The 2012 American muscle & antique car show

ABOVE: AVI Food Systems donated the proceeds of their food sales. Thanks to the Android employees who staffed the booth.
BELOW: LAFCU had a booth and also made a donation. Our thanks to all the sponsors!

ABOVE: Local 602 President Bill Reed rides in the curved-dash Oldsmobile owned by Mike Walters.
ABOVE RIGHT: Local 602 Alternate Committee member John Fedewa and Local 602 Financial Secretary Doreen Howard with a real classic.
RIGHT: Local 652 President Mike Green thanked all the volunteers who made this year’s cars show a great success.
BELOW: Local 724 President Dean Poggiali inspects an Olds 442.

ABOVE: Local 4911 President Joe Douglas brought his family out to the show.
BELOW: Local 652 President Mike Green rides in the curved-dash Oldsmobile.

INSIDE
Winterfest change ............. 4
Veterans’ Cook-off .......... 4
CAP Endorsements .......... 6
Director’s message .......... 7
Obituaries...................... 9
November Proposals ...... 10

Local 724 election notice on p. 4

Labor News online: www.lansinglabornews.org
Romney just doesn’t get it

“We should have let Detroit go bankrupt!”

Mitt Romney doesn’t get it; it wasn’t a bailout but emergency rescue loans. To qualify for this we as UAW members made deep sacrifices to save the company. We gave up pay increases, overtime pay, holidays, agreeing to a reduced pay and benefit structure for new hires among other concessions.

It was because these sacrifices the auto industry was able to get those loans, saving more than 1.4 million jobs up and down the supply chain.

The emergency loans worked. GM is once again the world’s top carmaker. GM’s profits in 2011 were its largest ever and they have repaid their outstanding loans years ahead of schedule.

The Big Three along with their suppliers have added more than 200,000 jobs in the last two-and-a-half years, and 2011 was the strongest year of industry job growth since 1994. Added shifts and new facilities mean jobs for thousands more workers not only here in Michigan, but in many other states across the country.

Unlike a loan, which must be paid back, Romney’s no-opposed to bailout. Romney supported the bailout of Wall Street and opposes tough new rules that would stop Wall Street excesses from causing another crisis. Romney has his financial interest in Wall Street, not in you or me.

In listening for the GOP’s message of putting people back to work, all we’ve heard about are more attacks on workers’ collective bargaining rights, and this message has been loud and clear.

Mitt Romney promised to take on unions that represent Michigan autoworkers. During his visit to Compuware, an office systems furniture maker in the Grand Rapids suburb of Kentwood, Michigan, Romney boldly stated, “I’ve taken on union bosses before, and I’m happy to take them on again” and, “I sure won’t give in to the U.A.W.”

I am happy the company I work for is doing well but we still have a long way to go before my union brothers and sisters are doing well. I’m concerned that any future gains we hope to make will be taken away at the ballot box as we look at the Republican agenda to dissolve unions and take away our rights as working men and women.

When a Republican candidate can support working people, stand behind my UAW brothers and sisters, and stand up to corporations and big business, I’ll vote for them. So far I haven’t found one.

Local 602 meetings

The next meetings will be on October 14 and November 11. The Executive board meets at 4:30 p.m. The General Membership meets at 6:00 p.m. at the hall.
the Alliance, Bridgewater, Dakkota, JLL-Drayton, JLL-TEAM, RSDBC and Woodbridge Units have seen some more work head their way. Some of this is attributed to the addition of a second shift to the Lansing Grand River General Motors facility.

This brings an interesting correlation. If not for the efforts of President Obama to help preserve the domestic auto industry, many of these opportunities would not exist. In fact, if not for this strategy, many of the current jobs may have been greatly reduced as well. This is an extreme contradiction from President Obama’s opposition, Mitt Romney. Candidate Romney was associated to let Detroit go bankrupt. The very fact that this shortsighted attitude could have cost millions of Americans our way of life should cement the idea that he is not the right person to lead our country.

Remember, the UAW screens candidates on the issues that affect our ability to provide for our families through the work we do. These considerations are just that — recommendations — and should be looked at objectively. That is why it is critical for us to vote this November. We must review the list of recommended candidates with our families, neighbors, and co-workers to make the choices that will allow us to function as the working class.

Also make sure that the whole ballot is reviewed. There will be three Michigan Supreme Court seats up for election. It is critical that we have judges in the court that will be hearing cases based on their merits, not on who is the most powerful lobbyist. There will several ballot proposals that will also appear. The most important one for union folks is the proposal to protect collective bargaining rights. By insuring that we have a voice in the workplace, we can make sure we are paid fair wages, receive benefits, work safely, and have a recourse in the event of being unjustly treated.

If you have any questions concerning anything that will be on the ballot, please call the local and we will try to help answer your questions. If we can’t answer them, then we will look to get them answered.

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

Local 724 Meetings

Local 724 meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The executive board meets the same Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

LOCAL 1753

Ray Whitford, President

Coping with the changes

Another summer has come and gone. What a hot one we had! Hot, humid days, especially on the afternoon shift, when it heats up, being on an order selector truck and picking parts close to the ceiling, was refreshing. Now it’s time to look forward to another winter. Hopefully, it will be a mild one like last year.

The Shop Committee is still trying to negotiate the local agreement for skilled trades.

New hires

Your local leadership welcomes all the new hires to our plant. As seniority employees, let’s help them learn. By this I mean to look out for them. Management will take advantage of them every opportunity they get. A good example is having new hires do two-man picks. Hopefully this has been put to bed. It’s been brought to management’s attention.

