# EWSBREAK

UAW Local 6000

Michigan's Best

**DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020** 

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Volume 34 - No. 10





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#### Buy Union – Buy American

www.uawlocal6000.org

# Stewards Gather for Training on New Contract



Staff goes over CBA Articles.



**President Mitchell Q&A** 

by Miya Williamson, Financial Sec'y-Treasurer

On Friday, November 1, 2019 Stewards gathered at UAW Local 6000 to be educated on the specifics of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The new CBA covers the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. Stewards spent the day asking questions about changes to the CBA and going over specific articles in detail.

Updates on updated benefits negotiated were also a hot topic. Stewards were armed with the tools to carry out their assignment for enforcing the contract and assisting members in the grievance process.

The primary CBA and secondary agreements will be soon mailed to all members. If there are any questions, reach out to your worksite Stewards for advice on filing grievances and any contract violation issues. If you need assistance in determining who your worksite Steward is, please contact Local 6000 at 800-243-1985.



**EAP** and Benefits contract update





Stewards listen attentively to CBA changes.



Local Reps assist in Q&A.



"It was the Wayne MRS's absolute pleasure to donate to this worthy cause. We know that deserving children will love the toys. Have a great Holiday Season and continue to do the good work of Veterans."

# TOYS FOR TOTS

Once again, UAW Local 6000 will be participating in the U.S. Marine Corps Annual Toys for Tots Drive. It brings warmth to the hearts of our members to give and it puts a smile on a child's face this Christmas. It is with joy and gladness we say Merry Christmas to the children who will benefit from these gifts. Many offices across the state contributed and for that we are truly grateful. Thank you for making Christmas for a child who otherwise might not receive anything. Have a joyous and prosperous Holiday Season!

— MIKE MCWHIRTER



# New Members!

MEMBER	DEPT.
Shaema Al Saade	DHHS
Saba Al-Hachami	DHHS
Michelle Anderson	DHHS
Mary Angeloff	DHHS
Brianna Ash	DHHS
Regan Balcer	LEO
Jennifer Batson	DHHS
Elizabeth Bosquez	DHHS
Daniell Bracey	DHHS
Steven Brott	DHHS
Heather Burmeister	LARA
Kimberli Burr	DHHS
Tiffany Carey	DHHS
Chardonay Carter	LEO
Anita Castellon	reasury
Sharyl Chamberlin	DOC
Cynthia Clarey	DHHS
Brandis Clark	DHHS
Shannon Clark	DOC
Kathryn Comstock	DHHS
Courtney Cooklin	SOS
Marina CorbiTransp	ortation
Taylor Cramer Transp	ortation
Damika Crenshaw	DHHS
Bailey Cunningham DT	MB-DIT
Erica Daniels	DHHS
Marlina Dantzler	DHHS
Beth Davey	DHHS
Kristina Delacourt	DHHS
Brittany Devos	
Kari Diffenderfer	DNR
Christine Eaton	DHHS

## Welcome to Local 6000, YOU make us STRONG!

Corinne Edwards	.Education
Kourtnee Elliott	LEO
Judy Elmore	DNR
Lisabeth Essick	Treasury
Alexis Eziukwu	DHHS
April Finny	DHHS
Julia Firlit	DHHS
Ayrica Flowers	DHHS
Adam FrantiTrai	nsportation
Alexandria Fritz	DHHS
Alese Garstick	DHHS
Tanisha Gill	DHHS
Tina Goff	DHHS
Latrice Goree	DHHS
Melissa Greer	DHHS
Michael Griffin	DHHS
Melissa Gross	DOC
Michael Guerin	DOC
Kristin Guise	DHHS
Miranda Gulyas	DHHS
Shaniqua Hansend	DHHS
Angela Harris	DMA
Helen Hartwell	State Police
Cathyann Haynes	DOC
Chad Hewitt	
Jamie Hicks	
Estelita Horton	DHHS
Michelle Hubbard	DHHS
Johanna Huskey	DHHS
Ally Jackson	DHHS
Connie Jolly	Treasury
Alicia Jones	
Virgil Keepes	
Kathryn Killingbeck	
Kate Kisil	
Alexandra Lamotte	
Emma Lilje	DHHS

