

# THE VOICE OF MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

# NEWSBREAK

UAW Local 6000

STATE EMPLOYEES LOCAL UAW 6000

TECHNICAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS UAW

Michigan's Best

Volume 35 - No. 9

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NOVEMBER 2020

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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...

You Tube

@

Twitter

# UNIONS WIN BIG!



This year's election was unlike any other in American history. Here in Michigan, we saw record turnout across the state, and voters used mail-in ballots at an unprecedented rate to make their voices heard.

by Ron Bieber, President, Mich. AFL-CIO

I am proud to report labor worked hard, turned out the vote, and made all of the difference this year in Michigan. I couldn't be more proud of the work we did to make sure our members were informed and able to make their voices heard in this important election.

The Michigan AFL-CIO ran one of the biggest electoral efforts to date via our member-to-member and independent programming, and the fruits of our efforts were borne out with the election of pro-labor candidates up and down the ballot.

Joe Biden's victory, along with the re-election of U.S. Senator Gary Peters and our victorious Supreme Court candidates grabbed national headlines and attention, but our work this year went beyond the top of the ticket.

Our topline analysis shows that over 70% of our endorsed candidates won election this year. In short, *unions won big!*

We helped elect pro-labor representatives



[https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/xhrqzbzwmwvO4nsd6aIIaxM4tYkvdKvd1sGBLldkEvFa\\_Z9zYLewMVzASkktYnrSJK84aveW1-f6igeC\\_E-JLSYvNVy8d\\_4\\_V3GWRwHJWJW41kWXobGOwc2xhCHxztlwS7YTKau2l](https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/xhrqzbzwmwvO4nsd6aIIaxM4tYkvdKvd1sGBLldkEvFa_Z9zYLewMVzASkktYnrSJK84aveW1-f6igeC_E-JLSYvNVy8d_4_V3GWRwHJWJW41kWXobGOwc2xhCHxztlwS7YTKau2l)

at all levels of government, and the votes and volunteer work of our membership, along with the paid communications and organizing work of the MI AFL-CIO, helped carry the day for many of these candidates.

Thank you for all of the work you did this year to make sure we have elected officials fighting for working families across Michigan.

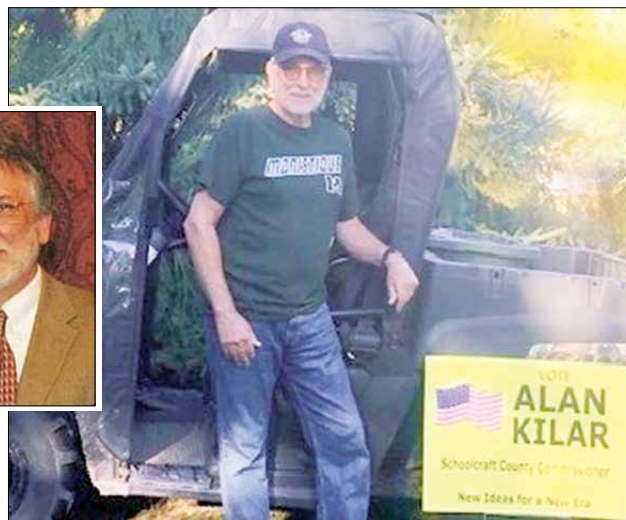
## Why I Ran for Office

by Alan Kilar, Local 6000 Retiree

As a unionist, I learned that belonging to a union means also being an active participant in my community. After my retirement from UAW Local 6000 and State employment, I moved to the Upper Peninsula and found that the skills I learned in my professional life could still be put to use.

At the suggestion of some friends, I ran for the local school board and was elected. I enjoyed using my experiences and education to mold the future of our community educational system. I gained a satisfaction knowing that I could still contribute something valuable to my community.

Last spring, I became disenchanted with some of the decisions of my local Schoolcraft County Commissioner. This individual had held the office for over 10 years. I thought I could just sit back and complain, like most people do, or try to make a change.



I stepped up and ran for the office of County Commissioner. I ran as a Democrat in a Republican-dominated county. I defeated my opponent in the Democratic primary and faced no challengers in

this past November's general election.

Now, I look forward to contributing something of value to my community, whether it is protecting what we have gained or planning for a changing future.

Being involved in politics means being involved in your community.

As Walter Reuther said, "No man and no people live as an island unto themselves."

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



*Michigan's  
Best*



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Celia Ontiveros

### Benefits Representative

Nicole Jones (1-A and 1-D)

### Health & Safety Representative

Nicole Jones (1-A and 1-D)

### EAP Representative

Nicole Jones (1-A and 1-D)

### Legislative Liaison

Maria Enriquez

# Nationwide Labor Wins

## USW Members at Former Briggs & Stratton Ratify Contract

Members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 2-232 ratified a new contract with the successful bidder for the company Briggs & Stratton. The engine maker filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and an affiliate of investment firm KPS Capital Partners submitted the successful bid to buy the company, subject to approval by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. *"The USW supports the KPS bid, and we look forward to a long and productive partnership with the company here. The company has a solid track record of success in running manufacturing facilities like this, and this contract will put the company and the workers on that same track,"* said Michael Bolton, director of USW District 2.

