



# United Auto Workers LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



Home of the Original  
Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 02

[www.uawlocal598.org](http://www.uawlocal598.org)

FEBRUARY 2025

# SAM Duncan

*a Legend in his own time*

by Debi  
Kirchner,  
Editor

Sam Duncan served as President of Local 598, establishing a record of service that future leaders continued to follow. This February, themed "African Americans and Labor," his contributions and influence on Local 598 are recognized. His efforts highlighted perseverance, unity, and the significance of representation in labor leadership.

Duncan, a Navy veteran injured during WWII, began working at GM in 1948 through a program for disabled veterans. He initially participated in the Community Service Committee, and was known for delivering groceries to families in need.

After serving on the Executive Board in the late 1950s, he was elected Vice President in 1962. Following the resignation of the president, Duncan assumed the role and was later elected President by 12 votes, becoming the first person of color in Flint to hold this

position. He led for eight consecutive terms until his death on December 12, 1979.

During his time in office, many significant events occurred including a 136-day strike, the construction of our Union Hall, efforts to earn products, the divisive merger of Chevrolet workers and Fisher 2 workers which expanded Local 598, recessions, and the discovery of a secret button installed by management to increase production without compensating the workers accordingly, along with many contractual gains.

Though his duties as president were numerous, he remained committed to community service and civic involvement. In 1975, a Testimonial Dinner honored Sam Duncan for his Union and community engagement. The Flint Mayor proclaimed July 19, 1975, as *Sam Duncan*

*Day* in the City of Flint, and he was presented with a key to the city.

More than half of the membership had never known another union president, and it was a notable event when his death on December 12, 1979, was announced. President Duncan was brought home to Local 598 for one last time, so that the Local Union he had served could say goodbye. A scholarship fund for disabled children was later set up in his name.

Sam led our Union through various challenges and achievements, always maintaining respect for both the membership and the community in which he lived and worked. He remains the longest elected president of our great Local Union.



Sam Duncan and Ceasar Chavez (far left)



(L-R) Sam Duncan with Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey and future Secretary-Treasurer Ruben Burks



(L-R) Bobby Crim, Sam Duncan and Dale Kildee

See **NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS NOTICE** on the Back Page of this issue.





# A Cold Winter, Hot Hearts, and a Polar Plunge to Remember

"Our UAW Local 598 Polar Plunge team amazingly raised over \$20,000."

**STEPHANIE RILEY**

from the **PRESIDENT'S DESK**

## What a cold winter we're having!

It's hard to remember the last time we saw this much snow. However, even the bitter cold couldn't freeze the hearts of our UAW Local 598 family. On the day of the *Polar Plunge*, we braved temperatures of just 15 degrees, strong winds, and snow showers, yet the spirit of solidarity and giving burned hotter than ever.

### Jumping In for a Great Cause

The weather may have been unforgiving, but it didn't stop our incredible team of Local 598 plunge jumpers. Each one of them took the plunge into freezing waters, all in the name of charity. And while the cold definitely showed no mercy, the cause made every splash worth it. This year, our UAW Local 598 *Polar Plunge* team amazingly raised over \$20,000 for Area 13 Special Olympics.

As president of UAW Local 598, I couldn't be more proud of our members for stepping up. The generosity and dedication we've seen this year have been overwhelming, and I want to

take a moment to personally thank everyone who donated to this wonderful cause. A huge 'thank you' goes out to all the members who volunteered their time for gate collections, and, of course, to all our brave jumpers who truly embodied the meaning of solidarity.

### Special Thanks to UAW Region 1D and Region 1

A special shout-out to UAW Region 1D and UAW Region 1 for their generous contributions. Your support helped make this event even more impactful. It was a fantastic day of coming together, and I'm grateful for the solidarity we all shared.

### Looking Forward to Next Year

Despite the icy temperatures, we had an incredible time. I can't wait to do it all again next year. The enthusiasm and community spirit were undeniable. I know we'll raise even more funds for Special Olympics in the future.

### UAW Local 598 & YOU:

#### Education for a Stronger Tomorrow

In other news, our UAW Local 598 Education Committee has hit the ground running once again! We've just started offering our popular "UAW LOCAL 598 & YOU" classes at the Local 598 Union Hall. If you've never attended before, now is the perfect time to get involved. Whether you're looking to learn more about Union benefits, leadership, or other important topics, these classes provide valuable information to help you get the most out of your membership. Get those applications turned in.

*We hope to see you in class soon!*

*President Riley*

**Lots of Respect coming from Box Line Remembering the Sit Down Strike in 1937 ,Thank you from all of us for the Mugs. 🍵🍵🍵**



Good to see the Union Pride in the body shop on White Shirt Day.



Region 1D Director Steve Dawes with Shane Dawes and Local 598 President Stephanie Riley at this year's Polar Plunge.

# GM UAW Local 598 Workers Impress

"Flint Assembly is a significant part of the profits for the entire North American footprint...our daily efforts directly affect the company's bottom line and the profit-sharing amount..."

**ERIC WELTER**

**SHOP CHAIRMAN**



I would like to recognize Don Cobb, the UAW Global Manufacturing System (GMS) coaches, and the members who participated in our recent GMS audit. They worked diligently putting things back together in preparation for the audit.

Although the audit came in a bit short of expectations, our members and coaches performed amazingly. In my opinion, the deviations found were petty and personal, but the auditors repeatedly talked about how impressed they are with our members. We have 90 days to present evidence that the deviations have been corrected and we will get our recertification of Built In Quality (BIQ4).

