Our region resolves to have higher expectations

By Gerald Kariem
Director, Region 1D

I hope you and your family had a great Christmas and New Year’s Holiday. With a New Year comes new expectations, I always look toward the New Year and ask myself what worked last year and what didn’t. I am excited about some of the things we accomplished in 2014 with the new region and the transition. The efforts we have seen in our retiree chapters, local leaderships, CAP Councils, as well as all those committees that have come together, assures me of the positive things we can accomplish when we work together. Every group brought an improvement to the table.

I mentioned we are in a new year, but a new year also brings new challenges and higher expectations. We can only handle those challenges with cooperation and teamwork. I am truly excited about working with all of you.

Almost like a personal New Year’s resolution, our organization makes resolutions in hopes of improvement. And like people, our resolutions may focus on relationships, health, or habits, be they good or bad. Sometimes people follow through, and sometimes they don’t. Our Union can’t afford not to follow through with ours.

One of our regional resolutions is to have higher expectations. The better we do our jobs, the better our members support us. I put this obligation on myself as well as my staff. I am also asking the same of all UAW members. We will better serve our members by better serving our union.

We should be out there in our communities showing them that our organization has been there, helping to support families in trying times. We have been a voice for people afraid to speak. We have been a force for people without power. We have been a shield for people without defense. It is time our communities, our state, our nation hears about the good we do.

Currently, our region is involved in the distribution of free Child I.D. packs; we are working Change the Face of Hunger Drives; we have committees already starting our annual school supply drives; and several scholarship programs work year round to secure funding for disadvantaged students. If you are interested in lending a hand, see your local leadership for participation. I would ask everyone who can raise a hand to lend a hand. Imagine what we could do.

I would also like to remind you of our White Shirt Day event happening on Wednesday, February 11, at UAW Local 651 at 11:00 a.m. Don’t forget to purchase your tickets for a chance to win a beautiful FLINT-built 2014 SILVERADO truck and many other cash prizes. Tickets will also be sold at the event for $5 each. I look forward to seeing you there.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve as the Director of the Region, and I hope to cross paths with you as we continue to build our great “new” region. Happy New Year!

Reflections on 2014

By Dean Poggiali
President, Local 724

As we embark into 2015, here’s hoping that your holiday allowed you to recharge your mental and physical batteries. We all have so much going on in our lives that we sometimes neglect to take care of our own well-being.

We would like to reflect back on the last few months of 2014 for a bit. As in the past, the Local 724 membership stepped up when the community needed our help.

The annual Old Newsboys collections were up by over $200 with gate collections. When you enter into the Local and Unit donations that were above and beyond the gate collection, we were well over last year’s final outpouring. Over the years Local 724 members have donated tens of thousands of dollars to help out this worthy program. If you think that your children or grandchildren could benefit from the outreach, contact the Old Newsboys Association of Greater Lansing at 517-485-9107, visit their website at LansingOldNewsBoys.org or e-mail them at ONBofLansing@gmail.com

In that same spirit, the Local Toys for Tots drive exceeded the amount of toys received last year. Many of our worksites received collection boxes and collected donations of unwrapped new items at the worksite. When the Marines arrived at the Local to pick the boxes, there were six boxes that were overflowing. There may have more at some Local 724 worksites who had made arrangements to have the toys picked up at their respective worksite.

The Local 724 Women’s Committee collected donations of handmade and purchased hats, mittens, scarves and gloves again this year. The items decorated the Local Christmas tree and will be donated to an area nonprofit that will put them to good use.

The annual Local Christmas Party was again an event for the solidarity of our members. Kids and grandchildren were treated to some crafts, cookies, and a toy from Santa. We would be remiss if we didn’t acknowledge the RSDC Unit, which was able to secure some donations from their vending machine provider, which allowed the families to have a lunch as well. This collaboration of the Local 724 Women’s and Recreation Committees could only happen with the many volunteers on Friday setting up and on Saturday helping make everything run smoothly.

OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC
UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753 and LAFCU
BOTH SALARY & HOURLY
Tuesday, February 17, 2015
In Bradenton, Florida
American Legion
Kirby Steward Post
2000 75th Street West
(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)
Register at 11 a.m.
Eat at Noon
Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

Local 602 Hourly & Salaried Retirees Annual Florida Picnic March 3, 2015
(First Tuesday of March)
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Duff’s Original Buffet
6010 14th St. W
Bradenton, FL
$7.00 – $8.00 per person
Info: Call Larry Miller
at 941-746-6968 (home) or 941-920-2988 (cell)

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Local 4911 Election Notice – Page 5

Labor News online: www.lansinglabornews.org
LOCAL 652
Mike Green, President

Busy start to new year

I hope everyone’s holiday was a joyous time for you and your family. The new year starts with a very busy schedule, starting with GM Subcouncil 5 (skilled trades) and GM Subcouncils 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The Oldsmobile Outdoor Club’s Winterfest will take place February 13-15 in Grayling. That is also free fishing weekend. Please see more information on page 5.

If you have questions, please call Mike Bokovoy at 517-420-5335. The Olds Outdoor Club does a wonderful job to make sure everyone has a great time.

March 24 and 25 will see the UAW Collective Bargaining Convention held in Detroit.

Local 652’s Recreation and Conservation Committee will hold a Cabin Fever Game Night at the local on February 21, for adults only. It will include a euchre tournament and other games from 1:00 p.m.

In his article on page 1, Region 1D Director Gerald Kariem talks about our region being more involved with our community. I am very proud of the efforts in the Lansing area that our local unions have been involved in. These include breast cancer walks, Toys for Tots, Old Newsboys’ paper, Walk for Warmth, the school backpack program, Greater Lansing Food Bank, United Way, American Red Cross, and the many boards and service organizations our members serve on to make our community a better place to work and live in.

Concerning the child ID pack that was mentioned in our Director’s article: the UAW has joined the American Football Coaches Association to offer free ID kits. A gift of safety from our UAW family to yours, each kit contains two inkless fingerprint cards, two DNA collection swabs, and one activator card. All this information is stored and kept with you, so you can give it to authorities if ever needed.

At this year’s Winterfest in Grayling we will be passing these kits out. We will also have the kits at the Local 652 union hall, 426 Clare Street in Lansing. We have already had a request for 500 kits from Clinton Area Fire & Rescue/St. Johns Fire Department.

Thank you to everyone who called or sent a card to congratulate Pam and me on our first grandchild!

LOCAL 652 Benefits
To talk to a Benefit Rep, make a request through your Supervisor.

For those who are retired, on sick leave, lay-off, etc., Benefit Reps are at the Local 652 Union Hall Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except closed 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch.

The Republican caucus claims the rule is necessary to “protect the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund from diversion of its funds to finance a broken Disability Insurance system.”

The problem is disability isn’t broken, it’s been meddled with. Funding shifts in 1983 and 1994 have hurt disability’s funding and if the rates had stayed at pre-1983 levels the fund would be flush today.

A lot of factors play into Social Security’s problems today: the aging of the American population, the entry of women (mainly into the workforce, and the increase of the full retirement age above 65. But the system has been successful for decades with just minor tweaking.

The solutions are simple to describe but extremely difficult to implement. One simple solution would be to increase the payroll tax from its current rate of 12.4% to 15.28%. Since the payroll tax is split between employer and employee, it would be an increase of only 1.44% for each. Done, problem solved for the next 75 years! Like I said, simple!

The problem? No one likes a tax increase! Other ideas are benefit changes (read reductions), combating fraud, or increasing the full retirement age even further, perhaps 70 or more.

How many of your family and friends know about this? Did you let them know it’s about ourselves? Have you talked to them about the issues we are passionate about? Did you let them know it’s about our future too?

It’s not just about meeting basic needs, it’s also about educating, fighting anti-worker legislation, women’s issues, veterans issues and protecting civil and human rights to your future. It’s so important that we try to be a positive force that will draw people to us.

