My take on the holiday season

By Bill Reed, President, Local 602

As you read this letter, the holiday season will be upon us and another year will have just about disappeared. It seems that time continues to pass more quickly with each year. As I write this, the cold of winter has just begun and there are still many things on my list that need to be done before snowfall.

At this time, I’m not sure I will get that list done. The holiday season fills our schedule with the hustle and bustle of finding the perfect gifts for our family and friends. A lot of attention goes to making plans for get-togethers, donating time to charities and finishing up all the odds and ends of last minute plans.

This holiday season, let’s urge everyone to shop at their local downtown merchants. Supporting local businesses, whose owners may be our friends, neighbors or relatives, goes a long way in helping our local economy and besides, where else can you find those unique items or one-of-a-kind handmade gifts?

As we spend precious time with family this Christmas, let’s not forget those who will be away from their loved ones.

I wish all of you a peaceful and joyful Christmas, and I hope you have a very special time with family and friends.

We have much to be thankful for!
Big news

We hate to start off our Local update with bad news, but the local was informed that effective November 30, 2012 Bharat Forge would cease operations. There will still be a handful of members conducting some close-out related operations, but production will be over. This is extremely distressing as the membership has gone to great extremes in their contracts to make sure the operations were able to continue. There have been sacrifices in terms of wages, benefits, and other contractual provisions. As with all of our brothers and sisters who have experienced this we are working with the membership to help them through this transition. Bharat Forge, formerly Federal Forge, is the oldest unit of Local 724 and will leave a rich legacy in the history of UAW Local 724.

It’s been a while since a Local 724 update, so here we go. The building projects have been completed with just a few minor adjustments that need to be made. This will hopefully make the hall more member-friendly, energy efficient and dry going forward. Once the ground settles over the fall, winter and spring we will make some outside improvements. Thanks for your patience.

I debated about starting off first on the recent elections, but instead gave a Local building update. Now that is out of the way, we can discuss the recent elections.

First, a big thank you to all the members who worked the election outreach on all levels. It was truly a team effort and everyone needs to be applauded. We can be thankful for four more years for President Obama versus “Mr. Let Detroit Go Bankrupt.”

Let’s hope that Congress can truly get to working for the betterment of the American people and not continue to engage in the negativity we have encountered.

In Michigan, the odds were evened up in the State House slightly. However, the Republicans still control the Governor, Senate, House, Attorney General, and Supreme Court. We must also monitor the right-wing attacks on unions with their actions. So stay tuned.

Toys for Tots

Now back to the Local 724 front. The holiday season is upon us so that means we get busy with some things at the Local. The annual Toys for Tots drive is underway. There is a donation box at the hall, so please bring your new, unwrapped item to the Local. They are asking that we refrain from stuffed animals again this year. The hall is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday. We will collect donated items until December 7.

Tree of Warmth

The Women’s Committee Holiday Tree of Warmth will again be up at the hall. Please bring your new or handmade hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves and hang them on the tree. We will continue to collect these until December 21. In the past we have donated these to area agencies that see an increase in need during the cold weather. We have tried to get items for kids as well as adults.

On December 6 many of our worksites will participate in the sale of the spoof Old Newsboys paper. The proceeds from the sale help deserving children get shoes and boots in the immediate area. So when you see one of your co-workers with an orange newspaper bag and a donation jug, please give what you can.

Switching gears slightly, the membership of Local 724 stepped up again when it came to donating to the annual Capital Area United Way campaign. Although the campaign is still running in many worksites, the majority of the outreach is concluded for our Unit.

The Alliance, Bridgewater, Dakkota, and Woodbridge Units finished their drives with the highest totals of donations since they have participated in worksite United Way drives. Thanks to everyone who has donated in support of the community.

Local 724 will soon be 75 years old

In 2015 Local 724 will be celebrating seventy-five years of existence. We will be planning to recognize this milestone in a celebration. We are asking that if you or a family member has something they would like to share, please contact the Local. Starting in January we are also asking for volunteers for a 75th Anniversary Committee to start the planning. The event will celebrate our past, present and future.

As we have mentioned before, the organized labor community is more than the pundits and the haters have categorized us as. We raise our families, practice our faith, work, pay our taxes and contribute to the community. Whether we collect money for shoes for deserving kids, donate a toy to make a child smile, provide a pair of mittens to someone who is cold, or donate any of our paycheck or time, we have a lot to be thankful for by our social conscience.

