

MARCH/APRIL  
2022

# LOCAL VOICES

UAW LOCAL 2209

**HISTORY  
OF IRISH  
LABOR  
LEADERS**



**ELECTION  
NOTICE**

# Local Voices

## UAW Local 2209

Chartered 1985



### UAW Local 2209 Executive Board

#### Officers

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

Holli Murphy  
Jim Peters  
Amy Houston  
Shane B. Davis  
David Bartkowiak  
Melinda Ladd  
Amanda Meier  
Manuel Anzaldúa  
Jamie Teller

#### At-Large Board Members

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

Rich LeTourneau  
Mike McClain  
Nick Courts  
DaVontae Williams  
Ricky Hamm  
Tony Brandt  
Dominic Shraeder  
Jorge Guerrero  
Alex Perez  
Melvin Lipscomb  
Dave Poor  
Steve Turner  
Christopher Phillips

Unit 7 - Chair (Avancez VAA)  
Unit 8 Chair (MPS)  
Unit 9 (Superior Essex)  
Unit 1 Zone Shift 1  
Unit 1 Zone Shift 2  
Unit 1 Zone Shift 3

#### Retiree Member at Large

Retiree Chapter Chair

Diana Bovie-Koomler

### Newspaper & Communication Committee Layout Editor • Copy Editors & Feature Editors

LeMann Dea • Heather Edwards •  
Kisha Pulverenti • Twila Robinson • Michael Scott

### 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 2nd Saturday in even months. Publications will be in odd 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.



### UAW Local 2209 Publication

PO Box 579 • Roanoke IN • 46783

#### Union Hall

Phone: 260-672-2209

Fax: 260-672-9220

Email: [info@uaw2209.org](mailto:info@uaw2209.org)

Hours: Monday - Friday 6:30 am - 3:30 pm

#### Unit 1 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



## 2209 Community

### Pantry

Please take what you need  
and donate what you can

#### Recommended Items



- Peanut Butter
- Bread
- Jelly
- Crackers
- Pop top soups & canned goods
- Microwave Meals
- Boxed Meals
- Fruit cups
- Trail Mix
- Granola Bars
- Pouches of flavored tuna
- Canned Meat
- Beef Jerky
- water
- juice boxes
- Rice



- Dry Pasta
- Sauces
- Cereal
- Powdered Milk
- Ramen
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Body Wipes
- Menstrual Products
- Baby Food
- Diapers & Wipes
- Hats & Gloves

### Local Voices Deadline

Friday, April 8, 2022

To submit articles

email: [LocalVoices@uaw2209.org](mailto:LocalVoices@uaw2209.org) or drop it off  
at the Union Hall



*Holli Murphy*  
President



*Jim Peters*  
Vice President

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU! Off to another busy year already!

We have been heavily involved in many projects throughout the community and here at the union hall!

Our standing committees are really making a difference out there! Thank you to new Local Voices team for stepping up to create such an informative publication.

Our Consumer Affairs committee is working hard delivering a workshop for our members to learn how to balance a budget and work on financial literacy.

Our Veterans Committee is gearing up for a Veterans Resource Fair on April 19 to provide all kinds of information not only our Veterans but also in our community.

Our Community Services committee is involved with many organizations within our community and even lending a helping hand to our retirees!

Our Education Committee has been very busy on ways to educate the membership through podcasts and various Union 101 classes offered to all 9 units of Local 2209.

Our Bylaws committee just went through a class of Roles of Officers taught by Amy Richardson, Education Rep from Region 2B. Conservation and Recreation committee is working hard on the Wild Game Feed scheduled for April 9.

The Chaplaincy committee continues to lift our members in prayer, as so many of us are going through something in our lives.

Thank you to all of you! You are truly the building blocks of this Local Union and I appreciate YOU!!!!



Hello Brothers and Sisters of Local 2209!

On February 6th 2022, we ratified the contract for RUAN Trucking, Unit VI. The members passed their contract by a 100% vote! I would like to thank our Region 2B Servicing Rep, Ryan Hiestand and Unit VI Chairman, Tony Brandt for their help with this great agreement for our members.

The Amalgamated units do not have National Agreements, so when we negotiate contracts for Amalgamated Units, we negotiate EVERYTHING from wages to benefit packages.

Beginning in March, we will begin negotiating our Unit IX (Superior Essex) contract.

Our goal is to continue education for the Amalgamated units through specifically designed classes for them.

We are also open to organizing more units in our area. If you know someone that works for a non-union shop and would like to discuss organizing, please have them contact me or President Murphy at the union hall, 260-672-2209, or email, [organizing@uaw2209.org](mailto:organizing@uaw2209.org).

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Vice President.

In Solidarity,  
Jim Peters





**Rich LeTourneau**

*Shop Chair Unit 1 (General Motors)*

# Why Should I Pay Union Dues?

How many times have you heard, “I don’t get in trouble, I don’t call the committeeman and I really don’t need the union, so why should I pay dues?” How many times do you hear people say if it wasn’t a law, they wouldn’t pay car insurance either?

So, let’s compare the two, because in reality, they are both insurance policies that protect you, but one of these policies pays its dividends back weekly, monthly and annually. On average, Americans pay \$900 a year in car insurance and that is without accidents or tickets. The average homeowner’s policy is \$1200 without previous claims

A tier one employee pays \$861.36 in annual union dues and a tier two pays an average of \$541.36 annually. Does your car and homeowners’ insurance go to work for you and pay you dividends or returns on your investment?

We all know what happens when you finally have to use that insurance policy after 10 years of never having an accident. That’s right, your policy doubles or you get dropped.

We all know the same applies when you have a fire or flood in your home and you file a claim. Are those policies putting any money in your pocket or is it just putting cash in your agent’s pocket? We all know the answer to that as well.

Collective bargaining and being part of organized labor means we are in daily negotiations with the company over anything and everything. Meaning, your dues are working for you every day, whether you realize it or not.

As your Chairman, I field hundreds of questions a week. Almost 100% of those questions get answered after we go back and negotiate something the company overlooked. On a larger scale, your dues are working for you and you may not realize it. For example, your investment of \$861.36 and \$541.86 per year in dues paid you back \$100,000 in profit sharing since it started, cash bonuses and signing bonuses over the last four-year agreement. This does not include grievance money you may have received during the year.

