Dr. King saw our future

By DEAN POGGIALI, President, Local 724

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” The late, great Dr. Martin Luther King spoke these words over 45 years ago. Isn’t it almost foreshadowing that these same words can apply to the situation that President Barack Obama is about to tackle with the newly elected House of Representatives and Senate? It appears as though Dr. King saw the future when he contemplated the dilemma that Americans would face. In the 50’s and 60’s the civil rights of Americans was a hot button issue with Dr. King leading the fight for equality. In 2011 the right to be civil by some Americans is being seriously challenged.

The Republicans are flicking their chips to overturn the health care reform legislation without offering a viable solution to fix the broken system. They clamor for smaller government and want to cut everything to the bone without offering a safety net for those who have fallen on difficult times, like those on unemployment or who have been on unemployment or who have been unemployed. We would rather work than

For the first time in over a decade Michigan is hopeful to add more workers than it loses in 2011. The economy began its downward spiral in 2000. We have lost over 860,000 jobs since that period. If my mind serves me, these years also reflect the Bush Administration. Additionally in 2009 there was a loss of 285,000 jobs. In 2010, after President Obama began to make some corrections, Michigan saw a loss of 34,700 jobs. With a renewed foothold of General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford, 2011 is predicted to add 6,300 more jobs, with the potential of more than 48,000 workers added to the payroll.

Even though as we pen this, the snow has receded, we know that the throes of winter will continue for months to come. Many of our friends, family, and neighbors will struggle to pay their heating bill. One way to help is by participating in the annual Walk for Warmth put on by the Capital Area Community Services. The 21st annual walk will convene on February 26 at various locations in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties. You can collect pledges and then walk or donate to someone who is planning to walk. Please either contact me at 517-203-5027 or link to information at http://www.caconsinc.org/Walk4W.htm. 100% of the proceeds from the monies collected go to the program to heat those in need.

In closing we wish to pose the following:

Will the promises made during the 2010 campaign by the right-wing Tea Party be realized or will they just blame someone else for their shortcomings?

It is imperative that all the elected officials, whether Democratic, Independent or Republican, keep in mind what Dr. King uttered all those many years ago: “We must use time creatively ... and forever realize time is always ripe to do right.”

As Dr. King so eloquently said to another civil rights activist: “The fight for equality must be fought on many fronts—in the urban slums, in the sweatshops of the factories and fields. Our separate struggles are really one—a struggle for freedom, for dignity, and for humanity. You and your valiant fellow workers have demonstrated your commitment to righting grievous wrongs forced upon exploited people.”

The union movement should take these words to heart to champion our way of life and become exploited by those who think they have our best interests in mind. By following the words and wisdom of Dr. King and Cesar Chavez, the labor movement can continue to be a force to be reckoned with.

White Shirt Day

By Region 1-C Director Norwood Jewell

Friday, February 11 is White Shirt Day, the anniversary of the Flint Sit-Down Strike, where we celebrate the brave men and women who fought the battles in 1937 resulting in the UAW’s first contract with General Motors.

This year’s celebration will take place at UAW Local 599 in Flint, beginning at 11:00 a.m. This is also the day we wear a white shirt to honor our sit-downers.

And it’s also the day we’ll draw the winning tickets for the 2010 V-CAP drawings, including the first-place prize—that blue and white Chevrolet Camaro SS you’ve seen across the region for the last year.

For the rest of 2011, the Labor News’ official schedule for print issues is:

Please make a note of it.

Local 602 Hourly & Salaried Retirees

Annual Florida Picnic
First Tuesday of March

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Duff’s Original Buffet
6010 14th St. W
Bradenton, FL
(One mile south of Stacey’s Buffet, which closed)
$6.00 - $7.00 per person
Questions: Call Larry Miller at 941/746-6988 (home)
941-926-2988 (cell)

Lansing Labor News

Notice on Page 5

Official News of the UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753

UAW LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753

retirees

America's Labor News

VOLUME 67, NUMBER 1

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS

JANUARY, 2011

Periodical Postage Paid at Lansing, MI

Notice on Page 5

Labor News online: www.lansinglabornews.org
Happy New Year to all of our Local 602 members active and retired! 2010 was quite a year, with members from over 20 different locals across the country joining our Local 602 family. 2011 looks like another busy and successful year as we continue to produce the world’s best crossovers on three shifts and we anticipate some scheduled over-time soon. 2011 is also a negotiation year and we are in the process of compiling our membership demands, getting them approved by the General Membership and submitting them to the UAW/General Motors department for inclusion. GM is healthy again and paying for profit, thanks to the sacrifices of our membership both active and retired. We have shared in the pain; now let’s share in the gain!

