



# *Local Voices*

## *UAW Local 2209*

*Chartered 1985*

**SEPT-OCT 2020**





# Local Voices

## UAW Local 2209

Chartered 1985



### UAW Local 2209 Executive Board

#### Officers

President	Holli Murphy
Vice President	James Peters
Recording Secretary	Amy Houston
Financial Secretary-Treasurer	Shane B. Davis
Trustee	David Bartkowiak
Trustee	Melinda Ladd
Trustee	Amanda Meier
Sergeant-At-Arms	Manuel Anzaldua
Guide	Jamie Teller

#### At-Large Board Members

Unit 1 Chair (GM)	Rich LeTourneau
Unit 2 Chair (Nurses)	Mike McClain
Unit 3 Chair (Caravan)	Robert Lewis
Unit 4 Chair (Avancez Tire & Wheel)	DaVontae Williams
Unit 5 Chair (Avancez Maintenance Techs)	Johnathan Minard
Unit 6 Chair (Ruan Trucking)	Vacant
Unit 7 Chair (Avancez VAA)	Angela Vaughn
Unit 1 Zone Shift 1	Dave Poor
Unit 1 Zone Shift 2	Steve Turner
Unit 1 Zone Shift 3	Christopher Phillips

#### Retiree Member at Large

Retiree Chapter Chair	Diana Bovie-Koomler
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### Local Voices Publication Members

Layout Editor • Gary Schepp

Copy Editors & Feature Editors

Gina DAgostino-Johnson • Katie Holder • Andrea Lindsey • Kevin Murray • Roxanna Murray • Denzel Wallace

Photographer • Linda Riedel Ellis

#### 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, November 20, 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
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#### 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.

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**Holli Murphy**  
President



### ***Hello Brothers & Sisters!***

Hello Brothers and Sisters! I want to say **Thank You** for all your support during the Triennial Elections! Although the atmosphere of campaigning was totally different than what we've known, this membership stepped up to the plate to cast their **Vote!**

What is the plan after the election? Vice President Jim Peters and I have sat down to discuss our amalgamated units 2-7 and how we can build them up, we have offered grievance handling training for them and are looking to have special meetings with them to discuss their issues.

Recently, I have repopulated the standing committees and have made a few changes to them. I wish to thank everyone who has been involved and although you may not be on a committee, there is still a need for you and we will find it. I have also added a health and wellness committee so we can help our members with mind, body and spirit. Another thing that is different is our "communications" team, these people are all working together to better serve this membership in the way we communicate with you and what you're wanting to learn. We have incorporated podcast and videography into this, so the **Sky is the Limit!**

Moving forward with that, we will continue to be in the community and shine a positive light on UAW 2209. Just think, a year ago we were going through a 40 day **Strike** and the community was so kind to us! And we will continue to build relationships with them so they will have our back and we always have theirs!

We have recently donated money to the Southwest Fire District and to the War Veterans Memorial Shrine, which you will read more about this in this issue of the Local Voices. Remember, we adopted this project in 2017 and have kept this commitment!

*In Solidarity,  
Holli Murphy*



**Let your mail carrier  
know how much you  
appreciate the job they  
do to deliver your mail.**



**Jim Peters**  
Vice President



Thank you to all the members who voted and thank you for your continued support.

I want to congratulate all the election winners and I commend everyone who ran for an office, as I know it takes a lot of nerve to put your name on the ballot! I am excited to take on the role of your Vice President, and to serve this great membership for the next three years.

I was able to meet with several of the newly elected officials from our amalgamated units, (Caravan Facilities Management, Avancez Tire & Wheel, Avancez VAA, and RUAN Trucking) during the grievance handling class that was held at the hall. I look forward to working with each of them, helping them to grow and strengthen our union at these units. I have also been on the floor at these units to try and see first hand what issues and concerns the employees have that need to be addressed. I have also set up the first meeting for our brothers and sisters at Ruan Transport Corp to see what kind of issues they are having there.

President Murphy has been showing me what the President's duties consist of and how to best function in the event of her absence. We have also been discussing what community organizations and functions Local 2209 is involved with. I am amazed at how active in the community the members and Local 2209 is! I am learning how much time, effort and planning it actually takes to run and maintain it all so please, if anyone is interested, join one of our many standing committees. We are currently working on getting virtual Union classes started down at the hall for members to continue their education.

Once again thank you for all of your support and I look forward to serving this membership in my new capacity.

## **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.



**Rich LeTourneau**

Shop Chair Unit 1  
General Motors

## Tag Relief and Straight Eights - Paint & Body Shop Only

Why has this become an issue now? First and foremost, I want this membership to realize the company did not force us into this situation nor did we force them into it. This was a business decision that both parties feel is imperative for us to sustain our position in the global truck market and for major job security reasons in the future. These decisions are never easy or popular, but plant leaderships that don't protect their product volume and long-term job security, have their memberships end up at FWA. The joint leadership here has had a series of meetings in paint and body shop explaining the situation we are in as a plant. As most of you are aware, prior to the launch of the T1, we were at 74 trucks an hour. The 1.2-billion-dollar capital investment was much appreciated, but it came with a major design flaw and dropped us from 74 to 60 trucks an hour. Both the union and management recognized this was going to be an issue if we wanted to continue cornering the market for light duty Crew Cabs. Six months after launch we received an additional 24 million dollars to get another two trucks an hour.

