



# RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 36 – NO. 3



FALL 2024

# HARRIS STANDS WITH US



## REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Laura  
DICKERSON

*Our UAW-endorsed candidate, KAMALA HARRIS and running mate TIM WALZ, have garnered tremendous support from various unions and the country, as a whole.*

battleground state and will help decide who our next President will be. The importance of Michigan being a battleground state is interesting; since it is the home of the “Motor City” and the home of the “auto industry,” who is dealing with the evolution of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and all of the associated technologies to the possibility of Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs).

There are still some unknowns regarding EVs or Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV), but the focus will be capturing and maintaining work, especially for our powertrain facilities.

We currently have some of this work in our facilities in the Region: UAW-GM Brownstown Battery Assembly Plant (BBAP) (Local 174), UAW-Ford Dearborn Truck Rouge Electric Vehicle (REV) Center (Local 600), where they build the F-150 Lightning and UAW-Ford Rawsonville (Local 898), which is doing some EV battery work. There is also EV work being done at Detroit Diesel and Axle (Local 163).

The door is opening up for other announcements of future facilities and work. We need to make sure our legislators understand how important this work is to all of us. It is part of our history now and our future. EVs or HEVs bring about one of the biggest transitions we’ve seen in the automobile industry in decades, but there is more work to do!

I know that VP Harris and Tim Walz understand the importance of the transition to EV. We need a President and Vice President who will continue to help the auto industry during this critical transition.

The Covid-19 pandemic revealed a lot to all of us. One of the major things it revealed, especially for the auto industry, was the shortage of semi-



## HARRIS/WALZ

conductor chips. We are still working with our legislators to get a semi-conductor facility built in this country. This is a priority for us!

There has been a lot of discussion about “Project 2025” or the Republican agenda. This agenda includes cuts in Social Security and Medicare, which are critical programs for UAW Retirees. How would many of our members survive without those programs. They also want to introduce legislation to eliminate pensions and 401(k)s. This would be disastrous!

In order to maintain our democracy and continue moving this country in the right direction, we will need to put in lots of work to make sure VP Kamala Harris and Tim Walz are elected in November. Region 1A is canvassing and phone banking every day until the election. Please stop by to offer your assistance.

President Joe Biden has done a great job and is the most pro-Labor President this country has ever seen. He has no problem saying the word “Union.” He has stood with us on the picket line in this Region at GM-CCA Willow Run. He has helped us tackle many issues that affect union members in this country.

The work we need to continue with EV, BEV and HEV can only be possible with a true partner on our side. I think those partners are VP Kamala Harris and Tim Walz!

*Greetings Region 1A Retirees, This is an exciting time in our country. It’s “Presidential Election Time!” We are a little more than a month away from one of the most critical elections of our lives. There are a few candidates running for President of the United States, but for UAW members there is only one choice, VP Kamala Harris. She understands the importance of unions!*

**VP Harris stood with us** in 2019, when she visited a UAW picket line and she stands with us today. She is not afraid to say the word “union” or visit our union halls. She paid a recent visit to Local 900. Local 900 is the home of the historic “Stand Up” Strike. It was the first UAW-Ford Local in the country to go on strike in the fall of 2023. That strike made it possible to secure record contracts for our active members, as well as, negotiate a few things for our Retirees.

These wins help build power and solidarity among the membership. It helps to make our union strong!

Our members were happy to welcome VP Harris and Tim Walz to Michigan and Region 1A. There was tremendous excitement! It was a great experience for those in attendance. Our members heard firsthand what they plan to do for working men and women in this country, as well as what they plan to do for unions and union members across this country.

I think we all know that Michigan is a

**We are ready to meet the challenges of today and those the future may bring!  
We are stronger than ever because “WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!”**

# ADVISORY COUNCIL Report

by Pat Greca, Advisory Council Delegate

## Retiree Retreat

As the leaves begin to fall, I am reflecting on all the UAW Region 1A Retiree activities throughout the summer months.

The Region 1A Retiree Retreat to Black Lake was filled with day trips to the Traverse City Cherry Festival, Casino, Mackinaw City, and Mackinac Island, in addition to activities at Black Lake which included a beach party, shuttle bus tour of the grounds, bingo, and movie night followed by karaoke at Mazie's and Sports Bar games. Most of all, there was visiting and relaxing with old friends and meeting new ones, all while enjoying three meals a day serviced by the gracious kitchen and dining room staff.

Thanks to Jeff Morris and everyone at Region 1A who organized and helped in making it a fun-filled, care-free time for all.

The picnic in August was a well-attended summer outing, with great food, and most of all a relaxing space for fellowship and catching up with Union

friends. Hoping you will join us next year!

I also attended the Hanger Event at Detroit Metro Airport to hear the Harris/Walz team fire up the crowd. The following day, I was able to attend the Local 900 event, where I met and had a photo taken with our Vice President and Presidential candidate Kamala Harris, which was pretty cool. I had a similar opportunity earlier this year with President Biden. I have met a sitting President and Vice President of these United States in my 70th year on this earth, pretty amazing. I can hardly believe it!

November is right around the corner. Your right to vote should not be taken for granted. Many people in countries around this world still don't have this privilege and are fighting and dying to get it. Please exercise this right and vote.

I have a couple of updates. The Retiree Christmas Party tickets for December 9th are available at the Region, and watch your mail for the last mailings from UAW Trust with 2025 updates on your coverage for next year, and the 2025 Medicare Booklet.



## Important Dates

I will start out by mentioning the important dates for the month of September.



- September 3rd was the first day the American flag was flown in 1777.
- September 11th marked the 23rd anniversary of the World Trade Center attack. That was a day the fabric of America changed. Patriotism was at an all-time high, not seen since WWII. We came together as a nation. We are a divided nation now. It is my hope that it will not take another tragedy to unite us once again.
- September 18th marks the 77th Anniversary of the Air Force.
- September 20th is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.
- September 29th is Gold Star Mothers' and Family Day.

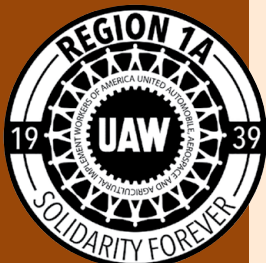
As reported, the PACT Act is helping 400,000 new claimants, 38,000 here in Michigan. While this is good news, it has been reported that the VA will need another \$3 billion in their budget to handle everything.

At the end of September, Congress passed a budget extension. Again, there is not much positive news from Washington. If a full budget does not get passed, we face another possible shutdown. This affects everyone in the country. Our military could have their pay put on hold. VA payments could be put on hold. Compensation and pension payments and survivors and readjustment benefits scheduled for October 1st could be at risk.

