



# *Local Voices*

*UAW Local 2209*

*Chartered 1985*

**Nov-DEC 2020**

# *Happy Holidays*



*Happy Hanukkah*

*Merry Christmas*

*Kwanzaa Blessings*

*Happy New Year*



*Photo by Linda Riedel Ellis*

# Local Voices

## UAW Local 2209

Chartered 1985



### UAW Local 2209 Executive Board

#### Officers

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| President                     | Holli Murphy     |
| Vice President                | Jim Peters       |
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| Financial Secretary-Treasurer | Shane B. Davis   |
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| Trustee                       | Melinda Ladd     |
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| Guide                         | Jamie Teller     |

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|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
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| Unit 2 Chair (Nurses)                    | Mike McClain         |
| Unit 3 Chair (Caravan)                   | Robert Lewis         |
| Unit 4 Chair (Avancez Tire & Wheel)      | DaVontae Williams    |
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| Unit 1 Zone Shift 3                      | Christopher Phillips |

#### Retiree Member at Large

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Retiree Chapter Chair | Diana Bovie-Koomler |
|-----------------------|---------------------|

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Layout Editor • Gary Schepp  
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Gina DAgostino • 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, January 15, 2021**

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

Please see page 8.

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## Holli Murphy

President

### Hello Brothers and Sisters!

As we're about to enter into 2021, I want to say Thank You for all your patience during 2020. We've traveled a difficult road this year and have really put our minds to the test on how to do things while maintaining social distance, but that is what's so amazing about our membership, we always persevere. My heart aches for our members and their families who have lost their lives to this pandemic.

We've accomplished many great things during this year, such as the mass text system for communication to our members. Communication is the number one obstacle we are always trying to improve on. Our strength is on the floor and transparency is key so I will always find ways to better this. Our communications team is growing into video and podcast.

### What Workers Want —

*We want more school houses and less jails, more books and less arsenals, more learning and less vice, more constant work and less crime, more leisure and less greed, more justice and less revenge-- in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful and childhood more happy and bright."*

*(Samuel Gompers, First President of AFL, on organized labor's constant objectives)*

### Business Men —

*"The businessman's place in the economy of nature is to 'make money,' not to produce goods . . . The highest achievement in business is the nearest approach to getting something for nothing."*

*—Thorstein Veblen, American Economist*

The project we adopted in 2017 at the War Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum has broke ground on the replica of the Vietnam Wall and thanks to the hardworking men and women of this local union, we were able to donate \$100,000 to this wonderful attraction in August.

Our standing committees are finding creative ways to still reach out to our membership and our community, such as serving at the soup kitchens, adopting families from the Angel Tree, giving back to a local nursing home, visiting local business to offer our members a discount pamphlet which will come in the early months of 2021, coming up with healthy ways to embrace all the demanding work load, finding ways to promote diversity, praying and sending cards for our members who wish to be lifted spiritually and also creating a sisterhood for 2021 as well as taking a look at our bylaws to see if we need to improve on them as we continue to grow through organizing.

As we come to a close in 2020, I wish you all peace and joy during this holiday season! For it is not the gifts under the tree that define us but the friendships we've made here at Local 2209. This membership is phenomenal and has such giving hearts! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

## 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.

*You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom. You can only be free if I am free.*

• Clarence Darrow

## Region 2-B Online Academy

Region 2-B has announced the Winter 2021 session of their Online Academy. This training is web-based and members can participate on their own time and at their own pace during the 21-day window. The first workshop is BUILDING OUR UNION. This runs January 5th-January 25th, 2020. Classes included are UAW Basics, UAW 101, UAW Core Values UAW V-CAP Program, Union Meetings & Me, It Starts with Me, Talkin' Union, Understanding Bargaining, Understanding Grievances, Understanding Strikes, Lessons from Labor History, Money Matters: Budget Planning for Life, Money Matters: Consumer Tips, Globalization 101.

If you would like to be registered for this workshop, please call the Union Hall 260-672-2209 or email, [erika.keeser@uaw2209.org](mailto:erika.keeser@uaw2209.org). You must provide your mailing address, telephone and email address in order to be registered.



## ONLINE ACADEMY



## 2020 a Year to Remember



### Rich LeTourneau

*Shop Chair Unit 1 (General Motors)*

If anything insane could happen, it did in 2020. The remnants of what took place so far in 2020 will last a lifetime for most of us. As the COVID-19 pandemic started sweeping the nation in March, it rapidly consumed corporate America and its ability to produce products nationwide. We experienced a 10 week shutdown while the government crafted an unprecedented \$600.00 stimulus package for those out of work. FWA did not have one confirmed case in the entire plant at the time. However, the hysteria that hit all Facebook pages was like Godzilla coming to Tokyo. Our initial plan was to include short work week that first week off so everyone would get a for sure paycheck. This plan was quickly sabotaged and we shutdown at the end of the week instead of the beginning of the following week. We

are now averaging about 8 to 12 positive cases a day. That's not including those who are getting quarantined as a result of contact tracing and we are still running. These numbers make it impossible to administer a Local or National contract, with most paragraphs predicated around head count to make it happen. We are currently putting on a full-court press, trying to keep up with this revolving door, but it's almost impossible. I believe this situation is going to get worse before it gets better going into 2021.

In the midst of a global pandemic in 2020, GM announced that Oshawa will be reopening and building the truck we currently build, which I am sure puckered some assholes in the plant. To announce another plant is building your same product is not the initial problem. The problem comes when the need for volume dissipates globally and the decision is made on which plant loses the volume. We have attempted to put measures in place to secure our volume here. These measures are still in their infancy stages and are almost impossible to administer with our current daily COVID cases. As we receive people, we will continue moving people in positions that will intensify our volume.

