Local union members and officers rally against anti-labor Governors Rick Snyder of Michigan and Scott Walker of Wisconsin outside a GOP fundraiser.

We’ve always made our own history

By Art Luna, UAW Region 1C CAP Coordinator

As all of you are aware, we continue to see attacks on us here in Michigan—right in the center of Region 1C, at our state capitol in Lansing.

And it’s right down party lines: all Republicans in the State Senate and State House have continually passed legislation that has not created a single job or resolved any of the state’s deficit. It’s all been a direct attack aimed at the destruction of the middle class, dismantling of tax credits, reductions in unemployment insurance and wages, taxing the pensions of our seniors to give corporations and the wealthy tax breaks—$1.8 billion dollars worth!

Taking away our rights to democracy when voting for our elected officials through the powers of a financial manager, bail in committee to suppress voters’ rights, and yes, trying to eliminate our rights to collective bargaining. That’s all we’ve seen for the past 16 months. With the Republicans controlling every aspect of government, there’s NO ACCOUNTABILITY.

See page 5 for how we can fight back.

In memory of Chris “Tiny” Sherwood

Christen G. Sherwood was born June 11, 1949 in Lansing, MI, the son of the late Gerald and Phyllis Sherwood, passed away April 18, 2012 at the age of 62. Christen was a resident of Lansing his whole life. He was the owner of his own race team and was an avid golfer. Surviving to cherish his memory are his daughter, Amy (Douglas) Mumbzy; grandchildren, Christen, Rembrandt and Michelangelo; great-granddaughter, Evelyn; and sister, Kathleen DeForest, as well as several nieces and nephews. Please see Mike Green’s article on page 2 for more information on Sherwood. Those desiring may make contributions to the Greater Lansing Food Bank, PO Box 16224, Lansing, MI 48901 or to the American Diabetes Association, Memorial and Honor Program, PO Box 13067, Alexandria, VA 22312 in memory of Chris. Memories may be shared with the family at www.grlansing.com

Dean Poggiali, President, Local 724

Let me first apologize for my laziness in preparing an article for the Lansing Labor News website on a monthly basis. There is no excuse for not properly keeping the lines of communication open.

When we had the monthly deadline for the paper version, it seems as though my gavel has been reacting more timely.

A few updates from the Local. John Bramble was elected as the Local 724 Sergeant-at-Arms earlier this year. John has served on the Executive Board previously and is also the Local Health & Safety Standing Committee Chair. John has also served in a variety of roles as an employee of the Danaher Corporation from his UAW Local 724 days. Normally we would welcome John aboard, but due to his involvement he never left. Congrats are still in order, all the same.

Jane Woodbury was recently elected to the position of the JLL-Drayton Unit Chair. Jane is relatively new to the union process, so we will make sure that we can help her learn about the Local.

The IMPCO Unit recently ratified a new contract. The Unit has seen its share of difficulties. Our sincere hope is that the management will be able to secure new work for the membership.

The Region recently conducted some training about the petition drive to help secure signatures that will look to place a collective bargaining initiative on the ballot. This measure will make sure that we have protections from the misguided legislation we are currently seeing by our State legislators. In order to sign the petition you must be a registered voter. We have the petitions at the Local and many of our Unit leadership have also attended the training and have the petitions in your worksite.

As stated above, many of the pieces of legislation being passed in Lansing don’t do anything but create an unfair playing field for working people. Our ability to provide for our families is constantly being eroded.

The thing that irks many of us is that the changes have not been done to create jobs. They are punitive measures that are clearly being structured by the right wing and business concerns.

By signing the petition we can work at leveling the playing field. Remember the 2010 elections were decided by only 4% of the registered voters actually getting out voting. This is not acceptable this fall. We can’t let 2010 be repeated in 2012.

Changing gears, the Volunteers of America will again be hosting a Homeless Veterans Stand Down on May 23 at Riverfront Park. The event connects services with veterans who need some assistance to cope with a variety of issues. They can access legal assistance, health professionals, veteran’s services, job related services, and haircuts, to name a few. One way we can help is by dropping off travel- or trail-size items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and like items. You can drop off items at the hall and we will make sure they get to the project. The UAW Region 1-C Veterans Association participates by manning the grill to cook the food for the participants. It should not be permitted to utter a phrase that has lost its meaning.

