



RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 37 – NO. 2



SUMMER 2025

FIGHTING FOR WORKING FAMILIES



REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by **Laura
DICKERSON**

Greetings Region 1A Retirees,

In the midst of our current political climate, I'm sure everyone is tired and overwhelmed with politics, these days. My apologies for adding more to your plate, but as Walter Reuther once said, "There's a direct relationship between the ballot box and the bread box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls."

Many things we have fought for and gained through collective bargaining are being lost with a swipe of a pen, the Presidential pen!

I know you all like updates from the Region. So, one of the biggest updates is the impact of tariffs. As you can see, it's mentioned every day and while we may agree on the framework, however, we do not agree with how it's being rolled out by the White House.

Here in our Region, we represent OEMs

(original equipment manufacturers), parts suppliers and a couple of steel units. Steel is especially being impacted, not just by tariffs, but also by the talk of clean energy in this State. This is very disheartening, since the impact could mean 500 members from Cleveland Cliffs could be laid off.

Some of our members being laid off have considerable seniority. We should always be our brothers' and sisters' keepers. How do you explain to our members/family that they could be laid off indefinitely?

Difficult times are ahead. Please keep our brothers and sisters in your thoughts and prayers!

Elections have consequences. I think we're seeing that every day. It's important that our members have a voice and can help decide who we endorse. Our Region, along with Region 1, have been screening together for some of the Local elections. As a result, our members and members of Region 1 made a big decision on endorsing someone for the Mayor of the City of Detroit.

The UAW Regions 1A and 1 have

endorsed Solomon Kinloch, Jr. for Mayor of the City of Detroit. This is a major endorsement!

The membership chose someone with a proven track record of taking care of the people. Candidate Kinloch's story is very intriguing. He built a church of 40 people into a system of churches with 40,000

members. He serves the community, well.

As a member of UAW Local 235, Kinloch understands our values and solidarity. He was a big help to our striking members of Local 900 during the "Stand Up" strike. He delivered food to the picket lines and made sure our striking members were fed during a time when they needed it the most.

There will be many more endorsements to

come – Governor, U.S. Senate, Secretary of State, Attorney General and many Local elections. Please remember elections have consequences!

Be sure your voice is heard this fall and in 2026, as there are many elections, next year, as well.

I appreciate all your support as we continue to fight for working families!



The UAW Regions 1A and 1 have endorsed Solomon Kinloch, Jr. for Mayor of the City of Detroit. This is a major endorsement!

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**Ford/GM/
Stellantis
Retirees Trust
HRA Benefits** **wex**

UAW RETIREE
Medical Benefits Trust
**INTRODUCING YOUR
TRUST HRA BENEFITS**
Spring 2025

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**Black Lake
RETIREE
RETREAT
2025**



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**Region 1A
RETIRED
WORKERS
PICNIC 2025**



**LOOK
INSIDE!**

ADVISORY COUNCIL Report

by Pat Greca, Advisory Council Delegate

Region 8 Retirees Conference Enlightening

As I gather my thoughts to write this article, I realize so much has changed in just the last few weeks in my life.

My dear sister, Emily, passed away after a prolonged illness and a young lady of fifteen named Harper, who publicly battled cancer for five years, passed away as well.

While many of my dearest friends and family struggle silently with health issues, it's just a part of aging so I have heard. I pause to reflect on the precious time we have left and how we must use our time wisely as life continues pushing us forward.

I recently attended the Retirees Advisory Council Conference, which was hosted as part of Region 8's Retirees Conference. It was an eye-opening experience for me. Region 8 takes in 17 states (I believe), so their structure is much more broad and varied than Region 1A.

The stories related to me by various retirees from

different states over the course of the conferences told of so many types of devastating disasters which are affecting so many of our retired and active UAW brothers and sisters. I realized we all need to stay better connected to other UAW Regions.

Another issue addressed during the conference was the various Unions throughout the country and how we can support them by not buying the products being produced by the companies they are striking (like Planters Nuts). I hope to find a full list to post in future articles.

I am so very proud of our Region 1A retirees who have been active on many fronts, from attending town halls to marches and phone banking, to voicing our disapproval and demonstrate outrage to our political leaders with the actions being forced on us by the current White House Administration.

We also have a group of retirees working

tirelessly to strengthen a movement for "Medicare for All." If you are interested in joining, contact Retired Workers Council Chair Bob Sisler. The more of us who stay involved, the louder the voice. We all are feeling less secure with each passing day. If we make our voices heard, it is the most effective tool we have, especially when we speak as one. You can help...

- Call your politicians (or write)
- Attend a march (if you are able)
- Voice your opinion to family and friends (you may change their perspective)

By the time you are reading this, retirees from Ford, GM, and Stellantis should have a WEX debit card, with \$600 loaded on it, to use for medical expenses during this calendar year. It will be reloaded next year by the UAW Trust. Please spend it all by the end of 2025. It does not rollover into next year. If you have any questions please contact your UAW Local Benefit Representative.

In closing, our lives will move forward as many suffer needlessly due to cruel and arbitrary actions being implemented by Trump and his administration. I pray for all who are being negatively affected throughout our country, especially our Union family.

WEX FOR FORD/GM/STELLANTIS

important
information

MICHIGAN RETIREEES

wex™
FORD/GM/STELLANTIS
RETIREEES

Introducing the **Trust HRA** (Health Reimbursement Arrangement)

Most Common Eligible Expenses:

- **MEDICAL** – Ambulance services, chiropractic adjustments. Coinsurance, copays, hearing aids, lab fees, deductibles, prescription drug copays
- **DENTAL** – Cleanings, coinsurance, copays, crowns, dentures, denture adhesives and cleaners, fillings and orthodontics
- **VISION** – Prescription glasses and sunglasses, contact lenses, contact solutions and cleaning products, eye exams, eye drops, refractions, vision correction procedures (e.g. Lasik) and vision screenings
- **PREMIUMS** – Medicare Part A, B, and/or D premiums or IRMAA payments (Members must submit for reimbursement – cannot use the WEX debit card.)

Members have

\$600 available
for 2025

How the Card Works:

- **Swipe card** to instantly pay for eligible expenses. Card runs as a credit. It works at qualified medical, dental, vision, and pharmacy locations and retail locations that offer point-of-sale transactions.
- **Keep your Debit Card**, it will be reloaded every January 1st. Keep all WEX material sent to you.
- **Questions: 844-440-4300** or uawtrust.org/hrabenefit



**Bill To Exempt
MICHIGAN
SENIORS
From Paying
Property Taxes**

Senate Bill 292, would amend the state's General Property Tax Act by adding Section 7yy. This bill exempts Michigan residents age 70 or older from paying property taxes on their primary residence, effective for taxes levied after December 31, 2025.

To qualify for the exemption under SB 292, an individual must:

- **Be 70 years of age or older**
- **Own and occupy the home as their primary residence**
- **File a claim with a local assessor, along with documentation verifying their age and residency**

If SB 292 becomes law, it could offer financial relief to thousands of households, particularly in fixed-income or retirement situations.

