



United Auto Workers

LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER

44



Home of the Original Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 4

www.uawlocal598.org

APRIL 2024

what's INSIDE



Local 1322 On Strike 5



598's Easter Egg Hunt 8-9



Women's Committee Events...13

next UNION MEETING
MAY 19, 2024
Local 598 Union Hall

UAW PROPERTY - ILLEGAL TO DUPLICATE
USPS Publication #110-770

ALL IN THE FAMILY

by Debi Kirchner, Education Committee

Union proud, wearing her red **"UNION STRONG"** Local 598 shirt, the ring she earned for 25 years as a member of the UAW, and a very special bracelet honoring union women she had bought many years ago, retiree Jackie Camper waited with anticipation in a room filled with Tennessee Volkswagen workers who were hoping this time they would be successful. This time they could join the union. When VW workers in Tennessee won the historic victory on April 19th, overwhelmingly voting to join the UAW, Jackie celebrated with her daughter Rosalynn Camper (a VW worker), and granddaughter Destany Lightfoot. She knew all their lives would change for the better.

She had grown increasingly concerned as her daughter shared the conditions and struggles of the men and women in the plant. Policies like the rigid attendance rules that resulted in a grandmother with a newborn grandchild, suffering from a major medical issue, not being allowed time off to be with her family touched her heart. Rumors going around the plant that if they won the election, work would be transferred to Mexico, made her angry.

"That just wasn't right," she said. "I knew that if these things had happened at the truck plant the union would not have allowed it." There were many other times she compared her experiences as a Local 598 member to what her daughter and others were going through.

A friend of hers from the plant, James Gregory, sent her a copy of the new contract highlights and she began to show and explain them to workers she knew, letting them know that they too could have these protections and benefits, in time, if they worked under a UAW contract.



Family members of UAW retiree Jackie Camper (center), daughter Rosalynn and granddaughter Destany embrace each other as new members of the same UAW Family.

Before she knew it, Jackie was a union organizer! Unofficially joining what had been a years-long effort to bring justice and dignity to the Tennessee workers, she added her voice to the many others working to organize the plant, and talked about her time at Local 598. She described how members joined together and supported each other, and how important being a union member has been to her life. The workers listened and went back into the plant to share what they had heard.

In a historic victory, an overwhelming majority of Volkswagen workers in Chattanooga, Tennessee, voted to join the UAW. Volkswagen workers in Chattanooga are the first Southern autoworkers outside of the Big Three to win their union. "All of these workers will be my young sisters and brothers now; part of my UAW family," she said proudly. Jackie is optimistic about the future of union organizing in the South. When asked what she was going to do next, she said excitedly, "Well, there has been some talk of going down to Mercedes ..."



VW WORKERS WIN!!!

2628 YES VOTES	985 NO VOTES
73% PERCENT YES	27% PERCENT NO

5,000 workers at Mercedes-Benz in Vance, Ala., will have their vote to join the UAW on May 13 to 17. In the wake of the historic Stand-Up Strike victory at the Big Three auto companies, over 10,000 non-union autoworkers have signed union cards in recent months, with public campaigns launched at Mercedes, Volkswagen, Hyundai in Montgomery, Ala., and Toyota in Troy, Mo. Workers at over two dozen other facilities are also actively organizing. For more information, visit uaw.org/join.



UAW-ARAMARK NATIONAL TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

2024 Ratification Vote Results

Date:	APRIL 24, 2024		Tally Location:	UAW Local 659 Union Hall	
	YES	NO			
DIVISION I	72 %	28 %			
DIVISION II	82 %	18 %			
GRAND TOTAL	75 %	25 %			

GM wide totals were not available at press time.

SOLIDARITY: A POWERFUL ALLY



Change is the only constant in life, a relentless force that shapes our world in ways both subtle and profound. From personal transformations to societal shifts, the journey of change can be both exhilarating and daunting. Yet, in the midst of uncertainty, there exists a powerful ally... **SOLIDARITY!**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Stephanie Riley

Solidarity at its essence is the bond that unites us as fellow brothers and sisters traveling the road of life. It is the recognition that, despite our differences, we are all interconnected, bound by a common humanity and shared destiny. In times of upheaval, *solidarity* serves as a beacon of hope, guiding us through turbulence with strength, compassion and resilience.

The beauty of *solidarity* lies in its ability to transcend barriers, whether they be cultural, social, or geographical. It is the bridge that spans divides, bringing together individuals from all walks of life in a spirit of unity and cooperation. *Solidarity* teaches us that we are stronger together than we ever could be alone, empowering us to confront the challenges of change head-on.

Throughout history, *solidarity* has been the driving force behind some of the most transformative movements for social justice and equality. From the civil rights struggles of the 20th Century to the global calls for climate action in the 21st, *solidarity* has mobilized communities to stand up against oppression, discrimination, and injustice. It is the fuel that ignites grassroots activism, inspiring ordinary

people to rise up and demand a better world for themselves and future generations.

In today's rapidly changing world, *solidarity* is more important than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the fault lines of inequality and vulnerability that exist within our societies, highlighting the urgent need for collective action and mutual support. In the face of rising economic uncertainty, political polarization and environmental degradation, *solidarity* offers a path forward – a path rooted in empathy, cooperation and shared responsibility.

Embracing *solidarity* in times of change requires us to cultivate a mindset of openness, empathy and collaboration. It means recognizing the impact of our actions on others. It means listening to diverse perspectives, honoring

the dignity and worth of every individual, and working together to create a more just, equitable and sustainable world for all.

As we navigate the winds of change, let us do so with *solidarity* as our compass, guiding us towards a future filled with possibility and promise. Let's build bridges of understanding and empathy across divides, forming connections that rise above differences and celebrate our shared humanity.