Another way we can assist in the community is by being involved with the National Association of Letter Carriers’ annual food drive. The event is on May 12 and allows us to put nonperishable items by our mailbox to be picked up and then transported to the central food bank. There are several ways to help. One, you can put food by the mailbox; second, you can work on the 12th at a variety of locations; and lastly, you can help sort the donations after the event. Please call me at 517-203-5027 if you are interested.

The UAW National Independent Parts Suppliers (IPS) Conference was held recently in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference provided the delegates the opportunity to be proactive in the course of the sector within the UAW. There were workshops, panel discussions, testimonials from workers being mistreated by their management, and thought-provoking discussion.

One of the highlights on top of the aforementioned items was the appearance of Danny Glover. The actor best known for his acting roles is a community and social activist of the highest level. Danny discussed the need to engage on a more thorough and passionate level with our communities. He challenged us to return to the grassroots level to take back the community we have helped create.

It will not be easy, but in order to have a meaningful and prosperous middle class we must start now. Many of the changes needed may not be fulfilled in our work lives, but the ability to impact our children and grandchildren is sorely needed.

Many thanks go to UAW Vice-President Cindy Estrada and her staff for arranging the conference. Even without the inspiring words of Danny Glover, the delegates were exposed to a world of information to bring back home.

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

Lansing Labor News online: www.lansinglabornews.org
A scary future—unless we act!

Thank you for standing in Solidarity and signing the ‘Protect Our Jobs Petition’ which will allow us to vote on an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Michigan. Once passed, this amendment will protect our collective bargaining rights. Please continue to encourage ALL your friends and neighbors to sign this petition. We have GOT to speak up.

Here’s your future and mine: (If we don’t stand together and speak up) Forward to 2013: Well, as I sit here typing my Lansing Labor News article I can’t help wonder how different things could have been had we just stuck together last year and said we would do it. Actions speak louder than words but we depended on others rather than ourselves to go out and fight to win back justice.

My wife now has to work two hours a day for free or lose her job. We have no more bargaining power, so she keeps working what and where she can or we have nothing to eat or a place to stay.

My employer will NOT be held accountable for ANY injuries on the job or poor working conditions, because our Governor will soon mandate that none of them will have to abide any of our prescriptions are pretty expensive, but I just cut down on what I take. This way, I still have enough left over at the end of the week to buy some food and toilet paper. Only 1 in 25 new patients react to not taking their medication timely, hope I’m lucky!

I’ve added three new walls to my house—we don’t have a living room anymore, but at least my children and grandchildren have a place to live. We share incomes so we can eat. We’re so glad that the Governor ‘likes’ us and promised to not take sides when it was time for him to vote on our safety and well-being in the state of Michigan.

After the passage of House Bill 4059 that prohibits paying union officials for conducting union business, the Republicancontrolled Senate has introduced a similar bill to do the same for private employers. I estimate our local funds will have all but depleted within weeks after this bill gets passed as we continue to ensure our membership is represented.

It’s sad to think of how this country has been turned upside down since the elections. I for one really thought we could get enough signatures on the Protect Our Jobs petition to get collective bargaining on the ballot for Michigan. I also thought we would have enough voters at the polls that understood the importance of workers’ rights and social justice. Our new President’s speech last night didn’t give any indication he would support the rights of the working class in this country and already he has made promises to corporations that will cost the taxpayers dearly, something President Obama would never have done! Sign the petition! Call your representatives in Lansing and Washington.

A recent petition drive at Local 652 to protect collective bargaining rights.

LOCAL 652
Mike Green, President
New member orientation
Welcome to all our new hires. Over the last few weeks, GM started calling our new employees in for orientation. We were able to negotiate one day for union awareness as well.

Norwood Jewell, our Region I-C Director, attended the new hires orientation and spoke on the union’s role and the history of the UAW. Thanks to our Regional Director for taking the time to attend our meetings.

Our local’s officers also attended and explained their duties at the local.

That is why it is so important to our Bargaining Committee and Chairperson who were in attendance to answer any questions our new hires had.

