



United Auto Workers

LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



Home of the Original Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 01

www.uawlocal598.org

JANUARY 2025

FEB. 11 - WHITE SHIRT DAY

At the time of the GM Sit-Down strike, only bosses were allowed to wear white shirts. The thought of Local 598 Education Committee member Bert Christensen, when he proposed the tribute for the strikers in 1948, was that if all the workers wore white shirts, they couldn't fire them all!

Wear Your White Shirt on Tuesday, February 11th
(3rd shift on Monday night)

The Rest Depends On Us

When the strike ended, the men in the plant had the final vote. They started with the largest plant, Fisher 1, and the result was unanimous. The plant emptied for the first time in 44 days, and began a parade that would grow as they went to each plant for the vote.

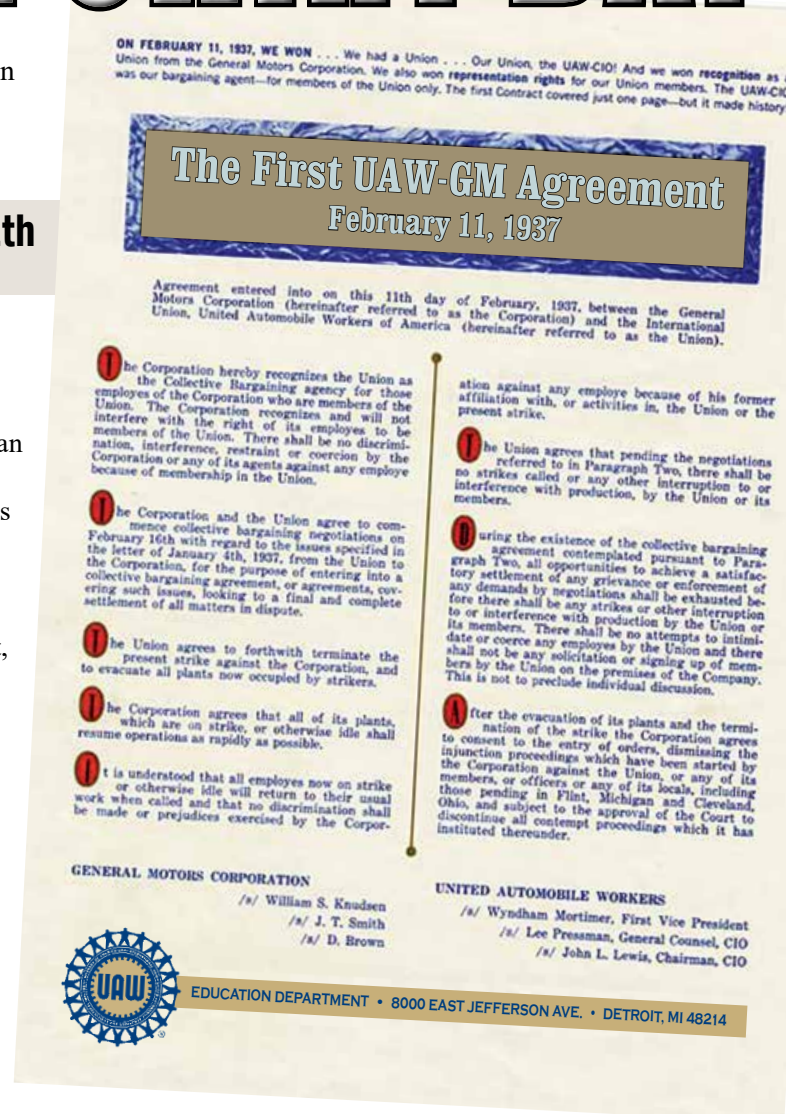
The crowd was so great at the Fisher Two plant that the thousands coming from up the hill had to stop by the bridge fifty yards away. On the Chevy 2 roof across the street, sixteen National Guardsmen stood watching. The cheering and noise exceeded all the bounds of hearing as the small group of Fisher Two men came out of the plant, which they had defended so valiantly against police gas and bullets for the first great victory of the strike.

As each group debated and questioned the meaning of the strike and negotiated settlement, one worker summed it up, "What's the use of kidding ourselves? All that piece of paper means is that we got a union. The rest depends on us. For God's sake, let's go back to work and finish what we started here!"

Eighty-eight years later, the torch has been passed to us. How our union continues to grow depends on us. Honor all our labor pioneers by making sure their sacrifices were not in vain. Always remember... **WE ARE THE UNION!**

UAW Demands To End Sitdown Strike...