The CARES Act was established in 2011 for seriously injured 911 Veterans. It was expanded in 2018 to include Veterans of all eras, beginning in 2021 with Veterans through the Vietnam War, and again in 2022 for Veterans who served from 1975-2001.

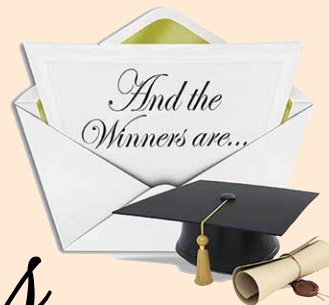
The program offers monthly monetary stipends and health benefits to the caregivers of Veterans who would need full-time care to remain in their homes or be institutionalized. Those caregivers are family or friends who supply daily support to the veteran.

New guidelines have been in the works for over 2 years. They still have not been published. The VA has estimated roughly 1/3 of the 19,000 participants would no longer meet eligibility standards. The VA announced it would halt dismissals from the program for the legacy participants until the fall of 2025, while it reassessed the new requirements.



The Retired Workers Council Scholarship Committee would like to thank all the high school seniors who entered their Retiree Scholarship essays this year. We enjoyed reading them and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

UAW REGION 1A  
Director Laura Dickerson and  
the Retired Workers Council



# Congratulates our 2024 RETIREE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## \$1,200 Scholarship Awardees...

- KENNEDY N. COOK.....Michigan State University  
*Father: Joseph A. Cook, UAW Local 372*
- PEYTON KLEIN..... Washtenaw Community College  
*Grandfather: Reuben Oscar Klein, UAW Local 892*

## \$1,000 Scholarship Awardees...

- MAYA ZALESKI .....Michigan State University  
*Grandfather: Edward Gerak, UAW Local 163*
- ISABELLA GARCIA .....Michigan State University  
*Grandfather: Isidro Garcia, UAW Local 387*
- CHRISTIAN PETE PRINZEVSKI ..... Grand Valley State University  
*Grandfather: Vincent Lughermo, UAW Local 600*
- RYAN HAMMOND .....Indiana Institute of Technology  
*Father: Jeff Hammond, UAW Local 1284*



# BLACK LAKE RETIREE Retreat 2024



## CHAPTER 36 REPORT



Chair – **YVONNE HARRIS**

### Plenty of Events

Hello Family,

UAW Local 36 Retired Brothers, Sisters and Associate members, it is my pleasure to report to you and on behalf of the Executive Board. We wish you and your family the very best.

Summer is winding down, and the snowbirds are preparing to head south to extend their summer. Safe travels.

Just a reminder, this is flu season. Get your shots for both the flu and the new covid dosage.

Members who attended the Region 1A Black Lake Retreat for Retired members, June 30th to July 3rd, reported back with “what an awesome time we had.”

Our special guests, for 2024 shared an abundance of useful information...

- *Bob Sisler Chair, LU 6000 and Chair, Region 1A Retiree's Workers Council*
- *Reps: From “Retirement Strategies of*

*Michigan” shared Financing concerns*

- *Reps: Ms. Angie and Ms. Ashley from “Walton Wood Carriage Park” Retirement living*
- *Reps: Dr. P Duren and Assistant Ms. Sylvia from “Universal Dementia Caregivers” – Remember, Caregivers need help also.*

Great UAW news, the membership is growing, signing on Volkswagen, Tennessee GM's Ultium Cells, and Second Southern Auto Industry Plant. We stand with our UAW Brothers and Sisters at Stellantis.

It is always a pleasure to have the VEBA Trust team attend our meetings, sharing pertinent information and answering questions. Their next scheduled visit is November 18, 2024, with an overview of the 2025 “Health Care Benefits,” so mark your calendar. Please keep your *Highlights* booklet. This is a very useful tool. We are looking forward seeing you, to share a “Thanksgiving” luncheon.

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Hopefully, you have requested *your* absentee ballot. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Get your December 9, 2024 Region 1A Retiree's Christmas Holiday luncheon tickets early.

We are accepting donations of socks, gloves and scarves for “*Keeping our Seniors Warm*” and “*Coffee for Vets*” for local nursing homes

and V.A. centers. They really appreciate our thoughtfulness. Please donate.

Thank you for the outstanding work and support you give to our Executive Board, Rhonda Carpenter (A.M.), George Love, A. Griffin, Nika (Charlotte) El, and Duane Nunnally. Special appreciations to our Chaplain, Greg Wilson, and the thoughtfulness of our Volunteers.

Remember we have “One Call Now.” Please join to keep yourself posted.

The *RETIREE NEWS* publication is a very useful tool. Use it.

Our meetings are the third Monday of each month, 10:30 a.m., at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48150. There will be no meetings this coming January, February, and March.

On December 16, 2024 is the UAW Local 36 Retirees Christmas Luncheon. We hope to see you at this event.

Please remember that you can transfer back to your home UAW Local Union.

We appreciate your hospitality always, UAW Local 182, thank you.

In closing, our deepest condolences to the families on the passings of our Brothers and Sisters. Please keep their families in your prayers, as well as prayers for the sick and shut-ins.

In Solidarity my brothers and sisters, stay safe, God bless you, God bless America, and the UAW. *Until Next Time...*

## CHAPTER 78 REPORT



Chair – **NATHANIEL ‘DAN’ BISHOP**

### Stand Up and be Counted

Greetings to our Retirees and Retired Spouses,

I do hope each of you and your loved ones are doing well and have had an enjoyable summer. I pray you may have overcome whatever challenges you may have faced and may be facing.

We know that each day has a way of bringing its own set of issues. Having that in mind, we know that one of the issues that is facing us, as

a nation, is the upcoming General Election. No doubt, this 2024 election will be one of the most impactful elections in our lifetime. Your personal view of this upcoming election does matter. What you are seeing and hearing should allow you to understand that we're at an extremely dangerous time here in our nation. How you see this upcoming election should be an eye opener that goes to the very heart of where we are and our future.

#### How Do You See The Upcoming Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024?

When you have received your copy of the *RETIREE NEWS*, we will be well into our fall season, with only weeks away from our General Election. Just think, early voting in some states is well underway, and millions of dollars have and is being spent on campaign ads for U.S. President, and down-ballot candidates.

As we have seen during the debates, and heard all the good, the bad, and the ugliness of each candidate, each of us must be ready to cast our vote for truth, honesty, and the candidates with a decency of character who will lead us in a direction for the good of all and not just a few. Please make sure you are:

1. Registered to vote.
2. Encouraging your family members to be ready to vote?
3. Fully aware of the issues and the impact this election will have on you and the future of our Nation.