A couple months ago, the plant manager and I were approached by the manufacturing manager to increase volume here by 2.5 jobs an hour. This 2.5 jobs an hour puts a whole lot of people back to work as a Truck Group, not just at Fort Wayne Assembly, but every plant that supplies Fort Wayne Assembly. As your Chairman, I will never turn volume away, only an idiot would do that. Volume is a gift, not a battle. We will take every truck they will give us in order to secure the longevity of this plant and we always have. However, it will be extremely difficult to get back to where we once were without another major capital investment. Unfortunately, the corporation is in no financial position to give us another capital investment until after 2021, if we get one at all.

In the last several months, worldwide GM is selling more trucks than we can produce. Currently Mexico is working an alternative work schedule and they never shut down. They are out producing us between 4 to 6 thousand trucks a month which has never happened until now. We have no intentions of going to an alternative work schedule or a mandatory 6 day a week schedule.

The MOU we signed is nothing more than an extremely

high-priced band-aid, and the head count to do this is now reaching upwards of 250 additional members.

We cannot afford to give any of our volume back to Mexico. An additional 1,000 trucks a month will off-set the cost of adding additional head count. Tag relief and straight eights is about as old school and inefficient as it gets. That's why it was stopped years ago in most assembly plants, but that's all the tools we have to work with right now. With a team leader and a tag relief (utility man) on each team, this membership should be creative enough to figure out how to make your breaks worthwhile. Without a continuous operation, we have no need for additional volume or head count because it will not work here. None of these decisions come easy, but currently our trucks are not on GM dealership lots, Mexico's trucks are. In 2021, GM will be introducing its electric vehicles and they anticipate losing some volume from both plants. When the dust settles, I want to be the plant that still has 3 shifts and moving your breaks is much easier then moving your families, just ask those who just arrived as a result of this agreement. The corporation did not threaten local management or your leadership if we didn't try to make it work. If it gets to the point they have to threaten us, its already too late, because they have already put a plan in place to get their required volume which equates to additional revenue somewhere else. This local leadership and membership have a hell of a lot more power than you think. We control the destiny of this truck. It belongs to us. To bury our head in the sand and tell the company it's your problem, you figure it out, would be the biggest mistake we ever made. At this point there is nothing to panic over, the MOU we signed clearly has a termination clause that either party can give a 30-day notice and we modify it or walk away from this MOU. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work, but they can't say we didn't put the time and effort into protecting our volume jointly. For over 30 years we have protected the volume and job security of this truck for a reason, so you never have to move again, unless you want to. In closing, remember you always reserve the right to criticize the manner in which we continue to provide job security in your best interest.



## OP-ED: The United States Postal Service Delivers Much More Than Mail

by Ray Curry, Secretary-Treasurer, UAW (reprinted from Black News Channel)

America's Postal service has been an essential institution that has connected every one of us as Americans even before we were a nation independent of Great Britain.

### The most American of traditions

Benjamin Franklin was appointed our first Postmaster General in 1775. This democratic treasure, which has proven as reliable as it has self-sufficient, was a model for how government service should work. Its rich history is America's history of adaptability, ingenuity and grit. Franklin used the system to get mail from Congress to our armies during the Revolution. In 1823, the service started using waterways to deliver mail, then began using railroads and in 1847 saw the first issued stamps. The famous Pony Express took up the task in 1860. By 1896, the service began delivering to some rural addresses, so people did not have to go to the town post office for their mail anymore. By 1923, all houses were required to have a mail slot. And in 1963, zip codes were introduced.

Also very American, a 1970 strike by organized labor led to an even more efficient operation and the Postal Reorganization Act that established the United States Postal Service as we know it today.

And true to its roots, the revitalized United States Postal Service (USPS) knew how to make a buck. The reorganization legislation called for the phasing out of the post office's direct government subsidies by 1983. The post office has been operating without any taxpayer money since then. In fact, as recent as the start of this century, from 2003-2006, and despite the advent of email and stiff competition from companies like UPS and FedEx, the post office reported a 9.3 billion profit.

I would say that is a pretty decent

business model.

But then HR 6407 came along in 2007. The act mandated that the post office calculate its retiree pension and healthcare costs for the next 75 years, including workers to come, and set aside enough over the next 10 years to cover them. An article appearing in Business Insider put the impact of the requirement this way: "To put this in perspective, that'd be like you only working from age 18 to 28 and then expecting to live on that income until you were 103 years old."

### What would Ben Franklin say?

Needless to say, the bill and its contents have proven devastating. The long and the short of it has meant that the USPS has had to contribute about \$5.6 billion a year for people who had

not yet retired, in addition to the amount for current retirees.

No business is forced to operate like this, and I dare to add that no business could operate like this.

Also, the new bill took away the ability for the post office to set prices.

First-class mail, marketing mail, and other post office products have all been tied to the consumer price index, and therefore the post office could not increase rates for those products above the rate of inflation. All told, the post office has incurred a loss of \$78 billion from 2007 through 2019 and owes \$55 billion related to its future pension and health benefit obligations. Add in lost revenue related to COVID-19 and politically charged controversies over reductions in equipment and attendant slowdowns, the USPS is now in dire straits.

Shall we really allow this most American of institutions to fail – through no fault of its own? It is unthinkable for it not to survive. It is unthinkable to rely solely on private companies for such critical services.

It is truly a dagger in the heart of our American heritage.

Of immediate consequence, consider the impact to mail recipients during this pandemic. The USPS handles 1.2 billion prescription drug deliveries each year. The service also transports millions of lab tests and essential medical supply shipments. It ensures that checks and payments arrive to keep small businesses operating. It helps seniors receive household items, social security and Medicare checks. And communications from family and friends from far away have been delivered on time, through as they say "rain, sleet and snow."