I was personally very proud of both our coaches and the members on the floor. *Great job, Local 598!*

The membership will receive a record profit-sharing payment on February 28th of \$14,500. Again, we get the benefit of the \$12k cap removal in the 2019 NA. Flint Assembly is a significant part of the profits for the entire North American footprint. Your daily efforts directly affect the company's bottom line and the profit-sharing amount that every member in the country will enjoy.

A significant change in the 2023 NA, the profit-sharing amount will be taxed separately at the federal tax rate of 22%, reducing the tax impact by 15% or \$2,100. Additionally, once again this year, our temporary employees will get to enjoy the profit sharing using the same formula as seniority employees.

There has been a change in the process for the \$1,500 voucher that can be used towards a new car purchase. Anyone on roll at the effective date of the 2023 NA had all of 2024 to use the voucher. Secondly, anyone hired after the effective date has 1 year from their hire date to use the voucher.

The voucher was left on the *GM Family First* website for new hires and, unfortunately, members who do not qualify got an authorization number and used the voucher. Those members will have to pay it back, most likely out of their profit sharing. The company took action to prevent further fraud. They removed the voucher from *GM Family First* for anyone who is no longer eligible.

If you are eligible under the second provision and it is not

visible on your account, please let your committee rep know. We have already fixed one for a new member.

There continues to be concerns and rumors over Flint Assembly cutting a shift. Since GM added Oshawa to the HD truck portfolio, I have been diligently preparing for a downturn in the economy. It is critical for Local 598 members' job security that we remain the dominant plant. My preparation, combined with our members hard work, has put the plant in a position that GM is confident in the members of Local 598. We have achieved level 3 maturity in the Safety System, we are BIQ4, and the quality metrics DRR, GCA and plant controllable warranty are all green. We were 100% in the last ISO audit, we received the global productivity award, and this plant performance is in the upper echelon of all truck plants industry wide. The Shop Committee has secured \$780 million in investment fortifying our future through 2035, and when we have executive visits they leave very impressed with our people and the culture of the plant.

As the uncertainty of the economy and tariffs evolve, if volumes have to be adjusted, the company will make decisions in our favor. I recently discussed this with the GM Vice President of the truck sector and she assured me that our schedule is firm for 2025 and would increase if needed, not decrease. Of course there are no promises or contractual obligation in that, just a reassurance that Flint is of primary importance to GM.

**DO YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL PLAN?**

*Your UNION-FRIENDLY office can help!*

- ✓ Personalized Retirement Income Plan for UAW Members
- ✓ Discounted Financial Planning for UAW Members
- ✓ Professional Review of Your PSP Account



**ALEX LEBRON, CFP®**  
5405 Gateway Centre Dr.  
Suite A  
Flint, MI 48507

**810.695.1882**  
[www.bwealthmngt.com](http://www.bwealthmngt.com)



**BRIDGE**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Advisory Services are offered through Creative Financial Designs, Inc., a Registered Investment Adviser, and Securities are offered through CFD Investments, Inc., a Registered Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA & SIPC. Bridge Wealth Management is independent of and not controlled by the CFD Companies.

**OUR NEXT UNION MEETING**

will be held at 2:00 p.m.

**MARCH 16, 2025**

**UAW LOCAL 598 UNION HALL**





# The First Labor Union Led By Black People

"It took twelve years from the formation of the union for a contract with the Pullman Company to be signed..."

**D'ANDRE JACKSON**

**RECORDING SECRETARY**



## Honoring Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, we recognize the first Labor Union to be led by Black people. The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP), founded in 1925 by A. Phillip Randolph, advocated for better treatment for Black porters working for the Pullman Company. Sleeping car porters worked on trains providing passengers with such services as carrying luggage, setting up beds, pressing clothes, shining shoes, serving food and drinks, and housekeeping along with catering

to their passengers every need. They worked long hours for low pay and were expected to pay for their own uniforms, meals and sleeping quarters. They even had to pay for their own shoeshine kit and polish.



*Pullman Co. Sleeping Car Porters*

During the late nineteenth century and half of the twentieth, sleeping car porters was one of the very few job opportunities for Blacks. Many car porters were highly educated with degrees in science, medicine and business administration, but were forced into menial or subordinate vocations such as sleeping car porters.

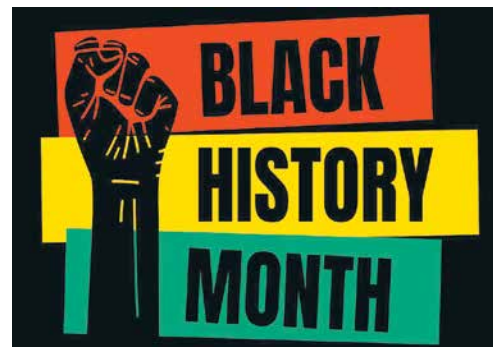
The BSCP faced much resistance from the Pullman Company, the American Federation of Labor and from Black leaders who viewed the Pullman Company as one of the better organizations that hired African Americans.

Another struggle was the Great Depression, which caused a reduction in membership. It took twelve years from the formation of the union for a contract with the Pullman Company to be signed and for the AFL to recognize the BSCP as an international charter. The BSCP was the first African American union to be chartered by the AFL. Achievements of the union included higher wages, fewer hours in the work month, right to hearing before discharge, and reduction of the abuses of service inspectors who spied on the porters and reported discretions to the company.