It was great news to hear that GM returned to #1 automaker. Thanks to each and every employee who takes pride in their job to help build our products that the public thinks so highly of.

Just think, a few short years ago GM was on the verge of bankruptcy. In December of 2008 a group of Lansing-area labor leaders went to Washington D.C. to talk to any of our representatives who would listen to support the loan to GM. Not a bailout, a loan!

Thanks to President Obama, who led the way to help save GM. The action taken by the President helped save over 1.1 million jobs directly and indirectly related to GM, plus the retirement program and health care for retirees through contract negotiation.

Our people were not looking for a handout but a chance to prove that we are hard-working men and women who love our country and go to work every day to build the best products in the world. We’ve never believed in the trickle-down theory that the Republican Party believes in. Our membership has been trickled on too many times, and we don’t like it!

CAP News
Spring is the season of change and rebirth—our world is waking up with new hopes, new dreams, and new hires! Yes, Local 652 and Lansing River are finally putting on a second shift and new hires are coming in for the first time in recent memory! They will build the all-new Cadillac ATS along with all the CTS models currently in production.

I’d like to say “Welcome” to all of the folks that are coming in, whether this is your return to our Local or this is your first time with us. It’s certainly a pleasure to see all the new faces. We are proud of the membership of Local 652 and want you to be proud to be a part of the best Local and the best workforce in the world.

The Hall is open 7 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday, Benefit reps are available at the hall Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7 AM to 4 PM and Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM. The general membership meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month at 6 PM. For more info please visit us at www.uawlocal652.org or call (517) 372-7581. We look forward to seeing you.
We need you

Unions are under attack in Michigan. Never before have we seen such intentional targeting by the Legislature to dismantle the power of Unions and take down the middle class. Most of the bills that are in the House and Senate right now would limit or eliminate what Unions have bargained for for working people. Politicians and corporate special interests have every intention of stripping basic protections from each and every Union member.

My father was a proud Union member, and like him, I am a proud Union member. My hope is that my children and someday, when I have them, my grandchildren, can become proud Union members. They may never have that opportunity, however, if we do not stand up and become politically active. No one can stand alone in this fight. We need your help and support.

The UAW wheel is not just a symbol to wear at work and forget about when you go home. Take time to remember why you wear that symbol. In Solidarity you can achieve justice for all. Do you want to stand by and watch everything we have bargained for over the last election? (Only 40% of our state voted in the last election.)

How do we fix the mess we are in? We educate ourselves with the facts and help to educate those around us. We begin by talking to our families, our co-workers, our friends, our neighbors. Click on the yellow AFL-CIO Legislative Report section on the home page of our website (www.uawlocal4911.org) to read a listing of the anti-worker House and Senate bills that are pending.

We can also join the 99% Spring movement (the99spring.com) or you can visit their tumblr at http://wearethe99percent.tumblr.com for inspirational stories of people who are standing up for a change in our society. We all have stories and opportunities which can motivate us to get involved for social change as much of us are in the 99%.

In this issue, as voting citizens, we realize exactly how we all have contributed to our own demise. Therefore, we all have a responsibility to our families, our fellow workers and our society in general to be motivated to vote in the upcoming elections and help “the people” reclaim our country. We cannot afford to let our union voices be silent any longer. The middle class has been under attack long enough—this fight is not just about your future. Your family’s future is at stake and it is now up to you to step up to the plate and do your part. Some politicians are counting on you not to pay attention and not to go to the polls this year. Let’s prove them wrong!

Don’t be fooled – be ready

Anti-worker legislators are trying to pass bills to reduce wages and benefits for working people (union or non-union). In the past, the phony title was called “Right-to-Work.” The unaware may be fooled by a new title of the same old scam: “Freedom to Work.” No matter what they may call it, don’t be fooled, stay in the fight.

Right-to-work (for less) is simply a means for national interest groups to increase business profits while destroying unions, cutting our wages and benefits. This is not just a Michigan issue. Union members on average earn 17% more than non-union workers. Unions improve your living standards (through increased wages, benefits, healthcare, pensions, etc.) not “right-to-work” laws.