Think about the trickle-down

This is an important year. November 6 is the Presidential election. We play a major role in these elections. When the Big Three went before Congress’ Ways and Means Committee, the Republicans were more than willing to throw us to the wolves.

Could you imagine the trickle-down effect this would have on the automotive industry, with all the lost jobs, down to all the suppliers?

Our thanks go to President Obama. Now it’s our time to get him re-elected as our President. He had faith in us, he depends on us as we did on him. Everybody has a part to do. Get out and vote on November 6.

Other issues also affect us. The Republicans want to take away our collective bargaining rights. Can we live with all the take-aways they want? Will there be a middle class or just be rich and poor?

Vote on November 6!

LOCAL 4911

Joe Douglas, President

The importance of collective bargaining

Hello my UAW brothers and sisters.

Well, summer has come and gone and I hope all of you had a safe and enjoyable one. I want to talk to you about the importance of collective bargaining and the protection it gives to the working class.

Collective bargaining is very important to each and every one of us for better wages, better health care coverage, safer work places and better pensions. Hundreds of bills have been passed through the current Republican controlled House, Senate and the Governor — and not one bill has been introduced to help create jobs. Bills have only been passed to cripple our rights to bargain collectively, or to tax our seniors, or take critical aid from our young children.

LOCAL 4911

Rose Van Scholck, Fin. Secretary

What is at stake? The entire middle class

In just a few weeks, we will all have the opportunity to make a difference in our future and our family’s future. We have an enormous number of citizens that could potentially stop the systematic erosion of the middle class family. The 99% versus the 1%; what is right versus what is wrong; we are all in this together versus you are on your own; what is morally right versus morally wrong. Our philosophy is that we are our brother’s and sister’s keeper. We help each other in the time of need in whatever way we can. This is how the majority of us grew up — with respectable ethics which govern the way we live our lives.

Today, we are in the biggest economic fight of our lives. While the 99% have wages that are decreasing, the 1% has wages and company profits that are increasing. While the 1% is quietly funneling money to the Cayman Islands for shelter, the 99% are struggling to keep their houses out of foreclosure, keep their jobs, pay their bills, put food on the table, cloth their children and put gas in the car. How has our society become so twisted and unfair? One reason is because during the election of 2010, only 46% of the people went to the polls and voted, The rest of the people stayed home.

The tragic result is that CEOs and corporations are earning record profits and the wealthy 1% is receiving endless tax breaks. (Recall that billionaire Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway announced that he pays a lower income tax rate than his secretary does!) Some politicians want to undermine and destroy Social Security and make permanent the Bush tax breaks for the wealthy. The 99% continue to struggle by having the Earned Income Tax Credit diminish, our pensions are now taxed, student loan rates are about to skyrocket, and there are some politicians who want to tax your health care benefits as well.

Continued on page 8

Lansing Labor News

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VOLUME 58, NUMBER 9

VOICE OF 27,000 MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER, 2012

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

President Obama needs our help in order to win re-election and continue his fight to support the middle class workers of America and protect working families. There are only a few more weeks until Election Day. Please take the time to invest in your family’s future!

Indoors: Phone Banking Daily 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Data Entry Daily 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Outdoors: Canvassing, walking to specific doors Daily Weekends

Voter Registration Mondays – Sundays

For more information and up-to-date schedules, please call LaShawn, Field Organizer of Organizing for America – Michigan (517) 515-8632.

Office location: 2722 E. Michigan Avenue, Suite #103, Lansing, MI 48912 (Across from Bud Kouts and downstairs from Local 4911)
We must unite as one

We need to unite as one voice on November 6 for the good of all middle-class citizens. We are being attacked from all sides by the Republican Party and are in a struggle for our way of life. Do not stand by while your rights and voice are taken away.

The Democratic Party supports the middle class in many ways. Democrats support unions and our right to collective bargaining. They have supported ballot initiatives against the GOP’s anti-worker agenda, thereby protecting working families. They’ve supported equal pay for equal work, while Republicans have repeatedly voted to limit collective bargaining and prevail on wage requirements, and to defund the National Labor Relations Board.

President Obama stood at the side of each and every one of us when he supported loans to the auto industry. We know where Romney stands. He was more than willing to turn his back on an entire industry. Think about who you are today and how different your life would be without the auto industry and the jobs it supports in your community.

Consider how you could live the last few years of your life. Under the Romney/Ryan plan, future retirees would be forced to buy coverage with a voucher that would not cover all the costs.

You would have limited doctor choices, and insurance companies would have the upper hand in your personal health decisions. Stop and look at how your children would be affected by your vote. The Affordable Health Care Act allowed millions of people to gain preventative services coverage and allowed your young adult to have insurance coverage through your insurance plan. Romney intends to repeal this law.

President Obama believes that our children are our future and need to have access to an affordable college education. He has increased the number of Pell Grants available and increased the dollar amount to $5,500 per year. Our children who want to attend college will be directly affected by your vote. The Affordable Health Care Act allowed millions of people to gain preventative services coverage and allowed your young adult to have insurance coverage through your insurance plan. Romney intends to repeal this law.

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The Democratic Party supports middle class tax cuts and the elimination of tax loopholes for billionaires. It believes everyone should pay their fair tax share. The Romney/Ryan plan will increase taxes on the middle class and cut services to those making more than $250,000 per year.

The UAW strongly believes that everyone should get out and exercise their right to vote. Through collective bargaining, your UAW has negotiated for you to have Election Day off work, allowing you time to go to the polls. I urge each and every one of you to stand up for your rights before they are gone.

Vote on November 6.

---

LOCAL 652
Bob Smith, Financial Secretary

If you care about your job...