In 1978, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters merged into a larger union called the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline, Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees (BRAC). This union still exists today as the Transportation Communications Union/IAM. This union represents around 35,000 people who mainly work in the railroad industry.

Many famous African Americans were former porters or descendants of Pullman porters. These include North Pole explorer Matthew Henson, Jamaican writer Claude McKay, and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Many members of

the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters were important influences to the civil rights movement, including A. Philip Randolph, E.D. Nixon, and C.L. Dellums.



**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

<b>President</b> .....	<b>Stephanie Riley</b>	<b>DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATES</b>
<b>Vice President</b> .....	<b>John Jackson III</b>	Ben Dunlop / Alex Perry
<b>Recording Secretary</b> .....	<b>D'Andre Jackson</b>	Sean Meachem / Chad Boyce
<b>Financial Secretary</b> .....	<b>Chad Fabbro</b>	Shane Herriman / Bo Browning
<b>Guide</b> .....	<b>Twanna Q. Coleman</b>	/ Stan Cherwinski
<b>Trustee</b> .....	<b>Melissa Bowen</b>	Brian Shick / JoAnna Batson-Escamilla
<b>Trustee</b> .....	<b>Corissa Carter</b>	Dana Waider / Joe Berriman
<b>Trustee</b> .....	<b>David V. Garcia</b>	Bryan Ventrone / Stan Dulaney
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b> .....	<b>Randy Frost</b>	Jon Galant / Wendy Ignash
<b>Retiree Chapter Chair</b> .....	<b>Janet Woodson</b>	DeWayne Tippit / Mike Bukovchik

**SHOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**  
Eric Welter

**SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE**  
Nick Dekalita, Joe Dontje

**SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT)**  
Shane Herriman, Sean Meachem

**ARAMARK BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
JaShanti Walker, Sr. and Orlandis McNeal ..... Alternate Edward Menzel

**BEACON O&M BARGAINING COMMITTEE**  
District Committeeperson Mark Leineke.....Alternate Mike Harrell

**M.P.S. BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
Tasha Wynne.....Alternate Kristine Momany  
John Wineland .....Alternate Damon Harrison

**ADAPT REPRESENTATIVE**..... Rick Hager

**CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE**.....Rosalyn Morse

**LOCAL 598 BENEFIT REPS**..... Cindy McLean, Chris Dungerow, Adam Prieur, Archie McGrath, Hans Smith

**HEALTH & SAFETY REPS**..... Mike Dankert, Doug Culhane, Anthony LaVelle, Jeff Wier

**WORK & FAMILY REPS**..... Cheryl Dawson, George Washington, Dave Yanta

**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: 810-238-4605.

POSTMASTER: All Form 3579's for the *EYE OPENER*, are to be forwarded to the *EYE OPENER*, UAW Local 598, G-3293 Van Slyke Rd., Flint, MI 48507. Periodicals Postage Paid at Flint, Michigan. **Annual subscription \$1.70 for members only; retirees \$1.00.**

# Profit Sharing, Special Payments, and Bonuses

"This current contract gave us a secured flat-rate tax on profit sharing. Instead of getting hit with a 37% rate, it will be taxed at a flat rate of 22%."

**CHAD FABBRIO**



**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

I hope everyone is thriving in this cold weather that we have been blessed with. We have certainly been thriving in our quality of production as profit sharing was announced last month, setting another record year. Congratulations to all those who help make these record profits soar, building and delivering world-class products, and gaining market shares along the way.

Remember, your profit-sharing payment will be subject to special Union dues. The dues for all Union-negotiated special payments or bonuses are calculated by 1.44% of the total payout, as per our UAW Constitution. Therefore, if you receive the full profit-sharing amount of \$14,500.00, you'll see a \$208.80 dues deduction on your paystub.

As always, please call our office if you notice any discrepancies or payroll errors regarding your Union dues deductions. We will be more than happy to answer your questions or get the issues revolved.

This current contract gave us a secured flat-rate tax on profit sharing. Instead of getting hit with a 37% rate, it will be taxed at a flat rate of 22%. This works out greatly in our favor, and I am so happy our National UAW/GM Bargaining Team was able to negotiate this for us!

Today, we are being challenged with corporations coming at us and trying to divide us. We must continue to stay strong and weather the storm. The only way we can protect our future is to maintain solidarity and help those who are struggling around us.

Two important things to look for are the changes in the NLRB and OSHA regulations. These are two things we rely heavily on to protect our rights, health, and safety. The new DOGE



**UAW Local 598's semi-annual audit took place this month.**

program is trying to cut rights and safety protocols. We have had these standards in place for *years* for the purpose of holding corporations accountable for unfair labor laws and unsafe working conditions.

These cuts and staffing changes are being done to only benefit corporate interests, instead of the people who actually do the work, and make their dreams a reality. We have to be a part of the answer to this problem. Do your research. It's our future, and our next generation's legacy that we must look out for!

*As always, may GOD bless each and every one of you.*

*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

Greetings:

**RE: In'l Union Strike and Defense Fund Report – October**

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

<b>NET WORTH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024</b>	<b>\$763,966,518.68</b>
<b>INCOME FOR OCTOBER 2024</b>	
Dues Per Capita Taxes	6,427,432.41
<b>DISBURSEMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2024</b>	<u>3,704,892.81</u>
<b>NET WORTH, OCTOBER 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$766,689,058.28</b>

During the month of October, there were 4 (four) strikes.