The bill must clear the Senate committee before heading to the floor for a vote. If passed, it would then move to the Michigan House and potentially to Governor Whitmer's desk.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Michele Hoytenga (R-Manton). Contact her or your state Senator if you support this bill.

VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

George Turner, Chair



Mental Health Awareness Month

May was Mental Health Awareness month, a time to focus on our mental, emotional, psychological, and social well-being. These factors influence how we think, feel, act, cope with stress, maintain relationships, and make healthy choices.

Mental health isn't just about the absence of illness. It's about achieving a positive state of mind and overall well-being. For veterans, staying mentally strong is especially vital, as past experiences can continue to affect daily life. Reach out if you need support. *You are not alone!*

A Word From the Chair

This month, we're once again discussing scams – because they're not going away. Scammers continue to adapt, and seniors remain frequent targets. Stay alert and don't give out personal information over the phone or online unless you're sure it's safe.

We've all noticed how fast life has changed. We grew up in simpler times – one phone on the wall, one TV in the house, and kids played outside until dark. Today, everything's connected, chaotic, and uncertain. But even in this fast-moving world, we must remember that we live in the *greatest country on Earth – America.*

Gardening This Summer

Gardening is a beloved hobby among retirees. It provides peace of mind, light exercise, fresh air, and even a chance to connect with neighbors.

Digging in the dirt can be therapeutic, and the sunshine gives us a healthy dose of vitamin D. However, safety comes first. Watch out for uneven ground and slippery surfaces. When working with compost, always wear gloves and a mask. Use knee pads or a rolling garden seat when working low to the ground, and don't forget sunscreen and plenty of water or Gatorade to stay hydrated. Enjoy the garden, but garden smart.

New Copay Assistance

Good news from the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust – Retirees now receive up to \$600 per year in copay assistance for themselves and their families. While healthcare costs continue to rise, this benefit helps reduce the financial burden of doctors' visits and prescriptions. It's one more reason to appreciate the continued efforts of our Union to support retirees. Even when it feels like we're being overlooked, we're still being fought for.

Veterans Committee Report & Memorial Day

As we enjoyed food and family this past Memorial Day, we also took time to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. UAW Local 372 proudly continues its tradition by participating in the Trenton Memorial Day Parade, something we've been part of since 1989. I haven't missed a single year, and it's always a joy to see fellow veterans and friends.

We also laid a wreath in front of the Trenton Library (West Road, Trenton MI) to pay our respects – a touching tribute that reminds us of those who came before us.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

UAW Local 3000 members, do you have a worn or tattered American flag? Bring it to be retired properly at our upcoming Flag Retirement and Flag Burning Ceremony held by UAW Local 3000 on June 18, 2025. The UAW Local 3000 Union Hall is located at 22693 Van Horn Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183. This ceremony is a respectful and meaningful way to honor our flag and those who served under it. All are welcome.



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Black Lake Retreat Program

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Peaches Anderson, LU 600

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9650 TELEGRAPH
TAYLOR, MI 48180

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Want to Receive SOLIDARITY MAGAZINE by Mail?

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LAST 4 OF SSN

COMPANY RETIRED FROM

LOCAL UNION

ADDRESS

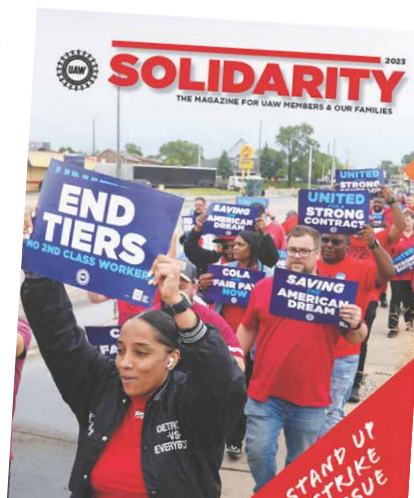
CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Return this form to:

UAW Retired Workers Department
8000 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48214



CHAPTER 36 REPORT

Chair – YVONNE HARRIS



The Main Ingredients

Greetings and I pray all is well. Happy summer season, enjoy and safe travels, and welcome home to our snow bunnies.

Let me start off with many thank you’s to the Local 36 Retiree Executive Board for their dedication and hard work:

Jan Jazin Vice President
Rhonda CarpenterRecording Secretary
George Love.....Financial Secretary
Al Griffin.....Sergeant-at-Arms
Nike (Charlotte) El..... Trustee
Duane Nunnally Trustee

This team is the main ingredient for our successful meetings. Everyone helps where they are needed and beyond.

Our first meeting of 2025, we welcomed UAW

Region 1A Retiree Coordinator Jeff Morris. He shared information pertaining to the Retirees Black Lake Retreat, Picnic, and Christmas Luncheon. He mentioned, reserve your seat and buy your tickets early for the events. He also stressed the importance of keeping your information up to date – current address, marital status, beneficiaries, and reporting deaths. This is vital for you as well as your family. To contact Jeff, call Region 1A at (313) 291-2750.

At May’s Meeting, our visitors were from the VEBA Trust, and the turnout was great. We read through the booklet for HRA, Health Reimbursement Allowance and WEX Claim Forms for reimbursement. Visit: uawtrust.org/hrabenefit. Please keep your UAW Trust booklets. This is *not* junk mail.

It’s always a pleasure to see you (36 Retirees) and our associate members. Remember that when you pay dues, you are supporting yourself – the UAW. Think about it!

Thank you, members, for “*Keeping our Seniors Warm*” and the “*Coffee for Vets.*” Your donations mean a lot and show where your heart is.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting. Special thank you to Chaplain Greg Wilson and Associate Member Mrs. Denise Hamilton, and all the thoughtful volunteers.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

VEBA Trust.....	(866) 637-7555
Davis Visio.....	(888) 234-5164
Midwest Vision.....	(313) 582-8080
Delta Dental.....	(800) 524-0149
Tru Hearing.....	(844) 394-5420
Nations Hearing (Hap only).....	(877) 484-7977
Optum RX.....	(855) 409-0219
MetLife Insurance	(833) 552-3673
NESC.....	(800) 248-4444
Ford-UAW Retirement Board.....	(800) 929-8833
UAW Legal	(800) 482-7700
AXZ Plan	(800) 348-7709

In closing, our deepest condolences to the friends and families on the passing of Sister Barbara Kujak-Fowler and Brothers Sheldon Edsel Hogan, Jr. and Jan Paul Carrico. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Prayers also for our sick and shut ins, and to our special sister/friend Peaches Anderson (Local 600).

In Solidarity my Sisters and Brothers. Stay safe, and May God Bless you, God Bless America, and the UAW.

Until next time...

CHAPTER 78 REPORT

Chair – NATHANIEL ‘DAN’ BISHOP



A Whirlwind of Total Chaos

To our Retirees and Spouses,

The beginning of 2025 started quietly with no idea of what was about to happen, but on January the 20th a series of executive orders from the incoming administration brought a whirlwind of chaos, which created significant problems throughout our nation. The executive orders, which were designed to be implemented, began to impact on our departments of government and the livelihoods of countless individuals and their families, turning their lives upside down.