We all have equal opportunity when leaving a long lasting impression on those around us. When it comes to influencing the lives of others, our status in this world goes further than what we see through our window. Rich, poor, CEO or stay at home parent, you name it, none of that matters. Some celebrities or famous athletes may have a big influence on certain things in our lives. But as an example, which is more memorable: a celebrity who made you want to buy something, or the person who stood by you when you needed them most?

The UAW is simply all of us standing by each other, fighting for a better future. Those who are not a part of our organization may think the UAW is only beneficial to its membership. We know that the UAW is a social movement. A large part of the needs being met in our communities would suffer if it weren’t for the generosity of our members.

How many of your family and friends know about the good we do as an organization? Do they think we only care about ourselves? Have you talked to them about the issues we are passionate about? Did you let them know it’s about our future too?

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Wage Stagnation Nation

Clearly, this is a bad time to be a working person. The economic recovery has largely skipped those of us who make an hourly wage. The Snyder administration and their cohorts in Washington have done all they can to make sure that businesses have come back in the last few years. They have shown great empathy for corporations, partnerships, and business of all kinds. Their empathy for the plight of the working people of this country and state has been sorely missing.

For years, even as the economy recovered and the stock market soared, most American workers saw little evidence of better times in their paychecks. However, in November of 2014 overall wages increased 0.4%, with the gain for lower-paid workers in production jobs increasing 0.2 percent. In a not shocking at all development, Representative Kevin P. Brady, a Texas Republican who is chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, has called on the Federal Reserve to move quickly and raise interest rates to stave off inflation.

That’s right, a 0.2 wage increase has thrown the conservative ranks into a panic. Keep in mind that 0.2 percent for a worker making $25,000 a year equals $50 a year; but, hey, on the bright side, if you are fortunate enough to make $50,000 a year that skyrockets to $100. God forbid. Those greedy workers might actual buy their kids new shoes, or coats, or school supplies with all that loose cash.

Your fear is that unions have no longer around to fight the economic, political, and social battles that we as individuals cannot.

LOCAL 4911 Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary

Social Security resources

Are you planning ahead for those “golden years” of retirement? It pays to begin the research now to determine what will be necessary for you to retire from your employment. Many people are deciding to depend on Social Security to help ease the burden of financial woes during retirement years.

How do you qualify for Social Security retirement benefits? By earning “credits” when you work and pay Social Security taxes. If you were born in 1929 or later, you would be required to have 40 credits (10 years of work) to receive retirement benefits. Currently, about 10,000 people reach retirement age daily. You have the ability to maintain sources of retirement publics and information on the following websites or choose to join 14 million people who have opened a personal mySocialSecurity account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

For the average worker, about 40 percent of your pre-retirement income is replaced by Social Security. The website www.socialsecurity.gov/retire has a retirement planner for your use to answer questions and help you prepare financially for this life-changing decision.

For information on Social Security benefits as earnings: www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/quality.htm#b2

For information on Social Security benefits and military service: www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/vetbenef.htm

For information on Social Security if disabled: www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dapproval4.htm

The second question that runs through my mind is what these conservative, put-upon and desperate working class people are de- 

\[\text{VOLUME 71, NUMBER 1} \quad \text{VOICE OF 26,000 MEMBERS} \quad \text{JANUARY, 2015} \]

Lansing Labor News

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES: LANSING LABOR NEWS • 210 CLARE STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917

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An award-winning, non-profit newspaper, established March 15, 1945, and dedicated to the interests of the community and the interest of Labor here and elsewhere. Published January, May, September, and December. Periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI and at additional offices. Three percent per month from UAW Incorporated Local’s monthly dues is for this publication. Subscription rates for non-members are as follows: $7.50 per year $13.00 per year $20.00. Member of the International Labor Press Association, the UAW LUPA, the Midwest Labor Press Association and the Michigan Labor Press. The opinions expressed by the columnists are not necessarily those of the affiliated Local Unions and the Lansing Labor News.