## Nevada Expands Bargaining Rights

Gov. Steve Sisolak recently signed S.B. 135 into law. The legislation expands collective

bargaining rights to more than 20,000 Nevada state employees. About the legislation, AFSCME President Lee Saunders said: *"This bill is about respect for state employees who make their communities stronger every day. By signing this bill, Governor Sisolak demonstrates his understanding of the importance of giving working people a seat at the table and the voice on the job they deserve. Americans are looking for an answer to a rigged economy that favors the wealthy, and it's clear that they are turning to unions in growing numbers. It is time to make it easier all across the country for working people to join in strong unions."*

## Feminist Majority Foundation Joins NPEU

Staff at Feminist Majority Foundation voted to join Nonprofit Professional Employees Union (NPEU) and have asked management for voluntary

recognition. Said NPEU President Kayla Blado: *"We are excited to welcome Feminist Majority Union to NPEU and the labor movement. Women's rights are union rights, and with their union, FMF staff will be able to more effectively advocate for feminism and the rights of women. We look forward to FMF management promptly recognizing its staff union."*

## Resorts, Hotels & Casino Workers Negotiated New Protections

Workers at MGM Resorts and Caesars hotels and casinos in Las Vegas represented by Culinary Workers Union Local 226 and Bartenders Union Local 165 successfully negotiated new protections in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new agreement will provide more than 36,000 workers with extended health benefits, paid time off for quarantines and other protections. *"Behind every worker is a family, and we are proud to have partnered with MGM Resorts and Caesars*

