

Local Voices

UAW Local 2209

Chartered 1985



JAN-FEB 2020

I WAS THERE
TWENTY NINETEEN STRIKE



Shirt designed by Derek Miller

Local Voices

UAW Local 2209
Chartered 1985



UAW Local 2209 Executive Board

Officers

President
Vice President
Recording Secretary
Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Sergeant-At-Arms
Guide

Holli Murphy
Todd McKibben
Amy Houston
Shane B. Davis
David Bartkowiak
Melinda Ladd
DeAnna Watson
John Kinsey
Jamie Teller

At-Large Board Members

Unit 1 Chair (GM)
Unit 2 Chair (Nurses)
Unit 3 Chair (Caravan)
Unit 4 Chair (Avancez Tire & Wheel)
Unit 5 Chair (Avancez Maintenance Techs)
Unit 6 Chair (Ruan Trucking)
Unit 7 Chair (Avancez VAA)
Zone Shift 1
Zone Shift 2
Zone Shift 3

Rich LeTourneau
Mike McClain
Derrick Davidson
DaVontae Williams
Rick Hamm
Rodney Smith
Theresa Bradin
Keith Babler
John Dohner Jr
Tony Cantasano

Member

Retiree Chapter Chair

Diana Bovie-Koomler

Newspaper & Communications Committee

Jason Jackson
Katie Knox
Len Maydwell
Kevin Murray
Gary Schepp
Chrissy Mangrum
Roxanna Murray

Editorial Policy

The views or opinions expressed by the individual writers are not necessarily those of the editor, nor the administration of Local 2209. The editorial decisions to publish or edit content are made at the discretion of the editors and are based on factors including but not limited to: relevance, interest to the readers, timeliness, as well as space limitations within the publication.

* Photos in the Local Voices may be photoshopped or cropped for better presentation.

Deadline for articles is the Friday before the 3rd Saturday in odd months. Publications will be in even months.

Address Change

To ensure delivery of the Local Voices it is important to keep your address updated. Please stop by or call the Union Hall whenever you have a change of address.

Local Voices Deadline Friday, February 17, 2020

To submit articles
email: localvoices2209@gmail.com
or drop it off at the Union Hall



UAW Local 2209 Publication

PO Box 579 • Roanoke IN • 46783

Union Hall

Phone: 260-672-2209 Fax: 260-672-9220
Email: uaw2209@frontier.com
Hours: Monday - Friday 6:30 am - 3:30 pm

GM Union Work Center

Unit 1 Shop Chair 260-673-2838
GA 260-673-2538 260-673-2197
Body & Paint 260-673-2975

GM UAW Benefit Office

260-673-2339 260-673-2540 260-673-2596

GM Benefits & Services

GM Benefits & Services 800-489-4646
GM UAW Legal Services 800-482-7700
Vehicle Purchase Plan 800-235-4646

Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 11:00 am unless GM production is scheduled. When production is scheduled on the third Saturday the meeting will be held the next day on Sunday at 11:00 am.

Inside This Issue

President's Report	3
Vice President's Report	3
Unit 1 Chair's Report	4
Retiree Chapter Corner	5
Financial Report	6
Recording Secretary	7
UAW Legal Services Plan	7, 16
Standing Committees	8-9
Wild Game Feed & Post Holiday Party	10
Solidarity Jamz	10
Triennial Elections	11
None Shall Be Forgotten	11
Black History Month	12
International UAW News	12-13, 15
I Do It for Walter	13
Breakfast with Santa & Mrs Claus	14
Champions of All	15
Saved by Kindness	16
Pandemic??	17
Member Spotlight	18
NLRB Board Members	18
Womens History Month	19
Make Your Future Self Happy	19



Holli Murphy
President

Hello Brothers & Sisters!

What a busy year already! Due to wear and tear at the union hall there have been some upgrades or replacements. In the kitchen a new faucet and sprayer was installed and the electric stove is in the process of being replaced with a 6 burner/griddle gas stove. The east doors were replaced and we are currently getting ready to start renovation on our restrooms.

Last week we had Region 2B Education Rep Amy Richardson teaching "The Value of the Vote" to our CAP committee and "Union 101" to our Education Committee. They will be getting a game plan together to inte-

grate our newly converted members with our more seasoned members to teach them the value of labor unions and what SOLIDARITY means to US.

I would like to congratulate all the newly retired members! Thank you for paving the way for all of us! This has opened the door for many temps to be converted to full time employment at General Motors, so Congratulations to you as well! We look forward to building the same friendships that the retirees have shown us. We are truly a family here at Fort Wayne Assembly. Chairman LeTourneau and I were able to get a picture with a couple of our new retirees!

Looking ahead in 2020, we will soon be having a training class for our newly elected Election Committee. They will be conducting the triennial elections, which are just around the corner in May of 2020. The official election posting will go out in the next issue of the Local Voices.

In Solidarity,
Holli Murphy

UAW Benefits

Union Hall Office Hours

A UAW Benefit Representative is at the Union Hall every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Except during Holidays, vacation, and training.

It is suggested to call the Union Hall at 260-672-2209 to confirm a Benefit Rep will be available. When you arrive, please check in with office secretary, Erika.

Attorney

An attorney will be available to help with worker's compensation and other legal matters on the last Monday of each month from 9:00 am to Noon at the Union Hall.

The initial consultations are free and if additional representation is needed they will be provided at a discounted rate.

Upcoming dates:

February 24 March 30



Todd McKibben
Vice President

This may sound like a bargaining report... but now more so than the last 3-6 years the VP is involved in contracts, negotiations, disciplines, ect.

To start, Caravan Facility Maintenance (approximately 80-90 members) have been working under a contract that expired in March of 2018. This contract unfortunately, is negotiated up North and is out of our hands. I'm in constant contact with Regional UAW

Rep. Jim Zent with updates coming few and far between. It is pattern bargaining with 2-3 other maintenance vendors. Hiring and keeping new employees is a huge obstacle when their starting wages are still based on the last contract. Turnover is off the charts with new group orientation almost every week. Most have a change of heart in the first few days of orientation, and they never hit the floor.

Avancez – VAA (Value Added Automotive) is the building across from the main entrance of the plant. It is about 300 members strong. We have organized them, had elections and our 1st contract with the UAW and Avancez. The first contract is always the toughest and we hope to better their contract each time. Staffing 3 shifts, there is a struggle also, when Target, Kroger, and several other businesses offer comparable wages.

Avancez does our headliners, rear axles, console scheduling, front corners, radiators, among other work that used to be in-house. This is the first time for most employees to be a part of any union. The dust is starting to settle there, but being new to the union way of thinking, we battle with management daily.

Avancez Tire/Wheel (formerly Android) is approximately 85 members strong. They have been organized for several years now and the contracts have gotten better over time. They are currently fully staffed and retain workers for the most part.

Avancez Tire/Wheel Maintenance are approximately 8 members strong with their own contract. With such a small group we are able to work out most problems.

Continued on page 19



Rich LeTourneau

Shop Chair Unit 1
General Motors

For the last three months, approximately 200 of our members will have walked the floor at FWA for the last time. It is awesome to see the excitement in their faces knowing they are all embarking on a new lifestyle, one that doesn't involve walking through these front doors ever again. They have all paid their dues over and over again.

