

NEWSBREAK

UAW Local 6000



Michigan's Best

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DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021

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All information was current at the time of the printing.

All **DISTRICT** and **BUILDING MEETINGS**

CANCELLED

until further notice.

Look for us on...



Cindy Bilaski
Mary Blasius
Tiffany Coleman-Weathersbee
Kim DeMott, Rachael Dickinson, Carnetta Elder, Maria Enriquez, Darren Ford, Ella Harrington, Ray Holman, Emma Jackson Nicole Jones, Wanda Keith, Abbie Maddox Sharon McMullen, Freida Michilizzi, Diane McGowan, Celia Ontiveros, Ashley Reinert, Todd Robertson, Kellie Talton, Gary Vargo, Jim Walkowicz Chris Walter, Kim Williams, Wanda Withers and Rosalind Wright
Ed Mitchell, President
Kelly Barnett, Vice President
Charlene Yarbrough, Recording Secretary
Miya Williamson, F/S Treasurer



UAW LOCAL 6000
P.O. Box 40720
Lansing, MI 48901-7920



Michigan's Best



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Retired Member

Wanda Withers

LOCAL REPS

1-A

Jim Walkowicz

Darren Ford

Kim Williams

Rachael Dickinson

1-D-Central

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Ray Holman

Freida Michilizzi

1-D-North

Todd Robertson

Gary Vargo

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Celia Ontiveros

Benefits Rep.

Nicole Jones (1-A and 1-D)

Health & Safety Rep.

Nicole Jones (1-A and 1-D)

EAP Rep.

Nicole Jones (1-A and 1-D)

Legislative Liaison

Maria Enriquez

HEY!

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Please fill out the survey and return to the Local, or fill out the survey online by visiting the Local's website. The Bargaining Team's priorities are set by the bargaining surveys that are received from the members.



2021 BARGAINING SURVEY

Survey can be completed online by visiting at uawlocal6000.org or return via mail to the address listed below.

This survey is each member's opportunity to provide input to your Local 6000 Bargaining Team for the upcoming primary agreement (contract) negotiations.

Do you feel the Bargaining Team should negotiate to keep the Primary Agreement as is?

CHECK ONE:

YES NO

What do you feel are the top three (3) most important items to keep the same or make better IN OUR CONTRACT (i.e., WAGES, HEALTH CARE)? (List either keep the same or negotiate for better for each item. DO NOT put "wages" keep the same AND "wages" negotiate for better.)

ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

Examples are: Wages, Medical, durable Medical Equipment (DME), Dental, Vision, Hearing, Prescriptions, Insurance Deductibles, Long-Term Disability (LTD), etc.

KEEP THE SAME

- 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

NEGOTIATE FOR BETTER

- 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

NON-ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

Examples are: Job Training/Staff Development, Job Security Provisions, Subcontracting/Privatization, New Technology, Notice of Closure, Health & Safety Concerns, Annual, Sick and other Leave Issues, Grievance Procedure, Non-Wage Compensation Issues (OT, Mileage, Tuition Refund), Workload/Caseload Issues, Holidays, etc.

KEEP THE SAME

- 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

NEGOTIATE FOR BETTER

- 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

WHAT ARE THE MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS WITH YOUR JOB? (List in order of importance)

- 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE THREE (3) MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS IN YOUR DEPARTMENT (I.E., DHHS, DOC, EGLE, DNR, CR, ED, DTMB, etc.)? (List in order of importance)

- 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

DESCRIBE ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING INVESTIGATORY OR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS WITH YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS OR ANY OTHER BENEFITS? (IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN)

Please return ASAP to:

UAW LOCAL 6000
ATTN: BARGAINING TEAM
P.O. BOX 40720
LANSING, MI 48901-7920

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

WHAT DEPARTMENT DO YOU WORK FOR? _____

WHAT WORK SITE? _____

JOB CLASSIFICATION TITLE: _____

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



Dues Deductions Reauthorization

The Union continues to encourage members to complete reauthorization of dues deductions for fiscal year 2022. All members can now reauthorize dues deductions for fiscal year 2022 through HR Self-Service. Members will receive a letter in the mail encouraging them to reauthorize dues deduction. The letter will include the directions to reauthorize dues deduction and a calendar for 2021 and 2022.

Steward elections are now completed. There were two elections; all other stewards were elected by acclamation. The ballots for the two elections were counted on Friday, December 11, 2020. The results of the election will be forwarded to stewards shortly.

The Union will be bargaining a new contract in 2021 for pay, benefits

Edward Mitchell
 "Please stay safe and let's work together to get through these trying times."

and working conditions. A bargaining survey is in the current issue of the *Newsbreak* (see page 2). Please fill out the survey and return to the Local, or fill out the survey online by visiting the Local's website. The Bargaining Team's priorities are set by the bargaining surveys that are received from the members.

This year has been a very interesting year. This has been the most trying year (2020) of my life, except the year that I spent in Vietnam (1970). We experienced the COVID-19 pandemic, the attack on the unions by the Civil Service Commission, and the 2020 elections. Some of these issues are still not resolved. Please stay safe and let's work together to get through these trying times.

As we enter the year-end holidays, please see the Union Label section of the *Newsbreak* (see page 8) when purchasing your holiday gifts, food and services. *Buy Union and Buy American!*

Please keep up to date by visiting the Local's website at www.local6000.org or following the Local on Facebook. District and Building meetings continue to be cancelled until restrictions on meetings and attendance are lifted.

I wish everyone a very merry holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.

