Toy trucks donated for children

For the last several years the Michigan Association of United Ways (MAUW) has been the recipient of a donation of plastic trucks, cars, and/or vans. The donation is from a Michigan company who believes it is important to give back to community. MAUW then coordinates with local United Ways across the state to receive cases of the donated toys and help with their outreach within their communities.

This year over 13,000 toy trucks arrived on November 28 to be unloaded. The task is made a little more challenging due to the fact that they are not on pallets and must be offloaded by hand. Another factor involved this year was that the MAUW offices have relocated and their current location could not accommodate the temporary storage of the toys. Bob Cramer, Director of Community Services for MAUW, contacted the United Way liaison from the Capital Area United Way, Dean Poggiali, who made arrangements for the unloading and temporary storage of the toys. 

So on November 28 at around 9:00 a.m. approximately 244 union activists helped unload the semi and then load up the cases for the local United Ways that arrived to pick them up. There were members from UAW Locals 602, 652, 724, and 4911. Also, members of the CWA, IBEW, MEA, Teamsters, and the IIUSA (Ingham Intermediate Professional Staff Association) were on hand to help. Many thanks to all who helped with this endeavor to make the holidays a little better for our deserving youth.

OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC

UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753 and LFACU

BOTH SALARY & HOURLY

February 21, 2012

In Bradenton, Florida

American Legion

Kirby Stewart Post 24

2000 75th Street W

(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)

Register at 11 a.m.

Eat at Noon

Meal and plastic tableware provided.

Make plans to attend and see friends from Lansing. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

Upfronts and outlooks

By Dean Poggiali, President, Local 724

Just a few updates from the Local. The Alliance Unit ratified a new bargaining agreement on November 28 with a 58% to 42% margin. They made some adjustments in language and wages. It is heartening to know that for this contract they didn’t need to walk the picket line.

The Women’s Committee had a wonderful “Trunk or Treat” event recently. There were around 100 kids that participated and they all had a great time. The Women’s Committee took notes and has already been in discussion about how to make the event next year just as successful. Congrats to Women’s Committee Chair Deb Mills and all the Committee for their hard work. Additionally, we would like to thank Local 724 member and City of Lansing Council candidate Jason Wilkes for helping with cooking the hot dogs.

The Local 724 Christmas Party will be on December 17 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please join us for activities for children, desserts, punch, and coffee. And Santa will be here! This is sponsored by the Women’s and Recreation Committees and is for active and retired Local 724 members and their families. It will be at the local hall, 450 Clare Street in Lansing.

There is a box in the hall for Toys for Tots donations again this year. Please bring your new unwrapped toy to the hall during regular business hours so that we can pass on some joy to deserving kids in the area.

We also have partnered with the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) to collect coats for the community. The APRI Youth have taken on this initiative in their goal to make our community better. Please bring your usuable coat donation again to the hall during regular business hours.

The Local and many of our Units participated again with the Old Newsboys drive this year. The sale of the spoof paper was on Thursday, December 1. The sale is by donation and allows the Old Newsboys to purchase shoes and boots for deserving youth in the community.

There is a constant theme with the above events. It is our members giving of their time, donating money and items, and increasing awareness of what we do. As we are attacked in the media, in the community, or by friends and family, let us remind them that we are a social movement and we do things for the right reasons, not for the glory and self-satisfaction of the one percent.

We mentioned Jason Wilkes earlier. We offer our sincere kudos in his effort to represent the people of the Third Ward of Lansing on City Council. Jason was running against an incumbent who had the backing of the Chamber of Commerce, who are no friend of labor. We don’t always like moral victories, but Jason will again be heard from as we go forward in City of Lansing politics, undoubtedly.

Touching on politics for a moment, we are about to go on a whirlwind of unprecedented media and barrage of mailers and ads for next year’s election. Organized labor is still being targeted by the forces that wish we were but a footnote in the annals of history. I know many people say they don’t want to be involved in politics, but our everyday lives are impacted by politics. We are not talking about the national or state levels, but things as varied as sewer rates, road improvements, our schools, not having items priced at the stores, to name a few.

This only reinforces the notion of being well versed in the issues from all sides. Many of the stories are only told from the slant of the other side, without our side having a seat at the table. The other side may have the money, but we have the numbers and horsepower. That is why it is important for us to make sure that everyone within our inner circle is registered to vote and then gets out to vote.