Going into 2021, my advice to this membership is to stay the course. This is not the beginning of the end for us, I can assure you that. We will always have those who think they know more than the Chairman or Bargaining Committee, and I can unequivocally tell you, they do not. As local negotiations progresses, we have no intentions of going into concessionary negotiations to secure volume. Our attempt with tag relief and straight eights is not concessionary. In fact, adding approximately 318 people is just the opposite of that, it's inefficient and expensive. This attempt will more than likely be short term until we get the funding we need to fix our volume issues. If we do not get the tools we need to fix our issues, you will see a much different attitude from me and your Shop Committee. We hope that doesn't happen. I will keep you updated on our progress.

I would like to wish everyone a well-deserved Christmas holiday time off. Enjoy and be safe. This is the time to ease your minds and let us deal with the big stuff, this is nothing new to some of us and we do have all the angles covered.

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## 2020 Retirees

*Continued from page 5*

### ● April

James Andrews • Dan Bales • Randy Bowers • Timothy Brown • Heathcliff Fagin • Donald Forrer • Lyle Lloyd • Jennifer Wright

### ● May

Karen Goodwin • Charles Hanson • Ken Liddell

### ● June

James Carl • Fred Jackson Jr • Elaine Matthews • David Musselman • Rebecca Severe • Leigh Stankus • Philip Zelenka

### ● July

Patrick Connelly • Jeffrey Erdmann • Duane Foss • Rick Gascoyne • Douglas Higdon • Dennis Hollingsworth •

Jerome Hurst • Callie Jackson • Brian Martin • Jeffrey Newkirk • Gerald Pence Jr • Rickie Twilley • John VanSumeren

### ● August

David Birchler • David Christman • Michael Fiegl • Richard Fite • Terry Martin • Steven Price • Richard Smart

### ● September

Melvin Case • Harold Fenton • Lee Harvey • Paul Lierman • Beth Lovitt • Tom Merchant • Lynn Omelian • Stephen Shue • David Vining • Stephen Williams

### ● October

Dennis Harmon • Susan Horner • James Ternet



## Retiree Chapter Corner



**Diana Bovie-Koomler**  
*Retiree Chair*

We hope everyone is well and staying safe. It has been a trying year with Covid-19. We were first expecting it to last a few months. Then we were advised to cancel our meetings until the end of the year. Our Chapter went with cancelling until March. Now International is requesting all Local Unions to suspend meetings and events until April 15. See page 8 for the letter.

With that, we have not had any Chapter meetings since March. The earliest we will schedule a meeting is May 2021. We all want to get back to having our regular meetings and enjoying life. That is contingent on the virus being controlled which can only happen if people follow the health protocols in place.

It all needs to be taken seriously. Face masks should be worn when out in public places. Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be followed.

Minimize shopping in stores. There are stores that provide pickup. Kroger has pickup for free if purchases are \$35 or more. Meijer has free pickup for orders \$50 or more. Lowes, JC Penney and many more have curbside pickup.

If you don't want to cook you can get carry out and eat it at home. It is safer than eating with strangers around you that may not have followed health protocols.

Social gatherings including Christ-

mas and other holiday time with family should be limited. Stay home if you usually go to your family for the holidays. If it is usually at your home and they don't live with you they should celebrate in their own home. It won't be the same of course. It will be difficult but the health of you and your family is important.

There will not be a Chapter newsletter until this Covid-19 is over and it is considered safe enough to meet. We don't want to put the volunteers that get together to put the newsletter out at risk. There are other options.

We have a Facebook Group (UAW Retiree Chapter 2209) that is available only to our retirees and their spouses. To join you must answer the questions before access will be provided. The Local Voices will continue to include the Retiree Chapter Corner.

Be Well - Be Safe

## 2020 Retirees

### • February

Ronald Abate • Wendy Abt • Dianne Anderson • William Andrew • Michael Brock • Donnie Campbell • Matthew Carey • Shawn Carnahan • Randy Craig • Paul Curtis • Mark Dixon • Alan Dockemeyer • Willie Dockery • Robert Earley • Joseph Elebesunu • Thomas Folk • Michael Gase • Edward Gimbel • Mark Haefner • Donald Hanson • Matthew Hessler • Jeanne Jones • John Jones • Zaiga Joyner • James Komosinski • Ronald Law • Karen Lewis • Richard Lindaas • Brian Linde • Bruce MacKenzie • Mont Meckler • Kevin Olszowy • Orval Plumlee • Michele Schiedel • Stephen Schowe • Edward Sheridan • Martin Snodgrass • Paul Starkey • Darryl Starr • Delores Stewart • Scott Stumpfing • Paul Till • Patricia Tisland • Marlin Turner • Eric Visger • Gladys Watson • Joe Watson • Raymond White • Marsha Whitesell • Charles Witthuhn Jr • Rick Zachary

### • March

Ysidro Amaro • Mark Anderson • Mary Babbitt • Keith Babler • James Bailey • Casimir Barszcz Jr • David Bartkowiak • Billie Barwick • William Benson • Linda Berning • Van Bise • Michael Bobzien • James Brandt • Gary Buchholz • James Buggs • Jeffrey Burtness • Allen Bushaw • Patrick Byrne • Joseph Cary • Mary Clark • Steven Coker • David Cornish • Anthony Curry • David Dare • Anthony Di Donato • Timothy Dickson