Thanks for allowing us to be a mighty force in our community. From this humble unionist who joined a union forty years ago, I am proud to be Union. May you and yours have a blessed holiday season. May the wind be at your back and peace and joy within your soul.

The UAW Region 1C CAP Council worked very hard to help get labor-friendly candidates elected November. Shown here at the autumn CAP Conference are: Local 602 President Bill Reed, Region 1-C Director Norwood Jewell, UAW International President Bob King, and Local 602 Shop Chairman Rick Martinez.

Happy holidays

Hello Brothers and Sisters, it is that time of year again, the wonderful holiday season!

By the time you read this article, the Thanksgiving dinner is past history. I hope you and your family had a wonderful day and enjoyed the Thanksgiving feast.

UAW Local 724, along with the Women’s and Recreation committees, is having our Christmas Party on December 15 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Santa will be here too! Please come and join us—there will be desserts, punch and coffee as well as activities and surprises for the children.

Each year our Holiday Warmth Tree has been a big success because of all of you, so we need all your donations again this year to provide our families in need with new hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to put on the tree. We will get these gifts to the needy people in our community.

Please drop off your items from December 3 to December 21 at the 724 hall during these hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or drop at your worksite.

Our sincere thanks ahead of time; I am sure that with your help we will have another successful drive.

I know everyone will be out shopping soon. Let’s just remember to buy American and buy union. With so many of union brothers and sisters out of work, let us help our own this holiday season!

You will be amazed at the number of things that are union-made: from butter to cars. Some good sites to check:

www.unionlabel.org
www.unionplus.org/buy-union-made
http://www.labor411.org/

Many thanks

Victory! What a great feeling. I would like to thank our members who stepped up to volunteer during the elections.

Each of you should be proud to say “I am a member of the UAW.” All of our hard work paid off with the re-election of President Obama.

Thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly on Proposal 2 to help protect collective bargaining and working families in Michigan.

Although we were unsuccessful in the passage of Proposal 2, our efforts during this campaign brought union awareness to our communities and showed them the need to protect the basic rights of workers.

We are proud of this as a stepping stone to grow stronger in solidarity and strengthen our commitment to labor issues.

During this holiday season more than ever, my thoughts turn toward those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit, I give special thanks for all your support and friendships.

Warmest wishes for a joyous holiday and happy new year.

Work on local agreement

The general election (for the U.S. president, vice-president, etc.) is behind us. The phone calls and the knocks on your home door are also gone until the next election. Our congratulations to Barack Obama and Joe Biden on their reelection.

The bickering between the two parties never stops. Let them get down to working together for the American people and take into consideration making our country a better place to live, create the many jobs we need to have. America still needs the middle class, not just the rich or poor.

As of this writing the Shop Committee is still trying to negotiate a skilled trades local agreement. Until they get a tentative agreement and it’s ratified by the skilled tradesmen, the non-skilled portion is affected. This portion is being held up.

At the October general membership meeting the one concern was rolling the overtime hours back to zero.

Once the new local agreement is in place, keep a concerned effort on management charging overtime hours to the people that turn down the available overtime.

If you wait until later and there’s an error, it makes it difficult for the committed member to get it sorted out and corrected.

Keep an eye on the bulletin boards. Our Local must have an election for trustee. It is in the hands of the Election Committee to set the dates and times to vote, plus the voting areas.
Happy holidays!

Best wishes to you, members of Local 652. After a grueling, and seemingly never-ending election cycle, a new car launch that is best described as hectic and a period of sometimes excessive overtime, it will be nice to have a few days off during the holidays to spend with friends and family. The automotive business has historically been feast or famine and during the last couple of years these situations have come with exhilaration and pain.

Since General Motors’ bankruptcy we have seen more than our share of feast or famine, but things are looking up. In the past year we have been blessed with a great number of new hires, many of them in our GM Unit, something we have not experienced in a long, long time.

As we go into this holiday period we should give thanks for the good things. As the old saying goes, “It’s always darkest before the dawn.” We here at UAW Local 652 hope that your darkest hour is behind you, and that together we can enjoy the dawn of a bright, new day!