Profit sharing was negotiated by the UAW. If you, unfortunately, have to visit the hospital for an emergency operation like an open-heart surgery, it will cost well over \$100,000. You couldn’t afford it without the UAW negotiated health care plan. That is your union dues going to work for you. When you or your spouse bring new life into the world, the cost is thousands of dollars. Again, your negotiated health care benefits allow you to bring children into this world. When we are sick or terminal, the meds provided by our benefits are in the thousands and we pay close to nothing. Your dues dollars are working for you every day. Too many people assume that General Motors gives this to us, and you will have it whether you pay dues or not. That statement could not be any further from the truth.

Our dues dollars are what pays the International Union’s wages so they can bargain on our behalf. If those dues dried up today, who would bargain these benefits? I’m sure they wouldn’t do it for free. If you get into an argument with your committeeman, that is no reason to stop paying dues. Your union dues do not go towards paying committeemen, every committeeman is paid by the company, another negotiated benefit, otherwise our local would be bankrupt.

Too many times we don’t always see the big picture and instead focus on issues in the plant that may have pissed us off in that moment and time. Almost every one of us, at one time or another, feels we have been touched inappropriately in the ass by GM or the UAW. The fact is, if there was a better game in town, we would be at it. We all bitch a little and raise a lot of hell, but that is the beauty of collective bargaining and having a voice in the workplace. Constructive criticism makes us a better union and keeps our leadership stronger and accountable. So, before we throw the baby out with the bathwater, think about how fortunate we are compared to our non-union neighbors.

So, for those who refuse to pay dues in a union shop, they are nothing more than freeloaders. It’s like living in someone else’s house and not paying rent. Those who don’t pay dues are no longer your union brother or sister, they are just a gm employee and should be treated as such.

**THE BEST  
INVESTMENT  
I EVER MADE  
WAS PAYING MY  
UNION DUES**



*Amy Houston*  
Recording Secretary



## A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

Dr Martin Luther King Jr Day has come and gone this year. We enjoyed a negotiated paid holiday to celebrate him and his accomplishments. Did you know that this Holiday is not just a day off work, but is in fact a National Day of Service?

Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service (MLK Day) is the only federal holiday that is also designated by Congress as a National Day of Service – a “day on, not a day off.” Participation in service activities has grown each year as more Americans are encouraged to provide meaningful change in their communities. Whether service meets a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or senior center, builds a sense of community or mutual responsibility. In a pandemic environment, service can take on the form of sending a meal through a meal delivery service, serving as a virtual mentor, or donating money to a charitable cause to help those who lack basic essential items.

No matter the choice, service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions and moves us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a beloved community. It breaks down barriers by bringing people from different backgrounds together and it benefits those who choose to serve. Coretta Scott King said, “The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others.”

This Federal Holiday was first observed in 1986. In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Jr Federal Holiday as a National Day of Service and changed the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort.

**“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”**  
— Martin Luther King Jr.

### UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

-CHANGES MADE BY MEMBERSHIP  
ACTION AT FEBRUARY, 2022 MEETING

**MARCH 26 @ 11AM**

-IF PRODUCTION IS SCHEDULED, IT WILL BE MARCH 27

**APRIL 23 @ 11AM**

-IF PRODUCTION IS SCHEDULED, IT WILL BE APRIL 24

UAW Local 2209  
Members!

Would you like  
to learn about  
the UAW ?



**SIGN UP FOR UAW 101!**

Email your  
Name, Phone Number, Shift  
and Class Name to  
[signup@uaw2209.org](mailto:signup@uaw2209.org)



**2209**





**Shane B. Davis**

*Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

**3rd Quarter 2021**

Beginning Balance	\$1,816,759.16
Income	\$1,011,827.93
Expenditures	-\$1,346,332.02
Difference	-\$334,504.09
Balance	\$1,482,255.06

**January 2022**

Beginning Balance	\$1,482,255.06
Income	\$323,445.22
Expenditures	-\$311,649.72
Difference	\$11,795.50
Balance	\$1,494,050.56



**UNION-MADE EASTER**

**CANDIES:**

- Peeps
- Jelly Bellies
- Tootsie Rolls
- Laffy Taffy
- Mike and Ikes

**MEATS:**

- Butterball ham
- Hormel Honey Roasted Ham
- Chiappetti lamb
- Fischer Meats lamb


**AFLCIO.ORG/EASTER**

AFL-CIO

**UNION-MADE ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

TEXT MADE TO 235246 FOR MORE UNION-MADE PRODUCTS.

1. Jim Beam
2. Knob Creek Whiskey
3. Old Grand-Dad Whiskey
4. Budweiser
5. Shock Top
6. Miller High Life
7. Killian's
8. Rolling Rock
9. Dole fresh potatoes
10. Saag's corned beef



**UAW LOCAL 2209 MEMBERS**

**INTERESTED IN TAKING THE MONEY MATTERS CLASS?**

Email your  
**Name, Phone Number, Shift and Class Name to**  
**signup@uaw2209.org**

## *A Note from your Trustees*

We concluded our semi-annual audit on February 1 and found all the financials and property in good financial standing. As always, thank you to Financial Secretary Davis and the Local 2209 clerical staff for all the work they do preparing the necessary materials for the audit.

As a reminder, if you travel on union business and receive mileage, please return a gas receipt from your destination and include map quest directions to support the mileage reimbursement. Also please be sure to submit a z-coded timesheet where your name is visible any time you are requesting payment for union business. Thank you for entrusting us as your Trustees to secure your assets.

Melinda Ladd, Amanda Meier, & Dave Bartkowiak





*Diane Bovie-Koomler*

Retiree Chapter Chair

## Retiree Chapter Monthly Meeting

Our first Chapter meeting for 2022 will be Wednesday, April 20th. We are looking forward to getting the monthly meeting back on track safely. We hope everyone is healthy.

## Tax Returns

All retirees should receive the following IRS forms: 1) Fidelity Investments (GM Hourly Pension) 1099-R, 2) UAW Legal services at 800-482-7700 if you have not received them. The Fidelity Investments 1099-R form can also be downloaded at [www.gmbenefits.com](http://www.gmbenefits.com). If you have any questions about other forms call the Union Hall or Benefits.