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

Rechargeable  
**HEARING AIDS**  
available

## Professional Hearing Clinic

WE ACCEPT HAP & BCN

Ringing in the ears? WE CAN HELP!

**BATTERIES**  
**\$1.00**  
per package (limit 5)  
EXPIRES 3-31-25

We are a provider for your new benefits.

2 Digital Hearing Aids

100% PAID

by your Blue Cross UAW/GM Insurance! Other Insurances Accepted. SPOUSES INCLUDED

Dr. Jennifer McGowen  
Doctor of Audiology

1063 S. State Rd. (M-15)  
Davison, MI 48423  
**810-653-HEAR**(4327)  
Next to Little Caesars

1235 Center Rd.  
Burton, MI 48509  
**810-744-9000**  
I-69 and Center Rd.

1213 Corunna Ave.  
Owosso, MI 48867  
**989-472-1335**  
Call for a FREE hearing screening

2545 Silver Lake Rd.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
**810-433-4575**  
Between US-23 & Poplar St.

20 W. Clarkston Rd.  
Lake Orion, MI 48362  
**248-845-4714**  
Corner M24 & Clarkston Rd.

professionalhearingclinic.com

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



# Region 1D celebrates WHITE SHIRT DAY



## The Sit-Down Strike

*"Reuther's voice still echoes here to rally up the crowd ... As long as we still hear the voice of '37 strong, they'll live within and guide our path that leads us ever on."*

– Lyrics by David O Norris, song by Dan Hall



**MIKE BOOTH**  
UAW-GM International Vice President



**LAURA DICKERSON**  
UAW Region 1A Director

Family members of Bert Christenson attended this year's celebration. Bert, a member of Local 598, was the originator of the idea of White Shirt Day.



**LaSHAWN ENGLISH**  
UAW Region 1 Director



**ASHLEY LEWIS**  
UAW Women's Department



Honoring the 2025 White Shirt Day celebration are (L-R) UAW Local 659 President Alex Ortiz, Region 1D Director Steve Dawes, and Region 1A Director Laura Dickerson.

Photos courtesy of Debi Kirchner and Randy Hamilton



In honor of  
the 1936-37  
Sit-Downers...

We wear our  
**WHITE  
SHIRTS!**

1936-37 SITDOWN STRIKE







LOCAL 598 MEMBERS JOINED WITH 415 GENESEE COUNTY "PLUNGERS"

TO HELP RAISE \$151,000

# 2025 POLAR PLUNGE

TO SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN ON FEB. 1, 2025

Photos courtesy of britta rsuaw



Thank you to all of the Local 598 members who showed up to jump, support, or those who made a donation to **HELP UAW LOCAL 598 WIN THE BUSINESS TEAM CATEGORY IN RAISING \$20,149**









# It Wasn't So Long Ago...

by **Melissa Bowen, Local 598 Trustee and Women's Committee Chair**

*It wasn't so long ago that a woman couldn't purchase a home, without a man. It wasn't too long ago that a woman couldn't get birth control, without a man. It wasn't so long ago, our jobs in the factories were designated as men's work. It wasn't too long ago when women couldn't initiate a divorce from their husbands. It wasn't so long ago that women gained protection from domestic abuse; that one was in my lifetime. I was seven.*

Prior to this year, for me, Women's History Month was about celebrating the women who fought for our rights. It was about championing the progress that we had made, while shining a light on the fact that women still have a wage disparity. This year's theme for International Women's Day on March 8th is **Accelerate Action**, because we need to speed up the rate of progress of gender parity, world-wide.

Given the current administration of the United States, it seems that this year we will be fighting to keep the rights that we currently have. By witnessing what a conservative Supreme Court could do to our reproductive rights, saying that I'm alarmed is an understatement. Not only women, but all minorities seem to be under attack. Unions will also face an uphill battle.

In Utah, Bill HB267 has passed, and it ends collective

bargaining for public sector workers. Utah Governor Spencer Cox signed this bill into law on February 14, 2025. Teachers, firefighters, and police officers will all be impacted negatively by this

law. If the government is willing to strip the rights from those who protect and serve, then what chance do autoworkers have?

I understand the desire to shut off the news during these trying times. However, when we turn a blind eye to injustice, we are allowing these atrocities to continue. I implore you, please, stay aware. Speak up, before it's written into law. Email your elected officials and attend protests. When we stand in solidarity, we can accomplish great things.

We will be celebrating International Women's Day, in the plant, on March 7th. The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee would like to encourage everyone to wear purple on that day. Flint Assembly is hosting a celebration with girls ages 10 to 14, to encourage careers in manufacturing. Attendees will be going on a plant tour, and it would be great for them to see everyone in purple. It's a fantastic opportunity to encourage the next generation of strong, union women.

In honor of the past, we will be celebrating *Rosie the Riveter Day* on March 21st. Please wear your Rosie gear, whether it be dressing like the icon, or sporting a t-shirt with her image. Feel free to send your pictures to our Local 598 Women's Committee Facebook page or our email [uawlocal598wc@gmail.com](mailto:uawlocal598wc@gmail.com).