4. Seeing this election with 20/20 vision.

So, to that end, it's time for your voice to be heard and for you to stand up and be counted!

#### SENIOR ALLIANCE INFORMATION 1-800-815-1112

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

#### REMINDERS

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

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

#### REGION 1A

9560 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180

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

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

DETROIT RETIREES, CALL:

**ZF (TRW) Service Center**

877-698-7910, press “2”

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

ROMULUS RETIREES, CALL:

**PBGC – Customer Contact Center**

800-400-7242

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

**MY UNION  
MY VOTE**

**I'M SUPPORTING CANDIDATES  
WHO SUPPORT WORKING PEOPLE**

# CHAPTER 163 REPORT



Chair - **ROY GONZALEZ**

Yeah, who said at Arlington National Cemetery that all those military buried there are “suckers and losers.” Trump who said he does not like POWs, those same POWs who put their all on the line for America, with thousands dying in captivity from starvation, beatings, total neglect, brutal slave work, and other means to kill their hope for survival.

Yeah, Trump, who said windmills cause cancer. His diagnosis will go down in history. Trump who also advocated bleach to cure Covid-19, another historical diagnosis, and Trump said if he loses there will be a blood bath.

Yeah, Trump, who advocates any kind of violence to achieve his aim to become an American dictator and to heck with America’s great democracy.

Anyone voting for Trump is not only cutting their own throat, they are also cutting the throats of all Americans. The path is clear. Voting for Democrats is the only way Americans can continue the path to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

*Take care, and be well...*

# CHAPTER 227 REPORT



Chair - **ELMER DUFF**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Fall is upon us, and you know what that means. Yes, we must put the flip-flops away until next year. Hope everyone had a great summer, enjoyed the outside, and got your barbecue on.

Now, it’s time to get down to business. In just a few weeks, one of the most important decisions that we will make in a lifetime will affect us for the rest of our lives and generations to come. It’s how we will vote in the General Election.

The UAW has endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for many reasons. As a retiree, it’s Medicare and Social Security that I have to think about. The question is: *Can you live only on your pension, with no Social Security?* I can’t. So why even think about someone who wants to take our Social Security away, or cut it to give it to others.

*You must vote this election to keep your lifestyle.*

*Vote as if your life depends on it.*

On January 1, 2025, your OTC will go from \$200.00 a year to \$350.00 a year. Keep your OTC card and book. Those who have questions about their benefits can ask the Benefit Trust team. They will be at the November meeting.

2025 will be the 100-year anniversary of the Chrysler brand... *Happy Anniversary!*

It is with great sadness that we announce the passings of Joseph “Marty” Toth, and Phillip Scott (husband of Sharon Scott).

We will shut down after our Christmas Luncheon on December 18, 2024, and resume March 19, 2025.

Remember to get your family and friends out to vote. We have early voting in Michigan, so take advantage of it.

Our meetings are held at Local 600 with a 10:00 a.m. social hour, and Meetings starts at 11:00 a.m. *Have a great fall!*

# CHAPTER 182 REPORT



Chair - **GEORGE ‘MICKEY’ HERRICK**

On October 26th, the Local will have its Trunk or Treat. There will be prizes for best trunks and lots of candy for the kids. Bring your best costume, have fun, and please be safe during Halloween. It just so happens to be the Michigan/Michigan State game that Saturday and we will have a TV on site, so bring the kids and watch the game. Call Local 182 at 734-427-5560 for times for the event.

In November, we will be having the Region 1A military representative Edward Jackson to let our veterans know what benefits are available to them for serving in our military (and their spouses).

For the month of December, we party like the Kennedys. Please come and let us know how you are doing and see some old friends and make some new ones. Also, welcome all new retirees.

I will close by saying November is not far off and that’s when we’ll vote for our leader and their assistant. *Please vote-vote-vote!*

Hope everyone had a great summer and please have a safe fall and winter.

## Strength in Unity

Hi Retired Brothers and Sisters of Region 1A,

Summer has come and gone and now it is time for fall. Also, it’s an important year. We are electing a new President of the United States of America. There seems to be a huge divide amongst us voters. All I will say is, “let your conscience be your guide,” which is a famous quote from my hero, Jiminy Cricket.

***“Please Vote! It’s Your Right!”***

Our meetings started back up on September 12th, with Michael L. Buza speaking to our members about sustainable energy. He also spoke at the delegates meeting last May, and I thought our members would be interested.

At our meeting in October, we will have Kroger pharmacy here to administer vaccinations for the flu, covid, RSV, shingles, and pneumonia. This meeting will be on October 10th, starts at 10:00 a.m., and runs till noon or until everyone has been served. All are welcome if they wish to get their shots. We will also be having the TRUST address our retirees. We are located at 35603 Plymouth Road in Livonia, between Levan and Wayne Road, on the south side of Plymouth Road.

We will have our Local 182 Car Show and Chili Cook-off on October 5th at the Local. The show begins at 10 a.m. and goes until 2:00 p.m.

## Are you paying your retiree dues? Maybe NOT!

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

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



**40% to UAW Retired Workers Department**

**35% to Local Retiree Chapter**

**25% to Regional Retired Workers Fund**

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

# CHAPTER 245 REPORT



Chair - LARRY F. KELSEY

The UAW Local 245 Golf Outing was held and everyone had a great time there also.

The VEBA representative will be at the Retiree Union Meeting in November. This is a great time once a year to come and ask questions about your benefits. You should have received a flyer about the new changes for the coming year regarding your benefits by now.

Our Executive Board member Gerry Maurer is putting on an Electrician Update Code class at the Local on November 9, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Local 245.

Do not forget our Retirees Christmas Party, to be held the third Thursday in December (December 19th), at the Stitt Post American Legion Hall. It is located on the street behind the Boneyard Restaurant at Telegraph and Warren.

You need to sign up at the Retiree Meeting or call the Local with how many are coming. This is so we have a headcount for the food.

At our September meeting, it was brought to our attention that the following retirees passed away:

- Richard Nicolai.....A/C
  - R. Kramer .....Pipefitter
  - George Fontana.....Carpenter
  - Mike Black.....Electrician
  - Terrell Kromer .....Electrician
- Please keep these brothers in your prayers.*

In closing, I would like to thank the Retiree Executive Board for all of their help this year. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year.

*God Bless America!*

## Events Abound

This article will be the last one printed until next year.

The Local held its Retiree Golf Outing put on by Vice President Tom Rizzo. Everyone who attended had a great time.