In *solidarity*, we find strength in diversity, hope in adversity and unity in change. Together, let's embrace the journey ahead, knowing that with *solidarity* as our guide, there is no challenge too great, no obstacle too intimidating, and no change too profound to overcome.

the annual T-SHIRT SALE in Brighton

TO BENEFIT THE

AUTISM SUPPORT and RESOURCE CENTER



recently RAISED \$1,515

Thank you to all who bought a shirt



UAW Safety Reps Step Up

SHOP CHAIRMAN REPORT

by Eric Welter



arrested without incident. Although I first chastised them for putting themselves at risk, I was very thankful the incident ended the way it did and they were a big part of that. I would like to thank them both for selflessly putting others' safety first.

The 2023 NA put a requirement on the company to respond to vacation requests within 3 days. I have been pushing for them to meet this obligation. A month ago, there were 640 requests over 3 days old. We are currently less than 100, but that's not good enough. Please help by placing committee calls if you have vacation requests that are unanswered within 3 days, so we can target those managers not responding timely.

Another issue I am working on is

Part-Time Temporary (PTT) schedules and hours. Since we changed our production schedule, I believe it provides an opportunity to schedule PTT further in advance and I want them all working 32 hours.

At this point, management is only agreeing to provide PTT with their next week's schedule on Thursday. This is inadequate and not meeting our demands. I will continue to discuss our demand until we get a more respectful schedule for our PTT employees.

We have just seen the first transfers to Ultium Battery in Warren, Ohio. We have 5 electricians who have been

selected and will start in June. We are very happy for the members and can appreciate how this will change their lives after 5 years of hardship.

The SAP window for application is open until May 6th. If you are interested in retiring and receiving the \$50K this summer, please apply. Even if you don't think you will get it, there is no reason not to apply.

There are discussions of letting some more production people retire than originally planned. It will still be by location and the ability of that plant to let people go. I will be fighting for all applicants.

We recently had a security issue at the plant. An over-the-road truck driver argued with the security officer at the truck gate. During that argument, the driver exposed a pistol in his waist band. The driver exited the truck gate and headed to F-dock.

Our Safety Reps, Mike Dankert and Tony Lavelle, then put themselves at risk to protect the membership. They confronted the driver outside, before he could enter the building where our people were. They were able to talk to the driver long enough for the police response to get there. The driver was

United Auto Workers LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER Home of the Original Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

UNION HALL • G-3293 VAN SLYKE ROAD, FLINT, MI 48507 • (810) 238-4605

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|
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| <i>Vice President</i> | John Jackson III | Ben Dunlop / Alex Perry |
| <i>Recording Secretary</i> | Judy Mosier | Sean Meachem / Chad Boyce |
| <i>Financial Secretary</i> | Chad Fabbro | Shane Herriman / Bo Browning |
| <i>Guide</i> | Twanna Q. Coleman | D'Andre Jackson / Stan Cherwinski |
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| <i>Retiree Chapter Chair</i> | Janet Woodson | DeWayne Tippit / Mike Bukovchik |
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| Eric Welter | | Jeremy Switzer / Antonio Dee Pritchett |
| SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE | | Kevin Smiley / Marcus Hunt |
| Leroy Shinabarger, Nick Dekalita, Joe Dontje | | Bob Scott / Maurice Purches |
| SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT) | | William McIntosh / Jaccob Kohn |
| Shane Herriman, D'Andre Jackson, Sean Meachem | | Mike Kocsis / Shane Balcer |

- ARAMARK BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT COMMITTEE**
JaShanti Walker, Sr. and Orlandis McNeal Alternate Edward Menzel
- GM SUBSYSTEMS MANUFACTURING, LLC UNIT**
Bargaining Committee Chair Takeisha Hillard..... Alterate Phillip Pruitt
- BEACON O&M BARGAINING COMMITTEE**
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- M.P.S. BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT COMMITTEE**
Tasha Wynne.....Alternate Kristine Momany
Adan Donias
John Wineland Alternate Damon Harrison
- ADAPT REPRESENTATIVE**..... Denise Denam, Rick Hager
- CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE**..... Rosalyn Morse
- LOCAL 598 BENEFIT REPRESENTATIVES**..... Cindy McLean, Chris Dungerow, Adam Prieur, Archie McGrath, Hans Smith
- HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES**..... Mike Dankert, Mark Turner, Doug Culhane
- WORK & FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES**..... Jayne Atwell, Cheryl Dawson, George Washington
- EYE OPENER EDITOR**..... Debi Kirchner

POLICY OF THE EYE OPENER

TO OUR READERS: The EYE OPENER is the voice of our Local and International Union. This is our vehicle for bringing to you, on a regular basis, the views and actions of the leaders you elected, so you can evaluate them. Through the paper, we explain Union policies and show how your dues are spent. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from UAW members and stories about members. While we welcome your contributions, we ask that they be constructive. At no time will the editorial staff tolerate any defamatory remarks regarding any person or persons. We reserve the right to reply to those who seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the Union and its policies and to edit any article for clarity and length.

Opinions reflected in signed articles in the EYE OPENER do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of Local 598. Published monthly by UAW Local 598, G-3293 Van Slyke Road, Flint, MI 48507. Phone: 238-4605.

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ALL ADVERTISEMENTS, NOTICES, PHOTOS & ARTICLES for the MAY EYE OPENER must be submitted by Monday, May 13th for consideration.

DO YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL PLAN?

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- ✓ Professional investment management of your PSP for \$25.00 per month.



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UAW FORD-GENERAL MOTORS-STELLANTIS LEGAL SERVICES PLAN

It's Your Benefit!