USPS NUMBER 304-840

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lansing Labor News, c/o Allied Mailing & Printing, 240 N. Fenway Dr. Fenton, MI 48430

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True solidarity

The UAW’s Solidarity magazine is nowadays mostly online. So I wanted to make sure you saw the following article from the last issue. Also, you can go to www.uaw.org to sign up for email notifications of the publication of the digital version, or even to opt in for the print version.

When Ann Martin was diagnosed with breast cancer in October 2011, she knew the road to recovery would be difficult. As the mother to a son and daughter, the then 16-year employee of General Motors Fort Wayne Assembly in Indiana was worried about many things — including the toll the disease would take on her health and family.

Continued on page 6

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**Grandchildren. Won't you please take a few minutes and contact your representative to urge them to work for, pay for, and are counting on the benefits, or traditional role of Social Security and Medicare and privatize the program for the benefit of large insurance companies, increase your out-of-pocket health care costs and undermine the purpose of Social Security and Medicare.**

Sending a message to your Representative is very, very important right now. Here’s why:

1) As a constituent writing or contacting your representative to urge them to approve any legislation, plan or recommendation that will in any way harm the benefits, or traditional role of Social Security or Medicare are effective coming from you.

2) These are benefits YOU have worked for, paid for, and are counting on for your retirement.

3) The next two years are going to present us with enormous challenges. If we stand together we can stop bad things from happening and make our country stronger and more just.

This is the least we can do to try and leave something for our children and grandchildren. Won’t you please take a few minutes and contact your representative now?

For all the sick and shut-ins, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

For those who have lost a loved one or dear friend, we send you our sincere condolences.

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**Organizers of the 2014 retirees picnic in Florida for Locals 652, 1618, and 1753. They are looking forward to another great picnic on February 17.**

**Mike Bauer**

**652 retirees**

A belated Happy New Year to everyone. 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.**
- **By membership action, we are making changes to our Bingo and Card times and refreshments. Effective in March 2015, Bingo will be held the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Participants will bring their own snacks. Cards will be the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Participants will bring their own snacks.**

Our next social night will be April 14. Social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only—no guests.

The Lansing Area Euchre Tournament is April 17, at Local 602, starting at 9:00 a.m. You do not need a partner to play. Please call 517-372-7581, ext. 147, and leave your name and number to sign up.

**Condulescences to all the families who have had a loved one pass.** The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Joyce and Herb Fernholz, Dave Hodges, Don & Helen Hogan, Dorothy Hoisington, Jim Heflin, Roger & Aln for Miller, Leonard Schneider, Bob & Lee Vergason, Mason Williams, Willa Wright, and any others we may have missed. The Lansing Labor News is online at www.lansinglabornews.org

**The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to donate when you attend retiree events. No expense food please.**

Send your change of address to: Lansing Labor News, 210 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917. Please include your current address and the old address when requesting the change.

If you have benefit questions, contact a benefit rep for answers. 517-372-7581 ext. 500.

You may contact me at the following email address: retiree652@hotmail.com

**Lois Schultz**

**1618 retirees**

Hi out there, all you wonderful people. Please put your calendars on: TED’S BREAKFAST at 8:30 a.m. on MARCH 3 at Guerazzi’s Restaurant, 15643 Old U.S. 27, Lansing, MI 48906. [In DeWitt Town] and going north of State Road.] There will also be a breakfast June 7 at the same time and place.

Remember our monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. Bring a dish to pass, eat at noon. Our sick list includes many with the bad flu. Our next meeting is February 12; this will be a soup lunch in honor of our sit-downers who ate not much more. We are looking for all types. Bring your favorites. Looking forward to seeing you—bring a dish to pass or bring yourself!

**Bonnie Halfmann**

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**OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC**

**UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753 and LAFCU**

**BOTH SALARY & HOURLY**

**Tuesday, February 17, 2015**

In Bradenton, Florida

American Legion
Kirkby Steward Post
2200 75th Street West
(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)

**Register at 11 a.m.**

**Eat at Noon**

Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

**Laura Clark**

**1753 retirees**

Happy New Year! Hope you had a nice holiday. We here at the local 1753 Christmas open house had a bash. We had a fire in the hearth and carols were being played. The local provided cold cuts, meatballs, dishes of all sorts and we have very nice members who brought extras. We saw many members that we had not seen for some time. It was nice to see the number of active members was up from last year. We tried to encourage everyone to attend future meetings by handing out calendards for this year that are stamped with meeting dates. If you do not have yours, come to the next meeting to receive it and you can get with the times (as they say).