THE VOICE OF MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
NEWSBREAK
 UAW Local 6000 Michigan's Best

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 Website: www.local6000.org



Edward Mitchell, Publisher
 Miya Williamson, Editor
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LOCAL 6000 EDITORIAL POLICY

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the democratic efficacy of the Local Union members by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of Local Union 6000, the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the national and International Union movement. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. While we welcome your contributions, we ask that they be constructive. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of this Union and its members. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letter column, and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the Union and its policies.

We ask that you keep your articles brief. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We look forward to hearing from you. The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Local 6000 or the International UAW.

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 \$1,000 REBATE FOR PURCHASE
 \$4,185 TOTAL SAVINGS
 SALE PRICE **\$29,995^{**}**

2021 SILVERADO CREW CAB
 LEASE FOR **\$129[#]** PER MONTH
 24 MOS / **\$999 / 10K** MILES PER YEAR

2021 MALIBU RS
 \$25,570 MSRP
\$23,595 CHEVY EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR EVERYONE
 \$600 REBATE FOR PURCHASE
 \$2,575 TOTAL SAVINGS
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VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

by Kelly Barnett, UAW Local 6000 Vice President

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Hello Members,

In September's article, I discussed Mediation. October's article was about Arbitration and I referenced Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). So, it is only appropriate to continue our conversation with a more detailed look at ADRs.

What is an ADR?

A hearing in which a dispute is submitted, by agreement of the parties, to one arbitrator who makes a final and binding decision on the dispute. Witnesses are not presented. It is also non-precedent setting.

What is a final and binding decision?

That means that the grievance process is complete, and the Union has no further actions it can take.

What does non-precedent setting mean?

It means it will not establish a usage, tradition, or standard to be followed in the future.

If an agreement for an ADR is signed at Mediation, the parties understand that no solution could be reached (i.e. settlement, withdrawal, etc.). As a result, the parties agree to schedule the ADR at the next arbitration scheduling session, which occurs on a quarterly basis. It should be noted that discharges cannot be scheduled for ADRs.

Behind The Scenes

This is the exact same process for scheduling arbitrations. It is actually done in conjunction with scheduling arbitrations. Before an

ADR is ever held, Office of State Employer (OSE) and UAW Local 6000 Vice President (VP) must create an arbitration schedule. This is done by contacting all three arbitrators to request their dates of availability.

First, OSE and VP contact their respective Reps for their availability during the quarter. Second, OSE and VP sit down to create the schedule. Based on the availability of all three parties – the Arbitrator, Labor Relations Rep, and Local Rep – a date is selected to hold the actual hearing. Third, the draft schedule is created and sent to the Department, as well as the Union, for review.

Once confirmed, the final schedule is sent to the arbitrator and the dates are officially held for the respective hearings.

Fast Forward

The Local Rep will notify the grievant of their ADR date, identify exhibits, etc. The parties meet at a pre-determined time and location for the actual hearing before the arbitrator. This usually occurs at the Local.

The grievant is *not* present at the hearing, no witnesses are called to testify nor are any closing briefs written. That is the distinct difference between an arbitration and ADR.

The Day of the ADR

The Local Rep, also known as the Primary Advocate, and the Second Chair are present for the Union. The Labor Relations

Rep, also known as the Primary Advocate, and their Second Chair are present for the Employer. The Second Chair is a support system to the Primary Advocate. They assist in any way needed such as taking precise notes, identifying additional questions as a result of arguments during the presentation, etc.

Exhibits are presented and marked (if that was not done by the Primary Advocates prior to the hearing). First, each party is given 15 minutes to present their arguments and documents to the arbitrator without interruption or objection from the opposing party. Second, the arbitrator asks either party any questions he or she may have. Third, the arbitrator engages in mediation and discussion in an attempt to help the parties reach a mutual voluntary agreement.

Next, if no mutual voluntary agreement is reached, the arbitrator will issue a non-precedent setting bench decision. This decision is reduced to writing on a designated form the date of the hearing. It is final and binding.

Due to the pandemic, some of these hearings are now being held via ZOOM. We'll discuss that at a later date

These are your union dollars at work. *You never think you'll need it until you do!*

We are learning and growing as the pandemic continues to affect our daily lives, both personally and professionally. *Stay safe!*

WEAR A RED SHIRT ON WEDNESDAYS



Red Shirt Wednesdays were established to show support for workers under attack by the anti-worker governors and lawmakers who pushed policies that were designed to destroy the middle class! We ask you to wear red every Wednesday and to encourage all of your co-workers to do the same.

WELCOME! to our Local 6000 NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER	DEPT.				
BARYLSKI, JANET	DOC	FENSLAU, CASSIDY	DHHS	MAYBERRY, ESTHER	DHHS
BIENKOWSKI, KATELYN	DHHS	FRIESE, SAMANTHA	DHHS	MERRIETT, DORETHA	DHHS
BLOUGH, JENNIE	DHHS	GARDNER, ALYSSA	DHHS	MILLER, NANCY	LEO
BOMERS, LAURA	DHHS	GILLIAM, JULIA	DHHS	NATALE, REBECCA	DHHS
BURTON, SHALEECE	SOS	GRAY, ALYSSA	DHHS	NKRUMAH, MARIAN	DHHS
BYNUM, DAIRRIA	DHHS	HAMILTON, ALICIA	DHHS	OLIVER, SCOTT	DOC
CADE, JACQUELINE	DHHS	HARDIMAN, CHARLESE	DHHS	OOSTERHOF, SHELBY	DOC
CONWAY, BETHANY	DHHS	HASTY, JENNIFER	DHHS	PETERSON, TAMIA	DHHS
DAVIS, SOPHIA	DHHS	HILBEC, JADE-ALAN	DHHS	PHILLIPS, KEISHA	DHHS
DEBLAIR, TRACY	DOC	IDONI, MADISON	DOC	PISANO, NICHOLAS	DHHS
DIAZ, CHRISTINA	SOS	LIPSKI, KATHERINE	DHHS	PLUMB, DEREK	DHHS
DUCKERT, OLIVIA	DHHS	MARSHALL, TIMOTHY	DHHS	REED-BLAND, KATINA	DOC
		MAY, SAMUEL	DOC	RICHARDSON, JOHANNA	MSP
				RODRIGUEZ, JUANA	DHHS
				RUTKOWSKI, BRENDA	DOC
				SHARP, DAWON	DHHS
				SMITH, KATHERINE	DHHS
				SOMERVILLE, TIFFANY	DHHS
				VAN KIRK, KALIE	DHHS
				WEBSTER, CHARLOTTE	DHHS
				WILLHOFT, SAMANTHA	SOS
				WRENN, WHITNEY	DHHS
				ZECCHINI, ASHLEY	DHHS

