American Dream is growing more elusive

By Bill Reed, President, Local 602

The destructive erosion of our economy back if unemployment is meaningful, long-term recovery is doomed.

State and local budgets have been, and continue to be, negatively impacted by the loss of tax revenue. Cities are forced to look for ways to cut back on services, as we are forced to look at roads in disrepair. As property values continue their decline, homes sit vacant and businesses that once thrived are closing their doors and laying off their employees. The backdrop of our surroundings has slowly desensitized us into thinking that what we are seeing and experiencing is the norm.

There is no way to bring America’s economy back if unemployment is chronically high, wages remain stagnant, and we continue to see a lack of movement on job creation. Without ordinary Americans spending their earnings from good paying jobs, any hope of a meaningful, long-term recovery is doomed.

Beyond that, extreme economic inequality is a recipe for social instability. Families on the low end of the spectrum are increasingly finding it an impossibility to find the money needed to pay their rent or mortgage, to fend off bill collectors, to cope with illness and emergencies, and to deal with the daily doses of extreme anxiety.

We must come to terms with ourselves in taking personal “responsibility” for what we have been handed, turning that into personal “accountability” and do our part in moving forward. We all have a duty and an obligation to learn the facts, have active involvement in making a positive difference, and support those who are fighting for our rights and social justice.

There is so much we as common everyday people can do to get the America we love back to the America we remember. For example, writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, calling your elected representatives, registering to vote and most importantly getting out to vote, paying attention to the candidates’ stands on the topics and not the negative ad campaigns. As I’ve said before, learn about the issues that affect you and your family by knowing the facts.

This year will be a challenging one. The Republican leaders have already stated their intent of blocking the 2011 initiative to live off the backs of working families and struggling communities in order to place more money into the pockets of big business. Stand with me in the fight for equality and social justice for all American workers!

See page 6 for Local 602 election notices, classes, and events

Local 602 Hourly & Salaried Retirees
Annual Florida Picnic – March 6, 2012
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at 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

American Legion
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.

Labor News online: www.lansinglabornews.org

A shared vision

By Mike Green, President, Local 652

We honor Martin Luther King each year in January, remembering all his efforts to end segregation and help create equality for all people.

Who could ever forget the most impressive speech I have ever heard, the “I have a dream” speech. It still touches the heart of anyone who listens to it, as a reminder that fair and equal treatment is not for the few but for everyone in our great nation, a model for the rest of the world.

The UAW shared this vision with Dr. King and created a Fair Practice Chairperson in the GM locals, which was an elected position.

A talk with Claude Browne

I want to share with everyone the background of one of our past Fair Practice Chairpersons who is now retired, Claude Browne.

Claude was born on May 27, 1922 in a small town of Columbia, Tennessee. He served in the Army from 1943-46. Claude related to me the following about his return home in 1947.

In 1947 I and my future bride, Woodia, decided to get married. We went with another couple we knew to Limestone, Alabama where the four of us got married. My wife and I have been married 65 years, a of January 2. We had two kids—daughter Theresa and son Paul.

I worked in construction. It was hard work and I would get laid off quite frequently. Back then we didn’t have SUB pay or unemployment comp to help us out. So I decided to move to Michigan in 1955 and went to work at Oldsmobile.

The UAW was our representative and thank goodness they were, because the supervisor would give you three days to learn your job—and if you didn’t, they wanted to get rid of you!

I remember the work was hard. I would watch the committeeperson walk up and down the lines and handle union calls and grievances. I said to myself, that’s what I want to do and make a difference in our members’ lives.

I became involved in our local union. I learned right away that I really enjoyed representing our membership. I could help make things better for our membership, as Dr. King and the UAW were pushing for.

When we first came to Lansing, we visited the Missionary Baptist Church.

Continued on page 2
LOCAL 724
Dean Poggiali, President

Moving on to 2012

Although we are in the Michigan winter season, we have received only a taste of the winter weather. As we get older the fight is more difficult and tedious, but we persevere nonetheless. On the flip side the vision of a fresh layer of snow on Christmas morning does the soul good.

By the time this is published we hope that the season was filled with good times and joy with you and yours. With still some uncertainty for many Americans, we hope the true meaning of the season can find its way into their soul and that 2012 will bring a new sense of well-being.

On the Local scene, we had a tremendous sale of the Old Newsboys spoopy paper at our worksites. This outpouring will allow many area children to have the shoes and boots they need to go to school every day. Thanks to all the members who donated and who help with the sales.