The impact of this administration signing over one hundred and fifty-two (152) executive orders, which froze federal funds (taxpayer money), caused the elimination of federal workers and

placed at risk many of our nation’s social and economic programs.

This whirlwind of chaos that has been created by this administration has caused the quality of life here in America to be trampled upon right before our eyes and it is so unfortunate. There are those who are going along with what is happening. In addition to the chaos brought on by the executive orders, we are experiencing the winds of hatred spreading across our nation that is creating mistrust and economic instability.

In every corner of America, there are senior citizens living under the threat of losing their health care, Social Security, and other hard-earned savings. Also, the very future of our youth is being harmed by eliminating certain programs and books in our colleges and universities. These institutions are openly being threatened of possibly losing federal funding (derived from our taxes) if they do not submit.

Our veterans, federal workers, and everyday citizens have suffered or are facing unwelcome challenges that have been created by this current administration. We can only imagine the increase in prices of cars, groceries, everyday household items, and school supplies when the “tariffs” are fully enforced.

May we bear in mind that elections have consequences, and what we have experienced in these few months is devastating, to say the least. We are in a political crisis, our democracy and our Constitution is under siege by the very ones who are

standing on the side of this current administration, who took an oath to uphold the laws of the land.

To those of us who have a love for our nation, let us be more determined than ever to stand together for justice and righteousness by doing our part today and in the days to come.

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.



Second Quarter 2025
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, June 11 • 10:00 a.m.
UAW LOCAL 182
35603 Plymouth Road
Livonia, MI 48150

CHAPTER 163 REPORT



Chair – ROY GONZALEZ

USA Going From Bad To Worse

Talk about an out-of-control monster train heading to a massive destructive wreck. This is what is happening to most Americans with Trump, Musk, and the zombie Republicans still doing everything they can to make themselves and their billionaire and millionaire friends beaucoup richer than they already are. This is going on while firing many thousands of critical federal workers from many federal agencies. Trump is also making outrageous tariff demands on nations that have been our partners and friends for many years, but not a penny of tariffs on Russia. Can we guess why?

The cruel tariffs Trump has made that supposedly will make America self-dependent is a huge, cruel burden on the ordinary American people. And those who agree with Trump are living in a fantasy land. For example, America does not have any rubber trees, and for all the millions of our vehicles that use tires, how are we

going to produce tires with no imported rubber? The same with the great American drink that Americans love, coffee. Hawaii is the only state that grows coffee, and there is no way Hawaii can supply all the coffee, and all the different brands of coffee that Americans love. What a great morning wakeup call!

Another terrible outrage is the Trump goal of eliminating 80,000 VA employees by the end of the year, depriving our Veterans and Active Military of the very necessary help they need. Those who put their lives on the line in the past and those who are now protecting our country deserve any and all the help they are entitled to from our government. Not having help taken away.

In 2022, 6,407 Veterans committed suicide and this is for only one year. Many of these suicides are due to the VA not having enough people to help these warriors. So many of our military have been and are still being thrown under the bus – *a real reward for keeping America safe*. And Trump calls those who have lost their lives suckers and losers.

Social Security, Medicaid, and so many more agencies are being thrown under the bus. It would take a book to name all the “wreck America forever” schemes as Trump and his zombies are speeding the “Good old USA” into a third-world country. Try to hang on. We have to hope for a miracle.

Take care, and be well.

follow the talks, then a march down the street to the Livonia Social Security Office on Plymouth Road. Please wear comfortable shoes!

The rally will address Social Security cuts, Medicare cuts, and Medicaid cuts that only give the wealthy *bigger* tax breaks. It's a snowball that's running through society and to me it feels like a battle between the *haves* (which they already do), and the *have nots* (which we already don't).

Please pay attention to what's happening or else you will become a part of the snowball.

Almost forgot... If you wish to attend the rally and lunch, please contact Jim Pederson at aworker4mi@gmail.com.

More about Local 182... We will be doing our final phase of remodeling. Our small hall will be given a makeover in August, and that should put a final close to our major remodeling job.

I'll close by asking that you consider raising your voluntary dues, which helps Local 182 do its service in the community. Please have a very safe summer. I hope to see you all at our Region 1A Retiree Picnic that will be held on August 28, 2025 at Newport Fireman's Park in Newport. I've donated two sets of Detroit Tigers tickets to be used as prizes. The game is on September 16th against Cleveland.

Again, *be safe*, have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Strength In Unity...

CHAPTER 174 REPORT



Chair – CYNTHIA NEWTON

Local 174 Retiree monthly meetings resumed in April, 2022. Members meet at UAW Local 174, 9373 Middlebelt Rd., Livonia, MI 48150, every fourth Tuesday, starting in April, with the last meeting in November of each year.

We look forward to getting and sharing information on Health Care and our Pension Benefits. Last year, it was the OptumRX (CVS) card, and this year it is the Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) WEX card. Lunch is after our meetings.

Retiree activities include our Local 174 Picnic at Bell Creek Park on July 25, 2025, and our Christmas Party in December. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

CHAPTER 227 REPORT



Chair – ELMER DUFF

Brothers and Sisters,

Move over spring, summer is coming! I think we all will welcome the warmer weather because we can dress down and there are so many things we can do outside.

You should have received some information from the Benefit Trust. Remember, don't throw away anything from Benefit Trust. If you don't understand what you received, call your Benefit Representative or come to a meeting so it can be explained.

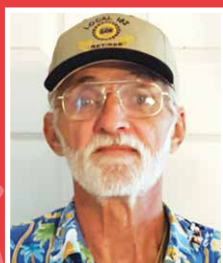
New UAW Retiree Medical Benefit Trust HRA, Benefit Healthcare Reimbursement Management, and your new WEX HRA Debit card – you will receive new cards. It's a prepaid \$600 debit card, but you can only use it for your medical, vision, dental and hearing benefits only. Remember, you can't go shopping at Macy's. Don't get in trouble. If you don't know how to use it, *ask!* Our Benefit Representative is Robert, 1-734-475-5271.

Our condolences to the families and friends of our deceased members: Lorenzo Moore, 9810; Dorothy Hill, Inspector; Edgar Wilson, 9820; and Rickard Schafer, 9810.

Meetings are on every third Wednesday of the month. Social hour is 10:00 a.m. and the meeting starts at 11:00 a.m.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

CHAPTER 182 REPORT



Chair – GEORGE 'MICKEY' HERRICK

Here Is What's Happening

Hello Retired Brothers and Sisters,

It's supposed to be spring, but it feels more like fall right now. Has what's been happening in the world got Mother Nature upset over our differences in opinions, that she's now trying to get our attention?

Here's what I know... There will be a *UAW Local 182 Day* (picnic/family fun day) this year on August 24, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Midway Sports & Entertainment Facility in Taylor, Michigan, on Van Born Road (east of Telegraph). Hope to see our UAW Local 182 Retirees and their families, along with active members of our Local.

