At the time of this writing, we are only a few days ahead of the current contract expiration date. With year-end holidays approaching and contract action wrap-up and forward planning in process, UAW members are bracing for the unexpected. Your Local Union leadership is ready for any challenge facing the membership, but each member has a responsibility to be ready as well.

Most of the time, people don’t expect a dramatic change in their lives, and even a slight deviation from the normal routine can come as a complete, and unwelcome, surprise. That’s why it’s so important to plan ahead for any situation. Now more than ever is the time to lock arms with one another in Solidarity, and support for our fellow union sisters and brothers.

The UAW is on the job every day protecting workers’ rights, bargain-

ing for better pay and benefits, and making sure that corporations meet their contractual obligations. The UAW provides a critical level of protection for its membership and makes sure that we all have a voice in the workplace.

IT’S NO WONDER THAT CORPORATIONS DON’T WANT US AROUND!

WITHOUT UNION PROTECTION, EMPLOYEES ARE AT RISK:

1. You become an “at will” employee, meaning the company can terminate you at any time without cause.

2. You lose the protection of a grievance process to hold the company accountable for unfair discipline.

3. You lose union protection in layoffs and recall, job posting and transfers, seniority rights, job description, job content, and health and safety concerns in the workplace.

4. You lose the right to collectively bargain for your wages, health insurance benefits, holidays, profit sharing, vacations, sick days, and breaks… and the list goes on and on.

We have a fight on our hands this round of contract talks and I invite you to join me as we put our gloves on. We are fighting a corporation that doesn’t care to hear our demands, lobbyists for big business who push legislation to strip power from unions, and a public perception that underscores the negative and strikes out the positive when it comes to organized labor.

The company is in their own corner, the UAW is in OURS. Let’s keep those arms raised in support and willingness to volunteer where needed. Let’s show the company that we are united by standing together in our demand for a fair contract for all of our sisters and brothers of the UAW!

Governor Gretchen Whitmer stopped by picket lines to show her support for the UAW in their struggle against GM for fair and equitable treatment for all UAW members.

Dear 1753 Brothers and Sisters,

Labor Day has come and gone, but the reason why we honor those people who fought for workers rights needs not to be forgotten. The struggle continues today for fair treatment, reasonable wages, and benefits. These are some of the discussions that the UAW will be bringing up in Contract negotiations. Our contract ends Sept. 14th 11:59 pm. Yes, the parties can extend negotiations...... but the UAW is very angry. Closings of General Motor Plants, temporary worker status for 3+ years, outsourcing skill trades work, and more and more vehicles being built in Mexico, wanting the employee to help pay for health care coverage ( when GM makes Billions every quarter ) These things make me angry and your leadership team angry.

We voted 96.4 % to stand with the UAW negotiation team. I hope that the Contract Negotiation team gets us a good contract and by us standing in solidarity, we can help them.

Please come to your Membership meetings. Information that has to do with your Union gets passed there. The Union information boards also hold good union business for you to read.

in Solidarity, Yvonne Vincent
Greetings Brothers and Sisters. I hope that all of our members had a great summer with family and friends. As of the writing of this article the Big 3 contract deadline is looming. My hope is that the UAW leadership and GM will be able to reach an agreement that both addresses the member’s contract demands and prevents a possible work stoppage. Undoubtedly a GM work stoppage will have an immediate effect on our members at this Local. If a work stoppage does happen the Local will be here to help our members with whatever resources we can. With the current political environment it is important to remember that the middle class is slowly being eroded away. In today’s day and age no one wants to see a possible work stoppage/strike. If that does happen I have no doubt that the UAW Leadership and Bargaining team had no other choice. On the Local front our Alliance Interiors Unit, our Bridgewater Unit and our Kirchhoff Unit will have started or soon will start negotiations to bargain a new contract. I have no doubt that those UAW Bargaining Teams will be fighting for a fair and equitable contract for our members. Please make sure that you stay engaged and involved at your respective worksites. Its only thru the members Solidarity that our Bargaining teams and/or Elected Representatives have the most power. I want to personally say thank you to all of our members who work hard every day! Solidarity Brothers and Sisters!

“The laboring man...ought to remember that all who labor are their brothers, and that all women who labor are their sisters, and whenever one class of workingmen or workingwomen is oppressed all other laborers ought to stand by the oppressed class.” — Robert Green Ingersoll

Timing is Everything

As I write this article, the UAW and “Big 3” National Agreements are set to expire. Recently, the General Motors Division of the UAW, has had some remarkable distractions coming out with impeccable timing. Select individuals of the upper Union Leadership have been thrust into the spotlight as corrupt bandits and the media and membership are feasting. When we as the working class fall for these various outlets coloring these “criminals” as the bane of the working person, promoting these transgressions as cause for a Membership revolution, we lose sight of our goals. Our top priority must be solidarity and laser focus on securing a solid future for Middle America, all the while helping to rebuild the middle class created by our predecessors and ourselves. As General Motors is rolling through this decade reporting record profits, we are failing our future by allowing the media to divide us and cause all of the infighting and confusion.