The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee is also excited for our third year of hosting a table with our gift basket raffles at the *Mid-Michigan Pet Expo*. It runs March 21st through March 23rd at Dort Financial Center (3501 Lapeer Rd., Flint, MI 48503). All of our proceeds will be going to *A ReJoyceful Animal Rescue*, a no-kill, foster-based cat and dog rescue. We hope to see you there and as always, thank you for your support.



**Mid Michigan Dental Group**

Ask about our **FREE WHITENING FOR LIFE Program!**

FULL-SERVICE DENTISTRY...

- ✓ Bonding & Sealants
- ✓ Implant Restorations
- ✓ Cosmetic Contouring
- ✓ Crowns and Bridges
- ✓ Veneers
- ✓ Whitening
- ✓ Braces
- ✓ Root Canal Therapy
- ✓ Extractions
- ✓ Dentures
- ✓ Cosmetic Dentistry
- ✓ Scaling and Root Planing
- ✓ Fillings

**810.232.0300** DR. TERRY A. POTTER & STAFF  
*dentistry with a personal touch*

**NEW PATIENT SPECIALS**

Comprehensive Exam, X-Rays and Cleaning	<b>\$129</b>	<b>\$100 SAVINGS</b> on ANY SERVICE over \$500
GM Insurance Accepted	OFFER EXPIRES 3-31-25	OFFER EXPIRES 3-31-25

1111 W. Hill Rd. • Suite B • Flint, MI 48507 • [midmichigandentalgroup.com](http://midmichigandentalgroup.com)

Find the look you've been looking for.  
Come in, choose your perfect glasses and we'll do the rest.

**SVS VISION**  
OPTICAL CENTERS 800.SVS.4600

**\$15 off** when you bring in this ad

Cannot be used on prior orders or combined with other discounts, promotions, offers, coupons, Groupings, Refer-a-Friend coupons, or some insurance plans/programs. Not valid for Maui Jim, Oakley Sun, Chopard, Top House, or FRED brands. Other exclusions may apply. See office for details. CPN#1014



# UAW Blasts Reckless National Institute of Health Cuts: A Direct Attack on Jobs, Innovation, Life-Saving Research

The Trump administration's decision to slash NIH funding is a gut punch to scientific progress, economic growth, and the fight against deadly diseases. Cutting research on cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and Alzheimer's isn't "efficient." – it's economically reckless and inhumane. These cuts will shut down promising medical breakthroughs, slam the brakes on clinical trials, destroy jobs, and gut university research programs where thousands of UAW members across the country work every day to



advance life-saving discoveries.

Trump claims this will "save money," but the truth is every NIH dollar invested

in research generates two and a half times its value in economic activity. Gutting NIH funding is not savings – it's sabotage. UAW is participating in legal efforts that have resulted in a Temporary Restraining Order issued on February 10 that blocked these cuts from going into effect.

To ensure these cuts are reversed, UAW demands immediate action from Congress before they wreak havoc on the working class, scientific innovation, and the future of public health.

## History and Mission Statement of the International Chaplaincy Program

by Tim Clements, Chaplaincy Committee

The International UAW Chaplaincy Program does not have a clearly defined beginning date...

- In September of 1985, a pilot program began in Flint, Michigan.
- In 1987, a resolution in support of Chaplaincy was enthusiastically approved at the National Bargaining Convention in Las Vegas.
- Beginning in 1988, annual Chaplaincy Conferences have been held to provide training and an opportunity with other UAW members involved in Chaplaincy.
- In September of 1990, the first UAW Chaplaincy Committees were organized.
- Moving ahead to 2016 the UAW Chaplaincy Program recognized the need to create an opportunity for all Chaplains under the UAW umbrella to become certified and ordained and that program is now in place.

The Mission Statement of the UAW Chaplaincy Program is that the Program was established to provide a method of comfort, encouragement, and assistance as best we can to our fellow workplace employees and their immediate family members at no cost.

*Purpose: to reflect Godly integrity, honesty, accountability, and responsibility as Chaplaincy members while we represent the Workplace Chaplaincy Program in the International Union UAW.*

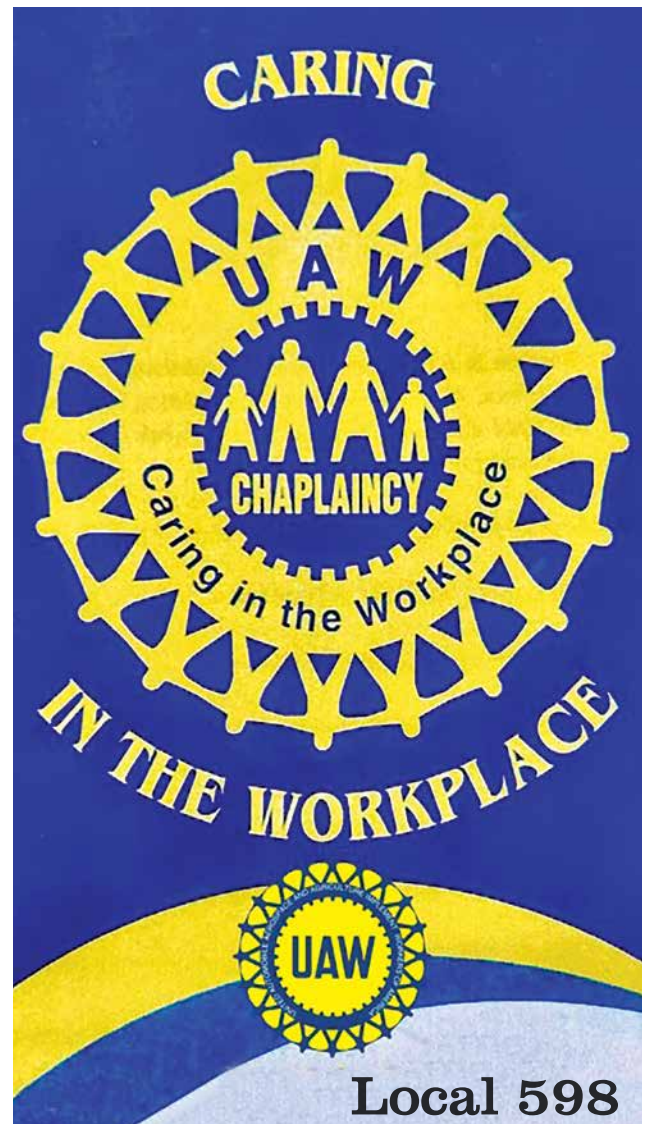
*We will maintain "confidentiality according to the law."*