 **PROUD TO PAY UNION DUES!**
Rebuilding America \$1 at a time

DOC UPDATE

DEPARTMENT of CORRECTION

by Kim Williams, MDOC Liaison, UAW Local Representative 1A

Reduction in Force – Detroit Reentry Center (DRC)

Local 6000 received notice that on Friday, December 11, 2020, letters were to be issued to employees regarding their bump, because of the reduction in force from the closure of the Detroit Reentry Center. The facility is due to close no earlier than January 9, 2021.

A “Meet and Confer” was scheduled to take place between the Michigan Department of Corrections and UAW Local 6000 on December 10, 2020 to review where staff will be placed.

As a reminder, staff can only bump into positions that are the same as the positions they now hold. For instance, a part-time person with more seniority cannot bump out a full-time employee with less seniority in a given classification.

After the “Meet and Confer,” the UAW will know all of the employees who will be affected.

The Department has been good in the past at trying to place individuals at alternate work locations, rather than laying individuals off. Bumps will occur by seniority, which is defined as continuous state service hours.

The positions at DRC, which will be affected by the closing, include one Library Technician-E, five Registered Nurses-1, three General Office Assistants-E7, one Psychologist E, two WPA E, two Departmental Technicians-E9, one Corrections QMHP-E, two Secretary-A’s, one Departmental Technician-E8, five Corrections Program Coordinators E, one Medical Records Examiner, one Accounting Tech E, and one Corrections Program Coordinator-A.

Director’s Office
Memorandum 2020 – 30R8

• *Face masks with the UAW logo* can be worn. This addition

brings the DOM into compliance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Article 21, Grooming and Attire, allows the wearing of apparel with the UAW logo.

- **Video Visiting** is being allowed at some prisons such as Women’s Huron Valley and Lakeland Correctional Facility. In person visits are still prohibited at all prisons.
- **Parolee Substance Abuse Testing** – The standard of six months with no positive alcohol or drug tests (and no refusals) and no arrests, or citations for drug or alcohol related offenses will be reduced to three. After three months of sobriety, the substance abuse (SA) designation can be removed and testing thereafter will be at the discretion of the Agent.

However, if at any time the parolee’s behavior warrants reinstatement of the SA designation, it shall remain until the parolee has maintained

sobriety for a term of three months and has completed any required SA programming.

- **Probationer substance abuse testing** is not directly addressed.
- **(14.)** “Oral swabs have been purchased for substance abuse testing” is being interpreted to mean, by management, that agents should be using alcohol swab tests to substitute for the now disallowed “PBT” alcohol test. *Do not take for granted that there are no alcohol tests!*

Remember our old friend “CYA” and request (*via email*) as many alcohol testing swab tests that you need to test each offender. Don’t assume or take the word of a supervisor telling you that 7 alcohol tests are all they have when you need 25 to test everyone.

According to Management at the Labor Management meeting, there are more than enough alcohol swabs to cover the state.

ATTN: All Retiring UAW EMPLOYEES



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SHOW YOUR UNION SPIRIT

Did you know that you can wear clothing with the UAW logo at work?



UAW contract Article 21 - Grooming and Attire;

“UAW members are entitled to wear clothing that otherwise complies with the Employer’s grooming and attire standards which displays the UAW logo. Such logo shall not exceed three and one half (3 1/2) inches in diameter.”

By wearing the UAW/Local 6000 logo, you show your solidarity with fellow State workers around the state, and you show that you are part of a team that stands up for workplace rights and fair wages and benefits. As challenges to our workplace rights increase daily, now more than ever, it is important to show our union solidarity.

Local 6000 has a variety of apparel with the UAW Local 6000 logo. For more information, call Steward Committee Chair Veronica Bonner at 800-243-1985. Group orders are welcomed and encouraged.





Can we talk?

BY MIYA WILLIAMSON, FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Do You Know Michigan... Wineries/Beer Trails

1. What is the name for a wine lover?
2. This tasting tour of Lansing's finest wineries, microbreweries and cider mills and distilleries.
3. This metro area tour has over 20 breweries within a 90 minute drive and was voted Beer City in 2012 and 2013.
4. This wine trail features Cherry Republic Inc, Longview Tasting Room and Chateau Fontaine among others.
5. This trail is located in Michigan's Thumb region.
6. This wine tour covers Southeast Michigan.
7. This trail features West Michigan wineries, craft breweries and distilleries.
8. These wineries are near Lake Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay.
9. This trail is known as American Viticultural Area (Ava).
10. This wine tour is along the Little Traverse Bay where grapes flourish.



