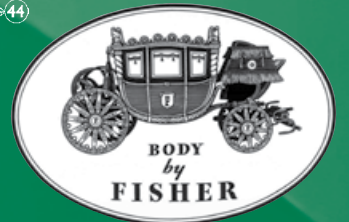




United Auto Workers

LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



Home of the Original Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

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Mom's Mixer 2024 11

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

HISTORY NEVER CHANGES, CULTURES DO

by Debi Kirchner, Education Committee

The Celebration of Juneteenth is not new in Flint and Genesee County. There have been events commemorating the day for the last 51 years. There was one Flint woman who made it her life's mission to educate people about Black history, heritage and culture that has spanned decades. E. Hill De Loney was the president of Flint's NAACP for 30 years and one of the founders of Flint's first Juneteenth celebration in 1972.

The Emancipation Proclamation, which legally freed all slaves in the United States, went into effect on January 1, 1863. But slavery didn't just disappear. Slave owners often ignored the order, and it took many states months or years to heed the federal government. Two and a half years later, approximately 250,000 people remained enslaved in Texas. On June 19, 1865, an announcement was made to officially free the wrongly enslaved.

In 2005, Michigan was the 18th state in the nation to declare the third Saturday of June as Juneteenth. Then in June 2021, it became a federal holiday. In June, 2022 it became an official state holiday. In recent contracts (for GM and Aramark workers) the day became a paid holiday for workers.

Growing up in segregated Mississippi, De Loney first learned of Juneteenth as a teenager and felt a duty to educate others about its importance. "My dad would say, 'education is not for you, the education, you have to get it, but you gotta



share it with someone else.' I was reared that way," De Loney said in 2022.

She created Flint's first Juneteenth celebrations decades ago as a weeklong event – with a parade, speakers from around the country, lessons about Black history and other activities – that takes place to this day.

"When any of us are not free, none of us are free," she said. "So, we will try to get free together. ... *History* never changes. *Culture* does."

In 2024, she will miss the parade and the celebrations, but her legacy will live long after her death on May 8, 2024.

The Traditional "Flint Juneteenth" Celebration of Flint & Genesee County is gearing up for another celebration June 1-19, 2024. Here are a few of the week's activities.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024
St. John's Street Dance | Time: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Location: **St. John's Street Neighborhood Memorial Park**
 This is an event tribute to the Historical St. John Street Neighborhood established in the late 1800s in north Flint, east of the former Buick City factory complex to feature a "Street Dance" block party.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024 & SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2024
Midwest Invitational Rodeo, presented in partnership with the City of Flint | Time: 7:00 p.m.
 Location: **Everett A. Cummings Center**, 6130 E. Mt. Morris Rd., Mt. Morris, MI – An authentic African American rodeo.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024
Juneteenth Kickoff | Time: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Location: **Sarvis Park**, 4000 Wisner Flint, MI
 Fun, activities, music and performances and food.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024
Juneteenth Celebration | Time: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 1st Half Location: **Max Brandon Park**, 3606 Dupont St., Flint, MI, Parade Line-Up 5:00 p.m. (*Max Brandon Park*)
 Activities include youth and adult games, bounce house, arts and culture, music performances, a special ceremony honoring prolific figures from our community, vendors and the Juneteenth Parade.

Afrobeats Party | Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 2nd Half Location: **Riverbank Park**, 100 Saginaw St., Flint

The Juneteenth Parade will make its final destination downtown for the grand finale to top the evening off with the Afrobeats Party on the Riverbank celebrating our ancestors in fashion.

For more information on Juneteenth activities:
<https://sloanlongway.org/juneteenth/>

Reuther's Legacy Still Guides Us Today



May 9th was the 54th anniversary of Walter Reuther's untimely death. As I was reflecting on his legacy amidst current uncertainties with the UAW, I took the opportunity to draw strength and inspiration from his dedication to workers' rights and social justice.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Stephanie Riley

Reuther's commitment to collective bargaining and fighting for fair wages and working conditions serves as a guiding light during challenging times. Through successful bargaining, he laid a foundation for easier organizing, inspiring solidarity and momentum. He was the first President of UAW Local 174, and grew their membership from 78 to 30,000 members between 1936 and 1937!

Fast forward to today and the decline in UAW membership size, coupled with economic challenges and corruption, undoubtedly presents significant obstacles to

organizing efforts. However, recognizing these challenges is the first step towards overcoming them.

By addressing internal issues,

implementing reforms to restore trust and integrity, transparency, and adapting organizing strategies to the current economic and social context, the UAW has begun to revitalize its efforts. The UAW is turning a corner that signifies positive changes in leadership, renewed focus on member interests and successful efforts to address internal challenges.