• John Doherty • John Dohner Jr • Larry Foote • Leroy Fromader • Gregory Gates • Christopher Gaydos • Mark Grimes • Madeleine Grove • Lonnie Hardy • Brian Hart • Ralph Heine • Steven Hillison Sr. • Jeffrey Hodder • Gerald Hoff • Patrick Hogan • Gerald Hopper • Gale Jeffers • Dale Johnson • Kevin Johnson • Dennis Joyner • Philip Kerrigan • Jerild King • Dennis Krueger • William Krueger • Donald Lapan • George Larsen Jr • Charles Leimkuehler • Wayne Lembke • Miles Listenbee • William Long • Donald Lorton • Kenneth McCall • Brian McCarville • Patricia McCullough • William McGee • Daniel McGinniss • Ron McKibben • Virginia McMillin • Nicholas Meicher • Kenneth Moore • Curtis Morrow • Chris Paul • Scott Poolman • Henry Redders • David Rice • Mark Roeben • Edward Ryan • Dale Sainsbury • Patricia Sainsbury • John Sanchez • David Schryvers • Richard Sewell • Duane Sharp • Thomas Skelly • Bruce Smith • Don Smith • Kirk Smith • Michael Smith • Michael Snell • Mark Solak • Douglas Spangler • Martha Stamp • Cheryl Stromski • Joseph Stromski • James Teegarden • Donald Teeters • Douglas Thomas • Jorge Tobo • Joseph Toth • Dean Vielhuber • Ralph Volpe • Kevin Wahl • Gary Weber • Mark Weitzel • Dairus Williams • Mark Wilson • Ronald Witek • Earleena York

*Continue on Page 4*



## Shane B. Davis

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

\$100,000 was donated to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum for the Vietnam Wall Replica in August.

### FUND BALANCES (July - Sept 2020)

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Unit 1 GM General Fund                       | \$ 1,525,033.20 |
| Unit 2 GM Nurses                             | 1,422.10        |
| Unit 3 Caravan Facilities                    | 39,258.53       |
| Unit 4 Android                               | 7,288.54        |
| Unit 5 Android Maint Techs                   | 2,110.93        |
| Unit 6 Ruan Trucking                         | 4,597.68        |
| Unit 7 Advancez, LLC                         | 19,865.53       |
| Chaplaincy Fund                              | 1,067.51        |
| Citizenship & Legislative Fund               | 80.79           |
| Civil and Human Rights Fund                  | 2,182.64        |
| Community Services Fund                      | 3,666.57        |
| Conservation Fund                            | 90.00           |
| Consumer Affairs Fund                        | 75.87           |
| Disaster Relief Fund                         | 1,401.07        |
| Education Dues Allocation Fund               | 5,588.68        |
| Education Fund                               | 1,716.79        |
| Recreation Dues Allocation Fund              | 2,733.31        |
| Recreation Fund                              | 5,091.75        |
| Union Label Fund                             | 6,175.43        |
| Veteran's Fund                               | 8,047.55        |
| Women's Fund                                 | 2,381.37        |
| Building Fund                                | -15,581.14      |
| Make a Wish Fund                             | 7.27            |
| New Member Orientation Fund                  | 2,659.82        |
| Strike Fund                                  | 71,566.39       |
| Retired Workers Chapter Fund                 | 81,976.45       |
| Retiree Penny Transfer                       | 4,019.24        |
| Retiree Event Fund                           | 1,935.78        |
| Retiree Chapters (57, 305, 1405, 2357, 2911) | 63,411.09       |
| Total of All Funds                           | \$ 1,849,870.74 |

#### July 2020

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$2,142,809.63 |
| Income            | \$278,821.10   |
| Expenditures      | -\$366,487.43  |
| Difference        | -\$87,666.33   |
| Balance           | \$2,055,143.30 |
| Charities         | \$500.00       |

#### August 2020

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$2,055,143.30 |
| Income            | \$278,699.62   |
| Expenditures      | -\$460,274.23  |
| Difference        | -\$181,574.61  |
| Balance           | \$1,873,568.69 |
| Charities         | \$100,500.00   |

#### September 2020

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$1,873,568.69 |
| Income            | \$292,960.81   |
| Expenditures      | -\$316,658.76  |
| Difference        | -\$23,697.95   |
| Balance           | \$1,849,870.74 |
| Charities         | \$11,290.71    |

## In Memoriam

*For those that are no longer with us*

*let us not say goodbye*

*but remember the time they were with us.*

|                  |             |                         |              |                    |             |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Emilda Martinez  | 7 Jan (77)  | Willie Floyd            | 10 May (66)  | Ricky Roth         | 21 Aug (63) |
| Armida Koslow    | 15 Jan (79) | Kenneth Arnold          | 21 May (67)  | Joseph Rosa *      | 1 Sept (52) |
| David Phillips * | 3 Feb (58)  | Randall Krez            | 24 May (67)  | Becky Short        | 1 Oct (64)  |
| John Thorson     | 24 Feb (77) | Joseph Doyle            | 28 May (67)  | Darryl Madison     | 17 Oct (76) |
| Octavio Godinez  | 9 Mar (75)  | Delmer Lambdin          | 17 June (76) | Gary Ratkos        | 20 Oct (70) |
| Jesse Knotts     | 9 Mar (88)  | Rufus Lloyd *           | 30 June (62) | Robert Gillespie   | 22 Oct (71) |
| Mark Kennedy     | 25 Mar (67) | Frederick Pettingill Jr | 11 July (74) | Joseph Bucaro      | 23 Oct (63) |
| Penny Melan      | 5 Apr (67)  | Bruce Dallman           | 15 July (65) | Edward Hershberger | 31 Oct (71) |
| Merle Close      | 9 Apr (76)  | Willie Harris           | 20 July (71) | David Nichols      | 9 Nov (62)  |
| Julie Denney *   | 19 Apr (56) | Thomas Gunn             | 24 July (59) | Robert Melson      | 11 Nov (74) |
| Leroy White Jr   | 22 Apr (59) | Charles Ciaramita *     | 13 Aug (77)  | Paul Schroeder     | 29 Nov (88) |
| Jim Weldon       | 9 May (76)  | Sandra Milton           | 16 Aug (69)  |                    |             |

\* indicates active member — Please notify Local 2209 staff in the event of a loss. We have retirees in 45 different states and in other countries. We do not receive notice of everyone from General Motors, Avancez, Caravan, or Ruan Trucking.