The labor movement is currently under attack from every angle. Our brothers and sisters who are government and municipal employees are under attack from both state and federal legislators. Management is using a page out of the old playbook stating that whenever their bottom line gets soft and revenues decrease they blame the people and not their process. Rather than eliminate waste in their process, they immediately take money out of our middle-class pockets to pay for their reckless and irresponsible decisions.

It’s not our fault that Wall Street was turned around. We members had a huge hand in this achievement and should be proud of the problem, we are the only solution.

Don’t forget us!

Welcome back to everyone. I hope your holiday season went well.

The last couple of years have been filled with a lot of emotion, with General Motors filing bankruptcy in 2009 and on the way to recovery in 2010. Of course there was with the help of our active and retired members and the federal government’s loans. Without all those circumstances, GM may never have made it.

We’re glad GM has been able to pay off their loans from the government early. GM is now asking for approval to pay bonuses to key management people so they don’t leave for another company. Well, but let’s remember our active and retired workers who all gave concessions in order to help the VEBA’s future.

Contract talks start this year and we have received over 180 resolutions for changes in the local and national agreements. I want everyone to know that we need to remember our active and retired members at the bargaining table, especially since GM has made a great turn-around. We members had a huge hand in this achievement and should be remembered now!

The V-CAP campaign has started in our plants. Thank you in advance for donating. It’s very important to maintain our position at the table for working people’s political agenda.

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saved it by supporting neighborhoods and cities that are homes to their factories. It wasn’t that long ago that GM was looked upon with admiration for their civil conscience. That sort of industrial responsibility needs to return.

Retiree Picnics

Members of Local 652 will have a couple of chances to catch up with old friends in February this year. If you winter near Mesa, Arizona you should highlight February 17th on your calendar. The GM Hourly and Salaried Arizona Picnic will be held at the Red Mountain Park at noon. If you spend your time closer to Florida, February 22nd is your date. The Oldsmobile Florida Picnic will be held at noon at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post in Bradenton. Both hourly and salary employees are welcome at both events. For details please see the notices on pages 4-5.

Winterfest

For all UAW members in the Lansing area, the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club is having its premier event, “Winterfest” at Houghton Lake February 11-13. The Local 652 Joint Steward Committee is organizing it in front of us is this message: The UAW owes a debt to those who came before us. Much was sacrificed to build this great union. We have an obligation to ensure that those who come after us benefit from a strong and vibrant UAW. With teamwork in the leadership and solidarity in the ranks, and with active and retired members working hand-in-hand, the UAW’s future will be as bright and as bold as its past. This is the message from the UAW to the Retirees on the UAW website and we feel very strongly about it here at Local 652.

Just a heads up for active members at the GM FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) process has changed. FMLA will now go through Sedgwick at 800-489-4646 and you will also need to call GM’s call-in number at 800-222-8889 to meet Doc 8.

Did you know if you have a Verizon phone that GM UAW members are getting 20% discount, active and retired? Make sure you are getting yours. If not, they are located inside the ABC Warehouse on Pennsylvania Av. Or call them at 517-887-1885.

The hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves will be given to needy people in our community.

Local 724 held a Christmas party for its members on December 18. The party was wonderful, the families had a nice time, the children saw Santa Claus, and they had many activities to participate in, and received a present from Santa. There were lots of smiling faces, and we had about 60 to 75 children, so needless to say, it was a good time.

I would like to thank all of the members who worked on the Committees and the units along with Local 724 donations to make the party a success. And a big Thanks to Santa—he was a hit.

So as we continue in the 2011 year, let’s still remember to buy American and union, because 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.

