

# NEWSBREAK

UAW Local 6000



Michigan's Best

Volume 35 - No. 6

Buy Union - Buy American

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JULY-AUGUST 2020

## INSIDE



Mask Up, Michigan ..... 7



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All information was current at the time of the printing and All District and Building MEETINGS are CANCELLED until further notice.



Look for us on...



# Testimony to Civil Service Commission to Protect Workers Falls on Deaf Ears



International UAW Region 1A Director Chuck Browning speaks before the Civil Service Commission on behalf of State Employee Unions.



UAW Attorney Ava Barbour addresses the Civil Service Commission.



(At right) Retiree Maria Enriquez protests Civil Service Changes.



UAW Local 6000 President Ed Mitchell speaks before Civil Service Commission.

## ALERT!

CIVIL SERVICE ACTIONS THREATEN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR ALL STATE OF MICHIGAN EMPLOYEES

YOUR JOB, PAY, AND BENEFITS MAY BE IN JEOPARDY



On July 13, the Civil Service Commission passed a new Rule (6-7), effective October 1, 2020, that could affect our wages, benefits, working conditions and job.

### How Will This Impact You?

- Civil Service Commission is taking the choice to be a Union member out of your hands.
- If membership decreases we may no longer be able to negotiate wages, benefits, or other employee protections.

### UAW Contract Protections

- Only the negotiated Union Contract, voted on by the members, guarantees specific wages, benefits, and job protections.
- Unions have represented State Employees since 1980 and negotiated pay increases almost every year. Very few people at any employer, anywhere in the country, can match that record.
- The Union Contract allows a person to fight unjust discipline.
- Union negotiated Health & Safety protections are needed now more than ever due to COVID-19.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Please send your personal email address, employee ID# and personal cell phone number so we can update our records to ensure you receive the latest up-to-date information. Please email this information to the following address [memberinfo@local6000.org](mailto:memberinfo@local6000.org).

We will be providing notices on this information as soon as it becomes available. Please follow us for updates in the "UAW Local 6000 Newsbreak" newspaper, or on the website located at [www.local6000.org](http://www.local6000.org).

WE ARE UNION STRONG!

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





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Best



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Nicole Jones (1-A and 1-D)

**EAP Representative**

Nicole Jones (1-A and 1-D)

**Legislative Liaison**

Maria Enriquez

# Union Membership Gives Strength in Numbers

All workers benefit from unions, because unions set pay standards and workplace protections. Union members – workers like you – benefit most from the union's collective bargaining power to negotiate with employers on their behalf. This basic right gives you, as a union member, more power than if you tried to negotiate as an individual.

- **More benefits of union membership.** Union employees make an average of 30% more than non-union workers.
- **92% of union workers** have job-related health coverage versus 68% of non-union workers.
- **Union workers are more likely** to have guaranteed pensions than non-union employees.
- **Unions help protect employees** from unjust dismissal through collective bargaining agreements (CBA). Because of this, most union employees cannot be fired without "just cause." This is unlike many nonunion workers who are

considered "at-will" employees and can be fired at any time for almost any reason.

**Unions are Good for America and all Americans**

Unions are associated with higher productivity, lower employee turnover, improved workplace communication, and a better-trained workforce.

There is a substantial amount of academic literature on the following benefits of unions and unionization to employers and the economy:

- Economic growth
- Productivity
- Competitiveness
- Product or service delivery and quality
- Training
- Turnover
- Solvency of the firm
- Workplace health and safety
- Economic development



STATE OF MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

To members of the Michigan Civil Service Commission,

Today, the commission is set to vote on a rule that would weaken collective bargaining rights for state employees who are working on the front lines to keep Michiganders safe from COVID-19. Michigan is home to more than 40,000 dedicated state employees who provide critical services to the people of our state. The vast majority of our state employees have been working around the clock for the past four months to protect our families from the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. I have no doubt that their tireless efforts on our behalf have saved lives and protected our most vulnerable communities.

The proposed action the commission is voting on today is a direct assault on those hardworking men and women, who deserve leaders who will work around on their behalf. We are in the middle of a global pandemic and the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes. COVID-19 has taken the lives of more than 6,000 of our neighbors, friends, parents, grandparents, and loved ones. It has had a devastating impact on families across the state. The notion that the Civil Service Commission would choose this moment to take power away from our health care workers, road repair workers, corrections officers, and unemployment call center employees on the front lines is unthinkable.

This action will make it harder for these frontline workers to negotiate together for strong wages, health care, and a secure retirement. It's a slap in the face to those who have risked their lives every day since COVID-19 first arrived in Michigan. This is not who we are as leaders, and it's not who we are as Michiganders.