**Amy Houston**

*Recording Secretary*

## Shop Local & Support your Community

In today's society with Amazon and the ease of online shopping, with a click of our finger on our cell phones or computer we have a product headed to our house from who knows where. We always hear the term "Shop Local" but what does that mean and why is it so important?

Spending money at a locally owned store (versus a national chain) keeps more of your money in the community you are shopping in. \$68 out of every \$100 to be exact. Versus a big box or chain store where only \$48 of every \$100 spent stays in the local economy.

**Local Economic Stimulus.** When you purchase at locally owned businesses rather than nationally owned, more money is kept in the community because locally-owned businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Purchasing local helps grow other businesses as well as the local tax base.

**Non Profits Receive Greater Support.** Local business owners donate more to local charities than non-local owners.

**Unique Businesses Create Character & Prosperity.** The unique character of your local community is defined in large part by the business that reside there, and that plays a big factor in your overall satisfaction with where you live and the value of you home and property.

**Environmental Impact Is Reduced.** Small local business usually

set up shop in the town/village center, providing a centralized variety that is much friendlier to a community's walk score than out of town shopping malls. This generally means contributing less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.

**Most New Jobs Are Provided By Local Businesses.** Small local businesses are the largest employers nationally. Plus the more jobs you have in your local community the less people are going to have to commute which means more time and less traffic and pollution.

**Customer Service Is Better.** Local businesses often hire people with more specific product expertise for better customer service. You are also going to see these people around town and they are less likely to blow you off or be rude because they have to face you day after day.

**Local Business Owners Invest In Community.** Local businesses are owned by people who live in this community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community's welfare and future.

**Public Benefits Far Outweigh Public Costs.** Local businesses require comparatively little infrastructure and more efficiently utilize public services relative to chain stores.

**Competition And Diversity Leads To More Consumer Choices.** A marketplace of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long-term.

**You Matter More.** We talk a lot about exerting influence with your purchasing choices, or "voting with your wallet." It's a fact that businesses respond to their customers but your values and desires are much more influential to your local community business than the large big box stores.

*Source: The Local Good at <https://thelocalgood.ca/top-10-reasons-to-shop-local/>*

Every year on January 1st, most people make New Year's Resolutions. Why not pick one that is attainable and try to shop local whenever you can!

*"Going local does not mean walling off the outside world. It means nurturing locally owned businesses which use local resources sustainably, employ local workers at decent wages and serve primarily local consumers. It means becoming more self-sufficient and less dependent on imports. Control moves from the boardrooms of distant corporations and back into the community where it belongs." – Michael H. Shuman, author of the book Going Local.*







*Solidarity House*

8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48214  
PHONE (313) 926-5000

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**INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA – UAW**

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RORY L. GAMBLE, *PRESIDENT*

RAY CURRY, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*

VICE-PRESIDENTS: TERRY DITTES • CINDY ESTRADA • GERALD KARIEM

November 20, 2020

TO: All UAW Local Unions

RE: Local Union Update - Meetings and Events

Greetings:

As the persistent surge of Covid-19 cases increase throughout our country, hospitals near capacity and multiple state restrictions, we are requesting that all local union meetings and events continue to be suspended until April 15, 2021, due to these Coronavirus concerns. Local union meetings may be permitted virtually using on-line meeting programs such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. In either case, approved local union by-laws must be followed.

We will communicate any adjustments or modifications to this policy if encouraging changes occur with the status of this pandemic.

We would also like to personally thank you for your hard work and dedication in serving the membership during these extremely difficult and challenging times.

In solidarity,

Rory L. Gamble  
President

RLG:pl

opeiu494-afl-cio

cc: UAW International Executive Board

Tim Bressler, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer

Christopher Crump, Top Administrative Assistant to the President

Leigh Kegerreis, Top Administrative Assistant to the President

Jimmie Williams, Chief of Staff to the President

# Pandemic!

by Roxanna & Kevin Murray

2020, year of the COVID 19 Pandemic. Back in our early spring issue of Local Voices, when I wrote a small article about the illness that was spreading in China, I challenged all of us to be prepared to shelter in place. Due to the “novel illness” the Chinese were shutting entire cities down. Their people weren’t allowed to leave their homes, they depended upon delivery services to bring necessities or they went without.

I never imagined we would all be told to shelter in place to “stop the spread and lower the curve.” The freebie bottles of sanitizer given away by companies in 2019? Not free anymore, and expensive, if you could find any. Toilet paper and paper towels disappearing off store shelves as soon as stocked? No way! Strict limits on the number of particular items any one person could purchase? We hadn’t had rationing in America since WWII, until now.

Expect a second surge of infections in the fall, that’s a long way off, nothing to worry about, and this is America! We will beat this thing back in no time! I never dreamt that in 2020, we would need to wear masks when we were outside of our own homes. The last time that happened was during the “Spanish Flu” Pandemic (1918-1920)!

Instead of kicking this COVID 19 virus’ butt, it’s been kicking ours. As the number grows of Americans infected (and the number who have died) because of this virus, this pandemic is devastating families, communities, and our economy. Businesses are closed, some temporarily, some permanently; people are laid off or completely unemployed, lines for foodbanks are the longest they’ve been since the Great Depression. Hospitals are at capacity or overflowing, in crisis. Healthcare workers are exhausted and begging people to wear masks, to

socially distance, to stay home.

To say our lives have been disrupted is an understatement. Our International Union has advised us to refrain from holding meetings and events. We need to shelter in place as much as possible to reduce our exposure to COVID 19. We are being warned by experts not to be with our extended families during the holidays because we risk “killing grandma.” It’s not a joke. It’s not a hoax. It’s not fake news. (I hope someday someone reads this and has no idea what I mean calling this pandemic a possible hoax or fake news, but I know those reading this in 2020 know all too well exactly what I’m talking about.)

