



2209 LOCAL VOICES

Hall number
(260) 672-2209

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Website
www.UAW2209.org

Winter 2021

UAW Local 2209, PO Box 579, Roanoke, IN 46783

Winter 2021



**Daughter of Local
2209 Member Paints
Mural at Union Hall**

Page 2

Young Artist Shares Her Talent With Local 2209

By Gina D'Agostino



New artwork has been added to the Union Hall. Two life like painted portraits of two historic icons, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Walter Ruther, were drawn and hand painted by the daughter of two UAW members. Gabrielle Dumoulin, 18, is the daughter of Local 2209 member Kim Dumoulin and Chuck Dumoulin, Vice President of Local 977. This was the first painting project for Dumoulin, who is a senior at Madison Grant High School. She dedicated over 70 hours at the Union Hall completing the two portraits and a UAW symbol.

The idea for this project developed when Local 2209 Vice President Jim Peters began inquiring about Dumoulin's artistic talent after seeing her art work from an art show posted on Facebook by a mutual friend.

"Creating is putting my expression into it. Plus, art is calming. I just get lost in it and never have a second thought about it," she explained.

After high school, Gabrielle is planning an art based career as an art teacher or tattoo artist. "Creating is really cool," she said.

UAW Local 2209 is an amalgamated Local Union comprised of members from 9 different Units.

Unit 1 - GM Production & Skilled Trades

Unit 2 - GM Nurses

Unit 3 - Caravan

Unit 4 - Avancez Tire & Wheel

Unit 5 - Avancez Maintenance Techs

Unit 6 - Ruan Trucking

Unit 7 - Avancez VAA

Unit 8 - MPS

Unit 9 - Superior Essex

UAW Local 2209 Executive Board

Officers

President

Vice President

Recording Secretary

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Sergeant-at-Arms

Guide

Other Board Members

Unit 1 Chair (GM)

Unit 1 1st Shift Zone

Unit 1 2nd Shift Zone

Unit 1 3rd Shift Zone

Retiree Chapter Chair

Holli Murphy

Jim Peters

Amy Houston

Shane B. Davis

Melinda Ladd

Amanda Meier

Dave Bartkowiak

Manuel Anzaldúa

Jamie Teller

Rich LeTourneau

Dave Poor

Steve Turner

Christopher Phillips

Diana Bovie-Koomler

Our Editorial Policy

To our readers: This newspaper is the Voice of your Local and International Union. This is a vehicle for bringing to you, on a regular basis, the views of the leaders you elected, so you can evaluate them.

This newspaper is also the Voice of the Membership. We welcome submissions from all members in all units of this Local.

All submissions should contribute positively to the welfare of this union and its membership. We will not accept attacks on any union leader or member.

We reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the union and its policies.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you.

Address Change

To ensure delivery of Local Voices it is important to keep your address updated.
Please stop by or call the Union Hall (260-672-2209) whenever you have a change of address.

President's Report Holli Murphy



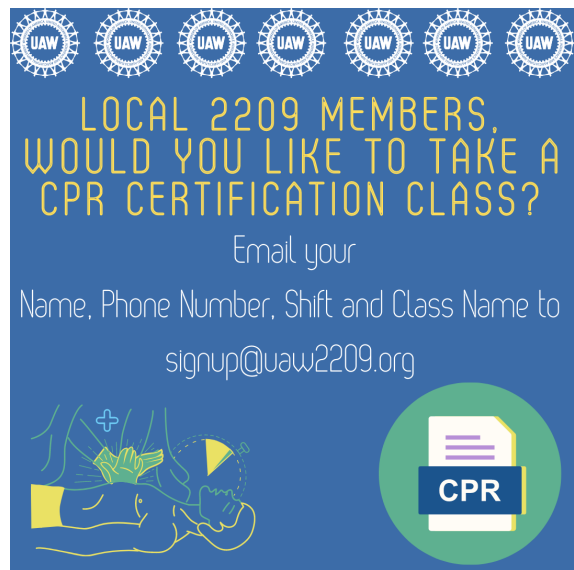
Hello, Brothers and Sisters! As we end 2021, I would like to go over a few things we've done to upgrade our Union Hall, per membership action. As our Local continues to grow, many upgrades and changes are needed to give us the space needed to be successful and to maintain our beautiful building. Please stop by your Hall and check out the progress we have made.

We updated the audio/visual equipment, including speakers in the office areas, pavilion, and outside the south and east entrances. A beautiful mural was added to the main hall and painted by the daughter of one of our very own members (more details on the cover and page 2). We upgraded the floors in the lobby and the countertops in the kitchen. We also added new storage space, and we bought new furniture for the lobby, retiree office, and CAP office.

We added computer stations in the lobby for our members to utilize and we moved the secretary's desk into the lobby, to make room for more storage and office space. We upgraded the locks at the hall to help secure our building and property. And lastly, we had a glass wall installed so that we can still rent the hall to our members but keep all day to day business locked up and secured. If you are interested in renting the union hall, please call me at 260-672-2209. It is available to rent for birthday parties, graduation open houses, wedding receptions, etc.

We are preparing for classes in January 2022, these will include Union 101 taught by our Education committee, Money Matters taught by our Consumer Affairs committee, and CPR taught by our First Responders at the GM plant. If you are interested in taking any of these classes, please send your name, number, and shift to signup@uaw2209.org.