I'm calling on the civil service commissioners to do the right thing and reject this anti-worker proposal. Our frontline state workers have our backs, and now it's time for us to have theirs.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor of Michigan

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

# VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



**Edward Mitchell**  
 “Those members who are temporarily laid off will receive unemployment for the layoff period...”

## Return-To-Work Plans

The State of Michigan continues to operate under the Governor’s state of emergency. The temporary layoffs are scheduled to conclude at the end of July.

The Employer decided not to extend the COVID-19 Premium pay beyond the end of June. There has been a recent spike in COVID-19 cases. We are not sure how that is going to affect the Department’s return to work plans. You should continue to check with your Department on plans to have employees return to the office.

Upon return to work, employees will still be required to follow the Governor’s Executive Orders concerning the wearing of masks and social distancing. The Employer is still required to provide all employees returning to work with the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) necessary to maintain a safe and healthful work environment.

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) continues to attack the

Union and the workers that provide services to the most vulnerable people in the State of Michigan. The CSC passed an amendment to the Civil Service Rule 6-7, Dues and Fees. The change requires each Union member to re-sign up for dues deduction each year, beginning in September of this year. Whereas, the CSC has the authority to make changes to the rules, it does not give the CSC the authority to violate an agreed upon Collective Bargaining agreement.

The Union and the CSC disagree on if the contract is violated or not. The fight is not over. However, we need each member to provide a home email address to the Union, so we can email you at home and not to your State of Michigan email.

Please send your name, employee ID number and home email to [MemberInfo@local6000.org](mailto:MemberInfo@local6000.org). We need all our members to join in this fight. The CSC is trying to take away your right to join and be represented by a union.

Please keep up to date by visiting the Local’s website at [www.local6000.org](http://www.local6000.org) or following the Local on Facebook. District and Building meetings continue to be cancelled for July and August.

Stay Safe, we are all in this together.

by Kelly Barnett, UAW Local 6000 Vice President

## Temporary Layoff Days and Unemployment Benefits – Appeal

Remember that you have a right to file an appeal if you believe your unemployment claim has been incorrectly or unjustly denied (see form below). Keep in mind that every individual’s circumstances are different. Many of our members have contacted the Union with questions we are unable to answer like, “Why wasn’t I eligible for the \$600 federal benefit?”; however, a trained professional from UIA can answer these questions. It is important that you get correct answers. The last thing the Union wants to do is make an assumption about your circumstances which could result in an adverse impact on your benefits and household. Please visit the state’s website for further information. [www.michigan.gov/workshare](http://www.michigan.gov/workshare) and/or contact UIA.

### APPEAL TO THE

### MICHIGAN COMPENSATION APPELLATE COMMISSION

Mail to: **P.O. Box 30475**  
**Lansing, MI 48909**

Fax to: **517-241-7326**

\*\*\*\*\*

Appealing Party (check one):  Claimant  Employer  UIA

Claimant: \_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_ (last 4 digits)

Claimant Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Docket No. _____	Case No. _____	Decision Date: _____
Docket No. _____	Case No. _____	Decision Date: _____
Docket No. _____	Case No. _____	Decision Date: _____

(If appealing multiple Administrative Law Judge Decisions and/or Orders, please list all Docket (Appeal) Nos, Case Nos, & Decision Dates)  
 (attach additional pages/documents if necessary)

Reason(s) for Appeal:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Filing Party: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature (Required)

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your appeal must be received at Michigan Compensation Appellate Commission (MCAC) within 30 days from the Mailed Date of the Administrative Law Judge’s (ALJ) Decision or Order. Please mail or fax your appeal to the address or fax number listed at the top of this form. Questions - contact MCAC at 1-800-738-6372.**

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.

## SERVICES Local 6000 MEMBERS

**Benefits Representative**  
**NICOLE JONES**  
 Region 1A and Region 1D is 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 Rep.**  
**NICOLE JONES**  
 is available at the Local for assistance with health and safety issues.

**EAP Representative**  
**NICOLE JONES**  
 is available at the Local for help with substance abuse, marital, emotional and personal problems.



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### CHECK OUT THESE SERVICE SPECIALS!

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# LETTER to the EDITOR

## A Note of Appreciation

The latest Newsbreak had a message from Rory Gamble that helped me have hope again. I have been watching every video I can and reading articles and researching the horrific deaths of every name I read. I honestly was losing hope that we could ever be better, enact positive changes, end racism or treat each other with love. But the message from Mr Gamble titled "The Death of George Floyd" turned it around. His words were full of encouragement and hope in a time of deep despair. I'm not sure how to convey this to him or his staff and I know you are our steward, so I hope you can pass this on.