Since the emergence of COVID-19, USPS workers have been on the front lines, delivering millions of personal protective equipment and vital supplies to hospitals. They've made sure shelters, food banks, and businesses have the supplies they need. In addition, they've made deliveries to homebound, highly susceptible individuals.

Needed now more than ever

The notion to privatize the USPS is a truly un-American idea and could not come at a worse time. The recession we are experiencing due to the coronavirus is hitting Black Americans much harder than white Americans, with Blacks nearly three times more likely to be hospitalized for Covid-19 and their unemployment rate at 14.6% compared with 9.2% for whites.

The Postal Service provides the only service that guarantees delivery to every American, which makes it especially crucial for rural areas and small towns that are too costly for private companies like FedEx or UPS to deliver to. Privatizing the service would add to the expense of crucial deliveries – at a time when we are more and more relying on deliveries to receive our daily needs.

Then think about the importance of the post office in ensuring that the people's will in our democracy will be



## Financial Audit 1 Jan 2020 - 30 June 2020



**Shane B. Davis**  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

The semi-audit was performed by Trustees Dave Bartkowiak, Melinda Ladd, and DeAnna Watson for the period from January 1 to June 30, 2020 as required under Article 40, Section 12 of the UAW Constitution. It was signed by the Trustees on July 10, 2020.

A basic report is provided here for members to review. It consists of the fund balances in each account and totals of income and expenses for the 6 month period. The complete report consists of seven pages that includes a breakdown of income and expenses by month and category.

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 financial report.

### Fund Balances (Jan 1 - June 30)

Unit 1 GM General Fund	\$ 1,818,845.51
Unit 2 GM Nurses	1,695.44
Unit 3 Caravan Facilities	37,181.66
Unit 4 Android	5,416.95
Unit 5 Android Maint Techs	1,598.95
Unit 6 Ruan Trucking	4,260.37
Unit 7 Advanceez, LLC	15,277.76
Strike Fund	71,566.39
Chaplaincy Fund	1,067.51
Citizenship & Legislative Fund	80.79
Civil and Human Rights Fund	2,611.57
Community Services Fund	5,526.23
Conservation Fund	90.00
Consumer Affairs Fund	75.87
Disaster Relief Fund	1,751.07
Education Dues Allocation Fund	5,358.40
Education Fund	5,623.29
Recreation Dues Allocation Fund	2,618.17
Recreation Fund	4,640.25
Union Label Fund	6,085.43
Veteran's Fund	4,817.55
Women's Fund	2,290.38
Building Fund	-10,829.19
Make a Wish Fund	9,802.00
New Member Orientation Fund	2,659.82
Picnic Fund	0.00
Retired Workers Chapter Fund	74,067.80
Retiree Penny Transfer	3,884.07
Retiree Event Fund	1,935.78
Retiree Chapters (57, 305, 1405, 2357, 2911)	62,809.81
<b>Total of All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 2,142,809.63</b>

### (Jan 1 - June 30, 2020)

Previous Balance	\$1,628,911.66
Total Income	\$1,835,152.73
Total	\$3,464,064.39
Expenditures	-\$1,321,254.76
Account Balance	\$2,142,809.63

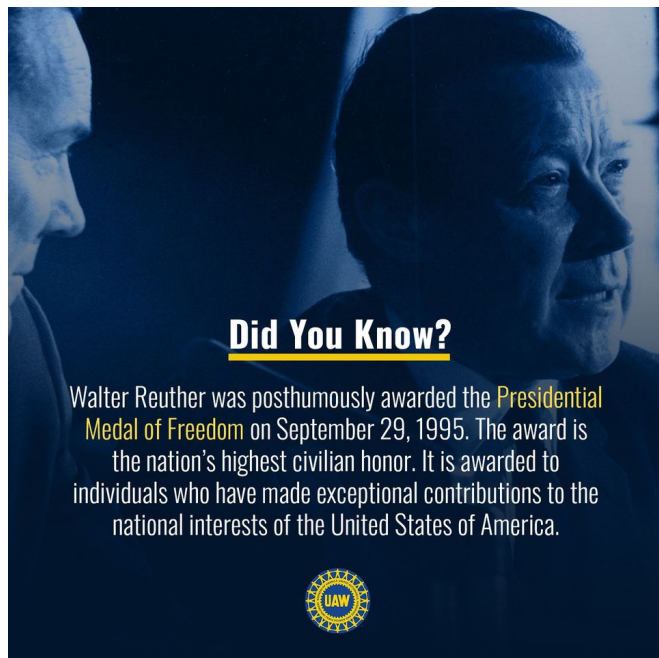
LABOR UNION FACT

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING



### Did you know?

Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act gave workers the right to collectively bargain through the union of their choice. It is through collective bargaining that workers are able to better their wages, benefits, and working conditions.



### Did You Know?

Walter Reuther was posthumously awarded the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** on September 29, 1995. The award is the nation's highest civilian honor. It is awarded to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the national interests of the United States of America.





## Retiree Chapter Corner



**Diana Bovie-Koomler**  
Retiree Chair

Due to Covid-19 the Chapter Board voted to suspend monthly meetings until March 2021. It is unfortunate but the safety and wellness of our retirees is of the utmost importance.

We will review the situation on a regular basis to determine when we can safely resume our monthly meetings. At the time of this writing, it may not happen until after March 2021.

In the meantime, you are encouraged to wear a face mask when out in public and to social distance. With regards to family and friends, it is encouraged to do the same when they visit you or you visit them. Don't let anyone shame you when you follow safety protocols.

There has been at least one retiree that is no longer with us due to Covid-19. And others that have been infected and spent time hospitalized. Please don't be another one!

We hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. Consider alternatives to your shopping and how to be active at home.