Another way to help within Michigan is by renewing our voluntary V-CAP dues check-off. By renewing our check-offs every year we enable candidates from Michigan to have the ability to utilize money for their campaigns here versus elsewhere. Many things are decided on a national basis, but when it comes to our livelihood and our futures, we need to make sure we get worker-friendly candidates from Michigan elected.

With that being said, we hope that you have a joyous holiday season spent with family and friends. In 2012 we must energize like we haven’t in a while to insure that the middle class doesn’t disappear.

May the wind be at your back and peace and joy within your soul.
The new kid on the job

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. At this time of year I like to tell a good story. This isn’t your typical Christmas story, but it talks about the importance of us all working together. Hopefully you’ll have a great holiday season. Be safe and enjoy your time with your family.

There was a new kid at the worksite the past few days and the old timers had just about enough of his antics. Sometimes when we’re the “kid” on the job we think we know it better than the “old timer.” After all we have the latest education, grew up with the technology and may have been the first in our family to go to college. Wouldn’t that make us smarter? This new kid certainly thought so. He was a hard worker no doubt; the older crew members respected him for that. It was his mouth, not his muscles that got him into trouble.

One particular gent had a way with getting the young man’s goat in a joking manner. He admitted to the young man that the newer generation had one or two up on him. After all, he had to have his ten-year-old nephew fix his computer recently. Coming from a large family who farmed, he had never had the chance to go to college. Getting a job and starting a family was the important thing in life when he was a teenager.

The younger worker admitted that it wasn’t for the older guys on the crew, he wouldn’t have learned some of the “tricks of the trades” that required a fair amount of skill. He respected the older man he worked with but still believed he could get the job done on his own.

It was just a summer day as the two of them worked on opposite walls laying the brick for a new building. The young kid would glance over every once in a while to see how the old man was coming along. The older man would glance over every once in a while to see how the young kid was coming along. Both of them forged on and struggled with the bricks until both were so tired and worn out they had to take a break from the heat.

“Look,” said the young kid, “if you need me to help load up the bricks or mortar just ask.”

“If you are having trouble pointing the grout lines I can show you a faster way,” said the older man.

Both of them knew they needed each other to get the work done correctly and with less effort but each went back to work, neither one saying much to the other.

The grout lines I can show you a faster way, he decided. He yelled over to the young kid and said, “You might be tougher than me, but I bet I can haul something in this wheelbarrow over there that you’re not going to be able to haul back!”

“Oh yeah, I’ll take you up on that one of man,” the kid said with a big grin on his face as he flexed his muscles.

Just then the older worker grabbed both handles of the empty wheelbarrow, stood up straight, looked the kid in the eye and said “Okay, now get it!”

Local 602 President Bill Reed is shown here helping to move the semi-load of boxes of toys for deserving youth. He was one of many union volunteers who helped with a job made bigger because each box had to be moved by hand in a chain of volunteers.

See more of this story on page 1. Our thanks to everyone who helped!

Local 1753 Ray Whithord, President

Active Veterans Committee

The following acknowledgement is from the Battle Creek VA Medical Center: Throughout the years, Local 1753 has looked at our every need. Providing coffee supplies, computers, desks, chairs, clothing, personal care items, movies, lab robes and large, flat screen, High Definition plasma televisions for the medical center, complete with wall mounts for installation, is only a fraction of what they do for the VA.

With the support of UAW management and the Lansing General Motors Plant, an employee, Dan Arens, painted the murals in our Community Living Center and the patient dining room. The Veterans Committee of 1753 raised funds through pop can drives, raffles, T-shirt sales, and other fund-raisers to supplement Dan’s gas to cover the extra miles to deliver the medical center. Dan also distributed over 1,064 hours to provide a home-like atmosphere for our residents. The Hero’s Diner Mural on Ward 83-1, valued at $20,288; two murals in the Extended Care area; and the canvas in the Patient Dining/Canteen area valued at $7,200, have brought so much enjoyment to those who walk by. People often stop and study the wonderful artistry. The attention to detail that was put into each painting portrays an appreciation and dedication to Serving Those Who Served.

The members continue to contribute their time and talents by assisting Community and Volunteer Service throughout the year during special events, distributions and holidays. The UAW provides hand-quilted lap robes to distribute during the holiday season.