The prizes for this month's quiz are:

- First Place – \$25.00 Meijer Gift Card
- Second Place – \$25.00 Target Gift Card
- Third Place – \$25.00 Amazon Gift Card

Deadline for submissions is January 15 and can be emailed to: mwilliamson@local6000.org.

DARRELL GANTZ

by Wanda Withers, Retired UAW Local 6000 Executive Board Member

There is always that one person you know who goes the extra mile. At Gratiot /7 Mile DHHS District in Detroit, that person was Darrell Gantz. Darrell treated both the internal and external customers with integrity, dignity and respect. He, in turn, was respected by all.

Darrell was an AP Worker who was well organized, knew the computer system and would help you when you were ready to give up. He was excellent at troubleshooting. Darrell helped a number of new workers learn the job. He was also that person who, when we had a fundraiser and needed someone to work the grill, Darrell would be there. Yet, he never asked for any help in return.

Darrell kept his Union contract on his desk and reviewed it often. When Darrell became a Union Steward for Local 6000, approximately three (3) years ago, members felt confident confiding in him and knew he would address their issues to the fullest. He listened and fought for the rights of all of the members.

On November 18, 2020, a fatal accident took the life of this great man, great steward and proud father of two (2) daughters. His Gratiot /7 Mile family and all who knew Darrell were devastated. He will always be remembered for his quiet, confident and generous spirit. Rest in glory, Darrell.



(L-R) Wanda Withers, Darrell Gantz, Colette Gilewicz, and Dennis Bryant

DHHS UPDATE

DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES

by Jim Walkowicz, UAW Local 6000 DHHS Labor Management Team Chair

Your DHHS Labor/Management team continues to discuss health and safety issues with DHHS at our bi-monthly meetings. A week after our November Labor/Management meeting, DHHS announced that the working-from-home plan will continue until at least March 1, 2021. As of our November meeting, we were informed that a total of 381 DHHS employees have tested positive for Coronavirus since March.

Although there is still a hiring freeze in DHHS, we were told that they can hire in some classifications, for example Direct Care staff in the State Hospitals, Social Services Specialists, and some AP Workers. All new hires must be approved in advance though.

Case Reads and Payment Accuracy Plans

There was extensive discussion on the issue of case reads for AP and FIS workers and the extra work being added due to the Payment Accuracy Plans. This

has been a big area of complaint from around the state, especially regarding the inconsistency of the readings and the extra work that the Payment Accuracy Plans entail. Caseloads are higher than they have been in a long time and staff is getting burned out and stressed out. This message was conveyed to Lansing at our November 12th meeting. The Union asked "was the intent of this to threaten discipline on staff if they do not keep up," because that is how some people feel. Management stated that that is not their intent.

Building Closures

DHHS announced in October that three (3) buildings in Wayne County and two (2) buildings in Ingham County were going to be closed permanently due to budget cuts. The buildings include Gratiot/7 Mile, Grand River/Warren, and North Central CFS in Wayne County, along with the PNC Building and Victor Building in Lansing.

Questions or comments? I can be reached at 313-999-9418 or walkowiczj@aol.com

Can We Talk? DECEMBER WORD SEARCH

by Miya Williamson, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

MICHIGAN CROPS (Part 2)



S	F	S	Y	K	X	X	B	L	T	G	D	G	S	N
X	R	T	L	C	T	S	M	A	D	S	P	E	Q	W
P	W	E	A	X	N	O	E	C	O	S	E	X	J	L
O	G	E	B	J	G	H	M	Y	N	R	N	C	K	J
T	N	B	J	M	W	O	B	A	T	B	G	E	A	H
A	F	R	W	H	U	E	Z	S	T	P	E	H	M	M
T	O	A	P	T	A	C	A	O	W	O	X	S	W	Y
O	G	G	C	N	H	M	U	P	C	K	E	D	E	B
E	L	U	S	O	T	V	X	C	J	F	H	S	Y	D
S	Q	S	P	S	S	T	U	N	T	S	E	H	C	L
S	U	S	I	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	S	V	B	Y
M	T	R	X	Z	C	S	Y	N	Y	P	S	I	H	R
A	H	A	D	H	K	I	O	R	O	B	M	A	U	O
C	J	Z	O	K	N	D	C	O	O	D	F	K	S	M
D	S	G	G	E	V	M	W	C	W	Y	D	X	G	F

- CHESTNUTS
- CHRISTMAS TREES
- CORN
- CUCUMBERS
- EGGS
- HOPS
- OATS
- POTATOES
- PUMPKINS
- SOYBEANS
- SUGAR BEETS
- TOMATOES

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BENEFITS, EAP, AND HEALTH & SAFETY REP. UPDATE

by Nicole Jones
Beneficiaries

As we get further into our careers with the State of Michigan, we may forget to update our records when major events occur in our lives. Unfortunately, this could lead to additional stress and/or trauma for our loved ones. It is important that we add,

change and/or update our beneficiaries as needed. In the event of your untimely death, no one in your family can be paid your life insurance or pension if you did not designate them as a beneficiary.

If you get a divorce and do not change your beneficiary, your new spouse may not receive the benefits you intended for him or her.

If you give birth to a child as a single parent, you will need to update your records to ensure that your child gets the benefits as you intended.

Millions of dollars in benefits are returned to the State yearly. Don't allow this slight oversight to cause additional stress to your loved ones in their time of need.