We will have a Concealed Pistol Licenses (CPL) Class that will be held on May 19 at Local 652 Union Hall. This will be a one-day class running from 8am-8pm and will cost $115. A $65 deposit needs to be sent as soon as possible to Ralph Ball at 1490 S. Royston Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 to save a spot. For more information, call Ralph Ball at 517-582-1104.

CPL Class

LOCAL 652 Randy Freeman, Vice President

Stand up for your rights

Every worker in America should have the right to bargain collectively and the State of Michigan should have that right protected by putting it into the Constitution of the State of Michigan. By signing petitions you will allow us to put on the ballot and vote on a change to the Michigan Constitution that will protect this right.

Protect us from political attacks on basic collective bargaining rights from a bunch of poor politicians making bad decisions that have done nothing to put Michiganans back to work. Instead, all they’ve done is hurt middle-class families, small businesses and local communities. Instead it would take one voice to make such an important change. Please come sign a petition, there is one at Local 652 Union Hall for whoever wants to sign it.

Health care, the Supreme Court, and you

The last few months have provided more discussion and analysis of the United States Constitution and the United States Supreme Court than we have seen in decades. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare as it is often called, has been the catalyst for this discussion. The United States Supreme Court listened to oral arguments on the constitutionality of this act during the last week of March. They are expected to rule some time in June.

What stands in the balance is the only comprehensive healthcare program passed by Congress that attempts to rein in the enormous, ever-expanding burden of the price of medical care places on the economy, and more importantly, the working people of this country. The provisions of this Act that have been most controversial, and has led to the challenges in Federal Court, is the individual mandate. This is the requirement that most Americans may health insurance or pay a penalty. Critics claim that this mandate is an unconstitutional overreach by the United States Congress.

As more people realize, many States mandate the purchasing of insurance, such as Michigan’s auto insurance law, and in fact Massachusetts requires the purchase of health insurance. The controversy lies in the Federal government mandating the purchase of health insurance from private providers. In order for Congress to pass such a law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act they have to find a power source in the United States Constitution. The source that they used in this case was the "com

Continued on page 6
Dorothy Stevens
602 retirees

Seniors must take actions. 2011 saw one bruising fight after another and many are concerned that our future budget deals might include deep cuts to benefits or increased taxes on “Social Security. We need to send a strong message to our Congressmen urging them to guard your Social Security benefits, and those future generations, against any cuts is the wrong way to go!

Now, at a time when retirees need Social Security more than ever, the agenda to cut Social Security continues. Retirees are struggling to afford soaring food, energy, and health care costs. But the forces opposed to Social Security have thrown big money behind campaigns to reduce government spending and, ultimately, cut benefits.

The fastest growing segments of our population, those age 60 and older, are the “powerful force” that Congress will listen to.

Voters who make their wishes unmistakably clear to Congress in overwhelming numbers have the best chance to defeat the special interest lobbyists. That’s the way the system works, and it’s why the myriad members of Congress listen to the people and this being an election year, let’s make our voices heard loud and clear. Show them that we are sincere and determined. We must all unite to keep Social Security and Medicare on the right course and by doing so it could pay back enormous dividends for years to come for you and future generations.

This will be the most expensive campaign in history, thanks to the Supreme Court’s “Citizen’s United” decision. Republicans are funded by secretive special interest money and we are already targeting President Obama and our House candidates with vicious attack ads. Latest being his the reason for high gas prices.

President Obama needs a strong Democratic majority in the house to fight for policies that invest in the middle class and move America forward.

Thanks to the Supreme Court’s disastrous Citizens United decision, Big Oil, pharmaceutical companies and corporations that ship American jobs overseas can now spend unlimited sums of money to both reward their political allies and punish their political opponents.

Groups led by Karl Rove, the ultra-conservative billionaire Koch brothers, and many others are spending millions of dollars to support the campaigns of Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, and Tea Party Republicans determined to defeat President Obama and expand their House majority.

Democrats need just 25 seats to win the House majority.

The Federal debt crisis in being used as an excuse to push unfair spending cuts to our social insurance safety net, at a time when the need for Social Security and Medicare is growing to unprecedented levels.

Corporations and individuals who have fared extremely well in the last decade enjoy tax breaks and loopholes that have contributed to today’s federal debt crisis.