WHO Eligible active workers, retirees, spouses of eligible active and retired members, and some surviving spouses of UAW, STELLANTIS, FORD and GENERAL MOTORS

WHAT Covered legal services for wills and trusts, powers of attorney, deeds, uncontested family matters, residential real estate matters, credit reporting problems, consumer contracts and legal advice for traffic matters and Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security questions.

AND MORE - Low-Cost Referrals

- ✓ Low-Cost referrals (paid by the member) to private attorneys who have a contract with the Legal Services Plan to represent eligible members at reduced rates for personal litigation matters, including probate, guardianships, contested domestic matters, residential real estate litigation, consumer litigation, bankruptcy and more.

TO USE YOUR BENEFIT, CALL US
(800) 482-7700

or write to: clientcomments@uawlsp.com

A case intake specialist will verify your eligibility, explain the coverage available for your matter and refer you to an attorney.

WE EMPHASIZE SERVICE BY TELEPHONE AND EMAIL.

This benefit was first bargained for you by your Union in the 2015 FCA, Ford, and GM national negotiations, improved in the 2019 bargaining as to eligibility and coverage, and further improved in the 2023 bargaining.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREAS REPORT

by **Chad Fabbro**



I hope everyone's spring is off to a good start. We just returned from our Regional Leadership Conference. I am proud to say that Vice President Jackson and I are still the Region 1D Leadership Co-Chairs of the GM sector.

At the conference, we talked about the gap between the UAW International and the Locals. They wanted to know what our needs are, and what they can do to improve our relationship to close those gaps. There was also a lot of discussion about organizing. The International would like the Locals to

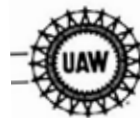
start recruiting and organizing other shops. They are really pushing for Locals to set up committees to start campaigning.

Unfortunately, they want this all to be on a voluntary basis. So, when you are off on a Saturday or a Sunday, they want us to organize.

I'm not sure if this method will work. In my opinion, I believe we need to start by educating members on how to do this and then put together a solid campaign. It's a lot to ask Locals to go on recruiting missions with no funds to work with. Therefore, we are going to table this until we get more clarification and guidance on a clear direction.

I hope everyone gets outside and enjoys what Michigan springtime has to offer. Everything is in bloom and summer is getting closer!

Solidarity House
8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48214
PHONE (313) 928-5000



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

SHAWN FAIN, PRESIDENT • MARGARET MOCK, SECRETARY-TREASURER
VICE-PRESIDENTS: CHUCK BROWNING • MIKE BOOTH • RICH BOYER

March 28, 2024

TO: ALL UAW LOCAL UNION PRESIDENTS AND FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

RE: INTERNATIONAL UNION STRIKE AND DEFENSE FUND REPORT FEBRUARY

The following is a summary of Strike Fund Income and Expenditures for the month of February 2024.

NET WORTH JANUARY 31, 2024	\$733,774,073.57
INCOME FOR FEBRUARY 2024	
Dues Per Capita Taxes	7,370,537.39
DISBURSEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024	<u>2,738,899.70</u>
NET WORTH, FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$738,405,711.26

During the month of February there were two strikes.

Fraternally,
Margaret Mock
Margaret Mock
Secretary-Treasurer
International Union, UAW

GOOD JOBS. SAFE JOBS.



PROTECT OUR RIGHTS.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28

2024

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

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SMALL BUT MIGHTY! Region 1D's Local 1322 ON STRIKE!

“They punched out at lunch, in the pouring rain, on Friday, March 8th, picked up a picket sign, and never came back. We were being treated unfairly and not being taken seriously at the bargaining table.”

– JEFF BEAGLE, Region 1D Representative, for UAW Local 1322 Harlo Products in Grand Rapids, MI

by Debi Kirchner, Education Committee

The 32 UAW members of the forklift production company are standing strong and going above and beyond what is required to man the picket line. It was not a fight that they wanted, but when given the opportunity to sit down and resolve the workers’ issues, the company chose not to.

Region 1D Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt praised the small group of workers who have taken on this fight with a tyrant employer, “they are fighting for dignity and respect and showing us all the meaning of solidarity.”

Jerry Thorpe, a third-generation UAW worker (grandson of a Flint Sit-Downer, and son of Plant 4 ‘Chevy in the Hole’ worker), can be heard yelling towards the building he has spent so much time working in, “Bargain in good faith! Let’s solve this together.”

A group of workers spoke about the pride they have in the work they do. “We’re not here to bring this company down. We still need this company to pay us. This is a fine, American company. We put out an awesome product. We would just like to continue to do this, but under fair wages and fair treatment.

It’s really not too much to ask. If you would like to know how you can help support the Local 1322 workers in their fight, contact Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt at the Flint Regional Office, 810-767-0910.



DARE TO COMPARE

BIDEN

ADMINISTRATOR'S WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH RECORD



TRUMP

ADMINISTRATOR'S WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH RECORD

Rollbacks and Repeals

- Repealed OSHA rule requiring employers to keep accurate injury records (H.J. Res 83)
- Repealed Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces

rule to hold federal contractors accountable for obeying safety and labor laws (H.J. Res. 37) .

- Issued Executive Order 13771 requiring that for every new protection, two existing safeguards must be repealed.
- Issued Executive Order 13777 requiring agencies to identify regulations that are burdensome to industry that should be repealed or modified.
- Proposed budgets that would slash Department of Labor's budget; cut coal mine enforcement; eliminate the Chemical Safety Board; and reduce the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's job center research under the Centers for Disease Control and prevention.