## Data Security

An incident in August 2021 with Morley Companies (call center vendor) associated with the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust involved a data breach. Morley Companies mailed a notice to impacted Trust members and is offering free credit monitoring, identity theft assistance, and insurance. If you threw the letter away you can call 1-833-806-0326 and also go to their website: [www.morleynet.com/about/cyber-security-incident/](http://www.morleynet.com/about/cyber-security-incident/) The credit reporting services info can also be found at the website. This does not involve all retirees.

## Tapestry

Tapestry 2022 has been cancelled due to concerns about Covid-19. The event is being scheduled for 2023.

## Benefits

Retirees needing help with their health care coverage do not need an appointment to go into the plant. Security should be letting retirees go to the Benefits office. If there is a problem getting access let us know. The Benefit reps in the plant do a great job in helping with benefit problems.

## Dry Food Donations

Donations of dry food items are being accepted at the April Chapter meeting for the food pantry.

## 2022 Over-the Counter Products (OTC)

Every retiree and spouse should have received an OTC product catalog. The benefit allows each retiree and spouse the ability to order products up to twice each year. There is no cost for products ordered or for shipping.

For retirees/spouses on Medicare Advantage or the Non-Medicare plan, it is up to \$150 annually. The amount for each order does not need to be \$75.

If a retiree or spouse is on the Traditional Care Network Medicare plan the annual limit is \$50 and must be made with not more than twice in a year.

Comparing the value of items ordered via the product catalog you may also find it may cost more if you purchased the same items at a drug store. Making the ordered items worth more than \$150.

## Retiree Chapter Monthly Newsletter

The first Chapter monthly newsletter for 2022 was mailed in February. Please let us know if you are not receiving your newsletter. You can email [chapter2209.recsecty@gmail.com](mailto:chapter2209.recsecty@gmail.com), call/text 260-466-9962.

Each monthly newsletter has helpful information for our retirees and their spouses. Information is also provided in our Facebook group "UAW Retiree Chapter 2209 (FWA)". It can be a good resource with help from retirees familiar with our retiree benefits. When joining make sure to answer all three questions

Be Well Be Safe





## LOCAL 2209, UAW

P.O. BOX 579

• ROANOKE, INDIANA 46783

• (260) 672-2209

• FAX (260) 672-9220

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

# Election notice

## Election for Constitutional Convention Delegates

Six (6) delegates and two (2) alternates for the 38th UAW Constitutional Convention held

July 25th-July 28th, 2022, in Detroit, Michigan

The top six (6) vote getters are delegates, the next two (2) highest vote getters being alternates.

### Important Dates and Times

**Nominations &  
Acceptances:**

**Tuesday, April 19th, 2022- Friday, April 22nd, 2022  
File Nominations/Acceptances at UAW Local 2209 Union Hall,  
5890 E 900 N, Roanoke IN, during normal hall business hours  
Monday-Friday 6:30AM-3:30PM**

**Open Lottery Drawing for:  
Positioning**

**Friday, April 22nd, 2022, at 3:30p.m. at UAW Local 2209 Union Hall Ballot**

**Election:**

**Thursday June 9th, 2022, from 5 a.m. – Friday, June 10th , 2022 at 5:00 a.m.**

**Polling Place:**

**GM Fort Wayne Assembly GA & Body/Paint cafeteria areas, and UAW Local  
2209 Union Hall**

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS: ARTICLE 38, SECTION 10(b)** of the International Union UAW Constitution provides for absentee ballots only when a member is **absent for the entire election period due to a work assignment or on Union business**. Absentee Ballots must be requested, received & submitted at the union hall.

### **ABSENTEE BALLOT DEADLINE**

***Delegate Election***

Request by 5/23/2022

Return by 5/30/2022

**Article 8, Section 11 of the 2014 UAW Constitution states:** No member is eligible to serve as a delegate from her/his Local Union unless s/he has been in continuous good standing in this International Union for twelve (12) months immediately preceding the first day of the month in which the Convention is held and shall also have been a member of the Local Union electing her/him for three (3) months immediately preceding the first day of the month in which the Convention is held. For the purpose of this Section of the Constitution, members must pay their dues or secure out-of-work receipts in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

***All UAW Local 2209 members stand automatically nominated for offices for which they are otherwise eligible. You may nominate a member other than yourself; that member must accept the nomination, in writing, during the Nomination & Acceptance period on forms provided at the Union Hall.***

*All active and retired members are eligible to vote in this election.*

Bulletin approved by \_\_\_\_\_ HM \_\_\_\_\_ 2-20-2022  
Holli Murphy, President



## CAP COMMUNICATION

# EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS MATTERED

By DeAnna Watson - CAP Committee Chair



On Wednesday February 16, 2022, teachers from all over the state of Indiana flocked to the Statehouse to speak to members of the legislator about HB 1134. Also known as “Education Matters,” HB 1134 seeks to restrict teacher/student interactions and put limitations on materials used to supplement lessons that touch on topics such as sex, race, ethnicity, religion color and national origin.

To date, the original version of the bill has been amended several times due to the overwhelming response of teachers, administrators and students in opposition to the changes proposed in HB1134.

According to the Indy Star, a “watered down” version has been submitted to the Indiana State Senate’s Education Committee for consideration. The Indiana State AFL-CIO and the Indiana State Teachers Association still stand in opposition of HB1134.

Most recently through the pandemic, many parents have started to glimpse some of the struggles our educators face on a day to day, week to week basis. As a working parent, I struggle to keep track of dates, appointments, assignments, extracurriculars and all that comes with taking care of young humans. And then there is e-learning, and stuffy noses, and big emotions, and kids learning how to interact with the world. Our teachers are dealing with these issues day after day with around 25 kids! At school my girls are learning new things, they are loved and encouraged and in a safe space while I build the best trucks on the road. The provisions spelled out in HB 1134 undermine the training and passion our educators have for helping raise good humans by assuming there is an agenda to make kids feel “inferior.” I’ll believe it when I see it, and I have yet to see anything but happy kids that look forward to school.

Education matters. Teachers matter and right now they need support. Call your Indiana State Senator at 317-232-9400 to leave a message in support of Indiana teachers.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE EDUCATOR

By JL Belton

Recently, as a member of the UAW Local 2209 Education Committee, I had the opportunity to attend the “Effective Educator Training” with Amy Richardson as the instructor. The purpose of this training was to provide individuals, such as myself, with methods for relaying information to our UAW Brothers and Sisters.