The Christmas tree in the hall is filled with donations of scarves, hats, and mittens, many of which are handmade. The Women’s committee, Chaired by Debra Mills, has made this an annual cause and we make sure that the donations are then distributed to those in need.

Along the same mindset of our generosity, the annual Toys for Tots drive was again a success. We had close to 150 donations that were then taken to get out to the community. Again we can’t thank everyone enough for their donations. We do wish to extend special thanks to the Huntsman Unit and their super shoppers, Pam Kissane and Teresa Klockziem. The Lear and Woodbridge Units also were instrumental in the huge outpouring.

Re-energizing the retiree chapter

Faye Harris, the new Local 724 Retiree Chapter Chair, is asking for current contact information for any Local 724 retirees. Faye is looking to re-energize the Retiree Chapter and is looking for like-minded individuals. Please leave your name, address, and contact information at the Local at 482-7377 and we will make sure it gets to Faye.

We wish to pass our condolences to the family of Joe Sevenski, who served as President of the Local from June, 1965 to May of 1981. Joe will be remembered for his faith, family, dedication to his country, and his stories, which were endless.

In a reflection of the season, let us keep those in need in our thoughts and prayers. The troops who protect our freedom should be thanked at every opportunity.

Let family know that they are important to us in every way. In spite of all the negativity and difficult times, we still live in the greatest country in the world.

May the wind be at your back and peace and joy within your soul.

Here’s a photo from Winterfest 2011. Winterfest is an annual gathering sponsored by the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club. This year it will be held in Grayling, February 10-12. You can get all the details online at: www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com

LOCAL 1753
Ray Whitford, President

Things to look forward to

Another new year is upon us. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The gate collections for Toys for Tots and selling of the Old Newsboys newspapers again were a huge success. The employees in the plant dig deep into their pockets when it comes to these two organizations. Your contributions enable less fortunate children to also have a happy Christmas, as we do. So the leadership thanks you.

Another day of importance is being observed on Friday, February 10. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the sit-down strike, which we remember with our White Shirt Day celebration. Let’s all participate in the sit-downers’ honor and wear your white shirt. Remember, don’t get your white shirt any dirtier than your supervisor does.

The Shop Committee opened local negotiations on September 13, 2011. Local management always have their issues or concerns that they present to the Shop Committee. If the Shop Committee gave local management everything they wanted, they would be in heaven: reduce classifications, wanting some of our past grievance settlements, do away with some jobs, etc. The Shop Committee is at a standstill, the same as other CC&A plants.

The good news from the 2011 national negotiations is that in March of this year we will receive at least $3,500 in profit-sharing. According to some of the past financial reports and waiting for the report from the last quarter, we could receive a little more. But don’t take that to the bank.

LOCAL 724
Debra Mills, Financial Secretary

To a brighter year for all

Happy New Year to everyone. By the time you read this, the Christmas holidays has passed and we will have celebrated the 2012 New Year. As we look back on 2011, we have seen some improvements on our economic decline which touched everyone in our nation. We all have family and friends who have been impacted by the loss of a job, home, or savings. As we move into 2012, let’s hope for a brighter and secure future.

All of us at Local 724 would like to thank everyone for their donations. Our holiday Tree of Warmth was a success! The hats, mittens, scarves and gloves will be given to the needy people in our community.

Local 724 held a Christmas party for its members on December 17. The party was wonderful: the families had a nice time, the children saw Santa Clau and received a present, and they had many activities to participate in. There were lots of smiling faces! We had about 100 children, so needless to say, this event is not possible without the help from Local Staff, Officers, and especially the Women’s Committee.

However, the person who is the glue behind the scenes that helps above and beyond is Mary Holmer from the Lear Unit. With Mary’s time and dedication, and flair for decorating the hall, the event was again a rousing success.

And a big thanks to Santa. He was a hit, and he does carry a Union card!

So as we continue in the 2012 year, let’s still remember to buy American and union. As you know, we still have many sisters and brothers out of work; let’s continue to help our own and make this a successful year.

LOCAL 652
Randy Freeman, Vice President

Winterfest!

This year’s Winterfest event will be held in the beautiful town of Grayling, Michigan! Winterfest 2012 will be held February 10-12. Host hotel will be the Ramada Inn located on the south end of Grayling. This will be the location for all registration, bingo, and headquarters for our event.