I would like to thank the WONDERFUL MEMBERS of Local 2209 for their hard work, commitment, and dedication to the Union, and for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve as your President. It is truly an honor. I would like to wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



In early November, President Murphy joined Tiffani Allen from City Dweller Photography in a mini session photography fundraiser to benefit Humane Fort Wayne for the first (hopefully not the last!) annual holiday photo shoot! Tiffani specializes in pet and family photography in Indianapolis. She forwent half of her fee to donate to Humane Fort Wayne, and UAW Local 2209 was able to donate \$600 to them! What a great opportunity to get your family holiday photos taken! *pets not required
Hope to see you next year for a different holiday scene!

President Holli Murphy's Fundraiser for



Vice President's Report

Jim Peters

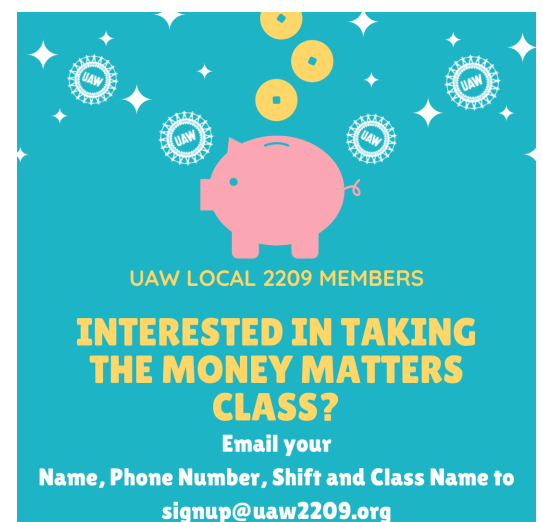


It Pays to Belong

Hello, Brothers and Sisters of Local 2209! I hope this letter finds you well. 2021 was, to say the least, a crazy year with the pandemic and the parts shortages, but we managed to make strides in all of our amalgamated units:

1. MPS and the UAW mutually agreeing to increase the starting wage from \$11.55 per hour to \$14.41 per hour in January
2. Caravan employees got a long overdue contract signed that included a \$6,000 bonus for all full-time employees and \$3000 bonus for all part time employees. It also gained hourly employees a 15% raise over the life of the agreement and 6% raise for any tradesman that hadn't surpassed top rate.
3. We also negotiated an adjusted wage structure for all Avancez and Tire and Wheel employees. This wage structure bumped up their starting wage from \$13.25 per hour to \$15.50, and all employees at the facilities saw a wage increase, mid-contract. This was an investment of upwards of a million dollars for our members. This is a welcome income increase for the employees at these plants.
4. The management team for Ruan trucking reached out to me in an effort to retain drivers. We managed to negotiate two bonuses for the current employees a \$2,000 bonus payable in October and another \$2,000 bonus payable in January of 2022.

I believe these gains show how important it is and how it pays to belong to the UAW! I want to thank President Murphy and the Leadership for their ongoing support for the amalgamated units. Without all of the support and solidarity from the membership, none of this is possible. I'd like to wish you and your families a safe and blessed Holiday season, and thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Vice President.



Recording Secretary's Report

Amy Houston

A Reasonable New Year's Resolution

Every January people make resolutions. Some they keep, some they don't. Usually it is to better themselves in some way. Be it to lose weight, become more organized, or to fit more exercise into their daily lives.

I would like to challenge all of our members (and their families) to a New Year's Resolution that will benefit them, their community, and fellow American workers!

In 2022 let's all make an effort, whenever we can, to buy American made and/or Union made goods and also Shop Locally! The reason we have our jobs is because people choose to purchase our Union made, American made products. So, let's do the same for other American workers every chance we get! It is as simple as a Google search to find if there is an American Made option most of the time.

For example, my husband and I were at Menards looking at toilet brushes (not very glamorous shopping, I know!), and there were multiple options, all priced similarly. But upon closer inspection all were made in China except for the Libman brand. So, that's what we bought. Just look around. Read the labels. Make the American Made choice!

As for shopping locally. If you spend \$100 in a locally owned shop \$68 of that \$100 stays in the local community. While if you spend the same \$100 at a big box store only \$43 stays in the community.

Shopping locally means you may be supporting a friends business, or a parent of your child's friends business, or

even your neighbor. Real people who live and work in your community.

Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for teachers, firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions. You are also helping the environment!

Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging. Nurturing your community is important! Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains. Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify your community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong— in your community!

I try to buy Union made and American made as often as I can, and also try to shop locally as much as I can. But I want all of you to join me in 2022 to make our communities stronger and support our neighbors and fellow American workers! Not just in 2022, but let's start the habit and continue it forever!



Financial Secretary's Report

Shane Davis

As a reminder, if you have been out on a leave of absence please check your pay stubs. If you notice union dues are not coming out after you return to work, please call the Union Hall at 260-672-2209, so that we can get it corrected. The sooner we catch the problem and can get it fixed the better.

If you were paid by the Local at all this year, watch for your W-2 to arrive in the mail in January. Also, when you are on union business, please be sure to drop off your Z-coded time sheet to the Union Hall by Wednesday of the week you will receive your paycheck. If we do not have your time sheet, we cannot print your check.

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and thank you for allowing me to serve the membership.

Financial Report for 3rd Quarter 2021

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,953,898.21
Income	\$ 968,399.91
Total Expenses	\$ 1,105,538.97
Account Balance	\$ 1,816,759.15



Unit 1 Chairman's Report

Rich LeTourneau



Challenges We Continue to Face

The last 18 months, this Membership and Leadership have faced challenge after challenge. We encountered several runoffs prior to negotiations and walked ourselves into a 40-day strike. We were later hit with a ten-week COVID-19 lay off. I don't believe anyone anticipated that as a result of this COVID-19 pandemic, the world would be in short supply of semiconductors. Despite all the

challenges we have already overcome, the obvious still remains. We are still wearing masks, the country is in short supply of semiconductors, and we are now priority number 3 in the Truck Division.