Attendance at the monthly retirees meetings has been up; as you may remember the local usually buys the main dish. Now we have taken to adding a side dish. This is so all people will know that it is OK if you forgot it at home. It’s OK if you made cookies for us and then the grandkids showed up and let them eat them! It’s OK even if you just can’t cook! Come to the meeting and eat lunch and visit. Bring ideas for activities. I’ve suggested Bingo in the past. Maybe you would like to play cards during coffee or after the meeting. Is it time for another card party? These questions and more may be discussed at the next meeting.

Our Region, now 1-D, is into cards and continuing the euchre party on Friday, April 17 at the 602 hall. Remember, you must show up early to register for the 9:00 a.m. start time. There will be cash prizes awarded. If you would like to volunteer to work it, call me.

This year is the 25th annual Capital Area Community Service’s Walk for Warmth. The Walk for Warm is a state-wide program for assistance for utility bills. This year’s walk will be Saturday, February 28. If you can help or have any questions, call 203-5027.

Next meeting is February 12; this will be a soup lunch in honor of our sit-downers who ate not much more. We are looking for all types. Bring your favorites. Looking forward to seeing you—bring a dish to pass or bring yourself!

**Continued on page 6**

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**Local 602**

**Hourly & Salaried Retirees**

**Annual Florida Picnic**

**March 3, 2015**

*(First Tuesday of March)*

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (*Door open early to 10:00)*

Duff’s Original Buffet
6010 14th St. W
Bradenton, FL
$7.00 – $8.00 per person

Info: Call Larry Miller at 941-746-6966 (home) or 941-920-2988 (cell)

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**Dorothy Stevens**

**602 retirees**

We are starting a new year with a new Congress and many wonder what will come next.

There is growing political will in Washington to alter our Social Security system. The changes to our country’s social insurance safety net appear to be inevitable, especially now, with a new willingness by President Obama and lawmakers in both parties to change Social Security and Medicare and cut your earned benefits.

It has been a constant fight to protect and improve these vital programs for current and future beneficiaries.

Given the federal debt, the anti-Social Security lobby will continue to target the Social Security system in order to pay down deficits while many Washington politicians want to cut Social Security and Medicare and keep tax loopholes for millionaires.

Some of the most harmful proposals gaining momentum in Washington would cut the Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) already too low to keep up with rising costs, end traditional Medicare and privatize the program for the benefit of large insurance companies, increase your out-of-pocket health care costs and undermine the purpose of Social Security and Medicare.

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**Curtis Dunn**

Continued on page 6
Local 4911  
Nomination and Election Notice

Acceptance for positions listed below may be made at the Local 4911 Union Hall, 2722 E. Michigan Ave, Suite 205 Lansing, beginning February 19 and 20 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. both days. All candidates must accept nomination in person, no acceptance may be made by telephone, mail, fax or email, and you must be a Local 4911 member in continuous good standing for one (1) year prior to acceptance deadline to be eligible to run for office.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Three (3) Technical Unit Stewards

Retiree Executive Board:
- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Financial Secretary
- Recording Secretary

The election will be held at the Local 4911 Union Hall on March 11 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There is no need to have a run-off for these positions, as they are a plurality vote process.

– Joe Douglas, UAW Local 4911 President
– Marsha Mead, Election Committee Chair

UAW Local 4911  
Cordially invites UAW Local 4911 member and one adult guest to our  
Valentine Extravaganza  
Saturday, February 14
6:00pm-10:00pm
426 Clare St. Lansing 48917 (UAW Local 652)  
Appetizers and Beverages provided

We will have a DJ providing music for dancing.