Building on this momentum, we are continuing to strengthen our position as a champion for workers' rights and advocating for fair wages, benefits and working conditions. We are rebuilding

alliances with other labor and social justice organizations and leveraging community support.

Through these actions, we are encouraging more members to join. Our International UAW is branching out its organizing efforts to the local level. All Locals will now have the required *Organizing Committee*. Organizing training is in full swing in all the Regions.

We can successfully organize by prioritizing member engagement and empowerment, fostering strong communication channels, building alliances with other labor and social justice organizations, conducting effective grassroots campaigns, and leveraging legal protections for workers' rights. Additionally, embracing innovative organizing strategies, such as digital outreach and community organizing, will help broaden our reach and mobilize support.

As President of Local 598, I am excited and proud to take part in organizing efforts. Building an

Organizing Committee to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the rise of electric vehicles (EVs) and artificial intelligence is a proactive step in ensuring the UAW's relevance and strength in the changing landscape of the auto industry. By advocating for new job creation, fair wages, and improved working conditions in the EV sector, we are demonstrating strong leadership and commitment to the well-being of our members. Through organizing efforts, we can secure these jobs and beyond, growing our membership and strengthening our power.

My hope is that my passion and drive for organizing will inspire others to join the cause and contribute to our success. Please reach out if you are interested in joining our first-ever *Organizing Committee*.

Here's to a bright future for the members of Local 598!

Stephanie Riley
Local 598 President

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 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@geneeecountymi.gov
gcmpc.org/environmental



Genesee County

Recycle Day

RECYCLE YOUR HAZARDOUS WASTE
AND ELECTRONICS

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



SAP Offers and Apprentice Opportunities

SHOP CHAIRMAN REPORT

by Eric Welter



We are on the verge of completing the first SAP offering. The company gave us the list of included employees on May 20th. The plant had to determine exit dates by May 23rd. GM Corporate Labor Relations sent letters to the employees who qualified.

Our Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) increased 43 cents for the second quarter and will be 55 cents total starting in June. It is expected that there will be apprentice offers soon.

The company contractually owes 650 apprentices over the course of this agreement. There are currently 208 internal candidates and 59 external candidates who have completed the STARC program and are eligible for an apprenticeship. I recommend that anyone interested complete the classes.

The company has changed the hiring process since last year. They no longer will retain applications, creating a pool of candidates. Each time we need people, they will retain only enough applications to fill the request. For example, we asked for 120 people, they kept the first 220 applications that were entered into the system and sent cancellation letters to the rest.

I want to clarify the process for approving time off for Saturdays that has not been announced. We have a set number of people who will be approved off in each department.

Once the Saturday schedule for the month is communicated, there is a three-step process. First, the Saturday approval goes to anyone pre-approved for the adjoining Friday. Then, we will go to any Saturday vacation requests. If there is still opportunity, we will go to the FS (excused) code request to fill the number.

The foam fire suppression system protecting the gas pumps out back discharged. This created quite a mess but, fortunately, no UAW members were exposed.

It shut down F and D docks for the rest of Friday, which was a dance to keep material flowing to the line. The environmental clean-up company came in and cleaned up the mess. There is still an environmental containment system to retain storm sewer discharge until it can be determined that all the chemicals are gone.

The Shop Committee is currently engaged in an argument with the company over the FMLA online system. Employees are going online using Sedgwick's portal and calling off work using their FMLA. Sedgwick is approving the FMLA, but the plant is penalizing employees under Doc 8 for failing to call in. Yes, we think that is

absurd, but it is their stance. I recommend using the phone call-in method until we can get this issue resolved.

We recently returned from a Sub-Council meeting where we received a few updates. First, the Dependent Scholarship program continues to be a lot of work to get the legal funding through the LMC trust. We have been assured that no one will be disadvantaged, just retain your receipts. This was already intended to be a reimbursement program, so once

it's up and running you will be able to file and receive all owed funds.

There will be an Annuity pamphlet and roll-out. In addition, the GM direct buy program will also be communicated. The Delphi "checked the box" retirees will be paid the \$500 retiree bonus. The company is close to communicating the timing. Those Delphi employees who did not check the box to be a GM retiree on the SAP form, the company still maintains they are not eligible.