Dr. Grubauh is the son of Jake Grubauh who was a member of Local 652 and 1292

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Dr. Grubauh is the son of Jake Grubauh who was a member of Local 652 and 1292

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John Faust, DDS, MS
Edward Grubauh DDS, MS

Lansing Labor News • January, 2011 • Page 3
Happy New Year to everyone! Our monthly schedule of events is as follows:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. The games start at 6:00 p.m.
Third Tuesday of the month is our Bohemian dinner and business meeting. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Dinner starts at 5:00.
Fourth Tuesday of the month is card night starting at 6:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652, 602, and 1618.
February 11 is White Shirt Day. Wear a white shirt on this day to honor the Sidewhites. The White Shirt Day celebration will be held in Flint at Local 599 starting at 11:00 a.m. This is the day for the VCAP ticket drawings, with the first prize being a blue and white Chevrolet Camaro SS. Local 599 is located at 812 Leith St., Flint, MI 48505.

Our next social night will be April 12 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Mike Bauer's.
The Region IC Retiree Euchre Tournament will be held Wednesday, May 4, at Local 602, starting at 9:00 a.m. Retirees and spouses are eligible to play. You may register at any of your retiree functions or call 517-372-7581 extension 147 to leave your name and phone number. Participants are reminded to arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. to sign in. The winners of the Lansing tournament will play in the finals against Flint later that afternoon. Local 602 is located at 2510 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917.


Condolences to the family of Paul Zimmerman (Poor Paul, Mr. Z). Paul was a friend to all, and he will be missed.
The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers:
Robert Amsbury, Carol Albrecht, Jewell Carrier, Marvin Davis, Gary Every, Dorothy Hoisington, Wilford and Millie Pullman, Hedy Rose, Jean and Leonard Schneider, 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.

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

Laura Clark

1753 retirees

Hello everyone, Happy New Year! Hope your holidays were warm and bright! It was all that and more at the Local 1753 Christmas open house. The local furnished the pizza and drinks. Some members did even more! We ended up with a full dinner with all the food and treats. Thank you very much to our wonderful folks and some of their spouses who brought goodies to share! Special thanks to all our helpers who helped on our fundraiser. Because of all your help our local was able to send the Greater Lansing Food Bank $213 for Christmas.
The hall was warm and full of good cheer, for we had a great turnout: active workers before and after their shift, retirees sprinkled throughout, elected and appointed officers as they could.

Most of our retiree Euchre Tournament players were there. Thanks for the picture, guys! You and the trophy look good together. Do you think we could do as well this year, boys and girls? Now that we have won, it is up to us to host the next event. Please volunteer, we will need players, relief people and all around helpers of all kinds. You do not need a partner as everyone plays for themselves and 1753. If you are lucky enough to have a spouse who plays, or would like to help, bring them or other retirees. Lunches provided during breaks, make it more fun, there are cash prizes.

Last paper we asked for your thoughts and prayers for two of our members who were in the hospital. Well, it worked! I’m glad to report at this time Nancy Stone and Gabrielle LaBelle have been released and are in good health. Thanks to all and good luck, girls.

Last year was tough on all of us, but as union workers it was not bad as it could have been. Last year many lost their jobs as many more businesses closed. These people have no pension or other care. They need our help. Single, we try; together, we can do it.

Have you sent your retirees’ V-CAP tickets in? These tickets pay for outreach in the community. Not only do they strengthen us, they help bring everyone up. Did you know your V-CAP tickets could not only win you a new car or cash, but because of the red “retired” on it you are in an extra drawing?

How about your union dues? Did you sign up before you retired? We can check that at the next meeting. Do you volunteer at the Local? The Election committee always needs help.

Nominations for the Election Committee are at the January General Membership Meeting. Please consider serving on the Election Committee, as it saves money for the Local, and it’s fun too! Do you invite coworkers to come to lunch and meetings when you run into them in the community?

It looks like it will be another rough one this year. I know that if we all pull together, we can do better. We can be stronger, healthier, and happier and help ourselves to the same thing!