Warning! The following contains extremely biased and one-sided material. If you care about your job or your pension please continue to read!!

On November 6, we will once again take part in that great American tradition of choosing our leaders for the next four years. This election is extremely important to us! If you have been paying attention (and most likely even if you haven’t), there seems to be a huge amount of money that has been made available to purchase radio and TV ads, billboards, newspaper and magazine articles, even faux documentary films, all in an effort to influence our vote. Welcome to politics, post-Citizens United!

Although there has always been a great deal of money spent on the political trail, after the US Supreme Court decided in the above mentioned case that “…corporations are people, too…” the amount of money seems unlimited. For those that haven’t heard, the Citizens United decision allowed billionaires, corporations, and others to donate practically unlimited amounts of money to Political Action Committees (you hear them referred to as Super PACs). These organizations then purchase advertising, etc., that I mentioned above.

The problem with this for us as automobile workers and retirees is that billionaires and corporations are closer to having “unlimited funds” in their organizations will ever be. The other problem with this is the billionaires and corporations don’t particularly like us (autoworkers, middle class, retirees, etc.). Well, I guess they like us when we are young, strong, healthy, and productive. It’s when we age a little, maybe slow up a step or two, or get a little close to retirement age, or we injure ourselves that’s when we become the dreaded “legacy costs.”

Some companies (usually non-union) tend to trim “legacy costs” (read employees) by using whatever means necessary to get rid of more senior employees. Others just close their doors and move to another state or country where they can hire another set of workers until the time comes that this new set may become “legacy costs” and the cycle restarts.

What brings us back to where I started, this election is very important to us! It’s a big deal! I know that our current President and the Democratic Party as a whole supported us during the GM bankrupcy. I also remember the Congressional hearings where several Republicans wanted us to fail. I hope you remember those hearings! Without President Obama and the rest of the Democrats we could have lost everything! We could still lose everything if this election goes the wrong way! So … I am going to continue to support the people that supported me. President Barack Obama and the Democrats saved our jobs, now it’s time to return the favor and save theirs.

Skilled Trades get-together

October 1 was the date for Local 652 Skilled Trades annual get-together for coffee, donuts, and friendship. This was for all active and retired trades. We were glad to see everyone, and our thanks to Alex McPherson for his work on this.

Veterans’ Chili Cook-Off

On October 20, UAW Local 652 is the site of the Region I-C Veterans’ Chili Cook-Off from Noon to 4 p.m. Please register by October 15 by calling Mike Malit at 517-283-4070.

LOCAL 652
Randy Freeman, Vice President

Join the Olds Outdoor Club

I want to share some information about the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club. The Winterfest date has changed, which I will get to later. Let me first start out with giving you a little background on the club. This family oriented organization was founded in 1943. Founding members of the group were employees from the Oldsmobile Plant (Local 652) in Lansing who were avid outdoorsmen. Club interest grew as the years passed and got bigger and bigger. It reached out to include the other UAW Locals in the Lansing area. In 1984 Locals 602,1753 and 1618 came on board. Membership in the club has fluctuated over the years with a high of 3,000 in the 1960’s to around 1,300 at the current time and looking to grow! We are now open to all UAW locals in a 25-mile radius of plants in downtown Lansing (Grand River), Local 652, and the Plant in Delta Township, Local 602.

The club has numerous events each year, including fishing contests, camping, Summerfest, Winterfest, hunting contests and education to name a few.

We are offering a special $5.00 membership for all new members for the remainder of 2012, and annual dues for all members are only $10.00.

The club invites you to attend informational meetings to be held on Monday, October 15 and Wednesday, October 17 at Local 652, which is at 426 Clare Street, Lansing, 48917. The club will have someone there from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to answer questions about the club. The club’s website is at: www.oldsmobileoutdoorclub.com.

Winterfest date change

I have received this advice from Club President Mike Bokovoy:

Attention, the Winterfest date has changed due to unforeseen circumstances. It will be held on February 22, 23, 24, still at the host hotel, Ramada Inn in Grayling. Check our website for further information.

We are sorry for any inconvenience, but we are working to get it back to the downtown area weekend in 2014 and 2015. Questions? Contact Mike at 517-420-5335.

Scott Lounds’ article is on page 8.
Dorothy Stevens
602 retirees

In a matter of days once again Election Day will be here. It is a day that will govern your lives in the future so it is extremely important that you vote the right way and support those who support you.

Those you elect this November will no doubt make their historic decisions concerning the Medicare and Medicaid—your earned benefits.

The Republican Party wants full control of our government. They ran our government, our economy, and our international standing in the ditch before and ‘they’ll do it again if we let them.

It is vital for the middle class, women, low-income families, seniors, and minorities to all pull together for the challenges that lie ahead and vote straight Democratic to stop the war the GOP have declared on us instead of eliminating the breaks and loopholes for America’s wealthy.

The GOP makes no secret about what they will do if elected. They boast about repealing health care reform, making Medicare privatized, and priva-
tizing Social Security using the federal debt crisis as justification for their reasoning in order to give the wealthiest a tax break.

Do not forget the election year motive for some lawmakers to score political points at seniors’ expense by cutting your earned benefits.

That is why we must support candidates who will fight for and against support for changes to Social Security, proposed by Fiscal Commission Co-Chairs Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles; Resist the pressure to raise the Social Security starting next year, and the mechanism in Ryan’s plan that, if passed in future, will pocket millions.

We must stop the attacks on Collective Bargaining, Unions, the Middle Class, Small Businesses, Public Employees and SENIORS! Everyone is entitled to their pension benefits. The health care law does work. The American Action Forum, a conservative think tank, needs to regroup.