To UAW Local 1753, on behalf of our veteran patients, the medical center extends a special thanks for your continued support. Please know the joy that your continued support and contributions bring to the veterans and their families, and staff each year is greatly appreciated.

–Battle Creek VA Medical Center

Past Chairman of the Veterans Committee, Ron Dorpo was instrumental in getting this committee where it is today. Through their hard work we have a veterans memorial area in front of our plant. This area is where we honor our Veterans.

In the plant, by our first aid department, they have erected an armed services board. This board contains all the branches of the armed services. Our members who have served are identified by their names inscribed on a plaque with their name, branch of armed service and the years they served.

In recognition of the past chairs of the Veterans Committee, we also thank the following: Roger Waugh, Bob Starr, Phil Hntiuk, and current Chairman Bob Davis. These chairmen have spent countless hours of their time. This includes purchasing pop and snacks, collecting pop cans throughout the plant, and returning the pop cans to the store. Most important, keeping count of all the money. I would be remiss if I forgot to mention past chairman Larry Hall (deceased).

This thank-you from all our local officers and members is long overdue. We also thank the Veterans Medical Center in Battle Creek. Keep up the excellent work!

Local 1753 meetings

January, Executive Board meeting on January 17 beginning at 2:15 p.m.

February, Executive Board meeting on February 21 beginning at 2:15 p.m.

Sanitation workers membership meeting on Janu- ary 15 beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Sanitation workers membership meeting on January 15 beginning at 2:30 p.m.

General membership meeting on February 22 beginning at 2:15 p.m.

Sanitation workers membership meeting on February 22 beginning at 2:15 p.m.

Sanitation workers membership meeting on February 19 beginning at 3:30 p.m.

LOCAL 652 Mike Green, President

Congratulations all around

I hope everyone’s Thanksgiving was a good time with your family! How fast we seem to go past summer and into our fall with the Christmas holiday upon us.

I want to thank all our members for the terrific job on the Toys for Tots gate drive. Our Lansing area plants raised over $14,000, thanks to everyone’s generosity. The Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots program has said that over 3,000 families in the Lansing area have requested help for this Christmas.

The CAP-endorsed candidates for Lansing city council—Derrick Quinnley, Carol Wood, and Jody Washington—won their elections. Our sincere thanks to our members who got out to vote. We had one candidate who came up short—Jason Wilcox, who ran a good campaign for city council.

The election of officers for the CAP Council was held at our November meeting, for the 2012-15 term. They are as follows:

President: Mike Green, 652
1st Vice President, Bill Reed, 602
2nd Vice President, Sandy Masarik, 6000
3rd Vice President, Tammy Thompson, 2256

Recording Secretary, Dean Poggioli, 724
Guide, Ray Whitford, 1753
Sgt.-at-Arms, Edgar Loring, 2256
Trustees (3):
Eileen Brooker, 4911
Joe Douglas, 4911
Russ Emmons, 652
At-Large (7):
Lyle Amstutz, 602
Anita Dawson, 602
Curtis Dunn, 1618
Maria Enriquez, 6000
Harold Foster, 652
Christine Rogers, 925
Deb Ruiz, 6000

Congratulations to everyone and I look forward to working with each of you on behalf of our membership.

Our congratulations go to our brothers and sisters at Local 602 for the one-millionth vehicle produced at the LDT plant.

Lansing Grand River celebrated our 10-year anniversary. My congratulations to our members for helping make our plant the award-winning plant that it is and also helping secure a new product in 2012.

The Christmas holiday is sneaking up on us, so I would like to say to your family from mine: I hope your holiday is great and the new year is bright for all of us. Don’t forget to buy American and buy union.

Attn: Local 652 Skilled Trades

The Annual Skilled Trades Christmas Meeting will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 15 at the Local 652 Union Hall. Active and retired skilled trades members of Local 652 are invited to attend. There will be a $3 donation required at the door.
At the list of misconceptions about workers compensation in Michigan:

1.工人补偿法在密歇根州的工人补偿法律是社会福利。

2.在Michigan，工人补偿法律是不受限制的。

3.工人补偿法律受益也受到限制。

4.工人补偿法律费用和人员被跟踪。

5.大多数工人补偿案件是在法院解决的。

Be thankful but not complacent

During the holiday season, I would like everyone to take a moment to reflect on our great Union and give thanks for all the UAW has negotiated for us. The past struggles of our Union brothers and sisters have allowed us to enjoy a wealth of benefits and a decent standard of living. The benefit I appreciate most this time of year is paid holidays. This allows me to spend quality time with my family during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I am truly grateful for all I receive. But with that being stated, I don’t take what I have for granted. Unions are being politically attacked on many fronts, and with a stroke of a pen, many of our accomplishments could be reversed. Whether you like it or not, politics affects your daily life.