News from the breakfast buffet

I got a call, and they’re going to try a new spot. The new Jackie’s Diner at 4421 W. Saginaw, formerly the Ponderosa Restaurant, 323-6512. We will meet on January 24 at 8:30 a.m. They will save the front room just for us! Please come to breakfast, it’s fun to see friends you haven’t seen in a while and I hear they have a great breakfast deal.
The Election Committee Nominations are on Sunday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the General Membership Meeting. Please attend.

The next lunch and meeting is, as always, the second Thursday of the month, February 10, 12:00 lunch, 1:00 meeting. Please bring a dish to pass; if not, please bring yourself.

Lois Schultz

1618 retirees

Hi out there, all you wonderful people. Ted Gauss’ breakfast will be on the first Tuesday in April, that is April 5, at Guerrazzi’s Restaurant, 15463 US Highway 27, Lansing. It starts at 9:00 a.m. There will be a casino trip March 21-22, if interested, call Connie Dunn at 517-323-2146.

Russ Little is on our sick list. I went to see him and he looks good. He takes it one day at a time. Josie Raymundo is on the mend and is hanging in there after heart surgery.

I am doing a lot better. My energy is up, so that’s a good thing. The first Tuesday of the month I work at the Senior Center on the Jamboree, which is lots of fun. Then there’s union business, so I do keep busy. You know we have to do that! I’m glad for my pacemaker.

Remember our meeting and potluck on the second Wednesday of the month at UAW Local 1753 on West St. Joseph Hwy. We eat at noon. See you there! We also play bingo there.

I hope you are all in good health. The Republicans don’t like the health care bill and will want to get rid of it. I think it will work like everything else, in that there’s good and bad. It won’t “kill jobs,” it’s just going to take them.

Do you read the Solidarity magazine that’s just out? From the readers: “You never got mad before. America, Stop the Madness!” After eight years of disaster, now you’re angry.” This is a must to read. I think it is very good and true.

So, as the sun sets over Narrow Lake, this is a new year. Bless one and all and have a great year. Till we meet again, keep smiling.

Dorothy Stevens

602 retirees

We are starting a new year with a new Congress which will begin tackling its legislative priorities. There are serious concerns about the most critical domestic issues facing the lawmakers. It is the future of Social Security and Medicare. We need to contact our members in Congress and ask them to take a stand NOW, and promise seniors, workers, and their families that they will do three things:

1.) Protect Social Security from needless benefits cuts to pay down deficits things we’ve been talking about for years;
2.) Restore the Social Security COLA to a level that keeps pace with seniors’ higher health care costs, heating expenses, and food and;
3.) Keep Medicare strong by rejecting proposals to repeal the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

Let’s not forget the campaign promises of some of our newly elected lawmakers who have pledged to raise the Social Security Retirement age, reduce the COLA, and repeal the Affordable Health Care for America Act that is putting new life into Medicare that would be a huge mistake. The Affordable Health Care for America Act, with its provisions to strengthen and improve Medicare, has already added 12 years to the solvency of the Medicare Part A trust fund. It will take a fight to keep this law in effect.

We cannot allow the Republican majority in the House to go forward with its agenda of deregulation of Big Oil, rolling back Wall Street reforms, denying rights to victims of corporate crime and wrongdoing, and providing massive tax breaks for the rich.

We need to make sure that our elected representatives represent our interests, and not those of Big Oil and billionaires who expect a return on their electoral investment.

Americans must fight to take back their government from the lobbyists and big money special interests that shape our laws, put our own interests and the good of the government.

There is no doubt about it, we are in for some rough time—but if everyone will join together we can prevail.

For each of you who have lost a loved one or dear friend, we send you our condolences. For all of those on the sick list and the homebound, we wish you a speedy recovery. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

2011 FLORIDA PICNIC

UAL LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753 and LAFCU
BOOTH SALARY & HOURLY
February 22, 2011
In Bradenton, Florida
American Legion
Kirby Stewart Post
24000 9th Street West
(Between Cortez & Manatee Ave.)
Register at 11 a.m.
Eat at Noon
Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. Make plans to attend and see your friends from Lansing. Call Jere Auvenshine, (517) 626-2398, for information.

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UAL LOCALS 652, 1618, 1753 and LAFCU
BOOTH SALARY & HOURLY
February 22, 2011
In Bradenton, Florida
American Legion
Kirby Stewart Post
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