For three decades we were priority number 1 because our volume was untouchable. We dropped 14 trucks per hour as a part of design flaw in the new paint shop when launching the T1. We are now priority number 3 behind Flint and Arlington. We can all blame GM for all of the above. Just pick one, but after we are done pointing fingers, it's up to us to protect our volume, product, and job security.

On October 4th, Manufacturing Manager of the Truck Division, Mike Trevorow, visited the plant. As part of that visit, we attended a Key Four meeting. He opened the meeting by thanking this Membership and Leadership for moving forward on the entire paint project, which was completed by our in-house tradesman. He explained that without our initiative on tag relief and straight eights, we would not have received the \$10 million to fund that project which, sincerely, protects our volume. He asked if FWA was willing to negotiate anything outside of Plan A like the rest of the Truck Division has done to secure volume. I told him, "I think you know the answer to that question". His response was "Unfortunately I do. Your Membership turned down 14 consecutive Sundays, a third

of your Members only work 3 to 4 days a week and your absenteeism continues to climb". He said, "You've already demonstrated you are willing to do projects to protect your job security, that some plants won't." He told me that he and his bosses love this plant and the things we do here. He also said they have no intentions of forcing any overtime language on FWA.

However, they now have two plants with no overtime restriction, Mexico and Oshawa, and they will be forced to pull volume from FWA and they do not want to do that. He mentioned a lot of alternatives like, additional Saturdays, Sundays, alternative work schedules, and straight eights. Keep in mind we are not in concessionary times. We are not giving up material to keep our product. We're not working weekends for straight time pay or any of that shit. They are working with us to secure our futures, but I'm not convinced we want it.

Although the Trail Boss is gone for 2022, it will be replaced by the Denali Hands Free. The predictions are that our volume will increase, and if we can't deliver, he made it clear, he will not be knocking on our door anymore. I'm sharing this with you because most Chairman wouldn't. Three years down the road they take a shift and nobody understands what happened. There are always smarter people than me out there. I read their quotes every now and again. The quote I love the most is, "we gave up everything and they cut a shift or closed our plant anyhow". I hope I never get that smart that I have to write a letter that contains either of those issues.



I made it clear that we were in Local Negotiations, and if we are able to make this a win-win, I may be interested in moving forward. Your Shop Committee and I have no intentions in making decisions of this magnitude without input from the Membership. Or, we do nothing and let the gas engine truck run its course and hope they will talk to us about the EV transition at a later date.

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

 **22**  **9** 

To Our Beloved UAW Local 2209 Retirees

Come on down to the hall for a cup of coffee and check out the newly updated Retiree Wall of Honor. The retiree plaques are still here, but we added 2 new televisions that scroll through our Retirees' names and retirement dates. These screens also allow us to show photos along with the names. If you have a photo you would like us to add to the slideshow, please contact the Hall at 260-672-2209.

Retiree Chapter Report

Diana Bovie-Koomler



Our Retiree Chapter has been busy making donations throughout the community. In October, we donated \$1,000 to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. This holiday season, we donated 23 Christmas bags to Veterans at the Shepherd's House containing sweatshirts, hats, socks, bag of candy, and candy canes donated by Santa. We also adopted Miller's Merry Manor nursing home, donating gift bags for

Residents without family that visit, and made a huge donation for the bingo cart for the residents, so they can receive a gift of their choice when they play bingo. We also donated

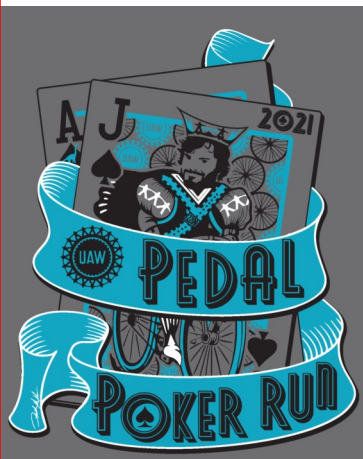
\$400 to Coats for Kids (photo at right), which was enough to buy new coats, hats, scarves, and gloves for 16 children.

Our Retiree Chapter would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We cancelled our meetings for January and February, but we hope to see you at

our next Chapter meeting Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m., where Region 2B Retiree Rep. Danny Ernstes is scheduled to speak.



Pedal Poker Run Raises Money for Fort Wayne Trails



June 19 was sunny, hot, and perfect for a bike ride downtown to raise money for the Fort Wayne Trails! This was our 6th year hosting this fun event that is open to our members and the public. Starting and ending at Pedal City the riders visited 5 downtown establishments with a wild card option to make it 6! We had over 200 riders (a new record!) and raised \$7,344 (another new record!!) to donate to the Fort Wayne Trails. As usual, new friends were made and a ton of fun was had. We hope you can join us next year! Until then, ride safe!



Teamwork from the Education Committee

By Nelson Rodriguez
Education Committee Chair

As I reflect on this year as the chairperson of the education committee, I must say that a leader is nothing without a team that supports them. I am so fortunate to have the team that I do. All of our achievements are due to their efforts and their constant dedication to this Local, its members, and our union. Thank You!!!