Not only did I leave the training with the tools to educate others, I also found myself learning the rich history of our union and how to better serve the union.

I must compliment the entire Region 2B staff for making this event both informative as well as empowering. By the end of the training session, I felt confident I could speak to any union member regarding dues, collective bargaining, and UAW structure. If you haven’t taken advantage of any of the training courses presented by the Local Education Committee, I highly recommend you do so.

As someone who sat on the sidelines for many years and ignored these opportunities, my only regret is not getting involved sooner. I look forward to seeing all of you in upcoming courses and encourage you to sign up right away. You can submit a form using the [uaw2209.org](http://uaw2209.org) website or email [signup@uaw2209.org](mailto:signup@uaw2209.org). With any luck maybe I’ll be the one giving the lecture one day.



**KNOWLEDGE**  
**+ ACTION**  
**=**  
**POWER**

# CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Steve Lanier- Committee Chair & Janice Hodges- Co Chair

Greetings from your Civil/Human Rights Committee & Happy 2022!! The role of the C/H R committee is to assist and educate Local Union members in the elimination of all forms of discrimination in the workplace and community! Currently, we do not have any open cases to date.

In October of 2021, we sent five committee members for training to a special conference for Black Men in the Union, (BMIU), "North Meets South", in Atlanta, Georgia.

We are actively continuing training by attending the BMIU Conference in Troy, Michigan, which is presented annually by the University, Dearborn Center for Labor Studies in February, 2022!

In recognition for Black History Month in February, we completed a fundraising event to raise monies for Erin's House by selling apparel. Proceeds from this sale will help provide support for children, teens and families who are grieving from the loss of loved ones. Even if you didn't purchase a T-shirt, monetary donations are always accepted. We also have two display cases full of photos and information in celebration of Black History Month.

The cases are located in the GA Atrium and the other in the New Body Shop hallway entrance. Feel free to stop by and check it out. We welcomed three (3) new members, which brings the Civil & Human Rights Committee to 19 members! We can already see they are eager to support the other committees with whatever they need from organizing to fundraising activities throughout this coming year! Stay Blessed & Prayed Up!!



## CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MONEY MATTERS

By Alissa Williams - Consumer Affairs Committee Chair



Stress. We are all too familiar with it. Some things are out of our control when it comes to stress but there are some things we can do to help minimize it. The Consumer Affairs Committee offers a class geared towards financial responsibility and will provide you with tools to set you up for success. This class helps explain deductions on our paychecks, how to interpret your financial needs so you can properly budget, what debt is and how to conquer it, and how to plan for your future, including retirement! A UAW Benefit Rep assists the committee and helps you understand your UAW negotiated benefits, as well as a UAW Trainer to help you learn how to work the Fidelity website.

This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have for both reps. The strike of 2019, along with the pandemic has shown us that its always best to be prepared financially for the future. Everyone on this committee is passionate about making this information available to our brothers and sisters to help set up a stress-free retirement.

If you are interested in signing up for this class, please go online to <https://uaw2209.org/>. Click on the menu and then Forms. Click on Money Matters and fill out the contact information to be contacted when the next class is available. You can also email [signup@uaw2209.org](mailto:signup@uaw2209.org). No matter if you're new or have been here awhile it's never too late to get a handle on responsible money management and preparing for your future!



# UAW LOCAL 2209 RAISES OVER \$18K FOR BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS & RILEY CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

By Adam Clark

Before the holidays Local 2209 proudly donated to two great organizations. In December Big Brothers Big Sisters and Riley Children's Foundation each received donations totaling over \$18,000. Those donations came from two main events, the annual Chairman's Classic Golf Outing, and the raffle of the retired John Deere lawnmower.

Thanks to this membership's generosity and our partnering sponsors, we were able to accomplish these donations to these two great charities that support children right here in Northeast Indiana.

The following story shows the importance of how donations to Riley Children's Foundation helps children right here in Northeast Indiana. On March 5, 2013, Caitlin and Brian Faus welcomed their first child, a son named Bryson. It was the best day of their lives but in less than 24 hours, joy turned to panic when doctors told the Fauses that Bryson had a life-threatening congenital heart defect. A Life Line flight to Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health was Bryson's best chance at survival – if he survived the journey from Fort Wayne to Indianapolis.

"We were told to take pictures because they weren't sure he would make it to Riley. That was the hardest thing I'd ever heard," Caitlin said. Bryson did make it to Riley. Even now, he likes to defy the odds stacked against him. One time a friend told me, 'You can't shoot a basket 'cause you're too small! Well, I proved him wrong',



Bryson Faus

Bryson said with a smile. Soon after landing at Riley, Bryson was stabilized in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and his parents and grandparents were able to see him. When we walked through that door we could breathe a sigh of relief and know he is in the best hands possible," Caitlin said. Further testing showed that Bryson had a combination of heart defects that were extremely rare. The chances of one of them alone, an interrupted aortic arch, is one in a million. Bryson underwent his first open heart surgery at 7 days old. To date, he has had 13 surgeries on his heart and kidneys. Today, Bryson is an active 8-year-old who loves soccer, baseball, robots, and Legos. He returns to Riley for regular visits with Riley Pediatric Cardiologist Mark Hoyer, M.D., and Riley Pediatric Urologist Richard Rink, M.D. The Fauses are amazed by the genuine care of Riley's staff. "They walk in the room and it's as if they instantly know Bryson and us," Caitlin said. Bryson participates in Riley Dance Marathons and loves raising awareness. "I want to help other kids like me just in case they are afraid," he said. Bryson will need several more heart surgeries throughout his life. But for the Faus family, coming back to Riley feels like coming home. Caitlin says that walking through the hospital's doors still brings the same wave of relief as their first visit. "We're at Riley. We're good."



Representatives of Big Brothers Big Sisters



# IRISH ROOTS IN LABOR



BY MICHAEL SCOTT

Most people know that St. Patrick's Day is in March, and a lot of people say they're "Irish" on that day, but what most people don't know is how deep Irish roots run in the American labor movement. Hopefully, I can show you how influential the following four people have been in our history.