Chelsea Low	DHHS
Gregory Luft	DHHS
Wadad Mansour	DHHS
Nathan Marra	DOC
Lance Martin	DHHS
Madison Mayhew	DHHS
Lataja McMahan	Treasury
Kathryn Miedema	DHHS
Rickie Miles	DHHS
Matthew Moffit	DOC
Morgan Monique	DHHS
Michael Mossing	DHHS
Kisha Munn	DHHS
Vanessa Munn	DHHS
Mone'cia Mwangi-Robbins	DHHS
Kimberly Needham	DHHS
Michelle Nettle	DOC
Estee Ostlund	DHHS
David Owens	DHHS
Latonya Padgett	LEC
Jessica Papke Smith	DHHS
Quocshawn Parker	DOC
Dauson Petty	DHHS
Hannah Pung	
Ashley Rawlings	DHHS
Christopher Rhodes	DHHS
Elizabeth Rinke	DHHS
William Ritchie	
Brett Rivard	
Cora Rodgers	
Tia Rondeau	DHHS

Denise Rose	SOS
Hannah Rosenberger	DHHS
Xavier Sanders	DOC
Gregory Sands	DOC
Jacqueline Schreiber	DHHS
Alyssa Schulz	DHHS
Perry Scott	DHHS
Kiara Sims	DHHS
Caprice Smith	DHHS
Erica Smith	DHHS
Stephani Smith	DHHS
Christina Snoblen	DHHS
James Son	DOC
Wendy Spencer	DOC
Melissa Spiekermann	DHHS
Rachel Stein	DHHS
Tangela Stephens	DHHS
Jan Stine	DHHS
Takiema Taylor	DHHS
Ruth TholeTrans	sportation
Laura Thomas	DHHS
Adrienne Tindell	SOS
Veronica Torres	DHHS
Allan Trevino	DHHS
Earline Vaughn	DHHS
Amy Veres	
Michael Vollick	DOC
Kathryn Wakefield	DHHS
Darren Washington	DHHS
Zona Watson	DHHS
Matthew Waun	DHHS
Awsha Wells	. Treasury
Sarah Whitaker	DHHS
Latieca Williams	DHHS
Tearis Wimberly	SOS
A DROUB TO F	



#### Have you ever wondered why you should have an account at a credit union instead of Choose a bank? Here's why: **SMSE** You are a member/owner of this financial institution. **Federal** Products and services are designed specially for you and your

- Traditionally, loan rates are lower than most other financial
- You receive personalized service from our dedicated staff.



17135 W. 10 Mile Road Southfield, MI 48075 248-557-2678

www.smsefcu.com

**Credit Union** for all your financial needs!



Red Wednesdays were established to show support for workers under attack by the antiworker 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.



# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



**Edward Mitchell** 

"The addendum and the new full contract will be mailed to the membership following approval."

#### **Economic Reopener Ratified**

The economic reopener for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 has been ratified by the membership and will now go to the Civil Service Commission for approval. The Civil Service Commission is scheduled to meet on December 11, 2019.

The addendum and the new full contract will be mailed to the membership following approval by the Civil Service Commission. Building meetings and District meetings were held around the state to discuss the economic changes that will, or may, affect you and your family, for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. If you still have questions, after receiving your addendum and new contract, you can contact your worksite steward or your Local Representative.

Local 6000 Health and Safety Representative Nicole Jones and I are still working on appointing Health and Safety Representatives. If you are interested in becoming a Health and Safety Representative, please contact your worksite Steward or your Local Representative. There are also still committee vacancies available for the

Chaplaincy, Community Services, Editorial, Legislative, Recreation, Union Label and Veterans committees. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, contact Emma Jackson at the Local in Lansing.

We are now in the holiday season that began with Thanksgiving and will conclude with New Year. Please review the Union Label article concerning Union- and American-made food and beverages for your holiday shopping and meals on page 5 of this Newsbreak. Please remember those who are less fortunate than you, and support a charity of your choice and Toys for Tots.

I would like to wish all the members of UAW Local 6000 a very Merry Holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Please keep up to date by visiting the Local's website at www. local6000.org or following the Local on Facebook. Also, please attend Building meetings at your worksite and District meetings in your area. The schedule of District meetings is on page 11 of this Newsbreak.



3350 North Grand River • Lansing, MI 48901 Toll Free: 1-800-243-1985 • Hot Line: 1-800-321-0829

Website: www.uawlocal6000.org



Edward Mitchell, Publisher Miya Williamson, Editor mwilliamson@local6000.org

Local Union Communication Assoc

#### **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.



## Benefits of Union Membership...

**UNION** Union Plus Associate Degree

By Nate Smith



I heard about the free associates degree available by attending the UAW District meeting at the Hunt Club.

I work at RGC (Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center) MDOC and I am a Corrections Program Coordinator-10.

I'm working on my degree in Criminal Justice. In my free time, I stay active with my church, spending time with my family, working around the

**Nate Smith** house and watching any University of Michigan sports. I also love to travel, deer hunt, and go fishing, although that doesn't happen as often as I would like.