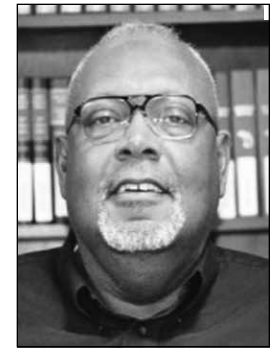
**See LABOR WINS on page 3**

# WELCOME! to our Local 6000 NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER	DEPT.	FENLON, KAYLA	DHHS	LESAGE, ALLISON	MSP	SACCONE, MARINA	DHHS
ADAMIC, KAITLYN	DHHS	FESTERMAN, MORGAN	DHHS	LEWIS, ANGELA	DHHS	SALAZAR, JESSICA	SOS
ABDUR-RAHMAN, JANEEN	DHHS	FIELDS, KENYETTA	DHHS	LINDAMAN, ANGELICA	DHHS	SANDBORN, ALYSSIA	DHHS
AKONO, HERMANACE	DHHS	FIELDS, LESLIE	DHHS	LLOYD, SHALaura	MDOT	SANFILIPPO, MOLLY	DHHS
ALLEN, MEGAN	DOC	FIEREK, MARAH	DHHS	LOCKE, MICHAEL	DHHS	SANTIBANEZ, DOMINIQUE	TRSY
ALLEN, MELISSA	SOS	FLETCHER, BRANDY	DHHS	LOSEY, MICHEL	LARA	SCHAUFELER, ERIC	MDOT
ALLISON, SARAH	DHHS	FLORES, JULIE	DHHS	LOTYCZ, ALEXIS	DHHS	SCHLOSSER-KUKAWSKI, CARI	SOS
ALSTON, MIA	DHHS	FLYNN, ZACHARY	DHHS	LUEVANO, M	DHHS	SCHULTE, LUKE	SOS
ANDERSON, SIDNEY	DHHS	FUNCHES, ALMIA	SOS	LYONS, ADRIAN	DHHS	SELLERS, AMETHIA	DHHS
ARNWINE, KENYAH	DHHS	GALLOWAY, ERIKA	DHHS	MARCHI, ANGELA	DOC	SHAW, CIARA	DHHS
BALDWIN, KEVIN	DHHS	GARCIA, KAYLEE	DHHS	MARSHALL, DELILAH	DHHS	SHERMAN, TIMOTHY	DHHS
BATES, CARRIE	MDOT	GATSON, KRISTEN	DHHS	MARTIN, ARIELLE	DHHS	SINGH, NAVDEEP	DOC
BAUMGART, KYRA	DHHS	GENAW, JEAN	LEO	McCULLOCH, JONATHAN	DHHS	SKEANS, DONNA	DOC
BECKWITH, JOSHUA	DHHS	GRDEN, ROBERT	TRSY	McCULLOUGH, ALYSSA	DHHS	SMITH, LINDSEY	TRSY
BELCHER, CAROLE	DHHS	GRENNEILL, ZACHARY	DOC	McKEE, JACKIE	DHHS	SPICER, MALENDIA	DHHS
BELL, ANTIONETTA	DHHS	HAMILTON, SHAMEKA	DHHS	McKINNEY, SHEBA	DHHS	SPRINGSTEEN, AMANDA	DHHS
BENNETT, ASHLEY	DHHS	HARRINGTON, TINA	MDOT	McMAHON, DARCY	EDU	STANTON, TIFFANI	LARA
BINGLEY, CHRISTIN	TRSY	HART, GWENEE	DHHS	MELVIN, LESLIE	DHHS	STROUSE, ERIKA	DHHS
BIRNEY, ERIN	DHHS	HELLER, ASHLEY	DHHS	MENSCH, AMY	DNR	SWANSON, SAVANNAH	DOC
BRANDT, MARY	LARA	HENGESBACH, ROBERT	DOC	MILLER, JUATANE	LARA	TAYLOR, MARIAH	DHHS
BRIONES, KIMBERLY	DHHS	HENGY, MELANIE	SOS	MILLER, RAYSHAWN	DHHS	TAYLOR, PAIGE	DHHS
BURGGREN, JESSICA	DHHS	HERNANDEZ, JUSTINE	SOS	MILLIGAN, RHIANNA	SOS	TERRY, ASHLYNN	DHHS
BURRI, SARA	DHHS	HILLS, XAVIER	DOC	MONGER, SAMARRA	DOC	TERRY, KEILA	DHHS
CAREY, ALICIA	LEO	HOFFMANN, SARAH	DHHS	MOON, MICHAEL	DIFS	TIERNEY, JESSICA	DHHS
CARMAN, AMANDA	DOC	HOLDWICK, DANIEL	DOC	MOORE, MERANDA	DOC	TILDEN, VIRGINIA	SOS
CARRIGAN, JANICE	DHHS	HOLLEY, ASHLEY	SOS	MOORE SMITH, DIONNE	DHHS	TILLMAN, LESLIE	DHHS
CLAY, LATREESA	DOC	HORNEBER, NICOLE	DHHS	MOSHER, ALCYIA	DHHS	TKACZYK, VICTORIA	DHHS
CLAY, TUESDAY	DHHS	HUFF, HALEY	DHHS	MOUZON, STACY	DHHS	TOWNSEND, ORLANDA	SOS
COBURN, CHRISTA	DHHS	HUMPHREY, DAYNA	SOS	MUGAN, AMBER	DHHS	TURNER, TARA	DHHS
COLE, ALEXIS	DHHS	JAMES, CRYSTAL	DHHS	MUNCY, ASHLEY	SOS	VALLEJO, OLIVIA	DHHS
COLE, ANETRIA	DHHS	JAMES, KENNETH	DHHS	OKRAY, ERICA	DHHS	VANSLOOTEN, KYRA	MSP
COLLINS, ALEX	DHHS	JAMISON, CHERYL	DHHS	OLMSTEAD, JOSEPH	TRSY	WALKER, ANTARAH	DHHS
COSTA, NICOLE	DOC	JOHNSON, DIANE	DHHS	OLSZEWSKI, CATHERINE	DNR	WALLNER, CHELSEA	DEQ
COUNCIL, REBECCA	DHHS	JOHNSON, GLENNA	DHHS	ONEAL, COURTNEY	SOS	WALTERS, KERRI	DOC
CRAWFORD, ELIZABETH	SOS	JONES, JESSICA	DOC	PALM, JASON	LEO	WARNELL, CHRISTINA	LEO
CROSBIE-DEFRATES, KRISTI	DIFS	JUNE, ELIZABETH	DHHS	PATTERSON, LAUREN	DHHS	WATERS, GLENNA	DHHS
CUTLER, MELISSA	SOS	KATZ, EMILY	DHHS	PEELE, TAYLOR	DHHS	WELLS, BETTINA	DOC
DAVIS, DEKAYLA	DHHS	KHAN, NAIM	DHHS	PERRY, HANNAH	SOS	WHITEHEAD, JAMIE	DOC
DENNIS, CARMELL	DMA	KING, JESSE	DHHS	PETERS, CHRISTINE	DHHS	WILKINS, KURTIS	DHHS
DIBOSSO, WHITNEY	DHHS	KINGSLEY, CHRIS	SOS	PETERSON, RACHELLE	DHHS	WILLIAMS, JAMES	DOC
DIONISE, SUSAN	DOC	KINSEY, LEEANN	DHHS	POIRIER, TRACY	SOS	WILLIAMS, KENDRA	DHHS
DIRSCHELL, KEVIN	DOC	KLIMASZEWSKI, KATHLEEN	TRSY	PROEBSTLE, SHELLY	EDU	WOLFGANG, MONA	SOS
DOZIER-GILES, CHELSEA	DHHS	KNOWLES, ALLEGRA	DHHS	PULL, ROBERT	DOC	WOODLEY, DARREN	DOC
DUFON, MARY	LARA	KOMARZEC, ELYSE	DHHS	REED, MACIE	DHHS	WRIGHT, LATISHA	TRSY
DUMAS, CHELSEA	DHHS	KUDWA, SCOTT	DOC	REEVES, MELISSA	DHHS	ZAMA, RACHAEL	DOC
EDWARDS, EVELYN	DHHS	LAFRENIERE, SHELBY	DHHS	REEVES, TONI	DHHS	ZENKER, DEBBIE	DHHS
EILAR, MEGAN	DHHS	LANEAUX, KIERA	DHHS	RENTSMAN, HALLIE	DHHS	ZIOLKOWSKI, KAREN	DHHS
ELENBAAS, SARAH	DHHS	LARNER, EMILY	TRSY	RODRIGUEZ, JAYMI	DHHS	ZWARKA, JANICE	DHHS
ERNST, AMANDA	TRSY	LATSHAW, KYLIE	DHHS	ROTHENBERG, HANNAH	DHHS		
FAGER, MICHELLE	DHHS	LEE, RONALD	DOC	RUSH, PATSY	DHHS		