We as Middle-Class Americans need to understand that the timing of these investigations are not a coincidence nor are they accidental. The wealthiest of America’s citizens are very coordinated in their attacks on our inherent want to divide ourselves. This is imperative to ensure they maintain their inflated income stream made off the backs of the American people. These negotiations have the potential to be era defining, once in a generation type talks. We all know we are stronger together than alone but we must all find this understanding within ourselves and drop the divisive thinking we have and grab ahold of the moment, drive forward as one and get what we have earned as the backbone of this great country.

Don’t misinterpret my previous statements, if these isolated individuals in our upper Union Leadership used our members trust to drive their own personal gain, then they should be shown absolutely zero leniency and should furthermore be shown as examples moving forward of who and what not to become in our beloved Union. That said, this is a prime example of how we look to separate ourselves rather than come together as one to support our own. As Union brothers and sisters, we should first look to support rather than judge. Is this asking too much? Is supporting one another and joining as one movement to send a clear message to these corporations that we aren’t settling for anything less than our fair share, too much to ask? I don’t believe so and, my bet is, you don’t either. Yet, here we are, letting the media accusations blur our vision and distract us from our movement. All of this coverage is nothing more than a distraction from the reality. We the members are the deciding factor on what is in

I would like to take minute to thank all the active and retired UAW members who have called and checked on our local to see if there is anything we need during this challenging time. A strike is not easy for anyone but I would also like to thank all of the local and state representatives who called and came out to check on us and let us know they had our backs. Governor Gretchen Whitmer and her staff came out, dropped off some doughnuts, and spent time with our members at the gates. Mayor Andy Schor came and spent time with our members; State Rep. Kara Hope and State Senator Curtis Hertel Jr. came out and visited our members. U.S. Rep Alissa Slotkin called from out of town to check in and see if we were ok, and if we needed anything. It is nice knowing and see if we were ok, and if we called from out of town to check on us.

LOCAL 652
Randy Freeman,
President

LOCAL 724
Todd Collins,
President

LOCAL 4911
Muhammad Qawwee,
President

LOCAL 652
Ben Frantz,
Vice President
Wow, Labor Day has passed and the summer of 2019 is in the books. There were many activities for members, retirees as well as the community to be involved in. Starting in June, Civil and Human Rights chairperson, Deasha Johnson with her committee put on a wonderful Diversity program. Some of my favorite quotes from the program were as follows:

“Let us not be blind to our differences. But let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We allstarve for food. We all fork the soil. We all die—will aslave a strong union. Here is an example of some, who along with their committee members, show that we are truly blessed at Local 602.

During the summer months our recreation committee always goes into high gear. In July, Paulina Rodriguez and her crew moved the annual 602 golf outing to Centennial Acres. August was the month of our yearly picnic and car show at Eagle Park.

Most recently, on less than a week’s notice, Brian Stead and the election committee put together a Strike Authorization Vote. Local 602 did its part to promote solidarity for the IUAW with a 98% approval rate. This does not necessarily mean we are going to strike, but it is a show of support from the rank and file. If GM does not bargain in good faith, we support the international bargaining team and give them this tool to show management that we mean business in these negotiations. We have a seasoned veteran in Daryl Smith, who chairs our Strike Committee, if a work stoppage is called for.

You can see it takes many active members to be involved in the make up of a strong local union. Here is an example of some, who along with their committee members, show that we are truly blessed at Local 602.

The FEC
The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is an independent agency of the United States government and is charged with administering and enforcing federal campaign finance laws. The Commission’s jurisdiction covers all elections for the President, United States Senate, and for the United States House of Representatives. Its stated mission is to protect the integrity of the federal campaign finance process by providing transparency and by enforcing federal campaign finance laws.

The resignation of the vice-chair of the FEC, Matthew Petersen, on August 26th, left the sole agency tasked with overseeing and enforcing campaign-finance laws without a quorum to levy fines, initiate investigations, or respond to foreign interference. The Federal Election Commission is supposed to be composed of six members appointed by the president of the United States and subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Each member serves a six-year term. By law, no more than three commissioners can be members of the same political party and at least four votes are required for any official commission action. As of May, the F.E.C. had a backlog of nearly three hundred cases, some dating back to 2012, forty-five of which bumping up against a five-year statute of limitations that may the actions moot. Since last year, only four of its six commissioner posts have been filled, making it difficult to get the four votes necessary for action, now even that slim chance does not exist.