With that let me run a list of things that our committee is engaged in:

- UAW 101 basics classes for all amalgamated units and standing committees. Roughly 300 members attended in 2021
- The UAW 2209's Podcast on Podbean, Spotify, and Apple.
- "Rich's Top 10" videos showing on uaw2209.org
- St. Patty's Day Raffle: Raised over \$6,000 in 2021
- College scholarship program: 4 scholarships at \$1,500 given away to members' children in 2021
- Trunk or Treat: Hosted over 300 people, served 600 hotdogs, and had over 20 trunks from members and committees (photo at bottom right).
- Halloween Party: First year was a success and we hope to grow each year. Wicked Witch of the West and Flying Monkey won first place in the costume contest (photo at right).
- Nelson Rodriguez, President UAW Region 2B Education Advisory Council. Won election October 19. Goal is to provide educational opportunities for all members in our region and union.

Due to the continued support of our leadership we continue to succeed as a committee. The Education Committee would like to thank President Holli Murphy, Unit 1 Shop Chairman Rich LeTourneau, Local 2209 Executive



*The Podcast Team busy at work.
L to R: Josh Olsen, Michael Scott, Mark Gevaart,
Angie Buneta, and David Wise*

Board members, the Shop Committee, Region 2B Director Wayne Blanchard, Region 2B Education Rep. Amy Richardson, Education Committee liaison Amanda Meier, and former Education Chair Phil Ratkos. Also our volunteers who show up at our events and help with everything; you are amazing people and thank you so much!

Now last but not least, the Education Committee would like to thank you, the membership and its retirees, for your constant support with all we do. It is you, the membership, that helps us to make an impact here at our Local and in our communities.

2022 here we come!!!



Far Left: Education Committee presents scholarship awards to winners.

Left: Trunk or Treat brought out lots of characters and candy.

Above: Nikyi Kortez the Wicked Witch & the Flying Monkey won First Prize for the costume contest.

WE WELCOME THE NEW MEMBERS TO LOCAL 2209

Civil Rights Committee: Doing Work and Showing Support

By Steve Lanier
Civil & Human Rights Committee Chair

Greetings, Brothers & Sisters! As Chair of your Civil and Human Rights Committee, I'm Proud to inform you of what's been happening with our committee!!

In June and July our committee members assisted the Organizing Committee with Informational Picketing and we tabled the Juneteenth event in Fort Wayne!

In August, a few members virtually attended CBTU's 50th Anniversary and Convention!

In September we hosted our first Annual Car & Bike Show in support of UNCF!! It was definitely a learning experience! We're already preparing for our 2nd annual show, partnering up with The Urban League of Fort Wayne on Saturday, August 13, 2022!

In October, we sent members to the Region 2B Conference in Columbus, Ohio to the 1st BMIU North meets South in



Atlanta, Georgia, and we participated in the International UAW diversity training at the Union Hall! All GREAT learning experiences!!

The Civil and Human Rights Committee made monetary donations in support of Healthier Moms and Babies and to the Urban League! We've also been consistently supporting our Local and other committees as needed.

We are planning a 50/50 raffle and T-Shirt sale to start the new year off, in addition to providing information in our showcases in GA and Body Shop for Black History Month in February!

Look for our Car & Bike Show advertisement during the Urban League Gala coming in February 2022!

God Bless you all and hope to see all you do GREAT things in the New Year!!



Community Pantry is Installed and Stocked

22nd UAW

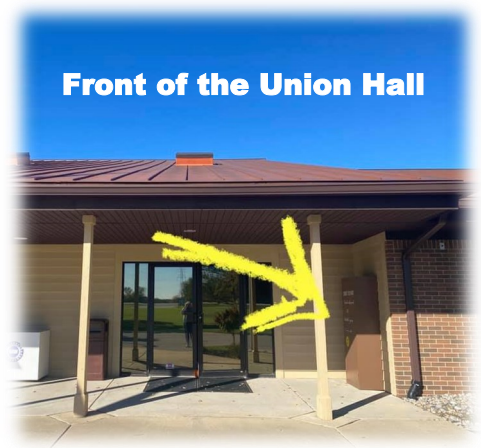
Please take what you need
and donate what you can

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



Front of the Union Hall



Thank you to our members who continue to keep our pantry stocked.

Veterans Committee Continues to Show Dedication

By Greg Bedford
Veterans Committee Chair

Holiday Greetings to all! What a year it has been!

It was more than 20 years ago that this nation declared a war on terror and I am grateful that we can finally say that war is over!

To the many women and men who work here at FWA who have served this great Nation, we salute you!!! You are the true heroes!!!

Your Veterans Committee has been very busy this year, as we continue to raise funds to support Veteran related issues that plague our community.

With the membership's continued financial support, we have raised several thousand dollars that we use to help financially struggling Veterans and many Veterans organizations.

We were just recently contacted by representatives of the Richard Lugar Safe Haven for Veterans and the Volunteers of America at Liberty Landing, requesting our help with the purchase of new bedding for each location. We decided that all the residents deserved new sheets and blankets and we purchased 50 beds in a bag for them.

We support both of these organizations, in part, because of their mission! As stated on their webpage, “In the United States, nearly 47,000 Veterans are homeless on any given night and twice as many experience homelessness during the year.”

Another very worthy local Veterans organization that we have partnered with is, Shepherd's House. They are a



faith based transitional center that rehabilitates Honorably Discharged Veterans with substance abuse problems. Their mission statement explains it all, “The Mission of Shepherd’s House is to rebuild the lives of those who society views as hopeless into sober and productive assets to the community.”

We were able to purchase new winter coats, hats, and gloves for each resident at Shepherds House. We will also be cooking our annual Christmas Dinner for the residents and staff December 12th, where we will present each resident a stocking full of goodies and a gift card.