**PROUD TO PAY UNION DUES!**

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



**Edward Mitchell**

**“Please contact your worksite steward if you have any concerns about your health and safety.”**

## Most PPE Issues Resolved

The Union continues to deal with COVID-19 issues. The employer has been cooperative for the most part. Most of the PPE issues have been resolved. There are still some staffing issues that we are working through.

The majority of those members who can work remotely are allowed to do so by the employer. However, there are, and will always be, members who cannot work remotely. Those are the members who we are working diligently to provide a safe and healthful work environment, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement. Please contact your worksite steward if you have any concerns about your health and safety. If you don't know who your worksite steward is, you can call the Local at 1-800-243-1985.

We have completed the reauthorization of dues deductions for fiscal year 2021. However, several members did not complete the reauthorization process. Those members who did not complete

their reauthorization for dues deduction for fiscal year 2021 can still do so through HR Self-Service. All members can now reauthorize dues deductions for fiscal year 2022.

Steward elections are now underway. All current stewards will need to be re-elected. The nomination forms were due to be returned, by mail, no later than Monday, November 9, 2020. Where an election is necessary, the ballots will be mailed on or about November 20, 2020. Please exercise your right, as a dues-paying member, and vote in this election.

The Union will be bargaining a new contract in 2021 for pay, benefits and working conditions. A bargaining survey will be available to all members early next year. Please fill out the survey when it is available. The Bargaining Team's priorities are set by the bargaining surveys that are received from members.

November 11th is Veterans Day. Please acknowledge a veteran when you see one. As a veteran, I know it makes me feel good when someone acknowledges my service. A lot of your family members, friends and neighbors served so you could have the freedoms that you enjoy. Thank you to all those who served and the Gold Star Families. Your service and sacrifice will not be forgotten.

On this page, please see the Union Label section of this *Newsbreak* when purchasing your holiday food and services. *Buy Union and Buy American!*

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 until restrictions on meetings and attendance are lifted.

Please stay safe. We are all in this together.



### Benefits/H&S/EAP Representative

**NICOLE JONES (Region 1A and Region 1D)**

is available at the Local to help with questions on: benefits, health & safety issues, substance abuse, and marital/emotional/personal problems.

**Call Toll-Free 800 Line: 1-800-243-1985**

**Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

## LABOR WINS from Page 2

*Entertainment during this difficult time to ensure workers are protected during this pandemic and are not left behind when the economy recovers.*

*These new historic agreements mean workers will have their family health benefits in place until next year, even if they are currently laid off, and that workers will be able to return to their jobs as business recovers with full seniority rights,” said Geoconda Argüello-Kline, the secretary-treasurer for the Culinary Union.*

### AFSCME to Represent Philadelphia Museum of Art

With 89% voting in favor of unionization, workers at the Philadelphia Museum of Art will be represented by AFSCME District Council 47. The victory establishes the first wall-to-wall union at a major museum in the United States. The year-long campaign was delayed by COVID-19 and management's "attempts to discourage unionization."

## UFCW Secures 10% Pay Raise

More than 70,000 employees at Stop & Shop and Peapod in New Jersey, New York and New England represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) secured a 10% pay increase and up to two additional weeks of paid sick leave as a response to coronavirus. UFCW International President Marc Perrone said: *“As we know, grocery workers like Stop & Shop employees have been on the front lines of this crisis, serving the needs of millions of families in the northeast. Protecting them is absolutely essential to our communities and food supply now more than ever.”*

### Grad Students Drive Negotiations

In the past few months, organizing drives led by graduate students, contract negotiations and other pro-worker actions have resulted in victories, including: University of Illinois at Chicago, Georgetown, Brown, Harvard and Oregon State.