It was reprehensible that the Commission had been two commissioners short for months, leaving it with a three to one majority for the Republicans, but now the commission cannot act on any cases that come before it. Worse yet, the Commission’s on-going debate over holding digital platforms to the same laws and standards as print, television, and radio is now completely dead. I can think of very few issues in our country more pressing than making certain our elections are fair and untainted by outside influence. The most frightening part of the lack of a FEC that can act is that once the validity of Federal Elections comes further into question so does our Democracy as a whole.

Local 1753 Retirees October luncheon will be at Buffet World on the 10th. We will be having an informational meeting regarding benefits on November 14th at the hall. The meeting will follow the 12pm luncheon.
Social Security Resources

Are you planning ahead for those “golden years” of retirement? It pays to begin the research now to determine what age is suitable for you to retire from your employment. Many people are depending 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 ten-thousand people reach retirement age daily. You have the ability to view many sources of retirement publications 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 preretirement 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. (Some financial experts believe you may need up to 70-80 percent of preretirement income to live comfortably in retirement.)

In the past, Social Security sent our earnings history in the mail annually. After age 60, you will receive a Social Security statement every year in the mail about 3 months before your birthday, unless you have a mySocialSecurity account on line. Your complete earnings history is shown which will allow you to verify the accuracy of your earnings. Your benefit amount is based on your earnings over your lifetime. “Your actual earnings are adjusted or “indexed” to account for changes in average wages since the year the earnings were received. Then Social Security calculates your average indexed monthly earnings during the 35 years in which you earned the most. We apply a formula to these earnings and arrive at your basic benefit. This is how much you would receive at your full retirement age – 65 or older, depending on your date of birth.”

Age to receive full Social Security benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of birth</th>
<th>Full retirement age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1943-1954</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>66 and 2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>66 and 4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>66 and 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>66 and 8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>66 and 10 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960 and later</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: People who were born on January 1 of any year should refer to the previous year.

Achieving the maximum Social Security benefit would depend upon the age that you choose to retire. To help you understand how the maximum benefit is calculated, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf for an in-depth explanation.

For example, if you earned $50,000 in social security benefits and you retired in 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retirement Age</th>
<th>Maximum Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>$1,992 (Reduced)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>$2,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>$3,425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional sources of information regarding retirement and Social Security:

- Frequently Asked Questions website: www.ssa.gov/faq
- For retirement benefit estimates: www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator
- For information on Special Payments, such as; pension payments, annuities, interest or dividends: www.socialsecurity.gov/hlps/IsbA/10/lhp-Isba063-spectmp.htm
- For information on unemployment benefits as earnings: www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/qualify.htm#sb=2
- For information on Social Security benefits and military service: www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/veterans.htm

57 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries age 62 and older are represented by women. A staggering 68 percent of women are beneficiaries aged 85 and older. There is a site specifically for women at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/women which has information for widows, working women, wives, etc.

If you know anyone that is currently on Medicare, you may be able to help them if they are struggling financially. “Extra Help” with Medicare prescription costs is available if you have limited income (tied to the federal poverty level) and limited resources. To see if you qualify, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp or pass along the website address to someone you can help. Another website address is www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp or you can call Social Security’s toll-free number.

Many people are contemplating retirement and have questions which are unanswered. The websites listed in this article can be used as resources for you to begin your investigation regarding retirement.

Source: www.socialsecurity.gov

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LOCAL 652
Bob Smith, Fin. Secretary

When It Rains, It Pours!

At midnight September 14th the GM/UAW contract will expire. By the time you read this it could all be over, we could be at work happy with an agreement that addresses most, if not all, of the issues that concern our membership…OR… We might be carrying picket signs on the outskirts of the plants, trying to educate the public about our issues and attempting to influence the Corporation to accept our demands!

Whichever way it ends up, it’s certain we’ll never see another confluence of economic, social, and political forces to match this round of bargaining! The last several years have been like a pressure cooker, turning up the heat on unions in general but the UAW in particular. In no particular order we have had GM and Chrysler bankruptcies (which thanks to the government loans both emerged leaner and stronger), a new U.S. President (who doesn’t have unions close to his heart), Climate Change (which said President doesn’t believe in), the Federal Reserve (which said President can’t leave alone), the Stock Market (the true root of all evil, and Yes, the President messes with that also), the Trade War (guess who is involved there, notice a pattern yet?) Foreign Competition (more competition, not just Toyota), the era of Electric Vehicles (a major problem, less manpower needed for manufacture) and last but not least, the President.

On top of all that GM announced that they would close…excuse me, UNALLOCATE several plants in the United States in the coming months, some of which have already been shuttered. GM can’t legally close the plants. That would be a violation of the 2015 contract. By unallocating product from these plants they have forced several thousand UAW members to accept transfers to other locations, in effect closing the plants by proxy. No workers equal no plant. Many of our brothers and sisters have transferred to 652 and I thank everyone at Local 652 for making them feel welcome in their new home! Several have told me they are thankful for our hospitality. Way to go 652!!