The Oldsmobile Outdoor Club

“This family oriented organization was founded in 1943. Founding members of the group were employees from the Oldsmobile Plant (UAW Local 652) in Lansing, Michigan who were avid outdoorsmen. Club interest grew as the years passed and got bigger as they reached out to include the other UAW Locals in the Lansing area. In 1984 Local 602, 1753 and 1618 came on board. Membership in the club has fluctuated over the years with a high of 3,000 in the 1960’s to around 1,300 at the current time and looking to grow! We are now open to all UAW’s in a 25-mile radius of plants in Davison (Lansing Grand River) UAW Local 652 and the Plant in Delta Township (Delta Plant) Local 602.”—Mike Bokovoy president-Oldsmobile Outdoor Club.

You can get all the details online at: www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com

Martin Luther King Day January 17

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable ... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.” —Martin Luther King, Jr.

Green

Continued from page 1 which was located at the corner of Hillsdale and Logan Streets, where Dr. King’s brother was the pastor. We would hear of the many good things Dr. King was involved with to make sure all people were treated equally.

That’s when I knew that the Fair Practice Chairperson was the job I wanted to help make a difference in the workplace.

I think Dr. King and the UAW have made a huge difference in all lives. I will always be thankful to the membership that elected me. I always took pride in making sure I was accountable to the membership which elected me, and I hope I did make a difference.

Auto show news

I attended the announcement of the ATS at the Detroit auto show. We had great reviews from the crowds. People just loved it!

I also had a chance to talk with Dan Akerson, CEO of GM. I let him know our second shift of workers will be ready and that we’re also ready for a third shift at our location for any new product.

I must thank each and every member at our Grand River Plant. Because of you, we’re celebrating the new ATS being built at our plant and any new products for the future.
LOCAL 652
Bob Smith, Financial Secretary
Think about it ...

Now that it’s 2012 we will start to feel the effects of the legislative changes to Michigan’s income tax that Governor Rick Snyder and his Republican cohorts have pushed through without the citizens of our great state. We’ve all heard the stories and explanations but now we get down to the nitty gritty … what do these changes really mean? How will they really affect us? Unfortunately, unless you are a business, the answer in most cases is very badly!

Not that I have anything against business. I readily admit that the business tax environment in Michigan was a millstone around our neck when competing for business expansion or new business developments. Something had to be done. My arguments start with the focus of the tax increases that are being used to fund business tax cuts.

Many of the tax increases are being placed squarely upon the people who can least afford it, the working poor and public/private sector retirees! For those who haven’t heard, most pensioners in Michigan will now be required to pay the full amount of income tax on their pensions (currently 4.55%, please see below for breakdown). Many of these folks are already struggling to make ends meet and it seems almost criminal to squeeze them for more. This is why I agree that Governor Snyder is one tough nut! One would have to be practically heartless to sign this legislation!

Below is a synopsis of the new pension tax rules. For more information go to: www.michigan.gov/treasury or speak to your tax specialist.

Income Tax Changes For Retirement Benefits Effective For Tax Year 2012 (For Returns Filed In 2013)

Born before 1946

• Income taxed at 4.35 percent (4.25 percent starting Jan. 1, 2013)
• Retirement income will NOT be taxed if under the current exemption threshold of $45,120 for single filers and $90,240 for joint filers. Public pensions will not be taxed.
• 401(k)s and IRAs will be treated the same as under current law.
• Social Security will NOT be taxed
• Personal exemption of $3,700 per person

Born between Jan. 1, 1946 and Dec. 31, 1952

• Income taxed at 4.35 percent (4.25 percent starting Jan. 1, 2013)
• Retirement income will NOT be taxed if under the current exemption threshold of $45,120 for single filers and $90,240 for joint filers. Public pensions will not be taxed.
• 401(k)s and IRAs will be treated the same as under current law.
• Social Security will NOT be taxed
• Personal exemption of $3,700 per person

• When people born between Jan. 1, 1946 and Dec. 31, 1952 turn 67, they qualify for a senior income exemption of $20,000 for a single filer and

$40,000 for joint filers, regardless of income source.

Born after 1952

• Income taxed at 4.35 percent (4.25 percent starting Jan. 1, 2013)
• Retirement income will be taxed at 4.35 percent (4.25 starting Jan. 1, 2013). “Retirement income” includes public pensions, private pensions, 401(k)s and IRAs.
• Social Security will NOT be taxed
• Personal exemption of $3,700 per person

• When people born after 1952 turn 67, they qualify for a senior income exemption of $20,000 for single filers and

$40,000 for joint filers, regardless of income source.

With all of the stories and explanations it seems as if we have been disconnected from those who are really affected by the tax increases that are being used to fund business tax cuts. My arguments start with the focus of the tax increases that are being used to fund business tax cuts.