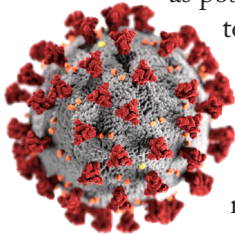
Please, wear a mask. It protects you as much as it protects others. No, it’s not perfect, you can still catch this highly contagious virus no matter how careful you are to wear your mask, wash your hands, and socially distance. Please, wear it anyway. Your mask needs to cover your mouth and your nose at all times. COVID 19 is a very contagious virus, more contagious than the flu. (Speaking of the flu, please, get a flu vaccine.)

There is no cure for COVID-19,

not yet. You could have it, and spread it, and not even show symptoms. There’s no way to know if you will have a mild case and completely recover, or a mild case and then suffer from long term effects. There’s no way to know if you will have to be hospitalized, be ventilated, or if you will be one of the over 270,000 plus (so far) who die from COVID 19 (or because of some other underlying condition aggravated by the illness.)

While there are promising vaccines just around the corner, even once they are approved, most people won’t have access until early summer. Early summer, at best, is a long time, but it’s not forever. There is an end in sight but we have to be vigilant now.

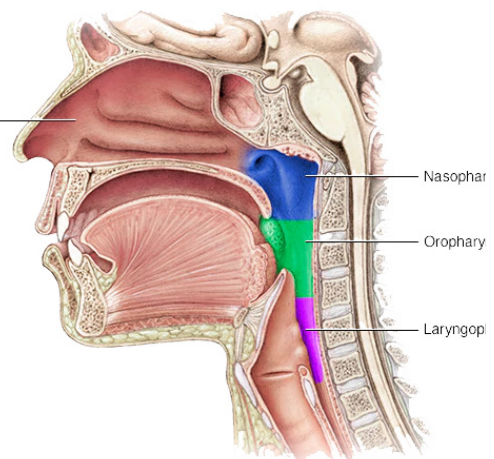
Protect yourself, protect others. Practice social distancing, at least six feet (even when you are smoking, vaping, or waiting to clock out.) Avoid crowds, avoid being unmasked in a room with anyone who does not live with you. Wash your hands, use sanitizer. Please, for just a little bit longer, keep yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy. We will beat this disease, learn from it, and, hopefully, be better prepared for the next one.



The mouth and nose should both be covered with a face mask.

Air is conveyed thru the mouth and nose to the lungs. Feeding tubes can be inserted thru the nasal cavity into the stomach.

The nasal cavity and mouth have a common path. The virus can use either path.





# *The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall*



*by Roxanna Murray & Greg Bedford*

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020, at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum for the Vietnam Wall Replica. This is a place “Where No Veteran Will Ever Be Forgotten.” Located at 2122 O’Day Road, Fort Wayne, IN.

The Board of Directors, headed by our UAW Brother, Commander Greg Bedford, is committed to a five year plan for the property which is solely supported by donations from businesses, community organizations, labor organizations and individuals like you and I. Donations to help support their efforts and ensure the future of this incredible resource for Veterans, their families and the general public to remember, to learn, and to experience the incredibly moving ceremonies held there, can be made online at [honoringforever.org](http://honoringforever.org) or by mail to VNMS&M, P.O. Box 26, Arcola, IN 46804.

Remarks were made that day by Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters, Hagerman Chairman Emeritus Mark Hagerman, Visit Fort Wayne Representative Dan O’Connell and our own UAW Local 2209 President Holli Murphy. A special proclamation of support from the city of Fort Wayne was presented by Councilperson Geoff Paddock. Dozens of local veterans and their families were present including many Combat Veterans from WWII, Korea,





# Groundbreaking



Vietnam and our current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The homecoming for our Vietnam Veterans wasn't proper, as a Nation we have in the past failed to honor the sacrifices made by the men and women who served their country during a very difficult and troubling time for our nation. We can only hope to change that moving forward and show our respect and support for them. This Wall is one step in the right direction to honor those who sacrificed so much in service to our beloved country.

The Wall is also known as a Healing Wall, and it will be the only replica within a 250 mile radius. There are 1,532 Hoosiers listed on the Wall. The installation will feature a kiosk tasked with the ability to identify the location of names on the wall.

If you haven't visited the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum yet, you owe it to yourself to add it to your destination list. It is located in Fort Wayne (address above). It's easy to find, and a beautiful, peaceful area to wander, to remember our Veterans, and to teach your children (or each other) some American History. You may even find Veterans there who would be happy to share their stories with you.



*Photos by Gary Schepp*





# A Few Dollars Can Stop Crime

by Katie Holder

Crime Stoppers was started in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1976 after Michael Carmen was shot while working at a local gas station. After two weeks without any leads the local police turned to the community for help. Within 72 hours, a male called in with a tip on a car leaving the scene of the crime but he was uncomfortable with sharing his identity so the police knew hiding the identity of their tipsters was important. Today, Crime Stoppers has 1700 programs in over 32 countries.

According to the website [crimestoppersfw.org](http://crimestoppersfw.org), they define Crime Stoppers as a community program geared toward public involvement in the fight against crime. It offers cash rewards up to \$2500.00 and anonymity to citizens who provide information to Crime Stoppers.

Most of the information received by Crime Stoppers is via the telephone. Two easy-to-remember numbers, (436-STOP and 1-800-237-STOP)

were set up for Crime Stoppers. Both numbers are manned by the Greater Fort Wayne Crime Stoppers staff.