These Brothers and Sisters have seen all the changes in the UAW and GM over the last 30 to 40 years. They've experienced the good times, the bad times, the slow times and the fast times. They've moved from state to

Farewell to Legacy of Industrial Athletes

state, job to job all in hopes of reaching this 30-year goal. It finally came.

The amount of experience and knowledge leaving the shop floor is irreplaceable. Some of these industrial warriors have been here since 1986 and 1987—all transferring from other GM facilities that either closed or cut shifts. We can only hope that they spent a lot of time mentoring and teaching those that were hired to replace them. I'm confident they did, so the new hires can continue the same UAW journey they started 30 or more years before them. I want to thank all of you for your dedication and loyalty to the UAW and the products you have built, I consider you all my friends and you will be missed.

Now we have to start the rebuilding process -from the floor to the Leadership. The mentoring never ends, especially when an SAP is offered and several of your current Leadership takes advantage of this benefit. Along

with those from the floor, we are also saying goodbye to some extremely talented and dedicated Leadership. I'd like to give a special thanks to John Dohner, Jr. and Keith Babler for their years of service and dedication to this membership and your Shop Committee. They, along with several other Union officials, have been by my side through several contracts and have a wealth of experience and knowledge that will be missed.

Before they all leave to start their new lives, your UAW leadership will be hosting a party at the union hall on February 29th. We want the entire membership to take the time to celebrate those that are retiring and all those that were newly hired. We will be having music, food, and drinks for all. It will be a great opportunity to say good-bye, share stories and welcome in the new. Hope you all can make it.

Local Union 2209 Unit 1 Bargaining Team



*Rich LeTourneau
Shop Chair*



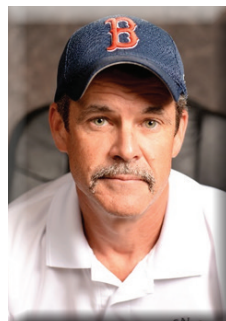
*Keith Babler
Zone 1st Shift*



*John Dohner
Zone 2nd Shift*



*Tony Cantasan
Zone 3rd Shift*



*Dave Poor
District 1*



*Steve Turner
District 7*



*Chris Phillips
District 11*

Retiree Chapter Corner



Diana Bovie-Koomler
Retiree Chair

Retiree Chapter meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am at the Union Hall. We welcome retirees, spouses and significant others, and surviving spouses. Speakers are arranged for our meetings that can provide needed information in their retirement and to schedule activities of interest.

We have scheduled Home Instead for February and anticipate a speaker from the UAW Legal Services at the March meeting. Social Security is anticipated for the September meeting and the UAW Trust in October.

A Financial Fair is also being considered soon which will consist of various financial planners to help answer questions you may have about your retirement plans.

2020 Chapter Meetings

Feb 19 Mar 18 Apr 15

With the help of donations from Chapter Retirees and a matching fund from the Retiree Chapter, \$1,345 was donated to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

The Retiree Chapter also allocated \$800 for Home Instead's Be a Santa to a Senior program. Ten seniors who spend the holidays alone without family were sponsored. Retirees volunteered to shop for the items requested. We have been involved with this event since 2013.

Welcome New Retirees

November — Paul Arceo • Michael Barlow • Jeffery Bates • Jeffrey Beard • Richard Bremer • Thomas Fenker • Russell Freestone • Jay Garber • Gary Gill • Douglas Harber • Brent Hughes • Danny McCorkle • David McCullough • Duke Noble • Donald Organ • Jim Tackett • Brian Van Hyfte • Gayle VanHyfte • Daniel Watson • Albert Webb

December — Debra Alderson-Olson • Christopher Baldwin • Zachary Franken • Cathy Poolman • Carmen Saldana • Steve Schmidt • Sherry Scott

January — William (Lee) Breidenstein Jr • Charles Brieske • Michael Feirn • Cindy Gross • Kevin Heisler • Christine Limber • Robert Rodriguez • Kathleen Schultz • Randall Shook • Edward Toler • Byron Walter • Charles Wills • David Wolfe

February — Wendy Abt • Michael Brock • Matthew Carey • Alan Dockemeyer • Willie Dockery • Michael Gase • Edward Gimbel • Mark Haefner • Donald Hanson • Jeanne Jones • John Jones • James Komosinski • Carla Miller • Stephen Schowe • Edward Sheridan • Martin Snodgrass • Darryl Starr • Paul Till • Eric Visger • Roberto Aguirre

February is not a complete list. Contact us if any retirees have been missed.

In Memoriam

*For those that are no longer with us
let us not say goodbye
but remember the time they were with us.*

Roger Penrod	26 Dec	(75)
James D Hughes	3 Jan	(60)
Doug Dalberg	12 Jan	(61)
Lemont Klinkner	22 Jan	(71)
Frank Holcomb	29 Jan	(63)



*It is not possible to recognize all of our past
Brothers and Sisters in a timely manner. Your
help would be greatly appreciated. Please call
or email chapter2209.recsecty@gmail.com.*

2020 Medicare Updates

Medicare Premium

The standard Medicare premium in 2020 is \$144.60—an increase of \$9.10 from 2019.

Medicare Deductible

The Medicare Part B annual deductible is \$198—an increase of \$13 from 2019. Remember: Some individuals will pay more depending on their income.

Retiree Contact Info

Fidelity (Pension)	800-489-4646	Davis Vision	888-234-5164
UAW Legal Services	800-482-7700	Delta Dental	800-524-0149
Medicare	800-633-4227	Durable Medical	866-324-9666
MetLife Insurance	888-543-3461	Express Scripts	866-662-0274
Social Security Admin	800-772-1213	Silver Sneakers	866-584-7352
UAW Trust *	866-637-7555	TruHearing	844-394-5420
Aetna MA	800-663-0885	UAW Benefits (FWA)	260-673-2339
BCBS MA or BCBS Traditional			260-673-2540
• Phone on back of medical card			260-673-2596
• uawtrust.org/healthplancarriers			

* (Retiree Health Care Connect)

Your plan can also be accessed at digital.alight.com/rhcc

* UAW Trust has more information and history at www.uawtrust.org



Combined Funds Financial Report 1 Oct 2019 - 30 December 2019

Shane B. Davis

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Financial Secretary Shane B. Davis is available for any questions about the finances of the Local Union. You can call the Union Hall at 672-2209 to make an appointment to review the income and expenditures.