- ▶ A National Conference between the UAW and GM
- ▶ Abolition of all piecework systems of pay
- ▶ Six-hour day and thirty hour week; time and half for any time above that
- ▶ Minimum wage commensurate with an American standard of living
- ▶ Reinstatement of all employees unjustly discharged
- ▶ Straight seniority
- ▶ Speed of production to be mutually determined by each plant's management and shop committee
- ▶ Recognition of the UAW as the sole bargaining agent of all GM employees



Know the Rules...

1. Everyone wears a white shirt or blouse
2. Workers' white shirts must not get dirtier than the boss'
3. Everyone must follow safety and work rules



Ranked-Choice Voting?

"Let us stay engaged and committed to improving our democratic processes for the benefit of all members."

STEPHANIE RILEY

from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy New Year, Union Family!

As we begin this year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the challenges we've encountered with our "1M1V" (1 Member, 1 Vote) process, particularly in light of the UAW's recent elections and the resolutions related to them.

As many of you know, the 1M1V voting system was introduced in the last UAW International Election as a significant step toward increasing member participation. During the most recent Constitutional Convention, several resolutions were proposed to address issues that could arise in the event of a run-off election.

After careful review, the court-appointed monitor required delegates at the 38th Constitutional Convention to vote on the following resolution...

RESOLUTION: "Be it resolved that Article 10 of the UAW Constitution be amended to include the use of Ranked-Choice Voting for International Executive Board offices, which allows for an instant run-off if no candidate achieves a majority of votes."

RATIONALE FOR THE RESOLUTION:

• Direct Voting System Support

The Direct Voting system was overwhelmingly favored in the referendum, with a significant majority supporting a more direct form of member voting for International Executive Board elections.

• Runoff Requirement

In instances where no candidate secures a majority of votes in the general election, a runoff would be required. Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) provides an efficient solution by allowing voters to rank candidates, enabling an instant

runoff if no candidate achieves a majority on the first ballot.

• Cost Reduction

UAW-wide elections can be expensive. By implementing RCV, we could potentially reduce these costs by eliminating the need for a separate runoff election, streamlining the process and saving union funds.

• Efficiency

RCV not only simplifies the process but also allows members to vote for their first and second choices, reducing the risk of vote splitting and ensuring that elected candidates have broad support.

Despite these benefits, the resolution was ultimately voted down by the delegates.

You may recall that due to the timing of the run-off election, our President, Shawn Fain, was sworn in the day before the Bargaining Convention, leaving little time for preparation among other challenges.

In the most recent, 11th, report from the court-appointed monitor, the idea of revisiting the "Ranked-Choice Voting" process is discussed. As we continue to move forward with the 1M1V process, these considerations remain crucial to ensuring that our elections are both fair and efficient.

Let us stay engaged and committed to improving our democratic processes for the benefit of all members. As we look ahead to the next Constitutional Convention, we encourage you to share any suggestions on how we can enhance the 1M1V system.

President Riley

WHAT IS RANKED-CHOICE VOTING?

Ranked-choice voting is an election method that allows voters the option to rank candidates in order of preference. Instead of choosing just one candidate, voters may rank the candidates on the ballot by indicating their first choice, second choice, third choice, and so on. This process allows for an instant runoff to take place in the event that one candidate does not receive a majority of first choice votes, without the need for there to be a second election.

In a ranked-choice voting system, a candidate who receives a majority of first choice votes (more than 50%) wins outright. If no candidate receives a majority of first choice votes, an instant runoff is triggered. In an instant runoff, the candidate with the fewest first choice votes is eliminated from the race, and the eliminated candidate's first choice votes are redistributed to their voters' second choice candidates. The votes are tallied again, and if a candidate receives a majority, the election is over. If not, this process continues until a candidate has a majority of the votes.

For races where there is more than one winner (e.g., UAW International Vice President), a similar process is followed, except voters may cast multiple first-choice votes, equal to the number of positions open in that race. The process continues until each position is filled by a candidate with the majority vote.

Here's an example of how it works:

Assume that there are four candidates for UAW International President. The table below presents the raw first-choice vote totals for each candidate.