A very early example that some people might be familiar with is Mary G Harris Jones. Otherwise known as "Mother Jones". Born in Ireland in 1837 to a poor family, Mary knew what it was like to be treated like a second-class citizen. So, she started her own campaign for miners, railroad workers, and finally all laborers. Her efforts were so thorough that they arrested her in 1902 and called her "the most dangerous woman in America". She was one of the biggest opponents of child labor in America. In 1903, she organized the "Children's Crusade" which was composed of children working in the silk mills and mines marching from Kensington, Philadelphia to Oyster Bay, New York. Which was the hometown of then-President Theodore Roosevelt. Mother Jones was an activist until her death on November 30, 1930, and is buried in the Union Miners Cemetery in Mount Olive, Illinois.

Teddy Gleason was born in New York City to a family of longshoremen. Being the oldest of 13, he dropped out of school in the seventh grade to work on the docks.



In 1931, after the Great Depression, wages were cut and Teddy, along with some co-workers, were blacklisted after stopping work. After the New Deal was passed, it allowed Teddy to resume work on the docks and he then became a member of the ILA. In 1963, he became their president. Known as an excellent negotiator, he could secure guaranteed income for workers affected by increasing automation. Teddy was president of the ILA until 1987 at 87.



George Meany was the first president of the AFL-CIO from 1955 to 1979. Born in Harlem, New York. George was the son of a union plumber and left school at an early age to help provide for his family. In doing so, he chose his father's trade of plumber and became a journeyman in 1915. It didn't take him long to become very involved in his local union and by 1934 he was already helping enact more labor-friendly bills and social reform bills. He made major attacks against corruption in the unions and established a code of ethics and practices for all affiliates. He also took major steps in erasing racial discrimination in the labor movement.

Under his leadership, the AFL-CIO vigorously supported the OSHA act of 1970 until it became law. He also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1963). Meany died at 86 in 1980.



John Sweeney was the son of Irish immigrants born in 1934. His mother was a domestic worker and his father was a bus driver and a member of the Transport Workers Union. He joined the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 32B in 1961 after studying economics at Iona College. In 1980, they elected him president of the SEIU and had a major hand in boosting membership to over one million (a 75 percent increase). There was a decline in many American unions, and this played a large role in his ability to eventually win the AFL-CIO presidency. He realized early on that to be effective, you had to be visible and his strategy was to contribute millions of dollars to various 1996 political campaigns. He remained in office until he stepped down in 2009. Sweeney was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

These four are just some of the many Irish people that have had a major hand in growing unions, the middle-class, as well as equal rights. I could only give the very briefest of information about the subjects, and I would encourage anyone to read more about their lives and struggles. If you take the day to celebrate and rightfully relax, just remember that a few people from such humble beginnings have had a lasting impact we in organized labor still feel today.



Local 2209

# UAW/GM SKILLED TRADES APPRENTICESHIP READINESS CERTIFICATION



Fort Wayne Assembly

The National Parties have announced the details of the new Apprentice Placement Program – STARC. The Online Training Partner is Penn Foster College. All current GM employees are eligible to participate. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate, or have the satisfactory equivalent.

Effective October 1, 2021 - The National Parties have expanded program eligibility to include external candidates – those who do not currently work at GM as a Salary, Permanent, In-Progression, or Temporary employee. Outside Applicants must first apply online at search-careers.gm.com and successfully complete the pre-employment assessment to be eligible for participation in the STARC program. Classes are between 8 weeks and 14 weeks long with an estimated class time of 10 hours per week. Classes 1 & 2 are \$350 each, classes 3 and 4 are \$375 each.

TAP Eligible employees may use this benefit to pay for classes. All others must participate at their own expense.

Classes are self-paced. Students may work ahead. Semesters start the first Monday of each month and are a maximum of 16 weeks long. Students must complete each class with a score of 75% or higher for Manufacturing Trades, 80% or higher for Engineering Trades. Each class has a proctored final exam. Students may request credit for Class 4 Intermediate Algebra. Students who wish to do so must submit official transcripts showing passing grade in college level Intermediate Algebra within 21 days of enrollment to be considered by the UAW/GM National Skilled Trades Committee for credit. Students who satisfactorily complete all 4 classes receive their STARC Certification and are put on the placement lists in the trades and locations of their choice. Further details may be found in 2019 UAW/GM National Agreement.

## There are four required classes:

Semester 1 Class 1 - Basic Arithmetic/Shop Math

Class 2 - Drafting/Machine Tool Blueprint Reading

Semester 2 Class 3 - Skilled Trades Prep/Related Overview

Class 4 - Intermediate Algebra

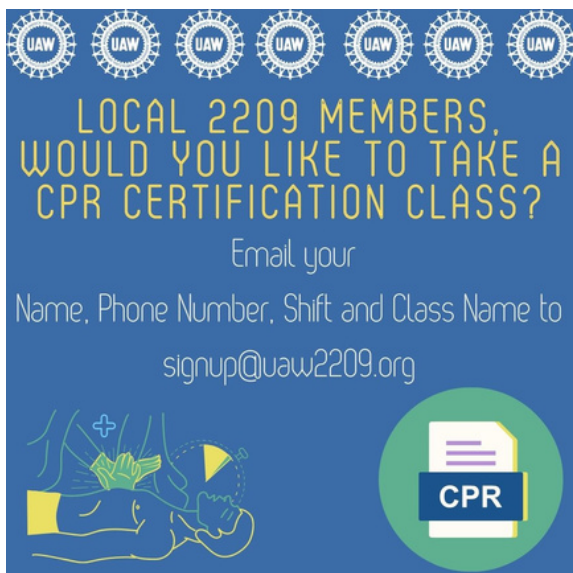
**Penn Foster College web address is: [www.pennfoster.edu/partners/GM-UAW](http://www.pennfoster.edu/partners/GM-UAW)**

For TAP eligible employees the TAP web address is: <https://UAWGM.EdAssist.com>

Username: UAWGM Password: benefits4you


For more information about the STARC Program contact GM Apprentice Coordinator Laura Jacoby at [laura.jacoby@gm.com](mailto:laura.jacoby@gm.com) or UAW Local 2209 Apprentice Chair Matt Sterk at [matthew.sterk@gm.com](mailto:matthew.sterk@gm.com).

For more information about TAP contact UAW Local 2209 JTR Joe Barker at [joe.barker@gm.com](mailto:joe.barker@gm.com) or Phillip Ratkos at [phillip.ratkos@gm.com](mailto:phillip.ratkos@gm.com).



LOCAL 2209 MEMBERS,  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A  
CPR CERTIFICATION CLASS?