### **UAW Retiree Trust**

Due to Covid-19 all in-person meetings with the Trust and insurance carriers were cancelled for the fall. No meetings will be scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Health care benefits for retirees are staying the same in 2021.

- No change in benefits
- No change in copays, deductibles, coinsurance and out-of-pocket maximum

- No increase to your monthly contribution
- No change in prescription drug copays or dental, vision and hearing aid benefits.

Telehealth options for office visits, behavioral health and other types of specialty services will continue after the pandemic emergency ends. Not all services will be appropriate for telehealth. Call the number on the back of your card for costs and how to setup telehealth services.

The following remain the same if you are enrolled in a UAW Medicare Advantage plan for In-Network:

Deductible

\$245 per person

Coinsurance - 10%

After your deductible is met

Out-of-Pocket Max

\$630 per person

Primary Care Physician

\$20 per visit

Specialist Office Visit

\$25 per visit

Urgent Care - \$25 per visit

Emergency Room - \$50 per visit

Waived if admitted

Monthly Premiums - \$0

If you are enrolled in Regular Medicare or have not turned 65 your monthly premiums will be \$17 per person and you will pay more for each part. Coinsurance is 10% under all plans after your deductible is met.

### **UAW Retiree Trust Contact Info**

Contact Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC) at 866-637-7555, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m ET for the following:

- Make changes to your health care plan (to be effective January 1, 2021 between Sept 8 and Nov 27).
- Update your contact information with the Trust.
- Ask questions.

In most cases, you only need to make changes to your health care plan when you will be turning 65 or have a primary residence in a different state. If you will be turning 65 you must enroll in one of the available Medicare

plans offered thru the UAW Trust.

Under no circumstances should you enroll in any Medicare supplemental plan outside of the UAW Trust. The coverage under those plans cost more and provide less. They may claim there are no monthly premiums but the copays and deductibles are higher.

### **Flu and Other Vaccines**

You are encouraged to get your flu vaccine early this year. It will help reduce the complications if you are infected with Covid-19.

Other vaccines that you may need are Pneumococcal, Tdap, and Zoster (Shingles). Check with your doctor.

### **Other Coverages**

Dental coverage is provided by Delta Dental. (800) 524-0149

Hearing coverage is provided thru TruHearing. (844) 394-5420

Vision coverage is provided by Davis Vision. (888) 234-5164

### **Answers**

If you are a member of our Facebook group (UAW Retiree Chapter 2209) we can try to help answer some of your questions. Keep in mind though that we are not Benefit Reps or know everything about our health care coverage. For more complicated questions or for issues with coverage it is best to call one of the Benefit Reps in the plant. (260) 673-2339 or (260) 673-2540. It is especially important for them to know if there is a problem with any of the providers.

There are four different plans available to retirees. One for retirees that are not Medicare eligible and three for those Medicare eligible. The Medicare eligible plans consist of Regular Medicare, Aetna Medicare Advantage, and BCBS Medicare Advantage. There may be differences between the plans either because of the carrier not having the same in-network doctors and hospitals or cost coverage.

You can also call the number on the back of your card if you have questions about your coverage or to find an in-network doctor.



**Amy Houston**  
Recording Secretary



## Social Distancing

Social Distance. Wear a mask. Don't shake hands and definitely no hugging. Don't go anywhere where there are too many people. Don't go out to eat. Movies are closed. Is there anything we can do? How can we connect with our friends and Union Brothers and Sisters during a pandemic?

I know some days are worse than others for me. I know that I'm not the only one missing hanging out with my friends. We work a lot, but even when we are at work we aren't supposed to sit near or be too close to our friends. What can we do to still connect with our friends, family and co-workers while still keeping everyone safe?

Outdoor activities are easier to do together since there is always more space to keep a safe distance. Have people over for a socially distanced bonfire. Just have your chairs apart, maybe go for a bike ride or a walk on our beautiful Fort Wayne Trails. Grab lunch and have a picnic at a park on your own blankets. We need to continue to make an effort to maintain our personal relationships for our health and happiness. It is easy to "stay connected" on social media, but don't let it replace your real life connections.

If you are feeling lonely or lost, always reach out to a friend or Union Brother or Sister and tell them. You are not alone feeling this way. If you see someone withdrawing, pull them back. This is a different time for us as a society and we are all new to it. So let's help everyone get through it. If you are new to town and don't know anyone or just don't feel comfortable talking about what you're feeling to just anyone, we have certified Work/Family Representatives (also known as EAP) on all 3 shifts for anyone to speak to confidentially. They can talk to you and also have resources to get you any assistance that you might need.

The UAW has been focusing on online education and virtual conferences and meetings to keep everyone safe and healthy. This may be the new way of doing things, but don't forget to still make an effort to speak with people, be present and enjoy the company of others even if it's in a different way than we have experienced in the past. We will get through this. It's hard and inconvenient, but necessary. Frustrations are high, so always remember we are all in this together and will get through this together.

## UAW Region 2B New Leadership

UAW REGION 2B



*Wayne Blanchard*

A special convention was held Thursday, September 17 to fill the Regional Director vacancy in UAW Region 2B. Wayne Blanchard, one of three candidates was elected to fill the remainder of the term ending in June 2022.

Due to Covid-19 the convention was conducted virtually with delegates from Ohio and Indiana in attendance at Dayton, Maumee, and Kokomo. Delegates observed social distancing and wore face masks. International UAW conducted the special convention from Southfield in Michigan.

Newly elected Director Wayne Blanchard previously held the position of Assistant Regional Director in UAW Region 2B. He was President of UAW Local 1435 in Toledo, Ohio before becoming Assistant Director in June 2017.