For those of you that may not know,

this year's 9th Annual Veterans Benefit
Poker Run supported FW22.

FW22 is a local organization dedicated to stopping death by suicide. It is estimated that 22 Veterans commit suicide daily.

Because of your continued support of our T-shirt sales and of the ride itself, we were able to donate \$2,500 to this great local organization.

We have also taken a keen interest in the Burn Pit issue facing today's Veterans. For those who do not know, our US Government had ordered the burning of much of the waste in Afghanistan and Iraq. Waste products in burn pits include, but are not limited



And Commitment to Honoring Local Veterans

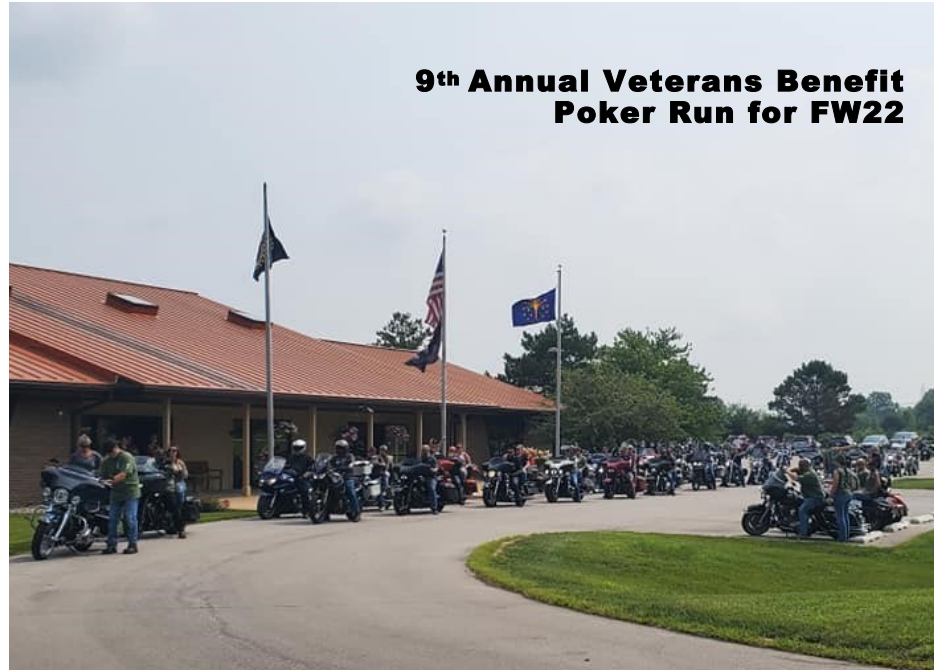
to, chemicals, paint, medical and human waste, metal/aluminum cans, munitions and other unexploded ordnances, petroleum and lubrication products, plastics and Styrofoam, rubber, wood, and discarded food.

Our US Military members then stand watch 24/7 over these fires and continue to 'feed' them. They are coming home with many unknown illnesses that have been attributed to these burn pits. This issue is fast becoming the agent orange of this generation of Veterans. We can only hope it doesn't take our government 50 years to resolve these health issues and award the proper health care and disability compensation.

Because of this, we have donated \$2,500 to the BurnPit 360 organization and we encourage you all to visit their webpage and if you are able to, make a personal donation as well.

Once again, we held a gate collection for the annual US Marine Corps. Toys for Tots drive, and this membership stood tall and we were able to donate more than \$4,300 to this great organization. Not to forget, several dozen toys were also donated at each swing gate entrance.

Also, the partnership that was created between the War Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum and UAW Local



2209 has flourished because of the HUGE commitment by this membership. President Murphy, Shop Chairman LeTourneau and the entire Executive Board, along with membership support, made the donation that kick started that project.

Because of that, we successfully installed a permanent, 80% replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. The "Shrine" is located at 2122 O'Day Rd. in Fort Wayne.

Also, many volunteers come out

annually and help with grounds clean up and beautification as well.

As you can see, we value every penny of every donation and we continue to put it all back into our community. Without your continued support we could not achieve this type of success. We thank you for your support and we look forward to next year's fundraising events.

Please look for upcoming information on our future events to help our Veterans Committee, and if you have a suggestion or a personal Veterans organization you would like us to consider please let Erika know at our Union Hall and she will pass it on to us.

In closing, as we celebrate the Christmas Holiday Season, may we all remember the women and men in uniform today, those who have served in the past, and most importantly those that gave up their tomorrows so that we may enjoy our todays!!!

Merry Christmas and a very Merry Holiday Season to All!!!



Sisters of Solidarity Spend Year Giving Back

By Beverly Henry
Women's Committee Chair

Let me tell you what Sisters of Solidarity (SOS) has been up to. I will start from June and bring it up to present day. SOS, wanted to recognize the Dads and raise some funds which would help us to keep being the difference we're looking to see. The Golf Club gift basket worth more than \$1,800 brought in over \$3,000!! Still excited and wanting to help, we pulled toiletries off the shelf! We stuffed nap sacks with items to clean, snacks to eat and gave them out to people living on the streets.

We had more to give and didn't want to stop, so we went to the Lighthouse and made a drop. Those residences faces lit up with glee, they were extremely happy.

SOS helped with Ground Effects. Our goal was to unionize. We wanted them to have the Grand Prize.

The SOS are always in those streets, and always filling the locker pantries so families can eat. We are at the pantries so much the owners know our names and they often come out to tell us how glad they are we came.