Email your  
Name, Phone Number, Shift and Class Name to  
[signup@uaw2209.org](mailto:signup@uaw2209.org)





**TAE KWON DO  
AT UAW LOCAL 2209**

For over 25 years we have been offering FREE  
Tae Kwon Do classes to our members and their  
families on Tuesdays & Thursdays from  
4:30pm-6pm. This class is open to anyone  
from 6 years old to 100 (even over 100!).  
No experience necessary. If you have any  
questions please call the hall and we will get  
you in touch with the instructors.  
Gerald McDonough & Sheldon Cherry.

**2209**



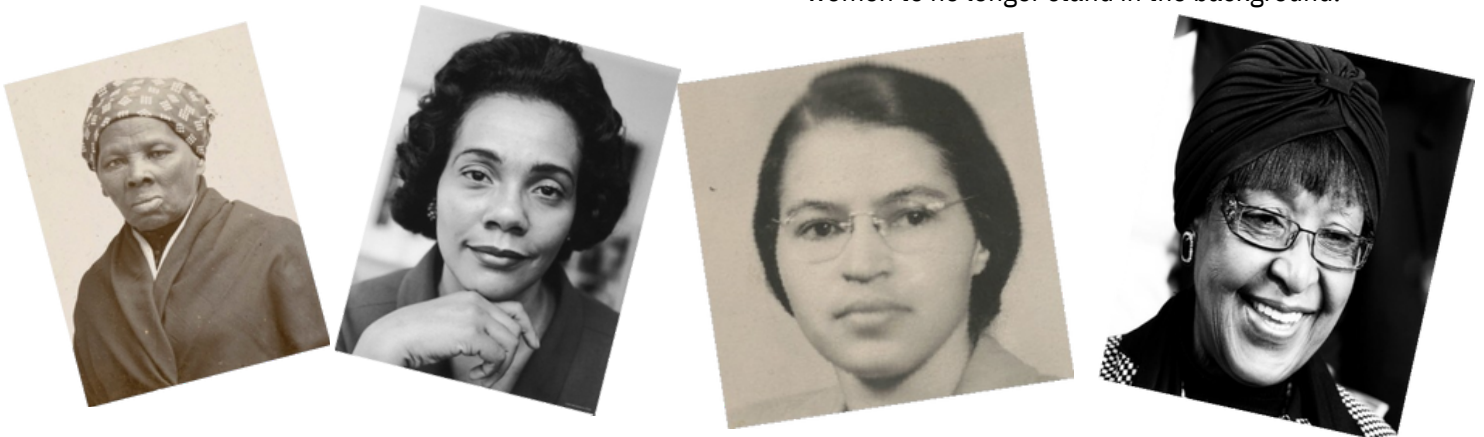
# Women In History

By Beverly Henry - Women's Committee Chair



Women in history bring to my mind, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Coretta Scott King, and Winnie Mandela just to name a few. Those women took stances where others had not. Strong African American women that had to lose before they won and staying strong enough, long enough. Salute! Then Oprah Winfrey, Judge Judy, Judge Mablean, and women of that magnitude crosses my mind. They held seats on television that only men had held prior to them. Now that they have paved the way, endured, and withstood the test of time, many have come behind these greats to do the very same. Salute! Presently women making history brings to my mind Michelle Obama and Kamala Scott Harris. Michelle Obama, 1st Lady to the 1st African American elected President of the USA and Kamala Scott Harris, the first African American elected Vice President in the USA.. To have been alive to witness the latter two women set out to run a race never won by someone fitting their description is one thing, but for my daughters to have witnessed it makes me very emotional. It makes me emotional and overjoyed for them to see first-hand that it can be done. I am always trying to lead by example for my daughters, but these ladies have come along and opened doors that make me strive even more. Salute! Our very own plant and local union have some pretty amazing women that are making history. For example, Tawanna Scruggs Cottrell, Gretchen Fox, Katie McFarland and Azishia Sease to name a few hired in as hourly and are now Shift Leaders in management. They have changed sides, but non the less making strides and proving that women can do it too if not better in a male-dominated field. Our very own Assistant Plant Manager, Cherry Weiland started from the bottom, now she is here at Fort Wayne Assembly second in command! I just have to give props to those ladies for exemplifying it can be done. Your past does not dictate your future. Salute!

Last but, not least our union has trail blazed with some of the finest women you will ever come across making history in a male-dominated field. I think of Twila Snow Robinson, Amy Houston, Janet Hershberger, and those that I don't even know but see as Skilled Trades in our plant. There are not very many women doing what they do, but we definitely have some of the best women doing it. I think of Gwen Winston, the first African American Financial Secretary at our Local. It wasn't easy for her while running the race, but she endured, persevered, and won! I think of the female committee ladies that have now taken the baton to represent our members. These ladies are rising up!! Salute! We have breast cancer survivors, that have been through hell and back, yet still showing up to work every day without fail. Salute! We have women that have left their families, and followed their jobs so that they can continue to provide for their families. That takes courage and love to go into the land of the unknown to finish what you started for the ones depending on you. Salute! There's only one female currently holding the Health & Safety position, Brenda Marshall Robinson is her name. Salute! Amy Richardson, daughter of the late and great Regan Richardson, started at this local as a temp and now holds an International UAW Position!! This young lady applied pressure out the gate. Salute! Holli Murphy, the first Local 2209 President, is the first elected female to ever hold the position to date. Talking about history being made and I was here for it! She experienced bumps in the road, but she dusted herself off and ran for a position never held by a female at our Local and won by being the people's choice! Even though this position comes with highs & lows. Holli is always pushing onward and upward for the betterment of the entire union body. Salute! Women in history, women making history, women leading the charge and taking charge have built the platform for women to no longer stand in the background.



# GETTING MILES ATHLETIC CLUB

By Ryan Bultemeier

For the past year, the *Getting Miles Athletic Club* has represented Local 2209 and Fort Wayne Assembly employees and friends in everything from 5k fun runs to full Ironman competitions. We are endurance athletes of all abilities and fitness levels. We promote fitness and friendship, as well as share training ideas and race experiences.

2021 was a great first year for us. We represented UAW Local 2209 in several several local and regional events.