Fort Wayne Crime Stoppers covers eleven Indiana counties (Allen, Adams, Wells, Wabash, Grant, Whitley, Lagrange, Huntington, DeKalb, Noble and Steuben). When a call is received by Crime Stoppers, a fact sheet is filled out. The date, time and brief summary of the caller's information is included. The call taker then assigns the caller a number. This number is used in subsequent calls to Crime Stoppers and if and when any reward is paid to the caller. All callers may remain anonymous, with no pressure to reveal their identity, and still collect their rewards.

If a caller's information results in the arrest and indictment of an offender of the apprehension of a wanted person, contact with the caller will be through a call back system and arrangements made so that the person

can receive his reward in cash and preserve his anonymity.


The Crime Stoppers Board of Directors, composed of citizens from all areas of the community, oversees the operation of the program and approves the rewards to be paid. The determination of these rewards is based on information presented by the Police Coordinators. The Board of Directors does not know who called in the information - only the facts of the case and the caller's Crime Stopper number.

Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization and is funded entirely through public donations, and contributions are tax deductible. Crime Stoppers does work, and without spending any tax dollars but they need your help. If you feel like donating to this program you can by donating on their website or by mailing in donations to:

Greater Fort Wayne Crime Stoppers Inc  
One E Main St Suite 108  
Ft Wayne IN 46802

## Local 2209

### Chaplaincy Committee

 Do you need someone to  
Pray for you?  
Pray with you?  
Or just a kind ear to listen?

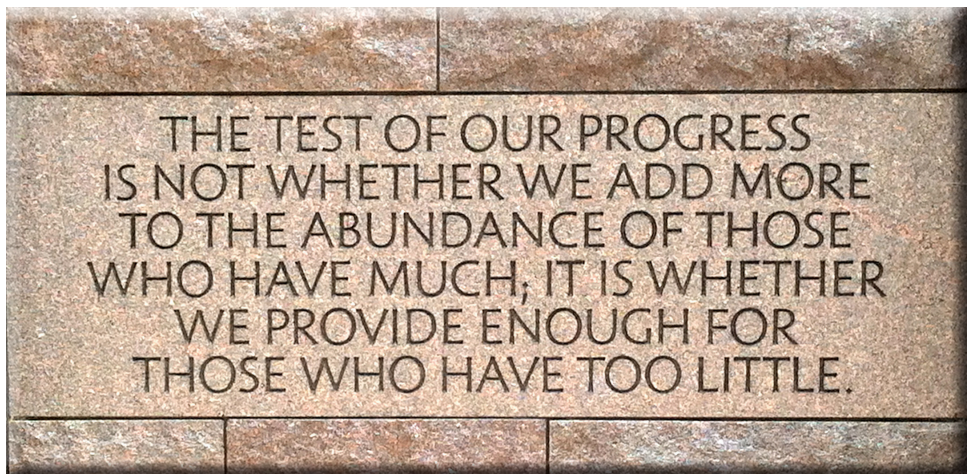
The Chaplaincy Committee  
is here to serve, day and night.  
Don't hesitate to call.

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.



*Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1937*

*He who says it cannot be done should get out of the way of the one who is doing it. • Chinese Proverb*

# WORK FAMILY MATTERS

The following article is very well written, and unfortunately, probably relatable to many. Both men and women. The positive in this, is that Trauma is treatable. In many cases without medications. Please do not carry the burden alone. Seek the help that is available to you with your negotiated benefits!



IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR WORK FAMILY TEAM, CALL 260-672-2011/2951. Get help today.

Sis, the inability to receive support from others is a trauma response.

Your “I don’t need anyone; I’ll just do it all myself” conditioning is a survival tactic. You needed it to shield your tender heart from abuse, neglect, betrayal, and disappointment from those who could not or would not be there for you.

From the parent who was absent by choice or by the circumstance of working three jobs to feed and house you.

From the lovers who offered sexual intimacy but never offered a safe haven that honored your heart.

From the friendships that always took more than they gave.

From all the situations when someone told you “we’re in this together” then abandoned you, leaving you to pick up the pieces when shit got real, leaving you to handle your part and their part, too.

From the lies. The betrayals.

You learned along the way that you just couldn’t really trust people. Or that you could trust people, but only up to a certain point.

Ultra-independence is a \*trust issue.\*

You learned: if I don’t put myself in a situation where I rely on someone, I won’t have to be disappointed when they don’t show up for me, or when they drop the ball... because they will always drop the ball sooner or later, right?

You may even have been intentionally taught this protection strategy by generations of hurt women who came before you. #generationaltrauma #ancestraltrauma

Ultra-independence is a preemptive strike against heart-break.

So, you don’t trust anyone.

And you don’t trust yourself, either, to choose people.

To trust is to hope, to trust is vulnerability.

“Never again,” you vowed.

But no matter how you dress it up and display it proudly to make it seem like this level of independence is what you always wanted to be, in truth it’s your wounded, scarred, broken heart behind a protective brick wall.

Impenetrable. Nothing gets in. No hurt gets in. But no love gets in either.

Fortresses and armor are for those in battle, or who believe the battle is coming.

It’s trauma response.

The good news is trauma that is acknowledged is trauma that can be healed.

You are worthy of having support.

You are worthy of having true partnership.

You are worthy of love.

You are worthy of having your heart held.

You are worthy to be adored.

You are worthy to be cherished.

You are worthy to have someone say, “You rest. I got this.”

And actually, deliver on that promise.

You are worthy to receive.

You are worthy to receive.

You are worthy to receive.

You are worthy.

Worthy, sis.

You are worthy.

You don’t have to earn it.

You don’t have to prove it.

You don’t have to bargain for it.

You don’t have to beg for it.

You are worthy.

Worthy.

Simply because you exist.

Written by, Jamilla White, Psychic & Life Coach

Ultra-independence is  
a trauma response.











## Trunk or Treat

by Amy Houston

Trunk or Treat, like everything this year, looked a little different than usual! Due to production Saturday and the pandemic, numbers were way down. But the families who came had a great time with plenty of sunshine and social distancing! There was a photo booth, popular characters making balloon animals and of course lots of trunks filled with candy for the trunk or treaters! This event took place on October 24, 2020.