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

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <i>President</i> | Stephanie Riley | DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATES |
| <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 |
| <i>Trustee</i> | Melissa Bowen | Brian Shick / JoAnna Batson-Escamilla |
| <i>Trustee</i> | Corissa Carter | Dana Waider / Joe Berriman |
| <i>Trustee</i> | David V. Garcia | Bryan Ventrone / Stan Dulaney |
| <i>Sergeant-At-Arms</i> | Randy Frost | Jon Galant / Wendy Ignash |
| <i>Retiree Chapter Chair</i> | Janet Woodson | DeWayne Tippit / Mike Bukovchik |

SHOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Eric Welter

SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE
Leroy Shinabarger, Nick Dekalita, Joe Dontje

SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT)
Shane Herriman, D'Andre Jackson, Sean Meachem

- | |
|--|
| Aaron McAlister / Jim Hazell |
| Jeremy Switzer / Antonio Dee Pritchett |
| Kevin Smiley / Marcus Hunt |
| Bob Scott / Maurice Purches |
| William McIntosh / Jaccob Kohn |
| 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
District Committeeperson Mark Leineke.....Alternate Mike Harrell

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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ATTORNEYS' SCHEDULE for the Union Hall

LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOCAL 598 MEMBERS

MONDAY
Richard Wagner 810.820.9111
Doud, Smith & Wagner,
Attorneys & Counselors
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

▶ **THURSDAY**
John Chowning 810.695.2110
Chowning & Edgard, P.C.
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

TUESDAY
Robert MacDonald 810.234-2204
MacDonald & MacDonald, PLLC
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

▶ **FRIDAY**
Neal Wilensky 810.606.0410
Kaechele & Wilensky, P.C.
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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.



To submit a listing in an upcoming Local 598
EYE OPENER
CLASSIFIED AD SECTION

Indicate type of ad:

- For Sale
- Wanted
- Service
- Free
- For Rent
- Thank You

Please print and limit ad verbiage.

Phone _____ Email _____

Send ads to: **UAW LOCAL 598, EDITOR**
G-3293 Van Slyke Rd., Flint, MI 48507

- Active Member
- Retired Member
- Laid-Off Member

Your Name _____

Dept. No. _____

FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREAS REPORT

by **Chad Fabbro**



Exciting Times

I hope everyone is getting a chance to enjoy what Michigan has to offer in these late spring months. This is such a great time of the year to be outside and have fun with family and friends. And for those who are retiring, I hope you all have a great start to your retirement!

Some of the people who are retiring right now are so special to this Local. I have a hard time imagining our Local without your faces in the mix. Also, I want to thank you all for the mentoring you have given us along the way. (P.S. Robin Stayton-Diehl, words will never be enough. You have touched so many lives with your kind actions and valuable time, and with your dedication to our membership and this community.)

May God bless each and every one

of you as you head into the next chapter of your story.

This month, we had the opportunity to take part in the exciting new I.G.N.I.T.E. program administered by the Genesee County Sheriff's Office. Region 1D Director Steve Dawes and Jelly Roll

have been collaborating with Sheriff Chris Swanson, looking at more ways to expand the program, such as adding a music department.

We are very excited to be part of something that gives people a second chance at life and a new beginning. People who have gone through this program are coming out with new goals to be successful and being an active part of society. You can read more about this wonderful new project at www.gcsomichigan.com/ignite.

A date to remember and note in your calendar is August 25th. This is when we're hosting our annual golf outing at Lapeer County Club. Next month, we will begin registration and you will find more details in June's *Eye Opener*.

Solidarity House
8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48214
PHONE (313) 926-5000

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

April 24, 2024

TO: ALL UAW LOCAL UNION PRESIDENTS AND FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Greetings:

RE: INTERNATIONAL UNION STRIKE AND DEFENSE FUND REPORT MARCH

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

NET WORTH FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$738,405,711.26
INCOME FOR MARCH 2024	
Dues Per Capita Taxes	7,846,013.87
DISBURSEMENTS FOR MARCH 2024	<u>3,499,449.72</u>
NET WORTH, MARCH 31, 2024	<u>\$742,752,275.41</u>

During the month of March there were five strikes.

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

Aramark Workers Lead The Way

The final count is in, and IUAW VP Mike Booth reported GM Aramark workers gave a big thumbs up to their new contract:

Production Workers: 92% - YES 8% - No
Maintenance Workers: 85% - YES 15% - No

GM uses 10 different sanitation/ maintenance UAW-represented companies throughout the company, and it was decided to have Aramark workers set the standard for the rest of the company's bargaining agreements with those employers. And set the standard they did...

1. Previous agreements took years to negotiate – this one took less than one month.
2. The last agreement covered six years – the new one expires in three.
3. Record pay increases to better reflect the workers' value to the company.

Division 1 (Sanitation) increase of 43%
Division 2 (Maintenance) increase of 38%

4. Retroactive pay from the expiration of the contract (March 15) and a bonus of \$2,550.
5. New hire pay starts at 82% of top wage, and after 90 days they will automatically go to full pay!

Congratulations to all our Aramark Sisters and Brothers!



