How the elections could have gone our way

By Mike Green
President, Local 652

I want to thank everyone who helped on campaigns for our endorsed candidates, whether with phone banks, door to door, or lit drops. We had good turnouts for all the work it takes to elect our endorsed candidates. Despite our efforts, turnout of voters was 41.6%, which was less than the 2010 non-presidential year, when it was 42.9%, as reported in the UAW Dateline report.

How close were the races? Just 7,399 votes in nine State House districts kept Democrats from winning a majority.

House District GOP victory margin
23 1,306
39 1,442
56 874
61 1,870
62 547
71 310
91 58
99 671
101 321
Total 7,339

Our work to stop the attacks on working people will continue for years to come.

The lame duck agenda in November and December includes:
• A transportation funding package to deal with our roads in Michigan
• The Electoral College
• Prevailing wage
• Public employees’ collective bargaining rights

I would like to thank our Region 1D Director Gerald Kariem for his help in our election.

Region 1D Subcouncil 2 Election

I was elected alternate top negotiator at the Subcouncil 2 meeting. I took forward to serving on the 2015 negotiating team for the car side at the UAW-GM national negotiations.

We had a lot of discussions on what we will need to do at the 2015 negotiations. UAW Vice President Cindy Estrada spoke about the many issues we will be facing. Estrada will lead the talks on the GM side. She brings a wealth of knowledge from the IPS and Organizing Departments, and she understands the issues facing us on the GM side.

Region 1D Director Gerald Kariem announced that Steve Dawes will be the Assistant Director for Region 1D. Our congratulations to Steve.

My wife Pam and I became proud grandparents on November 3—a baby boy named Phenix Michael Green. Congratulations to the parents, Rollin and Allison, on our first grandchild!

As we approach the holidays, may you and your family have a safe and enjoyable time.

And remember to buy American and buy union!

LOCAL 602
Bill Reed, President

Be prepared

We have seen what Rick Snyder’s Koch brothers, Dick DeVos influenced policies have done to working families across our state. We have witnessed the lies that brought us a right to work law meant to break the backs of our union sisters and brothers.

As a Local Union President, I have dealt firsthand with the negative changes in Michigan law that have had a direct influence on the way we conduct business as a Local Union. I stood outside the Capitol when we were locked out during the right to work protests. I’ve seen firsthand the devastation the pension tax has had on our senior citizens.

We will see more destruction to our middle class and continued ripping apart of our union rights and benefits in the next four years. Be prepared. You should be mad as hell, ready to join together to fight back.

Now more than ever we need each other’s backs. We need each other’s strength, and we need each other’s commitment. Stand with me with your head held high because you are a proud union member.

The only person who can take that right away is you. Hang onto it! If they want it, force them to pry it out of your cold clenched fist on your death bed because this is your claim, your right, and your Solidarity and no one – but no one – can ever take that away from you!
LOCAL 724
Dean Poggiali, President

Interacting in our community

This fall has certainly hit us with a full force. We haven’t even seen winter yet and the sun only makes a cameo appearance and we are talking in terms of wind chill as it pertains to our temps. We are sending belated condolences to the family of Russ Klusack, former Local 724 Executive Board member and Unit Chair of the Huntsman Unit. Russ was a long-time member of the Huntsman Unit for over forty years.

The RSDC Unit recently ratified a collective bargaining agreement. The Unit has seen gains in their employment and is well on their way to gaining some new work. Congratulations to the committee who kept on course during the whole difficult experience.

The annual Local outreach for hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, etc., will commence with the Holiday Tree of Warmth. Right around Thanksgiving the tree will go up and you are encouraged to bring in new or handmade items to place on the tree. Then the Local Women’s Committee and Community Service Committee will make sure that a deserving agency gets the outpouring to help the community.

Speaking of warmth, the annual Lansing Old Newsboys paper sales date was December 4. Many of our units sell the spoof paper inside their facility and the kids have warm shoes and boots needed in the winter months of Michigan.