*Jeff Shrock*

Jeff Shrock was named Assistant Director of Region 2B by UAW President Rory L. Gamble on September 22. Jeff was a former president of UAW Local 685 in Kokomo before being appointed by former UAW President Ron Gettelfinger to the International staff and assigned to Region 3 from 2009 - 2011 and then to Region 2B when Indiana and Ohio was merged in 2011.

## UAW Conferences Cancelled

Due to Covid-19 the National Education Department conferences were cancelled for 2020. They include the following:

- Education Conference (Sept 27-Oct 2)
- Leadership Essentials Institute (Oct 11-16)
- Young Workers Institute (Oct 18-23)
- Community Services Conference (Oct 25-30)
- EAP Conference (Oct 25-30)
- Chaplaincy Conference (Nov 8-13)
- Standing Committees (Nov 15-20)



## Local 2209 Podcast

by Katie Holder

We are lucky at this local to have these amazing members committed to informing us with as much information as they can. This team does this by making a weekly podcast for us to listen to. Are you wondering how you can listen to the episodes they have already made? Throughout the plant they have signs posted with a QR code, which looks like a box shaped barcode. With this QR code on newer phones you can point your camera at it, it will take you to a website and then you can click the link and begin to listen. Another way is wherever you are getting your podcasts currently just look up “The UAW 2209’s Podcast”.

If after catching up on the past podcast you find yourself with a suggestion for a future episode there are many ways of getting that information to the team. You can contact them on



Mike Scott, Dave Wise, Vee Hairston, Angie Buneta  
Photo by Linda Riedel Ellis

their FB page Local 2209 Podcast, they have a mailbox at the Hall, you can email the Hall or just let Holli, or Erika know your suggestions. We are

thankful for this team and can't wait to hear the future episodes they put together for us.

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## Local 2209 Communication Members

by Gina Dagostino-Johnson



Back Row: Andrea Lindsey, Angie Buneta, Linda Riedel Ellis, Gina Dagostino-Johnson, Roxanna Murray, Katie Holder, Luvenia Hairston -- Front Row: Jason Jackson, David Wise, Micheal Scott -- Not in photo: Kevin Murray, Gary Schepp, Denzel Wallace  
Photo by Amanda Meier

UAW Local 2209 President Holli Murphy has invited the Podcast members: Angela Buneta, Luvenia Hairston, Micheal Scott, and David Wise; the Local Voices publication members: Linda Riedel Ellis, Katie Holder, Andrea Lindsey, Gina Dagostino-Johnson, Roxana Murray, Kevin Murray, and Gary Schepp; and Text Message Service Administrator/ Local 2209 Webmaster Jason Jackson to collaborate to form a virtual powerhouse Communication Committee to take on the privilege of keeping the membership informed, educated, and involved.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Communication Committee with your ideas for topics of discussion, informative articles, education questions, or interview appointments.

We want your voices to be heard!



# Vietnam Wall Project



Shane B Davis, Amy Houston, Rich LeTourneau, Holli Murphy, Greg Bedford

On August 27th, UAW Local 2209 presented a check to The Veterans National Memorial Shrine & Museum with Commander Greg Bedford accepting. The donation was for the Vietnam Memorial Wall project.

The project consists of a 360-foot replica of the Vietnam Wall being erected at The Veterans National Memorial Shrine & Museum located at 2122 O'Day Rd in Fort Wayne.

President Murphy at the presentation stated, "We are proud and honored to support this important project and are donating a check for \$100,000 for the installation of the wall. This lasting tribute to the fallen heroes of the Vietnam War will bring thousands of new visitors to our community."

## Rolling Into Roanoke **DREAM TOUR** SELFIE CONTEST WINNER!



Retiree Diana Bovie-Koomler entered this 1963 Chevy Impala in the Dream Tour Selfie Contest. The photo received the most likes on Facebook entitling her to free downtown parking for 1 car at the 2021 Rolling Into Roanoke car show.

### 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.



# Southwest Allen County Fire District

by Gina Dagostino-Johnson

United Auto Workers Local 2209 continues to make a positive impact on the community. In September, \$21,216.80 was donated to Southwest Allen County Fire District for active shooter training.

President Holli Murphy and Shop Chairman Rich LeTourneau, with several other union members, presented the donation check at Station 4, Roanoke.

Nathaniel Thompson, EMS Captain, expressed his appreciation when he explained, "the interaction between the union and the fire station was amazing, two groups coming together to strengthen the bond of community to better our community."

The donation is being used to purchase active shooter equipment such as tourniquets, medical equipment, bullet proof vests, and other multiple devices to help in an active shooter situation. The donation funds have been

dispersed to six other fire departments in the area to also help with training. There are 30 first responders, both firemen and EMT's that are now state certified for emergency active shooter response.

"It was overwhelming to receive the support from Local 2209. Typically, people call the fire department heros. I told the UAW members, they are the heros because their generous donations allow us to preform our job. I can't tell you how much we appreciate it. The magnitude is incredible," Thompson said, "This is a gift that will help the community."



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## Greater Fort Wayne Crime Stoppers 13th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser

by Katie Holder

On August 12th, UAW 2209 member Katie Holder became a new member of the Fort Wayne Crimestoppers board. On August 21st Katie volunteered for one of their yearly fundraisers, their golf outing which was held at the Riverbend Golf Course. This was Holder's first official duty as a new board member. Local UAW 2209 sponsored two teams for the Crimestoppers Annual Golf Outing. UAW 2209 members Jason Keller won a \$25 gift card for Bagger Dave's for winning

the Longest Drive Contest, and Doug Keele, 2209 member won a \$25 gift card for winning the Closest to the Hole contest.