As if that wasn’t enough the UAW corruption scandal has hit full force, rocking the top echelon of UAW leadership. This more than all the other issues combined makes it difficult to bargain a new contract that can be ratified by the membership. Can an agreement be reached and ratified with the mistrust that a few greedy people have caused? I believe it can. The framework of the UAW places Local leadership at the bargaining table. Leadership that has been elected by you and I to represent us. We can be happy knowing our Local 652 Shop Chairman, Ted Krumm, is in fact Lead Negotiator for the GM bargaining committee. Ted, along with many...
other UAW Leaders from around the country, will ensure that the members WILL be getting ALL THAT CAN BE HAD! I am extremely proud that a man like Ted is at the table working for us, making sure the agreement is balanced, fair, trustworthy and most of all everything we need to go forward. Thanks for the good work Ted!

The old saying is a few rotten apples don’t spoil the whole barrel. Don’t let a few bad apples influence your decision. When a tentative contract is reached take the time to attend the informational meetings. Get your info, ask questions, make your own decision. We have good people working on this!

Solidarity!

LOCAL 724
Deb Abent, Fin. Secretary

Here’s an interesting article from Labor Day by EPI discussing the economy and working Americans

How well is the American economy working for working people? EPI researchers reflect on the state of labor in the United States

The nation’s unemployment rate has been at or below 4% for the past year and a half. But while a single 18-month stretch of sub-4% unemployment is a good start on an improving labor market, it’s far from sufficient to undo the damage done by a decades-long policy assault on the economic leverage that workers can exert.

This Labor Day, EPI experts have contributed essays on remaining obstacles blocking workers looking for faster wage growth and greater economic opportunity. These essays look beyond the relatively happy news of low unemployment in the very recent past and focus instead on the deep-seated economic roots of workers’ disempowerment. In essence, they examine the many ways economic policy has conspired to let so much of the nation’s productivity escape the paychecks of typical workers—a trend highlighted in a well-known EPI chart (shown here) comparing growth in economywide productivity and hourly pay for typical workers. Productivity and pay marched upward in lockstep for decades following World War II but have diverged markedly since the late 1970s.

So how well is the economy working for working people as of Labor Day 2019?

Wage growth is weak for a tight labor market—and the pace of wage growth is uneven across race and gender. Elise Gould and Valerie Wilson highlight the failure of today’s tighter labor market to deliver strong wage growth and close race- and gender-based wage gaps. In fact, racial and gender wage gaps have widened since the 1990s—most dramatically for black college graduates.

Wage growth is being held back by political decisions and the Trump administration is on the wrong side of key debates. Josh Bivens argues that wage growth happens if and only if policymakers make it a top priority. Recent months’ low unemployment will pay much larger dividends for workers going forward if it represents a genuine shift in how policymakers weigh the benefits of wage growth versus the risks of inflation, and if it is accompanied by policies that build—or restore— institutions that support workers’ bargaining power.

Working people have been thwarted in their efforts to bargain for better wages by attacks on unions. Heidi Shierholz discusses the importance of restoring one key institution that supports workers’ bargaining power—collective bargaining. She points out that the shrinking share of workers who can bargain collectively as part of a union—which coincides with slowing wage growth—is not a natural outcome of market trends. Interest in being in a union is as high as ever, but union representation has fallen because of a decades-long assault on unions from conservative policymakers.

Low-wage workers are suffering from a decline in the real value of the federal minimum wage. David Cooper, Elise Gould, and Ben Zipperer highlight another crucial labor market institution for buttressing workers’ wages—minimum wages. They note the erosion in the federal minimum wage over time, and show that wage growth for low-wage workers has been far faster in states that have enacted meaningful increases in minimum wages.

Black workers endure persistent racial disparities in employment outcomes. Jhacova Williams and Valerie Wilson highlight continued racial gaps in unemployment, and construct a new indicator of underemployment that measures the underutilization of workers’ credentials. Their measure of underemployment examines the share of college graduates who do not obtain employment in “college occupations”—occupations in which more than half of the workforce have a college degree. They find that black college graduates are substantially more likely than their white peers to end up in non-college occupations.

Employers increase their profits and put downward pressure on wages and labor standards by exploiting migrant workers. Daniel Costa explains how employers have weaponized the nation’s immigration system to keep both immigrant and U.S.-born workers powerless and insecure.

Together, these essays underscore that we must understand and address many factors—including the dynamics of gender, race, and immigration—when crafting policies to give all workers a fair shot at achieving faster wage growth and greater opportunity.

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Grand Rapids
2500 E Beltline SE 616-285-8590

Jackson
2756 Airport Rd. 517-775-0243

Kalamazoo
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Lansing
5837 W Saginaw 517-335-2221

Midland
7201 E Ashman Ave. 989-486-1866

Clio
4930 Mortz Rd. 517-709-8010

Saginaw
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Traverse City
1605 S Division St. 231-496-6850

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West Branch
517-775-1818

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517-775-1818

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The News is also available online at lansinglabornews.org
Fall is here. Time passes quickly and the weather is still crazy.