Delaying and Abandoning Protections

- Revoked the requirement for large employers to report detailed injury data to OSHA, after delaying the requirement for all employers to submit summary injury data to the agency.
- Suspended work on new OSHA standards on infectious diseases, process safety management workplace violence to protect workers in health in health care and social assistance, and emergency planning to protect first responders.
- Withdrew OSHA'S walkaround policy that gave nonunion workers the right to have a representative participate in OSHA inspections.
- Proposed to revoke child labor protections for 16-and 17-year-olds working in health care that restricted the operation of powered lifting devices.

Limiting Access to Information and Input and Undermining Workplace Safety Agencies

- Stopped posting information on all worker fatalities reported to OSHA
- Proposed strict data limitations on all scientific studies issued to create EPA standards under the guise of transparency.
- Failed to fill head OSHA position and four of the five seats on the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

Increasing Access to Information and Input, and Protecting the Most Vulnerable Workers

- Instituting equity considerations in the cost-benefit analysis when developing a regulation to ensure that women and vulnerable workers are treated equally.
- Signed an agreement between the Department of Labor and National Labor Relations Board to strengthen whistleblower protections.
- Issued a policy on artificial intelligence to ensure it does not undermine rights, worsen job quality, encourage undue worker surveillance, lessen market competition, introduce new health and safety risks, or cause harmful labor force disruptions.
- Issued a new policy to ensure OSHA can issue the maximum penalties possible to bad-acting employers through instance-by-instance citations.
- Enhanced child labor enforcement by increasing the number of inspectors, significant inspections, and issuance of willful and repeat violations.

Strengthened Enforcement Resources for Job Safety Agencies to Protect Workers

- Issued national emphasis programs to protect indoor and outdoor workers from heat exposure and to reduce and prevent workplace hazards in warehouses and distribution centers.
- Expanded OSHA'S Severe Violators Enforcement Program (SVEP) to more employers with repeat violations and more hazards.
- Increased OSHA enforcement by increasing the number of inspectors, significant inspectors, and issuance of willful and repeat violations.
- Enhanced child labor enforcement to ensure employers maintain safe workplaces instead of exploiting vulnerable workers and children in dangerous work settings.

FREE RESIDENTIAL LATEX PAINT RECYCLING

- Drop-off used latex paint (up to 10 cans, no 5 gallon containers) at Genesee County Habitat for Humanity during regular business hours
- Used latex paint is processed into new paint by American Paint Recyclers
- Cans of EcoTone Paint are then sold at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore

GENESEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Genesee County Habitat for Humanity

Genesee County Habitat for Humanity
101 Burton Street, Flint, MI 48503
Tuesday through Saturday
9:00AM to 4:00PM
(810) 766-9089 ext. 205
geneseehabitat.org

Questions?
(810) 762-7744
recycle@geneseecountymi.gov
gcmcp.org/environmental

Genesee County

Recycle Day

Recycle Your Hazardous Waste and Electronics

MAY 21, JUNE 18, JULY 16 & AUGUST 20

Proof of registration is required.
Appointment times and event location will be released once an appointment has been secured.

LEGISLATION MATTERS: Some States Want to Roll Back Child Labor Laws

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

by **Becky Haughey, Education Committee**



Child labor laws were enacted approximately 100 years ago to eliminate children from working in grueling, unsafe and dangerous conditions, but those laws could change if legislatures in several states get their way by weakening the standards in place to protect children in the workplace.

Children living in poverty, especially minorities and immigrant youth, will be affected most of all. The most exploited children are the non-accompanied foreigners who are underage and do not have parental oversight.

One of the greatest accomplishments gained by Unions is their advocacy and actions to implement child labor laws.

Manufacturing industries such as automotive, retail & food service, poultry and packaged food are using child labor where they are prohibited, exposing these children to toxic chemicals and dangerous tasks. They get away with this by outsourcing work to suppliers. Hyundai used suppliers that do piece work using staffing agencies. These agencies often do not care how the supplier is getting the work done, only that it is being completed.

Frito Lay, General Motors and Quaker use supplier Hearthside for packaging. Hearthside utilizes child labor. Since it's not the manufacturer hiring the children directly, those companies do not always examine how the work is being done, because the bottom line in corporate America is getting the work done at the cheapest rate.

GM released a statement on March 13, 2023 stating, "We found the allegations of child labor in our supply chain to be deeply troubling, and we have been moving swiftly to investigate and address the issues with the two companies. GM has zero-tolerance policy regarding child labor in our supply chain. Our expectations of suppliers are reflected in our Supplier Code of Conduct... When we become aware of violations or alleged violations of our Supplier Code of Conduct, we respond appropriately, up to and including the terminations of business relationships."

Unionized workers have stronger voices with their employer and higher pay rates. The biggest driver of child labor violations is being impoverished. Union workers help eliminate child labor by using their voices to speak out to pressure employers to do the right thing. Also, securing wages that keep them from being impoverished aids in raising wages of other non-union workers above the poverty level.

One bipartisan U.S. Senate bill is the "Child Labor Exploitation Accountability Act." This bill includes:

- corporations competing for USDA contracts would have to disclose three years of past history of violations;
- Labor Secretary could determine corrective measures for these corporations to remain eligible for contracts;
- Labor Secretary would also prepare a list of corporations ineligible for contracts that year

based on serious/repeated/pervasive violations. This also covers their vendors of supply chain.

Local precedents include a number of local governments that have enacted wage theft ordinances that create contracting consequences (i.e. the locality will not contract with them) if businesses have final adverse determinations of wage violations within a certain time period.

So what can we do to help ensure that child labor is not exploited?

- Support the enforcement of child labor laws.
- Encourage bipartisan bills to support child labor requirements.
- Up chain liability, which holds the lead corporations liable for violations within their supply chain, or at least when there are repeat or widespread violations.