BARGAINING UPDATE

by Jim Walkowicz, UAW Local 6000 Bargaining Team Chairperson

It may be hard to believe, but 2021 is almost here. That means we will be starting Bargaining with the State at some point in 2021 for our new contract. At this point, we do not know exactly when we will start, but usually the Union starts putting its proposals together later in the spring and then meets with the Employer in the summer.

Bargaining in 2021, of course, may be changed, like everything else is in the world, due to the Pandemic. We have always done in-person bargaining, but that may have to change for 2021.

As we put our proposals together, input from the membership is crucial. In "normal" times, we do a lot of worksite meetings, hand out the Bargaining Survey, and ask people to fill them out and turn them in. That may be impossible in 2021. So, we are going to be more dependent than ever on mail-in Bargaining Surveys or doing them On Line.

On page 2 of this issue of *Newsbreak* is a copy of the Bargaining Survey that we are asking you to fill out and send in. You can also do it online at our Website (www.local6000.org)

2021 UAW Union-Built Vehicle Guide



These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canada's Unifor union, formerly the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of vehicle production in both countries, all of the vehicles listed as made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members. However, vehicles marked with a single asterisk (*) are also produced in Mexico.

All heavy-duty Chevrolet Silverados and GMC Sierras will be built in Flint, Michigan, only. Light-duty Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra regular cabs are produced in Mexico only. Vehicles marked with a double asterisk (**) are the crew cab versions of the Chevrolet Silverado light-duty and GMC Sierra light-duty trucks. Those are assembled by UAW members in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and also in Mexico.

When purchasing a vehicle marked with a single or double asterisk, it's important to check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1" or "4" or "5" identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; a "2" identifies a Canadian-made vehicle; a "3" identifies a vehicle made in Mexico. Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

UAW CARS



- Cadillac CT4
- Cadillac CT5
- Chevrolet Bolt (electric)
- Chevrolet Camaro
- Chevrolet Corvette
- Chevrolet Malibu
- Chevrolet Sonic
- Ford Mustang
- Lincoln Continental

UAW TRUCKS



- Chevrolet Colorado
- Chevrolet Medium-Duty Silverado
- Navistar (regular and crew cab)
- Chevrolet Silverado Light Duty (crew** and double cab only)
- Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty
- Ford F Series
- Ford F-650/750
- Ford Ranger
- Ford Super Duty Chassis Cab
- GMC Canyon
- GMC Sierra Light Duty (crew** and double cab only)
- GMC Sierra Heavy Duty
- Jeep Gladiator

- Ram 1500 (classic model - DS)*
- Ram 1500 (new model - DT)*

UAW SUVs/CUVs



- Buick Enclave
- Cadillac Escalade
- Cadillac Escalade ESV
- Cadillac Escalade Hybrid
- Cadillac XT4
- Cadillac XT5
- Cadillac XT6
- Chevrolet Suburban
- Chevrolet Tahoe
- Chevrolet Tahoe (police)
- Chevrolet Tahoe (special service)
- Chevrolet Traverse
- Dodge Durango
- Ford Escape
- Ford Expedition
- Ford Explorer
- GMC Acadia
- GMC Yukon
- GMC Yukon Hybrid
- GMC Yukon XL
- Jeep Cherokee
- Jeep Grand Cherokee
- Jeep Wrangler

- Lincoln Aviator
- Lincoln Corsair
- Lincoln Navigator

UAW VANS



- Chevrolet Express
- Chevrolet Express (cut-away)
- Ford E-Series (cut-away)
- Ford Transit
- GMC Savana
- GMC Savana (cut-away)

UNIFOR CARS



- Chrysler 300
- Dodge Challenger
- Dodge Charger

UNIFOR SUVs/CUVs



- Chevrolet Equinox*
- Ford Edge
- Lincoln Nautilus

UNIFOR VANS



- Chrysler Pacifica
- Dodge Grand Caravan

Stay Connected to Local 6000

Each day, State workers are faced with new challenges. Assaults on our contract and benefits along with rising workloads continue at a rapid pace. To stay united and to protect our rights, workers must stay informed. Local 6000 has several methods to keep you, the member, informed and updated.



• **Facebook** – Local 6000 now has a Facebook page which is updated daily. The page now features short videos on current events, updates on important issues and pictures of union functions. Find us at [facebook.com/UAWLocal6000](https://www.facebook.com/UAWLocal6000). You do not have to join Facebook to view the postings.



• The Local 6000 “Can We Talk” initiative now has a **YouTube** site. This site contains the latest videos, including interviews about current issues. It’s a great way to learn about your union and to stay up to date on union events. Recent videos include: the DHS picket, interviews on the reduction in force, elimination of now-FIS positions, and what are your benefits as a union member.

www.youtube.com/user/CanWeTalkLocal6000



• For **Twitter** followers, current information on issues can be found at <https://twitter.com/cwtLocal6000>, or [@cwtlocal6000](https://twitter.com/cwtlocal6000)



• canwetalklocal6000@gmail.com

WINNER of... Do You Know MICHIGAN INTERESTING FACTS QUIZ

We had four winners to November’s Quiz on interesting facts about Michigan. Congratulations to the following members on their excellent knowledge. Each winner will each receive either a Meijer, Target or Amazon Gift Card.

ALEXIS COOPER
DHHS Ingram County
ANDREA MOTLEY
DHHS Wayne County

TERRA RAY
LEO Gogebic County
JEWEL MCJENNETT
DHHS Macomb County



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UNION LABEL

LOCAL 6000
COMMITTEE
UPDATE

by Onita Gagne, and the Union Label Committee

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US

We are coming up on Christmas and the end of the year. Where has this year gone? It seems like just yesterday we were ringing in the New Year! For the last minute shoppers that need to buy a special gift for someone here are some gift ideas...