We are sponsoring an “*Alliance For Retired Americans*” Rally at our Local on Wednesday, June 11, starting at 10:00 a.m. (arrive early). There will be speakers addressing not only our future, but America's future as well. Lunch will

CHAPTER
245
REPORT



President – LARRY F. KELSEY

God Bless America

By the time you receive this paper, Memorial Day will have passed as we remembered the sacrifices of the men and women who gave their lives so we could have the freedom to enjoy days like these. As many people over the years have said, if we do not remember, then we tend to repeat the same mistakes. Freedom has never been free. Now, hopefully, comes a wonderful summer to enjoy with our family and friends. It is a time of

picnics, vacations, and swimming to name a few. Of course, in Michigan, it could all change in an instant.

We will have our June Meeting on June 12, 2025. Our regular retiree meeting date is a holiday and the Local will be closed. Please mark your calendars, so you won't miss it.

The Local has set up a date for a *Fun Day* at the Midway Sports on September 14, 2025. This is for Local 245 members and their guests from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The cost will be \$20.00 per person. A flyer will be coming out with all the details, so please watch for it.

We are also firming up the date and cost for a CPR class at the Local. Details to follow.

A NARCAN class will also be put on at the Local. Date and details to be firmed up.

Since my last article the following members have passed away:

- *Martin "Butch" Fountain*, Truck Driver, (1-6-2024). He worked at Ford for 31 years, and

retired in 2002.

- *Mark Todd*, Maintenance-Hazardous Material (2-15-2025). I worked with Mark and I will miss him. We spent many years working together. He worked at Ford for 35 years before retiring.
- *Tony Lalli Carpenter*. Many of us knew Tony and his generous heart. He would help anyone.
- *Mother of Kim Blackmon*
- Retiree *Dale Ling*, A/C Operator (1-22-2025).
- *Keith Ruffner*, EMDO Painter (1-22-2025). Keith retired 12-01-2024.
- *James Montgomery*, Metal Model Maker
- *Mike Cotter*, Electrician (4-29-2025). Mike hired on 1-03-1978 and retired 10-01-2007.
- *Douglas Michael Fox*, Janitor (4-30-2025). Douglas was a transfer from VULCAN Forge to the R&E Center. He served 30 years in the Army and was a Vietnam Vet.

Please keep these friends and their families in your prayers.

CHAPTER
387
REPORT



Chair – KAREN MAGER

Representing Our Chapter

I want to congratulate our newly elected Local 387 Retiree Officers. All won by acclimation.

Chairperson Karen Mager

1st Vice ChairKen Woody
Financial Secretary..... John Petrlich
Recording Secretary..... Ed Dyson
Sergeant-at-Arms Don Thamarus
Guide Ernie Segura

We also want to congratulate all the newly elected Local 387 officers:

President..... Harvey Dietrich
Vice President.....Jerry Thomas
Financial Secretary..... Lorenzo Gonzalez
Recording Secretary..... Traci Gray
Trustees Constance Adamcheski, Dave Gradanscak, Latasha Holmes
Sergeant-at-Arms..... Wally Vaughn
Guide Krista Turk

Our 1st VP, Gary Schack, ran our past Retiree Meetings in my absence. *He did an excellent job!* Gary had to step in to chair our meetings at the spur of the moment because of my hubby and myself having health issues. Thank you, Gary, for your commitment to our Retirees. We are disappointed, but we fully understand why you have decided to step away from the position. Hopefully, you can stay close by and help when needed. You have been an amazing Union member.

It's a wonderful thing that the UAW Trust has been such a great help to our Retirees with the OTC and now the new WEX benefits. What a help with our bills!

In July and August, there will not be a meeting.

CHAPTER
600
REPORT



President – PEACHES ANDERSON

A Warm Welcome

Dear UAW Local 600 Retirees,

It is with great pleasure and heartfelt warmth that we extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you, both long-standing members and those joining our Retirees Chapter for the first time. As we gather to celebrate our shared history, accomplishments and the bonds that unite us, we also look forward to embracing new beginnings and fostering a strong community spirit.

The UAW Local 600 Retirees Chapter is a testament to the legacy of hard work, dedication, and solidarity that has defined our Union for decades. We honor the contributions of every

member, past and present, whose efforts have shaped not only our local community but also the broader labor movement.

To our new members, we extend a special greeting. Your decision to join us in retirement speaks volumes about your commitment to upholding the values of fairness, equality, and justice that our Union stands for. We are thrilled to have you as part of our family and look forward to learning from your experiences, ideas, and perspectives.

As we embark on this new chapter together, let us remember the importance of unity and mutual support. The challenges we face may change with time, but our collective strength remains unwavering. Whether it's advocating for retiree benefits, supporting social causes, or simply enjoying each other's company, let us stand shoulder to shoulder, just as we did during our active years.

Our Retirees Chapter offers a plethora of opportunities for engagement, enrichment, and camaraderie. From social gatherings and volunteer initiatives to educational programs and

LOCAL 600 RETIREE CHAPTER
2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

EVENTS	DATES	LOCATIONS
Membership Meeting	June 22 nd	Local 600
Black Lake	June 29 th – July 2 nd	Bus leaves the Region at 10 AM
Local 600 Annual Picnic	July 20 th	Lower Huron Metro Park (12:00 – 5:00)
Local 600 Tiger's Game	July 26 th	Comerica Park
Membership Meeting	July 27 th	Local 600
Retirees Regional Picnic	August 21 st	Fireman's Park – Newport, MI
Membership Meeting	August 24 th	Local 600
Labor Day Parade	September 1 st	To be determined
Membership Meeting	September 28 th	Local 600 (Flu Shot)
Membership Meeting	October 26 th	Local 600
Retirees Annual Holiday Party	November 16 th	Local 600 (NO CHILDREN)
Region 1A Retiree Holiday Party	December 8 th	Crystal Gardens, Southgate, MI

At every membership meeting, we will have coffee and doughnuts from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. All meetings are on the 4th Sunday of the month, at 10:00 AM, unless otherwise noted.

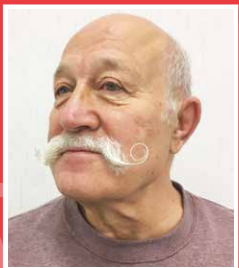
The November "Holiday Meeting" will be the last meeting of the year. Because of the inclement winter weather, we do not have membership meetings in December, January, or February.

At our Holiday Meeting: We will have a sit-down, Thanksgiving type dinner with all the trimmings. We will raffle off many prizes and gifts. At the end of the party, we always have great door prizes before leaving. Tickets will be sold on first come basis. Please call our office for further information.

advocacy efforts, there's something for everyone to participate in and contribute to. We encourage you to get involved, share your talents, and make

See **CHAPTER 600** on Page 7

CHAPTER
723
REPORT



Chair – ROBERT CEBINA

Annual Picnic

Greetings UAW Local 723 Retirees,
I trust that all of you are in good health. At the April meeting, the membership voted to suspend

the June, July, and August meetings for the summer.
The Local will still have the *Annual Picnic*. Call the Local for details. They are looking for a big turnout from the membership.
The Retiree Chapter is also looking for a good turnout at the September Retiree Meeting. The Chapter is still seeking someone to come and be the Recording Secretary.
We are also seeking more members to pay the voluntary Union dues. The dues are only \$3.00 a month. If more members paid dues, this would help our Chapter funds.
Have a great summer and be safe. See you in September!