Congress can cut the deficit without cuts to Social Security and Medicare if it focuses on improving the economy and asking those who have done extremely well in the last decade to finally pay their fair share.

We must all contact our elected officials urging them to protect the interests of senior Americans in budget decisions and to protect Social Security and Medicare from spending cuts that weaken these programs and threaten future benefits.

We are in the midst of contacting retires to sign petitions protecting jobs and will be at the Hall weekdays 10 am-4 pm. For those unable to come to the hall, we will get your name and address and make every effort to come to you. With the fast approaching holiday season I have a tribute to all veterans who sacrificed so much for us;

“They answered their country’s call to arms, into battle they did go, Where their final destination was, No one will ever know, May their final resting place, under some unknown sod, be forever hallowed, For it is known, Only unto God” TMP

For all of our sick and homebound, you and your loved ones, keep them in mind and for those who have lost a loved one or dear friend, we send you our condolences.

Mike Bauer
652 retirees

Most of our snowbirds have returned. It is great to see everyone back.

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

Our next social night will be October 9, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Social night is for Local 652 retirees, spouses, and associate members only.

Mark the following dates on your calendars. By membership action, the July 3 Bingo night is cancelled and the August 21 potluck/meeting/bingo is cancelled.

The Lansing Area-Wide Retiree Picnic is August 13, at Hawk Island Park, Lansing. Hawk Island Park is on Cavanaugh between Pennsylvania and Aurelius. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. The picnic starts at noon.

The Safety Patrol picnic is Wednesday, May 16, at Hawk Island Park. Volunteers are needed to work at this event. Call 517-372-7581, ext. 147 to volunteer. Please leave your name and phone number.

The retirees are planning a trip October 5–10, to Mystic, Connecticut; Newport, Rhode Island; and Plymouth, Massachusetts. For more information contact Marni at 517-321-6871.

The Outdoor Club is planning another fun season of camping. The 2012 camping dates are as follows:

May 11 - 13 Camp Michawanua, Hastings June 6 - 10 White Cloud Campground, Gaylord July 13 - 15 Leisure Lake Campground, Summer Aug. 10 - 12 Lakeside Camp Park, Constantine Sept. 14 - 16 Rocky’s Campground, Albion Oct. 12 - 14 Michigan Trap Shooting Association, Mason We must stop the attacks on collective bargaining rights, unions, the middle class, small businesses, public education, and seniors! Sign the Michigan Constitution amendment petition to protect collective bargaining rights! Petitions are available to sign at the Local 652 Union Hall. The hall is open Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. You must be a registered voter to sign the petitions. Please make every effort to come in and sign for everyone’s support.

Condemnations to the families of Pat Elliot, Cleta Thornton, Hazel McClain, Dave Debran, John Haruska, Charlie Kyser (a friend to labor), Rick Lewis, Cliff Mclaren, and any others we may have missed.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Marvin Davis, Joyce and Herb Ferhholz, Dave Fillion, Dave Hodges, Dorothy Hoistong, Don Brea, Brenda Lee, Bob Mullins, Wilfred Pulman, Leonard Smith, Tim Snow, and Mike Snyder, and any others we may have missed.

Lois Schultz
1618 retirees

Hi out there all you wonderful people. Keep in mind all we do at our union. We knew we’d be busy, but we do have fun. The bus trip was great. May 2, Tigers game, Country Buffet, May 4, Lunch - Old Country Buffet, East Lansing - 11:30 am

Mom and noon luncheon meeting with Bingo May 22, Meijers Garden, Grand Rapids June 13, Cook-out Luncheon July 11, Luncheon – “No Bake” Bake Sale August 13, Union Picnic, Hawk Island - Noon September 12, Luncheon September 22, Pancake Breakfast/Bake Sale at Local 1753 on St. Joe October 10, Halloween Luncheon

Dress up! October 15, Michigan Princess color tour, Grand Lodge, $35
November 14, Veteran’s Memorial, then to the 1753 hall for Thanksgiving Luncheon and Holiday Auction. Bring your old records. December 12, Christmas Luncheon
For more information, you can call Chairman Curtis Dunn or Connie Dunn at 517-323-2146.