For all our sick and homebound, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

For all who have lost a loved one or dear friend, we send you our deepest condolences.

Mike Bauer
652 retirees

We have made it through an extremely hot summer. It is great to have some moderate temperature.

Before we know it, the snowbirds will be leaving. For those of you departing before the next issue—have a safe trip!

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 members 652, 602, 653.

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.

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

November 6, Bingo night is cancelled. December 25, Card night is cancelled. January 1, 2013, Bingo night is cancelled. January 8, 2013, is the first social night of the new year.

The November and December dinners will be our regular potluck. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

The Outdoor Club is finishing another fun season of camping. The last 2012 camping dates are: Oct. 12 - 14, Michi-
gan Clarion Society, Association, Mason. Reservations are necessary. For more information, call Master Jay Courser at 517-323-2331.

We must stop the attacks on Collective Bargaining Rights, Unions, the Middle Class, Small Businesses, Public Employees and SENIORS! Everyone is strongly encouraged to support the UW-endorsed candidates. As retirees, we cannot forget the “fix” for the state’s fiscal problems—tax supplications!

Please vote at your local polling place, or do as many do, and vote absentee ballot.

Do not forget to vote on the proposals and for the nonpartisan offices. One proposal on Collective Bargaining Rights is critical to the middle class and we need you, your family, and your friends to get out and vote. Remember, every vote counts.

We are updating our list of Local 652 retirees who would like to go to the Walter & May Reuther Educational Center at Black Lake when our retirees camping dates are: Oct. 12 - 14 Michigan Clarion Society, Association, Mason.

For those who wish to attend, we currently have three pages of names, but many of the phone numbers are no longer in service. If you have not been to Black Lake and would like to be added to the list, please email your name, address, phone number, and whether you are married or single (rooms are double occupancy and you will be given a roommate of the same sex).

There is some free time for retirees to enjoy and explore the complex after the sessions each day.

Condemnations to the families of Wayne Beatty, Lee Zuma, Catherine T. 61, Bob Mullens, Ralph Smith, and any others we may have missed.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers:

Rita Abenhart, Clara Mae Bean, Al Bebow, Jewell Carrier, Marvin Davis, T.J. Evans, Joyce and Herb Fenroh, Linus Hegnesbach, Dave & Hazel Howl, Don & Helen Huldt, Dorothy Hosington, Don & Maxine Jubb, Brenda Lee, Ken Mohneke, Annie Morris, Ray Myers, Wilfred Pullman, Larry Salters, 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 benefited, contact a benefit rep for answers, 517-372-7581 ext. 500.

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

Lois Schultz
1618 retirees

Hello out there you wonderful people!

Someone vandalized my central air conditioning during the hottest days of summer. Too bad for them they can’t get away with things. I’ll find out, I always do.

Ted Gauss’ break-fast is on Wednesday, November 7 at 9:00 a.m. at Guerazzi’s Restaurant, 15643 Old U.S. 27, Lansing Chamber Township, MI 48906. Ted’s phone number is 517-321-4754.

Come Events
October 10 – Halloween luncheon. Dress up!

October 15 – Michigan Princess color tour in Grand Ledge.

For trips, call Connie Dunn at 517-232-2164.

November 7 – Ted Gauss’ break-fast, a Wednesday.

November 14 – Veterans Memorial at Chapel Hill on Grand River. This is the flagpole and monument that was at the plant. This is our fourth year. Be there at 10:00 a.m. Then on to the Local 1753 Hall on St. Joe for the turkey lunch. A holiday auction will follow, so bring quar- ters. Happy Thanksgiving!

On our sick list: Lois Dyer is in Ingham Hospital. Jerry Lawless is at the St. Lawrence campus. Chairman Dunn was in the hospital, but is home now. Doug Kosloski hurt his shoulder. For donations to the family of John D. Raymond Caudill, age 67. The brother of Arlie Caudill.

Birthdays: Claud Harris, 92; Leo Gray, Lois Dyer, Lee Zuma, Williamos, Annsia DeCorte, Lois Schultz, Don & Maxine Jubb, Brenda Lee, Ken Mohneke, Annie Morris, Ray Myers, Wilfred Pullman, Larry Salters, Leonard Schneider, Bob & Lee Vergason, Mason Williams, Willa Wright, and any others we may have missed.

Republicans say, untruth in papers and pocket millions.

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Visit www.lansinglabornews.org. The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to donate when you attend retiree events.

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Lansing Labor News • September, 2012 • Page 5
**UAW CAP Endorsements for November 6 election**

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<td>Jeanne Pearl-Wright</td>
<td>Barb Byrum</td>
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<td>Jane Whitacre</td>
<td>Victor Celentino</td>
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<td>Glenn Freeman III</td>
<td>Rebecca Bahar-Cook</td>
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<td>Joseph Breher</td>
<td>Sarah Anthony</td>
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<td>Duane Eldred</td>
<td>Debbie De Leon</td>
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<td>George Pierce</td>
<td>Todd Tennis</td>
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<td>Roger Harris</td>
<td>Jim Dravenstatt-Moceri</td>
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<td>Ken Fletcher</td>
<td>Kara Hope</td>
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<td>Mary Clark</td>
<td>Randy Schafer</td>
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<td>Howard Pizzo</td>
<td>C.J. Davis</td>
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<td>Dennis Fedewa</td>
<td>Kathleen Rodgers</td>
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<td>Doug Kosinski</td>
<td>Leo C. Rodgers</td>
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<td>Karen Mojica</td>
<td>Elizabeth LeGoff</td>
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<td>Travis Radina</td>
<td>Evan Hope</td>
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<td>Linda Keefe-Lewis</td>
<td>Roy Sweet</td>
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<td>Connie Marie Kelley</td>
<td>Milton Scales</td>
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<td>Bridget Mary McCormack</td>
<td>Angela Wilson</td>
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<td>Sheila Johnson</td>
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<td>Steven Freeman</td>
<td>Bridget Mary McCormack</td>
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<td>Sheila Johnson</td>
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<td>Ken Ross</td>
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<td>Hugh Clarke, Jr.</td>
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<td>Mark Meadows</td>
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<td>John Revitte</td>
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**BALLOT PROPOSALS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Emergency Manager Law</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Protect Working Families</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Citizens for Quality Healthcare</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Michigan Alliance for Prosperity (2/3 approval)</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Construction of International Bridge</td>
<td>NEUTRAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**These candidates have been vetted by your UAW CAP Council. We believe they are the most labor- and union-friendly candidates in these counties.**
A message from the Director