### **Are You Five Years or Less Away From Retirement?**

- Do you have guestions about how your PSP plan money should be invested?
- Do you have guestions on whether or not your beneficiaries named on your accounts are titled best to protect them from taxes, inflation and market risk?
- Would you like to take a look at some future projections on how much you can draw as income from your retirement assets/accounts?

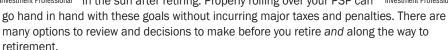
#### If yes, think of it as being in the red zone for your financial goals

You are at the goal line and each decision is critical!

What investments you choose now should reflect the amount of time you are away from retirement as well as your age at retirement.

If you are going to be under 59½ at retirement or semiretirement, there are ways through the IRS tax code that you can take monthly income without the 10% tax penalty.

Michelle Gravelle, CFP Many people would like to buy an RV, cottage or a place Investment Professional in the sun after retiring. Properly rolling over your PSP can



Regardless of your age at retirement, you need to take into account what the amount of your pension may be. You will need to decide if you are going to begin receiving social security payments or to defer them. It also helps to anticipate what your monthly expenses will be (ballpark) including property taxes, excess insurance payments, utilities food and entertainment

This is also the time to assess how much risk you are taking in your PSP/IRA investment allocations. You should be able to reduce your risk and potentially increase your returns simply by reviewing your asset allocation. In many instances, people think they are diversified properly, but often own many overlapping investments. Having a PSP, an IRA, a ROTH IRA and a mutual fund does not mean you are diversified. Owning Fidelity, T. Rowe Price and American Funds, does not mean you are diversified. Having 10 different funds inside your PSP account does not mean you are diversified. How can that be? Because many of these funds own the same stocks and bonds. In other words, you may be putting all of your eggs in two or three baskets while thinking you have 10 or 12 baskets. This can increase your risk and reduce your overall return over time.

Navigating your descending approach to retirement does not have to be difficult if your know all of your options. Making informed decisions about how to invest in your PSP, how to name your beneficiaries, how to protect your principal in retirement, how to avoid taxes and penalties are all important factors in being financially comfortable in your retirement years.

Every move or play is important. Every decision made is going towards, or away, from your retirement goals.

Let us be your coach.

Thank you,

**MICHELLE C. GRAVELLE, CFP** 

Certified Financial Planner

**LPL Financial Services** Member FINRA/SIPC 800-668-7135

### 4 NEWSBREAK

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. JANUARY 15, 1929 thru APRIL 4, 1968

As we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday, I found an interesting article written by Nisa Khan & Lauren Janes, from WUOM-FM Michigan Radio NPR, from this year dated January 21, 2019 which detailed some of the more memorable times he had in Michigan. – *Greg Welch, Civil Rights Committee* 

# Martin Luther King Jr.'s Michigan connections

By NISA KHAN & LAUREN JANES • JAN 21, 2019

There will be lectures, marches, and celebrations across the state recognizing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. today. The federal holiday marks King's birthday, January 15th.

The nation celebrates it on the third Monday of January. This year, he would have been ninety years old.

King had several connections with the state of Michigan. He debuted the iconic "I Have a Dream Speech" in Detroit in June, 1963, months before the historic March on Washington.

It was part of the "Great Walk to Freedom," a practice run for Washington, D.C. Over 125,000 people traveled down Woodward Avenue, led by King himself. Other figures who accompanied the crowd included the father of Aretha Franklin, a chair in the Detroit Council for Human Rights, several Michigan politicians, and union leaders such as Walter Reuther.

Elizabeth James works in the Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Michigan. She attended his 1963 speech in Detroit.

"When he first spoke it here in Michigan, and then in Washington, it was calling to all of us, to use our imaginations, to imagine something that could really make a difference for others," says James. "And I think that's something that



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. marches down Woodward Ave. during the Walk to Freedom on June 23, 1963.

(WALTER P. RUETHER LIBRARY / WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY)

we really have to call upon now."

At the time, King referred to the event as "one of the most wonderful things that has happened in America."

King had also visited Grosse Pointe in 1968, just three weeks before he was assassinated. In the all-white Detroit suburb, he gave a speech entitled "The Other America" in the gymnasium of Grosse Pointe South High School.

"I want to discuss the race problem tonight and I want to discuss it very honestly. And so I want to use as a title for my lecture tonight, 'The Other America,'" he said to a crowd of 2,000 people.

And I use this title because there are literally two Americas. Every city in our country has this kind of dualism, this schizophrenia, split at so many parts, and so every city ends up being two cities rather than one.