FUND BALANCES

Unit 1 GM General Fund	\$ 1,432,730.95
Unit 2 GM Nurses	723.31
Unit 3 Caravan Facilities	14,458.97
Unit 4 Android	1,955.64
Unit 5 Android Maint Techs	779.86
Unit 6 Ruan Trucking	2,098.68
Unit 7 Advancez, LLC	3,887.29
Strike Fund	69,066.39
Chaplaincy Fund	1,067.51
Citizenship & Legislative Fund	80.79
Civil and Human Rights Fund	2,771.43
Community Services Fund	4,318.23
Conservation Fund	90.00
Consumer Affairs Fund	75.87
Disaster Relief Fund	2,151.07
Education Dues Allocation Fund	4,925.38
Education Fund	3,459.29
Recreation Dues Allocation Fund	2,401.66
Recreation Fund	2,640.25
Union Label Fund	5,237.20
Veteran's Fund	5,199.50
Women's Fund	2,613.92
Building Fund	-33,759.19
New Member Orientation Fund	2,524.82
Picnic Fund	-34,155.43
Retired Workers Chapter Fund	66,523.19
Retiree Penny Transfer	3,644.40
Retiree Event Fund	1,935.78
Retiree Chapters (57, 305, 1405, 2357, 2911)	59,464.90
Total of All Funds	\$ 1,628,911.66

Oct/Nov/Dec 2019

Beginning Balance	\$1,421,181.12
Income	\$1,332,579.31
Expenditures	-\$1,124,848.77
Difference	\$207,730.54
Balance	\$1,628,911.66

Income:

Dues & Initiations - Actives	\$1,289,281.83
Dues & Donations - Retired Workers	7,003.50
Dues - Area Retired Workers Council	12.38
Collections (Gate & Shop)	5,063.92
Donations - Other	2,901.08
Donations - Strike Support from Others	5,200.00
Interest on Credit Union Accounts	575.99
Rents (Building Office and Property)	950.00
Sales - (Fundraising, Clothing, Other)	18,969.11
Social & Rec	2,470.00
Refunds	151.50

Income Total

\$1,332,579.31

Expenses:

Wages (Clerical, Maintenance, & Security)	29,960.13
Lost Time & Per Diem (Officers & Others)	88,617.47
Payroll Deductions (Taxes)	13,736.01
Payroll (Annual Pension Allocations)	10,092.68
Union Dues	-17.66
Per Capita Taxes (Intl, CAP, Affiliates)	807,708.52
Athletic Participation (Bowling League Fees)	280.00
Advertising & Publicity	17,325.02
Flowers, Bibles, Cards, Donations, etc	1,684.05
Donations - Charities, Other, & Forwarded	26,955.27
Office, Building, & Janitorial	34,752.67
Postage (Including Cartage & Freight)	2,686.17
Registration/Conference Fees	12,520.00
Printing Costs (Calendars)	650.00
Professional Fees (Clerical, Steno, Legal)	8,186.21
Raffle and Fundraiser Costs	12,751.91
Refreshments (Caterers, Coffee, Donuts, Etc)	29,560.91
Sponsorships (Athletics & Community)	710.00
Refunds	150.00
Rentals (Postage Meter and Machine)	250.85
Reimbursements	12,997.10
Sales	892.08
Sales Taxes	188.66
Social and Recreation Events	3,996.10
Strike Operating Expenses	7,789.12
Travel - Direct Paid	425.50

Expenses Total

\$1,124,848.77

October 2019

Beginning Balance	\$1,421,181.12
Income	\$15,230.49
Expenditures	-\$113,371.22
Difference	-\$98,140.73
Balance	\$1,323,040.39

November 2019

Beginning Balance	\$1,323,040.39
Income	\$350,041.01
Expenditures	-\$297,699.05
Difference	52,341.96
Balance	\$1,375,382.35

December 2019

Beginning Balance	\$1,375,382.35
Income	\$967,307.81
Expenditures	-\$713,778.50
Difference	253,529.31
Balance	\$1,628,911.66

A regular audit was conducted by UAW International Auditors the week of January 20th. The Auditors will send a report to Local 2209 when they have finished it.

Note from Layout Editor, Gary Schepp: I would like to thank Leigh Anne Adjiri for identifying the missing "1"

in the last issue. Hopefully, this will not happen again. The error was mine.

Financial reports are provided by Financial Secretary-Treasurer Shane B. Davis and the Layout Editor extracts the data and condenses it into the layout on this page.



Amy Houston
Recording Secretary

Am-al-ga-mate
verb

1. combine or unite to form one organization or structure: "they amalgamated their union with another"

There are two types of locals in the UAW; stand-alone and amalgamated. An amalgamated local is comprised of multiple units. Each unit consists of members who work under a different collective bargaining agreement (CBA) than members of the other units. The units may have the same or different employers, but the units are defined by their CBAs.

UAW Local 2209 is an amalgamated Local Union with 7 different units and 4 different workplaces. Yet, we are all in this together! All of the Unit members are welcome (and encouraged) to join any of our committees, attend meetings and participate in the activities and events that we put on at UAW Local 2209. We may not all work in the same building, but we are all the same union family!

UAW Local 2209: 7 Units, One Voice

Unit 1 members work at General Motors for General Motors and has approximately 4,156 members

Unit 2 members are Nurses that work in Medical and are employed by General Motors and has approximately 12 members

Unit 3 members work at General Motors for Caravan Facilities and are booth cleaners, janitors and maintenance and has approximately 127 members

Unit 4 members work for Avancez Tire and Wheel (formerly called Android). They schedule and assemble wheels and tires for Fort Wayne Assembly across the road from General Motors on Fogwell. They have approximately 35 members

Unit 5 members work for Avancez and are Maintenance Technicians. They maintain the equipment and facility at Avancez (formerly Android) and are located across the road on Fogwell. They have approximately 3 members

Unit 6 members work for Ruan Transportation and they are semi-truck drivers. They have approximately 8 members

Unit 7 members work for Avancez Value Added Assembly (VAA) and are at a worksite across Lafayette Center Road from General Motors. They schedule and assemble our headliners,

rear axle and facia. They have approximately 130 members

In the UAW we have so many different professions that are represented, commonly referred to as Sectors. Besides the obvious autoworker, we also represent police, nurses, casino workers, graphic designers, mechanics, people who build tanks, people who build and design submarines, and many more. It's interesting to see the diverse types of work performed by the members right here in our own Local, too. But one thing we have in common is that we are all members of UAW Local 2209. That means that everyone from every unit is part of our Union family! Please don't forget that! The Union hall belongs to each one of our members and they are all welcome anytime. Do you wish you knew more about your Union or would like to meet your Brothers and Sisters? Please attend your next Union Meeting or even stop by the Union Hall and talk to someone about joining a committee! I promise you won't leave without making a friend.

If you are interested in reading more about amalgamated units, it is in the UAW Constitution, Article 35. When you stop by the Union Hall you can ask for a copy of the Constitution or it is also available online at www.uaw.org

**UNIONS ARE WHY THERE
ARE FIRE EXITS AT YOUR
WORK, AND WHY THE
DOORS AREN'T
PADLOCKED DURING
WORK HOURS.**



Info About Your 2019 Form 1099

Applies only to Legal Services Plan Benefit

Although specific questions about your tax return should be directed to a tax preparer, the following general information may be helpful to you. IRS instructions state that the miscellaneous income reported in Box 7 of your 1099 should go on Line 8 of Schedule 1 (Other income) for those using Form 1040 or 1040NR. You don't have to file a Schedule C because the 1099 amount is not self-employment income. Some tax software packages charge extra to file a sched-

ule, so check the terms of the program you may wish to use. According to our research, Free Tax USA and H&R Block's free basic tax software package allow the filing of Form 1040 and a Schedule 1. TurboTax, TaxAct and TaxSlayer programs do not include filing of schedules with the free versions of their programs.