- Allow lawsuits for damages when minors are injured or killed on the job due to employers violating child labor laws; and the ability to issue Stop Work orders for those violating child labor laws along with advising consumers about violations.

At least 16 states have introduced or passed laws rolling back child labor protections in the past 2 years. Michigan enacted child labor law rollbacks. They, along with New Jersey and New Hampshire, have eliminated the work permit requirements that protected minor-aged workers within their states with working guidelines.

– Information attained from the EPI and Earn Network presentation on child labor webinar. The GM-released statement was found on the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre website.






Saturday July 13th

Open to all American Made Cars, Trucks and Motorcycles

All Proceeds go to UAW/United Way Ramp Program

Registration Fee: Before June 25th \$15 per car /After June 25th or day of the event \$30
 Dash Plaques for first 100 Registered Cars
\$100 Cash Prize for winners of each division (3 participant minimum)

Show Schedule

- 2:00 pm Line up for the Cruise, UAW Local 659, 4549 Van Slyke Rd Flint
- 2:00 pm Gates open at Birch Run Speedway & Event Center for cars not participating in the Cruise from Flint
- 3:00 pm Police Escort to Birch Run Speedway from Local 659
- 3:30 pm Parade lap on the 1/2 Mile Oval
- 4:00 pm Costume Contest judging and prize presentation
- 4:30 pm Cornhole Tournament
- 6:00 pm Award Presentation for winners of each class
- 7:00 pm Burnout Contest
- 8:00 pm Live Music in Gas Alley



Birch Run Speedway and Event Center 10945 Dixie Hwy, Birch Run, MI 48415

Available all Day (Concession Stand, Clean Restrooms, Covered Seating, Beer Stands, Vendors, Sponsor Tents, Giveaways, 50/50 Drawings, DJ and Gas Alley "The Longest Bar in Michigan".

For more information contact: Randy Hamilton GM/UAW Communications (810)399-8343 Email Randy.hamilton@gm.com

All Proceeds go to Genesee County United Way Ramp Program. See You at the Track!



The Easter Bunny visited early on March 24 and left enough eggs and fun for everyone.

THANK YOU

to the Local 598 Recreation Committee, our volunteers and everyone who shared the day with us.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Photos courtesy of Debi Kirchner



UAW FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Welcome To Black Lake

Located in scenic Onaway, Michigan, on Black Lake, the UAW Family Education Center is the dream of Walter Reuther fulfilled. He had long worked for a place where families could go to learn about their union and the labor movement.

Since 1970, thousands of UAW members and their families have participated in the UAW Family Scholarship Program – changing their lives and those of their loved ones forever! It is a place to unlock ideas and build new friendships with other UAW families.

What Is Family Scholarship?

This one-week summer experience will leave you and your family filled with a spirit guaranteed to strengthen your understanding and appreciation of our union.

Through educational and recreational activities, the Family Scholarship Program provides an opportunity for adults and children to learn and think about how our union empowers us to change our workplaces and communities for ourselves and future generations.



Fun & Learning For All Ages

Each of our children's programs are uniquely designed to ensure age-appropriate lessons and recreational activities. Children and young adults are grouped based on the grade they are entering in the Fall.

Age Groups:

Pre-K - 1st Graders: Learn in a playful environment with creative activities, music, games in the gym and trips to the beach and swimming pool.

2nd - 5th Graders: Enjoy a variety of classroom and outdoor activities, including swimming, golf, gym time, and other recreational activities, along with unique arts and crafts.

6th - 8th Graders: Enjoy a schedule filled with union involvement workshops along with golf, swimming, and gym games.

9th - 12th Graders: Participate in workshops that focus on the importance of unions and labor laws to help prepare them for entering the workforce. They may participate in the adult program, depending on the registration numbers.



Knowledge, Fun, Friendship... Oh My!

During your week at the Family Scholarship Program, day classes are held so everyone – members, spouses, and children – learn in an age-appropriate environment. After class, family events are held for everyone's enjoyment. In the evening, the center offers a resort-like atmosphere for everyone to experience at their leisure.

Members will leave refreshed and ready to put the experience of the week into action. Family members will leave with a solid understanding of unions and in particular the UAW. All will leave with newfound friendships that will last a lifetime.



Who is Eligible? How Do I Sign Up?

You are eligible to apply for a scholarship to the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center if you are a UAW member in good standing for one year and have never attended the Family Scholarship Program. Retirees are not eligible for the Scholarship Program. In addition, you must be willing to contribute your time. It can be your regular vacation, personal leave time, or union leave where contracts permit. Eligibility is limited to active and laid-off members. Applications to the Family Scholarship Program are available in *Solidarity* magazine, through your Regional Education Representatives, and the UAW website (www.uaw.org).

July 21-26

Applications are available at the Union Hall or online at uaw.org/2024-uaw-family-scholarship-program/
All applications must be signed by UAW Local 598 Financial Secretary Chad Fabbro.

The Local Union with a Heart

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

by **GEORGE 'JOE' KINNEY**, Committee Member



In The Beginning

The UAW Constitution highlights the importance of workers, through their Union, participating meaningfully in making decisions affecting their welfare and that of the communities in which they live. Just like with the U.S. Constitution, people have many different interpretations on how far the rights of the individual extend in relation to societal rights. We saw perfect examples of this during covid mask mandates and quarantines. We shall agree that people have the right to opinions and focus on other key words and phrases.

Other key phrases found in our Constitution's preamble include... "advancing society toward the ultimate goal of social and economic justice" and "affecting their welfare and that of the communities in which they live."

The 598 Community Service standing committee has spent quite a bit of the last decade building up a group of volunteers to go out into the community and try to give back at various local charities and organizations. They, along with the membership, take pride in the amount of donations that the workers of Flint Assembly are willing to give during plant-wide campaigns, such as *Old Newsboys* and *Toys for Tots*.