Thanks,  
**Kelley Nelson**

Thank you, Kelley. Your words of encouragement were passed on to President Gamble. Kelley Nelson is a member in the Department of Treasury.

THE VOICE OF MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

# NEWSBREAK

UAW Local 6000 Michigan's Best

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**LUCA** 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.



# DOC UPDATE

DEPARTMENT of CORRECTIONS

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

## Work Share Eligibility vs. Daily Reports/SIGMA

Under normal circumstances Parole/ Probation Officers (PPOs) are paid overtime after 80 hours. Under normal circumstances, PPOs could work through lunch on a report day or get off at 6:00 p.m. on a report day or meet a parolee, as examples, but still not be eligible for overtime as their schedule would be adjusted within the 80 hour pay period. This is because they are classified as "code 4" employees (see Appendix A – page 195 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement).

We must remember these are NOT normal times! In order to be eligible to receive unemployment plus the \$600.00, you can't work more than 8 hours in a day four days per week. SIGMA must reflect this in order for you to be paid unemployment + \$600.00. Per an email dated June 24, 2020 from a Region Manager, after consulting with an Assistant Deputy Director, "...as a result of the email I sent last week regarding time sheets showing 8 hours regular per day and 8 hours TDLN.

Some staff expressed concerns that they would be falsifying their dailies or daily report and SIGMA (if they did not) match. You can instruct staff that their daily reports should accurately indicate their hours of work. So, if they work one half hour over one day and start or end their day one half later/early, their daily reports should reflect that. In the comments section of the daily, staff can enter 'For SIGMA purposes, hours worked and listed on the daily report and timesheet differ.'

### Policy Directives (PD) and Operations Procedures (OP)

PD 02.03.103 Attachment A, Employees Uniforms, which becomes effective 8/10/2020, notes that several current uniform clothing items will be phased out by attrition.

OP 06.03.101 Offender Orientation + Attachments A & B will become effective on 8/10/2020 (superseding the OP issued on 2-01-2020).

It is recommended that the above PD and OP, with attachments, be reviewed for changes.

### DOC Statewide L/M Meeting Held Remotely on 6-24-2020

– At the time of this meeting, there were no finalized Return to Work Plans for FOA or CFA.

– Those individuals who are deemed at increased risk to contract COVID-19 with a greater likelihood of an adverse outcome such as those with asthma, serious heart problems, diabetes, compromised immune systems, etc. should think of going through the Reasonable Accommodation process if the need to remain working at home exists. Contact your HR Department to get a copy of the form.

- The MDOC staff screening form was again updated. More COVID-19 symptoms have been added.
- The MDOC Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Guidelines were updated on 6-12-2020.

Office, FOA (Field Office Administration) and CFA (Correctional Facility Administration) had been completed and approved by the Office of the State Employer. It should be noted that "authorization for employees to return to the workplace has not been approved and employees that have been working remotely are required to continue to do so until further notice" per Jonathan Patterson, Human Resources Director.

### MDOC COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

On July 14, 2020, the Union was notified that MDOC'S return to work plan for Central

## JULY & AUGUST WORD SEARCH

### Faygo Pop Flavors

This month's Word Search was inspired by member Paul Kaczor of DHHS Midland County