Flag Day is Designed to Honor the American Flag

The origins of Flag Day can be traced back to the mid-20th century. President Harry Truman declared June 14 as Flag Day.

June 14 marks the beginning of Flag Day, and it marks the beginning of Michigan's Flag Month. Flag Day, of course, is designed to honor the American flag. Michigan's Flag Month is designed to honor the official Michigan flag. Make sure you display the current, most recent version of the Michigan flag. Like other state flags, the official Michigan flag has undergone design changes. The first design depicted a portrait of Michigan's first governor along with the state's coat of arms. The second design featured the state's coat of arms and the United States' coat of arms. The current design, conversely, only depicts the state's coat of arms.

Of course, you can fly the American and Michigan flags all year, but there are legal guidelines (Public Law 94-344) for respectful display of your flag (see below). There is a box at the Union Hall for proper disposal of an American flag.

A Flag Day reminder

In honor of Flag Day today, here's a refresher on proper display of the American flag. The U.S. Flag Code says flags should be displayed daily from sunrise to sunset only in good weather. If a flag must be displayed at night, shine a light on it.



Horizontal wall display

- ▶ The union, or stars, should be at the peak of the staff.
- ▶ The American flag should be at the center and at the highest point when flown with other flags.
- ▶ Center a flag against a wall.
- ▶ Never let the flag touch anything below.
- ▶ Hoist a flag quickly and take it down ceremoniously.
- ▶ Flag pins should be worn on the left side of the body, near the heart.
- ▶ To display the flag over the middle of a street, it should be suspended vertically, with the union to the north on an east-west street or to the east on a north-south street.



Vertical wall and suspended display

Source: U.S. Code Title 36, Chapter 10

To submit a listing in an upcoming Local 598 EYE OPENER MEMBERS SMALL BUSINESS SECTION

Indicate type of ad: Business Service

Please attach business card or logo/name and description of your business/service

Business/Service Information _____

Member Phone _____

Member Email _____

SEND TO: UAW LOCAL 598, EDITOR Active Member
G-3293 Van Slyke Rd., Flint, MI 48507 Retired Member

Your Name _____

GMIN or last 4 digits of Social Security # _____



As a result of Membership action, our **JUNE, JULY and AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** will be combined with the Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE report

by Becky Haughey, Education Committee



Thanks for Helping Me be an Effective Communicator

I would like to thank the membership, along with our Local 598 Executive Board, for sending me to the 2024 Education and LUCA Conferences held at the Walter & Mae Reuther UAW Family Education Center (aka Black Lake).

As a member of our Education Committee, these classes were very informative and will be helpful with my presentation and writing skills for teaching our Local 598 & You class subjects and writing articles for the *Eye Opener*. I really enjoyed meeting and networking with the delegates from all different UAW sectors.

Taking the Effective Communicator class at the Education Conference refreshed my skills as a presenter and helped me improve them. In this class, we were taught how to be better speakers.

We did three different videotaped presentations. The first one we did was a basic introduction of ourselves and the next two we taught assigned subject matter with a partner to our classmates. We were given our videos along with constructive criticisms from our instructors to help us improve our presentation skills. It's funny and a bit embarrassing to watch yourself to see exactly what the class sees. I never realized how much I moved from side to side or said the word 'um' until I



reviewed my first video. Being more aware of that, I did improve on the next two presentations.

I also took the Writing class while there for LUCA. I really enjoyed this class! Our Education Chairperson, Debi Kirchner, was our instructor. She was great!

I struggle with writing concisely and tend to be too wordy. In the past, I have tried my best to trim my *Eye Opener* articles down and usually ask Debi for help with that. This class gave me a few new techniques to help me with this, and with coming up with article titles.

This course provided information and feedback to help me improve my writing skills, however, I am still a work in process. The more I write, hopefully, the better my writing will become, especially with this new training.

I was even pleasantly surprised to win a first place award for the article I wrote on our former President Ben Mata, which Debi had submitted for consideration for the awards ceremony.

In 2014, I was chosen as a Region 1D Representative for the UAW Fellowship to become a Local Union Discussion Leader (aka LUDL). Through this program, I taught the Family Scholarship summer program classes in 2014 and 2015 at Black Lake. My skills were a bit rusty

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

This is the first in a series of articles about past members of Local 598.

by Becky Haughey, Education Committee

BEN MATA

Ben Mata was President of Local 598 from 2005 to 2011. He grew up in Flint, graduating from Flint Central High School and then, following a family tradition, hired into GM. His father was a salary worker at AC Spark Plug and his uncles were hourly workers at the Ternstedt plant on Coldwater Rd. (Local 326). He became a UAW member at Flint Truck & Bus in 1975.