Registration is required, and deadline for registration is February 12.
Contact Natalie Hazel at 517-512-2518 or natalie.hazel@sparrow.org or Mickie Kreft at MickieKreft@uawlocal4911.org

UAW Local 4911 Retiree Chapter

You are invited to join UAW Local 4911’s newly formed Retiree Chapter

The first event will be a social forum on
February 17
from 1 – 3 pm
Suite 103, Meeting Room
2722 E. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912

Save the date

UAW Local 4911’s 6th annual bowling event
at Spare Time in Frandor
March 14, 2015 from 10am - 1pm
Registration begins Feb 16

UAW Local 602  
Election Notice

Veterans Committee Chairperson
(through remainder of term, ending in 2017)

ALL Local 602 members in good standing, active and retired are eligible to run and vote.

24-hour election will be held

11 a.m. Tuesday, February 10, 2015 until
11 a.m. Wednesday, February 11, 2015
at ONE location: UAW Local 602 Union Hall

Run-off, if necessary, will be held at same location from 11 a.m. Monday, February 23, 2015 until 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 24, 2015.

Bring proper ID (gate card, union card, or driver’s license)

UAW Locals 602 and 2256 Civil and Human Rights Committees present

2015 Taste of Black History  
Sunday, February 15
3:00 p.m. – Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

UAW Local 602, 2510 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48917

With speakers Theresa Bullock, UAW International Civil and Human Rights, and Travis Erby, retired teacher and former UAW EAP Rep. Please join us for this annual celebration of Black History. Food, door prizes, entertainment.

UAW Region 1D Bowling Tournament
March 14 & 15
Royal Scot Lanes, 4722 W. Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI 48906
Singles & Doubles Events on Saturday, March 14
Team Event on Sunday, March 15

Deadline for registration is February 20
See Local 602 website for more information: www.local602.org

UAW LOCAL 602 Conservation & Recreation Committee

Thanks to the following Companies and Individuals for donating to the 16th Annual UAW LOCAL 602 golf outing, this raised money for VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN IN EATON RAPIDS. The event took place at Timber Ridge Golf Club in East Lansing on July 27. We would also like to give a big THANK YOU to all the golfers who participated!

MAJOR SPONSORS
BLACK LAKE GOLF CLUB
BODY SHOP DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
CONTINENTAL CAANTEE (JEFF SHOTTROFF)
DOREEN HOWARD, UAW LOCAL 602 FINANCIAL SECRETARY & GARY HOWARD, GUIDE
GA DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
JAY AND NANCY MINELLA (CHISOLM)
JM BUILDERS, JEFF & MELANIE MALEK
LANSING BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
MARK VAN EPPS
MICHIGAN STATE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (MSFCU)
OLDSMOBILE OUTDOOR CLUB
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UAW WEDNESDAY GOLF LEAGUE

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Advance Auto N. Larch St  Astera Credit Union
Autozone West Saginaw  Bigby's
Bchs Of Michigan, S Capital Ave  Glenbrier Golf Course
Buffalo Wild Wings W. Saginaw  Carrabba’s
Cheddars  Custom Embroidery Plus
Crippen Buick Gmc  Delta Dental
Delucas Pizza  Fairfield Inn Lansing
Finley’s W. Saginaw  Finleys Cedar St
Fireside Grill  Gary Howard
Geoffrey Kerley  Gilbert & Blakes
Jelly Beans  LAFCU
Mark Howard (Shaheen Chevrolet)  Medawar Jewelers
Medi Management  Meijers
Mitchell’s Fish Market  O’Reilly’s Auto Parts
Outback Steakhouse W. Saginaw  Paulina Rodriguez
Pinehurst Cook Shack & Drinkery  Red Robin
Rick Martinez  Tiffany’s Salon And Boutique
VFW National Home For Children

UAW LOCAL 602 CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMITTEE
Chairperson Paulina Rodriguez, Co-Chair Geoffrey Kerley, Co-Chair Daryl Smith, Nancy Minella, Gary Howard, Kelcyce Kelley, Rick Martinez, Adrienne McCloud, Tony Perez, Percy Stephenson, and Sam Vowell.
Poggiali
Continued from page 1
Even better is the fact that the weather didn’t impact the day like last year. The annual Walk for Warmth will be conducted in our area on February 28. The event sponsored by the Capital Area Community Services has walkers and like-minded groups collect donations that then go towards helping with utility bills. 100% of proceeds go towards the program. For more information contact me at 517-203-5027.