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

ARTIC SUN

GOLD

OHANA PUNCH

ROCK AND RYE

COLA

GRAPE

ORANGE

ROOT BEER

CREAM SODA

LEMONADE

PEACH

TONIC WATER

FAYGO

MOON MIST

RED POP

TWIST

GINGER ALE

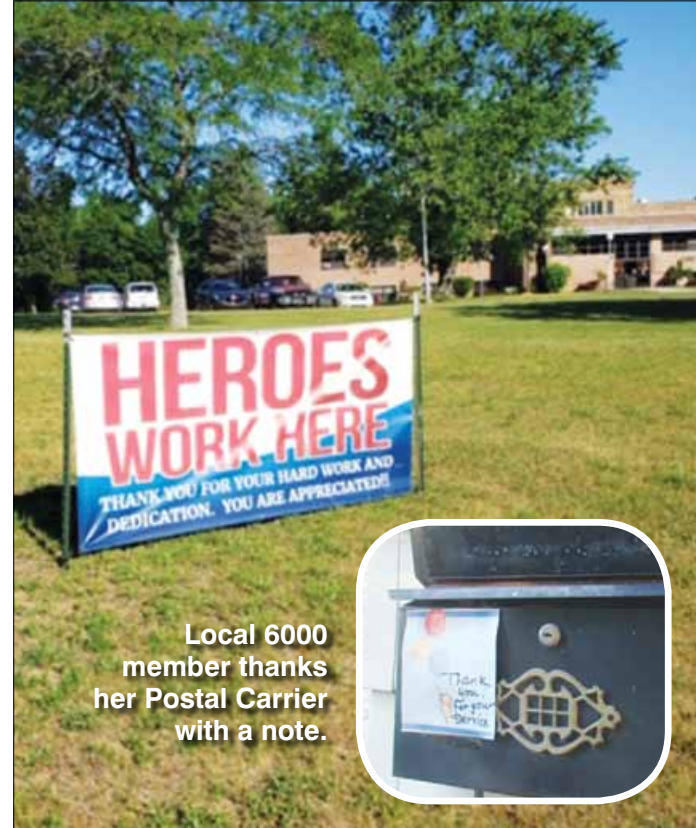
# U.S. Postal Service Under Attack

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

In mid-June, Postal Workers across the country held protests at various Post Office locations, including in Michigan. Given what is going on in this country with the Coronavirus and protests against racial injustice, the Postal Workers protest did not get much notice. The issues surrounding what is going with the Post Office are not well known, but the very existence of the Post Office as we know it is being threatened.

The United States Post Office has been in existence, in one form or another, since 1775. That is almost 250 years ago!

If some politicians have their way, they would dismantle the Post Office. Due to the Coronavirus, the Post Office has lost a lot of money due to their business going way down. They are in need of cash just like a lot of government agencies. In addition to a lot of lost business due to the Coronavirus, the Post Office has had a lot of employees test positive for COVID-19. The Post Office never closed down, unlike a lot of other businesses and government



Local 6000 member thanks her Postal Carrier with a note.

agencies. So, a number of Postal workers ended up catching coronavirus while at work.

Some politicians have for years wanted to break up the Post Office and give part of its business away to private companies. The more profitable parts of the Post Office are most at risk. In addition, a

number of politicians have wanted to attack the Post Office for years due to the fact it has a high number of unionized employees. A unionized workforce means relatively good pay and benefits.

Due to the current crisis, the Post Office has asked for and been denied, money to keep it solvent. A lot of private businesses were bailed out, but the Post Office was not. Some of the areas most at risk are rural Post Offices. The Federal government tried to close a lot of rural Post Offices in 2011. But a large public outcry stopped this from happening. The Post Office has always operated so that a stamp costs the same even in a remote rural area, even if it costs more to operate there.

When the current crisis caused

by the Coronavirus occurred, President Trump refused to give money to the Post Office and instead said they should raise prices. Not raise their prices a little, but 4 times the current rate is what he said. If that happened, a 55 cent stamp would cost \$2.20. That is a sure way to make the Post Office fail and allow private companies to come, take it over and keep the profitable parts and get rid of the rest. In addition you can guess that they would try and cut wages and benefits to the employees that are left.

What happens to Postal Workers could easily happen to other public employees, such as State Workers here in Michigan. An attack on one group of workers is an attack on all workers.



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# SOS UPDATE SECRETARY of STATE

by Rhonda Favors-Smith, Steward, Secretary of State

## Mask Up, Michigan!

These are truly challenging times we are living in. The work being done by State employees under the most demanding of times are historic. With a virus plaguing our state, we still deliver services to the citizens of Michigan.

The Governor has ordered a mandatory mask requirement for all business open to the public. The NO MASK, NO SERVICE began on Monday, July 13, 2020. All individuals coming to the branch for service are required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in the branch offices. Hopefully, this will add better protection for the state employees

that are on the front lines. It is no longer a recommendation, it is now a requirement!

There have been several office closures since the shutdown was lifted due to contact with persons that have tested positive for the coronavirus. *Please stay vigilant!*

If you are experiencing symptoms, or come in contact with someone who tests positive, please get tested and report!

While the department is tasked with making every reasonable effort to provide a safe and healthful place of employment free from recognizable hazards, no one will take better care of US than we do. We are our own best advocates.

Now that testing has expanded, you can be tested. You do not have to be experiencing symptoms to be tested. If you go to [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov). There is a link to finding locations that offer the test. *Please stay safe!*



**SOS Oak Park Members Mask Up!**

# Surviving COVID-19; a Member's Story

By **Miya Williamson**,  
**Financial Secretary-Treasurer**

UAW Local 6000 received permission to publish the story that follows along with the pictures that accompany this article.

This is the journey of member Antoinette Hughes who is a 26 year employee with the Department of Correction Parole/Probation Agent in Pontiac.



that they work closely with the CDC Infectious Disease Doctors with whom they confer, regarding all treatment given while hospitalized. I also didn't know my primary Dr. was working in the hospital as well, monitoring all the treatment that was given to me as well. She was not allowed to come and see me but did have contact with the treating physicians.