The following is our monthly schedule of events:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. Games start at 10:00 a.m. Participants bring your own snacks. If the Lansing School District is closed due to inclement weather our Bingo game will be cancelled.

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 cards starting at 10:00 a.m. Participants bring your own snacks. If the Lansing School District is closed due to inclement weather our Card game will be cancelled.

Starting in October 2019 the monthly card game on the fourth Tuesday of the month will be for Local 652 retirees only.

Please mark the following cancellations on your calendars: November 26 and December 24, cards cancelled. Cards will resume in January 2020.

The annual VEBA Trust update meeting is Monday, October 14, at Local 652. Meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. Come listen to what changes may be coming and ask any questions you may have.

In the event of a strike all retiree functions are suspended until a tentative agreement is reached.

For any of our members or their families, who are ill or have lost a loved one, know that we are thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers.

Condolences to all families who have had a loved one pass.

The Lansing Labor News is now online. You may access it at www.lansinglabornews.org

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

It is hard to believe that yet another summer is about to transition to fall. It seems like we were just tuning up our mowers and planting our gardens.

The annual Capital Area United Way worksite campaigns have started. So far Alliance Interiors, RSDC, Rapaport, Pollok, Farrell & Waldron, & Ryder have conducted their outreach. More are being scheduled and if there is anything we can help with your worksite please contact me.

The Capital Area United Way is also involved with the 2020 census. There are workgroups within the Clinton, Eaton & Ingham counties, along with a tri-county group. There are materials on the census available so please contact me and I will make sure you get some.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is also looking for volunteers for the 2020 tax preparation season. They will be holding orientation sessions soon and more information is available on by contacting me. The training will allow those interested to determine if they decide to go forward. The volunteers are trained in a variety of functions and the program is sanctioned by the IRS.

The Capital Area United Way will be holding the first volunteer recruitment event on October 5, 2019. This will allow folks looking to volunteer an opportunity to speak with area non-profits to understand the role of the volunteer in their organization. In many cases volunteer or service hours must be completed by high school students or college this can offer.

Please remember that there are community resources available in times of need. In some cases the determining factor is income which may not allow folks to eligible. By either contacting myself or calling 2-1-1 you can review your options.

As we consider either volunteering or donating to worthy causes, this quote by Walter Reuther always comes to mind:

“There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well.”

Hi Everybody, Here’s the latest news from Local 1618:

Two of our members passed away since our last edition. Don Laskay, age 81, passed away in Florida. Daniel Ruby, age 82, passed away on June 27 in Three Rivers.

Four of our members are recovering from various ailments.

Artie Douglas, wife of Nolan, fell and broke 3 ribs and a wrist. (They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on June 9.)

Pat Smith, wife of Larry (Snuffy) is recovering from surgery and received great news: IT ISN’T CANCER!

Hanna Fox, our President, was in the hospital with pneumonia. I also had a fall which resulted in 2 broken ribs and a brain bleed. Now for some happier news. Lois Dyer celebrated her 90th birthday on July 26 with a party given by her family.

That’s all the news for now.

Ted Gauss  (517) 321-4754
Hanna Fox, President (517) 719-4559

LOCAL 652
Mike Bauer
Retiree

LOCAL 1618
Ted Gauss
Retiree

Sparrow Health System
Claire Corr
eration since 1896, when the Women’s Hospital Association supported a doctor and a nurse to work out of a rented home, so they could provide critical medical services to Lansing. Even though Sparrow is a vast system comprised of 115 sites of care within our geographic location, they still tout themselves as the region’s community hospital, providing quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time. I see the personalization every day & it is truly heartwarming to see the Caregivers in action.

Since Sparrow is our community hospital, how about some “Fun Facts” about “The Bird”.

- Edward W. Sparrow & R.E. Olds were close friends, both gentlemen holding a seat on each other’s boards of directors.
- Sparrow admits over 100 Patients, per day.
- Sparrow also discharges approximately 100 Patients per day.
- Sparrow performs anywhere between 60-70+ surgeries per day, equaling 26,400 surgeries per year.
- Sparrow treats over 70,000 Patients in the urgent care and FastCare centers.
- Sparrow delivers roughly 12 babies per day for a total of nearly 4500 births per year.
- Sparrow’s Emergency Department treats about 300 Patients per day!
- On any given day, a few thousand Sparrow Caregivers will work together to ensure each Patient is properly cared for. This equates to millions of Caregiver/Patient interactions over time. One Patient at a time.
- Sparrow continues to keep their doors open on Michigan Avenue, in the heart of the Capital City. You need not look any further for exceptional care. Plus, you are stuck with me as your Labor Liaison!