LOCAL 652
Scot R. Lounds, Rec. Sec.
Allies for justice
February is Black History Month, as well as being the 75th anniversary of the sit-down strikes that led General Motors to recognize the United Auto Workers. It is appropriate that these two events coincide. The struggle for workers’ rights and the struggle for racial equality have a long history together. This is particularly true for the UAW, which from its earliest days sought the participation of people of all races.

When Walter Reuther became president of the UAW, the relationship between the union and the civil rights movement, and other movements for social justice, grew even closer. In fact, Reuther and Martin Luther King, the great civil rights activist, were close allies. These two great men spent their lives working toward social and economic equality and held each other in great respect. Fifty years ago, on the 25th anniversary of the great sit-down strikes, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a congratulatory letter to Walter Reuther, observing that, “More than anyone else in America, you stand out as the shining symbol of democratic trade unionism.

Walter Reuther believed that the labor movement, and the UAW in particular, could be a force not just for workers’ rights but for social justice and racial equality. Reuther sat on the national advisory board for the NAACP and as far back as 1957 was calling for protests against South Africa’s system of apartheid.

Both he and King believed in the power of non-violent protest, with the sit-down strikes of 1937 foreshadowing the sit-ins and non-violent protests of the 1960’s. In fact, in March 1965 Reuther was with King during the march on Selma, Alabama.

It was not the first time that Reuther had been at Dr. King’s side. Walter Reuther was there beside King in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial when King gave his seminal “I Have a Dream” speech. Reuther had, in fact, met the UAW and other unions in support of Dr. King’s march on Washington. In the crowd that day were signs stating that the “UAW says segregation disunites America.”

When Reuther sat on the national advisory board later in the day, saying that the event “proves beyond doubt … that free men despite their different points of view, despite their racial and religious differences, can build a great moral kingdom of free civil rights and the quest for equal opportunity and full citizenship rights.”

Then in 1968 on April 8, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Dr. King was in Memphis for a march in support of the peaceful resolution of the sanitation workers’ strike. After the tragic events of April 8, Walter Reuther marched with Dr. King’s widow Coretta Scott King in the scheduled march. Just two years later, Coretta Scott King was eulogizing Walter Reuther after both he and his wife had died in a tragic plane crash.

In that day Coretta Scott King said of Reuther, “He was there in person when the storm clouds were thick.”

Walter Reuther had spent all of his adult life pulling workers out from under the oppression of the corporate system of America, but he didn’t just stop there. He saw others being oppressed and sought to fight that oppression. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had also spent his adult life fighting oppression and trying to build a society where all people were looked at as equal.

This February I would ask that you remember the struggle that American workers underwent to secure the rights and benefits we all enjoy; and to remember the struggle of a people to overcome oppression, segregation, and injustice.

That was not the first time that Reuther and Martin Luther King, the great civil rights activist, were close allies. In fact, in March 1965 Reuther was with King during the march on Selma, Alabama.

Walter Reuther believed that the labor movement, and the UAW in particular, could be a force not just for workers’ rights but for social justice and racial equality. Reuther sat on the national advisory board for the NAACP and as far back as 1957 was calling for protests against South Africa’s system of apartheid. Both he and King believed in the power of non-violent protest, with the sit-down strikes of 1937 foreshadowing the sit-ins and non-violent protests of the 1960’s. In fact, in March 1965 Reuther was with King during the march on Selma, Alabama.

It was not the first time that Reuther had been at Dr. King’s side. Walter Reuther was there beside King in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial when King gave his seminal “I Have a Dream” speech. Reuther had, in fact, met the UAW and other unions in support of Dr. King’s march on Washington. In the crowd that day were signs stating that the “UAW says segregation disunites America.”

When Reuther sat on the national advisory board later in the day, saying that the event “proves beyond doubt … that free men despite their different points of view, despite their racial and religious differences, can build a great moral kingdom of free civil rights and the quest for equal opportunity and full citizenship rights.”

Then in 1968 on April 8, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Dr. King was in Memphis for a march in support of the peaceful resolution of the sanitation workers’ strike. After the tragic events of April 8, Walter Reuther marched with Dr. King’s widow Coretta Scott King in the scheduled march. Just two years later, Coretta Scott King was eulogizing Walter Reuther after both he and his wife had died in a tragic plane crash.

In that day Coretta Scott King said of Reuther, “He was there in person when the storm clouds were thick.”

Walter Reuther had spent all of his adult life pulling workers out from under the oppression of the corporate system of America, but he didn’t just stop there. He saw others being oppressed and sought to fight that oppression. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had also spent his adult life fighting oppression and trying to build a society where all people were looked at as equal.

This February I would ask that you remember the struggle that American workers underwent to secure the rights and benefits we all enjoy; and to remember the struggle of a people to overcome oppression, segregation, and injustice.