# CHAPTER 372 REPORT



Chair - GEORGE TURNER

a lot of useful information for seniors, like avoiding trip hazards, managing life events, and saving money. Now that we're retired, it's time to spend and enjoy some of that hard-earned



money. Life is short! I don't want to sound harsh, but I've told my kids, I'm not leaving you any money. I worked for 40 years, and now it's time for my wife and me to enjoy our lives. If you've worked most of your adult life also, it is time for us to enjoy the fruits of our labor!

### Holiday Scams Targeting Seniors

Scams targeting the elderly ramp up during this time of year, especially involving cell phones, home phones, and online shopping. Be vigilant about what you're doing. When you answer your phone or use apps like *Cash App* for sending and receiving money, be cautious about third-party scams. Also watch out for people coming to your door pretending to be utility workers, they may not be who they claim to be.

TV ads are also often used to scam retirees, particularly for medical insurance. Be careful when responding to any offers.

If you are considering changing your medical plan, make sure to check with your Benefits Rep first.

As tax season approaches, be especially cautious with the information you share. Protect your Social Security number and personal items to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands. Stay safe and be alert.

### Veterans Report

Thank you for sending me to Black Lake. It was a very informative trip. I brought back valuable information about the PACT Act for all veterans. There are a lot of new benefits available for veterans, including to those related

to toxic exposure. One significant thing I learned was how much toxic exposure veterans endure, similar to what first responders faced after 9/11. From gun ranges to various military service environments, veterans have been exposed to harmful substances. I encourage everyone to sign up for these benefits.

### What Is A Veteran

A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check payable to the United States of America for an amount up to, and including, their life. That is true honor and, unfortunately, too many people no longer understand this fact.

*And let's not forget - Veterans Day is on November 11th. Let's honor our veterans!*

### Local 372 Updates

To my brothers and sisters of Local 372, I want to say how much we all enjoyed the baseball game at Comerica Park this year. It was an honor.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our Local 372 Christmas Party on December 10th, 11:00 a.m., at Region 1A, 9650 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI 48180.

### VOTE, VOTE, VOTE

I have faith that Kamala Harris will win this election, but I believe it's going to be a tough and ugly race. We must be prepared. As they say, "In times of peace, prepare for war. In times of war, prepare for peace." So, let's be ready. *Vote, Vote, Vote!*

Have a safe and happy holiday! If you love your freedom, thank a vet.

## Growing Old, Don't Make It Hard To Do:

My wife and I were outside doing yard work when I asked her, "Are these statues getting heavier?" She replied, "No, you're just getting older." As retirees, we have to accept aging gracefully and keep an eye on each other. If you live alone, make sure you have someone to call and check in on you regularly.

I enjoy reading the *AARP magazine*. It offers



There is hope.

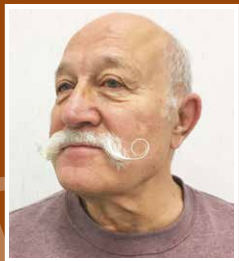
If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



# CHAPTER 723 REPORT



Chair – **ROBERT CEBINA**

at the Local 723 Union Hall. We would love to see more of our retirees coming to the meetings and of course sharing the meal that goes with the meetings. Currently, the meals are \$10.00 per person. I don't believe that you can find a meal and beverage anyplace else in Monroe for \$10.00, including dessert.

With that being said, I hope that you will start coming to the meetings and enjoy the fellowship with your sisters and brothers and check out the food. We are averaging about 40-50 members coming to the meetings. Currently, there are about 1,240 members in the Local 723 Retiree Chapter.

If you are out and about and see a retiree from the Local, please let them know of the meetings.

Our Local 723 Retirees Chapter is still in need of members to come forth and fill the positions of Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and members to collect the money at the door. These positions do not involve a lot of work or time. If anyone is interested, please contact the Local or me. With these positions open, we are in violation of the bylaws of the UAW, Region 1A, and Local 723.

Sisters and brothers, election time will soon be upon us once again. I am not going to barrage you with who to vote for or who not to vote for. First, what I would like you to do is to get out there and vote. Yes, we need candidates who are labor friendly, but that is not the only critical item that we are faced with in this country of ours. We truly need candidates who will stand up and put forth what is the best course of action for this great country and its people.

Let us not put forth what is best for one's political party. That is not going to get this country out of the crisis we are in. There are those who believe that all is well in this country. Let us all choose the right leaders to lead this great country of ours. I do not choose a political party. I choose candidates who stand up to be the leaders that we need.

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

God bless all of you.

## Vote For America

Greetings UAW Local 723 Retirees,  
I hope that all of you are in the best of health these days since our last meeting.

If you happen to know of one of our retiree members have passed away, please let me or the Local know, so we can let the retiree members know who has passed on.

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

Sisters and brothers, the UAW Local 723 Retiree Meetings and luncheon are still being held on the third Thursday of the month, 1:00 p.m.,

I strongly encourage all of our members to vote for people who have been screened and endorsed by members like yourself to determine if they are supportive of unions, workers, working families, and our retirees. *This is very important!*



Walz ticket to help move our country and our members forward, and to also vote the rest of the ballot based on those candidates who have earned the UAW endorsement.

In other news, our Christmas Party has been moved to Waynetree Manor on Van Born Road in Wayne, MI. The date is Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The tickets are \$20 per person. Each member can buy 2 tickets. Tickets will be available at our next Retiree Chapter Meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. Thereafter, please check in on the *Local 735 Forever* facebook page to see other dates when tickets will be available for purchase.

This meeting on October 9, 2024 is also a Healthcare Fair, where the UAW Trust will review our healthcare benefits for 2025.

I hope to see many of you at our October, November and December events.

How can we, as retired autoworkers, vote for a person who openly stated that autoworkers were overpaid, their jobs should be shipped to plants in the south, and then let the workers beg to get their jobs at half the wages. These words came directly from now former president Donald Trump in 2019, when the GM Union members were on strike. A person who says this is not a friend of labor unions, and therefore cannot be your friend.

Vice President Kamala Harris, during her tenure as a U.S. Senator and as Vice President, has consistently supported us. The UAW is requesting you cast your ballot for the Harris/

have slipped my mind. Some of the things that have slipped my mind include doctors' appointments, birthdays, what I went to the store for, and even the deadline for the Region 1A *RETIREE NEWS*. Yes, I am a day late, but I will call Maria and hope that she can get this in.

So, let me try to remind all of you what we still have as retirees from the auto plants. We still have a pension. To many of us, that means that our spouse may one day be dependent on receiving a portion to support them if something should happen to us. Please make sure that your retirement company has *all* the correct information, so that your spouse can receive all that she/he can.