We did a Joint Venture with Conservation and Rec Committee. It was the Sock Hop (photo at top right)!! We took it back to Happy Days!! Muscle cars, mini skirts and guys with cigarettes in their shirts!

Urban League gave us an invite to their Opening Night!!

We assisted Healthier Babies and Moms with Community Wide Diaper Drive. In spite of the pandemic, we kept hope alive.

Giving back to our own union family is what we wanted to do, so offering free school supplies was the least we could do. Traveled down to Ball State, where young adults are trying to elevate. SOS set up shop with free snacks and stuffed back packs (photo below). We are mothers, aunts,

Sisters, and the UAW looking to impact our future leaders by giving back.

FWCS did a Feminine Hygiene Drive for the upcoming year. SOS said we will help, have no fear. The Women's Committee took upon itself to make sure plenty of supplies were on the shelf.

The Kickball

Tournament was a Blast!! The Women's Committee assisted from the first person to the last.

Clothes were donated by a member and that was sure nice.

Women's Committee made sure they were sorted and given away without a price.

Making Strides against Breast Cancer, we always represent. Over \$20,000 to the charity is what we sent! Chili dinners is one of the big highlights, but our basket this year was out of sight!! The dunk tank was in full effect. T-Shirt sales did not neglect.

Region 2B conference, we went as a group, made some noise and stirred up the coup! The Advisory Committee, we now hold a seat and some awesome people we were able to meet.

The luncheon put on by The YWCA was quite the experience. Mary Poppins was the theme. Tera Brantley was the queen. Sisters Of Solidarity was invited to be on the Planning Team!!

Trunk or Treat was so much fun to watch the kiddies laugh, play, and run. We had the candy, they had the tricks. All in all, it was a good mix.

We went to the meeting, saluted our troops, and delivered food to pantries to boot. Thanksgiving day was coming fast. We replenished not one, but two lockers in our path

Now here we are. Christmas is near. SOS adopted two families my dear. One family is done and one is on the way. We want to wish you all, a GOOD DAY!!



Kickball Tourney to Benefit Lennox's Legacy Rescue

By Stephanie Higdon
Union Label Committee Chair

October 16, 2021 the Union Label Committee brought back the annual Kickball Tournament and this year's theme was "For Pet's Sake." The proceeds from this year's event went to Lennox's Legacy Rescue, a local non-profit who during the strike brought weekly donations to us by the truckload, to make sure our members' animals were taken care of.

We had a fun day of grilling out, photos from the Magic Mirror photo booth (Thanks, Shane Davis!), and plenty of action on the field. Congratulations to Ballz Deep for becoming repeat Champions! Thank you to all our volunteers and players for another great tournament, we can't wait to do it again next year!



CAP Committee Brings Puppy Kissing Booth to 2209

The CAP Committee partnered with the Union Label Committee during their "For Pet's Sake" Kickball Tournament by hosting a Puppy Kissing Booth. All proceeds benefited Lennox's Legacy Rescue as a thank you for all of their help and support during our strike in 2019.



Giving Back is an Everyday Action

By Paula Friedrich
Community Services Committee Chair

I want to start out by saying how proud I am of the Community Services Committee and our entire membership. We have a long history of giving back to the communities where we live and we continue to do so. The photos shown below are a handful of hundreds that could be shown highlighting the work the Community Services Committee has done this year. Our members are tirelessly offering their time and support and I want to say Thank You!

The Community Services Committee spent the year volunteering all over the greater Fort Wayne area. We helped collect non-perishable items for Associated Churches and for the Community Pantries throughout Fort Wayne. We spent many Saturdays at St. Mary's Catholic Church serving food and at the Rescue Mission, Miss Virginia's House, and Community Harvest Food Bank handing out food. We passed out turkeys and Thanksgiving meals during the holiday and we participated in numerous

neighborhood projects, during Day of Caring and beyond. We also lent a hand at the Urban League to assist with their renovation project. Lastly, we adopted families for the Salvation Army, and we will end our year passing out meals during the Christmas holiday.

I'd like to give a shout out to the other Committees for supporting our efforts and volunteering at the soup kitchen and at the Rescue Mission, as well, and to everyone who supported our car wash fundraiser. We had a lot of fun shining up everyone's vehicles.

We also appreciate the support from President Murphy and the leadership for allowing us the opportunity to be in the community building bridges and lending a hand. And thank you to our secretary, Erika, and our janitor, Todd, for always assisting our Committee.

Have a happy holiday season, and we look forward to another year of community outreach.

From painting to yardwork to collecting or serving food, they are there when called upon to serve.



Mourning Holiday Traditions

By EAP/Work Family

Many of us may have started thinking about traditions a few weeks ago when being bombarded with Halloween decorations in mid-September. It could be overwhelming to realize that in a matter of weeks (which seemed to be going by more quickly than usual), we would be in the midst of “holiday” season.

But with the restrictions and adjustments to daily life that COVID-19 has brought, what will the holidays look like this year? How do we maintain traditions when everything else has changed? For many, the holidays are a time when traditions help us connect to ourselves and others and bring us back to the memories that are part of our upbringing. Often these traditions guide us through the end of the calendar year. For instance, in early November many people are usually making Thanksgiving plans, and work and school schedules are modified to make sure that we have time to get away. However, this year is different in so many ways for each one of us.

Traditions are important.