That was not the first time that Reuther and Martin Luther King, the great civil rights activist, were close allies. In fact, in March 1965 Reuther was with King during the march on Selma, Alabama.

It was not the first time that Reuther had been at Dr. King’s side. Walter Reuther was there beside King in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial when King gave his seminal “I Have a Dream” speech. Reuther had, in fact, met the UAW and other unions in support of Dr. King’s march on Washington. In the crowd that day were signs stating that the “UAW says segregation disunites America.”

When Reuther sat on the national advisory board later in the day, saying that the event “proves beyond doubt … that free men despite their different points of view, despite their racial and religious differences, can build a great moral kingdom of free civil rights and the quest for equal opportunity and full citizenship rights.”

Then in 1968 on April 8, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Dr. King was in Memphis for a march in support of the peaceful resolution of the sanitation workers’ strike. After the tragic events of April 8, Walter Reuther marched with Dr. King’s widow Coretta Scott King in the scheduled march. Just two years later, Coretta Scott King was eulogizing Walter Reuther after both he and his wife had died in a tragic plane crash.

In that day Coretta Scott King said of Reuther, “He was there in person when the storm clouds were thick.”

Walter Reuther had spent all of his adult life pulling workers out from under the oppression of the corporate system of America, but he didn’t just stop there. He saw others being oppressed and sought to fight that oppression. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had also spent his adult life fighting oppression and trying to build a society where all people were looked at as equal.

This February I would ask that you remember the struggle that American workers underwent to secure the rights and benefits we all enjoy; and to remember the struggle of a people to overcome oppression, segregation, and injustice.
We are starting a new year with the hope that 2012 will be better than 2011. However, there are many issues facing the American public yet to be solved.

The American people have become increasingly aware of the impact of corporate power in their lives and are no longer willing to roll over and let corporations get away with ripping off consumers, spending whatever they want to influence elections, and otherwise wreaking havoc on our lives. Corporations are not people. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in “Citizens United” that corporations have the same “rights” as you and me to spend unlimited money influencing elections. And now WE the People, actual, real people, need a constitutional amendment to take back our democracy.

Instead of delivering on the promise of strong limits to protect our economy and hold Wall Street accountable, the Republican majority in Congress is hammering away at financial reform that didn’t go far enough to begin with. They’re chopping away at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that was created to keep you and me from getting ripped off by the banks.

America is in a crisis because a largely deregulated Wall Street drove the economy off a cliff and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.

The GOP may have their secret bill that was held off and brought the middle class to its knees. It’s time to stop and there can be no going back so I ask each and every one of you to get involved.

With everything that’s going on and all the nastiness and political bloodbaths we’ll be seeing in 2012, it’s easy to let cynicism and disgust make you want to wash your hands of this mess.

Don’t do it! Big corporations are trying to mug our democracy and take what belongs to us, We the People. Don’t be a bystander who just keeps walking, get involved and help protect and strengthen our democracy in this country. Contact your elected representatives in Congress and make your voice heard.
Plan ahead for Pride Ride
The 12th annual motorcycle Pride Ride will be on Friday, May 12. You will need to order your T-shirts by April 25, as no extra shirts will be ordered. Pick up an entry form at your local or contact Linda Mogyoros at turtlehatch@att.net or 517-694-7914.

Lansing Chapter Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) Presents
10th Annual Mardi Gras Celebration Saturday, March 10
8:00 pm – 1:00 am UAW Local 602 2510 W. Michigan Ave. $15.00 Per Person Fun, Food, Door Prizes For Tickets and Information Please Call: Deedre Williams UAW 517-488-1222 Lena Wyeth 517-282-8689

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.

Region 1-C Retirees Euchre Tournament
Area-wide euchre tournament on April 25 at Local 602, registration starts at 8:00 a.m., play begins at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served. This is for Region 1-C UAW retirees. You do not need to have a partner to play. Winners will go to Flint on May 9 for the play-off.

APRI thanks you
Thank you to all those members and families that supported the first-ever community coat drive hosted by APRI Lansing Chapter! This year, we were able to help keep 60+ families warm this winter due to your generosity. Thank you so much!

Region 1-C Retires Veteran report
By Michael Melfi, Region 1-C Veterans Association Chair and Local 652 Veterans Committee Chair
From the veterans in Region 1-C, we hope everyone celebrated a joyous Christmas and is experiencing the beginning of a fabulous New Year.