Don’t sit around and be complacent about what you have today. We all need to become politically involved in what is happening in our communities, as well as our Union. You can no longer accept the response that “I don’t have the time to be political, that’s what I elected the Union officials to do” or “Someone else will take care of that for me.”

If you want your children and the next generation to enjoy Union jobs and the benefits that come along with them, you need to make a stand. Become involved. It’s not hard to do. Stand up now and be counted before we have nothing left to stand up for. Sign up to volunteer at www.gimmefiveuaw.org.

I wish you and your family happy holidays.

Happy holidays

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

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

UAW Local 724, along with the Women’s and Recreation Committees, is having our Christmas Party on December 17 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Santa will be here too! Please come and join us. There will be desserts, punch and coffee as well as activities and surprises for the children.

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

Please drop off your items from December 1 to December 21 at the 724 hall during these hours: Monday–Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or drop them off at your worksite.

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

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

Top 5 misconceptions about workers compensation in Michigan:

1. Michigan’s workers compensation law is social welfare.

2. Workers compensation is not necessary. It is insurance that most employers in Michigan are required BY LAW to purchase. It protects both employer and employee in the event of a work-related accident.

3. Number 2. Workers compensation benefits are grossly oversized. Nobody gets rich from workers compensation. Employees give up the right to sue in civil court in exchange for what are essentially no-fault benefits. Workers compensation pays lost wages, medical care, and vocational rehabilitation.

4. Pain and suffering compensation is not available. The amount of money that a person will receive is approximately 60% of gross pay and there are no increases for inflation.

5. Number 3. Workers compensation will put you on easy street. Not true! Workers compensation benefits will be stopped if you decline reasonable employment. You can’t refuse to work if a job is offered within your restrictions. You must also show that your wage loss is related to your injury. If you are not working for any reason other than injury, benefits can and will be terminated.

Please see more columns:

Rose Van Schoick, Local 4911 on Page 9
Scott Lounds, Local 652 on page 9

Lansing Labor News
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**Dorothy Stevens**

**602 retirees**

The House majority is determined to cut $4 trillion from federal spending by ending Medicare as we know it and shifting an extra $6,300 in annual health care costs to the average future retiree. Privatizing Medicare is a centerpiece of House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan’s 2012 budget proposal. If it is passed, this plan will send our nation back to a time before Medicare was enacted and when health insurance was unaffordable for millions of seniors.

The real threat here is not a “budget cut” but the powerful right-wing agenda to dismantle Medicare. These lawmakers and many policy experts claim our government can no longer afford Medicare, especially with Baby Boomers beginning to retire.

It’s not all the Baby Boomers’ fault. Some politicians and opponents of our program just want you to believe it is. One of the biggest tricks, and the biggest strain on the federal budget, is the long-term debt created by spending on other priorities. It began with President Bush’s tax breaks for wealthy Americans and continues to soar as the Obama Administration must spend to heal the economy.

Still, rising Medicare premiums have eroded the value of Social Security benefits. Medicare Parts B and D out-of-pocket costs are more and more of the entire Social Security check.

Ryan’s plan would have a devastating impact on seniors at a time when millions of seniors are struggling to afford prescription drugs, along with food, housing, and other basic needs.

If you care about future Medicare benefits please write or call your elected representatives in Congress urging them to protect your Medicare benefits now and in the future. They need to hear from you now!

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas to you and your families, and may your New Year be a good one.

For all our sick and homebound, you are in our thoughts and prayers, and all those whose loved ones are in jail (the cost).

Mike Bauer

**652 retirees**

 Seasons Greetings to all. Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

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, 602, and 1618.

Our bingo nights, potluck/business meetings, and social nights are for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only.

Just a reminder, we will be having our regular potluck in December. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

Please mark the following events on your calendars:

- December 27 card night is canceled
- Our next social night will be January 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only—no guests.