Also a reminder that the Local is collecting for the Toys for Tots drive. There is a collection box inside the hall until December 12. Call Dean at 203-5027 if you need to have someone collect your donations or would like to have a collection box at your worksite.

On Saturday, December 20 the Local’s annual Christmas party for kids will be held from 1-5 pm. Please bring the kids and grandkids for some holiday fun.

We have touched on the community spirit exhibited by our members who have helped make our community a wonderful place to live and raise their children. We have also backed that spirit with our worksite United Way drives. The recent concluding drives held at Bridgewater, Dakkota, and RSDC yielded results that again show the commitment our members have to helping out the community.

I now turn the page to a subject a little less cheery, the announcement of the LGR second shift going down for a period of time. It will impact many of our families. Alliance, Bridgewater, Dakkota, ILL-Eurest, ILL-LGR, ILL-TEAM, and Woodbridge will all feel a degree of the announcement. The actual numbers are still being determined due to contractual obligations as it pertains to layoffs. The fact is that these families will be going into the holiday season with a sense of uncertainty.

Having also experienced this same feeling a while back, it leaves one with questions that can’t be answered. Also futures that can’t be easily determined, so tough choices will need to be made. Please know that you can reach out to us by calling 517-203-5027 at the Capital Area United Way. We will try to problem solve to look at options for you and your family. Additionally a free and confidential resource is the 2-1-1 call line. Call the and speak to a trained resource specialist who will explore options based on your circumstances. Please remember that the call to 2-1-1 or I will not be able to solve all the issues, but will try to find a path to travel.

We have touched on how we interact in our community in a variety of ways. For many of our families things are still a little uncertain and daily challenges still occur. Let us take solace that we do live in a wonderful community that reaches out to those in need whenever possible. May the wind be at your back and peace and joy within your soul.

Local 652 again teamed up with the Marines’ Toys for Tots campaign, and raised money and toys for less fortunate kids in our community. Shown here are 652 officers and Marines: Vice-President Randy Freeman, Financial Secretary Bob Smith, Gy St. Andy Darnell, Recording Secretary Scott Lounds, Community Service Chair Sylvia Freese, Sgt. Buster Miscusi, President Mike Green, and Shop Chair Ted Krumm.

Each year our Holiday Tree of Warmth 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, 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 1 to December 23 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 thanks ahead of time; I am sure that with your help we will have another successful drive.

I know everyone will be out shopping. Let’s 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!

LOCAL 724
Debra Mills, Financial Secretary

Happy Holidays

Hello Brothers and Sisters, it is that time of year again, the wonderful holiday season! Local 724 along with the Women’s and Recreation Committee is having our Christmas Party on December 20 from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 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.

1753 Christmas Open House at the Hall on Thursday, December 11, from 1-5 pm.

LOCAL 652
Bob Smith, Financial Secretary

A little bit of the Grinch...

In the last edition I wrote about the development of a members-only union movement at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This type of union is voluntary and only represents the workers who choose to join. Volkswagen recently announced that organizations that represent at least 15% of the active workers in the plant will be allowed to meet and present ideas and proposals to local plant management. Volkswagen has not put a restriction on the number of organizations this would be limited to, so there could be six or more groups meeting on the employees’ behalf.

This in itself is a little unusual but what is really mind-blowing is that one of the groups touting representation is the very group that fought against the formation of a union in the first place. So we have the strange case of the anti-union group, the group that successfully fought against collective bargaining has formed the American Council of Employees to compete with the UAW for members. It is a quasi-union group that believes that workers should come together to negotiate with their bosses. One of that group’s leaders, Sean Moss, is quoted as saying, “It’s really to the benefit of everyone that everyone have a say, the opportunity to step up and speak for themselves…” So we have the same people that fought against the organizing campaign which would have assured worker involvement and collective bargaining making statements that support the idea of worker involvement and collective bargaining! Please, someone wake me up from this nightmare!