Call the Ford retirement board, GM retirement board, or Stellantis to verify this information. We also have a life insurance policy, which

may differ from each company. Many things change throughout our lives, we may have lost a loved one, and our beneficiaries may need to be updated. Here is the one that we seem to forget

See **CHAPTER 845 on Page 8**

# CHAPTER 735 REPORT



Chair – **SHIRLEY POLING**

## Cast Your Ballot

Dear Local 735 Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this article, many of you are receiving Absentee Ballot Applications in the mail. If not, please stop by your local City or Township Hall and request an application for your Absentee Ballot. You will then be able to thoughtfully cast your ballot in the comfort of your own home.

have slipped my mind. Some of the things that have slipped my mind include doctors' appointments, birthdays, what I went to the store for, and even the deadline for the Region 1A *RETIREE NEWS*. Yes, I am a day late, but I will call Maria and hope that she can get this in.

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See **CHAPTER 845 on Page 8**

# CHAPTER 845 REPORT



Chair – **MIKE LAMBERT**

## Come Join Us

It seems that this year has been going by so fast for me. It is already October and the weather has just started cooling off here in Michigan. There are so many things that have happened, yet so many more things will happen soon.

I am often reminded about many things that



# CHAPTER 849 REPORT



Chair – **BOB BOWEN**

physical strength back and enjoy the time she has left had been no more than a delusional dream.

### Anger

Now, I can see that the anger I felt toward those who suggested Etta would be better off in a long-term facility, or in hospice, was misdirected. Instead of making a difficult decision, I had wanted someone to tell me what to do. I had to step up and remember the conversations we had when she first realized what was coming her way. Be honest, don't hide anything. Tell others what to expect. Maybe it will help someone.

### Grief

I doubt that the feeling of grief will ever go away. It lingers in memories when I think of the things I could have done to be a better husband and father. It is present now, as I contemplate a future without her. And I'm certain that it will greet me every morning when I arise and say good morning to an empty house.

Thank you for allowing me the space to share our experience with you in the Region 1A *RETIREE NEWS*. I'll close with this summation and a recommendation:

### Fading Away

We are born, blossom forth to become the pinnacle of God's creation, then fade away. Some mature slower and fade later, but we all fade away to make room for a new generation. Yesterday's graduations, weddings, and retirements become distant and forgotten memories. The beginning of the end is broadcast through the body, as we stumble and fall, and fail to respond to signals sent from the brain to the nerves, and the muscles that refuse to move our limbs.

We lament that our lives are too short and that by the time we are strong and knowledgeable we are off to work. Unfortunately, by the time we recognize what has value in this life, our lives are almost over.

### Lessons Learned

Like Tommy Lee Jones, we have learned this is no country for old men [or women]. If you work

hard to leave a nest egg for the next generation, there is a good chance that you may have to surrender it to pay your nursing home bills, which often cost thousands of dollars a month.

Thanks to the Medicare Act, passed by Lyndon Johnson in 1965, when the end of life is near, at-home hospice care can be a blessing. At-home hospice care is a blessing to a person who wants to pass from this life surrounded by their family. It also eliminates the need to pay for expensive stays at a long-term facility. Medicare covers most of the supplies and medical expenses that a terminally ill person needs to die with dignity. However, it does not cover the cost of housing at a nursing home.

It's human nature to feel bad when we hear about another person who is approaching death, but it can be fearfully paralyzing when the person who is passing is a member of your family.

If a loved one of yours has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, please ask your doctor or social worker about hospice care and other options that may take a load off your mind, and allow your loved one to gracefully fade away. *[Etta Bowen went into hospice care on September 20, 2024.]*

### Our Meetings Schedule

Don't miss our Chapter's 58th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, October 17.

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

### Upcoming 2024 Meeting Dates:

- October 17 – 58th Anniversary, Social Hour 11:00 a.m. to 11:45, Meal at 12:00 noon
- November 21 – Voluntary Employee Benefit Association representative and providers to go over medical benefits, 12:00 noon social, 1:00 p.m. meeting
- December 3 – Christmas Party, 12:00 noon

### In Memoriam

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

*Doris Muszynski*..... 2/21/23 - 1/31/24

*Robert R. Olszewski* ..... 9/8/37 - 2/14/24

*Robert Glenn Dunlap*..... 6/26/64 - 2/26/24

*Leon Sidney Spragg* ..... 8/14/34 - 5/20/24

*Daniel Matthew Evans*..... 1/23/49 - 7/12/24

*Jean P. Abdulla* ..... 7/24/37 - 7/13/24

*Glenn Michael Massengill*..... 2/5/47 - 8/25/24

If you have information about the passing of an 849 Member, please email Bob Bowen at [bowl59@gmail.com](mailto:bowl59@gmail.com), or call (734) 482-6213 and leave a message, including your name and a phone number. I will return your call.

### Email Problems

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

## Fading Away

On the way to plan the inevitable funeral for my hospice-bound wife, the words of her doctors, social worker, and therapists echoed through my mind. When the reality of her situation hit, and my grief surfaced, I became angry, and strangely, guilty.

### Denial

It took a few months for their words to sink in. Reviewing her history, I finally understood that I had been in a state of denial for a long time. Etta gave up her driver's license eight years ago, and surrendered her right to share in the family's financial decision making. Two years ago, she even gave up the right to make medical decisions that affected her.

Why couldn't I recognize that, in addition to her dementia, a progressive degeneration of her physical abilities was becoming irreversible? How many times would Etta have to wait in an emergency room after falling? How many times would Etta spend a week recovering in a hospital or going to a rehab facility? Going home was no longer possible. How could I take care of her? If she tries to walk, she will fall, and all the firemen at the station, and all the doctors at the hospital won't be able to put her together again.

### Guilt

When I realized how I had denied the seriousness of her condition, I felt a guilt that only a perpetrator can feel. By denying what was going on with my wife, my hope that she could get her

## RETIREES CHAPTER 845 *continued from Page 7*

until the first of October... the Over-The-Counter CVS card. Each of us have a \$200.00 benefit. Please see that yours is used.

As another reminder, our Medical Trust will be at our November 14th meeting.

Now for all of you Local 845 retirees, we had a fantastic day with our Sheldon Road Survivors Reunion. We shared great food and memories throughout the day.

We are planning a Holiday Open House at our Union Hall on December 12th, beginning at 11:00 a.m. until around 3:00 p.m. As always, we ask that our retirees bring an unwrapped gift to share with our *Marines Toys For Tots*. I will be delivering them to the Rawsonville Local the following Wednesday at the UAW Veterans meeting.

Now, I am looking to retire from being the Chairman of Local 845 Retirees. The little lady and I are planning to do some extra traveling before we are too old to take the grandkids.