In November of 2011 we had our election of officers for the Region 1-C Veterans Association.
Gail Harris, UAW Local 724, was elected as Sergeant-at-Arms; Lee McCalister, UAW Local 659, was elected Treasurer; Candice Morrison, UAW Local 602, was elected Recording Secretary; Billy White, UAW Local 602, was elected Vice Chair; and Michael Melfi, UAW Local 652 Veterans Chair, was elected Chairman of the Region’s Veterans Association.
We hold our meetings four times a year, the second month of each quarter. They are held in four different locations to accommodate the driving distances of those who attend and also to be able to continue our support of the two annual projects we have committed our resources to. We welcome new members at our meetings, regardless of your status, veteran or civilian. As you continue to participate in our meetings, regardless of your status, we welcome new members to our chapter.

We are extremely busy during any given year. Our Chili Cook-Off held in October raised additional money for our bicycle fund which is used to purchase bicycles for the children at the National VFW Home in Rapids. That presentation is held every May at our quarterly meeting which is held at the home.

In August after our regular meeting we donated our time to assist with patients at the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek during their Annual Watermelon Festival. Our Region veterans always stay the entire day to help keep patients with their own personal schedule. These two events are annual functions that Region 1-C veterans have committed time, energy and money from several different fund-raisers throughout the year.

The Region covers 11 counties in south-central Michigan including the cities of Flint, Lansing and Jackson. In these areas the UAW Veterans are represented by Locals 475, 524, 599, 602, 651, 652, 659, 724, 963, 1292, 1753, 1811, 1981, 2031, 4911 and 6000. These UAW Union Locals have established programs within or own communities to bring awareness of the need to help our veterans, and those that still serve our WONDERFUL country.

Retirees Arizona Picnic
UAW LOCALS 602, 652, 1618, 1743 & LAFCU Both Hourly & Salaried February 16, 2012 In Mesa, Arizona Red Mountain Park, 7745 East Brown Road Beautiful view of the mountain! Register at 11 a.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 locals and all the Michigan License Plates. See you there!
Call Ron Van Dorpe at (517) 712-6164 for information.

From the Region 1-C Director
Let’s make 2012 a better year
By Norwood Jewell UAW Region 1-C Director
Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a great Christmas holiday. It’s always good to spend time with loved ones and friends.

I would like to thank our members who participated in the 2011 annual watermelon festival throughout 2011. From the rallies at the Capitol and lobby days to phone banking and other efforts, I sincerely appreciated the membership’s activism.

We need to remember 2011 and remind our families, friends and neighbors why 2012 will bring them less than 2011. We’ve seen the dismantling of collective bargaining rights, the attacks on our retirees, public education, workers rights, health and safety reductions, and reduction in eligibility weeks of unemployment, as well as the actual compensation.

There are also the reductions and eliminations of middle-class tax credits and reductions in the Earned Income Tax Credit. Working families were constantly under attack in 2011. And don’t be fooled, the elimination or reduction of a tax credit is a tax increase.

We also need to keep our eyes on “Right to Work” legislation. There has not been a time in the history of organized labor that we have been under attack more than we have under our current Republican-led state legislature. And it may get worse.

With so much anti-union and anti-working family legislation already passed, and more on the way, there is no end in sight for us here in Michigan unless we buck up and take back our House of Representatives.

Billions of dollars have been and continue to be spent by corporations and the wealthy to forward their Robin Hood in Reverse mentality: take from the poor and middle class and give to the rich. “We the People,” the 99%, are under attack more than we were during the Revolutionary War.

The top 1% want to eliminate our voices and tear down what we have built since the 1936-37 sit-down strike. Where would working families be if not for unions? We speak for the entire 99%.

Corporate greed is the bottom line and Republicans get elected by corporate dollars. They want more tax breaks for themselves as they take away more from us.

How much more profit do they need? How much more money does a millionaire or billionaire need to make and how much more do we have to give up? We didn’t cause our country’s current financial problems. The financial institutions and Wall Street did under President Bush. Don’t blame President Obama, don’t blame working families, and don’t let them divide us.

Republican legislators want to make the Bush tax cuts for the top 1% permanent. They believe in trickle-down economics for the 99% — we tax breaks to the rich and hope they will trickle some of their excess our direction. I don’t believe any of us want to be trickled on. And can you believe that Republican legislators passed a law to tax pensions and retiree savings accounts? SHAME ON THEM!