I am hoping that the workers at Volkswagen are sharp enough to realize that they have been bamboozled by their political representatives. After all the innuendos, threats and outright lies even the co-workers who were against organizing were really not, they were just doing what they were told to do. It appears almost everyone in the plant supports unions, they just have to tell all the others to mind their own business!

A little tidbit of coal...

Did you know that wages in construction, production, transportation, installation, maintenance and repair in Michigan have dropped so low (or, depending on your view, not risen) that 59% of the nation has higher average wages? Based on a study done in 2012 by the Michigan Department of Management and Budget looking at 202 different occupations, Michigan’s wages were equal or higher in only 83 of those occupations. The occupations were primarily in the industrial areas, historically the jobs that pushed Michigan near the top of the manufacturing U.S. wage scales. I can’t specifically pin this on our state’s preponderance of Republican represen-
On the horizon

It never fails to amaze me the amount of generosity our members show this time of year. Local 652 members started this season with the Breast Cancer Making Strides Walk raising over $5,000. It was great to see our Regional 1-D Director Geralda Kariem at the rally at the Capitol before the Walk.

Next we moved on to the Toys for Tots and again this year raised over $6,000. This was even in light of the amount of down weeks we had this year.

We were at the gates on December 4 collecting for the Old Newsboys, trying to put shoes on young kids’ feet.

Winterfest February 13-15

The Oldmobile Outdoor Club will be having its yearly Winterfest (Olds on the Ice) at Grayling February 13-15. It’s a great time for family and friends. It’s a free fishing weekend with the DNR. Look for more info at the club’s website, oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com. If you have questions, feel free to call Mike Bokovoy at 517-420-5335. So make your reservation at the Ramada Inn, Grayling and we hope to see you up there!

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

LOCAL 652
Scott R. Lounds, Recording Secretary

Lansing Labor News

First off I would like to wish all the Lansing Labor News’ readers happy holidays and a joyous and prosperous new year. Unfortunately, the chances of working folk having a prosperous new year was lessened considerably by the recent election results, both in Michigan and across this nation. We are poised to lose rights and privileges as working people that our predecessors in the Labor Movement fought and in some cases died for. Programs that will be swept away by the ever more conservative and anti-worker Republicans are too numerous to list. But, a few will affect our members immediately and profoundly.

First, on a state level the Republican legislature and Governor have already stripped most bargaining rights for union employees, putting the power over State employees in the hands of bureaucrats and political appointees. The cry from the far right is always about limiting government, with no consequences to opposing good jobs to private entities, like Aramark. (Do I even need to go into the litany of criminal and immoral behavior that company has engaged in since the Republicans privatized food service in our prisons?) True, these outsourced jobs don’t go away, they just go to low-paid poorly vetted employees working for someone working with our children, driving their buses, preparing their school lunches, and a host of other interactions.

Another State law protection that the Republicans have virtually done away with is the Workers Compensation system. A system that was set up so that employees had a no-fault benefit for work-related injuries and which protected employees from liability in the workplace. The Republicans have changed the system so that it is harder and harder for workers to receive any lost wage benefits, but surprisingly, have not made it easier for employees to seek legal action for injuries due to negligence by their employers. In the time before Workers Compensation statutes the law of the land was that if you were hurt at work by any known hazard you were considered to have assumed the risk of your job. If you worked in a factory and a machine malfunctioned and injured you, well, everyone knows machines malfunction so you assumed the risk of working with that hazard. If you cut yourself horribly on sharp sheet metal, well, everyone knows sheet metal can be sharp.

Thankfully, on the Federal level we still have President Obama and the power of veto to protect us from this rapacious, right, pro-corporation forces at work within our government. If not, laws like the National Labor Relations Act—which is what requires companies to recognize Unions and forces them to bargain in good faith with them—might well be stripped away by an ever more conservative Republican party which will continue to put shoes on young kids’ feet.

Continued on page 7

LOCAL 602
Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary

Change is in our future

As a Union, CHANGE is in our future. It affects our lives across our country. Many non-Union-friendly politicians and wealthy Union-busting individuals have been working against us to make sure we do not continue to survive. At the whim of rich lobbyists, these non-Union-friendly politicians are changing laws that will directly affect how we, as a Union, will proceed in the future.