*Photos by Gina DAgostino*





## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by Katie Holder



This story starts when my union sister Amy Houston reached out to me about writing an article for Local Voices spotlighting Janice Hodges, and her new business (H&D Transportation Service). I knew of Janice, but not well so I was curious to see where this story would go. Janice has shown me her tenacity and strength, she started something from nothing and that's an incredible feat and something we could all learn from.

Hodges started with General Motors in 1978 right out of high school, at a plant in Los Angeles, California. I can only imagine how after this plant closed and she was transferred to Janesville, Wisconsin in 1986 how she must have felt. The Janesville plant closed as well after Janice worked there 25 years, and she transferred to Fort Wayne where she currently works on 1st shift in Quality.

When asked what sparked her idea to start a business Hodges answered, "My spark for my idea is spiritual. Being busy keeps you from connecting to God. Once I was quarantined I had a lot of quiet time to actually hear what my divine purpose is, which happens to tie into my business."

Janice credits her family, SEED Fort Wayne (Summit City Entrepreneur and Enterprise District), and following her purpose to serve, as the help that she needed to get her business started. H&D Transportation Service was started November 1st, 2020, and she chose the H&D name for Hodges and Davis, her husband. Her passion comes from being raised in the south where her mother was a Headstart teacher whose devotion was caring for and helping others. Her mother would visit elderly, and keep them company and Janice and her sister would tag along. This was the time in Janice's life she discovered that

she had the same desire to serve the disabled, elderly, and youth.

"The response from the community about my business is very positive, it's a much needed service for transporting clients to appointments," says Hodges. Janice's biggest accomplishments have been receiving an Elevation grant of 1,000 dollars, and being informed that she was awarded a 15,000 dollar grant for advertising and marketing. Janice continued, "The SEED program offered an assessment test which explained to me why I'm wired to be who I am, that is probably my biggest accomplishment in this process it showed me who I am and why I do what I do"

It hasn't always been easy though, some of the hurdles that Janice faces are getting certificates, licenses, and hiring a dependable driver who cares as much as she does or more for

helping her clients. Her biggest regret is not researching the ins and outs of starting a business before diving in but I think this shows just how determined she is. She worked through these hardships and made it to the other side in spite of it all.

It was a pleasure for me to learn more about Janice, and to discover her passion in life. I appreciate the time she gave me and it shows me the importance of helping others when we can and listening to that voice inside that inspires us. After finishing this story Janice contacted me and shared with me that Good Housekeeping Magazine is featuring her in an upcoming article that will be in the March issue in 2021. I look forward to reading this article and I wish Janice, and her business all the best in the future!





# Capitalism versus Labor (Part One of Two)

by Scott La Mar • edited by Julie DeLong

Many people are led to believe that they are part of the middle class economically but in reality, there are only the capitalists at the top running the country, and then the rest of us, the laborers. The capitalists intentionally hold the big carrot out there for us to try to grab and catch it, always just out of reach while striving to be in the fictitious so-called middle class.

Whether you work in the fast food industry at the lowest level of compensation; a small manufacturing facility compensated a little more; a larger manufacturing facility with the highest compensations of the industry; or the supervisor, general manager, plant manager of a great manufacturer at various increasing compensations; we are all just laborers for the capitalists at the top. If any of us fail to provide our labor services to the best of our abilities, we are at the mercy of our employer of being terminated.

The capitalists must remember that without labor they would have nothing. Labor is not looking to run the country and take over the world as the capitalists are. Labor is only asking for a fair share for the labor they provide to make the capitalists' society prosper.

There are few avenues laborers have to further their efforts to gain a small piece of their fair share of the profits from the capitalists. One avenue is the Labor Union. A Labor Union represents the individuals in collective bargaining groups in which it is made up of groups established to represent many laborers' interest between the employees (laborers) and the employer (company). The purpose is to advance the conditions of laborers' compensations to have better wages and benefits such as: health care, vacations,

holidays, working hours, overtime compensation, shift premiums, work rules, working conditions, attendance policies, job classifications, and many

other things. Moreover, every few years Labor Unions negotiate labor contracts between laborers in a large group and the company. These contracts are usually between a year to several years long and nowadays, 3, 4 and even 5-year contracts are common.

There are many Labor Unions representing laborers such as Teamsters, United Steel Workers of America (USWA), United Automotive Workers, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers (UAW), Teachers Union, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), and a vast number of other different unions. These private sector unions are regulated by the 1935 National Labor Relations Act

(NLRA) which has been amended and overseen by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Labor Unions peaked in the 1950s in the United States and have declined since that time. This is a sad fact of union decline when capitalist employers are gradually forcing smaller wages and benefits to the labor class of people. As laborers, we must remember we outnumber the capitalists and if all laborers band together, we have the power to obtain our fair share of the fruits of our labor.

Occasionally, the Labor Union must go on strike to achieve their goals of holding on to and/or increase wages and benefits. These strikes can get ugly, but they are sometimes necessary for the laborers to get companies to collectively bargain with laborers fairly. At times, these strikes only takes hours or a few days and other times weeks and even many months to arrive at an agreement. These unions do not always win nor do the companies always win. Hopefully, they can compromise in the end and both be satisfied.



Julie DeLong & Scott La Mar



*Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men, for the nastiest of reasons, will somehow work for the benefit of us all.*

• Economist John Maynard Keynes

# Thank the Election Workers

by Gary Schepp

The time, effort, and dedication as an election worker is vital to American democracy. We can especially thank members of UAW Local 2209 and their family that took on this task. They included active member DeAnna Watson; Retirees Gerald Babbitt, Moses Jones, and Alice Mull; and family member Britney Breidenstein. There have been other UAW members working the polls in the past.