- Timex
- Hasbro Toys
- Black and Decker
- Revlon
- Parker Bros.
- Wilson Sporting Goods
- Craftsman
- Mattel
- Avon

This is only a sample of what you can find that is Union, American or Michigan made. For some more ideas check out these websites: *Labor 411.Org* and *Union Label.Org*.

CHRISTMAS DINNER IDEAS...

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Turkey | Potatoes | Side Dishes |
| • Boars Head | • Ore Ida | • Ocean Spray Cranberries |
| • Butterball | • Betty Crocker | • Bird’s Eye Vegetables |
| Ham | • Dole | Desserts |
| • Boars Head | Stuffing | • Sara Lee |
| • Hormel | • Kraft | • Marie Callender’s |
| • Cooks | | • Entenmann’s |
| • Farmland | | |

NEW YEAR’S EVE is next. Here are some party products to purchase...

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beers | Wines | Champagne |
| • Bud | • Almaden | • Andrews |
| • Bud Light | • Dubonnet | Snacks |
| • Pabst | • Gallo | • Bugles |
| • Miller | • Weibel Family- | • Cheetos |
| • Coors | • Michigan has several | • Doritos |
| • Michelob | selections also | • Kraft/Nabisco Crackers |
| Liquor | Soft Drinks | • Planter’s Peanuts |
| • Bacardi Rum | • A & W Root Beer | • Tostitos |
| • Captain Morgan | • Canada Dry | Cheese |
| • Jim Beam | • Coke | • Boars Head |
| • Seagrams | • Orange Crush | • Kraft |
| • Margaritaville | • 7-Up | • Horizon |
| | • Pepsi | |

For those who might of drank more than they wanted to, you might need these the next day...

- Advil
- Alka Seltzer

For dinner on **NEW YEAR’S DAY**, select any of the choices listed above as “Christmas Dinner Ideas...”

VALENTINE’S DAY – Treat your Valentine to... **Wine/Champagne**

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Chocolates | Flowers | Restaurants | Wine/Champagne |
| • Ghiradelli | • Albertson’s | • Applebee’s | • Almaden |
| • Brach’s | • Costco | • Outback | • Arbor Mist |
| • Russell Stover | • Ralph’s | | • Bartles & James |
| | | | • Andre Champagne |

Some other Wild and Wacky Holidays that we don’t think about.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 12/17 National Maple Syrup Day | 01/16 National Nothing Day |
| 12/27 National Fruitcake Day | 01/23 Measure Your Feet Day ??? |
| 12/30 National Bacon Day | 02/05 Bubble Gum Day |
| 01/01 National Hangover Day | 02/11 Paczki Day |
| 01/03 National Toss the Fruitcake Day | 02/12 National Lost Penny Day |
| 01/13 National Rubber Ducky Day | |

As always, please remember to purchase Union, American or Michigan Products whenever possible.

Keep our men and women of America working. They will thank you for it.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season everyone and hoping our new year will be better.

LABOR HISTORY



widely suspected that it was allies of mine management or the owners who did so to disrupt the miners' party. Nobody was ever prosecuted or even arrested for causing the massacre. It is always thus: Those with money and power control the narrative, silence the truth, and thwart justice.

Partly because a lot of miners left Calumet behind after this tragedy, the strike didn't achieve its demands. However, it was considered a turning point for union strength in Michigan's Copper Country.

In 1941, Woody Guthrie got an idea for a song about the tragedy, which he called "1913 Massacre."

*"The piano played a slow funeral tune,
And the town was lit up by a cold Christmas moon.
The parents they cried and the miners they moaned,
'See what your greed for money has done'."*

(Thanks to libcom.org for the above article)

"On their side, the workers had only the Constitution. The other side had bayonets."
— Mother Jones

A Christmas Massacre

A short history of the biggest mass murder in Michigan history – the massacre of 73 people, mostly the children of striking miners, at a Christmas party on Christmas Eve in 1913.

In July 1913, over 7,000 miners struck the C&H Copper Mining Company in Calumet, Michigan. Strikers' demands included pay raises, an end to child labor, and safer conditions, including an end to one-man drill operations, as well as support beams in the mines (which mine owners didn't want because support beams were costly but miners killed in cave-ins "do not cost us anything.")

Six months without work left many miner families with little food for the holidays and no money for presents. So, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Federation of Miners held a Christmas party for the kids. Five hundred children and 200 adults showed up that day, Christmas Eve, 1913. It was held on the second floor of Calumet's Italian Hall. The only way in and out was a very steep stairway.

As darkness fell and people began to go home to their family celebrations, some of the children

gathered around the stage as presents were passed out. For many, it would be the only gift they'd receive this year. In the middle of this festive celebration, a man wearing a badge labelled "Citizens Alliance" (an anti-strike group organized by employers) opened the door at the bottom of the staircase and yelled, "FIRE!"

Chaos ensued. As everybody headed down the stairs to the exit, the door was blocked from the outside. Children and adults were trampled, then suffocated, by the throng of bodies trying to escape the "fire" – which didn't actually exist.

Children on the bottom of the pile suffocated from the weight of the bodies piled atop them and people struggling to escape stepped on those who had fallen.

A woman who realized she was going to die lifted her baby over her head. The baby was found alive, clutched in his dead mother's hands.

In all, 73 people, including 59 children, died, most of them Finnish migrants. The youngest was Rafael Lesar, 2½ years old. The

oldest was Kate Pitteri, 66 years old. Some families lost all of their children; like Frank and Josepa Klarich, who buried their three daughters, Kristina (11), Maria (9), and Katarina (7). Their little crosses are lined up in a row over their graves in a cemetery west of Calumet.