Working in the Paint Shop, he was a self-proclaimed "rabble rouser," complaining often about issues in his area. He was approached by Chairman Jim Beardsley to run as Alternate Committeeman and Ben began to direct his energy by representing members in his area.

When the plant was awarded the 480 truck, Ben became part of a team that helped set up one of the first innovative agreements in a traditional GM plant. A separate line in the plant, it ran four-day/ten-hour shifts, with a "team concept" that allowed workers to have more input than standard production lines. This was during the time when GM opened NUMMI, a highly automated joint venture plant, while trying to emulate the Japanese model for manufacturing. Ben worked on problem-solving issues, reviewed new manufacturing concepts, and helped support production workers during these changes.

Ben was first elected to the Executive Board as Guide, and when former 598 President Charlie Coy was assigned to the UAW International department, VP Doug Bellamy moved up to President and Ben was elected Vice President. He then became 598's President in 2005, when former President Doug Bellamy retired. Ben was our Local 598 President until he retired in 2011.

When asked what he liked about



being a 598 member, Ben replied it gave him the opportunity to help others and to be part of a great, strong Union family. His roles made him become more objective on things; looking at the big picture to make plans rather than just assuming things would go the way desired.

Ben retired with 39.8 years of seniority. Now, he has a new passion...powerlifting! He began competing competitively in 2015 and is currently ranked 4th in the World in the age 65-69 division and he holds the record in the WRPPF - Worldwide Open Powerlifting organization for his 501.5 lb. deadlift. He has always enjoyed working out and retirement allows him time to train.

When asked if he had any advice for newer members, he stated they should be involved with our Union and to offer ideas instead of just complaining about things. Volunteer to help within the community and remember that 598 is your Union and you make it what it is. He also said to pay attention to a politician's record in regards to how they support Labor.

As Walter Reuther said, "what we win at the bargaining table can be taken away at the ballot box." We really need to vote for those who are the most labor friendly.

His favorite thing about being retired? "Being able to do anything I want, when I want." For those thinking about retirement, he encourages it, but said it took some adjusting, living as a retiree, due to a more limited budget, but he loves having the time off to see his grandkids and attending events that they participate in.

and these classes were an awesome refresher.

Applications are currently being taken for the Family Scholarship program running the week of July 21-26, 2024. It's free and your kids can attend with you in their own fun classes. Get in contact with President Riley if you're interested. Applications must be received by June 27, 2024 to be eligible.

Our very own Education Committee member and 2024 Region 1D Fellow/LUDL, Michelle Giorgis, will be teaching.

I am always looking for ideas to write articles on, so if you have one, please contact me with the topic and I will see what I can do.

Thanks again for sending me to these informative and very helpful classes. It has and will continue to help me be a more effective communicator.

CONTRACT RATIFIED

by Debi Kirchner, Education Committee

For the first time in decades, Local 598-GM workers turned down the tentative National Agreement presented by the National Bargaining Team in a close vote of 51.8% to 48.2%. Interest in the agreement was also at an all-time high: 3,425 workers cast their votes - an excellent turnout from our membership.

Tensions and opinions ran strong and the information on the details of the agreement were rolled out to members at Whiting Auditorium where questions were answered by Chairman Eric Weiler and other members of the bargaining team who were present. The "White Book" and other documents were available, along with the highlights, for all to read and discuss. There were many passionate discussions.

On November 20th, after all 50 bargaining units had weighed in, the contract passed 54.74% to 45.26%. The new contract will run through April 30, 2028.

Thank you to the National Bargaining team for all their hard work, including Bargaining Chair for the LOC, Subsystems, Takeisha Hillard, who was on the negotiating team for her unit. Each of them spent countless hours away from families and their elected jobs. They fought for and brought home a very rich agreement. UAW members will receive more in general wage increases than they have in the past 21 years combined. Job security in the form of an investment of \$85.1 million in our plant guaranteeing the next generation ICE truck. Healthcare improvements at no monthly cost to our members. COLA is restored. Retirees (and surviving spouses) will receive a \$500 yearly bonus for the life of this agreement beginning in the December pension check. These are just a few of the improvements that we are receiving. This contract will be life changing for many people.



(L-R) UAW Local 598 Chairman Eric Weiler, President Ryan Buchalski, and Jason Beardsley, AD UAW-GM Health & Safety Department, address members' questions as workers attend roll-out sessions to learn about proposed contract.