*By creating an atmosphere of confidence in the individual, our community, membership, and their family members.*

*While presenting the Chaplaincy Program in the best possible light for the welfare of all.*

In other words, the UAW Chaplaincy Program is not about us as Chaplains, it's about you, the membership! We're here for you, so feel free to reach out to us. We can be reached by calling the Union Uall at: 810-238-4605, ext. 111.

*God Bless you all...*



Local 598





## Retired Workers Chapter

Chapter Meetings held at 12:00 p.m. in the **LOCAL 598 UNION HALL**

THURSDAY  
March 13th

**RETIREE CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
12:00 Noon • UAW Local 598 Auditorium

THURSDAY  
March 20th

**GUN LAKE CASINO DAY TRIP**  
\$20/person • Partnering with Saginaw's Local 699

THURSDAY  
April 10th

**RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING**  
12:00 Noon • UAW Local 598 Auditorium

## CARMAN AINSWORTH SENIOR CENTER SOARING EAGLE CASINO BUS TRIP

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 26, 2025  
9:00 - 4:00

BUS LEAVES 9:00 SHARP FROM CENTER  
ARRIVE BACK TO CENTER AROUND 5:45

COST: \$ 45.00 PER PERSON (CASH ONLY/NO REFUNDS)

Each person receives:

\$20 Premium Play / \$10 Food / \$10 Bingo Bucks  
(loaded onto card)

Payment due at sign up.  
Last day for sign up is March 7, 2025

Trip subject to cancellation based on participation levels.  
Refund provided only in the event of our cancellation.

## WHITE SHIRT DAY CELEBRATION

"Our very own Bert Christensen and his family were recognized during the ceremony – what an honor..."

**JANET WOODSON**



## RETIREE WORKERS CHAIR

Hello, Retirees. The cancellation of our February 13th meeting was the first that I can remember, but we wanted to make sure you all stayed safe. Please try to stay safe and warm in the days to come. It's very cold.

The White Shirt Day celebration held at Local 659 was a wonderful outing for a few of our Retirees. We had a great day. Our very own Bert Christensen and family were recognized during the ceremony – what an honor. *UAW Local 598, Home of First White Shirt Day Celebration!*

At our meeting in March, we will be discussing our upcoming Casino Trip to Gun Lake Casino and the Tigers baseball game. Please bring your ideas of any trips that you would like to share with the group.

February is Black History Month. The plant will be celebrating Black History this month with a colorful and informational performance at 5th Avenue. Hopefully, they will have pictures to share.

I had a long conversation with Don Clark yesterday. He tells me that he's doing well and enjoying the Florida sunshine. It was great speaking with him, and he told me to say hello to everyone.



## TO ALL OF OUR RECENT RETIREES



**Aaron Williams**  
(4/1/25)



**James Yancho**  
(8-1-25)



**Mary Darland**  
(4/1/25)



**Vern Freer**  
(6/1/25)



**Daniel Mathey**  
(8/1/25)



**Mark Meinecke**  
(3/1/25)



**Peter Fittante**  
(5/1/25)



**Craig Keahey**  
(8/1/25)



**Phillip Bendall**  
(3/1/25)



**David Perez**  
(3/1/25)





**Juanita Bond**  
(3/1/25)



**Scott Hiller** (8/1/25)  
with spouse Michelle



**Traci Wheaton** (3/1/25)  
with son Rob



**Timothy Hunt**  
(3/1/25)



**Dale Rowley** (6/1/25)  
with spouse Carrie



**Darren Park** (3/1/25)  
with spouse Theresa



**Carlos Quintanilla** (3/1/25)  
with girlfriend Samm



**Norm Cunningham** (8/1/25)  
with spouse Sheri



**Domingo Bernard** (3/1/25)  
with spouse Ana



**Michael D. Harris** (4/1/25)  
with spouse Rebecca



**Roderic Stewart**  
(6/1/25)



**Scott Kline** (4/1/25)  
with spouse Kimberlee



**Lars Christensen** (6/1/25)  
with spouse Callie



**Rosemary (Tonya) Parker**  
(3/1/25)



**Stephen Sowa**  
(7/1/25)



**Melinda Keller** (3/1/25)  
with spouse Michael

**RECENT RETIREES**

(no photo available)

**Michael Riness**  
**Harry Williams**  
**Gerald Chuckran**

*UAW Local 598 wishes to extend our congratulations to these recently retired members and invite them to be an active part of our Retired Workers Chapter.*

*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.*





# Have Your Taxes Done for **FREE** through **VITA**

Low-to-Moderate income families (incomes of \$67,000 or lower) can file their taxes for free with an IRS certified volunteer through United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA is a volunteer run program in partnership with the IRS to help families access the EITC and other credits that can boost financial stability. If you are able to do your own taxes online, visit [www.myfreetaxes.com](https://myfreetaxes.com) (<https://myfreetaxes.com/>) for details. Those needing taxes prepared by a certified volunteer, with an income of \$67,000 or lower, can visit the following sites for the 2024 tax year (click for printable version).