Another team that participated on a UAW 2209 team consisted of; Tim Callebs, Daniel Schmidt, Matt Schmidt, and Bill Johnson. They all won \$25 gift cards to Bobicks for winning the Chipping contest. This team also won \$40 gift cards, and a bottle of wine, for winning 2nd place for the entire tournament.



Tim Callebs, Daniel Schmidt, Matt Schmidt, Bill Johnson



# UAW Local 2209 Executive Board Officers

*Photos by Linda Riedel Ellis*



**President**  
Holli Murphy



**Vice President**  
James D. Peters



**Recording Secretary**  
Amy Houston



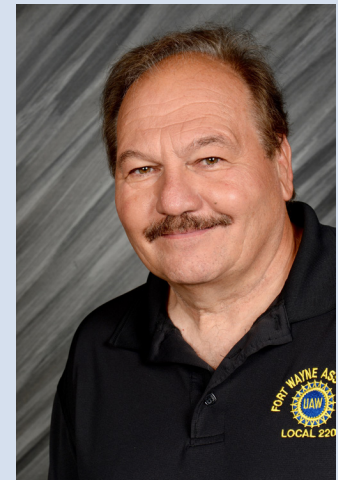
**Financial Secretary**  
Shane B. Davis



**Trustee**  
Melinda Ladd



**Trustee**  
Amanda Meier



**Trustee**  
David Bartkowiak



**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Manuel Anzaldúa



**Guide**  
Jamie L. Teller

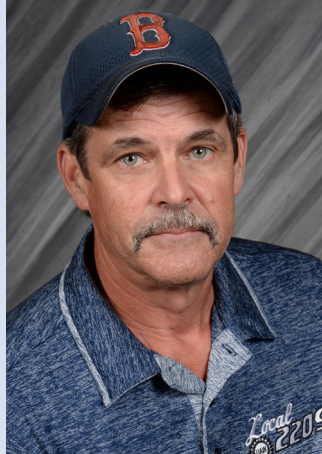


# UAW Local 2209 Executive Board Members at Large

*Photos by Linda Riedel Ellis*



**Unit I Shop Chair**  
Rich LeTourneau



**1st Shift Zone**  
Dave Poor



**2nd Shift Zone**  
Steve Turner



**3rd Shift Zone**  
Christopher Phillips



**Unit II Shop Chair**  
GM Nurses  
Michael McClain



**Unit III Shop Chair**  
Caravan  
Robert Lewis



**Unit IV Shop Chair**  
Avancez Tire & Wheel  
DaVontae Williams



**Unit V Shop Chair**  
Avancez Maint Techs  
Johnathan Minard



**Unit VII Chair**  
Avancez VAA  
Angela Vaughn



**Retiree Chair**  
Diana Bovie-Koomler

**Unit VI Chair**  
Ruan Trucking  
Vacant



# Unit I Committee Persons

*Photos by Linda Riedel Ellis*



**District 1**  
Joe Sphar



**District 1 Alt**  
Teal George



**District 2**  
Joe Perry



**District 2 Alt**  
Linda Printz



**District 3**  
Jason Ratliff



**District 3 Alt**  
Vince Cetrone



**District 4**  
Dale Hoover



**District 4 Alt**  
Chadwick Rising



**District 5**  
Kevin Bartkowiak



**District 5 Alt**  
Brian Hartman



**District 6**  
Cody Stewart



**District 6 Alt**  
Mario D. Smiley



# Unit I Committee Persons

*Photos by Linda Riedel Ellis*



**District 7**  
Jared Thiele



**District 7 Alt**  
Eric Barmore



**District 8**  
Chad Brumbaugh



**District 8 Alt**  
Ralph Magana



**District 9**  
Michael J. Kellogg Jr



**District 9 Alt**  
Miguel Ortiz



**District 10**  
Deb Chandler



**District 10 Alt**  
Tony DePew



**District 11**  
John Stinson



**District 11 Alt**  
Martin Sroka



**District 12**  
Shea Stinson



**District 12 Alt**  
Randy Melzoni



# Committee Persons • Units 3, 4, 7

*Photos by Linda Riedel Ellis*

**No Photo**



**Unit III 1st Shift**  
Ronnell Nelson

**Unit III 1st Shift Alt**  
Nic Courts



**Unit IV 1st Shift**  
Tacquesis Baker



**Unit IV 3rd Shift**  
Kris Nerzig

**Unit IV 2nd Shift**  
**Vacant**



**Unit VII 3rd Shift**  
Kelly Schlotter

**Unit VII**

**No Photos**

**1st Shift** • Kristi Hunnicutt  
**2nd Shift** • Vacant

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## The Importance of Social Insurance (Social Security)

Social Security was never intended to be an investment program. Instead, it is a contributory social insurance program, designed to protect workers and their families from loss of income due to death, disability or retirement. Social Security is not a needs-based program. Rather, it is a true entitlement program in which people earn the right to participate by working and contributing.

Unlike private retirement plans,

Social Security has broader objectives than only providing retirement benefits. Social Security was also established to protect our most vulnerable citizens from falling into poverty, raise the standard of living for lower-income workers, and provide financial security to spouses and dependent children in the event of a worker's disability or death.

Under Social Security all workers contribute to a universal pool of

funds from which benefits are paid. Social Security financing is shared equally by employer and employee, is portable from job to job, provides inflation-adjusted benefits, and covers all earnings over a working lifetime up to the taxable wage base. The progressive benefit formula provides a more generous benefit to workers with lower average lifetime earnings.