This year’s selection is important. I don’t know about you, but we must remember what it’s for. The ones passing the laws herein Michigan sure aren’t. Look what they have done to the retirement, veterans and your county.

It’s easy to a great ballot and vote at home. The township clerk can help. Ours is great.

The July April Birthdays to Connie Dunn, Candia Anthony, Dick Braffer, Jerry Hunt, Roy and Helen Spencer. Roy is 90 years young. Dick Slucm is 86. May birthdays: Bill Anthony, Doris Willms, Betty Varney, and me—Lois Schultz—with the big 85!

Happy anniversary to: Roy and Helen Spencer; Harry and Jenny Henderson (65 years); Red and Betty Varney; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Raymond (50 years); and Doris and Al Williams (24 years).

My barn is back together after the fire next door. When it was hot, we couldn’t even get near it. But so far it smells good. We’ll have to wait for the hot days, then we’ll see.

As the gas prices go high, we should be doing all we can do to support our Social Security and Medicare. It is great.

Happy birthday to: Betty Varney is 85 this year. Dick Slocum is 86. Millie and Dick Slocum, and Jean and Arlie Caudill, visiting from Kentucky, gave a bag of hats and gloves. So good to see them and we hope to see them again soon. Welcome home to all the snowbirds!

Ted’s breakfast will be on the first Tuesday of June (June 5) at Guerazzi’s Restaurant, 5463 Old U.S. 27, Lansing, starting at 9:00 a.m.

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.

GM and Local 652 Retirement Luncheon
Last Wednesday of each month
7:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Guerazzi’s Restaurant
in Lansing
Hello everyone, I hope you feel the 'spring' in your step, this spring has been wonderful and warm.

Though our work is never done, this is a time to do more. Besides our regular second Thursday lunches and meetings, we tried something new and had a Eucharie party at the Local. What a blast! I haven't played in a long time. I thought that I would go for it and even so we could play with more people. It was great and we all played host since it was bring a dish to pass.

Reminder: The 12th Annual Pride Friday is May 18. All motorcycles are welcome at UAW Local 652. Registration is 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Any questions please contact Linda Mogyoros at 517-604-7914.

Also coming up is the Annual Capital Area Stand Down For Homeless Veterans. It will be May 23. They're looking for travel- or hotel-size products. Like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine products, shaving cream, razors, socks, undergarments, healthy snacks and other practical needs items. Please give us any more info please call the Volunteers of America at 489-5278.

Big reminder here: our own Local 1753 Picnic will be on Thursday, June 14 at 12:00 and for a new twist... It will be a 50/50. So if you know this is one of those old new ideas that we are revisiting. We will still bring a dish to pass and of course the Best Dessert Contest. We are planning good weather for this. Also coming up is the Annual UAW Region 1-C Retirees Golf Scramble, Tuesday August 7 at the IMA Brookwood Golf Course, starting at 7:30a.m. The cost is $40 per person. Please call 810-742-4920.

Though the union is always working to better our lives, here are two campaigns that deserve our attention. One is to amend the state constitution to protect collective bargaining rights. The proposal is that no existing or future law of the State or its political subdivision shall abridge the right to enter into or enforce集体 bargaining agreements, with the exception that the State can continue to prohibit or restrict strikes by public employees, as provided in current law. I don't like the sound of the law bill but I love the sound of the first part and it seems necessary with all the attacks on unions. For more info go to www.protectourjobs.com.

The next is the “99% spring.” As it says on the Region 1-C site: We’re at a crossroads as a country. Will you rise with us and join a 99% Spring action training? More info can be found at http://the99spring.com/

Local 1753 retirees get together for breakfast on the fourth Monday of the month at Jackie’s Steakhouse on West Saginaw in Lansing (west of Waverly) at 8:30 a.m.

From the Local 602 Conservation & Recreation Committee: Local 602 Golf Outing will be on July 29 Local 602’s Picnic will be on Saturday, August 18 at Eagle Park, in Eagle. More details will be available on the Local 602 website by and by. www.local602.org

The 12th annual motorcycle Pride Ride will be on May 18. You can get an entry form at your local or at the Labor News website (lansinglabornews.org). For more info, see the website or contact Linda Mogyoros at 517-694-7914 or turtlechatch@att.net.