In Solidarity,
Claire Corr, Labor Liaison
Sparrow Health System

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**Local 602 Obituaries**

Leonore P. Bengal – Mother of Theodore Bengal, Paint, Millwright
Michael R. Holland – Retired
Earl A. Zerba Jr. – Retired
Richard B. Turner – Retired
Ralph V. Taylor – Retired
David P. Barrett – Retired
Dennis R. Edwards – Retired
Joseph Demyers – Retired
Larry G. Cummins – Retired
Gale Schmitz – Spouse of Frederick Schmitz, Retired
Garth D. Larmer – Father of Lee Larmer, Paint Maintenance
Stacey Whelpley – Step-Daughter of Paul Denning, Production Underbody-Pans
Jon A. Miles – Retired from Body Shop
Patricio Gonzalez – Retired
Rita Eleanor Sonday – Mother of John Sonday, Paint Maintenance-Skilled Trades
Kenneth M. Hasse – Father of Paul K. Hasse, Body Maintenance
David Miller – Father of Brian Miller, GA Final 1
Allen G. Ollenburger - Retired
Everett Cole – Step-Father of Carol Brown, Retired
Benny L. Lopez – Retired
Janice Cobb – Mother of Christie Lutz, GA Chassis 3
Edward S. Evert – Retired
Robert L. Stadel – Father of Daryl Stadel, Retired
Leonard J. Miller – Father of Michael Miller, Retired
David Miller – Father of Brian Miller, GA Final 1
Anthony Ballard – Retired
Donald D. Evans – Retired
Willie Roberson – Retired
Doris Walker (Retiree from Fisher Body) - Mother of Shawn Bolenbaugh, Paint department
Elida Zamora – Spouse of Benito Zamora, Retired
Roddy Goodz – Active, Body Underbody Pans

**Local 624 Obituaries**

Samuel Romero (Retired) – Father of Sidney Romero, Active, GA Final 1
Celoa Ward – Mother of Louis G. Ward, Active, GA Engine Dress
Beverly Tennant – Spouse of Leroy D. Tennant, Retired
Daniel T. Dean – Retired
Bianca Nieto – Daughter of Robin Nieto, Materials Body/Paint
Ronald Pohl – Retired
Robert L. Walter – Retired
Charles O. Olson – Retired
Paul E. Hurst – Retired
Monte D. Erby – GA Maintenance
Kenneth R. Horton – Production
David Dickhaut – Health and Safety Representative
Therese Johnson – Retired
Julius Ford – Retired
Milton J. Green – Retired
Robert A. Stephens – Retired
Peter Shaw – Buy-Out
Thomas G. Harmon – Step-Father of Deb Villegas, Body Doors
Mark P. Schafer – Retired
John H. Stelllow – Retired
Allen Lyon – Step-Father of Angi Dixon, Core Team
(continued on next page)

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Larry D. Aleo – Father of Ashley Aleo
Judith A. Burgess – Mother of Steven Burgess, GA M-Doors
Paula Marie Marshall – Mother of Amy Penny, GA Trim 3
Sylvester Debassige – Retired
Donald Feess – Retired
Jean A. LaPierre – Mother of Brian La Pierre, Materials Body - Paint
Judith Perry – Sister of Brian La Pierre, Materials Body - Paint
Mary A. Ramsey – Mother of Mary Lugibihl
Santiago Vasquez – Retired
Dennis Verhelle – Retired
Paula Ann Peyton – Spouse of Derrick Peyton, Retired
Therese Johnson – Mother of Janet Wilcox, Retired, Step Mother of Gary Johnson, Retired
Charlene Howard – Mother of Gary Howard, Quality Control
Wayne E. Parish - Retired

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**Local 724 Obituaries**

Ronnie Williams - Melling Drop Forge passed away 7-11-2019

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**Local 652 Obituaries**

Luann Bernardino – Mother of Shawaun Austin
Paul Bozzo – Retiree
Charles Craig – Retiree
Gary Curtin – Retiree
Edward Davis – Retiree
Jarred DooLittle – Son of Ken DooLittle, Nephew of Jim DooLittle and Tom Wagner
Tim Ellsworth – Member
Bobby Ferguson – Retiree
Virginia Gilbert – Spouse of Gerald Gilbert
Margie Gladding – Spouse of Wayne Gladding, Mother of Ken Gladding, Mother-in-Law of Darrell Dubois