On a different note, the Bharat Forge (formerly Federal Forge) had a party that brought together the Unit in early December. This Unit of close to 100, but they have never lost their solidarity and union togetherness. With friendships reacquainted and stories to be told, the event was well attended. The Unit at the time was the oldest in the Local. They proudly carried on the tradition of the drop forge industry that at one time was centered right here in Lansing. Local 724 was the cornerstone on the heritage and unionism of the drop forge members that were part of the Local 724 history. They provided for their families and left us a legacy we can be proud of.

Speaking of our legacy and history, 2015 brings the 75th anniversary of the Local. We are planning to recognize the event with a celebration on May 16, 2015 at the UAW Local 724 union hall. The Local Executive Board has been working on some things, but we will need your participation as well. You can help by volunteering the day of the event, collecting any items that make up part of the Local 724 history, being on the planning committee, and lastly circling the date on your calendar. The Local has had a rich history in the community and we will honor the past and honor the present.

We mention our generous spirit and our proud legacy of unionism, but we also reminded that many of our members will be going through a difficult period with the LGR second shift reduction. Many of the Units have a relationship with the facility and it will impact their families significantly. Let us not forget they are part of our spirit and our legacy as well. We must continue to reach out to them in any way needed.

Please contact me at the Capital Area United Way at 517-203-5027 or d.poggiali@capitalarea.md.org and we can problem solve together.

We are reminded of a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” The late, great Dr. Martin Luther King spoke these words over 45 years ago. These words were true then and now. May the wind be at your back and peace and joy within your soul.

Reed
Continued from page 2
away. In our circle of influence we may need to stop and listen to an opposing view. Listening, patience and compromise go a long way in reaching others who don’t quite see our side. That doesn’t mean we have to change our vision but when we push others away we lose the opportunity to have positive influence in their lives.

Some things won’t stick to a magnet. That’s ok. We try our best but sometimes it is better to move on and focus our energy elsewhere. Will that focused energy be positive or negative? That’s up to you. People will know us by what’s in our heart. If we don’t attract those who want to know more about the issues we believe in. If we are negative we only attract attention.

Schultz
Continued from page 4
Fort Wayne Assembly, in Trim.

Continued from page 1
They are part of our spirit and legacy as well. This Unit closed in late 2013, so the Local was the oldest in the Local. Today, Martin is cancer free. But the spirit of the events that unified her and her co-workers’ lives on. “I think we all look at other people’s struggles differently now,” said Martin.

George agreed. “Now, we care about each other not just as union members, but as people. The simple act of showing solidarity as we go through hard times is powerful. Our world would be a better place if all of us did more of it.”

724 Obituary
Carl Fox – IMPCO retiree

602 Obituaries

Mills
Continued from page 3
By May 2012, she had undergone a double mastectomy and finishing four months of chemotherapy. Her final procedure was reconstructive surgery. It was a draining time for her family, including her husband, who also works at Fort Wayne Assembly, in Trim.

Martin and her family were struggling, but something happened on her last day at work that redefined her idea of what “family” meant. As Martin was walking through her department, she started to see pink T-shirts on her fellow Local 2209 members. At first, she didn’t take notice, but then she started to see more, and more of the graphic was symbolizing the fight against breast cancer on the people she worked with. “I couldn’t believe it. These were people I see every day, some I know well. Others I just know through work. But they were all expressing their support for me in the most visible, unifying way,” said Martin. The memory still brings tears of joy. “Heading into the surgery coming as we knew we wanted to do something to celebrate her and show her support. We agreed to all wear pink and spend some time having cake with her and sharing a group prayer. Everyone was supportive and wanted to participate.”