KEV. MARTIN LUTHER KING Speaks

DETROIT JUNE 23,1963

CREDIT SCREEN SHOT FROM YOUTUBE.COM / YOUTUBE

You can hear one of the organizer's thoughts about it here. This organizer, Jude Hutteman, said that while Detroit newspapers were on strike, there was not much need for a publicity push because "the town was alive with the news that Dr. King was coming."

Despite being heckled by a right-wing group that brought 100 or so people, King powered on to emphasize the importance of unity between white and black Americans.

He ended his speech with these words: "With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when all of God's children all over this nation – black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old negro spiritual, 'Free at Last, Free at Last, Thank God Almighty, We are Free At Last.""

Dr. King was a Baptist preacher and Nobel peace laureate. He led the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968.



## **UNION LABE**

LOCAL 6000 COMMITTEE

#### by Onita Gagne, Union Label Committee

The Union Label Committee met on November 23, 2019. We discussed how we were going to get information out to our members to buy union, American or Michigan made products. Active committee members will be



putting up information on their work site bulletin boards. Another way is to distribute materials out to members at district meetings. Our goal is to get more people informed of the importance of buying union made products, it keeps America's men and women working. We are going to be constructing a board which we can have different products displayed to show just how many different items you can get that are union made. You will be surprised at how many there are.

#### HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2019/HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020

The holidays are upon us already. Where has the year gone? Getting together with family and friends is always a joyful occasion. This year when we celebrate the holidays remember to buy union, American or Michigan made products. Our men and women of America will thank you for it.

For your get together with family, here is a sample of what you can have for that delicious dinner.

#### Meat:

Turkey	Butterball
Ham	Boars head, Hormel, Farmland or Cooks.
Potatoes	Ore Ida, Betty Crocker or Dole
Stuffing	Kraft
Cranberries	Ocean Spray
	Entenmann's or Marie Callender's
Vegetables	Bird's Eye
and the state of the state of	•

#### For your gift giving:

All American Clothing, Air Step Shoes, Brooks Brothers, Timex, NunnBush, Avon, Revlon, Old Spice, Black and Decker Tools, Craftsman, Ebonite Bowling Balls, Bosca Leather Goods, Naturalizer Shoes, Carolina Women's boots, Hasbro Toys, Parker Brothers, Wilson Sporting Goods and Algoma Jewelry.

This list above is just a few of the many union-made products that you can purchase.

#### **Next comes New Year's Eve:**

Beers	Blue Moon, Budweiser, Coors, Goose Island,
	Hamm's, Michelob, Natural Ice and Pabst.
Snacks	. Act II Popcorn, Bagel Bites, Chex Mix, Doritoes
	and Rold Gold Pretzels.

#### For that infamous hangover on New Year's Day:

Advil or Alka Seltzer

My best source for union-made products is www.labor411.org. They have several pages of products. When in doubt, go there and check it out.

Some different kind of holidays in the months of December and January that you might not know about.

#### In December:

20th	Ugly Sweater Day
21st	National Wreath Across America Day
21st	Humbug Day
24th	National Chocolate Day
27th	National Fruitcake Day
n January:	•

#### In

6th	Cuddle Up Day
	Bobblehead Day
	National Rubber Ducky Day
	Dress Up Your Pet Day

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season everyone, from UAW Local 6000 Union Labor Committee.

# MSP UPDATE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

by Gary Vargo, Local Rep. 1DN

#### **MSP Welcomes New Member**

Pictured at right is UAW Chief Steward Ben Watson. Ben is standing next to new employee, Nathan Wascher. Ben just finished a new employee orientation with Nathan and signed him up to be a UAW member. Both work at the State Police Dispatch Center in Negaunee. Ben has been a 911 Dispatcher for the State for just over three years. His Union background started many years ago when he worked for the C.C.I. mine in Marquette County.



**New employee Nathan Wascher** and Chief Steward Ben Watson

Nathan has been with the State since July. Nathan came to the dispatch center after working for the Marquette County Sheriff's Department for the past few years in the jail. Nathan made the change in careers in a hope to be able to provide a better future for him and his family.



### **Trunk or Treat 2019**

UAW Region 1A Children's Council held their annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 24, 2019. The event was held at Region 1A at 9650 S. Telegraph Road, in Taylor Michigan. The membership from various Locals throughout Region 1A came out to decorate their vehicles and many

dressed up in costume to pass out candy to the children.

Besides collecting all the yummy treats being handed out, the children were able to go inside and fill up on hotdogs, chips, cookies and punch. Outside, the children were able to enjoy bounce houses and ride a party train around the perimeter of the parking lot.