The right-wing Republican Party has reared up and shown how blatantly they plan to attack the Unions, middle class, poor, elderly, and women by compelling them to give tax cuts to the rich and corporations, while taking more money from your wallet. They have come out with a vengeance in an orchestrated plan to retaliate against Unions from every angle. On November 4th, many of you sat by and allowed the fire-breathing dragon to burn down your livelihood. Ever since a negotiated day off to vote, you did not get out and vote for labor-friendly politicians who would be on your side. Have we reverted back to medieval times when peasants gave all their wealth to the Lords, who determined how to dispense the wealth? All for our own good, of course.

You have one line of defense at this point, YOUR UNION. We act as the Robin Hood of our time, fighting together to retain the negotiated benefits we’ve gained over the years. We, as members, are willing to stand together side by side to preserve our standard of living.

Next September, our membership will play a pivotal role in how we, as a Union, continue in the future. Right-to-Work was passed with only one thing in mind—to destroy the Unions by eliminating their funding. You have within your grasp the power to determine what your future will look like, either by yourself or as a collective group with your fellow Union brothers and sisters.

The mass majority of our members have stated they will continue to pay Union dues. By sticking together, we can fight for common goals that affect us all. We must not allow our future to be put into the hands of those who intend to destroy all that we have negotiated for over the years.

It is time to change your future and the future of generations to come. I urge each and every one of you to remain in the Unions which stands with you and fights for you. Together, as UAW members we can continue with the proud history and legacy of winning social and economic justice. For it is said, “In numbers we have strength.”

LOCAL 4911
Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary

Ultimate holiday gift from labor

Over the past numerous decades, union officials have battled through historic negotiations to gain workers’ rights and benefits. Many people take for granted what the labor movement has won for working Americans during a time such as: paid holidays, paid vacation days, an eight-hour workday, weekends, overtime, break time, paid sick days, living wages, workplace safety and health,arrest unemployement insurance, health care, dental and vision insurance and safe working conditions, to name a few. Also, add to the list of things our Unions have a democratic voice in their workplace.

As you know, a vast number of workers still enjoy these benefits today. This is a perfect example of how union negotiated benefits were often embraced, accepted and adopted by the business community over the years. The Labor Movement has given us the Ultimate Holiday Gift that we enjoy all year long. To honor the significance of this gift and appreciate the benefits more fully, would you volunteer to forgo the benefits for one year to imagine what life might be like without them?

Working people and working families make up the majority of our middle-class society which is being eroded. Therefore, unions will persevere and continue to fight to improve the quality of life for working families everywhere.

Holiday Greetings!

As we approach this blessed holiday season, may we all spend time reflecting upon everything for which we have to be thankful. Let’s all open our hearts and look for opportunities to help those who are less fortunate through kind words, kind acts, monetary donations, cooking meals, shoveling sidewalks or driveways for an elderly neighbor or family member, helping out a neighbor in need.

I hope that you enjoy safe travels during your holiday visits with friends and family this holiday season. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, joy and happiness.
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

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General Membership Meeting Second Tuesdays of the month at 5:00 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

Michael R. Green
Randy Freeman
Robert E. Smith
South Council

Whether you celebrate with ceremony or solitude, sing carols at the top of your lungs or smile silently at the sound of sleigh bells, receive a thousand kisses under the mistletoe or hold only one small, mittened hand, your Region 1D family wishes you peace, love and joy this holiday season.

Director

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New Year filled with Peace and Happiness
UAW Local 4911

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Dorothy Stevens

602 retirees

Now that the elections are over it is time for us to focus on the holiday season.

I came across a Christmas poem I’d like to share with you.

“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 thoughtfulness and kindness, It’s hope reborn again For peace, for understanding And for goodwill toward men.”

I believe it says it all. We must remember all the men and women who are stationed overseas who will not be home with family and friends fighting to protect our freedom as well as the poor and needy.

