see the mass graves, so that they would never forget what they had allowed to happen in their names.

Someone has to convince me how all lives matter to the people in this country when innocent children are treated this way, while we go about our daily lives in silence.

Cutting Health Care During a Pandemic

This paragraph will be short and sweet. Remember, before this pandemic hit, how Bernie Sanders kept harping and promoting health care for all? In the last 3½ years, 40 million people have lost the health care that they got under the previous administration. It seems to me Bernie had the right idea.

Remember, brothers and sisters, if those 40 million people can't get treated for COVID-19, that is 40 million new carriers passing the virus along to the rest of the country.

Income Inequality and Administration's Scheme to Fleece Social Security

OK, how about a word about income inequality? I go to estate sales now and then and I met a guy who has taught English in numerous countries – Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, and India, to name a few. He still teaches it in the U.S. to people of foreign countries. He is quite knowledgeable and continues to point out a specific problem he sees with our current system of capitalism in the U.S. The rich get richer and richer. Corporations not only rake in billions, but they want more.

A guy named Larry Kudlow, a Wall Street "guru" who was a consultant on the financial network and was picked by Trump to be one of his financial advisers, has long advocated for privatization of Social Security. What exactly does that mean? Here is what it means, so we are perfectly clear about this. It means the Wall Street cronies, for lack of a better name, would invest your Social Security funds and what they did not steal, funnel off the top, or lose in the market would be left for you to live on. Is that not great news?

Just recently, Kudlow attempted to get a payroll tax holiday, instead of extending unemployment benefits and fiscal stimulus checks. After the administration gave huge tax breaks to corporations and tripled the deficit, which they had promised to wipe out, they immediately said Social Security and Medicare were in financial trouble.

If they are allowed to get away with a payroll tax cut, the Social Security Program would go unfunded for a period of time, hurting the fund even more. The whole scheme is to try and convince people they need the fund invested in Wall Street, so they can reap you huge gains. Anyone remember the 2007 recession and how money disappeared overnight from the market? Oh, and one final point about income

inequality, as for the corporations and billionaires getting richer and prices getting higher and higher, what exactly has happened with the minimum wage? Yup, you got it...nada, not a thing. Think about this folks. If you want to make \$15.00 an hour, you have to work 8 hours of a 16-hour workday for free. Now there is a real deal for the working person. Don't you think?

In a Time of Trouble, Three Good Men Still Stand Out

I believe in transparency, so let's address the issue of the recent corruption issue in the UAW. If it turns out any UAW Representative is found guilty of misusing the funds of his constituents, they should be punished accordingly... no ifs, ands, or buts. Remember, however, no institution created and run by men or women is infallible. Members must seek out and support those individuals who they believe to be beyond reproach. Then, they must hold those individuals accountable to the membership. That also means good, credible individuals have to try and fill those positions, whether they like it or not.

I had an opportunity to work with many UAW Representatives who I felt were beyond reproach. I never had the least indication that they were not working honestly and in the best interests of their constituents. I apologize in advance for the many names I will not mention, but I would be remiss not to mention 3 who I feel stand out because of my direct dealing with them – Brother Ron Gettelfinger, Brother Gerald Bantom, and the never-ending fighter for the membership Bob King.

John Lewis: Dignity, Class, and Courage

May Representative John Lewis rest in peace and may his courage and dedication to the better of mankind be instilled in all of us.

As I watched the funeral ceremony, all I could think of was his dignity, class, courage, and reverence of the individual and the service in his name. Remember John's last words. *"Tell everyone to vote. It is the critical election of our time."*

I hope all UAW retirees and active members are well and in good health. I have aged a good deal since I last saw you all, so forgive me please for any typos or ill-placed paragraphs. As for the content, I stand by every word. You are in my prayers.

If the chaos and fearmongering over the past 3½ years has bothered you, you can put a stop to it this November 3. Remember, if you are voting by mail, mail it by October 20 at the latest.

(If a UAW Region 1A Retiree would like to submit an article for the RETIREE NEWS for possible inclusion in a future issue, they may send it to: RETIREE NEWS UAW Region 1A, 9650 S. Telegraph Road, Taylor MI 48180 or by email to: mewinters@comcast.net)



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RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 33 - NO. 1

SPRING 2021

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

BOB SISLER



The Retiree Executive Board has met during

these challenging times. At first in person, but later, due to the COVID-19 virus, we met virtually. On behalf of the Board, I send blessings and hope for a better future.

We have come through some incredible times. As my mind has wandered, I imagine our next monthly meeting being totally spent on remembering all those who have passed.



Dick Clayton

We lost former Executive Board member Dick Clayton from Local 372. He was a true unionist. He would refuse to get into a foreign-made vehicle, even it meant a long wait. He had become ill and I missed his advice during his illness. Richard Shoemaker, who served this UAW honorably, has joined those to remember. Maria Winters also lost her husband. Remember everyone who has been lost.

It has been a nightmare. Every time you coughed, every time you ate something that had no taste, you wondered, do I have this illness. Love to all. Pray that the worst is behind us.

Support our Representatives as they make safety adjustments. Remember that the Health Department is there for the common good. Our Unions are also there for the common good. Too often, both the Health Department and the Unions are demonized for their "common good" efforts.

Region Report

The E-Board last met in-person last fall. Reg. 1-A Director Chuck Browning joined us as we looked at scheduling future meetings, but by December the virus was so bad we cancelled all in-person meetings and the Region was closed.

Jeff Morris is our new Retiree Coordinator and he has been very helpful in setting up virtual meetings and opening the Region for the purpose of completing the scholarship raffle.

It was strange coming to the Region when it was closed. Rick Custer and I went with Jeff to the computer room, where we were 6 feet apart to conduct business. The rest of the offices were closed, and no one else was there. It was spooky. Thank you, Jeff, for your help.

The Scholarship Program will continue this year. Information will be in this paper. President Gamble recently noted that the CDC is recommending continued social distancing, so we will cancel meetings until further notice.

We are hoping we will have our Christmas Party at Crystal Gardens in December.

The MI CAP will be held virtually in September 2021, and National CAP will be held virtually in February 2022.

In Region 1A, 48% of retirees pay dues. Please contribute something. Dues are suggested at \$3.00 a month or \$36.00 a year. Contact your Local and sign a dues check-off card. Even if you send only a few dollars, we can improve our participation. The MI ARA continues to fight for senior issues at federal, state and local levels when they arise.

As for the federal investigation of the UAW, it has been completed. The members involved have been prosecuted. There are no RICO or other charges being brought against the Union. The

See **BOB SISLER** on Page 10



Annual Invitational Bowling Tournament

June 26, 2021
Thunder Bowl Lanes
4200 Allen Road
Allen Park, MI 48101



Chuck Browning, Director

Laura Dickerson, Assistant Director

More information to follow