CHAPTER
735
REPORT



Chair – SHIRLEY POLING

Our Wait-and-See Economy

Dear Dear Brothers and Sisters, greetings to all, and we send condolences to the family members of Local 735 Retirees who have departed.
At our May meeting, we had Acceptances for Nominations for office. As we did not have more than one acceptance per office, our entire Board was re-elected by acclamation, meaning we will not have an election in June.
The Board is as follows:
President..... Shirley Poling
Vice President..... Cynthia Averhart
Recording Secretary..... Maria Ali*
Financial Secretary..... James Cantrell
Trustee Jean Pittman

Trustee Randy MacLachan
Sergeant-at-Arms..... Tony Davenport
Board Member Mary Glasgow
Board Member Robena Johnson
**Please note Maria Ali has agreed to continue as Recording Secretary for a little while longer.*
In my last article, I said regarding the Presidency of our country that I thought it was best to take a wait-and-see attitude towards President Trump’s second term. So far, in the first 100 days, we have seen a lot of market volatility as a response to a good deal of changes in the President’s tariff changes. The USA Bond rating has been downgraded and many former investors are now moving their investment dollars to other countries. The stock market volatility, the frequent changes in tariffs, investors choosing not to invest in the United States has contributed to a shrinking of our economy. For now, it is a small amount and may not shrink any further. All of which to say at this point, while the first 100 days have appeared chaotic, it is still too soon to render a firm declaration of what to expect on our economy.
However, on the subject of deportation of immigrants, what is abundantly clear is several federal courts have all ordered President Trump and the

CHAPTER 600 from Page 6

lasting connections with fellow retirees.
In the spirit of inclusivity and solidarity, we reaffirm our commitment to diversity and equity within our Chapter. Every member’s voice is valued, and every perspective adds richness to our collective narrative. Let us continue to champion inclusiveness and stand up against any form of discrimination or injustice.
As we look ahead to the future, let us do so with optimism, resilience, and a deep sense of pride in our Union heritage. Together, we can make a difference, not only for ourselves but for generations to come.

U.S. Department of Justice to stop the deportations, return those already deported, and allow them access to the U.S. guarantee of due process.
As of 5-21-25, President Trump and the Justice Department have refused to comply with this order. And, now one of the Federal Judges announced that if compliance is not forthcoming the judge may pursue criminal contempt charges against the persons refusing to comply. This could actually result in criminal charges being filed against the attorneys, which presents a serious threat to an attorney’s ability to practice law.
So, I will be watching closely to see what happens both with our economy and the issue of Federal criminal contempt charges.
As a reminder to all, our *Retiree Picnic* will be Wednesday, August 13, 2025. The time is 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The picnic is held on the back grounds of Local 163, 450 S. Merriman, Westland, MI 48186.
Please Note: By membership action, this is an adults-only event. We do not have any activities to entertain children. Truly, they would be totally bored. *Stick a Pig In It* will be our caterer again. The food and beverages are all *free* for our picnic.
Hope to see you all in August.

CHAPTER
845
REPORT



Chair – MIKE LAMBERT

Passing The Torch

I hope that this article finds all retirees and their families well. I have been the Retiree Chair for UAW Local 845 for most of my nineteen years of retirement. During the past nineteen years, I have written articles to inform our retired members of the benefits that our Union has negotiated on behalf of our members, as well as information about our Local functions. I hope that I have been

of some help to every retiree.
It is now time to pass the torch, so to speak, to another person to fill the seat at UAW Local 845. I am sure the next chair will expand on this information.
Once again, I must remind everyone that we will be eligible and expected to help carry our active members, to achieve the goals of the future. This coming year, we will once again be asked to elect a new UAW Executive Board.
The Union will be mailing out ballots to each retiree at their last known address. I ask each retiree to contact their Local Union office to confirm their correct mailing address. Please remember that the company that you worked for does not communicate with the UAW. Please continue to be a part of the Union and let them know where you are.
There has been a new benefit added to the UAW Medical Trust. This benefit adds \$600

to the pockets of our retirees. Some members are confused about the WEX Debit Card they have received. Please, if you have any questions concerning the benefit, call 844-487-2770, or Healthcare Connect at 866-637-7555.
Now, for my UAW Local 845 members. We have once again asked to have a Sheldon Road Survivors Reunion. We will be meeting on August 16, 2025 at Heritage Park in Canton, MI. This will be our first Saturday Reunion. We have Pavilions 1 and 2 at the north end of the park from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with your friends. We have always shared many memories. I will be looking forward to seeing each of my UAW family members there.
I would like to thank each of you for standing by my side as I represented you at the Region and throughout Union functions. Now I must stand with my family as we go through many medical issues at home. My prayers go to each of you.

CHAPTER 849 REPORT

Chair – **BOB BOWEN**



Turning Life's Switch Off

As our May 15 potluck wound down and members waited for the 1:00 p.m. business meeting to be called to order, tables were cleaned, greetings shared, and with the list of those who had passed away fresh on our minds, friends asked about the health of those they had not seen in a while. Those who had worked with the departed remembered the good days and tough times they had shared. Soon the conversation turned to the inescapable conclusion that death is inescapable.

It was clear that the individuals on the bereavement list had been admirable people. What baffled them was that others just seemed to give up on life. Tom Dare summed it up this way: "It's like they just turned a switch off and decided they didn't want to do anything anymore."

Tom is recovering from knee replacement surgery and counting the days until he can go kayaking again. Others at our May gathering

were recovering from major surgeries, illnesses, or dealing with grief, yet they found life a cause worth sharing and celebrating with their friends.

What takes the joy out of life? Does a sport become boring when we lose our competitive edge? Why do we lose our desire to spar with our old political antagonists? After attending church for years, why do we turn our backs on our Creator? Why do we isolate ourselves from our loving families? I suspect the answer lies in our depressed minds.

We may not run fast anymore, nor may we be as quick with disarming quips that cut through friends' asinine arguments, but we are useful and have knowledge and experiences that are valuable treasures. Be involved in the world you helped create. Speak out about the things that concern you. Promote the causes you believe in, even when you alone champion them. If you do, you will be honored by those who agree with you, and respected by those you challenge.

I close by paraphrasing Sam Music (1940-2021), "When your whittling knife loses its edge, sharpen it and pick up a stick."

Basic Information About HRA WEX

In April, the UAW Medical Trust mailed a packet of material to every eligible member. It described the new Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and the WEX debit cards that we would receive. Please keep this mailing, and others that you receive regarding the HRA

WEX benefits.