</sites/unitedwaygeneseefiles/2025%20VITA%20Schedule%20.pdf>

## GENESEE COUNTY

### Mott Community College – Workforce Development

709 N. Saginaw Street, Flint, MI 48502

- *Bus Line:* MTA Primary Route 2 – ML King Avenue
- *Tuesday Open Dates:* 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8
- *Tuesday Times:* 5:30pm - 8:30pm
- *Thursday Open Dates:* 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 4/3, 4/10
- *Thursday Times:* 5:30pm - 8:30pm
- *Saturday Open Dates:* 3/1, 3/15, 3/29, 4/5
- *Saturday Times:* 12:00pm – 5:00pm

This site will close when all slots for the day are filled. All dates are by WALK IN ONLY. Please be aware of weather-related closings. If the site is closed, there will be no taxes prepared.

## SHIAWASSEE COUNTY

DROP OFF ONLY & APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

### Vernon District Public Library – 111 E. Main St., Vernon, MI 48476

Call for Appointment: **989.288.6486**

- *Days for Possible Appointments:* Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

This is a drop and scan service site. *No taxes are prepared on site.* Please call to schedule an appointment at 989.288.6486, and be aware of weather-related closings. If the site is closed, there will be no taxes prepared.

### What documents do I need to bring with me?

- Click here to print the State of Michigan Intake Form: (</sites/unitedwaygeneseefiles/2023%20State%20of%20Michigan%20Intake%20Form.docx>)
- Click here to print IRS Form 13614-C: (</sites/unitedwaygeneseefiles/f13614c.pdf>)
- Government issued photo identification for you and your spouse (if married)
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse, and dependents
- An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter may be substituted for you, your spouse, and your dependents if you do not have a Social Security number
- Birth dates for you, spouse, and/or dependents
- Wage and earning statement (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc from all employers)
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Health Insurance Exemption Certificate, if received
- A copy of last year's tax returns
- Letter 6419 – Advance Child Tax Credit Payments
- Letter 6475 – 2021 Economic Impact Payment
- Forms 1095-A, B or C Health Coverage Statements
- Information for all other income (Social Security, VA, etc.) and all deductions (tuition/education, mortgage interest, charitable contributions, etc.)
- Medical or HMO premiums paid for self or dependents
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax ID number such as their Social Security number or business Employer Identification Number
- Proof of bank account routing and account numbers for direct deposit such as a blank check
- Summer and winter property tax bills
- Landlord's name and address and proof of rent paid

## 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.
- **Tiny size and great price!** **SAVE \$1000 THIS WEEK!**



**Look!**  
She's wearing new open ear technology!

**BONUS OFFER**  
\$20 Gift Card\*

**FREE HEARING SCREENING FOR THE NEXT 5 DAYS!**



**ATTENTION PATIENTS: BELTONE ACCEPTS ALL HEARING AND INSURANCE PLAN MEMBERS. PLUS,** we handle ALL benefit coordination and insurance billing for you. You will **NEVER PAY** for office visits, hearing screenings, follow-up care, or clean and check services. Our lifetime of professional service is provided at **NO COST!**

Call Now to Schedule Your Free Hearing Screening

**810.275.9665**

[WWW.BELTONEHEARINGAID.COM](http://WWW.BELTONEHEARINGAID.COM)

FENTON	FLINT	OWOSSO	CLIO	DAVISON
2809 W. SILVER LK. RD. 810.344.8341	4080 MILLER RD. 810.275.9665	120 W. EXCHANGE ST. SUITE 1 989.541.3075	5105 W. VIENNA RD. SUITE C 989.541.3073	407 W. FLINT ST. SUITE A 810.208.2127

\*Offer valid toward the purchase of two Beltone Serene™ hearing instruments. \$500 off a single instrument.  
\*\*Amazon Gift Card value \$20, must complete screening to receive card. See store for details. Beltone 2024™





# 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

### CEMETERY PLOT

Sunset Hills, Section 11 – \$650.00

Call Steven 810-228-2415

### ACTUAL GOLD LOCAL 598 SERVICE RING

Like new, very rare, size 11, blue stone – \$1,200

Call Mike 810-516-7463

### ESTATE SALE ITEMS

8 hp snow blower, like new, best offer. GM Rally wheels for Corvette, all kinds.

Call Nathan 810-629-1243 or 248-303-8801

## services

### SKINNER RESIDENTIAL CHAIN LINK FENCE

Installation and repair. Free estimates. 46 years of experience.

Call 810-845-7211

### WALKER ELECTRIC, INC.

2410 Kansas Ave., Flint, MI 48506

810-233-5111 269-209-1791

www.walkerelectric.biz

## miscellaneous

### COME VISIT

### “CAROL'S CAT HOUSE”

813 Main St., Daytona Beach, FL

UAW Sister owner and operator.

