Looking to the future

By Bill Reed, President, Local 602

Education has consistently been an important staple within the UAW. Be it our history, current economic issues, health and safety or basic workers’ rights, we, as UAW members, need to speak up in order for others to be aware of the reasons we exist as a labor movement. We cannot afford to leave this task to someone else.

More and more working people are becoming exposed to gray areas in terms of their employment status. For some, this means being hired as temps, independent contractors, finding themselves underemployed, or working for low wages. Unfortunately, the result of the midterm elections has meant fewer prominent voices speaking out for these workers’ rights, need to be aware of the reason we exist as a labor movement. We cannot afford to leave this task to someone else.

Most, if not all, of these workers become complacent in this environment due to the fact that they have no other history on which to base their current situation.

Unfortunately, the result of the midterm elections has meant fewer prominent voices speaking out for these working families. This is why it is so important that the voice of labor unions is still being heard, making sure we all have representation at work and in our democracy by speaking up for worker rights and social justice.

This voice is comprised of labor union members who teach our children, fight fires, and police our streets. It is the voice of government employees, sanitation workers, nurses, plumbers, carpenters and telecommunication workers. Union members keep our neighborhoods safe and communities strong, often doing jobs that we take for granted.

Some argue that the time for unions has passed. On the contrary, at a time when middle class families are struggling to recover from the Great Recession, and when CEO pay has increased 937 percent since 1978, we need to strengthen unions, not attack them.

The future of labor unions depends on the voices of new leaders. A younger generation of workers is bringing new and sometimes unconventional ideas to the table.

As the veteran workforce ages and a new generation of leaders take the reins, however, we risk losing the decades of knowledge that has helped make our union great.

So it’s imperative that veteran members understand that there are important gains to be made in venturing beyond the traditional union agenda, but if we are to strengthen our unions, we need to stand side-by-side with our new generation of workers to encourage, mentor and educate before passing the torch.

Learning from each other, we can be assured that our voice at the table will be heard.

UAW Local 602’s President’s Social

will take place on
Friday, May 15
from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
at UAW Local 602 Union Hall
2510 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917.
RSVP can be made by contacting
Suzzette Royston, Secretary, at 517-372-4626, ext. 0.
The social is open for anyone to attend and meet and greet the past Local 602 presidents and staff.

Much accomplished, and much yet to do

By Gerald Kariem
Director, Region 1D

I am always hopeful of what a new season brings as winter breaks and the warmer weather rolls in. WOW, I cannot believe we are already into late April, the beginning of May.

I am excited and proud of what this Region has accomplished in 2015. Through our Region 1D CAP, Councils, which cover 73 counties, we have been rolling out a new set of by-laws that will make us consistent throughout the Region. For the past four months we have been distributing the “Child ID Kits” throughout the Region. For the past four months we have been distributing the “Child ID Kits” throughout the Region. I would like to thank everyone who helped distribute the kits. We are close to reaching our goal of handing out 100,000 kits to schools, churches, and nonprofits, and to our members with the purpose of helping to protect our greatest asset, our children. We also recommend using these kits for our senior citizens for additional protection. The Region still has a few kits on hand, so if you are in need of more, please contact the Regional office.

In May, we will kick off the “UAW Changing the Face of Hunger” campaign. We will be collecting food and money at all of the worksites and union halls to help support those in need of a meal. These donations will help fill the food banks, pantries and soup kitchens. Not one person, especially in Region 1D, let alone in our state and country, should starve. Just $1.00 has the purchase power to buy nine pounds of food. If each of us does a little, together we can all do a lot! So, I am asking you to please, please participate in this event. When we do well, our community does well!

This year’s Bargaining Convention was great and such an inspiration. The theme was “The Power of Collective Bargaining Lifts us All.” It can lift our families, our communities, and our future. When you think about it, the key word is “collective,” which means drawing from each other, togetherness, in solidarity. By standing together, we are stronger than individually. This is the way we must approach this year’s negotiations.

Through our beliefs, families and peers, we were instilled that we are all our brothers’ and sisters’ keeper and the values we hold true are a part of our fiber. Unfortunately, “Right to Work for Less” is a Michigan law that is not going away any time soon. So, when your co-workers/members are having discussions on why they are not paying dues, let’s take a positive approach and explain to them why they should pay dues. Let’s educate them and communicate with them, let us be role models for them. I know I am very blessed by the things the UAW has allotted my family.