The culprits who yelled into the hall that day to start the tragedy were never identified, but it is



Sit-Downers take over Chevy's Fisher Body plant to bring General Motors to the bargaining table.

December 30, 1936 – GM Sit-Down Strike

In 1936, the fledgling United Auto Workers union (UAW) was organizing workers in Flint, the heart of the General Motors Corporation (GM) labor force. On December 30, 1936, workers at Chevrolet's Fisher Body, Plant 2, "sat down," stopping production. They demanded union recognition and a cessation of sending work to nonunion plants. On January 11, 1937, violence erupted at Fisher 2.

In what workers called the "Battle of the Running Bulls," Flint police crossed the Chevrolet Avenue Bridge armed with tear gas and guns, while workers turn fire hoses, car door hinges, bottles, and other projectiles into weapons. Twenty-seven people were injured.

The 44-day strike ended on February 11, 1937, when GM recognized the UAW as the bargaining agent for GM factory workers.



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**Caroline Ross,
Chairwoman,
Statewide Retired
Workers Chapter**

Until Further Notice, All Meetings and Activities for UAW Local 6000 Retired Workers are CANCELLED.

his cabinet with the edict “tell me what I need to know, not what I want to know.”

Previously, Trump insisted on a cut to the payroll tax as part of any COVID-19 stimulus package and publicly promised to eliminate the payroll tax altogether if reelected. As everyone knows, the payroll tax is the primary funding source for Social Security, and would have devastated the disabled and older Americans. (see key priorities list at right)

These measures are just a part of his agenda for America. But, unless Democrats win control of the Senate in the Georgia runoffs in January, Biden’s legislative agenda for older adults is likely to fall far short of his ambitions. But he’ll still be able to use his regulatory authority to make modest – though important – reforms.

We need to remain active and supportive of this agenda to ensure that non-partisan actions are taken in the Senate.

Scam Alert!

Believe it or not, scams and bullying are growing problems among seniors. New scams are cropping up daily and it’s hard for

Here are some of President-Elect Biden’s KEY PRIORITIES that, if passed, would directly impact seniors:

1. Implement ambitious reforms to stabilize Social Security, including new benefits for very old and very low-income recipients combined with a proposal to impose Social Security payroll taxes on workers making \$400,000 or more. Currently, payroll taxes stop at wages over \$137,700. Biden’s plan would increase the exemption to 12.4 percent on income above \$400,000 evenly split between employers and employees.
2. to lower drug prices and implement increased regulations on big pharma is a top priority in his platform. Those regulations include ending the exemption that prevents Medicare from using its enrollee numbers to bargain on pricing.
3. enacting enhanced measures against workplace age discrimination and expands the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for childless workers aged 65+; provides renewable-energy-related tax credits to individuals.
4. changing the tax structure from the current deduction framework to a percentage-based credit, which would make the tax break equal across all income levels.
5. proposes a tax credit for as much as \$5,000 to reimburse families for expenses associated with unpaid caregiving. Also, give family members Social Security credits for the time they spend out of the work force caring for loved ones.
6. Expands the estate and gift tax by restoring the rate and exemption to 2009 levels.

Hello Retirees,

Voters have spoken and have elected Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States. Kamala Harris has made history as the first female and woman of color to serve as Vice President of the United States!!

This election has made the statement that older voters will fight to protect Social Security and Medicare entitlements. Actually, retirees tend to unite around vital key issues that impact our interests, quality of life, financial security, health, and health care. These were all key issues in the Biden campaign.

Ending the pandemic will be the first item on Biden’s agenda. He’s already established a task force aimed at creating a national strategy to address the nation’s biggest public health crisis in 100 years. He is in the process of appointing respected experts for

even the most connected consumer to stay informed. Recent studies show that about 1 in 5 seniors are bullied and/or scammed, but we never think it could happen to us. We are from a trusting generation, and because we are shocked, afraid, or embarrassed, many such acts go unreported.

As more and more seniors transition into smaller living facilities, or are now widowed and simply want to stay in their present home, we become more vulnerable to unethical businesses.

Retirees, when you seek to have a repairman into your home, be aware. Unless you are completely familiar with the company you have called, make sure that you are not alone when the repairman

arrives.

Many scams go beyond questionable business practices and involve intentional misconduct. These frequently involve minor home repair or maintenance projects; such as siding, roofing, painting, and cleaning jobs. The quality of work performed may not be worth the money given, and the material may not be the quality that should be used.

Although I thought it would never happen to me, I was recently scammed. My granddaughter has severe allergy issues. As I have a large dog, and we had utilized a kernel burner for years and we live in the country, I was advised

continued on next page

Keep Your Address Current with OSE



Please contact the Office of State Employer (OSE) with any changes in your status, especially your current address. You may be missing updates from ORS if your address is not correct. Whenever bulk mailings are done from Local 6000 (including: *Newsbreak*, election ballots or other notifications) the address list from OSE is used. If your address is not current you may be missing important notification. Call OSE with any changes, do not miss any future notifications.

GET INVOLVED! JOIN THE UAW LOCAL 6000 RETIRED WORKERS CHAPTERS!

NEW CONTACT NUMBERS
for **BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD** or **BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD ADVANTAGE**

Please keep these numbers in case you have questions about your benefits.