# UNION LABEL LOCAL 6000 COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Onita Gagne, and the Union Label Committee

## THE 2020 HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US

Can you believe it's November already, where has this year gone. Seems like just yesterday we were ringing in the New Year!

Thanksgiving will be here shortly and for those of you who are planning a get together whether it is big or small there are products to help you make your day successful.

If you plan on traveling to another state use: **Airlines** – United, American, Delta or Jet Blue Airlines; **Hotels** – Marriot, Holiday Inn or Comfort Inn; **Rental Cars** – Hertz

**Meat – Turkey:** Boarshead, Butterball or Thumann's; **Ham:** Armour, Boarshead, Black Forest or Sugardale; **Side Dishes** – Ocean Spray Cranberry Whole or Jellied Sauce, Birds Eye Vegetables, Betty Crocker Potatoes, Kraft or Ore-Ida, Stove Top Stuffing; **Bread** – Pillsbury rolls or Stroehmann; **Dessert** – Sara Lee Pies, Mother's Kitchen's or Marie Callendar; **Snacks** – Hillshire Farms Meat & Cheese, Lay's, Frito Lay, Rold Gold and Kraft Snack Products.

Then along comes **BLACK FRIDAY** for anyone that plans on braving the crowds trying to find the perfect gift for that someone. **Toys** – Buddy L, Build-a-Bear, Coleco, Colorforms, Crayola, Duncan, Fisher-Price, Hasbro, Ideal Toy Company, Leap Frog, Lionel, Little Tykes, Mattel, Ohio Art, Parker Brothers, Radio Flyer, Slinky, Tonka, Tyco and Wham-O; **Apparel and Accessories** – Brooks Brothers, Levi Strauss, Saks Fifth Avenue and Timex; **Shoes** – Naturalizer, Wolverine and Red Wing; **Beauty Products** – Avon, Caress, Dove, Revlon and Old Spice; **Sports Equipment** – Louisville Slugger, Wilson, Spaulding, MacGregor Clubs and Top Flite Golf Balls.

### YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF WEIRD AND WACKY HOLIDAYS:

11/16 Have a Party with your Bear Day	12/04 Wear Brown Shoes Day
11/17 Homemade Bread Day	12/08 National Brownie Day
11/22 Go for a Ride Day	12/12 National Ding-a-Ling Day
11/27 Buy Nothing Day	12/14 Roast Chestnuts Day

*Always remember to try and buy products that are Union, American or Michigan made. Keeping the men and women of America working.*

**HAVE A SAFE AND HEALTHY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE.**

Can We Talk?  
NOVEMBER **WORD SEARCH**

by *Miya Williamson, Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

**MICHIGAN CROPS (Part 1)**



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

- Apples
- Asparagus
- Beans
- Blueberries
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Celery
- Cherries
- Grapes
- Honey
- Maple Syrup
- Onions
- Peaches

*Buy Union  
and Michigan-  
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Whenever  
Possible!*

**FINANCIAL SECY'S UPDATE**



**Elections Have Consequences**  
*Elections have consequences.* This statement is so true and it has no political party affiliation, because your vote or lack of vote affects how our local community is shaped, state legislature, federal legislature and the position of Commander-in-Chief. This simple statement carries with it the weight of the free world. We're free because we have the opportunity to voice our choice for who leads us. We may not always agree who it should be, but the concept is what we hold dear and why America was founded.

Our "freedom of choice" and the freedom to make that choice in the voting booth, and not be condemned by it, should always be defended and protected. We can always have healthy discussions on why we differ in our opinions and choices, but we should *never* forget we are all human beings and our opinions, our choices, our words should not express violence toward another person.

This election cycle has been nothing less than draining on everyone. It reminds me of an encounter I had in an elevator, in the House Office Building in Lansing, a little over 9 years ago, when Governor Snyder was elected. I had attended one of the first sessions of the legislature under his tenure. A Republican legislator, who knew I was a Legislative Liaison for UAW Local 6000, openly laughed and said to another Republican legislator while looking at me "elections have consequences and the other side has to learn we're moving our agenda quickly and I'm surprised we've been able to accomplish so much in such a short time." He was rubbing in the fact the Democrats had lost majority control of the Michigan House of Representatives. The person who was with me in the elevator looked at me and saw how upset I was getting and touched me lightly on my arm and nodded "no." It was just in time, because I was getting ready to give the legislator a piece of my mind. It was obvious he was trying to get a rise out of me, but I had to be smarter and realize he was entitled to his opinion and they were just words.