*Excerpt from National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare*



Left corner numbers in photos indicates shift

UAW Benefits



Jay Holleman



Memory Wright



Thomas Athmann



Retus Thomas



Jessica Lund

Work Family / EAP



Marcia Milne



Rodney Burton



Robbie George



Susan Taylor



Shawn Nevin

Manpower Coordinators

Apprentice Chair



Matthew Sterk

Joint Activities Rep



Joe Perez Jr

Suggestion Administrator



Dwight Wilson

Communications



Mark Newman

Training Coordinator



Joseph Barker

Trainer/Computer



Phil Ratkos

Trainer



Todd McKibben



## Health & Safety



Benjamin Barscz



Santiago Martinez



Timothy Scharich

## Health & Safety Coord



Stephen Flynn

**No Photos**  
Health and Safe-  
ty Alternates

- 1) Bob Kwandrans\*
- 2) Robert Stephen
- 3) William Helvie

\* Photo below

Photos by Linda Riedel Ellis

## Health & Safety Trainers



Richard Cannici II



Scott Jordan



Guy Jackson



Brenda Robinson



Jamie Olson

## H & S Alternate Trainers

## Ergonomics /Industrial Hygienist ISO 9000 & 14000



Kenneth Gick



Brant Driscoll



Jon Wren



Devon Bantz

## Infrared Tech

**No Photo**

Douglas Bowersock



Christopher Sawdey



**Health & Safety  
Alternate**



Bob Kwandrans Jr



## CORE Team



Kelley Carnes



Billy Jackson



Shane Jones



Douglas Keeser



Matthew Martin

## SME Launch



Thomas Peek



Gerald Schmaltz

## No Photos

Valerie Dentel  
Troy Ritschard



Kiley Reid

## GMS/Quality Administrator



James Johnston

## GMS Coordinators



Andy Clark



Kip Hirschfield



Tiffany Smart-Geels

## Alignment Coord



Jeffery Patterson

## Capacity Assurance Coord



Ronald Hecht





## Mutilation Coordinators



Adam Clark



Tina Lambert



Marinique Sawyers

## Supplier Quality Action Center



Gary McNear



Bill Anderson



Amy Groninger

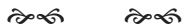
**No Photos**  
 1) Thomas Matiya  
 3) Brett Kippert  
 3) Jodi Young

Photos by Linda Riedel Ellis

Left corner numbers in photos indicates shift

## Making a Difference

*Below is an email to President Holli Murphy from fellow UAW 2209 brother, Thomas Athmann.*



Subject: Katie Knox articles from Jan-Feb 2020 Local Voices Champions of all and Saved by kindness.

Hi Holli,

I hope all is well with you today! Just thought I would share a quick story with you. I have a friend in Wisconsin who recently started a new job and she is my age, a young and sassy 56. It was very intimidating and she was getting frustrated never having been in a factory environment before, she would call me for advice and pep talks, she was like a boxer getting ready to throw in the towel, physically and emotionally whipped by the long hours, grueling work and time away from her son. I urged her not to give up and told her she was a champion, a fighter. The light in my head came

on and I remembered the articles that I had just recently read for the third time that Katie had written. Being old school I mailed them overnight post-age through the united states postal service (they have families to feed also) well, my phone blew up two days later with a new and refreshed voice and happy tears and thank you, thank you, thank you on the other end of the line. So in summary please let Katie know that her words and thoughts reach far beyond local 2209 and have had a very positive effect. My friend wanted me to let Katie know after reading her articles she took a deep breath and a step back and realized that there was a gal in Indiana who understand her and had never even met her.

Holli, please feel free to show this to Katie and tell her THANKS!!! (I don't have her cell or I would have called her myself) Have a nice day!



*Since the original publication of the article Katie Knox has married and is*

*now Katie Holder. "Saved by Kindness" and "Champions of All" is reprinted here.*

## Saved by Kindness

*by Katie Knox (reprinted)*

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.

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## Champions of All

*by Katie Knox (reprinted)*

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 inher-

sight.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 websites 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!

accurately and duly noted. In November, the postal service will play a crucial role in allowing Americans across our land and in foreign countries to cast their vote in our upcoming Presidential election. So many of us will be turning to the USPS to deliver our ballots safely and securely.

And please also think of the USPS and those in its employ. The postal service has delivered a solid, secure, middle class lifestyle to a more than 600,000 workers and to an especially high number of Latino and African Americans.

In the case of African Americans, when Congress passed a law – just after the Civil War – that ended the whites only hiring practice for postal jobs, the postal service became a haven of good jobs offering secure wages, benefits, and civil service protections. Today, African Americans make up 27% of the Postal Service – a rate more than double that of the national labor force. Coupled with our government’s anti-discrimination policies, the USPS has made the American Dream possible, even when racial discrimination put up walls in other areas of work.

And privatization, I would argue,

is un-American for another reason. It is yet another attempt at union busting. Both the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), which represents primarily non-rural letter carriers employed by USPS as well as the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), which represents postal clerks, mail processors and sorters, building and equipment maintenance, custodial workers, truck drivers and others employed by USPS, would be in serious jeopardy.

We must secure this most American of all American institutions.

### **Demand that we save the USPS**

Fortunately, there is a way forward. The Delivery for America Act (H.R. 8015) can help make this happen. This legislation will deliver urgently needed funds to the postal service and reverse detrimental policy changes that are currently restricting postal workers’ ability to deliver mail and packages on time.

The Act has passed the House of Representatives. The Senate must follow suit immediately. Across the nation, delivery of mail has slowed dramatically due to the Postmaster General Louis DeJoy’s recent decisions. Eliminating overtime and cutting down on late trips has created massive mail backlogs, leading to late

deliveries of critical prescription medications and threatening the integrity of the upcoming November election.