EYE OPENER Wins LUCA Honors

Each year, the UAW's Local Union Communications Association (LUCA) holds a contest to honor those Local Unions who have achieved excellence in communication with their memberships. This can be through publications, video or social media. Locals self-nominate their best work within the contest categories and are judged against other UAW locals. The 2024 Excellence in Communication contest judged work completed in 2023. The awards were given out at the recent LUCA Communications conference and the Local 598 *EYE OPENER* was recognized in four categories:

- 1st Place General Excellence for Publication** - to be judged on overall quality (writing, design, layout, use of photos, cartoons and graphics).
- 1st Place Best Column or Officer/Committee Report** - an officer or standing committee report. "Where are they now... Ben Mata," written by Becky Haughey
- 2nd Place Best Photo or Photo Collage** - *Snapshots with Santa* photo collage. Several people contributed pictures to the collage.
- 2nd Place Best News Story** - "Contract Ratified", written by Debi Kirchner.



Snapshots with Santa
December TENTH 2023

St. Nick and his helpers (our Recreation Committee and other volunteers) showed up to Local 598 putting smiles on the faces of the little kids and big kids, too. There were activities galore, the Grinch shared a dance or two, crafts and cookies and letters to Santa filled the afternoon. The highlight, of course, was St. Nick and Mrs. Claus and the chance to share those special Christmas wishes.

THANK YOU TO ALL who planned, decorated, volunteered to help and a huge thank you to Rick Parkette and his...



Local 598 Supports

ASCENSION GENESYS NURSES LOCAL 332

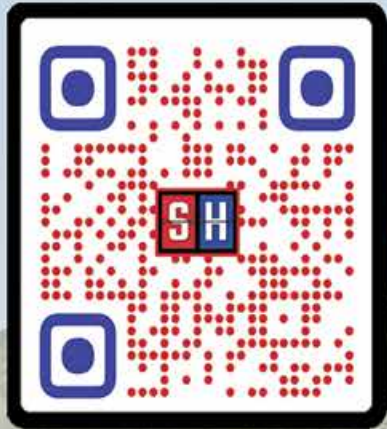
THEY ARE TOUGH ENOUGH TO BE



TEAMSTERS

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, our Local 598 membership donated \$1,000⁰⁰ to FAMILY PROMISE OF MID-MICHIGAN

If you or your family is struggling, the Work & Family Office is here to help. Call 810-236-6834



UAW REGION 1-D AMERICAN MUSCLE CRUISE & Car Show 2024 Presented by Flint Assembly

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, July 13, 2024



Birch Run Speedway

10945 Dixie Hwy, Birch Run, MI 48415

- 3-game Round Robin Doubles Tournament (limited to first 32 teams) Double Elimination to follow
Scan QR code (above) to sign-up (need Scoreholio app to register)
Bag Raffles, Board Raffles, 50-/50 and more

Fred Myers

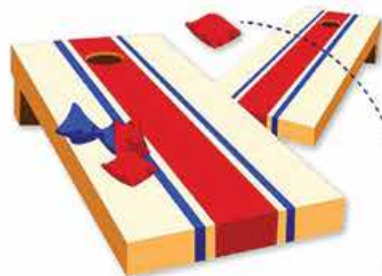


SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENTS

Overview & Purpose

The funds derived from these tournaments have been used to send children of any UNION member who works or lives in the Genesee County area to Michigan Colleges to give them the opportunity to further their education

Contact Chris Ridley at 810-223-4964 or cridley2010@gmail.com if paying with cash or check, or go to... www.FredMyersScholarship.com



See The USA The Union Way!

Many families are planning vacations this time of the year. **Union Plus** has a lot of tips on how to make sure your vacation supports working families. Check out the **Union Plus Travel Center**. The travel and entertainment section offers exclusive discounts for union members. The website also features hotels, airlines, and rail service available in the region you'll be visiting. If you're taking a road trip to see the United States, make sure it's in a union-made car from the list made by the UAW.

When you are looking for a hotel room to rest in during your vacation, **UNITE HERE's** FairHotel program is your key to finding lodging where working people have the opportunity to make better lives for themselves through their jobs. Their searchable website makes it easier than ever to find a good place to rest your head knowing you did the right thing.

If you are headed to a major theme park, many are staffed by union members, including the 36,000 members of 18 unions at **Disney's** two theme parks in Anaheim, California, and Orlando, Florida.

On top of that, several parks offer discounts through **Union Plus. Actors' Equity (AEA)** also represents cast members working in many smaller theme parks.

AFSCME represents thousands of municipal workers at city and state parks and zoos. U.S. Interior Department workers who staff federal parks and monuments are also union-represented by the **National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)**, an affiliate of the **Machinists (IAM)**.

AFGE represents many employees who build exhibits, conduct research and maintain the world-renowned Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Thousands of employees working in Major League Baseball stadiums are represented by several unions – including **AFSCME, UNITE HERE** and **SEIU**.

MADE IN AMERICA



TAKE A UNION-MADE VACATION



Find more union-made vacation ideas at aflcio.org/UnionVacation.