A special thank you to President Edward Mitchell for allowing me to represent Local 6000 at this event for the past 3 years. This year, Vice President Kelly Barnett and I had a ball handing out candy, admiring all the costumes, and having fun with the children. I hope to see all of you there next year. - VERONICA BONNER, Chair, Steward Committee



**Benefits Representative NICOLE JONES, Region 1A** MIKE MCWHIRTER, Region 1D are available at the Local to help with benefits questions.

- Toll Free 800 Line will answer questions and refer members to the proper person for assistance on Mon-Fri, from 8 to 5, at 1-800-243-1985.

Health & Safety Representative **NICOLE JONES** is available at the Local for assistance with health and safety issues.

EAP Representative **MIKE McWHIRTER** is available at the Local for

help with substance abuse, marital, emotional and personal problems.

# Can we talk? District Happenings...

# **Gratiot/7 Mile Bazaar and Vendor Success**

by Kelly Barnett, Vice President

On November 14, 2019, I had the pleasure of being invited to the Gratiot/7 Mile DHHS Office Holiday Bazaar. As the Officer over the Steward Committee, I accepted the invitation on behalf of the committee and was quickly impressed to see the many talents of our membership.

There were outside vendors as well; however, the handmade scarves by Chief Steward Colette Gilewicz, the handmade jewelry by Vickie Owes and the "Sanctuary Girl" products by D-Ann Oldam were phenomenal.

It was a wonderful opportunity to see our membership in a different light. We have a wealth of talent within Local 6000, and it was my pleasure to participate in this event.



















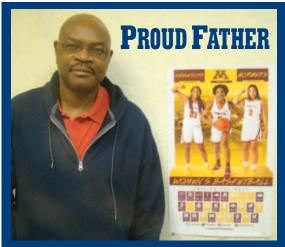












**UAW Local 6000 member** Anthony Bello (who is an ITT at the Gratiot/7 Mile DHHS office in Wayne County) poses with a poster of his daughter, Taiye Bello, who is a star basketball player for the University of Minnesota. (Taiye is in the middle on the poster.)

Taiye's twin sister, Kehinde, also plays basketball for the University of Minnesota.



Members enjoying the Holiday Party

### District IA-2 Holiday Party

by Wanda Withers, District 1A-2 Chairperson

On November 15, 2019, District 1A-2 held their first annual Holiday Party Celebration. We received an overwhelming response from our members to attend. All members who did attend seemed to enjoy themselves and remarked they had a great time.

The caterer, Big Bo's Grille, did a wonderful job on the fruit and salad table and the food



**District Chair Wanda Withers and** comedian Simply Shanelle

was delicious. Simply Shanell, a renowned comedian, was just simply hilarious. I want to thank all of the volunteers who made this evening a remarkable event – Colette Gilewicz, Veronica Bonner, Cindy Sellers, Norma Abbott, Ester Mauricia, Kim Koglin, Maria Mercado, Kelly Barnett, Miya Williamson, Tamika Portis, Tiffany Weathersbee-Coleman, Jim Walkowicz and anyone's name I may have forgotten. Many stepped in and asked to help, and I thank them also. We plan to make next years' celebration even better to enable more members to participate.

The next District 1A-2 meeting is January 28th. Check the *Newsbreak* for the location.

May you all have a safe and happy holiday season!





#### **HELLO RETIREES,**

It's December, and the holiday season is here. It's the time of year for good food, good friends and family. Nurture relationships with loved ones with honest and open communication and commitment. Remember friends or neighbors who might find themselves alone

during the holiday. The gift of loyal companionship is a blessing to embrace and not to be taken for granted.

#### Scammers/Robocalls

This is also the season of gifting, but unfortunately also the opportunity for scammers – and their main target is often retirees. We all want to give the "perfect" gift and we all want to find a bargain. The FBI has published warnings about scams on the internet that offer "free stuff" or prices that are unbelievably low. These sites are designed to lure you into sharing your information with criminals or unintentionally allow the installation of malicious malware on your computer.

Some sites will offer a great buy.

They have a legit address in the USA, but if you try to return an item, you may find that it is from a foreign nation and you cannot return it. *Be cautious!* 

The number of robocalls citizens have received has exploded in recent years, rising to 48 billion in 2018. Although some attempts have been made to stop or reduce robocalls, scammers are feeling more daring than ever, spoofing local businesses, law enforcement (and in my personal experience, our own phone number), then attempt to threaten seniors and others with danger or even arrest in order to force them to immediately send funds.

Be cautious, do not respond to emails or messages online and hang up on robocalls. Even if the voice claims to be an adult grandchild, hang up. Call their parents to verify they are not in danger, then report the robocall.