At this year’s Bargaining Convention, the award was given to the Region that raised the most money for their V-CAP. Region 5 was the successful winner this year and I am proud to announce Region 1D came in second

Continued on page 5

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

**Convention update**

I believe our International Union is in good shape financially as we head into negotiations with the Big 3 this fall. I think the move to raise the dues structure has helped to make sure we’re financially fit to take on the fight if necessary to reach an agreement that best serves our membership.

We will all need to make sure we prepare ourselves both financially and mentally if we should have to strike to reach an agreement. Hopefully, that does not occur, but we must be prepared.

The UAW’s first contract was one page long, in which the UAW was recognized to be the representative of our members. And now our contract is 754 pages long, along with numerous supplement books that relate to our insurance coverages, wages, transfers, health and safety, seniority rights, return rights, etc. All these items have to be renegotiated come September 14.

Our top negotiating team led by Vice President Cindy Estrada has the job of bringing back a contract that is best for membership and their family—as I know they will. “No more tiers, enough is enough!” As charted at the bargaining convention.

**Local News**

Our Shop Committee Chairman Ted Krumm and the rest of the bargaining committee have been very busy organizing all the local demands as submitted by our members. I know our chairman and his committee will work hard in the best interest of our members at 652.

This will be a very busy summer with both national and local negotiations starting up! Updated information will be at uawlocal652.org or lansinglabornews.org and/or the Local 652 Facebook page.

**April Clean-Up**

I want to thank all those people who volunteered to come out to spruce up and clean up at the Local and at the Lansing Labor News.

Have a safe and fun-filled summer!

**Local 652 Benefits**

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

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

- GM and Local 652 Retiree Breakfast
  - Last Wednesday of each month
  - 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.
  - Guarratti’s Restaurant, Lansing

**LOCAL 724**
**Dean Poggiali, President**

**Milestone year for our Local**

The temperatures are rising, the birds are singing, the grass is greening and the tax deadline has come and gone. We sure hope that the signs will remain positive for us after another Michigan winter.

As 2015 is entering its fifth month, it is time to reflect going forward. May 14, 1940 was the date that UAW Local 724 was chartered by the UAW International as a Local. Over the seventy-five years of existence, there have been many worksites that have called the Local their home. The early years saw the drop forge industry concentrated in the Lansing area and their members were UAW Local 724 members. Sadly, the drop forge industry has seen the influx of foreign competition and lower-cost, lighter-weight components used in various industries that were customers. However, the legacy of Local 724 will remain intact.

We will be celebrating the milestone anniversary with a celebration to be held on July 25, 2015 from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm at the Local. If you and your family have any links to the past of Local 724 and would like to share some of the memories, please contact the Local and we will be glad to talk to you about being a part of the event. Make plans to enjoy some time with family and friends!

The month of May also brings the month of Memorial Day. We will be remembering the thousands of Michigan’s unemployed who have lost their jobs and are searching for work.

**LOCAL 724 Debra Mills, Financial Secretary**

**Suing UIA**

A group of Michigan citizens, joined by the UAW, has sued the Michigan unemployment insurance system to stop its illegal and unconstitutional practices. In a federal lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, the plaintiffs allege that the State’s practices have deprived them, and thousands of Michigan’s unemployed insurance claimants, of their fundamental rights under the Constitution and under the Social Security Act.

The suit challenges the State’s widespread practice of deciding cases involving serious accusations of fraud through a computer program lacking any human oversight.

Under the Unemployment Insurance Agency’s recently instituted “robo-adjudication system,” the Agency regularly accuses people who have filed for unemployment benefits of fraud based on routine discrepancies in the Agency’s information. This has resulted in potential thousands of Michigan’s unemployed citizens being accused of fraud and assessed onerous financial penalties, despite the fact that they did absolutely nothing wrong. In one case, the fine was as much as $20,000.

“The stories of the individual plaintiffs demonstrate a systematic and widespread practice of automatically accusing Michigan’s unemployed of criminal fraud – assessing penalties and sometimes seizing property without the...”

Continued on page 5

**LOCAL 602**
**Doreen Howard, Fin. Secretary**

**Make a stand**

“Union” is a way of life in my family. We eat and breathe “Union” on a daily basis. I am not ashamed to say, “I will stand up and fight for what I believe is the right thing to do for the Union and my family.” I’m sure you do the same for your beliefs.