Election workers in Allen County perform the functions of Inspector, Judge, or Clerk. They are paid but not sufficiently for the time they put in which exceeds the 12 hour voting period. The pay has not changed since at least 2008. The election workers are required to be there at 5:00 am and do not close the polling place until after every voter in line by 6:00 pm has voted.

Indiana provides at a minimum 1 Inspector, 2 Judges, and 2 Clerks at each polling place. Judges and Clerks are allocated 1 each from the Democratic and Republican Party. Additional Judges and Clerks are proportionally allocated across the county. The Inspector position is appointed by the political party receiving the most votes in the county for the last Secretary of

State election. In Allen County, all Inspector positions are assigned by the Republican Party.

The night before the election the Inspector and 1 Judge from both the Democratic and Republican Party inspect and setup the voting machines. This involves making sure that each machine is assembled and programmed for the assigned precinct(s) and candidates. There can be more than one precinct assigned to a polling place. The machines are next zeroed out, and a paper receipt is printed and signed by the Inspector and both Judges.

Throughout the process at each polling place, election workers from both the Democratic and Republican Party work side by side. This helps ensure accountability.

After the last person has voted, the Inspector and Judges do a printout of the results for each machine. It includes all candidates for their respective election from President, to Governor all the way down to local elections. A worksheet is filled out that includes a count of voters signed in by precinct. The machines are disassembled and a security seal is attached.



The last step involves the Inspector and the Judge from the other political party to return election supplies to election headquarters that night.

Despite Covid-19, we were able to fill all 256 positions in 11 days on the Democratic side. This was due to the hard work of John Morgan making calls to assign the workers and the additional people expressing interest in working the polls. It did not include cancellations occurring prior or even on the day of the election. Making calls to nearly 300 people and confirming their data is not an easy task.

The information provided is based on my direct experience with assigning election workers in Allen County since 2008. Additional experience includes serving as Chair of UAW Local 2209 Election Committee, involved with organizing drives for company and state employees, and observing union elections conducted by the NLRB.

## Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor - December 7, 1941

*Excerpts of Address by Walter P. Reuther broadcasted over the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company, December 28, 1940. (The year before Pearl Harbor was bombed.)*

This is Labor's Plan, as worked out by the automotive workers of Detroit and presented to President Roosevelt by Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Why should labor concern itself, some may ask, with speeding plane production? Labor is concerned because it believes a strengthened defense essential to our country's safety

in this era of axis aggression. Labor is concerned because it believes that our country's main defense is the little fortress isle holding off the bombing planes of Nazism on the other side of the Atlantic. Labor is concerned because wherever Nazism is victorious the precious liberties that differentiate free men and free workers from slaves are destroyed.

The automotive industry, the mass production marvel of the world, over a year's period works at 50 percent of its total maximum capacity. We believe the other 50 percent can be adapted to the manufacture of planes.



England's battles, it used to be said, were won on the playing fields of Eton. America's can be won on the assembly lines of Detroit.

*Source: The Walter P. Reuther Labor Archives at Wayne State Walter Reuther Library.*





2021 GMC Denali  
Photo by Linda Riedel Ellis

## Crafting & Comradery

by Amanda Meier

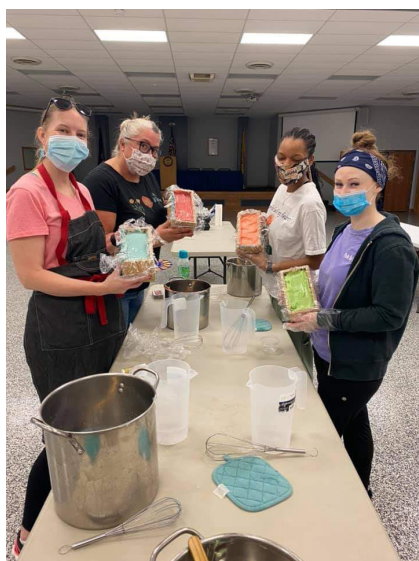
This year has been a whirlwind for all of us. Last fall we spent 40 days on the picket line fighting for our future. It was an emotional experience that many of us had never encountered. When the strike was over, we walked back into the plant and began building trucks again, just like we always have.

We got back into the grind and started moving forward, only to be hit with another life changing experience a few months later. Just as normalcy returned after the strike, we faced a layoff due to the pandemic, again, something many of our members had never been through. This pandemic has been life altering for all of us, from loss of life to shuttered businesses to holidays without our families.

During the strike, our union hall was a safe space where

people found comfort and solidarity. President Murphy and our Leadership team have made it a priority to maintain that space for our membership, because after all, the Union Hall is YOUR hall.

With the rising destruction of COVID-19, life became more stressful and mental health started suffering. We wanted to provide some comfort and fellowship, so we organized safe, socially distant opportunities for our members at our Hall.



In November and December we offered multiple DIY and art classes for our members to enjoy. Amy DeLap, owner of Kiss My Grass Soapery brought her soap making skills to Local 2209, and gave us easy step-by-step instructions to create our own soaps. Our members had a lot of fun and they left with

a new skill plus handmade soap that smelled amazing.

A few weeks later, local artist Nicki Meier from Earth & Wear By Nicki brought her handmade ceramics to the Hall for an ornament and magnet painting class, just in time for the holidays. It was fun to see how crafty and artistic our members are and the beautiful one of a kind pieces they created.

If you missed these classes when they were offered, keep your eye open for more opportunities coming in the future!

Thank you to Kiss My Grass Soapery and Earth & Wear By Nicki for offering our members some fun and fellowship during these uncertain times. As a union, we pride ourselves on supporting American made, union made products and services, and we have always lifted up local small businesses in our communities. Let's keep that in mind and continue to show all of the local small businesses some much deserved love and support as we move forward.





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

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