#### **Census Day**

April 1, 2020 is Census Day – the due date for Americans to take part in the decennial national headcount. The census is a short questionnaire that asks about who you are and where you live. It's the way to count every person living in the United States. To verify that you have the legitimate Census questionnaire, check the return address. A census mailing has a return address of Jeffersonville, Ind., the site of the National Processing Center.

#### **American Community Survey**

You may have recently received, the American Community Survey (ACS). It is sent annually to more than 3.5 million randomly selected homes to gather population, economic, housing and other



hundreds of billions of dollars in state and federal money is distributed. With its detailed questions about things like income, assets, job status, household amenities, even your commute, the ACS does set off scam suspicions, but it is legitimate. (AARP.org)

#### **Candidate Events/Town Halls**

Take the opportunity to attend candidate events and town halls and ask the candidates questions about the census, Social Security, Medicare, or other pertinent issues. It is imperative that retirees participate and have more of a voice in the laws and regulations of our federal, state and community government. By being an active and informed voter, you are not only helping to strengthen our democracy, you're participating in creating a better future for all Americans.

#### **Notice of Elections**

**Third Notice:** Elections for Vacancy Office (Guide) of the UAW Local 6000 Statewide Retired Workers Chapter will be held at the January 16, 2020 meeting at 3350 N. Grand River, Lansing, MI 48901-7920. If you are interested in continued on next page

### **UPCOMING UAW MEETINGS**

#### Local 6000, Statewide Retired Workers Chapter

THIRD THURSDAY of each month • 10:30 a.m. UAW Local 6000, 3350 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906

#### Local 6000, Region1-A Retired Workers Chapter

FIRST MONDAY of each month • 10:30 a.m. UAW Region I-A, 9650 S. Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI 48180

#### Local 6000. Region 1-D Saginaw Retired Workers Sub-Chapter

Will not meet in January, February or March, 2020

#### REGION 1-D RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

You are invited to attend any of these Michigan meetings. If you are traveling out of state, there are UAW Retired Workers Council meetings across the country that you can also attend.

**LIVINGSTON** – Last WEDNESDAY of each month • 10:30 a.m. Elks Club, 2830 E. Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843 (517-548-7313)

**GAYLORD** – Second TUESDAY of each month • 12:00 noon BJ's Restaurant, 990 N. Center (Old 27 North), Gaylord, MI 49734

**TRAVERSE CITY** – Second THURSDAY of each month • 12:00 noon 757 East Silver Lake Rd., Traverse City, MI 49684 (231-943-9611)

**BALDWIN** – Second MONDAY of each month • 1:00 p.m. Hollister Senior Center, 1505 N. Michigan Ave., (M-37) Baldwin MI 49304

**ROSCOMMON** – First FRIDAY of each month • 12:00 noon VFW Post 4159, 219 Terrace Dr., Roscommon, MI 48653 (989-275-4136)

**GLADWIN** – Second FRIDAY of each month • 1:00 p.m. Fraternal Order of Eagles 3292, 101 N. State St., Gladwin MI 48624

**ALPENA** – First WEDNESDAY of each month • 11:00 a.m. VFW Hall, 2900 Connon Rd., Alpena, MI 49707 (989-956-4959)

AU GRES - Second MONDAY of each month • 12:00 noon K of C Hall, 263 Main St., Au Gres, MI 48703

**ESCANABA** – Third TUESDAY of each month • 1:00 p.m. Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 506 2601 N. 30th St., Escanaba, MI 49829 (906-786-4828)

FOLLOW US

#### FOR HELPFUL INFORMATION.

- NEWSBREAK
- UAW Local 6000 website
- UAW Local 6000 Retired State Employees (Facebook)
- UAW Local 6000 Retired Workers Region 1-A (Facebook)
- UAW Local 6000 Michigan's State Employees (Facebook)
- Get Involved Join the UAW Local 6000 Retired Workers Chapters

continued from previous page being a candidate for this position, please be present at the meeting. All retirees who are members in good standing may run for office. The office term is for 3 years, beginning June 2019 and ends June 2022. You must be present to be a candidate and to vote.

Third Notice: Elections for Vacancy Officers (Recording Secretary) of the UAW Local 6000 Saginaw Retired Workers Sub-Chapter. An election for this vacancy will be held at the December 2019 meeting, date and venue to be determined. If you are interested in being a candidate for this position, please be present at the meeting. All retirees who are members in good standing may run for office. The office term is for 3 years, beginning June 2019 and ends June 2022. You must be present to be a candidate and to vote.