It’s time to remember

By Norwood Jewell
Region 1-C Director

It was just three years ago that GM almost liquidated. If John McCain had been elected president, GM would have liquidated. That is not a prediction, it’s a fact. If Mitt Romney had been president in 2009, GM would have gone under. That too is a fact. President Obama made the unpopular but righteous decision to loan GM the money they needed to survive, betting that they would do just that. He bet on the American worker. He bet on us. Where would we be now if President Obama had listened to the nay-sayers?

No Obama = no GM, Chrysler or Ford = no pensions & no health care!

The Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC), which insures our pensions, is funded through the companies that have pension plans. The PBGC is and has been underfunded due to a large number of companies closing their doors and dumping their pension obligations on the PBGC. GM is the largest contributor to the PBGC. If GM had gone under, the PBGC would have gone with it. No PBGC, no pension.

And the first thing that retirees would have lost if GM had gone bankrupt is their health insurance. I know that the health insurance that have lost if GM had gone bankrupt is their health insurance. I know that the health insurance that have lost if GM had gone bankrupt is their health insurance. I know that the health insurance that have lost if GM had gone bankrupt is their health insurance.

Walter Reuther believed in National Health Care. He believed that we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers and an injustice to one is an injustice to all. We need to remember our great leader, his words, and his actions. Walter would have worked tirelessly to re-elect President Obama because President Obama believes as we do, that we need to fight for working families, our children and our seniors.

Please vote like Walter Reuther would have voted …

Vote to re-elect President Obama.

And let us not forget where the stock market was when President Obama took office. The Dow Jones Industrial AVERAGE has more than doubled since 2009, from a low of 6,547 to over 13,250 as of this writing.

Romney and Ryan want to go backwards to the terrible economy of George Bush. They believe in trickle-down economics, “give all the tax breaks to the rich and hopefully they will trickle some of their wealth down on us.” Do you like being trickled on?

They will increase taxes on middle-class working families. They will end Medicare as we know it. Without Medicare, our Retiree Trust Fund would be decimated. They believe in privatizing Social Security, are they crazy? Their budget would eliminate veterans’ programs, medical and scientific research, highway improvements, decimate our national parks, reduce education for our children, and eliminate protection of food safety and the water supply.

At the same time, their budget would give millionaires and corporations more tax cuts. They will represent the richest Americans well. So if you earn more than $250,000 per year, vote for them. If not, remember this:

R stands for Republican and Republican stands for Robin Hood in Reverse

Vote for working families – vote for President Obama.

We need to remember all of the gifts that our Republican-led Michigan legislature has given us. A lot has happened since the 2010 state elections. All of us are paying more in state taxes than we were before the current Republican-led Michigan legislature took office. The Republicans are hoping that we will not figure out how bad they lied to us until after the November elections. We need to send them a message. We are paying attention and we will vote our conscience.

The so-called Tea Party members, the worst of the worst Republicans, pledged not to raise taxes. They figured if they eliminated tax deductions, we would not think of it as a tax increase. Brothers and Sisters, if you pay more taxes next year than you did this year and you had the same income, your taxes were raised. What I am referring to is the elimination of your homestead tax credit, elimination of your per child tax credit, and the 80% reduction of the earned income tax credit.

A recent retiree will pay approximately $1,000 more in state taxes than they did under Governor Granholm, and that is not including those of you that are paying Michigan income tax on your pension. Some of you are paying approximately $1,670 in state income tax thanks to the Michigan Republicans. So now is your chance to thank them for all of their wonderful tax increases. VOTE! Take someone with you. Make sure your whole family is registered to vote and get them to the polls.

There is nothing more important to working families than re-electing President Obama. If you want the rich to get richer at your expense, vote Republican. If you want an economy like we had under President Clinton, vote for President Obama. And at the state level, nothing is more important than electing working-family friendly members to the Michigan Supreme Court. We have three candidates that fit that bill.

They will make our Supreme Court one to be proud of. If you want a Supreme Court that will look out for...
Election time

Those of you who regularly read the Lansing Labor News might recall that last year I wrote an article entitled “Why Republicans Hate Unions,” every word of which I stand by. I received a lot of feedback on this article, most of it positive, some of it negative, with a discussion that I believe remains relevant to our present situation. I have included some of this letter in this article. The discussion appears below.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have read your article and I would like to add a few points. I agree with your stance on the importance of unions, and I believe that they are essential for the protection of workers’ rights. I also support the idea of a minimum wage increase, as it would help to alleviate poverty and improve living standards for many people.

However, I have some concerns about your argument about the role of government in the economy. While I understand the need for a certain level of regulation, I believe that too much government intervention can stifle economic growth and innovation. I believe that the government should focus on creating a level playing field for businesses and individuals, rather than micromanaging the economy.