The key symptoms that they will address quickly are breathing problems and fever. If you or anyone you know has these symptoms, go to ER and don't let them send you away without any

"Hello all,

As you all know, I was hospitalized for about 5 days. I was sick all of last week but continued to work and even complete necessary field work. Well, I want to give my testimony. I do not have to share but I thought it was important to be able to provide hope and to assist with the feelings of anxiousness and despair in my own way and terms.

While hospitalized I was diagnosed with Pneumonia and tested + for Covid-19. I am blessed that I have a very good Doctor whom listens to me when I described symptoms. I took the following steps: I emailed my doctor with my symptoms, advised I believed I had multiple Covid-19 exposures from work/family and reminded her that I was an essential 1st responder. She then emailed me back the next day with a referral for testing. I worked the remainder of the day even though I was very sick. With the urging of one of my best friends and cousin whose mother was hospitalized on a Ventilator for Covid-19, drove myself to Henry Ford, West Bloomfield Hospital.

In addition, my husband had been sent home from work with Covid-19 symptoms as well since 02/20/2020. He was unable to help me b/c he was very sick. My daughter was also experiencing

mild symptoms. I made to the tented area and initially the nurse tried to turn me away. A nurse practitioner overheard me mentioning my Dr's name, they looked at my vitals and sent me in to be seen in the ER. I was told that I needed to be admitted but struggled with being admitted knowing my husband was home sick and having a difficult time as well.

I almost didn't stay, thinking about who would care for them and if my husband got worse, who would care for my daughter who also had symptoms. But I realized if I wasn't ok, I couldn't help them. So I got admitted. I had the following symptoms: shortness of breath, fever of 100.7, lethargy, lack of appetite, lack of smell, mild headache.

I was given anti-viral meds as well as steroids early on to address the fact I couldn't breathe well on my own. I am still working to build my lungs back up. I am extremely blessed because I didn't have to use oxygen the entire time of my hospitalization.

Even if admitted, the Doctors are very unsure on how to proceed as this pandemic has taken them off guard because it continues to change. Just know

treatment.

I will tell you that you have to strongly advocate for yourself with this Virus because healthcare staff continue to dismiss and attempt to turn people away because they don't have the tools to perform their jobs. My husband is still sick and despite numerous efforts won't be tested until Saturday.

During this time, I have a cousin that died on 02/20/2020 due to Covid-19 illness of Pneumonia and an Aunt who died yesterday of Covid-19. She was a retired MDOC Corrections Officer. The offender from whom I strongly believe exposed me is in the hospital again for the 3rd time trying to get treated for Covid-19. I thank everyone for your positive thoughts and prayers for me. I thank anyone who has assisted with my caseload.

I know I didn't have to share. As I said, I'm giving my testimony because it has been working for me strongly. The Doctor plans for me to return to work on 05/04/2020.

Please continue to do the best you can and care for yourself and loved ones, especially during this time.

Thank you again and I hope this uplifts at least one of you."



# UNION LABEL

LOCAL 6000  
COMMITTEE  
UPDATE

by Onita Gagne, and the Union Label Committee

Although a lot of festivals and celebrations have either been canceled or postponed this summer, there are still places to visit and things to do. But you might want to call ahead or visit the website of where you are planning to visit to make sure they are open.

Some places to take your family for a day of fun and sightseeing are: Mackinaw Island, Tahquamenon Falls, Soo Locks, Porcupine Mountains, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Pictured Rocks, Isle Royale & Colonial Michilimackinac.

The State Parks are now open again for camping. Some things you will need for a good rustic camping trip are: Coleman tents, Coleman lanterns, Coleman sleeping bags, Rubbermaid or Igloo coolers, Weber grill and Kingsford charcoal, Fulton flashlight, Rayovac batteries and Off insect repellent.

On those hot August days, a visit

to a beach might be on your list of things to do. Stock your coolers with all of your favorittess to make the time worry free:

*Drinks* – Pepsi, Coke, Bud and Miller; *Food* – Ball Park Franks, Oscar Mayer or Hebrew National hot dogs, Aunt Millies buns, Heinz ketchup and mustard, Vlasic relish;

*Paper Products* – Bounty napkins, Solo plates, cups, spoons, forks and knives;

*Munchies*: Lays potato chips, Rold Gold pretzels and Doritos.

This is only a start of the many union, American and Michigan-made products available that will make the day with family and friends extra special.

School will be starting at the end of August or early September. Some supplies your child might need for the return to school include: Mead notebooks,



American Cedar pencils, Top Flight filler paper, Pilot pens and Carhartt back packs.

Labor Day is celebrated on September 7th, and is also considered the end of summer by some. How about having a backyard party with friends and family. Choose products you know that are made by a union, Michigan or American made when possible. A list of products can be found at [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org).