**Skilled Trades Meeting**

Local 652 Skilled Trades Christmas Meeting will be held at the Local 652 union hall on Thursday, December 13 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. All active and retired trades are welcome. Food and beverage provided with a $3.00 donation. Hope you can make it!

**Winterfest 2013**

Don’t forget to join the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club for their annual winter get-together. This year’s outing will be held in Grayling on February 22, 23 and 24. We look forward to seeing you there!

For information call 517-420-5335.

**Fair Practices**

Last holiday season after a grueling and seemingly endless election cycle, a new car launch that is best described as hectic and a period of sometimes excessive overtime, it was nice to have a few days off during the holidays to spend with friends and family. The automotive business has historically been feast or famine, but things are looking up. In the past year we have been blessed with a great number of new hires, many of them in our GM Unit, something we have not experienced in a long, long time.

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

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For information call 517-420-5335.
The elections are over so now we can focus on the holidays. While you are planning your holiday days take a few moments to think of all the homeless and hungry out on the streets on these cold nights. We, as a retiree group, have been very generous in giving to several organizations that benefit our veterans, children, and the elderly. It gives you a good feeling to know that a family had a nice dinner, or a child had a gift to unwrap under the tree all because you cared enough to share a little with them.

As always, our retirees will bring unwrapped toys for tots at our Christmas Dinner along with items for the food bank. We also have a money can in case you forgot, which can be used to buy food for the homeless.

On Thursday, December 13 at 2:00 pm Health Plus will be at Local 602 for an informational meeting for all UAW Trust Retirees. This is the highest-ranked Medicare Plan offered to UAW Retirees. This plan has been in the Flint area for quite some time and their members have found it to be a good plan. It think it would be well worth your time to attend this meeting.

I have this poem by an unknown writer that I’d like to share with you here:

“There’s more, much more to Christmas Than candle-light and cheer;
It’s the spirit of sweet friendship, That brightens all the year;
It’s material and high-mindedness, It’s hope reborn again
For peace, for understanding
And for goodwill toward men.”

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a joyful Holiday and a Happy New Year filled with happiness.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in January. For all our sick and homebound, you are in our thoughts and prayers. And to all who have lost a loved one or dear friend, we send our heartfelt condolences.

Laura Clark

Congratulations go out to all endorsed candidates and a hearty thank you to everyone who voted. You are to be congratulated. You know who you are ... callers, walkers, and of course the voters. I think the message of Hope was nationally well received and now is the time to pull the entire nation together, starting locally.

We are going to start with the 1753 Christmas Open House on December 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be served. Call the people in the old department and invite them to meet you there, or bring your spouse—or both!

Remember, we have a special meeting at the local on Tuesday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m. for those who are interested in Health Plus, a new HMO now available to some.

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 10. Coffee at 11:00, lunch at noon, meeting at 1:00. See you there!
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and A New Year filled with Peace and Happiness
UAW Local 4911

The Executive Officers and Committeepersons of Local 1753 wish you all the joys of the season.

Season’s Greetings from the officers and members of Local 2256

Season’s Greetings from Rapaport, Pollok, Farrell, & Waldron
Our Gift to You for the Holidays – and All Year Long

- Free Consultation
- 150 Years Combined Legal Experience
- Experienced Staff Represented by UAW

Workers Compensation
Personal Injury
Social Security
Serving area working families since 1942

Call 332-3555

http://www.rapaportpollokfarrellandwaldron.com

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Happy Holidays from the staff of the Lansing Labor News

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and A New Year filled with Peace and Happiness
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http://www.rapaportpollokfarrellandwaldron.com
Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year.

– UAW Local 602 Leadership

Local 724’s Amalgamated Units wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Alliance Interiors • Bharat Forge • Bridgewater Interiors
Dakkota • Delta Dental • Dimondale Nursing Center
Dr. Pepper/Snapple • Huntsman • IMPCO
JLL-Drayton • JLL-Team
Lear Mason • RSDC • Woodbridge Lansing

Serving the membership since 1940

450 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917
517-482-7377

General Membership Meeting Second Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.
We wish you happy holidays and a bright new year!

From the officers and shop chairmen of the GM, JCIM, Ryder, and AI Units of Local 652

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

From UAW Region 1C
Norwood Jewell, Director
Steve Dawes, Assistant Director
Staff and Support Staff
THE HIGHEST-RANKED MEDICARE PLAN OFFERED TO UAW TRUST MEMBERS IN MICHIGAN.