I also have questions about the role of unions in modern society. While I appreciate their historical role in protecting workers’ rights, I wonder if they are still necessary in today’s economy. Are unions still effective in preventing wage theft and other forms of exploitation?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Thanks from Local 602
UAW LOCAL 602 Conservation & Recreation Committee would like to thank the following companies and individuals for donating to the 14th Annual Local 602 golf outing, which raised $4,000 for ELE’S PLACE and LAN- SING STEELERS FOOTBALL. The event took place at Timber Ridge Golf Club in East Lansing on July 29. We would also like to give a big THANK YOU to all the golfers who participated!

MAJOR SPONSORS
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Glenn Buege Buick
JM Builders, Jeff & Melanie Malek
Lansing Delta Township Assembly (2)
Lansing Steelers
Law Offices Of Neil J. Wilensky, P.s.
Law Offices Of Lawrence D. Kaechele, P.c.
Oldsmobile Outdoor Club
Schafer Dental Group
Subway Of Lansing
Sundance Chevrolet
The Job Shop Inc.
Tony M’s UAW Local 602 Women’s Committee
UAW Region 1C

GIFT DONATIONS
Applebee’s
Autozone
Best Buy
Bigebs
Bill Reed President, UAW Local 602
Black Lake Golf Course
Carrabba’s
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Custom Embroidery Plus
Delucass Pizza
Embassy Grill
Fast Eddie’s
Finley’s
Frank’s Press Box
Geoffrey Kerley
Gordons Foods
Irish Pub
LAFCU
Mitchell’s Fish Market
Mark Howard, Shaheen Chevrolet
MSUFCU
Outback
Pinestump Eatery & Drinkery
Red Robin
Maria Corbeil, Sawyers Chevrolet
UAW Region 1C UULC Union Label

602 Obituaries

Emma Alexander – Mother of Gwen Harper, Retired Body
Maxine Fleetwood – Mother of Al Fleetwood, General Assembly (Doors)
Josephine Whiting – Retired Paint and Quality (M-Trim) and Mother of Barb Sanders, Quality
Maria E. Luna – Mother of Grace Mann, Body
Barbara Betty Warren – Mother of Penny Pardee, Quality (General Assembly)
Stanley Pentz – Retired
Francis McKenzie – Retired
Louie Pavlica – Retired
Beulah Brand – Retired

Kenneth Cook – Retired
Edgar R. Roberts – Father of Ron Roberts, Body
David L. Parks – Father of James Parks, Body (Framing)
Edna F. McDonald – Mother of Dave McDonald
Jose Martinez – General Assembly (Re-
pair) and Brother of Mario Martinez, General Assembly (Chassis 4)
Frances W. Fluke – Mother of Mark Fluck Quality
Leon Deshazer – Retired Booth Cleaner
Joel Huysen – General Assembly
Barbara LaMaccia – Mother of Paul LaMaccia, Body and Mother-in-
Law of Teresa LaMaccia, Body (Sides)
Beautiful Bible… we appreciate it. Thank you… Cindy and Don Martemucci (Family of Evelyn Hath)

June-July 2012

Barbara A. Newson – Retired
Deores Ma Wright – Mother of Steven Grissom
Bettie Duell – Mother of Jeff Duell, Electrician (General Assembly/Wheel and Tire)
Lester Conarton – Retired
Donnelly Ballard – Retired
Kenneth Spiegel – Retired
Donald Summers – Retired
Jack Vrooman – Retired and Brother of Brad Vrooman, Body (Metal Finish)
George Pruitt – Retired and Father of Charles Pruitt, Retired Paint and Teresa Dukes, General Assembly (Trim)
Christina M. Rowe – Wife of Kenneth Rowe, AGV
Patrick Grandstaff – Retired
Edgar Husted – Retired
Harold Patrick – Retired
Deborah Cook – Retired
Roland Croope – Retired
Richard Leroy Grissome – Father of Brian R. Grissome, International Staff and Grandfather of Brian P. Grissom, Body (Sides)
Joann Knight – Mother of Kevin Knight, Material Handling
Evelyn Hath – Mother of Jeff Hath, Retiree
Judy A. Bierstetel – Spouse of Dave Bierstetel, Sister of Alan Ruhl, Sister of Paul in-Law of Paul and Bob Bierstetel, Wayne Biner – Retiree
Wayne Biner – Retiree
Judy A. Bierstetel – Spouse of Dan Bob, Dale and Art Brown
Clifford Burch – Father-in-Law of Robert Dennis
Fred Campbell – Retiree
Michael Carmody – Retiree
Eugene Conroe – Retiree
James Cook – Retiree
Gere Cooper – Retiree
Michael E. Kranshaw – Stepson of Russell de Beaumont
Natalie Jean Dean – Retiree
Alice DeLong – Spouse of Warren DeLong
Michael J. DeMyers – Spouse of Gregory DeMyers Sr.
Robert Dennis – Retiree
Max Edington – Step-Father of Russell Hall
Thomas Evans Jr. – Retiree, Father of Marcus Evans
Harvey Fletcher – Retiree, Brother of Richard Fletcher
Thomas Gauna – Retiree
Markly Gantenberger – Retiree
Richard L. Hadley – Retiree
Nola L. Haines – Spouse of Charlie Haines, Sister of Ray Poirier, Sister-in-
Law of Mary and Son of Nolan Haines, Retired
Ronald Halstead – Father of Ronald Halstead Jr.