I have truly enjoyed sharing the past 18 years of retirement with each of you, and helping to bring information from our UAW leadership each month to our members. This in no way means that I will not continue to be there for each of you when you need someone to stand with you. I will always be there to help when asked.

I am hoping that someone will come forward who has the time to attend the multiple monthly meetings.



**CHAPTER  
892  
REPORT**



**Chair – JIM PEDERSEN**

Regardless of the match, I understood that most workers approach politics from self-interest and an honest assessment of what is in their self-interest. If a UAW member feels strongly about issues outside of collective bargaining and paycheck issues, so be it. I get that. I can accept that many members have various views on divisive things like guns, access to abortion, etc. Our Union measures the support or lack of support for basic economic issues and Union rights. We stay in the lane, and a difference over things outside of the contracts and economic forces that control our work lives has to be accepted, in a free society.

But what if the disagreement is over reality or fantasy? What if there is no agreement to basic truth and logic? What if we're dealing with lies, distortions and fictitious rumors? How can our Union and workers endorse or support a charlatan, a proven liar and a candidate who willfully lies?

As I write this, Donald J. Trump is coming off a few weeks where he insisted that outrageous lies are true. He said immigrants are stealing dogs and cats to eat. He said Canada has a giant faucet that they turn on or off to get water to Los Angeles over a thousand miles away. He said "20 million immigrants" have come in the last three years, mostly criminals and insane persons. Either Trump is a liar, or he believes some outlandish fiction. Either way, we can't endorse him.

How can we have honest differences with

a basically dishonest person? Union members can disagree over a lot of things – immigration, abortion, gun safety, LGBTQ rights, things outside of our work and Union world, but how can we agree or disagree when we can't start with some basic facts? Every set of negotiations begins with an agreement on basic facts, like the current agreement if one exists, or a basic set of factual numbers, like wages, insurance costs, hours worked, number of employee members, future work coming in, jobs leaving, etc.

Remember that Basic Union 101 is that the goal is an agreement, not a strike, and you can't get an agreement unless both sides are honest and can agree on something. My union, the UAW, reaches agreement with corporations that don't like us, that want us gone, that never wanted to come to the bargaining table and reach an agreement. We can do this because there is a basic set of laws and facts that everybody has to recognize, otherwise there is no agreement and never will be.

We endorse candidates who agree on some basic Union principles, that support self-organizing, collective bargaining and the right to strike, Union principles, and candidates who are real and honest. Our Union endorsements should be just as important and respected as our contracts, as they are reached openly, honestly, based in reality, and with our Union's best interests in mind.

**Base Your Vote On Reality**

I retired from the International UAW National CAP Department in 2012, after a lifetime of political involvement and activism. During my career as a CAP Rep. and my involvement in local politics, I spent a lot of time encouraging, persuading and educating workers on the importance of being involved and following our Union's political endorsements.

I got into some pretty heated arguments over principles and policies that help or hurt our members, their families and their communities. I can go toe to toe and argue that NAFTA was a bad policy, but Bill Clinton was, overall, good for our Union. That John Kerry was a better choice for autoworkers than anti-union George Bush. That Barack Obama was going to be a great President, while John McCain would mostly benefit the wealthy and big business.

**CHAPTER  
898  
REPORT**



**Chair – SHEILA PEDERSEN**

It's long overdue. *Please Vote!*

There is a small-city-size rock headed towards us, but don't worry they say. We're going to have a second moon for a few weeks... right. What could go wrong?

There are strikes all over the country. People need more in their paychecks, because corporate greed has overtaken us.

Global warming is real. It's snowing in Egypt. It's just hard to watch the news, the lies, and the stress from it all.

What can I do? Nothing, except for what is normal. Get up, get my granddaughter to school, she's learning to talk, I am grateful. Feed the pets, water my flowers (what's left of them). Plan for

guests, plan for the holidays, pray for those who have passed, pray for all of us. Praying for my friends and family who have lost their spouses. Local 898 has lost many members this year and we just lost an icon in the UAW, Dave Curson, we are saddened by his passing.

My prayers this election cycle are also for my husband, who decided to try to make this village a better place – Jim Pedersen for *Cassopolis.com*.

As this is the last 2024 *RETIREE NEWS*, we send our love to you all, and hope your holidays are bright.

The Local 898 Retirees Chapter continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. We hope to see you soon.

**What Can We Do?**

What a strange year it has been so far. A sitting President drops out of the race and, hopefully, we will elect our first woman President in November.

**CHAPTER  
900  
REPORT**



**Chair – KATIE MARTIN**

Summer is gone and fall is here. Summer was beautiful. June 30th through July 3rd, 2024 was our Black Lake Retiree Retreat. If you have never been there, talk with your President (you can bring a guest). It was great.

On August 22, 2024, we held our Retired Workers Council Retiree Picnic, at Newport Fireman's Park, 9005 Brandon Road, in Newport, MI.

Local 900 meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, except July and August. They start at 11:00 a.m., and lunch is served at 12:00 noon.

On December 5, 2024, the Local 900 Retiree Christmas Luncheon will be held at Local 900 along with the membership meeting, VEBA Trust and all your healthcare providers.

On December 9, 2024, is the Region 1A

Retired Workers Holiday Luncheon. All retirees are welcome. Tickets are available at our Retiree Meeting.

Remember and please don't forget to *vote* on November 5, 2024.

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS:**

VEBA Trust.....	1-866-637-7555
Davis Vision.....	1-888-234-5164
Delta Dental.....	1-800-524-0149
Tru Hearing.....	1-844-394-5420
Optum RX.....	1-855-409-0219
MetLife.....	1-833-552-3673
Ford Retiree Board .....	1-800-829-8833
UAW Legal Service .....	1-800-482-7700
AXZ Plan .....	1-800-348-7709

**Upcoming Events**

Greetings Sisters & Brothers

First, I want to welcome all new retirees. We are happy to have you as part of our Retiree family, and we look forward in sharing healthcare and promoting unity.

# CHAPTER 931 REPORT



President – SYLVIA GRIFFIN

on our working journey, as we contemplate candidates who have our best interests in mind. We worked long and hard to support our families, but now much of that work is at risk of being taken away from the futures of our children and grandchildren by some of the proposed efforts of active candidates and their platforms.

The time has passed where we can only be concerned about *our* votes. We have work to do to express the importance of voting beyond our ballot!

As retirees, we belong to one of the largest bodies of strong working people, the UAW. We fight until we win...we fight for us, we fight for our families, and we fight for our communities! Many initiatives are at risk in this year's election.