So now, as of November 3, 2020, the theme resurfaces "elections have consequences" and the proverbial shoe is on the other foot and to remind them of the truth of this statement "elections have consequences." Whether you're a Democrat or Republican, your vote is your voice and when you skip voting it's not rebellion, it's surrender. *Stay safe!*



**ATTN: All Retiring UAW EMPLOYEES**



**Doug Gravelle, CFP**  
Investment Professional

**Are You Retiring?**



**Michelle Gravelle, CFP**  
Investment Professional

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# DOC UPDATE

## DEPARTMENT of CORRECTION

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

### Substance Abuse Testing

There appears to be some conflict, in the minds of some management staff, regarding the Field Operations Administration Memorandum 2020-199 (FOA Memo 2020-199) dated March 28, 2020, issued by Deputy Director Russ Marlan. It has been reported by some staff that some in management are telling staff to conduct substance abuse testing as if the Memorandum does not exist.

During our Statewide Labor management meeting, held on 10-30-2020, the issue was discussed and the Union requested documentation be produced which showed the Memorandum had either been rescinded or modified.

Management brought up Director's Office Memorandum 2020 – 30R6 (dated 8-27-2020), but neither side could find any information that contradicted or rescinded FOA Memo 2020-199.

It appears that some in management may need to remember that substance abuse testing changes were made, in part, "In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and to maintain the safety of our staff..."

According to FOA Memo 2020-199, testing frequency becomes at "agent's discretion" or "agent's judgement" after 3 months of negative tests with no refusals, no positive test results, and no substance abuse-related arrests/citations for parolees. For probationers who meet the same criteria, the agent may petition

the court to remove the testing condition.

#### **Detroit Re-Entry Closing (DRC)**

The last date of operation is set as January 9, 2021. The bumping chain had not been completed.

#### **Marquette Branch Prison COVID-19 Outbreak**

There is a staffing shortage, in all classifications, at Marquette due to the number of staff either testing positive or being forced to quarantine because of COVID-19. The Emergency Response Team (ERT) has been activated to help provide staffing relief at Marquette Prison.

The ERT consist of volunteers from across the Department. They include employees from various classifications and representation units. Lodging, with direct billing to the Department, will be provided to employees in travel status, as well as meals and other applicable expenses, in accordance with the Standardized Travel Regulations.

There has been a statewide call for volunteers (those who are not a part of the ERT) who are willing to go to Marquette Prison to work until the pandemic has loosened its grip. The Department has assigned non-custody staff (non-volunteer) employees with prior custody position duties.

#### **DOC Outbreaks**

– There has been an influenza outbreak at the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center.

- A COVID-19 outbreak has been declared facility wide at the Richard A. Hanlon Correctional Facility.
- A scabies outbreak has been declared in B Unit at Lakeland Correctional Facility.
- The quarantine at Muskegon Correctional Facility has been lifted.

#### **COVID-19 Return to Work Protocol**

As of October 22, 2020, an updated COVID-19 return-to-work protocol was adopted. The new protocol calls for close contacts of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or close contacts of those showing symptoms

of COVID-19 Persons Under Investigation or (PUI).

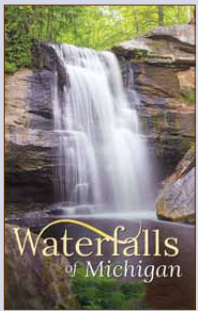
Under this new protocol, in order for an employee to continue working, they must be free from principal symptoms of COVID-19, wear a surgical mask at all times during their shift, be screened twice during their shift for symptoms, and agree to daily testing. Employees will be required to sign off on the above noted procedure to continue working.

#### **Annual Leave Scheduling: DOM 2020 – 23R**

Effective October 3, 2020, no days will be designated as "Prime" beginning with the January 4, 2021 date.

## WINNER of... Do You Know MICHIGAN WATERFALLS QUIZ

We had five winners to October's Quiz on waterfalls. Congratulations to the following members on their excellent knowledge of Michigan waterfalls. They will each receive either a Meijer, Target or Amazon Gift Card.



#### **HOLLY PANIWOZIK**

DHHS Kent County

#### **STACIE NARDI**

DHHS Macomb County

#### **ROBBIN McMANUS**

LEO Muskegon

#### **ANNE MARIE HAUGER**

DHHS Oakland County

#### **TRACY TILL-MACLACHIAN**

DOC Lahser

1. Tahquamenon Falls.....Paradise
2. Sable Falls.....Munising
3. Spray Falls.....Munising
4. Miners Falls.....Munising
5. Marquette Area Waterfalls
6. Hungarian Falls.....Hubbell
7. Jacob's Falls.....Eagle River
8. Potawatomi Falls.....Ironwood
9. Cascade Falls.....Ironwood
10. Ocqueoc Falls.....Ocqueoc

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## THE VOICE OF MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

# NEWSBREAK

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Toll Free: 1-800-243-1985 • Hot Line: 1-800-321-0829

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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.