**A few wacky and bazaar dates in July, August and September.**

**JULY 19th**  
*National Ice Cream Day*

**JULY 21st**  
*National Junk Food Day*

**JULY 26th**  
*All or Nothing Day*

**JULY 27th**  
*Take your Houseplants for a Walk Day*

**AUGUST 2nd**  
*Friendship Day*

**AUGUST 11th - 13th**  
*Perseid Meteor Showers*

**AUGUST 15th**  
*National Honey Bee Awareness Day*

**AUGUST 20th**  
*World Mosquito Day*  
(Like they need one)

**SEPTEMBER 5th**  
*Be Late for Something Day*

**SEPTEMBER 9th**  
*Teddy Bear Day*

**SEPTEMBER 13th**  
*Positive Thinking Day*

**SEPTEMBER 14th**  
*National Cream Filled Donut Day*

As always, the UAW Local 6000 Union Label Committee asks that, whenever possible, please purchase Union, American or Michigan-made products, so we can keep American men and women working.

**ATTN: All Retiring UAW EMPLOYEES**



**Doug Gravelle, CFP**  
Investment Professional



**Michelle Gravelle, CFP**  
Investment Professional

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## Do You Know Michigan Forests?

By Miya Williamson, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

1. How many acres of Michigan are forests?
2. What Percentage of Michigan is covered by forests?
3. Michigan has more timberland than which state? (hint it begins with an "A")
4. Name two Michigan maple species and two Michigan tree species that have "red" in their names?
5. Which state of Michigan Department oversees Michigan forests?
6. Short's Brewing Co in Bellaire, Michigan uses this Michigan tree product to flavor three of their beers?
7. Name the state forests associate with these Michigan cities:  
Newberry, Sault Ste. Marie and Shingleton  
Baraga and Crystal Falls  
Atlanta, Gaylord, and Pigeon River Country  
Cadillac and Traverse City  
Gladwin, Grayling and Roscommon



## #UnionStrong

MEMBERS... "WEAR RED WEDNESDAY!" Please comment with a photo of your sisters and brothers, in "RED", under the designated "Wear RED Wednesday" post on Facebook for a chance to win a "CAN WE TALK" WORKDAY BRUNCH!

Any questions, email MIYA WILLIAMSON at [mwilliamson@uawlocal6000.org](mailto:mwilliamson@uawlocal6000.org)



# LABOR HISTORY HAPPENINGS

*“The history of America has been largely created by the deeds of its working people and their organizations. Nor has this contribution been confined to raising wages and bettering work conditions; it has been fundamental to almost every effort to extend and strengthen our democracy.”*

– WILLIAM CAHN, LABOR AUTHORITY AND HISTORIAN

**July 21, 1978**

A wildcat strike begins by postal workers at the New Jersey Bulk and Foreign Mail Center in an attempt to nullify the tentative national contract agreement between the postal unions and the United States Postal Service. The conflict spread until eventually 4,750 postal workers were on strike nationwide.

**July 18, 1969**

A 113-day strike by hospital workers in Charleston, South Carolina ends. In March, after two years of local organizing efforts, the workers established the first hospital union branch in the country, Local 1199B of the National Health Care Workers’ Union. They went on strike over discriminatory practices, unequal pay, institutional harassment, and widespread racism.

**July 6, 1889**

Striking laborers employed by contractors on street and sewer improvements in Duluth, Minnesota, attempt to break through the police presence protecting scabs doing their work. The police opened fire and a gun battle ensued that resulted in the deaths of four workers and a bystander; many more were seriously wounded. The state militia was called in and drove the workers back with fixed bayonets. Strike leaders were arrested and the police who participated were given gold medals.

**July 24, 1877**

The first general strike in U.S. history is underway in St. Louis. Led by members of the Workingmen’s Party, it began as an outgrowth of the railroad strike sweeping the country. Workers – skilled and unskilled, black and white – shut down the city for a week until thousands of federal troops and special deputized police arrived, killing at least eighteen

people and arresting the strike leaders.

**August 7, 2011**

45,000 Verizon workers represented by the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers begin a 2-week strike over management’s refusal to engage in serious bargaining. The two unions condemned the company’s push for large-scale concessions, given Verizon’s \$22 billion profitability over the past four years.

**August 28, 1963**

250,000 people participate in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, D.C. The march – initiated by A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters – was organized by a coalition of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations. It was here that Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech.

**August 31, 1921**

The Battle of Blair Mountain in West Virginia is underway between upwards of 7,000 miners and the private militias employed by the coal companies to crush organizing by the UMWA. The battle lasted for five days until President Warren G. Harding sent in federal forces, at which point most of the miners surrendered. Leaders of the strike were tried for insurrection and treason, legal fees all but bankrupted the union, and organizing in the coalfields halted until 1933.