We have kept busy. Besides our own Lo-cal 1753 Picnic will be on Thursday, June 14 at 12:00 and for a new twist... It will be a 50/50. So if you know this is one of those old new ideas that we are revisiting. We will still bring a dish to pass and of course the Best Dessert Contest. We are planning good weather for this. Also coming up is the Annual UAW Region 1-C Retirees Golf Scramble, Tuesday August 7 at the IMA Brookwood Golf Course, starting at 7:30a.m. The cost is $40 per person. Please call 810-742-4920.

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602 Obituaries
Mario Montalvo, Sr. – Retired
Marion Olson – Retired Cushion Room and Paint
Billy Page – Retired Paint
Laquita Renee Baldwin – Daughter of Claudia Baldwin, Retired
John Pardee – Retired
Pamela Jean Garcia – Mother of John Garcia, General Assembly (Trim 1)
Berline Beasley – Mother of Rebecca Beasley, General Assembly (Trim 3)
Douglas James Austin – Father of Doug Austin, General Assembly (Trim 4)
Dennis Kindel – Retired
Richard Olger – Retired
Harold Williams – Retired
Bruce Herig – Retired
John Hanthorne – Retired
Joseph Gary Otis – Retired
Robert A. Parsons – Retired
Richard C. Pugh – Retired
Rebecca Clark – General Assembly

724 Obituaries
Retiree Alfonso McFadden from Federal Forge (currently Bharat Forge) passed away on February 19.

652 Obituaries
Samantha Bahl – Daughter of Jhon Bahl
William Barrett – Retired
Clement Bemakawae – Retiree, Father-in-law of Geordie Roy
Margarethe Beebe – Retiree
James A. Birchmeier – Father-in-law of David P. Thelen
Bruce Bliss – Father of Denise Bliss
Kathleen Booyce – Retiree
Steve Castillo – Father-in-law of Carlos Gonzalez
Natividad M. Cedillo – Mother of Raul Cedillo
Della Christensen – Mother of Mel Hansens
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Lounds
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merce clause” that authorizes Congress to regulate commerce among the states.
Since the 1940’s, this clause has been broadly interpreted by the Supreme Court. The Court has used a test that has allowed the regulation of activities that substantially impact interstate commerce, even when that being regulated is not strictly commerce, or strictly interstate. It was through the “commerce power” that laws such as the Fair Labor Standards Act—which created minimum wages and overtime for hours worked over 40 each week—were passed on a national level.

The National Labor Relations Act, which gives workers the right to organize and protected Union activists from retaliation from employers, is another law passed under the broad view the Supreme Court has taken toward the Commerce Clause.

In addition to destroying health care reform, if the current court tightens their view on what powers the Congress possesses under the Constitution’s Commerce Clause, it could send us spiraling back to a time when the Federal Government could not regulate industries’ treatment of workers at all.

It is likely that the Court will strike down the individual mandate. If this happens the parts of the act that are widely popular—healthcare for dependents until 26, or not being turned down due to preexisting conditions—cannot stand. They are predicated on the widening of the pool of those insured to lower the cost of these programs. The loss of this individual mandate could well make the continued existence of health care reform impossible.

As yet, those opposing health care reform have not come forth with a plan to fix the cost of health care in this country. The Right opposes a single-payer system like many European countries have; they oppose an individual mandate that requires people to be insured. They rant against the burden that giving employees benefits puts on corporations. What they don’t do is offer a solution.

Strangely, while the Right has long railed against “judicial activism” they don’t seem to be creating a hue and cry over the prospect of the conservative justices on the Supreme Court overturning 75 years of precedent when it comes to the Commerce Clause. This is not “judicial activism” exactly what else could you call it? What’s the word I am looking for … oh yeah … Hypocrisy?

If we, as workers, learn nothing else from this fight we should once again re- alize that it is important to elect the right people. To support those who support our rights, as workers, as the middle class, as the backbone of this country’s economy. I shudder to think what sort of justices a man like Mitt Romney, a rich corporate raider, would nominate to the Supreme Court. Suffice to say that they probably wouldn’t have the best interest of workers at heart.
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