We must remember that every day is a struggle when you’re in the Union. The UAW is not static. It’s constantly changing as internal factors influence the decisions made by our leaders. You cannot give up, you cannot back down, and you must always carry on to ensure a future for the next generation.

Do not live in the past. We must learn from our past and build a movement toward a brighter future. This cannot be done by a few people. It must be accomplished by the membership joining forces together on a united front.

It’s easy to throw stones at fellow Union brothers and sisters, pointing out only the mistakes that have been made along the way. But how does that help us change the future? We know mistakes will occur; learn from them and move forward.

Rise up and support your fellow Union brothers and sisters who are willing to be on the front line fighting for you. No one individual is an island, as the old saying goes. It is only with your support that change will happen.

As a Union member, you must be willing to make a stand at some point in your life. Will you make that choice? Now is the time. Stand together to change our future.
Welcome to the UAW

I’d like to welcome the members of our newest unit, General Motors Subsystems Manufacturing. They are housed in the new logistics center built just south of our Lansing Grand River General Assembly building. The employees of the unit are engaged in several production-related service and support roles, e.g. kitting, sequencing and other subsystems work that may be negotiated. Welcome! It’s always nice to have fresh, new faces around the Union Hall. Remember, if you have questions or concerns, contact your area bargaining committee member or call the hall, 517-372-7581. We will be happy to help!

One of the nice things about having a new unit is the chance to educate a new generation of ID to re-educate an old generation on the importance of Union Solidarity and the principles of collective bargaining. All members, young and old, should be aware of the changes in the political climate in Michigan. The recent adoption of Right to Work (for less) laws are designed to create divisions in the workplace, pitting one member against another, eroding and weakening the fabric of our collectively bargained contracts.

Our new brothers and sisters may not be aware of the sacrifices made by our predecessors, who fought and died for the things many of us take for granted. They were probably not born when unions won the right to an 8-hour workday or a 40-hour workweek. They didn’t grow up in a world where unions won the right to negotiate collective bargaining rights. Especially when unions were attacked Unions in attempts to weaken the labor movement. Parents of the UAW’s young workers are still having difficulty understanding the importance of collective bargaining. It’s a part of the labor movement that needs to be explained and defended.

The UAW has a long history of leadership in the labor movement and a proud record of fighting for workers’ rights. The UAW was instrumental in passing the National Labor Relations Act, which guarantees workers the right to join unions and bargain collectively. The UAW has fought for improvements in wages, benefits, and working conditions for its members and their families. The UAW has played a vital role in shaping labor law and policy in the United States.

Our new members at General Motors Subsystems Manufacturing are joining a union with a proud history of fighting for workers’ rights. They are joining a union that has fought for improvements in wages, benefits, and working conditions for its members and their families. The UAW has played a vital role in shaping labor law and policy in the United States.

The UAW is proud to welcome General Motors Subsystems Manufacturing to the UAW family. We look forward to working with them to bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions for their members. The UAW will continue to fight for workers’ rights and to build a strong labor movement that is a voice for workers in the workplace.

Lansing Labor News

Lansing Labor News

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The Local 652 Women’s Committee is hosting a two-day event called “Save the Girls” on November 15 and 16. The event will feature speakers, workshops, and a raffle to raise money for breast cancer research. The event is free and open to the public.

The Local 652 Recreation Committee is also hosting a two-day event called “Save the Girls” on November 15 and 16. The event will feature speakers, workshops, and a raffle to raise money for breast cancer research. The event is free and open to the public.

The Local 652 Women’s Committee and Recreation Committee are hosting a two-day event called “Save the Girls” on November 15 and 16. The event will feature speakers, workshops, and a raffle to raise money for breast cancer research. The event is free and open to the public.

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Dorothy Stevens

602 retirees

Spring is here! It sure seems good to see the grass green and all the trees budding out. We held our area euchre tournament on the 17th of April and it was enjoyed by everyone.

Next on the agenda is May 26 to 29 at Black Lake for retirees who have never gone as a retiree. If you’d like to go, give me a call at 517-627-3542 ASAP and I’ll see if I can’t get you on the list.

We are also signing people up for our annual Region 1-D trips—Pigeon Forge at $525 and New Orleans at $529. Both are leaving on October 4 and returning home on the 10th. There is a $75 deposit when you sign up for either trip, with Pigeon Forge final payment due on July 28, 2015 and New Orleans final payment due on August 1, 2015. If you are interested or would like more information you may call me at 517-627-3542.