We can move our state and country forward, create jobs, protect our seniors, invest in our youth and strengthen our collective bargaining rights. We can vote, encourage our family, friends and neighbors to register and vote. We cannot afford to let 1% of people make the decisions for the other 99%. We must educate ourselves in the political process. Whether we like it or not, politics plays a role in every aspect of our lives. We need to be involved and a part of the decision-making process. Get involved with your citizenship and legislation committees, participate in the annual V-CAP drives at your work sites, help support our UAW-endorsed candidates, and get your co-workers and family members to vote so we can stabilize our Labor movement and protect working families.

Please remember and remind others that if it were not for President Obama there would not be a General Motors, Ford or Chrysler today. And it is the resurgence of the Detroit automakers that has created a surplus in the state budget.

Don’t let Republican lawmakers take the credit. All they did is increase your taxes and give that surplus to the wealthiest in our state.

Let us not forget the collapse of Wall Street. Deregulation—or as the Republicans put it, smaller government—caused that collapse. I cannot believe that Republicans still want to privatize Social Security and deregulate the banking industry. That is like letting the fox watch the hen house, smart?

Let’s make 2012 the year of the future. Please help us elect working family candidates. Let’s put the “We” back in We Are the People!

GM and Local 652 Retiree Breakfast Last Wednesday of each month 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. Guerazzi’s Restaurant

OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC
UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753 and LAFCU BOTH SALARY & HOURLY February 21, 2012 In Bradenton, Florida Both Hourly & Salaried in the Olde Naples region
Kirby Stewart Post 24 2000 7th 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 Jene Avenshine, (517) 626-2398, for more information.
602 Obituaries

Donald H. Wilson – Retired
Norman Fossum – Retired
Virginia Irene Owens Ingham – Retired
John Steinhauser – Retired
Dorales J. Ritter – Mother of Susan Slater
Dale M. Griffin – Retired Material
John Conroy – Retired Material
Onalee Tissue – Spouse of Audley Tissue
Margaret Violet Boring – Mother of Fred Boring, Retired Material
Robert W. Baur – Retired
Vernon Bollinger – Retired
Peter Demarco – Retired
Kathleen Simpson – Retired

652 Obituaries

Bernard Adams – Retiree
John Bates – Father of Glenn Geirland, Father-in-Law of Mary Geirland
Joseph Billis – Father of Tina Saunto, Father-in-Law of Stuart Saunto
Edith Conley – Mother of Hazel Paxton, Ellis and Earl Conley
Tom Dalton – Father of Thomas Dalton
Levi Dassance – Father of Barb Adleman
Gladsy Dennis – Spouse of Hubert Dennis, Mother of William Dennis
Duane Glick – Retiree
Arthur P. Hayward Sr. – Father of Arthur P. Hayward Jr.
Barbara Ellen Hendee – Mother of Gary Hendee
Loretta Johnson – Mother of Harold Johnson
Ronald Klockzien – Retiree
Rev. Barbara “B.J.” Lamie – Spouse of Dennis “Mr. Clean” Lamie
Willie Mae Lofton – Mother of Jesse Conley
Henry Major Sr. – Father of Henry Major Jr.
Gregory Allen Pardee – Son of Frank Pardee
Larry Gene Price – Retiree
Robert Santini – Retiree
Alice Jane Shepard – Mother-in-Law of Steve Runyan
Mary Stampski – Mother-in-Law of Larry Ward
Judy C. Swain – Retiree, Spouse of Melvin Swain
Alexander Thomas – Father of Sheryl Thomas
Vernon Thompson – Retiree
Onalee Tissue – Mother of Russell and Larry Tissue
Ernestine F. Vsetula – Mother of Wende Vsetula
Dorothy Wilson – Retired former office secretary at Local 652

652 Thank Yous

Thank yous were received from:
The Eva Butler Family
The John Frey Family
The Ernestine Vsetula Family
The Dorothy Wilson Family

724 Obituaries

Jeffrey S. Sambaer of the Bridgewater Interiors Unit
Joseph Sevenski, former Local 724 President. He worked at Lansing Drop Forge for more than 40 years and was president of Local 724 from June, 1965 to May of 1981

RESCEINDED - No Election

Local 602’s Education Committee will be offering a number of free financial education workshops in February and March. These workshops are for active and retired members and their spouses. Topics include: Tax Planning for 2012 and Planning for Retirement and PSP-Fidelity Options. Some are presented by Hantz Group, some by Michigan Money Management. These classes are offered as courtesy only and the companies are NOT endorsed by UAW Local 602. See full information on the 602 website: www.local602.org or call the hall at 372-4626 ext. 5.

Dr. Jack Adkins & Associates
Welcome Back Retirees!
We Offer Value & Service For All Your Eye Care Needs.