Third Notice: Elections for Vacancy Officers (Financial **Secretary**) of the UAW Local 6000 Saginaw Retired Workers Sub- Chapter. An election for this vacancy will be held at the December, 2019 meeting, date and

venue to be determined. If you are interested in being a candidate, for this position, please be present at the meeting. All retirees who are members in good standing may run for office. The office term is for 3 years, beginning June 2019 and ends June 2022. You must be present to be a candidate and to

#### **Change of Status Notification**

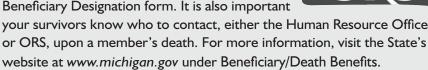
Please contact the Office of State Employer (OSE) with any changes in your status, especially your current address. Whenever bulk mailings are done from Local 6000, the address list from OSE is used. If your address is not current, you may be missing important notification. Call OSE with any changes, do not miss any future notifications – (517) 373-7400.

#### **Attend Retiree Meetings**

You are invited to attend any or all of the UAW Local 6000 Chapter and Sub-Chapter Retired Worker meetings. The invitation also includes any or all of Region 1-D Regional Retired Worker meetings. Please bring a friend (or friends) and join us for our meetings!



Members are reminded to keep your beneficiary information up to date. You can do this by going to ORS's Beneficiary Nomination form or log into miAccount who you want to receive your benefits. In the event you are deferred, go to Deferred Service Retirement Beneficiary Designation form. It is also important





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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	:		
Addres	ss:		
City: _		State:	Zip:
Phone	e (Cell):	(Home)	
Local	Union #		
Email			
		<b> </b>	

Mail to: LOCAL 6000 RETIRED WORKERS CHAPTER

P.O. Box 40720, Lansing, MI 48901-7920

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Miya Williamson, F/S Treasurer

Please keep Local 6000 updated on any address changes.

# LABOR HISTORY

In December, we remember two events which shaped the struggle for workplace rights.

### The world cried with the town of Calumet, Michigan...

### When 59 children died on Christmas Eve 1913

In July 1913, over 7,000 miners struck the C&H Copper Mining Company in Calumet, Michigan. It was largely the usual issues of people who worked for a big company during a time when capitalists ran roughshod over their workers – a time when monopolies were a way of life. 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. 500 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, someone – possibly more than one person – 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, and children and adults were trampled, then suffocated, by the throng of bodies trying to escape the "fire" – which didn't actually exist.

In all, 73 people, including 59 children, died, most of them Finnish immigrants. 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's 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.

Italian Hall was demolished in the 1980s. However, especially during the holiday season, the people of Calumet still talk of that night, 100 years ago, when so many innocents perished.

Partly because a lot of miners left Calumet behind after this tragedy, the strike didn't



accomplish what the miners wanted. However, it's 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." Ella Reeve "Mother" Bloor's eyewitness account in her 1940 book, "We Are Many," inspired him. Mother Bloor was a labor organizer who was active in the Western Federation of Miners, the union that represented the people who were on strike in Calumet.

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."



The Flint Sit-Down Strike is known as the most important strike in American history, because it changed the United Automobile Workers (UAW) from a collection of isolated individuals into a major union, ultimately leading to the unionization of the United States automobile industry.

General Motors (GM) provided many men in Flint, Michigan with jobs in the 1930s, but the

### Flint Sit-Down Strike of 1936-37

working conditions were horrible and the pay was unfair. The dangers faced by employees and their overwhelming dissatisfaction made the GM plants the perfect foundation for union organization. While previous attempts to strike occurred in the Flint plants in 1930 and 1934, they were broken up by the company and the Flint police. However, in 1935, Congress passed the Wagner Act, legalizing strikes (Michigan State University, n.d.).

Encouraged by these legal protections, on December 30, 1936, GM employees in the GM Fisher Number One Plant began their 44-day sit-in, during which they refused to work or leave the Fisher One, Fisher Two, and Chevrolet Number 4 plants.

Then-Governor Frank Murphy refused to interfere with the strike, so GM decided to make the plant conditions intolerable by cutting the plants' heat and electricity and by preventing

food deliveries (*Eller*, 2010). However, the strikers maintained a sense of order and discipline. The two strike leaders, Bob Travis and Roy Reuther, helped to establish committees for cleaning, exercise, security, entertainment, and defense (*Michigan State University*, n.d.).

General Motors and their sympathizers found this sit-down form of protest to be an affront to American values, such as right to property (Michigan State University, n.d.).

After a series of violent clashes between the strikers, police, and GM "goons," including the Battle of Bull's Run, Governor Murphy summoned the U.S. National Guard to reestablish peace. Furthermore, a group of women organized the Women's Emergency Brigade to similarly organize protests and coordinate deliveries of food and supplies to the men involved in the sit-down strike. Even children joined the protests (*Eller*, 2010).