Source: UAW Legal Services Facebook

See page 16 for more information



Standing Committee Chairs

Chaplaincy	Michelle Buckler
Citizenship & Legislative	Regina Cartwright
Civil & Human Rights	Curtis "CJ" Johnson
Community Services	Jannie Burkhammer
Consumer Affairs	Jason Hobson
Constitution & Bylaws	Matt Sterk
Conservation & Recreation	Mike Fairchild
Education	Phil Ratkos
Union Label	Luvenia Hairston
Veterans	Greg Bedford
Women's	Colleen Singer



Local 2209

Chaplaincy Committee



Do you need someone to
Pray for you?
Pray with you?

Or just a kind ear to listen?

The Chaplaincy Committee
is here to serve, day and night.
Don't hesitate to call.

To be connected to a Chaplain:
Union Hall 260-672-2209
Michele Buckler 260-515-0662
Belva Parkison 765-210-2704
Cinde Mustaine 937-344-3563
Joel Picklesimer 260-249-7787

Find us on Facebook

UAW 2209 Chaplaincy

Prayer requests will be kept private.

Sometimes there are obstacles in the road, in this journey of life. Some days we can handle it, others, it's a struggle. Know that there is someone here that is praying for you. Whether you want to specify what your prayer is or not, we are here.

Education Committee 2020

by Phillip Ratkos, Chair

2020 looks to be a busy and exciting year for the 2209 Education Committee. We will be bringing learning opportunities to the membership and the community, rolling out an amazing raffle basket to raise funds for our 2020 Scholarship Essay Contest, and hosting Trunk or Treat in October.

Starting in February the Education Committee will be rolling out UAW 101 training to the membership. What is UAW 101? It is a 3-hour workshop, where participants will learn information about our UAW history and structure; the purpose and mission of the UAW, and the responsibilities of local unions and the International. This workshop also covers the importance of member involvement, why unions are relevant and necessary today, and participants will be encour-

aged to get even more involved in their union. Interested? Let your Committee person, Leadership or a member of the Education Committee know that you would like to attend.

Also, in February, the Committee will begin working with the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Wayne. The goal of this partnership is to get involved in educating local youth about the value and importance of unions through community service. Interested in joining us? Stop by or call the Hall ((260) 672-2209) and let us know.

Look for our annual raffle basket soon, too. Our St. Patrick's Day themed basket never disappoints and it helps us to fund two \$1000 scholarships annually for the college bound children of our members. Look for information on our Scholarship in late

March/early April.

Please keep Trunk or Treat on your radar. October seems like it's a long way off but at the rate 2020 is flying by, it will be here in a flash. If you would like to decorate a trunk, help out or just come out and have a great time with your family then be on the lookout for more information on this spooky event!

We hope to fulfill our function of educating our members better than ever this year. If there is any training out there that you feel would benefit the membership, let us know and we will work with leadership to make it happen. We're excited about all of the opportunities and events that we will be bringing to the membership as an Education Committee in 2020 and we hope that you are too!



UAW Region 2B Rep, Amy Richardson class presentation of Union 101 and "Value of the Vote"





2020 Womens Committee Activities Update

Your Womens Committee has been very busy the past several months. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone involved to raise money to fight breast cancer thru Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, a part of the American Cancer Association. President Murphy makes a special effort to ensure cancer survivors and their relatives are included in these fundraising efforts.

In addition to our participation in the chili & basket fundraiser we assisted with the Breakfast with Santa event at the Union Hall. With all the overtime everyone has been working we were happy to be a part of this fun annual event for the children and families of our local.

We were very pleased this year to be a part of helping bring people a brighter Christmas. Thanks to your generous help with our own fundraising efforts, we were able to donate to or help three very different but important organizations. We presented the Allen County Foster Parent



*(Back L-R) Donna Bowker, Patti Breidenstein, Denise Harris, and Brian Wegesin
(Front L-R) Melinda Duncan and Colleen Singer*

Association and The Rescue Mission with checks of \$200 each. We also met with staff for a needs list for the Hospice Home Clients (located on Homestead), then purchased as many of those items we could with our remaining \$200 budget. We purchased lotions, shampoos, word search books and, most critically, we were able to purchase blankets for each of the fourteen client rooms (we don't know if each room was occupied at the time of the donation but we wanted to be certain no one would be left out).

Moving forward we are working on our plans and calendar for the upcoming year. With all the overtime being worked, and the current "emergency status" of the plant, we are going to do our best to find opportunities for activities, self-improvement, and training as well as fundraising to support our activities and Christmas Holiday efforts. Thank you for all of your support all year long. If you are interested in being a part of our Committee, please fill out an application at the Union Hall. We know everyone cannot do everything, especially with all the hours we are working, but everyone can do

something, and being a part of the Womens Committee is a great opportunity to do something besides work/eat/sleep/repeat.

Your Womens Committee members are: Chair Colleen Singer, Co-Chair Brian Wegesin, Donna Bowker, Patti Breidenstein, Maria Chinelli, Melinda Duncan, Deb Grothaus, Denise Harris, Kim Johnson-Weems, Kelsie McKibben, Beth Morrow and Brenda Sample.



Brian Wegesin



Beth Morrow (L)

Wild Game Feed

Saturday, March 21st, 2020
5:00 PM - Midnight

\$10.00 Tickets

*Include meal, soda, beer, entertainment.
Mixed drink tickets available for \$2.00.*

*Advanced purchase qualifies you
for special drawing.*

Great Food

Wild Game & Traditional recipes

*All donations, (meat, sides, desserts) will
be entered into a special drawing.*

*Contact the Union Hall, 260-672-2209,
or Dave Bartkowiak, 260-348-3058
with any questions*

Great Music

Big Caddy Daddy
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Solidarity Celebration

Saturday, February 29, 2020

7pm - 11pm

Free

For all UAW 2209 members and
guests (18 and older)



DJ

Appetizers and Beverages



Please **RSVP** to the
Union Hall (260-672-2209)
by February 24th.

Solidarity JAMZ

by Dwight Wilson

Attention all 2209 members Active and Retired! It has come to the Local's attention that we are blessed with a multitude of musicians, singers, performers and "wanna be" performers. It's because of this amazing situation, that your local leadership has decided it's time to assist in allowing this talent and energy to be unleashed for the benefit of the membership.

We have nearly 4,000 Brothers and Sisters at Ft. Wayne Assembly. With many, through no fault of our own, barely knowing each other. This is unacceptable! This too, is where the music and talent come into play. Your Leadership here by proposes the inception of... "SOLIDARITY JAMZ"!!

We cordially invite ALL types, styles, genders and genres to sign up and participate in our very own 2209 Jam Sessions! This will be a No Cover

Event!! Your local Union will provide the venue and the beverages, (Tap beer, water, or pop only. No food or snacks). And YOU Brothers and Sisters, will provide the talent and the energy!