UAW Trust retirees deserve the security that comes with quality healthcare, and that's exactly what HealthPlus has to offer. Our plans come with great benefits like:

- Low out-of-pocket costs
- Unlimited primary care and specialist office visits at a fixed rate copay
- Vision benefits that include frames and lenses every 24 months through participating providers
- Coverage no matter where you travel — Florida, Arizona... anywhere in the world!

Enroll in HealthPlus today in one easy step by calling Retiree Health Care Connect at 1-866-637-7555.
For more information about HealthPlus or to talk to a representative, call 1-800-332-9161.

UAW Trust Retiree Informational Meetings:

UAW Local 1753/1618
3204 W. St. Joseph,
Lansing, MI 48917
Tuesday, December 4
2 p.m.

UAW Local 652
426 Clare St.,
Lansing, MI 48917
Tuesday, December 11
10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

UAW Local 602
2510 W. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing, MI 48917
Thursday, December 13
2 p.m.

HealthPlus employees are proud members of UAW Local 1811.
Local 1753 Nominations and Election

For TRUSTEE
Nominations
December 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
December 19 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
At the Hall
3204 W. St. Joseph, Lansing, MI 48917
Election
January 9, 2013
At the Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
In plant
5:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
11:20 a.m. to 12:00 noon
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
8:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Run-off election, if necessary, will be on January 16, 2013 same times and places

UAW Local 602
Holiday Open House
Retired/Active Members & Their Families!
Friday, December 21, 2012
Breakfast served 5am-9am
Lunch served 12pm-5pm
UAW Local 602 Union Hall
2510 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917
517-372-4626
Join Local 602 in celebrating the holiday season with food, fun, and fellowship!
Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Greater Lansing Food Bank!
Hope to see you there!

Local 602 meetings and closure
Following are Local 602’s meeting dates for the coming period. The Executive Board will meet at 4:30 p.m.
and the Membership at 6:00 p.m. on:
12/09/12
01/13/13
02/10/13
03/10/13
04/14/13
05/19/13
Please note: The Local 602 Hall will be closed for the holidays from Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1, 2013, reopening Wednesday, January 2.

Skilled Trades Meeting
Local 652 Skilled Trades Christmas Meeting will be held at the Local 652 union hall on Thursday, December 13 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. All active and retired trades are welcome. Food and beverage provided with a $3.00 donation.

Winterfest 2013 February 22-24
Join the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club at their annual winter get-together! This year’s outing will be held in Grayling on the last weekend of February, instead of the second weekend. For info, see the website: www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com or call 517-420-5335.
VEBA and Health Plus meetings at Local 652

Health Plus insurance plan is now going to be available to UAW VEBA Trust members in Clinton and Ingham counties. There will be informational meetings for this plan on December 11 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Local 652 hall. On December 14 there will be an informational presentation by the VEBA Trust. There will be representatives from various health insurance carriers available. The meeting starts at 1:00 p.m. at the Local 652 hall.

602 Obituaries
Roger Bradburn – Retired
Ladislaus Bocek – Retired
Edith Powell – Retired
Rex Wood – Father of Brian Wood, Retired
Skilled Trades Zone
Kenneth L. Holloway – Father of Kevin Holloway, Joint Activities
Nancy Jenks – Body (Sides)
Tonya Reagan – Body (Sides)
Daniel Stephen Bramos – Son of Steve Bramos
Roy Bird – Retired Paint
Eldon Brown Sr. – Father of Eldon Brown Jr., Body
Zetta D. Clark – Mother of Michael McDaniel
Hazel Irene Ellison – Mother of Tommy Ellison
Mark Root – Retired Paint P/E Review and Seal
Gertrude Hill – Mother of Denise Thomas, Engine Dress Team 6
Charles L. Smith – Retired
Roger Konenski – Retired
Christopher Robert Hyden – Son of Martha Cooper, Body
Kent Wood – Retired

602 Thank Yous
Thank you for the beautiful flowers, the cards, and all your thoughts and prayers. We greatly appreciate every thing ... Steve and Nora Bramos and family