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

Security, Medicare, the economy, and the ever-rising cost of necessary medication. Because of inadequate income, some have to prioritize between food or medication! Many stated that the comments that Social Security is underfunded and could cease in 2023 was alarming.

President-elect Biden has stated that he will protect and adjust Social Security and Medicare programs to make certain that current and future generations will get the Social Security benefits they have earned and the Medicare program will continue to provide access to quality and affordable health care.

He also stated he will develop programs to assist all citizens to recover from the economic decline that the nation has endured since the pandemic began.

Sisters and Brothers, with this new administration, we have the opportunity for hope. But, again, this will require your involvement! Remember, there are some in D.C. who will continue to attempt to block legislation that Biden presents. You must remain active, stay diligent and continue to be involved with your Union and with your elected representatives!

Retirees have historically been a powerful voting bloc. I'm convinced our vote made a difference in this election. *Let's keep our voices loud!*

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 got your flu shot this year?* 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 base 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, then 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](http://bcbsm.com/advantagerewards) or call 1-866-572-0155 (TTY: 711)

As I noted last month, the October State of Michigan (Defined Benefits) retirement check increased 3% or \$25.00 maximum. Retirees collecting Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will see an increase of 1.3 percent in benefits for 2021. The maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase from \$137,700 to \$142,800.

## Contact information for Michigan Office of Retiree 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](http://www.bcbsm.com/som) and 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: 517-284-4400
- From outside the Lansing area: 800-381-5111
- Or visit their website at [www.michigan.gov/ors](http://www.michigan.gov/ors)

## Financial Hardship & Assistance

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 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 are your local Commission on Aging and various churches.

We are in this together, and we will get through this – together. **SOLIDARITY!**

## 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](http://www.local6000.org)



facebook

- 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

# LABOR HISTORY

*"The labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them."*

– Martin Luther King, Jr., speech to AFL-CIO, Dec. 11, 1961



Strikers at the Hormel packing plant (1933)

## November 3, 2009

Nearly 5,000 transit workers, represented by Transport Workers Union Local 234, begin a strike in Philadelphia over wages, pensions, and benefits. The strike shut down the city's bus, subway, and trolley service and, after six days, a five-year contract deal was reached that provided pay and benefit increases.

## November 4, 1996

After a struggle lasting more than two years, 6,000 Steelworker members at Bridgestone/Firestone win a settlement in which strikers displaced by scabs got their original jobs back. The fight started when management demanded the workers accept 12-hour shifts.

## November 4, 1996

A 28-month-long strike by rubber workers against Bridgestone-Firestone over the company's demands for huge wage and benefit concessions and elimination of union protections ends with the rehiring of all former strikers, a wage increase, and all but one of the workers' demands. A coordinated global campaign put pressure on the company by publicizing its pollution record, its workplace safety and health violations, and its lack of civic responsibility.

## November 8, 1933

President Franklin D. Roosevelt announces plans for the Civil

Works Administration to create four million additional jobs for the Depression-era unemployed. The workers ultimately laid 12 million feet of sewer pipe and built or made substantial improvements to 255,000 miles of roads, 40,000 schools, 3,700 playgrounds, and nearly 1,000 airports (not to mention 250,000 outhouses still badly needed in rural America)

## November 10, 1933

Sit-down strike begins at Austin, Minn., Hormel plant with the help of a Wobbly organizer, leading to the creation of the Independent Union of All Workers. Labor historians believe this may have been the first sit-down strike of the 1930s. Workers held the plant for three days, demanding a wage increase.

Some 400 men crashed through the plant entrance and chased out non-union workers. One group rushed through the doors of a conference room where Jay Hormel and five company executives were meeting and declared: "We're taking possession. So move out." Within four days, the company agreed to binding arbitration.

## November 13, 1974

Union activist and whistleblower Karen Silkwood dies under "mysterious circumstances" while

in route to a meeting with an Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union health and safety staffer and a *New York Times* investigative reporter. She was bringing them documents proving that the company she worked for – Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation – had falsified quality control records of nuclear fuel rods.

## November 21, 1945

The United Auto Workers Union strikes 92 General Motors plants in 50 cities to back up worker demands for a 30-percent raise. An estimated 200,000 workers are out.

## November 22, 1909

"The Uprising of the 20,000" – Some 20,000 female garment workers are on strike in New York. a judge tells arrested pickets: "You are on strike against God." The walkout, believed to be the first major successful strike by female workers in American history, ended the following February with union contracts bringing better pay and working conditions.