Given our current work schedule, we foresee this event being held on Sunday's from 5-7 pm. This will give most members an opportunity to attend and/or participate. The members of the groups don't all have to be members of 2209. However, we do require that the individual that signs a group up to perform, be a 2209 member. When signing up, please list what style of music you will be primarily representing. Rock, R&B, Country, Jazz, etc.

As far as audience participation, we would ask that your request be relegated to the style of music being played during that particular session. Groups will not be required to know every

request but could possibly have a list of songs they plan to play that evening that members are welcome to join in on, as well as perform songs they may be able to play impromptu.

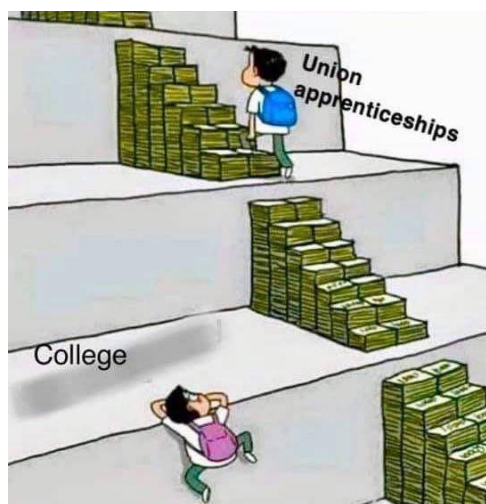
As far as compensation for the primary signing bands, you are welcome to bring a Tip Jar and let the tips and chips fall where they may. We would ask that you keep in mind though, the 1st priority of "SOLIDARITY JAMZ" is to promote fun, comradery and yes, Solidarity!

So, what say you talented 2209 Members, Are you and your crew in???? If so, please contact Erika Keeser at 260-672-2209, or Conservation and Rec Committee members Tonia Sbragia, on 1st shift, Mike Fairchild, on 2nd shift, and Melissa McCoy, on 3rd shift and let's get the Fun and Jamz started!!

Local Voices Mailing

Members have the option of receiving only one copy of the Local Voices to their home if they have a spouse or other member living in the home. To make that selection please call the Union Hall at 260-672-2209.

It is also important to keep your address up-to-date with Local 2209 so that you receive your issue of the Local Voices and any other mailing.



Local Union 2209 Triennial Elections

Our triennial elections are coming up this May. The Election Committee* will announce a nomination period that will be posted on the Union boards in the plant as well as on all the various facebook pages. During this time any member who is in good standing with at least one (1) year seniority will be eligible to run for these positions. Retirees are eligible only for the E-Board positions. The open positions for a three (3) year term include:

Shop Committee- Shop Chairman, Zone Committee-man, Committeeman and Alternate Committeeman of all districts.

E-Board- President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Trustee (3), Guide and Sgt of Arms.

Elections are an important part of our democratic process and each member is encouraged to participate. You are making your voice heard by casting your vote. Whether you like things how they are or you would like

to see a change.

Congratulations to all those who are going to be running for positions. It takes a lot to make that kind of commitment to your Local and to put yourself out there. We wish everyone the best during their campaigning.

The plant has grown so much over the years and trying to face to face

with every member will be a huge task. We are sure that the candidates will do their absolute best to see each and every one of you. With this being said, the Solidarity Soldiers

will be accepting videos in length of one (1) minute or less for anyone who is running. They will be made into two (2) videos; Shop and E-Board and will be available to view on the Solidarity Soldiers page from April until the elections.

*At the time of this printing the Election Committee has not yet been voted on and will take place at the February 8th Membership meeting.



None Shall Be Forgotten

by Kevin Murray

"None shall be forgotten." That's the idea, the promise, if you will, behind Fort Wayne native Eric Scott's dream he had while in the trenches of France during World War 1, "to make sure no veteran is ever forgotten". When Eric made it home from the war, he kept his promise and in 1950, he founded the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum, located at 2122 O'Day Road, Fort Wayne IN.

Now that promise has gained a new foot hold. Our own UAW Local 2209 Veterans Committee Chair and current Shrine Commander, Greg Bedford, recently announced that the nonprofit organization is purchasing a retired traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. The 8 foot tall by 360 long wall honors the over 58,000 Americans who died or who were otherwise unaccounted for, during the

Vietnam War. A software program will help visitors locate the names of their loved ones on the anodized aluminum monument.

As part of the purchase agreement, there cannot be another Vietnam Memorial Wall within a 250 mile driving distance of the Shrine of this one in Fort Wayne. Currently the nearest one

is in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Bedford hopes to raise \$300,000 for the total project, which will include purchase of the wall, foundation and related labor, security cameras, lighting, landscaping, benches and walkways. Bedford hopes to unveil the completed project to the public on Veterans Day 2020.



Black History Month (February)

Lillian Hatcher

World War II was the start of Lillian Hatcher's many years fighting for social justice. While doing defense work at Briggs Manufacturing in Detroit, she noticed that African-American women were passed over for promotions to riveter positions. Determined to do something about it, she joined UAW Local 742 and the Double Victory Club, an African-American group that advocated for equal rights in the war industries. She eventually was promoted to a riveter position.

From there, she won election to Local 742's executive board and soon after was appointed an International representative with the UAW's newly formed Women's Bureau, the

Source: *UAW.org* -- UAW Black History Month Spotlight -- Check out other Black History Spotlights



first African-American woman to be appointed a UAW International representative. Through the next decades, she served on countless social justice boards and committees, including the U.S. Labor Department's War Production Board and Advisory Council to the Women's Bureau, the United Nation's Education and Economic Council, and in the UAW's Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination Department. She also served as a delegate to the 1961-62 Michigan Constitutional Convention where she helped establish the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Hatcher was an active member of the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, the Democratic Party, and numerous other civil and women's rights groups.

Retiree Photos



Sherry Finley with retirees James Burgess & Carla Miller



Retiree John Jones with Rich LeTourneau, Holli Murphy, & Todd McKibben

UAW Members Win Appeals Court Ruling on Lifetime Benefits for Honeywell Pre-1997 Retirees

The following is an excerpt of the article in the Fall 2019 Solidarity Magazine.

Several hundred pre-1997 retirees of the Stratford Army Engine Plant in Stratford, Connecticut, won a major victory preventing the termination of retiree medical insurance recently in a U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals decision against Honeywell, Inc.

The appeals court decision in August upheld injunctions issued by U.S. District Judge Vanessa Bryant in *Kelly vs Honeywell* that prevented the company from unilaterally terminating UAW-negotiated medical insurance it agreed to provide for life to all future retirees and surviving spouses.

The second circuit ruled in favor of UAW retirees who worked their whole lives for the collectively bargained right to lifetime benefits — Honeywell tried to take that away and they lost

because UAW retirees are tenacious, smart and fought every step of the way," said Beverley Brakeman, Region 9A director. "Our retirees and their families would have faced enormous hardship if Honeywell had its way. This decision restores their lifetime benefits and gives those who later retired a chance at trial to restore the benefits they thought they had."

The District Court ruled by summary judgment for anyone who retired under the collective bargaining agreement that promised benefits "for the life of the retiree or surviving spouse." In addition, the UAW members also won a preliminary injunction on behalf of those who retired after June 1997. That portion of the case was to go to trial. The company challenged the decision to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Response by Gary Schepp regarding the ruling.