I can think of no greater example of affecting community welfare than the giving we do on a regular basis.

I will continue to put out as much information as I can, as soon as I can, in regard to these opportunities.

Please, if you would like to be more involved, contact one of us on Community Service, or any standing committee, or contact the officers at the Union Hall, or even your Committeeperson.

We often hear "why did they get chosen?" and "why don't they ask other people instead of the same ones?" The reason is simple. They came forward and said they wanted to be involved and help.

We have many volunteers who can only help during certain times of the year. Many only want to volunteer for certain things, but want nothing to do with helping with other things. We will not count anyone out of opportunities for these reasons. We will take all the help we can get at any time.

We may not always be able to support everyone who wants to do certain things, but we will always take as many as possible.

I would like to point out one last thing this month. The bylaws of Local 598 dictate the duties of the Community Service standing committee. These duties do not say anything about the work we do in the community. They are all aimed at the community of workers in the plant. These include: visiting members who are sick or in distress, assisting unemployed members in any way possible, reporting members confined to the hospital or the death of any

member to the Local Union Office so that flowers may be sent.

Having only eight elected members on the committee, this is a tall task to try to accomplish across three shifts and three (essentially four with the wide gap between trim and chassis/final) buildings. Therefore, we could really use your help with trying to get information. If you notice someone gone for a while, please let a Committeeperson, EAP Rep, or any standing committee member know that they may need someone to check

on them. Also, we do not always hear of someone's passing or losing a family member in a timely manner, so letting us know would be a great help.

Community Service is about helping the membership and surrounding community. We will not discuss any divisions or conflicts within the Union. We do not care who you voted for, or who is doing what. We shall show solidarity to all and present ourselves as a group that wants to help others.

THE UAW CONSTITUTION PREAMBLE...

We hold these truths to be self-evident; expressive of the ideals and hopes of the workers who come under the jurisdiction of this INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA (UAW): "that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Within the orderly processes of such government lies the hope of the worker in advancing society toward the ultimate goal of social and economic justice. The precepts of democracy require that workers through their union participate meaningfully in making decisions affecting their welfare and that of the communities in which they live..."

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Other insurance programs are accepted as well. *BCBS only, others may require co-payment, excludes HAP

professionalhearingclinic.com

Second Quarter DBMSA RECIPIENT

by David V. Garcia, Veterans Committee Chair

Brothers and Sisters,

UAW Local 598 Veterans Committee is proud to announce our 2nd Quarter 2024 DBMSA recipient E-5 (AC2) Dalan R. Andreski-Mason.

Dalan was born in Flint, MI in October 1959. She was raised in Rankin/Swartz Creek, MI, and graduated in 1977 from Lake Fenton High School.

Andreski enlisted in the Navy on April 18, 1983. After graduating from Boot Camp in Orlando, FL, she was sent to Millington, TN, where she would begin her training as an air traffic controller. Upon graduation from AC School, she received orders to Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Pennsylvania.

On January 13, 1987, R.K. Johnson, her Air Traffic Control Facility Supervisor and leading Chief at the Naval Air Station in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, wrote that not only did he admire her, but he also respected



Dalan R. Andreski-Mason
U.S. Navy E-5 (AC2), Retired

her abilities as a controller. She possesses the drive, desire and willingness to work, along with her mature, level-headed nature, which makes her what they call a "natural" as an air traffic controller, all qualities that are necessary for success in any endeavor,

which undoubtedly will make her an asset to any organization lucky enough to obtain her services.

Andreski's professional qualifications ranked her in the top 2% of her peer group Navy-wide. She qualified on all operating positions within her facility in less than 22 months. She was designated in April of 1986 as a Facility Watch Supervisor. A responsibility for the entire operation of the Airfield from training to Logistics to supervision of the air traffic control services.

While serving the Navy, she was selected on 3 separate occasions as: Air Operations Department (OPS) "Sailor of the Month" (SOM), "Sailor of the quarter" once, and the Station's "SOM" and "SOQ" once. *An accomplishment so huge!* No other sailor attached to her station has ever received that level of recognition in a single three-and-a-half-year tour.

Dalan served 4 years in the Navy, from April 1983 to April 1987, and received her Honorable Discharge along with a Good Conduct Medal.

She decided to end her military career only to marry her fiancé, Kevin, who had been apart from her for over 2 years serving in the USMC in California. It was bittersweet, because she loved her time in the Navy. She said the hardest thing about her career was knowing when to jump in and take over control of air traffic while she was training new air traffic controllers.

They were married in July of 1987 and she followed her husband for 12 years as a military spouse. After their newborn son was born, her husband retired from the USMC with 23 years of service to the Corps.

They will be married for 37 years in July and they are very proud parents of two wonderful sons, Justin (26) and Matthew (24). For 13 years she was a stay-at-home mom and was very involved with volunteering and assisting at their school and in her local church.

Currently, Dalan works in her local Township office as an Election inspector. Whenever there is any kind of government election going on, you'll see her volunteering.

Some of her hobbies include Overland camping, bowling and spending time with her family.