Based on feedback from members, it is important to keep this in mind:

- A WEX card has a value of \$600. This \$600 is per household, not per individual.
- WEX cards are not interchangeable with OTC cards.
- WEX debit cards can be used to pay co-pays at doctor, dentist, or vision care office.
- The claim forms that were included in the HRA packet are to be used to request reimbursements, or direct deposit reimbursements to your bank account.
- Keep receipts for health care expenditures you plan to seek reimbursement for.
- If you have received your WEX cards, activate them.

Details are spelled out in the booklet. If you have any questions, call the WEX toll free number at (844) 440-4300.

2025 Meetings Schedule

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

Upcoming meeting dates are:

- June 26 (changed because of the Juneteenth Holiday)
- July (No Meeting)
- August 21
- September 18
- October 16 (59th Chapter Anniversary)
- November 20
- December 2 (Christmas Party)

In Memoriam

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

Arthur Cain 11/2/1927 - 1/22/2025
John C. Shepherd 7/27/1950 - 1/24/2025
Keith A. Sparrow 5/17/1928 - 1/26/2025
Ronnie Dillion 10/01/1950 - 2/05/2025
Willie C. Walker 4/02/1946 - 2/24/2025
David M. Roberson 8/15/1942 - 3/11/2025
Herbert F. Spaulding 9/26/1944 - 4/07/2025
Gerald C. Harbour 6/01/1939 - 4/20/2025
Tommy Johnson 10/31/1951 - 5/02/2025
Edward C. Wallman 12/18/1950 - 5/03/2025
William J. Cazier 3/13/1938 - 5/10/2025

If you have information about the passing of an 849 member, please email Bob Bowen at 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 correct email addresses. If you are not getting our email messages and want to receive them, send an email to Bob Bowen at bowl59@gmail.com, or leave a phone message at (734) 482-6213. Please leave your name and phone number.

CHAPTER 892 REPORT

Chair – **JIM PEDERSEN**



Keeping The Pressure On

UAW Local 892 Retired Worker Chapter will begin meeting at our regular time, 12:00 noon on the second Monday of the month. Our new location is 1705 Woodland Drive in Saline, just up the road from our old hall.

UAW Local 892 dues-paying members are encouraged to come out, see friends old and new, and learn what's happening to our benefits and pension payments.

Retirees have sounded off over Republican attacks on Social Security and Medicaid. Closing offices and shutting off phone services have caused retirees across the country to raise a ruckus, bringing thousands out into the streets and clogging up phone lines.

The protests paid off, as phone services were restored and service center closings were reversed.

We need to keep the pressure on. On Wednesday, June 11th, we will be back at it, gathering at the Social Security Administration

building on Plymouth Road in Livonia, starting at 1:00 p.m. Come out and make your voice heard – *no cuts, no closings, no reduction in services.*

The Republican Party response has been lame. Republican caucuses in the House and Senate have proposed massive cuts in spending, from Medicaid, school and nutrition programs, and programs that keep all Americans safe. All of these cuts will pay for massive tax cuts for billionaires, plus add billions, even trillions to the federal deficit.

When we protest the cuts to the Social Security Administration, Medicaid and Medicare, the lame response is "Nobody's benefits will be reduced." Consider this, if you have a bank that closes branches, quits phone services, and forces you to do all your banking online, is that a cut?

A reduction in services is a reduction in benefits. And never forget, S.S.A. is paid entirely out of the Social Security Trust Fund, a fund separate from the Treasury. We have paid for these benefits all of our working lives. It is our money that pays for these services, as well as our benefits.

Cutting Social Security and Medicaid will not balance the budget, will not reduce the federal deficit, and will not offset the trillions in tax cuts for the billionaires.

And we should all be protesting the handing over of our banking and personal records to a bunch of newly hired, unqualified, careless

See **CHAPTER 892** on Page 11

CHAPTER 898 REPORT

Chair – SHEILA PEDERSEN



my 4-year-old granddaughter, Ava. Ava lost her mother in 2021, just two weeks before her first birthday. Ava, like one third of *all* American kids, is on Medicaid. Ava has autism, and is in therapy that Medicaid pays for. Ava, like other kids, desperately needs this therapy to learn coping skills and to sometimes talk.

The current majority of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate has a bill concerning Medicaid that will eliminate billions of dollars for medical services by cutting what is sent to the states.

My 88-year-old mother has Medicaid also, in a different state. So, states will then decide what little money is sent, pushing the blame on our states and not where the fault lies. That, dear friend, is in the lap of the Republicans in charge.

Wait for it. They want to reduce the number of people who are eligible for Medicaid by requiring them to work! How's a 4-year-old going to work?

I'm not going back to work after 50 years of paying in! Medicaid has some income restrictions already. So, who do we cut? My 88-year-old Mom, or the 4-year-old autistic child?

The UAW negotiated a decent retirement for me, but there is no way I'd be able to pay the bill for either of them, even though I'd do anything for them. Life happens, but all this bait and switch going on leaves my head reeling at the thought of either one of them losing life-sustaining coverage, and the same for *one third* of *all* American kids.

Please, when you vote next time, be thoughtful about these kids and the elderly. We have to do better by them. It's past time to continue to stick with those who vote against us and our families.

One last thought, *no one* voted for Musk.

The Retiree Chapter continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month, and we offer our condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Protecting The Vulnerable

Gosh, where do I start. There is so much going on. I attended the Region 1A's quarterly as a panelist. It was great catching up with friends that I haven't seen for a while. Thanks to Aletha Smith and Director Dickerson for the invitation. It was inspiring to hear all the other women's thoughts, experiences, and goals.

As some of you know, I am the guardian of

CHAPTER 900 REPORT

Chair – KATIE MARTIN



Now, let's talk about what's new. You have some new money – \$600 – from the Trust HRA Benefit. The annual amount is determined by the committee, which is \$600 this year and next year it could change. The committee will make that determination.

Keep all your detailed receipts, not just your credit card receipts, because they won't contain all the required information.

Heads Up

For HRA, you can't use your card for:

1. Groceries
2. Discount Programs
3. Assisted Living and Nursing Home Costs
4. Physician or Hospital Concierge fee
5. Costs that aren't considered qualified medical expenses as defined by the I.R.S.

The amount of the card's value is \$600. This is what you can use your card for:

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

UAW Retirement Board	800-829-8833
UAW Trust Health Benefit....	866-637-7555 (RHCC)
Express Scripts.....	866-662-0274
Delta Dental.....	800-524-0149
Davis Vision.....	866-234-5164
Tru Hearing.....	844-394-5420

1. Dental and Vision out-of-pocket costs
2. Chiropractic Care
3. Doctors, Specialists
4. Urgent Care
5. Emergency Room
6. Medical out-of-pocket costs
7. Hearing Aid Cost

That's just a few.

Have a good summer and I'll see you in the fall.

Trust HRA \$600 Benefit

Good afternoon to all Retirees of Region 1A,

Summer is here! It's time to take off the coats and put out the flowers.

The *Black Lake Retiree Retreat* is June 29 thru July 2, 2025. I hope to see some of you all there. The cost is \$270 per person. If you are interested, please contact your Local Union ASAP.