This bill would help address the backlog by remedying the impact of these policies and prohibiting “any change that would have the effect of delaying, deferring, or curtailing mail, allowing for the non-delivery of mail to a delivery route, or increasing the volume of undelivered mail.”

The Delivery for America Act appropriates the \$25 billion that the USPS requested to sustain the level of service all Americans depend on. Efforts to shrink the postal service would disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities, women and veterans more than others. In addition, as of 2018, more than 100,000 military veterans are employed by the USPS.

We **MUST** protect postal workers’ jobs.

And we **MUST** ensure a safe and secure election. In the coming weeks, voters across the country will prepare to exercise their civic duty to elect their government, and Congress must do everything in its power to ensure that voters will be able to do so safely.

For our citizens, for our democracy, for our livelihoods... We must support the USPS in every way we can.

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### **Maine high-speed sorting machines reassembled by postal workers.**

The AP reported the U.S. Postal Service workers had reassembled one of the two high-speed letter sorting machines at the Southern Maine Mail Processing Center in Scarborough. It was put back into operation on Thursday. They had previously been ordered dismantled over the summer in Maine.

The sorting machines are capable of sorting more than 20,000 letters an hour.

The American Postal Workers Union bugged management to restore the machine allowing election-related mail to be delivered promptly.

# **FACTS MATTER**

## **Tips to identify fake news**

- Anonymous or fake authors
- Excessive exclamation points
- All capital letters
- Misspellings
- “This is not a hoax!”
- Wrong timeline (date)
- Too crazy to believe



# The Misconception of the UAW's Greed

by Scott La Mar • edited by Julie DeLong

Recently on September 15th, 2019, the 4-year contract between the United Auto Workers (UAW) and General Motors (GM) expired and with no tentative agreement reached or in sight, the UAW was forced to strike and pull all their members out of all 55 GM plants within the United States. This was a last resort for the union because there was an impasse or standstill in negotiations.

A decade ago, during the Great Recession of 2007-2009, General Motors and Chrysler filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy in which the UAW's membership took major concessions in the form of lost wages and benefits. By the third quarter of 2008 and into 2009, the banking institution went through its own financial crisis and bailing out the banks and the two automotive giants was paid by taxpayers with the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds.

The Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection filings by General Motors and Chrysler allowed them to default on their creditors, suppliers, and contracting firms doing work for them. It essentially gave them a clean slate and relieved them of debt. After General Motors and Chrysler restructured and emerged from bankruptcy, they both quickly began to prosper and by 2019 General Motors had been making record profits.

With the UAW/GM contract expiring in September of 2019, the members saw an opportunity to gain back some of the 2009 concessions. The 2011 and 2015 contracts resulted in wages increased slightly and benefits with little or no increase for UAW members. The GM-UAW's employees had been promised that they would reattain those lost wages and benefits as GM prospered. But, in these two contracts most of the possible eco-

nomie gains had been diverted to the cost of health care premiums.

During the 40-day strike in 2019 between General Motors and the United Auto Workers, there were comments in newspaper editorials and



Julie DeLong & Scott La Mar

on social media that UAW workers were greedy. The members were accused of making \$30 an hour while being too stupid to hold a real job, being lazy, and being uneducated. I say, "We are not making too much money, but you are not making enough money. All Americans need their wages and benefits raised." This strike was not only just about wages and benefits for full-time permanent employees but also for temporary employees with few or no benefits. The UAW's membership took a stand and provided a framework for other unions and laborers to follow against the exploitation of the American worker.

As for being lazy, I challenge any American to spend a day on the assembly line at a General Motors assembly plant. The jobs are brutal to the human body and non-stop in which each job must be executed within 45 seconds before the next vehicle comes.

As for the comments of being stupid or uneducated employees, many GM-UAW employees working the lines have Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees. Many have remained at General Motors because the wages and benefits are far greater than their schooled profession. This is not to say the GM-UAW's employees are paid too much; they are paid for their education, physical stamina, the required fast pace, and the physical breakdown of their bodies over a short time in manufacturing. These are highly educated individuals of the workforce sacrificing their bodies.

In summary, the UAW's GM members are not greedy, lazy, or uneducated. They have fought for what every laborer deserves. I say to the other American laborers, "You are not making enough. It is time to evaluate the labor situation in this country. Remember this, the capitalists running the country cannot survive without the laborers. There are many more of us, the laborers, than the capitalists. We, the laborers, only want a piece of the pie, not the whole pie as the capitalists do. Given the chance the capitalists will take everything from the laborers. It is time we, the laborers, attain our fair share of the pie."

Finally, a quote by Herbert Hoover: "The only trouble with Capitalism is Capitalists. They're too damned Greedy".

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## Informed Delivery by USPS

Digitally preview your mail and manage your packages scheduled to arrive soon! Informed Delivery allows you to view greyscale images of the exterior, address side of letter-sized mailpieces and track packages in one convenient location.

Utilizing this service allows you to keep track of your mail. Expecting a check? Maybe bills or notices? Now you know there should be mail waiting for you of importance and if there was

any possible mail theft. If you don't receive email from Informed Delivery you don't need to waste time checking your mailbox.

Even if you don't want to use this service it would be advisable to sign up for it so someone else doesn't try pretend to be you. If you are a retiree it would be even more critical to sign up for it to reduce mail theft.

Go to [informeddelivery.usps.com](https://informeddelivery.usps.com) and sign up.

*Please share your Local Voices  
with your family.*



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# TELL CONGRESS: **SAVE OUR** POSTAL SERVICE



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