The Fleet Feet Ugly Sweater Run is a free un-timed fun run hosted by the local Fleet Feet Running Store. Participants run or walk the route the sidewalks in downtown Fort Wayne wearing their most festive holiday apparel. There's a suggested route but people don't always follow it. The only admission fee to the event is a canned food donation to Community Harvest Food Bank. Runners were able to donate 1,000 pounds of food! The Ugly Sweater Run is an annual event that open to participants of all fitness levels. There's no declared winner so everybody wins at this awesome event!



15 members from Team Getting Miles also ran the muddy trails of Chain-O-Lakes State Park in the 25th Annual Huff 50k (31 mile) Trail/Relay Race. Four teams of three ran the 50k relay and three runners ran the 50k solo trail race. The trail conditions weren't ideal but everybody started with positive attitudes finished strong. Several people finished with personal bests in both time and distance!



We have several events planned for 2022. The Getting Miles Fun Run Series includes two runs in the Spring and two runs in the Fall. These these fun runs/walks are free and open to anybody who registers. You can find them on the Getting Miles page at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Check out the Free Fun Run/walk Series! Register and complete four events to win a fun finisher medal!

We will also be hosting the Second Annual Beer Run at the Union Hall immediately following a Union meeting this summer!

If you want more information about the Getting Miles Athletic Club you can find us on Facebook and at [www.gettingmiles.com](https://www.gettingmiles.com).



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**GETTING  
MILES  
FREE  
FUN RUN  
SERIES!**

# FRIENDLY FACES

## ● YOUR UAW FAMILY ●



**ED FREISE**

Ed is a Bodyshop Toolmaker who began his journey as a machine repairman at Pittsburgh Local 544. He transferred to Fort Wayne in production as a Relief Operator in trim, motor line and final. Thanks to the UAW, Ed was given the opportunity to return to his tools. Fort Wayne does not have Machine Repair as a trade option so Ed became a JIT (Journeyman In Training) where he worked closely with current Journeymen/women for 3000 hours. Upon completion Ed earned his journeyman card in the toolmaker trade. When asked what his favorite part of working at GM is, he simply stated "the money, it provides a comfortable living and allows me to take care of my family". A couple fun facts about Ed: He prefers our GMC Sierra over our Chevy Silverado, and he has been announcing rodeos for 6 years. He will be celebrating his 25th anniversary in February with his lovely wife Carrie. His eldest daughter is an Indianapolis Police Officer and his youngest daughter is currently attending Frank Phillips College in Borger, Texas on a full ride Rodeo scholarship.



**TISHA OOTEN**

Tisha is a Bodyshop Material, Z dock driver on 1st shift. She transferred to Fort Wayne in 2010 from Kokomo Local 292 where she served as a Loaned Associate to United Way, Suggestion Coordinator and manufactured integrated circuits. Tisha is very active and passionate about the Women's committee. You can catch her filling pantries, serving chili for the Breast Cancer fundraiser and helping her Sisters of Solidarity with many events around the community. Her favorite part of working at GM are the people, KP especially. She prefers a Black Silverado over a GMC Sierra. She enjoys rooting for Alabama Crimson Tide.

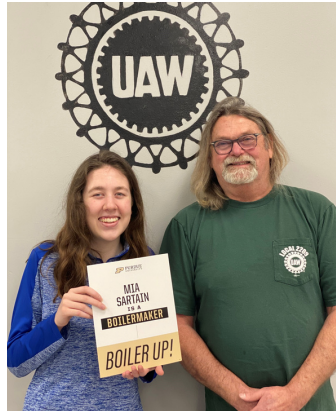
Tisha has been married for 11 years to Richard "Ootie" Ooten who is a GM retiree. She has 5 sons, 4 adult and 1 still home who keeps her busy with many activities. You can find her on Tik Tok dancing and creating content making people around the world laugh with her funny and entertaining personality.

Say Hello if you see her around the plant!

# GOOD *TRUCKIN'* NEWS



Tico Brown, son of Earlisha Brown, 2nd shift Body Shop. Tico, previously a defensive lineman for Central Michigan, has transferred to Missouri State to further his college career.  
Good Luck, Tico!



Herman Berghoff's (Body Shop 2nd) Granddaughter Mia Sartain was accepted into the Computer Science department at Purdue! She currently attends Wayne New Tech.



Priscilla & Jeremy Mould  
Welcome their first baby!  
Sydney Monroe Mould born  
Feb 3rd 2022 5lb5oz  
Priscilla works on doorline and  
Jeremy works in the Body Shop



Congratulations to Candy Foote. After 22 years in security at FWA, we wish her the best on her new journey.



After 3 1/2 years of fostering, DeAnna Watson (Trim 5, 1st shift) and her husband Mitch Fireoved are excited to announce the adoption of their 2 sweet girls Anaya and Alliyah in November of 2021. Proud Grandpa is retiree Dan Watson



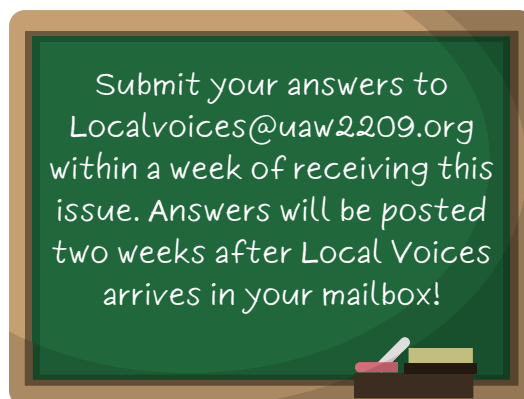
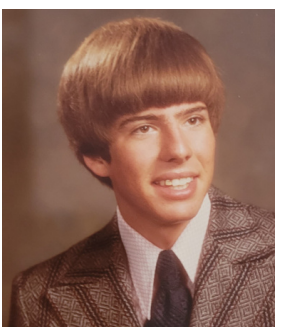
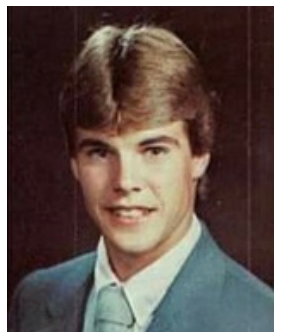
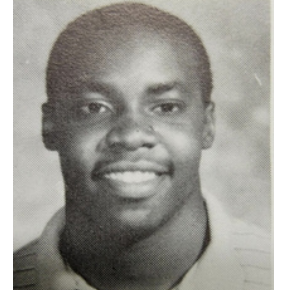
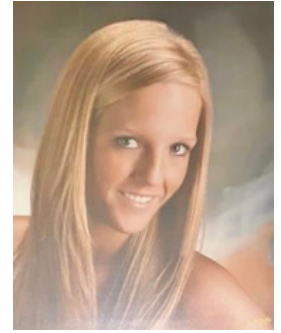
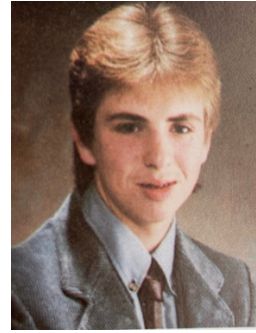
Dwayne and Melissa McCoy  
(Paint and Trim 1st)  
welcomed their first Grandson,  
Adonis Alexander on February 8