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**Local 652 Obituaries**

Thomas Guidi – Retiree
Regginald Gulick – Retiree
Faith Hamilton – Spouse of Leslie “Bob” Hamilton (deceased), Mother of Thomas Hamilton
Ravis Hampton – Retiree
Therese Johnson – Mother of Alton “Jerry” Stoddard
Jerry Jones – Retiree, Brother of Larry Jones
Joyce Kingsley – Spouse of Faye Kingsley, (deceased), Mother-in-Law of James McKay
Joyce Lenneman – Spouse of Dave Lennemann
Joseph “Joe” Lenneman – Retiree, Father of Dave and Dan Lenneman
Betsy H. McGuigan – Retiree
Richard Meddaugh – Retiree, Father
- in-Law of Bob Botke
Leonard J. Miller – Retiree, Father of
Richard Miller
Starr Raymond Miller – Father of
Kevin and Kirk Miller
John G. Pouch – Father of Vincent
“Vince” Pouch
Kenneth Price – Retiree, Brother of
William Price, Nephew of Danny
Price
Arnold Richmond – Father of Sue
Horn
Richard Ripley – Retiree, Father of
Kaylene Shumaker
Willie Roberson – Spouse of Carlo-
lean Roberson, Brother-in-Law of
John Marshall
Daniel Ruby – Retiree
Robert Splitstone – Son of Lynda
Morrison-Splitstone, Cousin of Ste-
ve and Chad Morrison
Vivian Stallworth – Spouse of Rob-
ert Stallworth, Mother of Robert
Stallworth II
Ronald Stephens – Retiree, Father of
Edward Stephens, Brother of Terry
Stephens
Burton Taylor – Retiree
Russell “Russ” Weiler – Retiree, Spouse of
Vicki Weiler
Joan Wells – Mother of Gary and
Larry Wells
Duane Whitssel – Retiree
Paul Williams – Father of Randall
Williams

Another article from EPI
Working people have been thwarted in their efforts to bargain for better wages by attacks on unions
By Heil³ Sheehan

Summary: The share of workers represented by unions has dropped by more than half since 1979—from 27.0% to 11.7% in 2018. Not coinci-
dently, the share of income going to the top 10% has escalated in this period—these high earners now capture nearly half of all income. The decline of unions is not because people don’t want to be in unions. They do: The share of people who either have union coverage or report they want it is 54.2%—slightly higher than it was 40 years ago.

But employers’ aggressive efforts to dismantle unions and impede organizing efforts have robbed workers of this opportunity. We need fundamental reform of labor law to restore and protect workers’ rights to come together and have a voice in their workplace.

A huge swath of U.S. workers do not have the union representation and voice at work that they want and need. The share of workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement dropped from 27.0% to 11.7% between 1979 and 2018, meaning the union coverage rate is now less than half where it was 40 years ago.1

Are today’s workers just less interested in being in a union than workers of prior decades? Not in the least. Figure A shows the share of workers who are either covered by a union contract or report they would vote for a union if a union election were held at their workplace—50.8% in 1977 and 54.2% in 2017 (we use these years here, instead of 1979 and 2018, due to limited data availability). Given the decline in union membership during those same years (also shown in Figure A), that share is now more than four times as high as the actual share of workers who are covered by a union contract.

Why? Impeding union representa-
tion has been a primary goal of corporate interests in recent de-
cades, and these interests have con-
vincing conservative policymakers to attack collective bargaining through legislation, executive rule-
making, and the courts. Mean-
while, policymakers claiming to care about the economic struggles of typical Americans have too-

often turned a blind eye to these at-
tacks. But if workers are not able to effectively organize into unions, broadly shared prosperity that ex-
tends to most working people has virtually no chance.

Collective bargaining benefits workers
It’s no surprise that workers want unions. When workers are able to come together, form a union, and collectively bargain, their wages, benefits, and working conditions improve.2 On average, a worker covered by a union contract earns 13.2% more than a peer with simi-
lar education, occupation, and ex-
perience in a nonunionized work-
place in the same sector.

On average, a worker covered by a union contract earns 13.2% more than a similar nonunion peer.

Union workers are more likely to have employer-sponsored health insurance, and their employers tend to contribute more toward those plans. They are also more likely to have paid vacation and sick leave, more input into the number of hours they work, and more predictable schedules. Union employers are more likely to offer retirement plans and to contribute more toward those plans than comparable nonunion employers.

Unions also help shrink racial wage gaps. For example, black workers are more likely than white workers to be represented by a union, and black workers who are in unions get a larger boost to wages from being in a union than white workers do (i.e., the “union wage premium” is larger for black work-

ers than for white workers). These two facts together mean that today’s unions help narrow the black—white wage gap—and research shows that this phenomenon isn’t new. Starting in the mid-1940s, black workers began to be more likely to be in un-
ions and to have a larger union pre-
mium than white workers. This means that the decline of unioniza-
tion has played a significant role in the expansion of the black—white wage gap.

Private employment in almost every state in the U.S. is “at will,” with employers free to dismiss any work-
er at any time, with no warning, for
almost any reason (except for the few reasons specified by law, e.g., on account of race, religion, age, sex, national origin, pregnancy, or disability). Union contracts, on the other hand, provide workers due process protections. Unions also create safer workplaces; because union workers are protected by their unions from repercussions for reporting safety issues, they are more likely to report safety concerns, and this increased reporting can lead to a reduction in work hazards.