CHAPTER 931 REPORT

Chair – SYLVIA GRIFFIN



better off. Your legacy isn't just in the work you did, but in the impact that you continue to make. Whether your retirement was recent or long ago, we continue to support the working class while improving our lifestyles.

I would also like to take this time to thank those of you who recently joined the action of submitting Union Dues of \$3.00 per month, and those who increased their Dues to \$5.00 per month. As we continue to help offset activities and events for our members, it is crucial that we encourage every retiree to participate in this minimal expense. We know that when we show up, we all share in the strength, support, and success of our Union family.

We look forward to seeing you at the next retiree meeting, to hear and share vital information to help us stay informed of current affairs.

The next upcoming meeting will be on July 16th at the Golden Corral, 14691 Huron St., Taylor, MI (just east of I-75 near Eureka). I hope to see you in attendance.

Staying Involved

As we enter the summer season, I hope that everyone enjoyed both their Mother's and Father's Day.

As Local 931 Chair, I wanted to take a moment to thank you. You've laid the groundwork for everything that we stand on today, and your dedication has been instrumental in building a strong community. Oftentimes, it's forgotten how difficult the journey that we may have taken may have been. But, we did it, and others are

Until next time, stay connected, stay engaged, and stay informed.



There is hope.

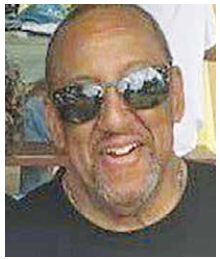


If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



CHAPTER
1776
REPORT



Chair – **DERIC TWIGGS**

Benefits and Events

We are approaching a new season. As we go into summer, we need to be mindful of children running and playing in the street. Don't forget the drivers who own the streets. Besides speeding and

running red lights, they make their lanes. The UAW has provided us with a new benefit called Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). This benefit is to assist with out-of-pocket expenses (i.e. deductibles and other medical benefits, including dental and optical for the year of 2025). If you have not received an HRA packet, you should receive one in the next few weeks. You will have up to \$600 to use on this benefit. The booklet will provide you with step-by-step instructions. It is important to sign in with your name and phone number at our meetings. This is so we can notify you in the event there are meeting changes. Please feel free to bring your spouses to our meetings. They many be interested in any

updated information we share. This is a time for sharing updates, donuts, coffee, discussions, and fellowship. **Willow Run Picnic** The *Willow Run Picnic* will be in July and Local 1776 Retirees will have their *Annual Picnic* during our regular meeting in August. Please encourage our members to join us at our regular meetings. Let's continue to keep the sick and bereaved in our prayers along with our retirees and their families. **Local 1776 Retiree Meetings** Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150

BOB SISLER *continued from Cover Page* realize that it could be dissolved at any moment. I have met many Union members who can't afford their co-pays and deductibles. As a UAW member, I advocate for a Single-Payer plan that Walter Ruether knew would help to bring about a just society. I have experienced the death of my mother, who used cancer-causing powder by Johnson & Johnson (they kept it a secret). Another woman who lost her job and was waiting to get Medicare at 65, died of cancer. If she had medical care early, a hysterectomy could have saved her life. I could fill this paper with examples. Our UAW Union stands for unity, for the common good of all. **Do We Stay The Same?** Region 1A had an endorsement for Mayor of

the City of Detroit. One candidate brought up their plan for the city. It was almost identical to Bennie Napoleon's of 12 years ago. Benny made it clear that healthcare was an issue because people did not get proper medicines and many police runs were wasted on people having medical emergencies, both physical and psychological. Next, he said we need to deal with people not having a safe place to live. He then pointed out that the educational system needed work to be done, to increase participation in full educational opportunities, and good jobs that paid good wages. We cannot expect people to live in poverty and expect a good balance in the society. And last, he noted if you got these first four done, policing would be very easy. These points need action. Detroit's largest budget item is policing and protection.

So, things in the city of Detroit have stayed the same except for the downtown and choice areas. The UAW had a candidate endorsement for mayor of Detroit who is not the same and will not stay the same. This candidate does things differently. He is concerned about all the people who live in the city of Detroit. He comes with years of knowledge on how to help the neediest among us and leaving no man or women behind. He wants to build on resources that are not connected to corporations that get tax credits, and don't deliver on their promises to help the citizens. Real solutions must come from those who do not expect to bleed the city for their own personal profit. Stay the same or vote for change. The last thing I would like to address is to point out a pattern with President Trump. President Trump ordered pharmaceutical companies to lower prices to match what they sell in other countries. The President entered a similar order which was taken up in court during his last Administration. Oh, it sounds good that he will have the pharmaceutical companies charge Americans the same as other countries. It makes us feel good. But it will be challenged in court again and President Trump will blame the courts for not delivering to the American people reduced prescription costs. If he really wanted to change the pricing of drugs in this country, he should go to his Republican-controlled House and Senate and have them construct a bill that would allow the Secretary of Human Services, Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate prices and pattern the bill after the same bill that allows the Veterans Administration to negotiate the purchase of drugs. President Trump's attempts will be challenged in court and he will blame the courts for what happens instead of following proper procedures to achieve the goal he stated. The powerful drug companies are not worried. One must wonder, does the President really want to change or is this another way to stay the same? Hope the summer is good to you. Looking forward to seeing you at the *Retiree Picnic* in August.

BLACK LAKE RETIREE RETREAT

Each summer Region 1A Retirees are invited to enjoy Walter Reuther's vision for UAW members. Opening in 1970 this UAW center provides members who visit with a feeling of pride in UAW history. There is the golf club, beach, Olympic size swimming pool, exercise and weight room, pool and table tennis tables, but also the beauty and peace of the wooded surroundings. Please join us at the UAW Region 1A Retiree Retreat, June 29 thru July 2, 2025. Included are the room accommodations, and all meals from dinner on Sunday night to breakfast on Wednesday morning. And, if you don't want to drive, there will be a bus leaving Region 1A on Sunday morning at a cost of \$10.00 to reserve your seat. There will be many activities for you to participate in, and you will see old friends you may not have seen in years and meet new ones. If you have not been to a Retiree Retreat, you don't know what you are missing. There is so much to see, learn, and enjoy at the Black Lake Education Center. Walter and May Reuther's ashes were spread on the hilltop overlooking the main lobby. To honor the Reuthers, there is an eternal flame in the Japanese stone lantern which was donated by the Japanese Trade Unions in this location. There is also a large memorial monument with sculptures of the Reuther brothers added to the area in 2003 with a plaque that reads... "There is no greater calling than to serve your brother; There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." Just a few of the things that await you. **Save the Date** JUNE 29th thru JULY 2nd 2025 **Contact your Local or Region 1A for prices and details, which will be available soon.**

CHAPTER 3000 REPORT

Chair – **SHARON HARDING**



We will be having a *BBQ* provided by the Local at our June 10, 2025 meeting. Please bring a dish to pass.

Let's not forget about our Veterans, on June 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. the Local 3000 Veterans will be having a proper disposal of any torn or tattered American flags. You can drop off your flags at the Local or come to the meeting to see the ceremony. Mark your Calendar for the Retired Workers Picnic on August 28, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Site to be determined.