That act of solidarity continued when she returned to work. Her hair had still not grown back even since the chemotherapy and Martin was self-conscious about it. “I would wear hats or scarves, even wig. But honestly, the plants gets very hot in summer months and I didn’t want to stick out or have people notice. I even feared people would say negative things about it. It wasn’t until one night when one of my co-workers, Kenny, said, ‘I know your hair is coming off. It’s not about you! That I had the courage to go natural and know I was going to be accepted and protected."

Today, Martin is cancer free. But the spirit of the events that unified her and her co-workers’ lives on. “I think we all look at other people’s struggles differently now,” said Martin.

George agreed. “Now, we care about each other not just as union members, but as people. The simple act of showing solidarity as we go through hard times is powerful. Our world would be a better place if all of us did more of it.”

2015 proposed calendar
February 11 – Valentine lunch, soup March 3 – Ted’s breakfast, 8:30
Guerrazzi’s March 11 – St. Patrick’s lunch March 24-25 – northern casino trip April 8 – Easter lunch April 17 – euchre tournament, 8:00 a.m., Local 602 April 24 – LACFU reception, Royal Scot May 13 – lunch May 15 – lunch at World Buffet June 2 – Ted’s breakfast, 8:30

Continued from page 1
For more information contact me at 517-203-5027.

Dear UAW Local 602: Thank you for all the kind words and prayers. Thanks for sending Chaplain Eugene to pray for Elena and all of us. We are truly grateful … Family of Elena Willems (Don and Wendy Willems)

652 Obituaries

Kenneth Aldrich – Retiree, Father of Kris Aldrich, Father-in-Law of Steve Wright, Grandfather of Jessica Patterson

Linda H. Aford – Retiree, Mother of Bonnie Rowe, Mother-in-Law of Newt Rowe

Melvin Alspaugh – Retiree, Brother of Jack Alspaugh

Maria “Lute” Bowen – Mother of Larry Bowen, Mother-in-Law of Susan Bowen

Max Butler – Father of Kim Workman, Father-in-Law of James Workman

Howard G. England – Retiree

Robert “Bob” Lambka – Retiree

Paul Laningham – Retiree

Gary Martin – Retiree

William J. McQueen – Retiree, Father of Don and Dennis McQueen

Richard Mesikell – Retiree

Rose Ochoa – Retiree, Spouse of Frank Ochoa

Donnie Polhamus – Spouse of Gary Polhamus

Fred Rach – Retiree, Uncle of Paul Rach

Genita M. Ripley – Mother-in-Law of Gary H. Ahrurd

Dorothy Rutledge – Spouse of Kenneth Rutledge

Cynthia L. Sawdon – Daughter of Kenneth Spiegel

Eva Lopez – Spouse – Mother of Lori Gentz

Donald J. Spencer – Retiree

Phil Spitzley – Retiree, Father of Bruce Spitzley

Milan “Roger” Thurston – Father of Rick and Roger Thurston, Brother of Leo Thurston

Gerald Van Neste – Father of Brian Van Neste


Thank-You’s were received from the following families:
The Karen Adams Family
The Maria “Louie” Bowen Family
Arthur Prosus – Retired Skilled Trades
James N. Taylor – Retired
Walter Purser – Retired
Elizabeth P. Osawamick – Wife of Richard Osawamick, Retired General Assembly Trim 3; Mother of Lucas Martinez

John A. Schaefer – Retired

Dorothy Rutledge – Mother of Joyce Fuller – General Assembly Chassis 3

Terry Gilbert – Mother of Jeff Gilbert, Maxine Reimann

Winston W. Ward – Father of John Ward, Retired Material

Roger Frayre – Retired Quality Control

Albert Ludwig – Retired

Jamey Jewett – To my UAW family … Thank you for the thoughts and prayers and kind words concerning the loss of my father. It’s comforting to know the support of so many in time of need … Sincerely, Bill Reed and Family

Dear UAW Local 602: Thank you for all the kind words and prayers. Thanks for sending Chaplain Eugene to pray for Elena, and all of us. We are truly grateful … Family of Elena Willems (Don and Wendy Willems)
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