Condolences to the families of Vic Arens, Jerry Cross, Mike Davis, Millie Pullman, and any others we may have missed.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers:
- Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Sandy Cleveland, Marvin Davis, Joyce and Herb Fernholz, Dave Hodges, Helen Hogan, Dorothy Houser, Brenda Lee, Linda Mogyoros, Wilfred Pullman, Jean and Leonard Schneider, Chris Sherwood, Willa Wright, and any other 1618 retirees who may have needed your love and support.

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

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. 50.

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

**Lois Schultz**

**1618 retirees**

Hi out there, all you wonderful people.

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. Now it’s time to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our snowbirds, be safe and have a great winter.

President Obama stood up for GM and the 5,000 workers when Mitt Romney said to let them fail—and where would we be then?

We need to take back jobs and bring them home—made in the USA is where it is at.

We also need to take back the House of Representatives. They don’t like the middle class. And the way people voted in 2010 played right into their hands. The right information has to be gotten out so we can protect the working class, retirees, poor, and disabled.

The Christmas Bonus comes out of the pension, but the pension is down.

There are more retirees than active workers. They put the pension in the stocks, so you know all about that. We sure don’t want Social Security and Medicare put in the stocks. You have to let them know—tell the legislators to leave it alone.

The Republicans think the Democrats won’t come out and vote. I say, get out and vote. Our livelihood is at stake.

They want President Obama to fail. He has done good. We know there is a lot of misinformation out there. The “right to work” just makes the rich richer. Start by standing up for us. If we vote wrong again, we’re lost.

**Laura Clark**

**1753 retirees**

I would like to start and end with a reminder of our Open House on Thursday, December 8 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Local 1753 hall.

We hope that this time we will put aside all work with shifts and, of course, retirees’ time tables. It’s a great way to kick off the season’s festivities, let’s deck this hall. We will have finger food and adult refreshments. I can hardly wait. Maybe we can sing Christmas carols!

Our bingo night and meeting started with songs, thanks to the golden throat of Ruth and Al Mix. Thank you for starting off our Thanksgiving dinner off well, it gives you a warm fuzzy feeling when we sing together.

We had the regular baked turkey, we had barbequed turkey, and even turkey rolls-up! We loved seeing the variety of all the homemade dishes our folk brought to share. It was a big turnout as well.

Thank you, everyone.

As long as I’m handing out thanks, I must speak to a special group: the retirees who always run to help their brothers and sisters. Volunteers (we had a great turnout for the Weenie Roast on Halloween), organizers, cooks, and prep workers. Both active and retirees on both shifts, with “box lunches” for our midnight shift workers. We had a lot of fun and we got to visit with a lot of nice people.

The same goes for political action. Bob Monschien, Arnic Stephenson, and I attended the Regional 1-C CAP Conference. Arnic is 1753’s new CAP Chairperson, and it was great for all of us to see some of our area leaders in person.

I spoke to the Mayor about the 99% occupying Lansing. I thanked him for his patience with the group. He said it made more sense thanthrowing them in jail (the cost).

I think we all got something out of it. I found out the Democrats’ vision of when a company has the same rights as a person—when one is executed in Texas!

It was Bob’s first CAP Conference and he said he enjoyed it.

I want everyone to know that whether I call with a question I can’t answer, or I call for an action when I need help, or I call for support—I rely on our great 1753 retirees volunteers and Executive Board. You always make me a part of the best group around. We are in a group I’m very, very proud of.

Reminder to watch for January’s Labor News paper, as we are planning a local Euchre party for early next year. If you like to play, help, or just party, get a hold of us.

I hope we will see you at the Local 1753 Open House on Thursday, December 8 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Let’s get together and eat drink and be merry.
A Pre-Holiday Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Thursday, January 12, 2012
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Clark Conference Center at Sparrow’s St. Lawrence Campus
1210 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan 48915

PROSTATE CANCER
Diagnosis, Treatment, and Making an Informed Decision Forum

Free and open to the public. Space is limited.
Registration required at 517-203-5022 or email:
p.hemingway@capitalareunitedway.org

Local 602 Hourly & Salaried Retirees
Annual Florida Picnic
March 6, 2012
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Duff’s Original Buffet
6010 14th St. W in Bradenton, FL
$7.00 – $8.00 per person
Questions: Call Larry Miller at 941-746-6968

Retirees’ Arizona Picnic
UAW LOCALS 602, 652, 1743 & LAFCU
Both Hourly & Salary
February 16, 2012
In Mesa, Arizona
Red Mountain Park, 7745 East Brown Road
Beautiful view of the mountain!
Register at 11a.m. – Eat at Noon
Meat and plastic tableware will be provided.
Bring a dish to pass and drink.
A great time and place to see all your Michigan friends and all the Michigan License Plates. See you there!
Call Ron Van Dorpe at (517) 712-6164 for information.