It is the season of giving and helping one another.

We wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year!

Mike Bauer

652 retirees

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends.

The following is our monthly schedule of events:
First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. The games start at 5:00 p.m.
Third Tuesday of the month is our potluck dinner and business meeting. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Dinner starts at noon.
Fourth Tuesday of the month is card night starting at 5:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652 and 602.

Our bingo night, potluck/business meeting, and social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only.

Our next social night will be January 13, 2015. Social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only – no guests.

Upcoming cancellation to mark on your calendar. The December 23 card night is canceled.

The October 24th VEBA Trust meeting was well attended. If you still have questions regarding your medical or dental benefits, please contact a benefit rep.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing our snowbirds in the spring.

Conrad’s to the families of: Gary Sunkin, 79; Tony Koskoski, 79; Duane Smith, 62; and Fred Grumday, who worked with Dale Trierweiler.

Bud Hall is in foster care in New Hartford. 230 Hocha Ct, Dimondale, MI 48821.

Happy birthday to: Harry Henderson, 90; Bill Hagan, the big 100; Roy Pammel, also 100; Sue Tessendorf, 210; Tom Walker; Dick Kline; Judy Hunt; Barb Harlott, Barb Kline; Tom Sutton; 90; Hanna Fox; Celilia Anthony; Jessica Anthony; Dianna Zelenka; Mariann Anthony; and James Anthony.

Happy anniversary to: Jan and Tom Walker, who were married 53 years on November 11; and to Dick and Sue Torgason, 49 years.

Let’s hope all will be better next year, and that the winter will be better than last. It sure has come early. Till we meet again, keep smiling.

My phone is 517-543-5385. Call me with any questions.

Laura Clark

1753 retirees

Dear Retiree, I hope you and yours had a good Thanksgiving. The retirees at the November meeting enjoyed pork loin from the local and a feast from all the wonderful chefs. Some of them can really cook, and we had some great dishes to pass.

For you at-home readers: We are seeing more people stepping out and showing up. Some even come early for a visit, coffee and donuts at 11:00. Most people arrive at 12:00 for lunch and camaraderie. Nowadays people are quite engaged when the business meeting starts at 1:00. We try to let everyone have a voice and a vote.

The two things I like best are: 1) If we can bring new info to you, please feel free to take paperwork home. 2) More people are staying after for clean-up. Whether you’re sweeping the floor, swiffering spilled coffee, or just doing a share of dishes, every little thing helps. More hands make light work! This helps our hard-working E-Board.

Speaking of work, great job on the Hall work day. I was so impressed by how many were able to come help; some even brought their own tools. This was on very short notice, brought up between our meetings. Half of the group was made up of retirees. We took back the yard which had started to turn to jungle. Of course, we could not forget the inside and all those chairs. We also cleaned and changed lights. Vents which never to my knowledge had ever been cleaned before got cleaned. Sharon got into organizing the kitchen so much that she came back the next day to finish. It might’ve been our fault she didn’t finish, because we probably forced her to stop and eat pizza. It was a great, day I hope you enjoyed it and recovered as well as I did.

If you have been thinking of stopping at the Hall, this is a good time. December 11th, between 1:00-5:00, will be the Christmas Open House. We will have snacks and beverages from the local. The fun and songs you will enjoy with you! If you want to bring anything, remember, it can sit from 1-5. Do not come early; doors will open at 1:00!

Regular coffee, lunch and meeting will begin again next year. The same second Thursday of the month. You can recycle your old glasses and hearing aids; we have a Lions box at the Hall due to a member who belongs to this group.

I believe our meetings are informative with a benefit rep there to answer all your questions, but others missed having our October benefit meeting. Because of that I will try to fit one in the first couple of months.

Meanwhile, remember all retirees are getting eye and dental coverage back this year without you doing any thing. This is through the VEBA that the UAW set up. Not GM if you have questions, call your benefit rep at 517-885-6534. Retirees, we are putting on the Christmas party for ourselves and the active workers, so let’s make it a big shindig!