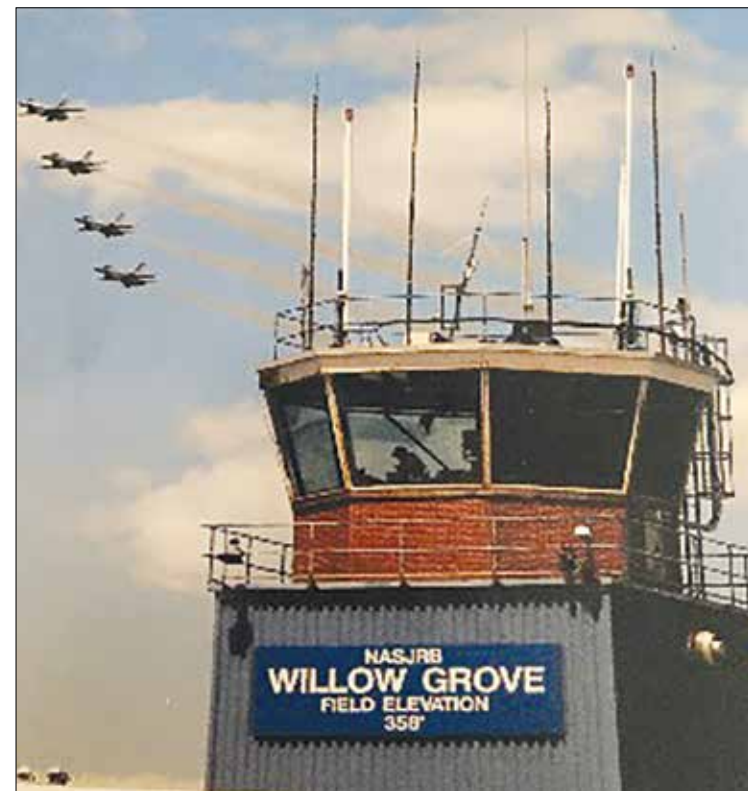
Dalan was hired by GM in April of 2016 as a temp and was finally hired as a seniority employee in October 2019. She currently works 2nd shift, on PreFinal 1



on job 17R, Secure AC Evap hose to Condenser.

Dalan, on behalf of our UAW Local 598 Veterans Committee, along with the Membership Body we would like to say...

Thank you for your Service and Welcome Home!



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They are a **NO KILL, FOSTER-BASED RESCUE** we are thrilled that so many animals will be helped.



The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee enjoyed hosting a table at the Mid-Michigan Pet Expo for the second year in a row. It ran March 22nd to the 24th at Dort Financial Event Center and we had a great collection of forty gift baskets that were raffled off. The Women's Committee donated six and the different dog fly-ball and dock diving teams provided the other gift baskets.

We enjoyed seeing the animals, watching the various competitions, and most importantly,

WE RAISED \$1,781.61 FOR A REJOICFUL ANIMAL RESCUE.



Women's Committee EVENTS



Painting with a Twist

The Women's Committee is also looking forward to doing another **Painting with a Twist** DURING THE SUMMER.

At the moment, we are in the midst of planning and preparing for our 3rd Annual Moms' Mixer **BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED** also **GAMES • PRIZES & FUN TO BE HAD** We are hoping it will be a successful event and a great opportunity to reinforce the bonds of solidarity.

The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee presents our:

3rd Annual Moms' Mixer

Sunday, April 28th
10am to 2pm
UAW Local 598
3293 Van Slyke Rd. Flint, MI

All UAW Local 598 members and their families are welcome to attend this free event.

Join us for brunch, games, and fun, as a thank you to our hard-working sisters. Please feel free to bring your wife or mother, if you are not a mom. All UAW Local 598 members and their families are welcome to attend this free event.

it's the support and involvement of our membership that keeps us motivated and always looking forward to the future and we hope you feel the same!

Bowling FOR breast cancer awareness

"BOWLING FOR BREAST CANCER" COMING BACK THIS YEAR, IN THE FALL

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads must be submitted monthly and will be run on a first-come, first-serve basis.
 Limited to ads/services submitted in a Local 598 member's name only.

for sale

SKINNER RESIDENTIAL CHAIN LINK FENCE

Installation and repair. Free estimates.
 46 year's experience.
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services

ACTUAL GOLD 598 SERVICE RING

Like new, very rare, size 11, blue stone, \$1,200.
Call Mike at 810-516-7463

RETIREES CHAPTER update

JANET WOODSON, Retiree Chair



Convalescing at Home

NOTE: Chair Janet Woodson had a fall and suffered a bad break in her arm. She had surgery and is recovering at home. Let's all keep her in our thoughts and prayers and wish her a very speedy recovery.

Congratulations to all recent retirees! We would love to have you join us every second Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon for our meetings.

RETIREMENTS

The Officers, Staff and Members of Local 598 extend our sincerest thank you and congratulations for the many years of dedicated service by our recent retirees.

We encourage all newly retired members to join our Retiree Chapter.



Congratulations!

If you are retiring soon, stop by the Benefits Office or Union Hall to get your picture taken for an upcoming issue of the EYE OPENER.

- ▶ Brenda Grames
- ▶ Edward Martin
- ▶ Daren Nitz
- ▶ Mark Turner
- ▶ Fulton Lake
- ▶ John Reinhart
- ▶ Rosalind Stewart



Mike Robinson (5-1-24) and his wife Denise



Joseph Rodea (4-1-24)



Robert Bergeron (6-1-24) and his wife Jane



David White (4-1-24)



Eric Gedraitis (4-1-24) and his wife Cheryl



Randy Fleck (4-1-24) and his wife Connie



Vickie Sue Crawford-Price (5-1-24), Janet Woodson, and fellow retirees

Notice for Seniors

Do You Want To Hear Better?

Beltone, the MOST TRUSTED NAME IN HEARING AIDS, wishes to test a remarkable new hearing instrument in the area. This offer is free of charge and you are under no obligation. The revolutionary 100% Digital instruments use the latest technology to comfortably and almost invisibly help you hear more clearly. This technology solves the "stopped up ears", "head in a barrel" sensation some people experience, and has been clinically demonstrated to improve hearing in noisy environments. If you wish to participate, you will be required to have your hearing tested in our office FREE OF CHARGE to determine candidacy. A limited number of qualified seniors are needed to try this product. NO PURCHASE is necessary, however you may purchase Beltone Serene™ Technology at a reduced rate.