**August 31, 1999**

Detroit public school teachers go on strike for the first time in seven years after negotiations between the Detroit Federation of Teachers and the school district fail to address their concerns around wages, hours, and working conditions. The strike continued

through September when a contract was reached that the teachers accepted

**August 31, 1991**

More than 325,000 trade unionists and allies from around the country hold a demonstration in Washington, D.C., to call for national healthcare reform, a ban on striker replacements, and full freedom of association for workers around the world. The marchers also demanded civil rights, fair trade, workplace safety, and attention to the nation’s decaying cities and infrastructure.



## 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.





# COVID-19 Exposes America's Devastating Inequalities



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

COVID-19 has been described as an "equalizer." Because people from all walks of life can be infected, regardless of ethnicity, status or wealth. But with each day of isolation, we see that the virus isn't an equalizer at all. Instead, it is exposing the inequalities that have been present for decades in American society. This virus has significantly impacted, low-income citizens, people of color, and others who were already marginalized before the crisis hit.

Many workers were able to work from home, but a majority of the front-line workers (minimum wage) still had to go to their jobs. Among those in isolation at home, inequality was still a huge issue, with some able to order food delivery to their home, but others were forced to go to food banks or public services to obtain food because they could not afford the

cost or delivery fee. Access to needed assistance for basic needs, adequate medical care, and equality in society was not always available to all during this crisis, which could be the product of systemic racism. Systemic racism means that there are barriers – including wealth disparities, criminal justice bias, and education and housing discrimination – to segments of our society.

Systemic racism specifically impacts African-Americans every day. It has been most visible in racial profiling and police brutality against the Black community. Ugly, racial disparities became evident to the world with the brutal death of George Floyd.

His death triggered subsequent peaceful demonstrations across the world, that forced our nation to see what the Black community has been forced endure. In my opinion, the ensuing violence and destruction in the marches was caused by paid, pro-militia groups. Not the protestors who were seeking justice.

I believe America has woke up. People are seeing more clearly than ever. They want to understand white privilege, and be able to recognize the bias, prejudice, and discrimination that they did not see until now.

Many people are now looking for ways to deepen their involvement within anti-racist movements. In the news this past month, we have learned about past atrocities. I had never heard about Tulsa Black Wall Street! I did learn about Jim Crow laws in the 1960's when I lived in Virginia. I was shocked. I wanted to go with my co-workers to the Freedom Marches...but they would not let me. They said I was naïve, white and from the north .. it wasn't safe for me. Now is the time for us to stand for their safety,

for social justice for our Brothers and Sisters.

This is the time for all those who love America and care deeply about its values to speak out in the name of justice and against systemic racism.

The UAW has long stood with those fighting for civil rights, justice for all and a society free from the blight of racism and discrimination. Together, we must stand up and speak up, against racism and white supremacy.

**Black Lives Matter!**

*"Injustice for one is injustice for all."*  
– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Generations of Americans fought and died for our right to vote, the freedom to choose our leaders, and the right to speak up for our beliefs. But even today, many eligible voters are wrongly turned away or do not have access to the polls. We vote because it's we, the people, who are supposed

to shape our government. Not the other way around. We must take our peaceful protests in the streets to the ballot box. We must vote out the politicians who protect and empower racists and white supremacists. Your Vote Is Your Voice!

"Voting is the foundation stone for political action". – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We are anxious to get together with members! The volatility of the Covid -19 virus and the danger of exposure to our retirees, is a

**First, they came for the socialists,  
and I did not speak out –  
because I was not a socialist.**

**Then they came for the trade unionists,  
and I did not speak out –  
because I was not a trade unionist.**

**Then they came for the Jews,  
and I did not speak out –  
because I was not a Jew.**

**Then they came for me –  
and there was no one left  
to speak for me.**

– Martin Niemöller

deep concern. We have had retirees who have suffered from this virus, some losing their lives. We also received a recommendation from the UAW, that it is prudent not to conduct any in-person meetings or events at this time, so we have

made the decision to wait. We are exploring the possibility of a Zoom meeting. If it is determined that we are able to conduct it, I will post it on the Facebook pages (see addresses on this page). *Stay Safe!*

If you experience a financial hardship and need assistance please call United Way 211 the helpline 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. **SOLIDARITY!**

**FOR HELPFUL INFORMATION...**

- NEWSBREAK
- UAW Local 6000 Website: [www.local6000.org](http://www.local6000.org)
- UAW Local 6000 Retired State Employees (Facebook)
- UAW Local 6000 Retired Workers Region 1-A (Facebook)
- UAW Local 6000 Michigan's State Employees (Facebook)