Local 602 will have a holiday open house on Friday, December 23 for active and retired members and their families. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Please see full information on page 10!

WANTED: your old 45 rpm records. Are you between the ages of 60 and 80 and have a collection of records you don’t play anymore? Or do you know someone who has an old 45 collection? I might be interested in buying them. Call me at 517/775-3989 or 517/645-2508.

OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC
UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753 and LAFCU
BOTH SALARY & HOURLY
February 21, 2012
In Bradenton, Florida
American Legion
Kirby Stewart Post 24
2000 75th Street W
(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)
Register at 11 a.m.
Eat at Noon
Meal and plastic tableware provided.
Make plans to attend and see friends from Lansing. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

Lansing Labor News • December, 2011 • Page 5
Happy Holidays

to Local 602 active and retired members.

May this holiday season find you
in the company of beloved family
and cherished friends
and may everyone’s hearts
be filled with cheer.

Best wishes to all in 2012.

Wishing You

Joy of the Season!

– UAW Local 602 Leadership

Local 724’s
Amalgamated Units

wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year

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

Serving the membership since 1940

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

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

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

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

From UAW Region 1-C
Norwood Jewell, Director
Steve Dawes, Assistant Director
Staff and Support Staff
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and New Year filled with Peace and Happiness UAW Local 4911

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

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

Happy Holidays from the staff of the Lansing Labor News

Season’s Greetings from Rapaport, Pollok, Farrell, & Waldron

Our Gift to You for the Holidays – and All Year Long

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

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3626 Dunckel (Jolly Rd, Exit at I-496), Lansing, MI
**LOCAL 4911**
Rose Van Schoick, Fin. Secretary
**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

The Holidays are upon us, which means old man winter is right around the corner. As many of us hibernate inside during the winter months, we have the opportunity to reflect upon all of the wondrous things in our lives for which we are blessed and for which we are thankful. Let us hope and pray that 2012 will be a much happier and more prosperous new year for all of us to enjoy.

**HELP SAVE A LIFE**

UAW Local 4911 is proud to co-sponsor an educational forum along with APRI, Sparrow Cancer Center, Capital Area United Way, etc., to help educate men about prostate cancer. This program will cover topics such as Diagnosis, Treatment and Making an Informed Decision. Our panel of speakers for the evening includes: an internist, urologist, radiation oncologist, and prostate cancer survivors. Additional topics include nutrition and its effects on cancer and the benefits of a prostate cancer support group.

With prostate cancer, African-American men have a particularly higher risk of incidence at a much earlier age as compared to Caucasian men. Therefore, we are offering this educational program free and open to the public to help inform all citizens of this disease. Space is limited so please register early by calling (517) 203-5022 or email p.hemingway@capitalareaunitedway.org.

This educational session will also offer prostate cancer literature as well as other health materials free for the taking. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us as we inform our citizens about prostate cancer and help us to save a life.

**Thursday, January 12, 2012**

Clark Conference Center at Sparrow’s St. Lawrence Campus
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**LOCAL 652**
Scott R. Lounds, Recording Secretary

**On my mind**

A few things are on my mind. Maybe they should be on yours, too. For example, “Right-to-Work.” Ohio voters just overturned public sector “Right-to-Work” laws in a blow against the wealthy industrialists and financiers who have driven the “Right-to-Work” scam for the last 50 years. Unfortunately, the push toward making Michigan a “Right-to-Work” state is getting stronger.

Even more unfortunate is that most people, including our fellow Union members, really don’t understand what “Right-to-Work” laws do. The propaganda from the right claims that “Right-to-Work” laws free all workers to completely withdraw from the Union and pay no dues at all. ‘Right-to-Work’ does not, however, allow the Union to withdraw its support of the employee. The Union is still obligated under these laws to provide representation to these freeloaders.