Laura Clark

602 Obituaries

Kathleen Brown – Mother of Jeff Brown, Body (Underbody Pans)
Claribel Thomas – Mother of Donald Thomas, Retired Quality
Brandon Lee Resseguey – Son of Robert Resseguey
Jeffrie Scott – Retired, General Assembly (Trim 1)
David Fancher – Retired, William Plante – Retired
Margaret Williams – Retired
Henry Horton – Retired
Willis Bradley – Father of Jonathan Bradley
Barbara L. May – Father of Carl May, Jr., Retired and Grandmother of Chris Dent, Material (FEM Dock)
Frances Cook – Retired
Jack Hough – Retired
Paul C. McDaniel – Retired
Roy Dorey – Retired and Father of Morris Dorey, Repair
Charles W. Tupper – Father of Randy Tupper
Joan Whitford – Mother of Raymond Whitford, Retired
Phyllis L. Bindschatel – Mother of Scott Bindschatel, Gmnl. Assembly (Trim 2)
Richard Lund – Body (Metal Finish)
Richard Reed – Retired; Father of Bill Reed, Local 602 President; Grandfather of Richard Reed, Body (Metal Finish); and Brother of Lanny Reed, Retired
To UAW Local 602… My family and I thank you for the beautiful Bible, the kind words, and guidance through this difficult time. God bless you all… Mike Gonzales and Family (Family of Ramiro Gonzales)

OCTOBER, 2014

David Roesner – General Assembly, Final 1
Juanita Cadman – Quality Control Engineering
James Florian – Retired
Larry Fulcher – Retired
Anna Theaker, Retired
Daniel Dailey – Retired
Jack Gurrola – Retired
Douglas Poufca – Quality
Vernon R. Parks – Retired
William Bowen – Retired
James Miller – Retired
Ramiro Gonzales – Retired and Father of Michael Gonzales, Retired General Assembly Trim 5
Leon Kussmaul – Retired
Malinda Welford – Mother of Lynette Welford, End of Line Repair
Robert Theron Evin – Retired Welder
Bruce Jacobs - Retired
James Pettit – Father of Jeffrey Field, General Assembly Trim 4
Mary Beckwith – Wife of Richard Beckwith, Retired Headliners
Clifford Burkholder – Father of Ricky Burkholder, Quality
Lue Sudduth – Retired
Shelley Lambert – Paint P/E Review
Lounds
Continued from page 3

beholden to their rich corporate overlords like Dick DeVos and the Koch brothers. Right-to-Work is bad enough, but imagine a world where unions had no legal standing at all, a world where every strike would be illegal and workers had no bargaining power at all. Those of you who either lived through, heard stories of, or have been educated about what life was like in industry before the Unions no doubt cringe as I do when contemplating the destruction the far right may do if they gain control of both the Congress and the Presidency.

Within Michigan our legislature has stripped away the protection of MIOSHA; what if we were to have OSHA stripped away as well? Workers could end up toiling in workplaces akin to those in Upton Sinclair’s famous book The Jungle.

The litany of protections on the verge of being stripped away from workers is long. Yet many, many, people have the most to lose once again stayed home on Election Day. This cannot happen again, either in two years, four years, or ever. It is imperative we begin to fill our legislatures, our governor’s mansions, and the White House with men and women of progressive beliefs who will fight for and protect the middle class and the workers of this country and this state. To do this, people—working people in particular—cannot stay home on Election Day. The rich, the corporations, the dark money super PAC’s will have their voices heard on our airways, but we the people can trump all that by making our voices heard in the voting booth.

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Thanks for the help!
The annual skilled trades coffee and donut gathering was held on Monday, September 22. It was a great success. It was attended by 113 people. Special thanks to the people that made a lot of phone calls for me. See you all next year!

– Alan McPherson

GM and Local 652 Retiree Breakfast
Last Wednesday of each month
7:00 - 9:00 a.m.
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