## November 23, 1170 B.C.

History's first recorded (on papyrus) strike, by Egyptians working on public works projects for King Ramses III in the Valley of the Kings. They were protesting having gone 20 days without pay – portions of grain – and put down their tools. Exact date estimated, described as within "the sixth month of the 29th year" of Ramses' reign – 1170 B.C. – in *The Spirit of Ancient Egypt*, by Ana Ruiz. Scholar John Romer adds in *Ancient Lives: The Story of the Pharaoh's Tombmakers* that the strike so terrified the authorities they gave in and raised wages. Romer believes it happened a few years later, on November 14, 1152 B.C.

## UNION RETIREES YES! PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR UNION

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.**

## 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!**

# BOE Part 2

## November 2, 2020 through November 24, 2020



BOE Part 2 will take place from November 2, 2020 through November 24, 2020. Benefit elections made during BOE Part 2 will have a coverage period effective from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR BOE PART 2

Effective January 1, 2021, all benefit plans are moving to a single, consolidated, calendar-based plan year. Additionally, Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Open Enrollment will now be combined with enrollment in State insurance benefits. This has created one comprehensive open enrollment for State insurance and FSA benefits in the fall each year moving forward, with all benefit elections effective the following January 1.

If you wish to enroll in either a Health Care or Dependent Care FSA for the 2021 plan year, you must enroll during BOE Part 2. FSA enrollments do not roll over from year to year.

During BOE Part 2, a new health insurance option will be offered: the **State High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with Health Savings Account (HSA)**.<sup>1</sup> An HDHP is a type of health insurance plan with lower biweekly premiums and a higher deductible. Automatically included with the State HDHP is an HSA with an annual employer contribution in the amount of \$750 for an individual employee or \$1,500 for employees who enroll with one or more dependents, effective January 1.

An HSA is a tax-advantaged account for individuals covered under an HDHP to save on eligible health, prescription, dental, and vision-related expenses not covered by insurance (e.g., deductibles, copays, and co-insurance). See a list of eligible HSA expenses at [learn.healthequity.com/bcbsm-hsa/qme](http://learn.healthequity.com/bcbsm-hsa/qme).

The State HDHP's health and behavioral health/substance use benefits will be administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM). The prescription drug benefits will be administered by OptumRx, and the HSA will be administered by HealthEquity.

Employees who elect to enroll in the new State HDHP with HSA insurance option will also have the option to enroll in a new Limited Purpose Health Care FSA (LPHC FSA). The LPHC FSA is compatible with an HSA and will only cover dental and vision eligible expenses until the HDHP deductible is met. Once the HDHP deductible is met, employees may provide proof to WageWorks in order to use their Health Care FSA for eligible medical expenses as well for the remainder of that calendar year.

The HDHP with HSA may be a good way to save for future expenses, but you should review plan materials carefully to understand the advantages and risks associated with the plan.

- **CY2021 Health Plan Comparison Chart**
- **Health Insurance Plan Comparison Scenarios**

The Employee Benefits Division's website, [www.mi.gov/BOE](http://www.mi.gov/BOE), provides all the usual open enrollment information you have come to expect, as well as all of the information on the changes happening in 2020 and beyond!

Visit [www.mi.gov/selfserv](http://www.mi.gov/selfserv) to enroll online through HR Self-Service or call the MI HR Service Center at 877-766-6447, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to walk through the enrollment process with a MI HR Representative. We remind members to reauthorize dues for FY 2022.

<sup>1</sup> MSPTA-represented (T01) employees and OEAI are excluded from this benefit.



## Can we talk?

BY MIYA WILLIAMSON, FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

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 December 3rd and can be emailed to: [mwilliamson@local6000.org](mailto:mwilliamson@local6000.org). The winner will be announced in the December issue of the *NEWSBREAK*. Suggestions for future quizzes can also be sent to the email address above. *Good Luck!*

1. In 1866, this Detroit pharmacist invented a popular drink?
2. Detroit residents received the first phone numbers in what year?
3. What year was the first Four Way Traffic Light installed in Detroit?
4. In 1960, this Michigan freeway was the first Interstate in the country to go from Border to Border?
5. Which highway stretches 395 miles from Sault Sainte Marie to Ohio?
6. The largest crucifix in the world is located in this Michigan City?
7. Name the deadliest battle to ever take place on Michigan Soil and the name of the present-day city.
8. Which Michigan City is known as the Magic Capital of the World?
9. In what year was The Agricultural College of Michigan founded and what is the current name?
10. What is the year and name of the first public university founded in Michigan?
11. Michigan is the French name of this Ojibwa word meaning "large water" or "large lake"?
12. Which states border Michigan?

NOVEMBER  
**QUIZ**  
Do You Know  
Michigan  
Interesting  
Facts?