A few of those include:

1. Social Security Cuts
2. Higher Taxes
3. Women's Rights
4. A Threat to Education

We worked 30+ years and we won't settle for less in our retirement years simply because some people fail to listen to us or value our contributions. We will show up in the polls, and we will encourage others to do the same, as we vote for people who are committed to protecting the futures for us and our families. Let's take our "souls to the polls" as if our lives depend on it... because frankly, it does!

Remember that early voting has begun, as we race to the November 5th voting deadline.

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

- November 20, 2024 at Golden Corral, located at 14691 Huron Street, Taylor, MI (just east of I-75 near Eureka), so save the date as I hope to see you in attendance.
  - December 7, 2024 at Crystal Gardens Hall, located at 16703 Fort Street in Southgate, MI
- Until next time, stay connected, stay engaged, and stay informed.

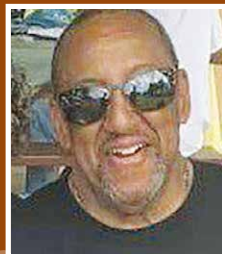
## Voting Beyond Our Ballot

Greetings Retiree Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer, as we now find ourselves embarking on a new calendar season. With the fall amongst us, the campaign season is also among us, and in full bloom. Candidate visits, commercials, mailings, and platforms are in overdrive.

As retirees, it's important that we look back

# CHAPTER 1776 REPORT



Chair – DERIC TWIGGS

we have to make a difference. Whether you use an absentee ballot or you physically go to the polls, *please vote!* Your vote does matter.

Our picnic was a success, as we had plenty of good food and fellowship. It would be nice if more retirees would come out for fellowship with other retirees.

I would like to thank our Local 1776 Retiree Committee – Edna Smith, Ann Carte, and Rose Davis – for their committed and loyal participation. They are applauded for their efforts in planning and preparing for our picnics and Christmas events. I also thank Retiree Jerry Clifton for always providing us with information on various topics.

It is important to sign in at the meetings to ensure we have your current cell phone number,

so you can be called, or texted, informing you of any updates or changes to our meeting days.

Our annual Christmas Party will be on our regular meeting date, Thursday December 19, 2024 at the UAW Local 182 Union Hall. Bring another retiree and your spouse with you to share in a good meal and fellowship.

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

Please continue to encourage our members to join us at our regular monthly meetings:

### Retirees Chapter Local 1776 Meetings

*Every third Thursday of each month*

11:00 a.m. at UAW Local 182

35603 Plymouth Road

Livonia, MI 48150

## Your Union Meetings

As the summer ends and we descend into fall, the Presidential Election will be here in November. I plead with everyone for you and your families to vote!

We must realize the importance of the power

## BOB SISLER *continued from Cover Page*

living wage, and *justice* promoted on all levels of society, you have *peace* in the society.

As I left the conference, I was asked to read these words, that seemed so appropriate after the conference:

Consider your calling, sisters and brothers.  
 Not many of you were wise by human standards,  
 Not many were powerful,  
 Not many were of noble birth,  
 Rather, UAW chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise,  
 And chose the weak of the world to shame the strong,  
 And UAW chose the lowly and despised of the world,  
 Those who count for nothing,  
 To reduce to nothing those who are something,  
 So that no human being might boast over another human being,  
 ... who became for us the wisdom from God.

– 1st letter Corinthians

So, why are we being asked to "STAND UP" in this election? Whatever your belief, love God and love your neighbor. Did the "Big 3" win record contracts or did they gain part of what they lost to bring each company to billions in profit?

Where are our values? Control prices by stopping price gouging, support a fair tax system, allow a woman and her God to make a decision about their bodies, make sure Social Security completely protects the elderly and disabled in our society, child care and education, Medicare, be protected from Wall Street investors, and then ensure that we are...

*ALL EQUAL UNDER GOD.*

The power of the UAW has always been moving into the future together. So ask yourself, do you identify with the privileged "noble birth," the person who worked at McDonald's, or my first job, which was at an A&W root beer stand?

Too often, we make a better life and then think we are of noble birth. Ask yourself, can I survive

without my Social Security TRUST fund check? Or would you struggle.

The noble birth class in this country live on their trust funds. They want you to give up yours because they contribute to it as part of your hourly wage.

Noble birth got rid of pensions, and now we see more fellow citizens struggling without that benefit, with some not being able to retire.

So, do we "STAND UP" in solidarity, or allow our prejudice and selfishness to have a "lowly and despised world" to be blamed for the problems. Don't divide... UNITE!

I will not tell you who to vote for, but I will suggest that if you agree, get a list of all the UAW-endorsed candidates that your CAP Committee, under Director Dickerson, has prepared. *Vote the front and back of the ballot.*

We are closer to our eternal rest, so *vote* as if tomorrow the organizer will judge you on the last day, for loving your neighbor that you see, than saying you love the God you don't see.



**CHAPTER 3000 REPORT**  
 Chair – **SHARON HARDING**



On December 10th, UAW Local 3000 will host its Retiree catered Christmas Party.

We would appreciate donations for the Veterans. Please feel free to bring any new items (socks, t-shirts, and underwear for both genders) to the October and November meetings.

Once again, we will be sponsoring our annual Toys for Tots Drive. Please bring toys to the November and December meetings to help put a smile on the children's faces!

Make sure you *vote* on November 5, 2024, and have a safe and joyful Holiday Season.

**Meeting Dates** (All Meetings start at 12:00 noon)  
 October 8, 2024      December 10, 2024  
 November 12, 2024      January 14, 2024

**Holiday Activities**

Now that fall has arrived, we need to plan for the holidays. The Region 1A Retiree Christmas Party is December 9, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Crystal Gardens. The address is 16703 Fort St., Southgate, MI 48195.

Tickets are \$10 for dues-paying members and \$25 for non-dues-paying members, and will be available at UAW Local 3000.

We are pleased to announce that we will have guest speakers at our October and November meetings. In October, ophthalmologist Julie Reno, MD will do a presentation on eye disorders (i.e. dry eyes, cataracts, glaucoma)

In November, we will have VEBA Trust doing a presentation on the 2025 benefits.

**CHAPTER 6000 REPORT**  
 Vice Chair – **BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI**



statute.

**PROPOSAL B** – Updating the cap from \$300 (in 1987) to \$808 (today) and then indexing it for inflation may seem fair at first glance; however, even an updated and indexed cap would still leave a lot of State DB retirees short of realizing their full 3%.

Our goal has always been equalizing every retiree's COLA, like 3% for everyone.