If you're going to specific places, **Labor 411** offers a directory of union hotels, entertainment venues and other union-represented businesses in several cities, including: Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.



Campground

Camp sites now available for \$48 per day

- ◆ Open May 7 through the late fall
- ◆ Full hook-ups
- ◆ **Discounts for UAW Members**
- ◆ Pets welcome!
- ◆ At the campground, volleyball and basketball courts are conveniently located
- ◆ The Park Pavilion and bonfire ring are popular facilities for camper cookouts and sing-alongs
- ◆ The Center's beachfront facilities, including boat dock and launching ramp, are available to campers

Call to reserve your site today: 989.733.8521



National Corvette Museum Offers FREE ADMISSION To Military Personnel

The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky is now a Blue Star Museum for 2024. This initiative, under the stewardship of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense, extends free admission to active U.S. military personnel and their families throughout the summer.

The program's duration spans from Armed Forces Day on May 18th to Labor Day on September 2nd.

As a Blue Star Museum, the National Corvette Museum aligns itself with a network of institutions across the United States that contribute to the cultural enrichment of military families. This gesture of appreciation supports those serving by offering them and their families the opportunity to engage



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present

arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

Check the website for participating museums in Michigan and other states.

with and enjoy cultural and educational experiences without financial barriers.

Participants must present a valid military ID, such as a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a Next Generation Uniformed Services ID for admission.

The initiative has seen widespread participation across the nation, with a broad spectrum of museums

participating, including art, science, history, zoos, and gardens, all joining to honor U.S. service members.

This summer, the National Corvette Museum also debuts its C5 wireframe exhibit, part of the Driven by Design showcase. This exhibit features a wireframe model of the C5 Corvette, a significant artifact from the fifth-generation sports car, which began production in 1997. This wire model was pivotal in the evolution of Corvette design, providing a visual tool for designers to refine the vehicle's sleek, modern lines, a crucial element in propelling the Vette into the modern era.

The National Corvette Museum is located at 350 Corvette Dr. in Bowling Green, Kentucky, just down the road from the GM Bowling Green facility where the Corvette is assembled by members of UAW Local 2164.



2024

Accommodation Rates

(989) 733-8521

www.uawblacklake.com

Main Lobby:	\$95.00
Upper Lodge:	\$100.00
Old Lodge:	\$105.00
2 Bedroom Family Units:	\$130.00
Apartments	
1 Bedroom:	\$165.00
2 Bedroom:	\$185.00
Condominiums	
3 Bedroom Standard:	\$265.00
3 Bedroom Premium:	\$420.00

* All room rates are stated per night and are subject to Michigan Sales tax and fees

Campground

50 full hook-up sites

\$48.00 per day

UAW Member: \$41.00 per day

Open late April through late fall

Red Pine Market

(989) 733-7207

Located just inside the Center's Entrance

Open to all UAW members

Open to all American Made Cars, Trucks and Motorcycles

All Proceeds go to Michigan's United Way Ramp Programs

Show Registration: \$15 Before June 25th/\$30 June 25th or after.
Each Registered Car will receive Two Tickets to a future Race at Birch Run Speedway

Dash Plaques for first 300 Registered Cars

\$100 Cash Prize for winners of each class (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
- 4:30 pm Cornhole Tournament
- 5:45 pm Costume Contest judging and prize presentation
- 6:00 pm Award Presentations
- 6:30 pm Burnout Contest
- 7:00 pm Live Music in Gas Alley



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 Vendor information, Sponsorships or Registration assistance contact: Randy Hamilton
GM Flint Assembly UAW Communications (810)399-8343 or Email Randy.hamilton@gm.com

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**.

Scheduled for Retirement...

- Carrie Atwood
- Alisa Elston
- Randy Fleck
- Mark Holz
- Michael W. Johnson
- William Robinson
- Heidi Swartstrom
- Debby Taylor



Kim Doerr (6-1-24) and spouse Robert



Fredric Gray (7-1-24)



Louis Garcia (9-1-24)

RETIRES CHAPTER update

JANET WOODSON, Retiree Chair



Thank You!

Thanks to the Local Union Officers who visited me in the hospital, for the cards, phone calls, and prayers from my Retirees and everyone else. I am doing well.

We have our summer break that goes from July through August. However, we also have events that you may want to take part in during our down time, including the Detroit Tigers game (sitting behind home plate), golf outings, and the Princess Riverboat Dinner Cruise. If you're looking to join us, the cost per member is \$45 each for the Tigers Game, as well as the dinner cruise. The Retiree Chapter will pay the remaining balance.

Our Local Retiree Golf Outing is August 16th. We hope to have as many teams as last year or more.