Retiree Fisher Girls, mark your calendars for our annual luncheon get-together at Finley’s on South Cedar at 1:30 pm. That’s July 30. I look forward to seeing everyone for an afternoon of reminiscing.

I hate to sound like a broken record but I follow closely on Social Security and Medicare. The powerful House majority just fired the first shot in an all-out attack on Social Security.

If they succeed in forcing a 20% benefit cut, it could amount to a “death sentence” for some of the 11 million seniors living on disability and open the door to huge benefit cuts that will have impacts on all beneficiaries.

The 114th Congress made it clear early on that they were determined to cut Social Security benefits of millions of American seniors, workers with disabilities and their families. Just months in this Congress and they’ve already manufactured a phony “Social Security crisis” and taken steps that put Social Security on a collision course that will devastate this program and your earned Social Security benefits.

We should to theirs, if theirs are higher. They could be lifted above the current Pacific Partnership deal, which would raise money for “Buy American” bumper stickers in our local.

Because of that, we cut down in any laws in your city, state or even our nation. Do you remember NAFTA and succeeded? I, Elizabeth Warren –D and Bernie Sanders—I, think they deserve to get one.

If you have benefit questions, contact a benefit rep for answers. 517-323-2146 for more information and to possibly, bring canned goods to donate when you attend retiree events.

Chairman April 17? No, I did not, unless your name begins in a D. I will give you the list of people who won first through fifth: Carol Elsenheimer, just to be different, is from Atlantic, MI, with two great trips: New Orleans, 7 days 6 nights, $529; and Pigeon Forge and Smoky Mt. Show Trip $525—and both October 4-10. If you are interested, call Connie Garner Dunn at (517) 323-2146. Did I see you at the Euchre Tournament April 17? No, I did not, unless your name begins in a D. I will give you the list of people who won first through fifth: Marlene Courser of 652, Jerry Degner of 652, Vince Lettam of 652, Dale McClendall of 652, and Lyle Eisenheiler of 652 to name a few. They were in the money, though we all won ourselves a good time and a great lunch and some fun camaraderie for free, thanks to our Regional Recreation Committee.

Personal hygiene product collection to be distributed to homeless veterans at our 12th Annual Capital Area Stand Down for Homeless Veterans on May 20 at Adado Riverfront Park, Lansing. If you have products that you would like to donate, please bring to our next meeting, I’ll turn them in.

Reminder of note: this is a change of our picnic from June to July 9 here at the Local at noon. This change should allow car show folks a chance to come down on the highway. Possibly get in the best dressed contest with a prize. I hope to visit with people you haven’t seen in a while. Also of note, we are changing our August meeting to the Lansing Area Retirees Luncheon, August 13. This will be at the Royal Scot, 4722 W. Grand River Ave. Doors open at 11 a.m. for coffee, lunch at noon.

Today, May 14 is our next meeting at the hall lunch at noon; coffee and donuts at 11:00. Please bring a dish to pass.

Mike Bauer

652 retirees

The warmer spring weather has finally arrived along with our snowbirds. Welcome back everyone.

The following is our monthly schedule of events:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. Games start at 10:00 a.m. Participants bring your own snacks.

Second Tuesday of the month is our potluck dinner and business meeting. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Dinner starts at noon.

Fourth Tuesday of the month is cards starting at 10:00 a.m. Participants bring your own snacks.

May 26 cards is cancelled.

August 18 potluck/business meeting is cancelled.

The Lansing Area luncheon will be held Thursday, August 13, at Royal Scot. Doors open at 11:00, luncheon begins at noon. Royal Scot is located at 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing.

Wagon Master Jay Courser has supplied the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club campingleague schedule for the 2015 season.

May 8-10 Camp Michawana – Hastings, MI

June 12-14 Snow Lake Kampground – Fenwick, MI

July 10-12 Leisure Lake Campground – Sunnem, MI

August 14-16 Lakeside Camp Park – Union, MI

September 11-13 Rocky’s Campground – Albion, MI

October 9-11 Michigan Trap Shooting Association – Mason, MI

The camping outings are for all Outdoor Club members, not just retirees. For more information, contact Jay at 517-323-2146.

The Region 1D Travel Committee has two trips in October. Both are October 4-10. One is to New Orleans, the other is Pigeon Forge and Smoky Mountains Show. Contact Connie Dunn (517-323-2146) for more information and to make your reservation.