We all know that our traditions are important to us on a personal level, but they really do matter – even the small or silly ones. They are a piece of our culture and are part of the foundation of our families, communities, and broader society. Traditions remind us of our values and provide consistency in our constantly evolving lives. They are things we do repeatedly, but they aren’t routine or automatic – they are deliberate actions that connect us to our loved ones and provide a sense of identity and comfort. In times like these, we need these the most. But the fact of the matter is some of our most consistent and loved traditions may not be possible this year, at least in their usual form.

It’s okay to be sad when traditions change.

Most holiday traditions are things we genuinely enjoy. When holiday events must be adapted, can’t happen, or when a loved one is missing from the group, it’s normal to feel a sense of loss. Change is hard, especially when it’s sentimental. It’s okay to be a little sad. Allow yourself time to grieve the loss of your typical holiday season.

To move forward, try to focus on looking deeper into the meaning behind these traditions and what they represent for you. Holidays don’t need to look a certain way. Beyond the traveling, coordinating schedules, and planning that may have happened in the past, the true meaning centers on the connections and memories that we make during these times of the year. These connections help sustain and ground us.

A meaningful holiday season is still possible.

New things can be uncomfortable, but they aren’t always bad – after all, your longest lasting and most loved

traditions were new at one point. There are ways to get through this holiday season without losing the magic that your traditions typically bring:

Reinvent the tradition.

People are resilient and good at adapting – what can you keep? Just because the first night of Hanukkah won’t be celebrated at Grandma’s house this year doesn’t mean the holiday is cancelled or “off to a bad start.” Get everyone on a Zoom call and light your first candles together. It’s not the same as spending time together in person, but it will still help you feel connected to your loved ones.

Make new traditions.

There are plenty of opportunities to create new traditions this year that will bring meaning and joy into the holiday season. Is there anything missing from your existing holiday celebrations? If Thanksgiving is usually spent with the whole family, but everyone just hangs out and talks until dinner is ready, think of something you can all do together – like watching football on TV – virtually this year, but to be continued in person at future Thanksgivings.

Small rituals are just as important as the big traditions.

Maybe you’ve always spent Christmas Eve at your aunt’s house with your whole extended family, and that’s too many people to have in one space this year. Think about what else goes into that larger tradition – does your immediate family play a game in the car or listen to music together on the drive there? Find a game that can be played after dinner or turn on that music while cooking. Maybe your cousin always brings the best chocolate chip cookies – get the recipe and have them at home this year.

Use old methods to show your love.

The point of most traditions is to connect us with our loved ones. But don’t discredit ways to connect that aren’t based in tradition. It can be a lot of pressure to feel like you have to do the same thing every year – try to let that go. This is a weird holiday season, and it’s okay if we show our love differently. Write letters or send an extra special card to hold you over for this year, and hope that in 2022 you can get back to your typical festivities.

Losing things we love, even things that don’t feel like a big deal, is a difficult process. Expect some moments to be tougher than others – they may sneak up on you, so be gentle with yourself.

If you find yourself in need of help this season, or anytime, please reach out to EAP/Work Family at 260-673-2011/2951.

Enjoy your negotiated time off!!

Inspired and Rejuvenated

By Andrea Hill



"We only have so many years in the workforce to make a difference. Don't take breaks. Take them later."
Amy Richardson, UAW Region 2-B Education Rep.

I was privileged to attend the Region 2B Leadership conference held at the Regional office on July 22, 2021, in Maumee, Ohio. This was an amazing experience for so many reasons! I am very grateful to President Murphy and the membership for allowing me to attend and bring the extraordinary lessons I learned back to my Sisters and Brothers of Local 2209.

The conference started with our newly elected Regional Director, Wayne Blanchard, addressing the membership through the leaders in attendance. His message was inspirational and hopeful. It was a call to each member to get involved. Every member has the duty to help and hold accountability to make sure we rebuild our beloved UAW better than ever. In light of all that our membership has endured through recent corruption and scandal; the time is now for everyone to come together to re-define our union. Director Blanchard explained, "It's going to take all of you. We can't get better without our members. WE COME UP TOGETHER." As Director Blanchard welcomed us and finished his presentation, he handed the day over to a familiar face. He introduced our sister with much praise and admiration, but also a small dose of teasing as he knew her beloved Local 2209 was represented in the room.

Sister Amy Richardson is no stranger to her Brothers and Sisters. Amy started her career in 2002-2006 as summer help. She then was hired permanently under the National Agreement after a two day strike in 2007. She immediately became involved in the Union and was elected Trustee in 2008. In 2011 she was elected Recording Secretary, and re-elected again in 2014 by acclamation. In 2015 Amy was appointed by Vice President, Cindy Estrada, to be Special Assigned in the Skill Development & Training Department

at the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources (Joint Programs). In 2018 she went on UAW International Staff as the Education Representative for UAW Region 2B. Amy was also elected Convention Delegate in 2010 and 2014 and has been a temporary organizer for the International Union, mainly working on gaming and casinos.

Amy's smile was bright as she began teaching. It was truly beautiful to see the pride in her eyes as some of her favorite faces from home became her students. I was astonished at how well Amy transformed a whole week's worth of material into a one day class. The class had just recently been converted back from only being available online due to the pandemic. We learned about the Core Values of the UAW, Organizing, The History of the UAW, and the Importance of Labor Friendly Candidates in Politics (CAP). We had breakout sessions in which we were able to work in small groups with Brothers and Sisters from all over the 2B Region. Great fellowship was had as we learned from each other and listened to fresh ideas and new perspectives. As a 22 year UAW member, I finished the day feeling as if I was reborn. This priceless knowledge I learned renewed my motivation and inspired me to do more and be better. I could not help but carry with me the graphic stories of those brave souls that gave their lives fighting for what we have today. Their faces will be engraved in my heart forever.