May 2012

Leon Woodbury – Retired
John Ransom, Jr. – General Assembly (Trim 1)
Mike Kelley – Retired Trim (3X)
Bruce Ulrich – Retired Trim (B-Line)
Karl (Sparky) Gibson – Retired Cushion Room, Father of Mike Gibson, Former Member, Body, and Father-in-
Law of Yolanda Gibson, Retired Body
Maria Knisley – Wife of Donald Knisley, Retired; and Mother-in-Law of Connie Hall, General Assembly (Chassis 4)
Frances Frechen – Mother of Bruce Frechen, Retired Body
Robert O’Dell – Retired Tool Repair
Molara Oshungu – General Assembly (AGV); Sister of Lola Oshungu, Material (Chassis); and Sister of Tecema Robertson, Material (Trim)
Rebecca Elizabeth Hooper – Mother of Kenneth Hooper
JoAnn McKay – Wife of Terry McKay, Retired Sanitation
Lois McKay – Mother of Terry McKay, Retired Sanitation
Larry Pifer – Retired
Thomas Bryant – Retired
Alice Little – Retired
Melvin Marvin – Retired
Keith Yager – Retired
Ben Richards, Jr. – Retired
Carlyle Barnes – Retired Paint; and Wife of Arlene Barnes, Retired Paint
Raymond W. Hummel – Father of Gregory Hummel, Body
K.C. Black – Retired; and Wife of Norma Black, Retired
Sandra Page – Mother of Patrice Page

652 Obituaries

Jearline “Jearl” Adams – Mother of Verlinda Beasley
Alice Andrews – Mother of John Andrews
Charles Bennett – Retiree
Juan Bernaldez – Retired
Judy M. Bierstetel – Spouse of Dave Bierstetel, Sister of Alan Ruhl, Sister of John Ransom Jr., Father-in-
Law of Paul and Bob Bierstetel, Wayne Biner – Retiree
Wayne Biner – Retiree
Judy M. Bierstetel – Spouse of Dan Bob, Dale and Art Brown
Clifford Burch – Father-in-Law of Robert Dennis
Fred Campbell – Retiree
Michael Carmody – Retiree
Eugene Conroe – Retiree
James Cook – Retiree
Gere Cooper – Retiree
Michael E. Kranshaw – Stepson of Russell de Beaumont
Natalie Jean Dean – Retiree
Alice DeLong – Spouse of Warren DeLong
Michael J. DeMyers – Spouse of Gregory DeMyers Sr.
Robert Dennis – Retiree
Max Edington – Step-Father of Russell Hall
Thomas Evans Jr. – Retiree, Father of Marcus Evans
Harvey Fletcher – Retiree, Brother of Richard Fletcher
Thomas Gauna – Retiree
Markly Gantenberger – Retiree
Richard L. Hadley – Retiree
Nola L. Haines – Spouse of Charlie Haines, Sister of Ray Poirier, Sister-in-
Law of Mary and Son of Nolan Haines, Retired
Ronald Halstead – Father of Ronald Halstead Jr.

Jeffrey Hartsuff – Member, Father of Jeffrey Hartsuff II
Eleanor Hoffmeier – Mother of Richard Hoffmeier
Jarad Holbrook – Son of Debby Arnold-Holbrook
Tina Marie Rowe Holbrook – Daughter of Newt Rowe
Max L. Kelley – Father of James H. Kelley
Tammy Kent – Spouse of Barry Kent
Alice Kerder – Sister-in-Law of F. Russell Johns
Dianne M. Kies – Member
M. Marie Knisley – Mother of Mike J. Hill
Sarah A. Kovatch – Mother of Luke Kovatch
Joan Marian Leonard – Mother of Andrew Leonard
Arlene McCan – Mother-in-Law of Mike Simon
Glen “Bud” McCrum – Mother-in-
Law of Mike Simon
Helen L. McIntyre – Mother of Larry McEwen
Robert “Bob” Mullen – Retiree
Robert E. Myers – Retiree
Navina Nashif – Mother of Franco Nashif
Janet S. Nichols – Spouse of Gerald Nichols
Lyn Partridge – Father of James Partridge
Mark S. Ramirez – Retiree, Wife of Mike and Elena Ramirez
Naomi Parks Riley – Mother of Gary Riley
Pauline Roll – Retiree, Spouse of Karl Roll, Mother of Brian Roll
Mary E. Schafer – Mother of Jerome Schafe
Steven Schrauben – Son of Gary Schrauben
Lillian A. Charles – Mother-in-Law of Joe Geller
Margaret May Seeley – Mother of David Seeley
Linda Simon – Spouse of Mike Simon
Ralph “Smitty” Smith – Retiree
Susan J. Smith – Spouse of Joe R. Smith
Betty Todd – Retiree, Spouse of Roy Todd, Mother of Ron and Fred Todd, Mother-in-Law of Nolan “Pete” Litwiller and Dennis Childress
Richard Thompson Jr. – Retiree
Roger Vanneste – Retiree, Brother of Steven Vanneste
Norma Chancey – Mother-in-Law of Steve Chancey
Janette Walters – Mother of Steve Walters
Nellie Weaver – Mother-in-Law of Fred Swanson
Roger D. Wickerham – Retiree
James H. Workman – Father of James M. Workman
Kenneth W. Zener – Retiree

Thank yous were received from the following families:
The Judy Bierstetel Family
The Wayne Biner Family
The James Cook Family
The Barbara Frizzell Family
The Ralph Smith family
The James Workman Family

274 obituary

We are sad to report the sudden passing of Al Snauko, a Local 724 mem-
er at the Bill Goal Forge Unit. Our con-
dolences to his family, friends, and fellow union members.

Lansing Labor News • September, 2012 • Page 9
The Michigan ballot proposals

Following is the wording of the ballot proposals as they will appear on the November 6 ballot.