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

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Joyce & Herb Femelhoz, Hazel Hodges, Don & Helen Hogan, Dorothy Hoisington, Beverly Lofton, Roger & Alice Miller, Leonard Schneider, Bob & Lee Vergason, Mason Williams, Willa Wright, and any others we may have missed.

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

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

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

If you have benefit questions, contact a benefit rep for answers. 517-372-7584 ext. 500

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

Laura Clark

1753 retirees

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter with your family and friends. Here at the Local we tried to get away from the traditional ham and fixing dinner so we ordered Mancino’s. We had a variety of sandwiches that we cut down in size. That way we could sample lots of different types. We are grateful to all our fabulous chefs for all any laws in your city, state or even our nation. Do you remember NAFTA and the drain of jobs? I (and the UAW and AFL-CIO and Trade watch.org and others) believe this is more of the same and this could end our race to the bottom! Why can’t they put the word FAIR in the agreement instead of just on title on top of the agreement? We should have them come up to our standard just as we should to theirs, if theirs are higher.

This reminds me of my good friend and co-worker Ed Ledvina who passed away April 2. Ed was probably the first person to introduce me to the American Labor Label Committee. He was anti-NAFTA like me and, of course, talked Gary Folkringa into joining the committee. We started small with raffling hams or turkeys to raise money for “Buy American” bumper stickers in our local. Because of Ed and other good union people, we were able to take Union Label to the Tri-County level, to the Region level and even the State level.

Before he retired we had billboards on the highways.

Ed lived by the motto Buy American in all of his businesses and he supported Union Labor wherever he could. I hope it cheers you up to hear that Ed got the most reasonable American-made coffin. Eddie always made me smile, as he found time to joke with the co-workers. He might not always make the count but he worked in a safe manner and had good quality always. Ed’s wife Joni asked in in flowers that donations be made to the 1753 Union Label fund.

It is indeed an honor that we will be able to oversee such a wonderful and thoughtful memorial. I sure will miss you.

Ed.

Region 1-D travel club has come up with two great trips: New Orleans, 7 days 6 nights, $529; and Pigeon Forge and Smoky Mt. Show Trip $525—both October 4-10. If you are interested, call Connie Garner Dunn at (517) 323-2146.

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Sparrow Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society are teaming up to offer a FREE “Skin Screening”. May 12 from 5 to 8:30 pm Sparrow Cancer Center Call 517-364-2689 to schedule an appointment. Free parking available on the Sparrow Cancer Center deck on the east end of the hospital, corner of Michigan and Holmes Street.
1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people. Ted’s breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. on June 2 at Guerrazzi’s Restaurant on Business 50 in Eaton Township. They have Conferences to the family of James Noland. He was going on 74 years. Memorial at Harrison, Michigan at 2:00 p.m. on June 13. Dinner to follow. He leaves behind, said God bless the Union. How great!

Conferences to the family of Basil O. Barlond. Born March 3, 1943., passed on February 19, 2015. He was a good friend to all.

On our sick list: Bud Hall is in Eaton County Facility on Sunshine Lane, Room 204; Bud Miller has a bad back; Jerry Hunt fell; and Betty Groh. Please take care and get better soon.

Happy birthday to Dick Jorgerson, Jerry Hunsaker, Greg Douglas (April); Candu Anthony, Connie Dunn. May: Doris Williams, Lois Schultz, Bill Anthony; June: Jerry Hunt, Ardie Douglas. April: Canda Roumel, Salvatore, Blanchard and Walker, PC.

The plaintiffs are seven former unemployment insurance claimants. Each of the plaintiffs was qualified for unemployment benefits, but was erroneously accused of fraud by the Agency. Some even have had their wages garnished and tax returns taken, costing them thousands of dollars.

They are joined in their lawsuit by the UAW and the Sugar Law Center for Social and Economic Justice. The Sugar Law Center is a non-profit public interest legal organization headquartered in Detroit, providing legal representation to unemployed workers on fraud and restitution claims. – Information from the UAW website.

Pride Ride May 15

The 15th annual Pride Ride for motorcyle safety awareness will take place on May 15. Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and includes coffee and donuts. Line up at 9:30, ride at 10:00 sharp. Local police departments will escort the ride and there will be presentations and raffle prizes afterward. For more info: Lansinglabornews.org or call 517-694-7914. This might be the last Pride Ride, so be there or be square.

Golf outing to benefit veterans

The Local 652 Veteran’s Committee is holding its 8th Annual Charity Golf Outing on Saturday, June 20 at Centennial Links Golf Course. Proceeds to disabled and homeless veterans.