That’s right, the non-member still has the same representation as a dues-paying member. Why, you might ask, would those supporting right-to-work draft the law in such a way? Well, it is quite simple, they aren’t interested in the employee’s rights to be in a Union or not, they are interested in burdening the Union financially, with the end goal of destroying Unions completely.

**About the Occupy movement**

Another topic in the news is the “Occupy Wall Street” movement and reactions to it. This movement is in protest of the power the financial sector holds over our political process and the gap in economic opportunity between the top 1% of the citizens and the other 99% of the people.

This movement has spread out from Wall Street to many other cities; in fact, we have a branch of that movement occupying a park on Capitol Avenue in Lansing, just three blocks south of the Capitol itself.

The movement is trying to bring to light and bring change to the economic disparity that currently exists in America. This swiftly increasing distance between the haves and the have nots, and the horrible inequity between executive pay and worker pay, is a problem the UAW has been railing against for decades.

Now there has been much wringing of hands by the media and among members of the establishment about what troubles me is not the protests, but the reaction to them in some cities. Mayor Bloomberg of New York, for example, after using force to evict peaceful occupiers from a park made statements saying that public health and safety were more important than free speech.

Without even getting into the truth or fiction of that statement, what health or safety concerns were there? None until the police started dragging protestors out of the park. But even for the right wing of the political spectrum, to actually state that you are sweeping aside a right guaranteed under the Bill of Rights for dubious health and safety reasons seems a bridge too far. Of course the fabulously wealthy Bloomberg is firmly entrenched in that top 1%.

**On free speech**

Finally, I’ve been thinking about having an opinion and speaking your mind. I’ve decided that it’s a good thing. Some might disagree. Everyone has a right to their personal beliefs, and regardless of whether they coincide with my personal views it is their right as an American citizen to express that belief. Some might disagree. So as I wrote in an earlier article, stand up and make your views heard. We are the Labor Movement and we need to raise our voices against the tyranny of those who would take our rights away and destroy everything the Unions have built. Some might disagree.

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**Lansing Labor News • December, 2011 • Page 9**
A letter to our Local 602 family

To the Brothers and Sisters of Local 602: For more than 40 years my brothers and I have been union brothers as we worked at Fisher Body and up to the point where we became the Delta Plant. We have received the union newsletters all those years and have read the union building stories, the reminders that union jobs mean a lot to all workers, that our union stands behind all who serve their country, right down to the unique stories and obituaries.

My mom liked some of the stories that came out and also thought that it was nice to read that people received a Bible for someone in their family when someone passed on. She thought that it must be great to be a part of a union when she read some of the many stories where one union brother or sister would help people even if they didn’t know them.

My father was a union brother working at Federal Mogul in St. Johns, Michigan. He worked there when it wasn’t unionized, but he often said that things really got better when the union got in. Not only did the people receive better wages, but better benefits, and it became safer to work there.

Dad retired from the plant and gave the union the credit that he and his wife received on union retirement benefits and wages. He was proud of what he got in his retirement because he would say that he would not have the retirement he got when his plant wasn’t unionized. And yes, Mom read his union papers when he got them at home.

My brothers, Gary Nethaway and Barry Nethaway, hired in at Fisher Body in 1967 and worked for 39 years, and in 1971 I hired in and retired in 2009. For all those years, we talked with our fellow workers and walked the picket lines when we had to. We read the union papers when we worked there and still do. The union and the union paper are still reminding us that we’re a big union family.

I guess that it’s time that I cut to the chase and say that my mother, Pauline Nethaway, has passed on. Though we never lost a direct family member while we were working there, there have been many letters that have expressed their thanks for the beautiful Bibles that have been given out over these many years.

We now have found out why others have said their thanks when we received our beautiful Bible dedicated in my mom’s name. My brother (a minister) shed some tears and my sister did also when they saw the Bible and read the dedication, and they add their thanks.

How beautiful and wonderful the gift that our union brothers and sisters have given us. We wish to thank everyone that has been a UAW Local 602 union brother or sister to let you know what this beautiful Bible means to us.

In Loving Solidarity — Gary Nethaway, Barry Nethaway, Gene Nethaway

Join Local 602 in celebrating the holiday season with food, fun, and fellowship!

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Greater Lansing Food Bank!

Hope to see you there!
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MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Personal Injury Settlements Include:
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• $2.2 Million Brain Injury Auto Accident Case
• $1.0 Million Birth Trauma Medical Malpractice Case
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SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY
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