5020 W Saginaw Hwy • MON-FRI: 9:6 • SAT: 9:3
CALL TO GUARANTEE AN APPOINTMENT + (517) 323-3399
www.primaryecp.com/djack

- Experienced & Friendly Staff
- Complete Medical & Ocular History
- Thorough Eye Health Evaluation
- Explanation of all Conditions
- Accurate Eyeglass Prescriptions
- Complete Contact Lens Service
- Cataract Evaluation
- Glaucoma Testing
- Diabetic Eye Exams
- Evaluation & Co-Management for Cataract & LASIK Surgery
- Treatment of Eye Infections
- Emergency Service
- Medicare Provider
- Medicare Vision Provider

Those w/o Vision Benefits Receive:

COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAM
Includes visual field screening & retinal imaging
Eye exam only. Contact lens exam not included.

$49
(Reg. $59)

CONTACT LEN EXAM
Current Comprehensive Eye Exam Required (within 1 year)

$15 OFF
(Reg. $55-75)

LANSING
(S57) 323-3490
5020 W Saginaw Hwy.
Next to Tres Amigos
eyemartexpress.com
Personal Injury Settlements Include:

• $2.6 Million Auto Negligence Case
• $2.2 Million Brain Injury Auto Accident Case
• $1.0 Million Birth Trauma Medical Malpractice Case
• $1.3 Million Auto Death Case

SVS Vision gives your family great, affordable vision care with the latest frames, caring doctors of optometry and expert staff that cares about you. And as always, we make using your benefits easy. Just come in, choose your perfect glasses, and we'll do all the rest. We also have exclusive discounts for non-covered UAW-GM retirees.

SVS Vision gives your family great, affordable vision care with the latest frames, caring doctors of optometry and expert staff that cares about you. And as always, we make using your benefits easy. Just come in, choose your perfect glasses, and we'll do all the rest. We also have exclusive discounts for non-covered UAW-GM retirees.

Our proud union employees service thousands of union members annually.

$15 off when you bring in this ad
Out-of-pocket expenses on special options. See office for details. Cannot be combined with other coupons or offers. CPN#1014

Rapaport, Pollok, Farrell, & Waldron

Staff Represented by the UAW
332-3555
3626 Dunckel (Jolly Rd, Exit I-496), Lansing, MI

Work Related Disability
Products Liability
Slip and Fall
Social Security Disability
Medical Malpractice
Auto Accidents

LAW FIRM OF KAECHELE and WILENSKY, P.C.
SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY WORKERS’ COMPENSATION SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Personal Injury Settlements Include:

• $2.6 Million Auto Negligence Case
• $2.2 Million Brain Injury Auto Accident Case
• $1.0 Million Birth Trauma Medical Malpractice Case
• $1.3 Million Auto Death Case

Staff represented by UAW Local 2256
PHONE for consultation - NO CHARGE
(517) 853-1940

6500 Centurion Drive, Suite 230 • Lansing, MI 48917

Not收取 Initial Consultation
Most Insurances Accepted
Financing Available

CALL 517-351-2146
Visit us at smilesoflansing.com

Erhard Dental and Implant Center
ONE DAY DENTURE SERVICE
We can give you back your smile!


$50 OFF One Day implant System! expires 4/15/12

Eat, Laugh & Speak With Confidence

CALL 517-351-2146
Frandoor Shopping Center, Lansing

Big Savings on AUTO and HOMEOWNERS Insurance for CREDIT UNION Members
Use Your Buying Power As A Group Member!

As a CREDIT UNION Member, you may be eligible for HUGE discounts on your AUTO and HOMEOWNER insurance through a special group insurance program, underwritten by CITIZENS INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA. This program offers you AUTO and HOMEOWNERS protection with a price that's right!

Program Administered by:

Al Bourdeau Insurance Agency
CITIZENS INSURANCE

2660 E. Grand River Ave • East Lansing 517-351-4188

Lansing Labor News • January, 2012 • Page 7
PUT MORE GROCERIES IN YOUR CART!

See how you can save when you switch to a LAFCU Checking Account.

SAVE $183* OR MORE!

LAFCU CHECKING BENEFITS:
- No minimum balance
- No monthly fees with Direct Deposit or e-Checking
- FREE Debit Card
- Access to over 28,000 Surcharge-Free ATMs
- 4,600 Shared Branching locations across the U.S.

*The average annual cost of checking account fees based on a Filene Research Institute Study.

Stop into any LAFCU branch to get started or call 517.622.6600.

517.622.6600 • lafcu.com

LAFCU
YOUR CREDIT UNION FOR LIFE

Lansing • South Lansing • DeWitt • Eaton Rapids • Charlotte • Mason