The price is $75 per person/$300 per team. This includes 18 holes of golf with cart, BBQ at the turn and BBQ at the 19th hole.

For more information and registration forms, see Lansinglabornews.org or the Local 652 Facebook page. Or you can call Michael Melfi at 517-285-4070 or Ron Olinarez at 517-775-4832. Deadline is June 17.

The Committee is seeking sponsors for the event. Hole sponsorship is $100 and lunch sponsorship is $250. Please contact Mike Melfi or Ron Olinarez at the above numbers.

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Dennis Williams will perform the presentation. During this convention plans were formulated for the Annual UAW National Veterans Conference, to be held in October from the 11th to the 16th at Black Lake, in the Walter and Mary Education Center in Onaway, Michigan. Michigan Volunteers of America 12th Annual Homeless Veterans Stand-Down, being held on Wednesday, May 20. Veterans from UAW locals in our Region will assemble at 7:30 a.m. at the hotel with tables and chairs setup, and upon arrival of food will cook for the “Homeless Veteran.” These volunteers donated their time and energy (vacation, or w/o p ay) and, their Locals donate monetary contributions to help offset the cost of sponsoring that event.

August will be a busy month for the Region Veterans as well. They will conduct their third quarter Region 1-D Veteran’s Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 12 in Battle Creek at the VA Medical Center. After the business meeting they will have a dinner in the hospital with lunch. Then they will volunteer the remainder of the day at the pavilion for the Hospital’s Annual Watermelon Festival where resident Veterans and their families can enjoy those freedoms, games, conversation and, naturally, “mouthwatering cold water-melon.”

DNA samples needed for MIA Identification

More than $300,000 missing and unaccounted for Americans from World War II forward, yet many families of the missing have yet to provide a family reference sample to assist in DNA identification. Currently, 89 percent of Korean War families have provided samples, as well as 83 percent of Cold War families and 81 percent of Vietnam War families. However, only 4 percent of WWII families have. The government last year identified 107 MIAs, but more could have been identified—and faster—if more family reference samples were on file. Please forward the following service casualty office contact information to MIA families in your hometown, as well as to local newspapers.

Army: 800-892-2490
Marine Corps: 800-847-1597
Navy: 800-443-9298
Air Force: 800-531-5500
State Department: 202-485-6106

New phone scam targeting Veterans

VA officials want to warn Veterans about a new phone scam that’s making rounds across the nation. In the scam, the caller will claim to be from the VA, and that the Veteran’s doctor wants to change their medication. They will then ask for personal information such as Medicare details and Social Security numbers. (Please be aware and please pass this information along to any Veteran you know.)

Thank you for your continued support of our UAW Veterans and all Veterans, best wishes. Thank you to all individuals that signed the blank check for their lives to make it possible for all Americans to enjoy freedom. Also remember our military men and women that are in harm’s way. You can continue to enjoy those freedoms.

Thank you and God Bless –Michael Melfi, UAW Local 652 Veteran’s Committee Chair, UAW Region 1-D Veteran’s Council Chair, UAW NVAC - National Veteran’s Advisory Council.
Lounds
Continued from page 3
hostile eye on workers and unions, largely at the behest of conservative donors and their minions in political office.

I don’t have to wonder what the rich donors and industrialists have to gain by the attack on good wages and benefits; clearly their goals are power over workers and greater profits and wealth for themselves.

I do, however, wonder what motivates the everyday person out there struggling to support their families and yet beats the drum for these anti-worker billionaires, who may help to create the worst wealth disparity in this country in decades.

Why do people, including far too often our Union brothers and sisters, agree with the race to the bottom perpetrated on workers by the far right? I have no answer to that question.

The capstone of the anti-union program from the Mackinaw Center and other conservative groups is the so-called “right-to-work” legislation. Interestingly, I attended a panel discussion on trends in collective bargaining that was led by both employer-side and union-side attorneys, and one trend that both sides agreed vehemently on is an unintended consequence of right-to-work. Unions are coming into negotiations with much more militant and hard-line attitude.

In many industries and worksites the Unions have agreed to concessionary or stagnant wages to allow companies to get through the economic downturn of the last decade. Now Unions are doubly motivated to recoup wages for their members. And, as employer attorneys made clear, many unions are in a place where they can’t and won’t take no for an answer.