Call 586-322-3464

or write: P.O. Box 263086

Daytona Beach, FL 32126

Feline-Friendly Gift Shop.



Jimmy Steelman Reba Burns Daniel Ketchum

Our UAW Local 598 family extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the above listed deceased members.



## NOTARY SERVICES at the UNION HALL

Call the Union Hall for your notary service needs.

238-4605 (ext. 17)

## 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.

#### TUESDAY

Robert MacDonald 810.234-2204

MacDonald & MacDonald, PLLC

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY

John Chowning 810.695.2110

Chowning & Edgard, P.C.

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

Neal Wilensky 810.606.0410

Kaechele & Wilensky, P.C.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



Big enough to serve all your needs.  
Small enough to care.

## SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

to all  
**UAW MEMBERS**  
and their  
IMMEDIATE FAMILY

also available with the  
**Pink Lady's Slipper Florist**  
in downtown Swartz Creek

6063 Fenton Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48507

Jennifer Sharp Scully, Manager

810.694.4900

sharpfuneralhomes.com

— ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS —

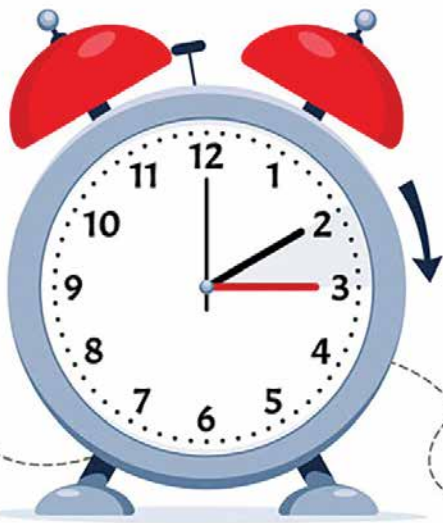
Fenton Chapel 810.629.9321

Linden Chapel 810.735.7833

Miller Road Chapel 810.635.4411







## SUNDAY MARCH 9th

Set your clocks  
**One Hour Forward**  
before going to  
bed Saturday night.

Daylight Saving Time

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

 LOCAL **598 EYE OPENER**  
G-3293 VAN SLYKE RD., FLINT, MI 48507



Home of the Original  
Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

# Nominations & Election Notice

**NOMINATIONS** will be accepted... DATE: **Tuesday, February 25 and Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

TIME: **6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

LOCATION: **LOCAL 598 UNION HALL**, G-3293 Van Slyke Rd, Flint, MI 48507

To accept nomination by mail, you must send a registered letter to: **Election Committee, UAW Local 598, P.O. Box 7800, Flint, MI 48507**. It must be received no earlier than Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:00 a.m., and no later than Wednesday, February 26, 2025, by 4:00 p.m. This registered letter must specify the position AND district for which nomination is being accepted. Your name must be PRINTED as you wish it to appear on the ballot, your signature, along with complete address and GMIN.

## ELECTION HELD FOR: UAW/GM BARGAINING UNIT DISTRICT 4A

*1st Shift Trim (1,2,3,4) Pre-Trim, Quality*

- COMMITTEEPERSON
- ALTERNATE COMMITTEEPERSON

DATE: **Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

TIME: Polls **OPEN** at **6:00 A.M.** and  
Polls **CLOSE** at **4:00 P.M.**

LOCATIONS: **North Unit Gym Area in Main Plant,  
Trim Shop, and Local 598 Union Hall**

*Any RUN-OFF ELECTION will be held Wednesday, March 26,  
6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Election locations: North Unit Gym Area  
in the Main Plant, Trim Shop, and Local 598 Union Hall.*

### ELECTION RULES:

1. All members of Local 598, UAW working in District 4A, who have been in continuous good standing with Local 598 for one (1) year immediately prior to nomination, are nominated with exception to paragraph 96 moves. (Per Article 38, Section 3 & 4, UAW Constitution; and Article 12, Section 3, Local 598 Bylaws).
2. Those desiring to accept nomination must do so by completing and submitting the acceptance form at the Local 598 Union Hall, G-3293 Van Slyke Road, Flint, MI 48507.

## ELECTION HELD FOR: UAW LOCAL 598 MPS GROUP UNIT

*to fill Vacancies of*

- 2nd Shift COMMITTEEPERSON
- 2nd Shift ALT. COMMITTEEPERSON

POLLS OPEN:

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 at 1:00 P.M.**

POLLS CLOSE:

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20 at 1:30 A.M.**

POLLING LOCATIONS:

**Paint Shop Cafeteria and Local 598 Union Hall**

*Any RUN-OFF ELECTION will be held  
Wednesday, March 26, polls open at 1:00 p.m.,  
and close at 1:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2025.*

*Election locations: Paint Cafeteria and Local 598 Union Hall.*

### ELECTION RULES:

1. All MPS Unit members of Local 598, UAW, who have been in continuous good standing with Local 598 for one (1) year immediately prior to nomination are eligible.
2. Those desiring to accept nomination must do so by completing and submitting the acceptance form at the Local 598 Union Hall, G-3293 Van Slyke Road, Flint, MI 48507.

**Stephanie Riley, President**  
Election Committee, Local 598, UAW

**Note: Only Members in Good Standing will be eligible to vote. Voting will be by secret ballot.**  
*You must have an employee badge or picture I.D. Members on Leaves of Absence may vote at the Local 598 Union Hall.*