**PROPOSAL C** – A replacement of the 3% and \$300 cap with a 4% and \$400 cap was never discussed! An increase from 3% to 4% might even sound like more than we asked for; however, the limiting factor is still the cap. An increase in the cap from \$300 to \$400, regardless of the percentage, would simply increase each State DB retirees COLA by a mere \$100 per year.

This is an unsupportable proposal. Keep writing to your State of Michigan Senator and Representative to remove the cap.

Michigan Legislation will be rather slow from October 2024 until after November 8, 2024 because all seats in the House of Representatives are up for election. After the November election, the legislators will be in the final stretch of the 102nd legislature 2023-2024 session. This election outcome will determine if the Democrats remain in the majority for legislation sessions for 2025-2026.

The *UAW Constitution Article 41 – Duties of Local Union Members; Section 3* – It shall be the duty of each member to participate in all local, state provincial and federal elections through registration and balloting.

Let's hope the people we elect will be responsive to the will of the electors.

**Meetings Resume**

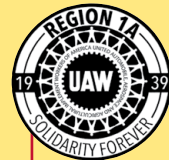
The Local 6000 Retired State of Michigan Workers are back to their monthly in-person and ZOOM meetings as of September 9, 2024 at Region 1A, 9650 S. Telegraph, Taylor, MI. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month (exception if a holiday is on the first Monday) in the months of September 2024 to May 2025. The months of June through August are off months.

The group is currently planning to set up an alternate meeting site at Region 1 in Warren, MI. Details will be announced as soon as they become available. Contact or text Bernard Nowakowski at 586-767-9303 or [big.cobra@gmail.com](mailto:big.cobra@gmail.com) for meeting times, ZOOM codes, and future locations.

Legislation on improving the cost of living for retirees in the defined benefit plan has reached the stage of an actuarial study to check on the sustained cost. These are the plans being explored for changing the \$300 cost-of-living cap.

**The Proposals:**

**PROPOSAL A** – This comes the closest to our request to scrap the annual \$300 cap and provide state DB retirees with the full 3% called for in the



**REGION 1A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL**

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- ASSISTANT 1A DIRECTOR**  
Dave Pagac
- DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY**  
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- RETIREE COORDINATOR**  
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- EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**
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  - MARIA WINTERS, LU 845  
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  - YVONNE HARRIS, LU 36  
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  - 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  
Peaches Anderson, LU 600

**Region 1A RETIREE NEWS**

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## EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

### RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL CHAIR

#### BOB SISLER

*Good-bye summer:*

The National TOP and Women's Joint Conference



was held at the end of August 2024. The last TOP Conference was held in 2019. Classes ranged from Leadership Development to Bargaining to Starting your Journey. Yoga sessions began each day.

The message was clear, the white male dominance (billionaires: Park Ave) in the business world have used division, hate, and misinformation to make women and other groups less than *Equal Justice for All*. Women are being presented as less than a man, which has plagued and continues to plague a just society.

Even though women have the right to vote, they still make less than their male counterparts. The UAW has always recognized that anyone – black, white, woman, or man – doing the same job should be paid for that job description.

Even our government does not believe a woman can make her own medical decisions. When females dominate Congress, will it be about male vasectomies to avoid abortions after 2 children?

When Rudy Nelson asked me to join the Board, I never thought he wanted me as Chair of the Retired Workers Council. It has been a challenge. I hear our members, many who struggle with issues of healthcare

“...when you have jobs at a living wage, and justice promoted on all levels of society, you have peace in the society.”

and the cost of living. I recognize what was bargained for and what we thought as guaranteed rights that have been taken away by laws and phony promises.

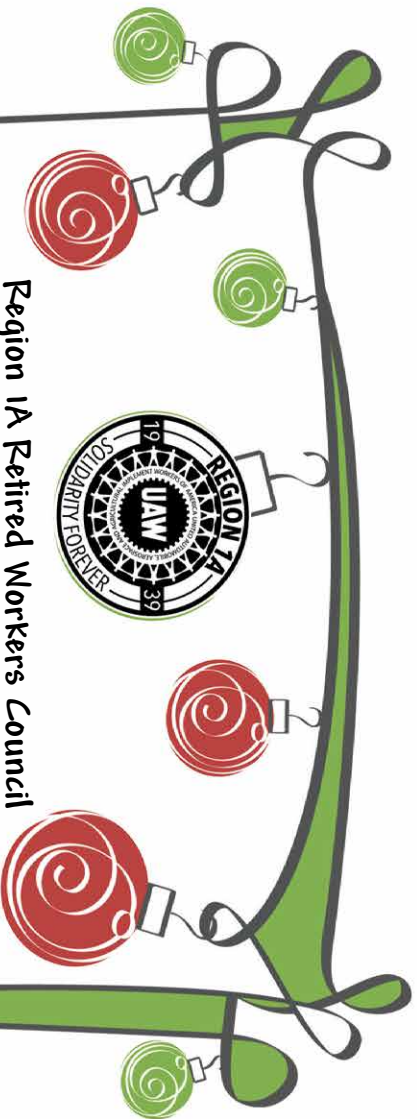
Rudy worked to include women. He was a politician and an advocate. It was easy to look at the qualities to lead and the desire for justice vs. gender. Peaches Anderson would later remind me of the lack of female representation, after years of new board members. Chuck Browning, like Rudy, noted the lack of female representation on the Executive Board.

Region 1A was noted for its leaders, and Chuck advocated for our first female black Director, Laura Dickerson. Now, Director Dickerson is also the leader of Technical Office and Professional Workers (TOP), with members suffering discrimination via laws that prevent collective bargaining and have what amounts to right-to-work rules for State workers and restrictions on education members.

Remember that we had represented State workers in Indiana, but lost that Local due to laws and policies that supported the business world and created division to ruin contracts.

TOP has a fighter in Laura Dickerson, who will take on the business world and fight for *Equal Justice for All*. Many Region 1A, Local 6000 members, including their President Kelly Barnett were elected to ITOPAC Public Sector.

A harm to one is a harm to all. Former UAW President Walter Reuther reminds us of *Jobs, Justice, and Peace* for everyone. It is clear to me that when you have jobs at a



Region 1A Retired Workers Council

## Holiday Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

CRYSTAL GARDENS BANQUET HALL  
16703 Fort St., Southgate, MI 48195

\$10.00 per Ticket      \$25.00 per Ticket  
Dues-Paying Retirees      Non-Dues-Paying  
and their Guest      Retirees

Tickets will be sold on a first-come/first-serve basis  
at the following Retired Workers Meetings:

OCTOBER 24, 2024  
NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Laura Dickerson, Director  
UAW Region 1A and  
Technical, Office and Professional (TOP)  
Department