Furthermore, the benefits of collective bargaining extend beyond those employees who are represented by a union. Where unions are strong, they effectively set broader standards that nonunion employers must meet in order to attract and retain the workers they need and to avoid facing an organizing drive. The combination of the direct effect of unions on union members and this “spillover” effect to nonunion workers means unions are crucial in fostering a vibrant middle class and reducing income inequality.

The decline of collective bargaining is the direct result of employers’ anti-union activities

The decline in collective bargaining in recent decades has distinctly not been a “natural” phenomenon, as the public commentators and policymakers who prioritize the interests of corporate executives and shareholders over those of working people would like you to believe. Quite the contrary. Fierce corporate opposition has suppressed workers’ freedom to form unions and bargain collectively. Intense and aggressive anti-union campaigns—once confined to the most anti-union employers—have become widespread; it is now typical, when workers seek to organize, for their employers to hire union avoidance consultants to orchestrate fierce anti-union campaigns.

Fierce corporate opposition has suppressed workers’ freedom to form unions and bargain collectively.

And though the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) makes it illegal for employers to intimidate, coerce, or fire workers in retaliation for participating in union-organizing campaigns, the penalties are insufficient to provide a serious economic disincentive for such behavior (there are no punitive damages or criminal charges under the NLRA; penalties may consist of being required to post a notice or reinstate illegally fired workers). This means that many illegal tactics can be actively pursued; for example, employers often threaten to close the worksite, cut union activists’ hours or pay, or report workers to immigration enforcement authorities if employees unionize. More than one in seven union organizers and activists are illegally fired while trying to organize unions at their place of work.

In the face of these attacks on collective bargaining, policymakers have egregiously failed to update labor laws to rebalance the system. In fact, in many cases policy is moving backward; 27 states have passed so-called right-to-work laws, which are intended to undermine union finances by making it illegal for unions to require non-union members of a collective bargaining unit (who don’t pay union dues) to pay “fair share fees” — fees that cover only the basic costs of representing employees in the workplace. And the Supreme Court decision in Janus v. AFSCME—a case financed by a small group of foundations with ties to the largest and most powerful corporate lobbies—made “right-to-work” the law of the land for all public-sector unions.

Conclusion: We need to protect workers’ rights to organize and bargain collectively

Many of the reasons workers want to be in unions—e.g., to improve their wages, benefits, and working conditions—are, of course, precisely the reasons unions are opposed so fiercely by corporate interests. Figure B provides an instructive raw comparison, showing that as union coverage has eroded, the share of total income in the economy that gets funneled to the rich has skyrocketed. More rigorous research shows that deunionization accounts for a sizable share of the growth in inequality between typical workers and workers at the high end of the wage distribution in recent decades—on the order of 13–20% for women and 33–37% for men. Efforts are underway, including legislation like the Protecting the Right to Organize Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, and innovative projects focused on the reconstruction of labor law. Until meaningful policy changes are made that take worker power seriously and restore a fair balance of power between workers and employers, our economy will continue to leave behind most of the workers in it.
Upcoming Region 1D conferences

September 23-27 Region 1D Fall School
October 6-11 National Leadership Essentials Institute
October 20-26 National Leadership Young Workers
October 25-27 Region 1D Standing Committee Conference
UAW Local 602 ELECTION NOTICE

Four (4) Positions

*Must be a member of Local 602 for one (1) year to be eligible to run for office

Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Trustee
Community Services Chairperson
*Team Solutions Unit Chair

(Term ends June 2020)

All active LDT & Team Solutions Unit members and retired 602 members in good standing are eligible to run or vote in these positions.

*Only 602 members in the Team Solutions Unit in good standing are eligible to run or vote for this position.

Open nominations will be accepted at the Union Meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2019
Sign-Up begins 7am Monday, October 14, 2019 until *6:30pm Friday, October 18, 2019
at UAW Local 602 Union Hall 2510 W Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917

*Extended Hall hours to accommodate first shift.

24 hour election, voting begins at 11am Tuesday, October 29, 2019
until 11am Wednesday, October 30, 2019 only at the
UAW Local 602 Union Hall, 2510 W. Michigan Avenue,
Lansing MI 48917

RUN-OFF (if necessary) will be held at the same time and location on Wednesday & Thursday, November 6 & 7, 2019.

**MUST HAVE YOUR PHOTO ID, GATE CARD, OR CURRENT UNION MEMBERSHIP CARD TO VOTE**

Brian Stead, Chair
Elections Comm

Jerry Smith, Co-Chair
Elections Comm

Kevin Barnum, Co-Chair
Elections Comm

Jennifer Hoerauf, Co-Chair
Elections Comm

Bill Reed, President
UAW Local 602

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