Questions regarding claims and benefits for **BCBSM Non-Medicare**..... **1-800-843-4876**

Questions regarding claims and benefits for **BCBSM Medicare Advantage (MA)**..... **1-800-843-4876, Press option 1**

Questions regarding claims and benefits for **BCN Non-Medicare**..... **1-800-662-6667**

Questions regarding claims and benefits for **BCNA (BCN Medicare Advantage)** **1-800-450-3680 TTY users dial 711**

FOR HELPFUL INFORMATION...



- ▶ Read your monthly **NEWSBREAK** newspaper
- ▶ Visit Local 6000’s website at: **www.local6000.org**

▶ Visit our various **Facebook** pages:

- UAW Local 6000 Retired State Employees
- UAW Local 6000 Retired Workers Region 1A
- UAW Local 6000 Michigan’s State Employees



continued from previous page

by a reputable furnace company to have the furnace vents cleaned. I called a company that was recommended.

The original job quote was for \$250, and the job would take 2 hours. But, when he arrived and had the job half finished, he demanded to be paid \$125 per hour, for 4 hours. He was about 6'4". I am 5'. We were alone.

I told him to leave my home, but he stood over me and shouted, demanding to be paid. I gave him a check because, by then, I was afraid. I thought I could call the credit union and stop payment. *But, he made it to the CU and cashed the check within 10 minutes!*

My house was a mess! The residue from the vents was blown into the air and back onto the house siding, windows and screens. He did not cover all 10 of the vents and one room is covered with a black soot.

My calls to his business got denials from the office clerk (she said she was afraid he would fire her) and no response from him. I have filed a police report and one also with the Better Business Bureau.

Bullies of all ages tend to be aggressive and controlling, targeting individuals who are perceived as weak or vulnerable.

My point is this. If it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone; especially retirees! Take precautions. You can avoid fraud and protect your hard-earned money by being informed and diligent.



If you ever experience this in your home, call the police, and file a report with the Better Business Bureau. If appropriate, take them to court.

PLEASE NOTE... This Program Will End on December 31, 2020

Per a Memorandum of Understanding, between the Michigan Civil Service Commission and the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB), copays for telehealth, office visits, in-office lab visits and imaging services were waived from April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Any copay and co-insurance charges incurred for COVID-19 treatment during this time period is also waived.

Have You Got Your Flu Shot Yet?

Remember, the shots for flu and the shingles are covered by BCBS Advantage. This year, they have instituted another program to encourage retirees to maintain good health. Even though the tests are covered by your BCBSM, you will receive a reward check.

If you get your yearly checkup/flu shots, have a discussion with your doctor about your physical

activity, and accept a phone-based medical information call. Each activity has a different amount of reward, from \$10 to \$25.

Postcards were sent to members encouraging them to get these services prior to 12/31/20. Go online or call and give them the date you received it. The reward varies for the type of service received. Visit bcbsm.com/advantagerewards or call 1-866-572-0155 (TTY: 711)

Financial Hardships

If you are having problems paying monthly payments on credit cards or other payments, call the merchant or credit card company and explain your dilemma. Many are forgoing finance charges due to COVID-19.

If you experience a financial hardship and need assistance, please call United Way 211. The help line is available by phone, text or live chat 24 hours a day to connect people with the resources they need in times of crisis. Other resources you might contact is your local Commission on Aging and various churches.

We are in this together, and we will get through this – together.
Wear Your Mask! Solidarity!

CONTACT INFORMATION



MICHIGAN OFFICE OF RETIREMENT SERVICES

For retiree health plan information, including health plan comparisons for all BCBSM and BCN products, you can visit the microsite for SOM retirees at www.bcbsm.com/som, click on retirees.

The microsite provides a hard copy of the plan benefits, as well as tools, and forms. It is a one-stop shop of information for anyone who has a SOM BCBSM or BCN healthcare product.

For retirees questioning eligibility, or to review all the plan options available to the retirees (including ones outside of BCBSM), they will want to contact the Office of Retirement Services, which is currently open: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (EST)

ORS Lansing-area telephone: **517-284-4400**

From outside the Lansing area: **800-381-5111**

Or visit their website: www.michigan.gov/ors



Through the voluntary dues program, if you wish to donate \$3.00 per month, please fill out the application below. Retirees \$3.00 Dues – by 36th UAW Constitutional Convention Action in June, 2014, the voluntary dues were established at \$3.00 per month. Fill out the application below. Dues must be submitted with application. *Make check payable to: UAW LOCAL 6000.* They cannot be deducted from your pension check.

CHECK ONE: Surviving Spouse Retiree

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Cell): _____ (Home) _____

Local Union # _____

Email _____

Mail to: **LOCAL 6000 RETIRED WORKERS CHAPTER**
P.O. Box 40720, Lansing, MI 48901-7920

Please keep Local 6000 updated on any address changes.

What's in it for me?

The ads in *The Newsbreak* help pay for the printing and mailing of the newspaper you are reading. The businesses running the ads are union supporters. The offers they make are often only available to members of our union. It is in our own best interest to spend our valuable union dollars with union-friendly business.

Support those who support us!

IT'S THE UNION WAY.



Christmas

WORD SCRAMBLE

RNTONMSAE _____

TINSLE _____

WIDOEFR _____

MLIYFA _____

SESBGLIN _____

ETRSENPS _____

HLSGTI _____

AHPYP _____

KINTSC _____

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RTHDO ECI _____

YERRM _____

ESHLGI _____

SNSEEOTHGETR _____

YNIPP _____

NKFAEOSLW _____

YER SMICRRSHAMT _____

CFRAS _____

NTIMTSE _____

ERIERNED _____

ERD _____

EGRNE _____

OCEKSOI _____

KIML _____