We obtained this information from the Secretary of State’s website, where you can enter your county, jurisdiction, and ward/precinct, and it will generate the ballot information that will appear at your voting site or on your absentee ballot. Very cool! The link:

https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/SelectPublicBallot.aspx

PROPOSAL 12-1
A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 4 OF 2011 - THE EMERGENCY MANAGER LAW

Public Act 4 of 2011 would:

• Establish criteria to assess the financial condition of local government units, including school districts.
• Authorize Governor to appoint an emergency manager (EM) upon state finding of a financial emergency, and allow the EM to act in place of local government officials.
• Require EM to develop financial and operating plans, which may include modification or termination of contracts, reorganization of government, and determination of expenditures, services, and use of assets until the emergency is resolved.
• Alternatively, authorize state-appointed review team to enter into a local government approved consent decree.

Should this law be approved?

PROPOSAL 12-2
A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

This proposal would:

• Grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively through labor unions.
• Invalidate existing or future state or local laws that limit the ability to join unions and bargain collectively, and to negotiate and enforce collective bargaining agreements, including employees’ financial support of their labor unions. Laws may be enacted to prohibit public employees from striking.
• Override state laws that regulate hours and conditions of employment to the extent that those laws conflict with collective bargaining agreements.
• Define “employer” as a person or entity employing one or more employees.

Should this proposal be approved?

PROPOSAL 12-3
A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

This proposal would:

• Require electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources, which are wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower, by 2025.
• Limit to not more than 1% per year electric utility rate increases charged to consumers only to achieve compliance with the renewable energy standard.
• Allow annual extensions of the deadline to meet the 25% standard in order to prevent rate increases over the 1% limit.
• Require the legislature to enact additional laws to encourage the use of Michigan made equipment and employment of Michigan residents.

Should this proposal be approved?

PROPOSAL 12-4
A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH THE MICHIGAN QUALITY HOME CARE COUNCIL

AND PROVIDE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR IN-HOME CARE WORKERS

This proposal would:

• Allow in-home care workers to bargain collectively with the Michigan Quality Home Care Council (MQHCC). Continue the current exclusive representative of in-home care workers until modified in accordance with labor laws.
• Require MQHCC to provide training for in-home care workers, create a registry of workers who pass background checks, and provide financial services to patients to manage the cost of in-home care.
• Preserve patients’ rights to hire in-home care workers who are not referred from the MQHCC registry who are bargaining unit members.
• Authorize the MQHCC to set minimum compensation standards and terms and conditions of employment.

Should this proposal be approved?

PROPOSAL 12-5
A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE ENACTMENT OF NEW TAXES BY STATE GOVERNMENT

This proposal would:

• Require a 2/3 majority vote of the House and the Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation.
• This section shall in no way be construed to limit or modify tax limitations otherwise created in this Constitution. Should this proposal be approved?

PROPOSAL 12-6
A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS

This proposal would:

• Require the approval of a majority of voters at a statewide election and in each municipality where “new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles” are to be located before the State of Michigan may expend state funds or resources for acquiring land, designing, soliciting bids for, constructing, financing, or promoting new international bridges or tunnels.
• Create a definition of “new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles” that means, “any bridge or tunnel which is not open to the public and serving traffic as of January 1, 2012.” Should this proposal be approved?

Note: The UAW recommends:

No on 1 Yes on 2
Yes on 3 Yes on 4
No on 5 Neutral on 6

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Boris Armita, Office Manager
Laura Clark

1753 Retirees

Retirees, how are you enjoying your retirement? Mine has seen ups and downs. Right now, I don’t feel the majority of lawmakers in Lansing or Washington are on my side or that of the average American citizen. Once in, they said their job was to make sure that President Obama did not get re-elected! Unfortunately, their way of doing this was to wreck the country, and its standing on the world stage (i.e., education, health and wealth).

We the people can see that ideas like reinventing the Civilian Conservation Corps would have been great. But we don’t have lobbyists to talk them into it like big business does. Big oil companies have them and of course they’re getting big tax breaks and giving us big oil spills.

Now, to afford this, they want to get rid of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. This is like our pensions: we made them by paying into them. They’re ours, hands off! We need to stop this kind of theft—that through changing the rules and weighting the dice against the regular guy, they are trying to kill the American dream.

It’s important for all of us to be involved in this election. Investigate for yourself which side is compatible with you. We need to fight for the leader who will fight for us. Barack Obama had our backs, it’s time for us to have his.

This year’s Christmas open house is on Thursday, December 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Hall. Note the time.

The picnics, both our own local’s and the area retirees at Hawk Island this summer, were great successes. We had so much fun talking together that we decided to see more of each other. On the second Thursday of the month the Hall will be open at 11:00 a.m. for coffee, donuts and talk before our 12:00 lunch and 1:00 meeting. Please bring a dish to pass. We’d love to see you.

Obituaries
Juanita Williams, Pat Dies, Jim Bancroft, Nola Haines, Doug Gilliland, Norther Templeton.

Michigan SVS Vision Offices

Caledonia
1829 Marketlance Dr.
616-338-6911

Flint
3192 S. Linden
810-230-0900

Flint
3871 Lapeer Rd.
810-742-6733

Grand Rapids
5150 Northland Dr. NE
616-384-4099

Grand Rapids
2500 E. Beltline SE
616-245-6300

Lansing
5857 W. Saginaw
517-322-9221

Midland
7207 Eastman Ave.
989-488-1866

Saginaw
2350 Tittabawassee
989-791-1044

Walker
2695 Alpine Ave. NW
616-363-9831

West Branch
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