I'm also trying to get a committee together to plan a Juneteenth celebration. Please let me know if you're interested in helping out.

The Presidential Election is later this year. There's a lot of work to be done, and we're asking our retirees to help out. Our retirees are always a strong force during elections. We *need* your help this year.

So, enjoy your friends and families this summer, so we can all come back in September ready to help with the Election. Our election for Officers will be held this September.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

RETIRED WORKERS

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, June 13

RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING • 12:00 p.m.
(last one before summer break)
UAW Local 598 Auditorium

July and August

NO RETIREE CHAPTER MEETINGS

Saturday, July 13

DETROIT TIGERS BASEBALL GAME
Seats are behind Home Plate!
Chapter members: \$45.00, Non-members: \$90.00
Bus leaves at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 21

M.O.S.T. GROUP ANNUAL SOBERFEST PICNIC
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Union City Ballfields

Sunday, August 4

REGION 1D FLINT AREA WIDE GOLF OUTING
Check-in: 7:00 a.m. • Shotgun Start: 8:00 a.m.
IMA Brookwood Golf Course

Thursday, August 15

DETROIT PRINCESS BOAT TRIP
Cost is \$45.00

Friday, August 16

LOCAL 598 RETIRES GOLF OUTING
Fenton Farms, Fenton, MI

September 12-15

TRIP TO MOUNTAINEER RESORTS
New Cumberland, West Virginia
Single: \$695 • Double: \$550
Contact Local 651 Retiree Chair Deborah Thomas at 810-813-0838

Thursday, October 17

FALL CASINO TRIP

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.

services

SKINNER RESIDENTIAL CHAIN LINK FENCE

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

Call 810-845-7211

IN MEMORIAM

The Officers, Representatives and members of Local 598 extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of these deceased remembers.

Clarence Cales *(Retired)*

John Egan *(Retired)*

Milton Fields *(Retired)*

Robert Finkbeiner *(Retired)*

Michael Hill *(Retired)*

Eugene "Dina" Jones *(Retired)*

Garry Knapp *(Retired)*

Jackie Michels *(Retired)*

Douglas Potter *(Retired)*

Lewis Stuhr *(Retired)*

Ronald Young *(Retired)*

Peter Zehnder *(Retired)*

Mike Burch *(Retired)*

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



report by **Melissa Bowen, Chairperson**

Getting What You Need

When my siblings and I were younger, our parents used to taunt us with classic rock songs when we would throw temper-tantrums. If my sister, Amy, didn't get her way and burst into tears, *Jamie's Cryin'* by Van Halen became "Whoa, whoa, whoa Amy's Cryin'."

Since nothing could be applied to my name, I would get "You Can't Always Get What You Want" by The Rolling Stones sung to me. As a child, it would infuriate me, but my appreciation for Van Halen and The Stones grew as I got older. As an adult, I often found comfort in the lyrics from Mick Jagger and Keith Richards.

On April 28th, the UAW Local 598 Women's Committee held our 3rd Annual Moms' Mixer. For any event that we host, we hope that it's nicer than the previous year, with more attendance and involvement from the membership. We're still fine-tuning our celebrations and trying new and different things.

The previous year, we also held a craft fair at the Moms' Mixer and that seemed to bring

out quite a few members. This year, we focused more on a full brunch buffet, rather than our pastries and fruit selection from previous years.

The members and families that attended did vote on our next *Painting with a Twist* design, so we are looking forward to that. We had a "sister scavenger hunt" as an ice breaker to encourage more mingling, and so much great conversation was had. We raised \$95 for *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* with our raffle. The children who attended enjoyed the kids' coloring station.

Our decorations were fancy, the food was amazing, and we had activities and prizes. Everyone who attended said it was lovely, but I couldn't help but be a little disheartened that not as many people attended this year. It could have been the rainy weather or the overtime. We also held the event a week earlier than usual, because May had a full calendar on the weekends. Or did people just really like the craft fair?

Whatever the reason, the Women's Committee put a lot of work into the Moms' Mixer to show our appreciation to all of the amazing women in our lives, so it's disappointing that not as many people came, as we hoped.

Gift basket prizes were won by participating in the vote for our painting options and completing



the "sister scavenger hunt." The following week, I focused on getting the winners their prizes.

While meeting up with one of our members, I was handed a thank you card from a mom who attended. She enjoyed meeting all of the special ladies from Local 598 and had a wonderful time!

I was so touched by her kind gesture that I was reminded the reason why we started the Moms' Mixer. It isn't just about the attendance numbers, but showing our genuine appreciation for other women. I'm so glad that the

attendees had a great time. That little thank you card was the reminder that I needed. "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometime, you'll find you get what you need."



Celebrating MOMS