If you have Good Truckin' News you'd  
like to share email us at  
[LocalVoices@uaw2209.org](mailto:LocalVoices@uaw2209.org)



# HOW MANY UAW 2209 MEMBERS CAN YOU IDENTIFY?



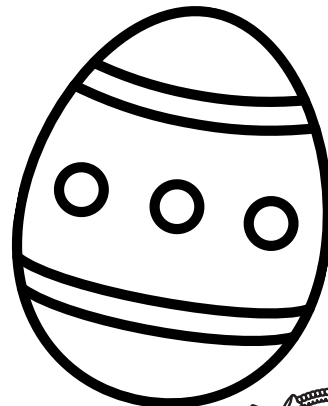
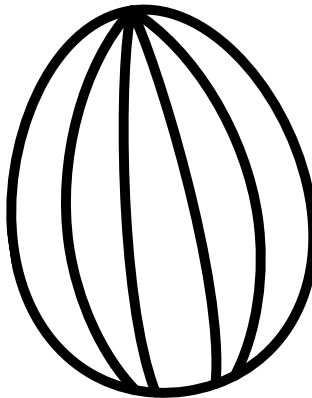
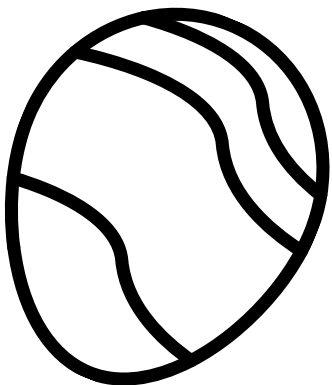
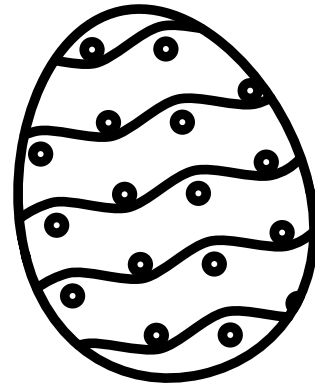
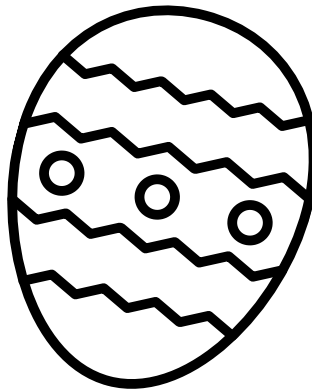
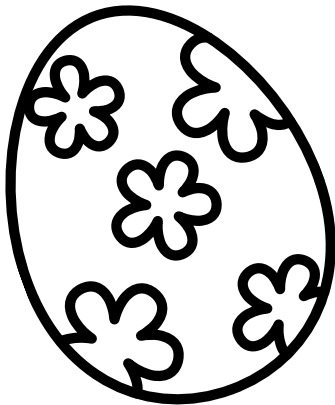
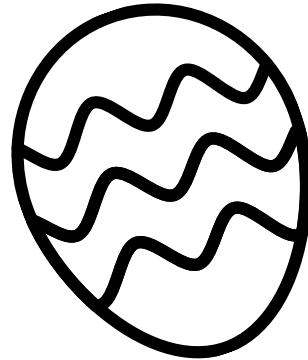
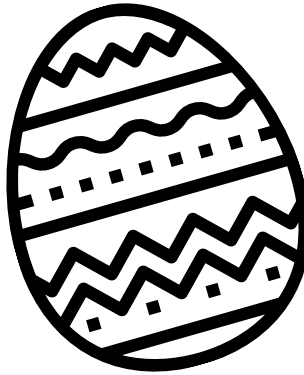
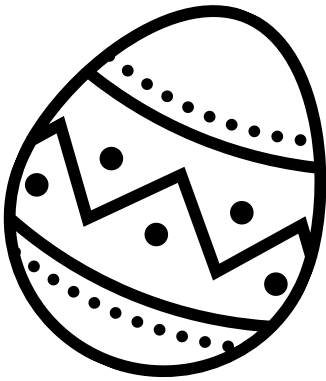
If you have a high school picture to be submitted to us we will continue to publish them. Send your picture and name to [Localvoices@uaw2209.org](mailto:Localvoices@uaw2209.org)

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Easter-rific!

Make the eggs ready for easter by coloring all of them!



Snap a picture of your child's colored page and email it to [LocalVoices@uaw2209.org](mailto:LocalVoices@uaw2209.org) for a chance to win a prize and see it in our next issue.



Please share your Local Voices  
with your family.



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Roanoke IN 46783

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# UAW LOCAL 2209 UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
FOR THESE CAN'T  
MISS EVENTS!

## MARCH

24

ANDY'S KNOCKOUT CHICKEN  
FUNDRAISER  
PRE-ORDERED MEALS DELIVERED TO ALL 3 SHIFTS  
AT THE PLANT

26

MARCH MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING @TIAM

## APRIL

9

WILD GAME FEED  
\$10 TICKET INCLUDES: FOOD, SODA & BEER  
LIVE MUSIC BY BIG CADDY DADDY

19-22

CONSTITUTIONAL  
CONVENTION NOMINATIONS

19

UAW VETERANS RESOURCE  
FAIR

22

CBTU FUNDRAISER  
PRE-ORDERED MEALS DELIVERED TO ALL 3  
SHIFTS IN THE PLANT

23

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
@TIAM

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION:  
260-672-2209

# 2209

# Congratulations 2209 BOWLERS!

## GOOD LUCK TO THOSE ADVANCING TO NATIONALS!