Serene™ Technology

- **Instant fit** - a single office visit is all it takes
- **Easy to use and wear** - All-day comfort
- **Hear effortlessly** in noisy places, watching TV, or on the phone.
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RETIRED WORKERS

UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



- Friday, May 3** Region 1D Retiree 2024 EUCHRE TOURNAMENT Flint Area – Local 659. *No Fee.*
Retirees and spouses can enter up to 4 events
Sign-In at 9:00 a.m., Play starts at 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, May 9** RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING • 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 22** SENIOR POWER DAY
Crossroads Village 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 13** RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING • 12:00 p.m.
(last one before summer break)
- Saturday, July 13** DETROIT TIGERS BASEBALL GAME
Chapter members: \$45, Non-members: \$90.00
(Buses will be shared by all Flint area Locals)
- Wednesday, August 3** Local 598 GOLF OUTING at Fenton Farms
- Thursday, August 15** DETROIT PRINCESS BOAT TRIP
- Thursday, October 17** *Tentatively scheduled FALL TRIP (Details to follow)*



Ron Perkins said that the details for the **RGD GROUP'S ANNUAL TRIP** to the **LOONS GAME** are being worked out. Maybe the 4th of July.

September 12-15, 2024

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Remembering our recently Deceased

The Officers, Representatives and members of Local 598 extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our recently departed Union members.

BERRY McCLENDON *(Retired)*
NELS TANGEN *(Retired)*



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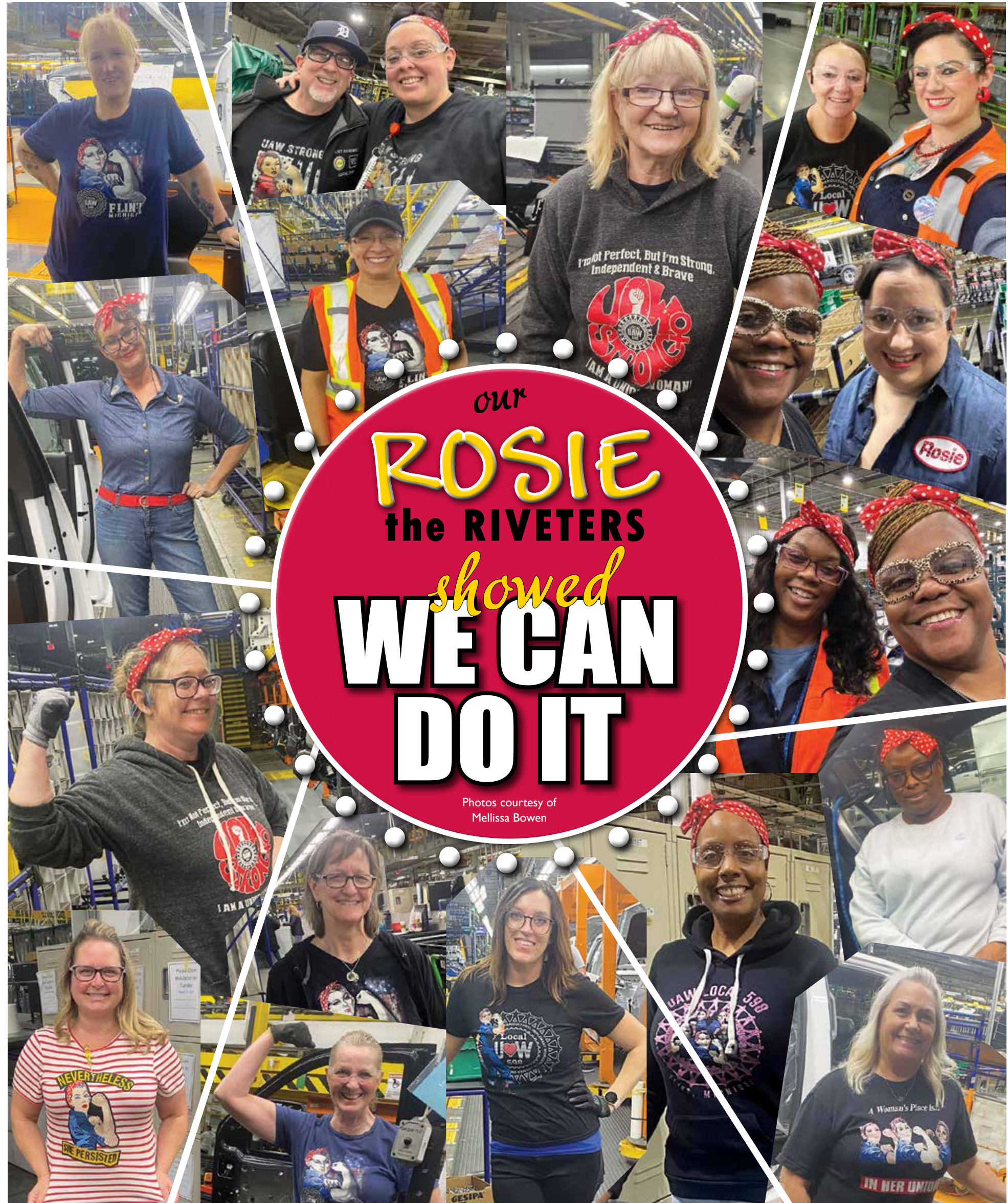
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ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

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LINDEN CHAPEL
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MILLER ROAD CHAPEL
810-635-4411



Photos courtesy of Mellissa Bowen