According to the panel leading this discussion, many worksite bargaining committees must now follow the lead of the most radical, most militant members of the bargaining unit in order to keep the most members possible paying their dues.

The bottom line is that for most employers, and their attorneys, life at the collective bargaining table has gotten a lot harder since the Republicans forced right-to-work on the citizens of this state, and to that end we have the freedom to choose to band together to ensure our future grows and prospers while supporting each other in the community in which we live.

UAW Local 4911 Upcoming Events
May 9, Letter carriers’ Food Drive
May 12, Free Skin Screening (5 p.m. – 7 p.m) at Sparrow Cancer Center. Call 364-2689 to schedule an appointment today.


June 14, Tigers game – see the April Worker to Worker, website or bulletin boards for details.

August – Free UAW Local 4911 membership appreciation cookout. Dates to be determined for each campus and will be publicized in the July Worker to Worker.

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Van Schoick
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Too often, if a physician orders an exam, test, procedure, etc., the patient may simply adhere to what dictate they are given.

Please know that you need to be your own patient advocate, research and educate yourself and ask questions until you understand completely the medical situation.

As local union members of mid-Michigan receiving the Lansing Labor News, we all are aware that Sparrow Health System is a UAW healthcare facility. However, much of the general population is under the impression that UAW means specifically collective bargaining and agriculture. We wish to enlighten the general public that Sparrow Hospital is also UAW (our division of the UAW is called Local 4911). We would appreciate your assistance to help spread the word when talking with family members, your friends and neighbors who may not know that the UAW has a segment called TOP which stands for Trades, Office and Professionals.

There are two unions at Sparrow Health System. UAW Local 4911 includes Radiation Therapists, X-Ray Technicians, Respiratory techs, Cardiac Cath Lab Techs, Emergency Room techs, ultrasound techs, lab personnel, skilled trades, surgical techs, food service, secretaries, environmental service, etc., to name a few professions. The MNA — Nurses, Pharmacists, Nuclear Medicine techs, etc., is the second union.

As union members in the mid-Michigan area, we share a unique brotherhood and sisterhood as an extended family of our own. Many of us have an allegiance to one another and choose to support each other in the workplace and sisterhood as an extended family of our own. Many of us have an allegiance to one another and choose to support each other in the workplace. Our Unions have agreed vehemently on is an unintended consequence of right-to-work. Unions are coming into negotiations with much more militant and hard-line attitude.

In many industries and worksites the Unions have agreed to concessionary or stagnant wages to allow companies to get through the economic downturn of the last decade. Now Unions are doubly motivated to recoup wages for their members. And, as employer attorneys made clear, many unions are in a place where they can’t and won’t take no for a

602 Obituaries
Mary Jo Bailey – Wife of John Bailey, Retired
Rene L. Francis – Mother of Linda Strark, Electrician
Donald E. Francis – Father of Linda Strark, Electrician
Richard D. Brunk, Sr. – Father of Paulina Rodriguez, Body Shop
Sarah Janice Gates – Mother of Carla Gates,
Retired Electrician (Body Shop)
Sammie Robinson – Mother of Darrel Robinson
Maxine Elizabeth Vanous – Mother of
David Vanous, Retired Paint
Vernon Seelye – Retired
Alice Anzda – Retired Quality Control (General Assembly)
Jerome Theodore Bauer – Father of John Bauer, Body Shop
Jason Lee Betcher – Son of Cheryl Betcher, Material (Trim) and Dean Betcher, Retired General Assembly (Trim 2)
Robert “Bob” Eugene Guild Sr. – Retired
Erwin Cox – Father of Julia Lewis, Doorline
Ernestine Walker – Mother of Sheila Walker, Underbody Panels
Relma Adams – Wife of Paul Adams, Retired
Phillip Schmidt – Father of Darrell Schmidt, Underbody
Clifford Burkeholder – Beck of Betty Burkeholder, Paint (Topcoat Booths)
Barb Smith – Mother of Mark Smith, Bodyfit
David Douglas Hodges – Father of Mike Hodges, Chassis 1
Doris Edith Brandimore – Mother of Bruce Brandimore, Millwright (Maintenance) – Body
Carroll Tharp – Father of Mark Tharp, Body Shop
Edward Louth – Husband of Martha Louth, Retired
Axley Whittaker – Retired
Florence Beckwick – Retired
Clelia Johnson – Retired
Rex Cunningham – Retired
Wilbert Wendell – Retired
Alvin Fleetwood – Retired General Assembly (Chassis 1)
Betty Stamps – Mother of Gregory Bower, Quality Control
Ann Charles – Mother of John Charles, Material (Trim)
Lavon Wilson – Retired
Jacqueline “Jackie” S. Tipton – Wife of Gerald Tipton, Retired
Driver
Raymond Wollshede – Retired
Doris Corkins – Mother of Blake Wilson, Material
Janell Pakka – Retired Body Shop (Metal Finish)
Carl Schlee – Retired and Father of Dennis Schlee, Quality (General Assembly) and Ken Schlee, Material
Berrie M. Marble – Mother of Jeroon Marble, General Assembly (Final 1)
Donald Root – Retired Repair (Material) and Father of Carol Moore, Retired General Assembly (M-Doors)
Mildred Skinner – Retired
Clifford Martin – Retired
Douglas Baldwin – Retired
Eugene Anderson – Father of Christopher (Woody) Anderson, Core Team
Norma Walliczek – Wife of Juergen Walliczek, Retired Trim 3x
David Green – Retired
Leonard Morford – Retired
Viola Jones – Mother of Terry Jones, Material
Thomas Markel – Father of Susan Ortiz, Doorline