All Local Retiree Meetings start at 12:00 noon.

Meeting Dates

- June 10, 2025
- July – Cancelled
- August – Cancelled
- September 9, 2025

A New Benefit

Medicare Retirees received a new benefit, HRA. There have been many questions and misinformation. On June 10, 2025, there will be a representative from the Trust to answer all questions.

CHAPTER 6000 REPORT

Vice Chair – **BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI**



timely adopt for inclusion in the current Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Background – Recall that Public Act 121 of 2024, the Fiscal Year 24-25 General Omnibus Appropriations law sponsored by State Senator Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing) contained a provision providing for an actuarial study of three options:

1. Replacement of the current 3% or \$300 cap with a cost-of-living adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index for Americans 62 years of age or older.
2. Replacement of the \$300 cap with \$808 adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index for Americans 62 years of age or older.
3. Replacement of the 3% or \$300 cap with a 4% or \$400 cap.

Caveats for the study included:

- a. That the proposed COLA changes begin

prospectively.

- b. That the COLAs made to a retiree's compensation after retirement and before the prospective change remain unchanged.
- c. That the proposed COLA changes are applied to the retiree's base pension amount excluding previous COLAs.
- d. The actuary must include in the study an estimate of the number of individuals impacted under each proposal.
- e. The actuary must include in the study an analysis of a 30-year projection of costs to the State to implement the proposals described in subsection.
- f. The inflation factor built into Option 1 and 2 defy accurate projection. The study used 2.45%.

The study was based on workforce and retiree data of September 30, 2023, the latest available for the study.

'Scrap the Cap' on Benefits

Here we are on the verge of summer. That means that the Chapter will suspend meetings for the months of June, July and August 2025. Monthly meetings will resume on September 8th.

The Local, in an attempt to disseminate information in a more timely manner to retirees, is attempting to set up a hotline. Stay tuned for an update.

The "Scrap the Cap" on defined benefits for retirees is still in play. As a retiree, you should be contacting your Michigan Senator and Representative and urge them to introduce legislation to remove the \$300 annual cap on pension payments for members in the defined benefit program. The \$300 cap was established in 1987 with no index to inflation.

The following "Scrap the Cap" information (as of 4/2025) is from State Employee Retirees Association (SERA) by Mary Pollock.

"SCRAP THE CAP" UPDATE

SERA has received the 16-page, data-intensive Actuarial Study of proposed improvements in the 3 percent or \$300 cap on the annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for defined benefit (DB) State retirees and beneficiaries. The cap was adopted in 1987 and has never changed in the 38 years since. Inflation has been 176.1 percent since that time and over 85 percent of DB State employee retirees are at the \$300 cap.

According to a retired economist for the State who looked at the study, the average state DB retiree could see a change in their projected 2026 annual COLA to an amount between \$400 and \$738, depending on which option lawmakers



Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	59,614
Current active employees in the DB plan	3,812
Inactive DB members not yet receiving benefits	<u>1,871</u>
Total DB participants.....	65,297

If previous COLAs are considered in the base amount from which calculations are made, in FY 2026 State revenues to pay for the improvement would be the following:

Option	First-year cost change	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability change	Change in Amortization Payment	Total FY 26 Employer Contribution Needed
1	\$5,811,876	\$2,187,739,295	\$517,553,719	\$523,365,595
2	\$6,647,434	\$2,380,900,580	\$578,555,156	\$585,202,590
3	\$1,722,864	\$625,600,020	\$157,690,786	\$159,413,650

SERA representatives will be meeting with the Office of Retirement Services and others to understand better all the provisions and implications in the study. If a way forward is seen, a bill to change the State Employee Retirement Act would need to be created and introduced, and the appropriation bill for FY 2026 would need to include the necessary dollars to fund it.

SERA is a coalition member working with retiree chapters in an attempt to have the \$300 annual cap removed and go with a payment that reflects the economic reality of today.

Please write, call or email your legislators to change the annual cost of living.



DO WE STAY THE SAME?

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL CHAIR **BOB SISLER**



There are few things I wish to share with you. The Endorsement Committee and the scholarship papers to start, current call to reduce cost of prescriptions.

The scholarship papers are our High School Seniors (Region 1A) sharing their insights into this country's function. There were a number of papers that noted the unequal treatment in health care. It was clear to many of the students that profit was more important than the patient in our United States system.

Other leading nations have some type of control on profits and demand that tax and premium dollars be placed in a trust of various types, for single-purpose healthcare. That money can be spent on healthcare needs with controlled management costs, and no profit for the stock market.

Some of the papers noted that if everyone had health care there would be a more tranquil society, people could work without fear of going to the doctor and having huge bills. You would not have to stay on a job, because of health insurance.

They also noted the productivity rate would increase. They noted the poor would feel part of the society, and would respond in kind. The most important thing that they pointed out is that even though it would cost money in the beginning it would benefit us

in healthcare outcomes and increase life expectancy. It would *cost less in dollars* when people received equal care based on need not insurance calculations. Therefore, ER visits would decline, avoidable illness reduced, and medications would be taken without fear of cost. The patient would be able to follow their chemotherapy, and medical debt would end.

Improved physical and psychological health reshapes a society. There were a few scholarship essay papers that noted that good insurance is for people who get good jobs and therefore have good insurance. That is accurate for some people.

Years ago, there was a group of people who went around the country talking about HR 676, a single-payer system, and in the audience was a millionaire who had been an insurance agent. When asked why he came to the meeting he said he had lost everything when his wife caught a rare form of cancer and required costly treatment.

So often in our society, we think that we can do it ourselves, but we really need to unite to overcome major problems.

Walter Ruether's vision was for all people to have equal rights, pensions, healthcare, work safety, etc., not just for the few. The UAW has always been a socially conscious organization and as a result we have an active CAP program.

I have good healthcare at this point. My co-pays are only \$20. My insurance companies pay thousands of dollars for the medicine that costs me \$60.00 for 3 months. I am thankful for that benefit, but further

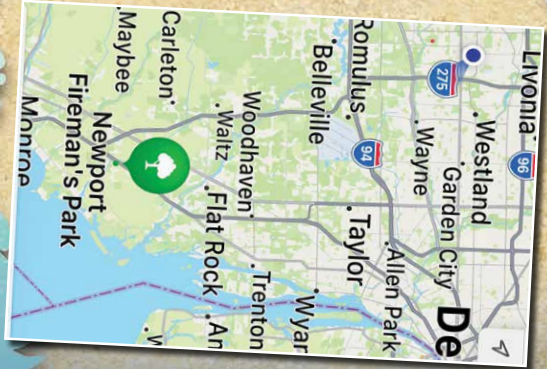
See **BOB SISLER** on Page 10



FREE
NEWPORT
FIREMAN'S PARK
9005 BRANDON ROAD
NEWPORT, MI

to REGION 1A
Retirees & Family

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



We look forward to seeing you there!

LAURA DICKERSON, DIRECTOR BOB SISLER, CHAIRPERSON