On February 11, 1937, with its automobile production severely crippled, GM reached an agreement with the UAW to end the labor strike.

- Catherine A. Paul

# DISTRICT

**JANUARY 2020** 

UAW Local 6000 holds District Meetings in each Region monthly. Check the current Newsbreak for Region, date, time and locations. Members from various departments attend so they can discuss what is happening at their work sites, plus get information on what is occurring in your union.

As a member of UAW Local 6000 you can attend any or all of the meetings, they are held at different locations each month. Please try to attend one in the near future. Refreshments are furnished. - ONITA GAGNE

District 1A1 (Peggy Haywood) (810) 667-2045, Ext. 2440240 Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola	NO MEETING		
District 1A2 (Wanda Withers) (800) 243-1985 Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne	Tues-Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Golden Corral Restaurant 14691 Huron Street-Taylor MI 48180
District 1D1 (Amy Robare) (906) 226-6531, Ext 2521261 Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Ontonagon	Tues-Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m. EST	Waterfront Ramada 99 Navy Street-Hancock MI 49930
District 1D2 (Kelly Hetrick) (906) 287-0994 Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Menominee and Schoolcraft	Wed-Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m. EST	Applebee's 4478 Business Spur-Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783
District 1D3 (Carolyn Kowalik) (231) 331-6712 Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon	Tues-Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:45 p.m.	Dead Bear Brewing 2650 S. I-75 Business Loop-Grayling MI 49738
District 1D4 (Erica Starkey) (517) 763-1233 Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola and Wexford	Wed-Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00 p.m.	The Bungalow 1100-28th Street-Manistee MI 49660
District 1D5 (Bobbie Johnson) (989) 506-3594 Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw	Tues-Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	PI's Chinese Restaurant 1815 S. Saginaw Road-Midland MI 48640
District 1D6 (Dawn Copeland) (616) 885-0949 Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Ottawa	Tues-Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Golden Corral Buffet & Grill 1788 E. Sternberg RdMuskegon MI 49444
District 1D7 (Peggy Shobowale-Benson) (269) 491-5403 Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and VanBuren	Thurs-Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Big T Restaurant 155 Main Street-Lawton MI 48065
District 1D8 (Aurora Arias-Sumner) (517) 241-1013 Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Livingston and Shiawassee	Thurs-Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Fireside Grill 6951 Lansing Road-Dimondale MI 48821
District 1D9 (Nicki McDonald) (517) 795-6987 Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee	Tues-Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 p.m.	The Hunt Club 1514 Daniel Road-Jackson MI 49202

#### **FEBRUARY 2020**

District 1A1 (Peggy Haywood) (810) 667-2045, Ext. 2440240 Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola	Mon-Feb 24 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Golden Corral Restaurant 4783 24th Ave., Fort Gratiot Twp MI
District 1A2 (Wanda Withers) (800) 243-1985 Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne	Tues-Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Golden Corral Restaurant 14691 Huron Street-Taylor MI 48180
District 1D1 (Amy Robare) (906) 226-6531, Ext 2521261 Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Ontonagon	Thurs-Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m. EST	Pine Mountain Resort N3332 Pine Mountain RdIron Mountain MI 49801
District 1D2 (Kelly Hetrick) (906) 287-0994 Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Menominee and Schoolcraft	Thurs-Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m.	Wheaty's Pub 204 S. Cedar Street-Manistique MI 49854
District 1D3 (Carolyn Kowalik) (231) 331-6712 Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon	Tues-Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 p.m.	Sugar Bowl 216 W.Main Street-Gaylord MI 49735
District 1D4 (Erica Starkey) (517) 763-1233 Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola and Wexford	TBD		
District 1D5 (Bobbie Johnson) (989) 506-3594 Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw	Tues-Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Brann's Steakhouse 3898 State Road-Bay City MI 48706
District 1D6 (Dawn Copeland) (616) 885-0949 Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Ottawa	Tues-Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Russ' Restaurant 3531 Alpine Ave., NW-Grand Rapids MI 49544
District 1D7 (Peggy Shobowale-Benson) (269) 491-5403 Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and VanBuren	Thurs-Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Papa Vino's 1332 Hilltop Rd., St. Joseph MI
District 1D8 (Aurora Arias-Sumner) (517) 241-1013 Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Livingston and Shiawassee	Thurs-Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	UAW Local 6000 3350 N. Grand River AveLansing MI 48906
District 1D9 (Nicki McDonald) (517) 795-6987 Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee	Tues-Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	The Hunt Club 1514 Daniel Road-Jackson MI 49202





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Kelly Barnett

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