602 Thank Yous
Local 602… Thanks so much for the Bible and sympathy card – it meant a lot to our family. James was proud to be a Union member… (The Family of James N. Taylor)
Local 602… Thank you so much for remembering Axley. The Bible is a treasure and a loving keepsake… Loric Claudio and Family (The Family of Axley Whittaker)

652 Obituaries
Drew Arnold – Retiree
Rhea Ball – Sister of Mike Culpepper
William T. Bacon – Retiree
Richard B. Bennett – Retiree
Virginia Bauer – Mother of Mike Bauer, Mother-in-Law of Diane Bauer
Alan C. Bennett – Father of Robert Bennett
Alden Breitbaker – Retiree, Father-in-Law of Barb Dunn
J.D. Cantrell – Retiree, Brother-in-Law of Bob and Shirley Abernathy
David Camarillo Sr. – Father of David Camarillo Jr., Grandfather of Dan, Ignacio and David Camarillo III
Mary Dorin – Retiree
George Clinton Downward – Retiree
Richard H. Fenesi – Retiree
Larry Ortiz Figueras – Retiree, Father of Marcelus Figueras and Violet Hawkins
David Fitzpatrick – Retiree
John Garcia – Retiree
James Gonzalez – Retiree, Spouse of Geraldine Genson
Sondra C. Grant – Retiree, Mother of Brian Grant
Domna M. Grass – Spouse of David Grass, Sister of Steve and David Peake
Robert “Bob” Guild Sr. – Father of Robert Guild Jr.
Dale Harper – Member
David Hodges – Retiree
Jack Jameson – Retiree
Tommie Johnson – Spouse of Elma Johnson
Joleen Kay Krauss – Mother of Travis Krauss
Arturo Lerman – Retiree
Vera Martin – Mother of Terry and Michael Martin
Rosa Newton – Spouse of Dorsey Newton
David A. Norris – Son of James Norris
Janice Page – Mother of Tiberia James Thomas G. Peck – Father of Thomas J. Peck
John Lee Robison – Retiree, Father of David Robison
Larry Schafer – Retiree
Francis Schalings – Retiree, Father of Rosemary Branson
Joe Stubblefield Sr. – Retiree
Bruce U’Ren – Retiree
Charles VanDerWoude – Retiree
Lawrence Warner – Father, Father Of Lawrence Warner Jr.
Dorotha Shawmaker – Mother-in-Law of David Camarillo Jr., Grandmother of Dan, Ignacio and David Camarillo III

652 Thank Yous
The Virginia Bauer Family
The Max Butler Family
The Earl Doolittle Family
The Bob Lambka Family
The Sagamore Family
The Charles VanDerWoude Family

1753 Obituaries
Mary Thompson – Ed Kohler
J.D. Cantrell – Retiree
J.D. Cantrell – Retiree, Brother-in-Law of Bob and Shirley Abernathy
Lawrence Warner – Father, Father Of Lawrence Warner Jr.
Dorotha Shawmaker – Mother-in-Law of David Camarillo Jr., Grandmother of Dan, Ignacio and David Camarillo III

724 Obituaries
Dewel (Dick) Hogan – Atlas Retiree
Versey Williams – Atlas Retiree
ATTENTION GM RETIREES

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