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**REMINDER:** If you have questions about your BCN Advantage benefits, you are invited to contact Keri Rust, Insurance Benefits Analyst, at 1-517-284-0085 or 1- 800-505-5011 and/or Kelsi Sawdy, BC/BS, at 1-517-325-4006

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, so you do not miss any future notifications. **Get involved!! Join the UAW Local 6000 Retired Workers Chapters!**





# JUNE Quiz Winners

By Miya Williamson, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Congratulations to our June winners of the CWT – Do You Know Michigan History Quiz. The four winners are:

**GRAND PRIZE** – Steven Pelli – Rehab Counselor from Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) in Hancock, MI. Steven won our “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Box with: Charmin Toilet Paper, Bounty Paper Towels, Coloring Books, Crayola Crayons, Markers, Sidewalk Chalk, Word Search Magazines, Candyland Board Game, Phase 10 Card Game, Orville Redenbacher Popcorn, UAW Logo Cloth Face Mask and Netflix Gift Card.

**FIRST PRIZE** – Debra Gardner – General Office Asst. from Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in Pontiac. Debra also won our “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Box with all of the above mentioned items.

**SECOND PRIZE** – Cynthia Shadeck – Rights Specialist from Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in Northville, MI. Cynthia won a Lodge Cast Iron Anniversary Edition of the Rosie the Riveter Skillet, Orville Redenbacher Popcorn, UAW Logo Cloth Face Mask and Netflix Gift Card.

**THIRD PRIZE** – Jill Volmering – Family Independence Specialist from Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in Bad Axe, MI. Jill won a UAW Logo Cloth Face Mask, Popcorn and Netflix Gift Car.

If you have a suggestion for a Do You Know quiz please email me at: [mwilliamson@uawlocal6000.org](mailto:mwilliamson@uawlocal6000.org). This month’s prizes were donated by staff members Miya Williamson, Financial Secretary-Treasurer and Jim Walkowicz, Local Representative Region 1A.

## Answers to June’s Quiz... Do You know Michigan?



1. Detroit
  2. Stevens T. Mason
  3. American Robin
  4. Traverse City Cherry Festival
  5. January 26, 1837
  6. 19 International Border Crossings
- Land Based Crossings**
- Ambassador Bridge, Detroit
  - Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, Detroit
  - Blue Water Bridge, Port Huron
  - International Bridge, Sault Ste Marie
  - Rail Bridge, Sault Ste Marie
  - Rail Tunnel, Sault Ste Marie
  - Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, Detroit
  - Blue Water Ferry, Marine City
  - Walpole-Algonac Ferry, Algonac
  - Detroit, Windsor Truck Ferry, Detroit

- Airports Ports of Entry**
- Detroit Metro Airport, Detroit
  - Gerald R. Ford Int’l Airport, Grand Rapids
  - Bishop Int’l Airport, Flint
  - MBS Int’l Airport, Saginaw
  - Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Int’l Airport, Kalamazoo
  - Sawyer Int’l Airport, Gwinn
  - Chippewa Int’l Airport, Sault Ste Marie
  - Oakland County Int’l Airport, Pontiac
  - St. Clair Count Int’l Airport, Port Huron
7. Sault St. Marie
  8. July 24, 1701
  9. Michigan received the Upper Peninsula as a resolution over land dispute with Ohio over Toledo
  10. Belle Isle

# 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://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](https://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](mailto:canwetalklocal6000@gmail.com)



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.**



# ‘HERE! HERE!’ Mike McWhirter Retires

By Miya Williamson,  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

UAW Local 6000 sends a big **Congratulations** on his retirement to **MIKE McWHIRTER** (aka *McMike*)

Mike was the Local’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and 1DBenefits Representative. He hailed from the Michigan Department of Corrections, as a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) for the past 26 years.

As a former U.S. Marine, he remained extremely active in any activity involving Veterans, as evidenced by chairing UAW Local 6000’s Veterans Committee. One of Mike’s passions for Veterans was organizing members of the Veterans Committee to volunteer as clowns for the Grand Rapids Veterans Home Carnival. In addition, Mike’s hobby was the sport of golf and he could often be seen at various charity golf outings, dressed infamously in plaid knickers and a cap complete with a fuzzy ball on top!

The membership and Executive Board of UAW Local 6000 will miss Mike’s encouraging words and his trademark comment when he supported an idea or comment, “Here! Here!” We wish you well, our Brother, and keep in touch during your new journey! *“Hoorah”*



Mike in his infamous golf attire... knickers and all!



Marshall Mike at the 2019 PGA



(at left) Mike poses with his family