I am thankful to Sister Amy Richardson for her passion, as it shows through in her work. Through her creative approach and wealth of knowledge, she makes learning fun and easy. She taught in a way that made you remember your most favorite teacher from grade school and how that person positively influenced your life forever.



Recycle this paper. Pass it on to a non-union acquaintance.



UAW & GM Give Local Youth Insight to Manufacturing Careers

By Amy Houston

On November 9 & 10 UAW Local 2209 members and GM Management headed to Auburn for the first (but hopefully not last) Junior Achievement SPARK! Event. Where 4,200 8th graders from 25 local schools visited and were able to see all different career options available to them. Some traditional, and some a little out of the ordinary.

UAW Local 2209 & GM were in the Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering and Logistics section along with BAE, Forest River, Fort Wayne Metals and others. We brought one of our Chevy Trucks to display, had 4 display boards made for the students to plug in wire harnesses and see how they connect and work, we had a video of production in the plant from start to finish playing on a large TV, rubber band bracelets to hand out, and were there to talk to the students about manufacturing or any questions they had about what we do.

The other sections covered were Government, Law & Public Service (FBI agents, Police, Firemen, Fire trucks, Crime Scene trailers etc. were there), Information Technology, Hospitality, Tourism & Arts were represented, Health & Life Sciences, Architecture, Engineering & Construction, Business, Finance & Marketing, and Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources. It was a giant space with infinite career possibilities for the 8th graders. We met a lot of kids who told us their parents/grandparents/relatives worked at the plant and were very excited that we were in attendance.

We are looking forward to participating next year and seeing all of the bright and hopeful faces of these young adults looking to their futures!



Getting Miles Running Club

By Ryan Bultemeier

A running club is typically a group of people who specialize in running, often training for a specific event. Most clubs train for and compete in either road or trail competitions. Other clubs even branch out into triathlons. The Getting Miles Club does things a little differently.

Getting Miles members are walkers, bicyclists, couch potatoes, runners, and hardcore endurance athletes who hit paved trails, dirt paths, sidewalks, treadmills, elliptical trainers, and county roads. We do pretty much anything.

Most of the Getting Miles members are either current or former employees of General Motors at Fort Wayne Assembly, but anybody can join.

We meet up every Thursday for group runs. We welcome runners and walkers of all skill levels. Nobody gets left behind! We also do some mountain biking, but you better bring your A-Game if you want to roll with these guys. We have some pretty gnarly riders.

2021 is the first year for Getting Miles and we have already done some pretty epic stuff! Getting Miles won first place in the first Annual Fort4Fit Six Hour Sunset Relay. We also took second place in the Corporate 5k in 2021. We'll win this one next year! We also host our own events. The Beer Mile. It's exactly what it sounds like. Participants drinking beers while running a mile. It's my personal fave. We embraced our inner

psycho with the Kill Phil fun run. We got down and dirty in a Tough Mudder in southern Indiana.

Club members also volunteer at local running events. You don't need to be a runner if you want to be involved. Race directors are always in need of volunteers. We welcome our GM friends and family members to join the club. Look for Getting Miles on Facebook or talk to your friends and family members who are already in the club if you want to join.



Firepit for Fun & Fellowship

Thank you to the Conservation & Recreation Committee for the new addition of a fire pit at the Union Hall. The fire pit was installed by Andrew Carter, Scott Houston, Bill Johnson, Phil Ratkos, Cody Stewart, and Jeremy Quade. They did an excellent job and it now has benches and light posts around it, as well.

Come down to the Hall to check it out, and when the weather gets nicer bring a few co-workers and some camping chairs and put it to use. If you are interested in donating firewood call the Hall at 260-672-2209.



Representing Throughout the Region

UAW Region 2B has nine Advisory Councils, which allow all the Locals from throughout Indiana and Ohio to come together twice a year to educate, raise awareness, and coordinate efforts for their Council and bring back the information and skills to their Local Unions. For the first time ever, UAW Local 2209 has a member on every Advisory Council board. This is a huge accomplishment and we congratulate all of the members who won election at the Advisory Council meeting in October.

Advisory Councils

Chaplaincy: **Michelle Buckler** – Vice President

Civil and Human Rights: **Julia Beck** – Member At-Large

Education: **Nelson Rodriguez** – President

IPS: **Nick Courts** – Member At-Large

Skilled Trades: **Chad Brumbaugh** – President

TOP: **Mike McClain** – Sergeant-At-Arms

Union Label: **Amy Houston** – President

Veterans: **Greg Bedford** – President

Women's: **Beverly Henry** – Member At-Large



Paws for Cause



Shaggy
Daphne Cercone



Boca Bean
Scott & Amy Houston



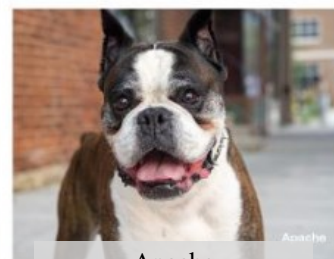
Mya (in memory of Sam)
Bill Anderson



Calhoun
Chrissy Mangrum



Sammie & Millie
Tonja & Gale Campbell



Apache
Doug Keele



Nahla Lou & Sydney Ann
Penny Kline



10 Members' Pups
are featured in the
2022 Benefit
Calendar!



Samson
Greg Heal

Help raise more money for
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and purchase your 2022
calendar by scanning the
QR code.



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made the Letters to
Santa event special
for our members and
their children.**