We are fortunate that we have the UAW to fight and protect the benefits that we all worked for and earned. And that is the key to why the ruling by the court was proper and should be the same in all courts. When a contract is negotiated and includes retirement benefits including health care, the wages of the workers are diverted for those future benefits.

As such, any reduction or termination of those future benefits should be considered *wage theft*.

I Do It for Walter

by Chrissy Mangrum

Growing up the daughter of a Committeeman, I was always interested in the work he brought home. The kitchen table would be overtaken by files, grievances, contracts and a litany of notes. He worked the second shift and would always be up before nine a.m., coffee and briefcase at the ready. The atmosphere alive with the sound of phone calls, high lighters being dragged across the smooth contract pages and the ever-present arrow brand ink pen furiously scribbling across legal pads. I had a million questions. What was he doing, why he was doing it, was someone in trouble? "Daddy, are you a lawyer?" While he was never long in patience, he took the time out to explain a short hand version of the process. This only led to more and more questions. What's a contract? A grievance? What's a Committeeman? The underlying question was always "why".

Why did he do this? Why did he want this job? Why did he want to take care of other people? Who took care of him? My Father went to our book case and handed me a huge blue book "The Brothers Reuther". He said I had to read it before I asked one more question.

I was hooked. It was the beginning of my UAW love. I couldn't get

enough. I was hungry to learn any and everything I could. I was so enthralled by all that Walter Reuther had done for the working class. This man who had such a fire and passion for all working people that he could not be silenced. I remember the absolute feeling of pride when I signed my dues check off card and seeing that paycheck that showed where my dues had come out. I was part of history.

This hallway, painted "Union Blue", is the first thing you see when you walk into my home and the last thing you see on the way out. Adorned with Walter Reuther memorabilia collected throughout the years and one of his



quotes. It's meant to be a constant reminder of why I do what I do and why I'll never quit trying to get others involved. A reminder of how things can be when we stop looking out for just ourselves and look out for the greater good of all. The next Walter Reuther is out there.

The education that we pass on can be the spark that lights a fire in someone. You never know the difference you will make. For me it was listening to a man who fought for his Brothers and Sisters like they were his own blood and a thick blue book with yellowed pages and a tattered cover. Go. Be that person for someone.



UAW Statement on Signing of the USMCA

29 January 2020

"With the stroke of a pen, the long awaited "new NAFTA" or USMCA is now law. UAW members know far too well that trade agreements have not delivered the job security protections promised. That is why the UAW will be vigilant in monitoring this agreement, its implementation and the overall goal of protecting U.S. jobs and creating more of them.

We will be watching. We will be aggressive in pushing for enforcement of provisions. And we are under no illu-

sion that this revised agreement alone will restore America's middle-class manufacturing base.

USMCA will not bring back the hundreds of thousands of good U.S. manufacturing jobs that have already been shipped to Mexico. Even under the rosiest of scenarios, it would only stem the tide. We need to invest in workers and fix our bad tax and labor laws to compete on a level field abroad and restore the good manufacturing jobs that built our middle class."

Social Security has never added a penny to the deficit.



Between 1960 and 2016, Social Security helped cut the poverty rate among seniors by nearly three-quarters, from 35% to just under 9%.

AFL-CIO

Breakfast With Santa & Mrs Claus



Members and their children enjoyed breakfast and a visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus Saturday, December 14th at the Union Hall. (Photos by Gary Schepp)

Champions of All

by Katie Knox

When I think of the word champion I immediately think of Rocky Balboa but that's only because I love those movies. Maybe you think of someone else, the point is a champion to me is someone that is a master of one thing. In the last three years we have had to work more Saturdays then not, and now they're adding Sunday's as well. I can only speak of my experience because I know we all have different stories but I feel cheated at times. I worry about the mother I am, will my son only know me as the grumpy mom who comes home in pain all the time and loves naps? Maybe he will remember I worked hard and missed a lot of his games so that I could provide a better life for him than what I had. Truth is we will never know what the consequences of all this time away from our families will do. I truly believe that none of us will ever be Champions in every aspect of our lives but we can take steps to help our families and ourselves through this time. According to the website inherisight.com they have listed 7 tips for avoiding mental and physical burnout. They include:

Focus on the basic healthy habits this includes plenty of water, 7 to 8

hours of sleep, less caffeine etc.

Squeezing in a few minutes of meditation each day this includes, maybe a few minutes of quiet time, or time alone reading the bible, etc

Keep healthy snacks on hand that don't require cooking they suggest having things, like apples, baby carrots, bananas and peanuts available to eat throughout the day to keep your energy up. They also mention not feeling guilty if you just order takeout at times instead of cooking.

Leave work at work don't spend your free time not working thinking of all the issues that you may come across while at work.

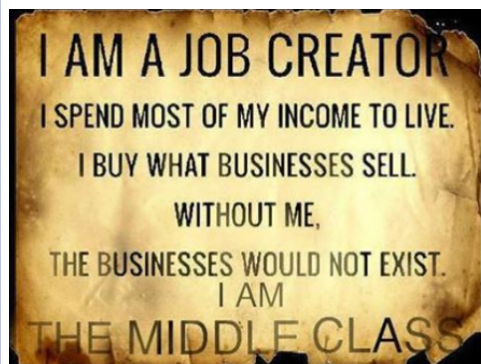
Soak your feet, the website states even for workers that have office jobs it's important to soak your feet in water and epsom salt occasionally

Bring a book, they suggest spending time reading a book at work instead of looking at social media to keep your stress levels lower

Suggest relaxing social events over late nights out, the example would be dinner and a drink or two with a loved one over meeting with friends at a crowded bar which could leave you more exhausted come Monday when the work week starts over.

We may never achieve being Champions in all areas of our life, that goal may never be reached. We can come out of this as champions if we have our mental/physical health in tact when it's eventually ends. Never forget that everyone is facing the same long hours as you. I suggest we use each other as support during our hardest times as well. No one knows what this feels like more than the rest of your coworkers. Good Luck to us all!

*we also have EAP available for all three shifts if you are seeking additional help in any areas. Use this resource if you need it they are there to help!



UAW Executive Board Files Article 31 Charges to Expel Former Officers and Staff Who Have Been Convicted of Criminal and Unethical Conduct

Action Would Expel Eight UAW Officials from Membership

Detroit – The UAW's International Executive Board filed charges Friday under Article 31 of the UAW Constitution against former Vice Presidents Joseph Ashton and Norwood Jewell, along with former UAW International Representatives Edward "Nick" Robinson, Nancy Johnson, Jeffrey Pietrzyk, Michael Grimes, Keith Mickens, and Virdell King, seeking to expel them from membership in the UAW.

The Article 31 charges, signed unanimously by every member of the International Executive Board, assert that these officers and staff engaged in serious misconduct in violation of the law and the Ethical Practices Code of the UAW Constitution.