652 Obituaries
Wayland Baker – Grandson of Frederick Kirrmann
Cynthia Ball – Spouse of Michael Ball
Joanne Crawford Bennett – Mother of Robert Bennett
Kathleen Bond – Spouse of John Bond
Ann Carol – Mother of Robert Mitchell
William Davarn – Father of Rick Davarn
Warren O. DeLong – Retiree, Father of Rob and Terry DeLong
Ida Fleming – Retiree, sister of Maxine Jubb
Lavern Gale – Father-in-Law of Leon Wilhelm
Aubrey Gay – Retiree
Mary Hempsted – Mother of Greg Edington
Gloria Jean Hickox – Mother of Terry Lowe
Alvin Gene Jones – Retiree
Herbert Ketchum – Father-in-Law of Lewis Smith
Wannetta Latuski – Retiree, Mother of Gary Latuski
Roviullawson – Spouse of Frank Lawson
Daleena Miller – Spouse of Richard Miller, Mother of Edwin Miller
Nathaniel Miller – Father of Alex Miller, Father-in-Law of Britney and Ashley Miller
Harry Misner – Retiree, Father of Brian Misner
Bertha Peak – Retiree, Spouse of Michael Peak
Lucius Charles Peterson – Spouse of Stella McIntosh-Peterson
Mergie Beaton Prochazka – Retiree, Mother of Tonia L. O’Berry
Carl Ratowski – Retiree
Alma Ronning – Mother of Mark Ronning
Richard G. Ruthruff – Father of Terry Ruthruff, Father-in-Law of Rick Cornell and Judy Ruthruff
Baldemar Sada – Retiree
Ronald L. Sanders – Retiree
Fred Smith Jr. – Son of Fred Smith
Phyllis A. Thompson – Mother of Ma son “Dutch” Williams
Fern Waddy – Mother of Phelix Waddy
Joseph Zielinski – Father of Wes Zielinski

Thank-You’s were received from the following families:
The Jearline Adams Family

724 Obituaries

Please see page 1 for information on retiree picnics in Florida this winter.

As of this writing, there are NO plans for an Arizona retiree picnic this winter.
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Wyko exhibiting at the Lansing Labor News feature.

For all w/o vision coverage, present this ad to receive:

1 COMPLETE PAIR WITH SINGLE VISION LENSES STARTING AT
$38.74

2 COMPLETE PAIRS NO-LINE BIFOCALS WITH EMBRACE NATURAL LENSES STARTING AT
$97.92

Frames from Value Collection and single vision plastic, bi-focal, or RX. No insurance discounts apply. Some restrictions apply. Price valid in-store only.

Contact lenses from Value Collection and single vision plastic, bi-focal, 0.00-2.00. No insurance discounts apply. Some restrictions apply. Price valid in-store only.

Dr. Jack Adkins & Associates
Welcome Back Retirees!
We offer Vision Service for all Your Eye Care Needs.

5020 W Saginaw Hwy • MON-FRI: 9-6 • SAT: 9-3
CALL TO GUARANTEE AN APPOINTMENT! • (517) 323-3399
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& Friendly Staff

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ANNE KLEIN
OLIVER PEOPLES

Charlotte 1315 Lansing Rd. 517-543-7577
Lansing 6001 W. Saginaw Hwy. 517-886-2888
Okemos 2285 W. Grand River Ave. 517-349-9944

We will bill most insurance plans directly, including:
BCBS, Davis Vision, Delta Vision, Eyemed, Heritage, NVA and Spectera

RxOptical.com

Michigan
SVS Vision Offices
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Flint
3192 S. Linden 810-230-9300
Flint
3871 Lapeer Rd. 810-742-6733
Grand Rapids
5150 Northland Dr. NE 616-364-4099
Grand Rapids
2500 E. Beltline SE 616-246-6300
Lansing
5057 W. Saginaw 517-323-8221
Midland
7207 Eastman Ave. 989-488-1866
Saginaw
2350 Tittabawassee 989-791-1044
Walker
2660 Alpine Ave. NW 616-365-9831
West Branch
511 E. Boughton Ave. 989-349-9883

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Out-of-pocket expenses on special options. See office for details. Cannot be combined with other coupons or offers. CP#1014

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Get $100.*

Now that's something to get your paws on.

Get your paws on $100 for moving your loan to LAFCU from another financial institution. It's a great time to get a low auto loan rate, so get started today!

Apply online at lafcu.com or call 517.622.6600!

*Based on loan amount of $10,000 or higher. Refinancing offer not available on loans currently financed at LAFCU. Restrictions apply.