"Any UAW member who uses their position to break the law or blatantly violates the sacred oath they took to faithfully serve our members will be subject to removal from their post and expulsion from our union," said Presi-

dent Rory Gamble. "My administration, and the entire Executive Board, will continue to hold accountable those who commit criminal conduct or serious violations of our Ethical Practices Code. And we will continue to aggressively implement the critical reforms necessary to strengthen our union's financial controls, oversight, and overall accounting system to ensure the type of conduct described in these charges will not reoccur."

Saved by Kindness

by Katie Knox

If you are reading this article I have to start off by saying this is just my experience and it by no means takes away from the hard work that anyone else goes through. I wanted to write something that was positive to maybe encourage others who find themselves in a tough spot at work. For 7 years I've worked a traditional job on the line mostly in Chassis, mostly on 1st shift. Last year while working on the motor line I was thinking "It would be so nice to move around once in awhile." I was getting bored with working the same job everyday. I was thinking of all the brothers and sisters in the plant that I haven't met because I usually always worked in the same area on the same shift.

All these thoughts created the idea of putting in for a new job. I put in for 7 jobs all of them were completely out of my comfort zone. The idea was sometimes in life doing something that makes you uncomfortable can sometimes lead to great things. In August I received the job of being a LA

(Leave of Absence) operator. Looking back I was pretty excited about the idea of moving around meeting new people but yet having some sort of stability by sticking with a job for a few weeks or months while someone was on sick leave. Little did I know this isn't actually how it goes these days, my experience has been quite different. I was sent to Frame 1 and some days are better than others but I'm usually moved to something new everyday. Sometimes I get 10 minutes training and sometimes I get a full day. Most days I'm used to fill open spots in Frame 1 to keep the line moving.

The positive part of this experience is that I have in a short time met some amazing people that I would have never met if it wasn't for this. I've been on the receiving end of true kindness. I've had coworkers see the signs of me either panicking or getting behind, and they step in to help me with a part of the job to get me out of the hole. I've had material drivers help me out in different ways by either emptying

material for me or help me on part of the job. This particular material driver helps me and says, "I've done this job before I know how it is." Also in seven years at GM I've never experienced round robins. I was always told to pull the cord or push a button to use the bathroom. I'm now experiencing three breaks a day (when they can). Those few minutes to catch your breath, blow your nose, wipe your face off, clean off frame wax (you get my point) can cheer you up or change your mood instantly. So in closing I want to say "Thank You" to all of those people who have gone out of their way to help someone you can clearly see struggling. Those small acts of kindness can literally turn someone's day around. I hope these words encourage someone and I will definitely be more aware when I'm faced with this in the future. I've learned to act more quickly to help someone else in the future because that feeling of being helped is priceless.

UAW -FCA-Ford -General Motors Legal Services Plan 1-800-482-7700

www.uawlegalservices.com

Facebook: UAW Legal Services Plan

Legal Services Q&A Question of the Week

Dear Legal Services Plan,

I am using TurboTax's paid version to do my taxes this year and can't get my 2019 1099-MISC form to file correctly. Any suggestions?

Sincerely,
A UAW-FCA-Ford General Motors
Legal Services Plan Participant

We have found that these steps will allow you to post your 1099-MISC as "other income" on TurboTax's paid version. Note that you cannot file Schedule 1 information using TurboTax's free version according to the available information we have found. Here are the steps:

- 1) Click the Search button located at the top right of your screen.
- 2) Type 1099-MISC.
- 3) Select Jump to 1099-MISC.
- 4) Complete the entries.
 - Describe the reason for the 1099-MISC. You can enter Legal Services Plan Benefit.
 - For the question: Does one of these uncommon situations apply?, select: None of these apply.
 - For the question whether the 1099-MISC amount involved work that's like your main job, select No. It

didn't involve work like your main job.

- Select ONLY the tax year for which this specific 1099-MISC was issued: 2019.

- For the question whether the amount received involved an intent to earn money, select: No, it didn't involve an intent to earn money.

- Continue and click DONE.

We have received feedback from our members who took these steps that they were successful in posting their 1099-MISC from the Plan. If you have any questions, email us at clientcomments@uawlsp.com or call (800) 482-7700. We're open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (ET)



Pandemic??

by Roxanna Murray

As I write this article for a newsletter which should reach your hands in just a few weeks, there is a growing epidemic coming out of Wuhan China. In unprecedented moves, China has shut down the areas where the infections are running rampant, quarantining all 11 million plus inhabitants, cancelling activities during their biggest holiday, the Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat) to help try to stop the spread of this new Corona Virus for which there is no cure, no vaccine and in fact, because it is so new, little is really known. At the moment. All of those people were suddenly quarantined with no warning, told to stay home and inside and away from public places effective immediately. Remember how bread milk and toilet paper disappear from grocery shelves whenever there is even just a rumor of a snow storm around here? Imagine being told to stay home right this minute. Are you ready?

This new virus was first reported in late December 2019, and by the second week of 2020, reports began to surface that something was happening. People

coming in to airports from China were being screened at several International Airports all over the world, including American airports, for signs of possible illness. China is known as a hot bed for new flu strains and is monitored by WHO (World Health Organization) and our own CDC (Centers for Disease Control).

What is known at this moment is that the number who are sick has grown, alarmingly and explosively (from Monday to Tuesday of this week alone the number of sick being reported by China grew by 60%). People suspected of having this corona virus are being found all over the world. This virus is believed to have a possible incubation period of 1 to fourteen days, and it is, at this moment, unknown when exactly the person is contagious, meaning its possible they aren't showing symptoms while they are spreading it. It appears to be any other flu like illness, it isn't until the second week of increasing illness that people seek medical care. After they seek medical care, it still takes days to confirm a diagnosis. Fortunately, suspected cases

in America (there are over 100 suspected and five confirmed, at the moment) are being carefully treated and carefully quarantined.

All of this to say, practice safe hygiene, wash your hands frequently, don't touch your nose or mouth (have you ever watched just how often a person does that? It's fascinating!) While the flu shot won't protect you from this new virus, it will help you should you be exposed to the current strain making its rounds. The regular flu making the rounds is widespread in every US state and is, itself, quite the kick in the tuchas (behind) for people. Get plenty of sleep. If you think you are sick with the flu, please go to your Dr. and if needed, go on sick leave, don't make all of your co-workers sick, too.

At this point, you shouldn't need to worry about the new corona virus but be mindful, be watchful. Stock up on pantry supplies and water supplies in case you want to quarantine yourself from public areas at some point in the future.

Did You Know? Five Products Made by UAW Members



When you think UAW you think of hard-working members making autos, right? They do. But UAW members across the country make all kinds of things you might now know about. We're a diverse group across many industries. Check out some of the many different things UAW members manufacture and see the full list of UAW-made products here*:

- Batteries made by Johnson Controls, Local 12, Region 2B
- Coffee made at Folgers Coffee Co., Local 1805, Region 5
- Planters Peanuts at Kraft Foods, Local 2426, Region 8
- Livestock watering equipment made at Ritchie Industries, Local 893, Region 4
- Contact lenses made at SVS Vision by Local 1811, Region 1D

* A 100 page guide provides information about buying Union Made in the USA and the products made by Region.

https://uaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Product-and-Service-Guide_Official_2-rev.pdf

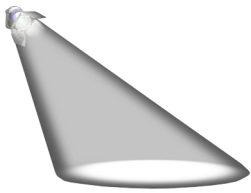
Retiree Photos



Retiree James Schowe with Lisa Cook



Retiree Michael Brock with Tony Cantasano, Holli Murphy, Rich LeTourneau, & Ed Klingaman.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Amy Houston

by Chrissy Mangrum



Amy Houston is constantly looking for something fun and interesting for our members to do. Discussion had over a weekend bike ride with her friends led to the creation of The Pedal Poker to benefit The Fort Wayne Trails held the 3rd Saturday of June every year. This event grows every year and is always a great time. We also have the Monster Dash 5k Fun Run/Walk held in the fall. Both events are open to our members, their family and friends and also the public. These two events have raised over \$15,000 for Fort Wayne

Trails in the four years since they began.

The Fort Wayne Trails currently cover over 120 miles. The trails have been a masterpiece in the making for over 40 years with updates and additions constantly being added. Currently all of the trails do not connect. However, there is a project in works called the Golden Spike that is approximately 1.5 miles that will connect the north and south of Fort Wayne trails making the 120 miles fully connected.

Amy was asked to be a member on the Fort Wayne Trails Board of Directors in January 2019, which she proudly accepted. In January 2020 she accepted the Mayor Tom Henry 2019 Trails Volunteer of the Year award. She is only the second person to receive this honor. Part of this award included having a tree planted along the trails. She chose a sugar maple to be planted

on the Towpath Trail, since that is one of her favorite sections of the Trails. Mayor Tom Henry presented her with this award stating "Our community cannot exist without volunteers. People of your caliber are why we succeed. We need more people like you."

It is an important that we put our Local out in the community in a positive way. Thank you, Amy for looking for creative ideas to keep our members involved and for making us look so good! We look forward to watching these events and your tree grow! Great job Sister.



Three Republican-appointed white men are now deciding whether you have rights on the job

December 17, 2019 written by Lynn Rhinehart and Celine McNicholas

Yesterday marked the end of Democratic National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Member Lauren McFerran's term. McFerran ended her term offering the lone dissenting voice in the Trump board's efforts to slow down union elections to give employers more time to campaign against the union, give employers the ability to make unilateral changes without bargaining with their workers' union, weaken remedies when employers break the law, and more.

McFerran is the former Chief Labor Counsel for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP Committee) and is widely respected by both labor and

management. Her departure leaves a second open seat on the board that the Trump administration is tasked with filling. However, the Trump administration has not yet acted to nominate McFerran for a second term, nor has it nominated a Democrat to fill the other vacant Democratic seat that has been open since August 2018. The failure of the Trump administration to act is not for lack of a qualified nominee with widespread support. Former deputy general counsel and longtime NLRB career attorney Jennifer Abruzzo has reportedly been under consideration.

As a result, the NLRB has only Republican appointees for the first time in its 85-year history, and the three

Republicans are all white men—two lawyers who represented corporations before coming to the NLRB, and one former Republican congressional staffer. There is no Democratic appointee to offer alternative views on workers' rights under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), or to issue dissenting opinions when the Trump board goes off track. And there are no women or people of color participating in these decisions, even though women and people of color make up the majority of workers.

Excerpt from the Economic Policy Institute

Womens History Month

by Roxanna Murray

March is Womens History Month, and this year Women are celebrating the 100 Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, when women got the RIGHT to VOTE. One Woman, One Vote. August 26 will be Womens Equality Day as that is the day we recognize every year as the date that the 19th Amendment was finally ratified. Ratification of Votes for Women came down to one young Legislator in Tennessee, the last state to ratify. He was about to vote no and kill it but received a letter from his mother, urging him to do the right thing. One vote made the difference for Women. One vote makes a difference in many elections.

Recently Virginia became the 38th State to ratify the ERA, Equal Rights Amendment. That should be all that's

needed to make it Law, but, unfortunately, it isn't that simple. The ERA came with a deadline for ratification of seven years, but then, when only 35 states had ratified that deadline was expanded to ten. Unfortunately, the ERA was met with extreme resistance by many who felt it would take rights away from women who didn't want to be treated as equals, who feared they would lose rights or that families would be irreparably harmed by womens equality. The resistance was great enough that three states rescinded ratification but no one is clear if that is allowed. At this time it is up to Congress to decide if the ERA is alive or dead. You can learn more about ERA at www.eracoalition.org or www.equalrightsamendment.org.

Make Your Future Self Happy

by Jason Jackson

Now that the strike has ended and we have had a few months to recover, hopefully everyone is back in charge of their finances. At the beginning of the new year it is a good idea to plan and create a budget for the year ahead. With all the overtime that seems to be in our future, this may be a big year for earnings. Weekends worked and big checks can make it tempting to be extravagant. After all, you worked hard to earn it!. Unfortunately, this might not be what's best for your future self.

The best way to take control of your life and your money is to have a plan and execute it. I am a huge fan of Dave Ramsey and his teachings. If you are not familiar with him, I recommend to look him up and take his course: Financial Peace. His teachings will help put a plan together and prepare for upcoming retirement. It can also make the task of organizing your finances less overwhelming.

If your work schedule doesn't allow

time for the class, you could begin by downloading the everydollar budgeting app. This is a free service that tracks every dollar and how it is spent to help eliminate waste and free up money to invest in a 401k or IRA. As Albert Einstein remarks "The eighth wonder of the world is compound interest." The more money you put into your 401k at a younger age, the more compound interest works in your favor.

GM employees can take advantage of the benefit offered through Fidelity. Give them a call and have them help get you on track with investing. Talk to a Fidelity Representative at 1-800-489-4646. If you take these couple steps, creating a budget and investing in your 401k, your future self will thank you. Make 2020 the year you look back on and say, that's when I took control of my life.

VP Report - Continued from page 3

Ruann Trucking has joined Local 2209. They opted not to be a part of Teamsters. Their membership fluctuates with the trucking business. Competition within the trucking industry and new driver bonuses offered by other companies is an incentive some consider when leaving. Currently we are at about 18-20 members. With a chairman and co-chair handling the day to day problems I now know more about trucking then I ever thought I would.

We as Local Leadership try to include our Amalgamated Unions in all things Union. These are hard working, dues paying members just like us at GM/UAW.

Education is key to keeping members in the know and giving them the tools to better workplace lives. Classes like Union 101, Voice and Vote, Black Lake... they can learn about our UAW history, structure, the purpose and the mission of the UAW, the importance of union involvement.

The VP duties have evolved more into a bargaining position more now than ever before. With 4 contracts and roughly 500 amalgamated 2209 union members the Struggle is Real!

If corporations, greedy executives, Big Money and the 1% are ALL doing everything possible to make it harder for workers to join a union...

Shouldn't the working class be doing EVERYTHING to push in the OPPOSITE direction?



Please share your Local Voices
with your family.



UAW Local 2209
5820 E 900 N
PO Box 579
Roanoke IN 46783

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U.S. Postage
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Source: Economic Policy Institute