INITIAL VOTE		
CANDIDATE	FIRST CHOICE VOTES	PERCENTAGE
Candidate A	475	46.34%
Candidate B	300	29.27%
Candidate C	175	17.07%
Candidate D	75	7.32%

In the above scenario, no candidate won a majority of first choice votes. As a result, the candidate with the fewest number of first choice votes, Candidate D, is eliminated. The ballots that listed Candidate D as the first choice are adjusted, elevating those voters' second choice to count as their new "first" choice. Assume that, of the 75 first choice votes for Candidate D, 50 voters listed Candidate A as their second choice and 25 listed Candidate B as their second choice. The adjusted vote totals would be as follows:

INSTANT RUN-OFF		
CANDIDATE	FIRST CHOICE VOTES	PERCENTAGE
Candidate A	525 [475 + 50 = 525]	51.22%
Candidate B	325 [300 + 25 = 325]	31.71%
Candidate C	175	17.07%

In the instant runoff, Candidate A secured 51.22 percent of the first choice votes, thereby winning the election for International President.

— Prepared by Court-Appointed Monitor

Adjusting Volume Schedules in 2025

"With the changing administration, impact of potential tariffs, promised gas price reductions and the uncertain future of EV, it's really hard to make a prediction..."

ERIC WELTER

SHOP CHAIRMAN



2025 is going to be a bit different than the past few years. Our volume is based on a 40-hour schedule. Fortunately, the company still wants all of them, but without overbuilding. This means each week and month they will adjust overtime to ensure our build for the month.

The company has been preparing for the overall automobile market to be less this year. With the changing administration, impact of potential tariffs, promised gas price reductions and the uncertain future of EV, it's really hard to make a prediction or get a feeling for how things are going to be moving forward.

The second phase of the Special Attrition Program (SAP) is closed. There are 141 participants in total for Flint Assembly – 108 production and 33 trades. The plant owed exit dates to Detroit on 1/17/25. By the time you read this, the participating members will have received an email from downtown giving them their retirement dates. Once you receive your date, you will have to work with our Union Benefits Reps to call for your retirement paperwork. This will get your pension payments coming as soon as possible.

Replacing the 33 Skilled Trades people who took the SAP has already begun. We have brought in replacement journey people. This is a mix of mostly low-seniority transfers and new hires with a new date of entry.

Since I have been Chairman, I have been able to add quite a few lower-seniority dates to the trades through apprenticeships and new hires. This is important because there was a very long period of time when the company was reducing head count and making laid-off workers available from other locations. This meant that there were very few people added to the bottom of seniority list, which unfairly resulted in people with 30 years still at the bottom of the list.

We have been successful with electricians over a number of years and, thankfully, we are just getting started with the other core trades – millwright, pipefitter and toolmaker.

We recently made apprentice offers. Congratulations to those who received one. Flint Assembly got 6 electrical apprentices and 1 toolmaker apprentice, and they will be indentured February 17, 2025.

There has been no communication about the next round of offers. The company has a commitment to apprentice 650 people in the 2023 National Agreement, and there have been 172 apprenticeships so far towards that commitment.

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION:

- **Unused Vacation Payout** – January 31st
- **GM 2024 Earnings Announcement** – January 28th
This will produce the profit sharing amount, pay date, the deadline for filing exempt, and PSP deferral dates which will be communicated.
- **Vacation Application Period** – February 10th thru 21st.
Answers back by March 3rd. Any vacation application for now through March 10th will be done outside of the application period and handled immediately.
- **Skilled Trades Lateral Moves** – Shift preferences
January 20th-24th, posted on January 27th. Lateral move applications January 27th-31st, posted on February 3rd, moves made February 10th.
- **W2's have to be Mailed** to you by January 31st. They are now available online at *Socrates-MyPay-MyForms*.
- **2025 Increases** in maximum employee contributions to PSP/401(K) – Pretax \$23,500, pretax catchup \$7,500, IRA \$7,000, IRA catch up \$1,000.
- **Plant Transfers** – If you are interested in a transfer to another plant, there is better chance while they backfill SAP exits. Go to *Socrates>Personal> Employee Placement System* and put in for a notification for all the locations you are interested in. This will send you a notice if they open a posting. You then have to go in and make application during the posting window. You can also find open postings listed in the *Truck News*.
- **Open House** – All our shops will be open to employee family members this summer, so they can take tours and see where you work. This also allows employees to see the other shops. We will communicate details as they develop.



Our members recently enjoyed the UAW-negotiated holiday celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. This will be followed by Black History Month in February. Look for events, T-shirt sales and education pieces to get the most out of this celebration of African American culture.

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Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. King

"As working-class Americans, we have an obligation to serve our communities not just on MLK Day but all year long."

D'ANDRE JACKSON

RECORDING SECRETARY



Happy New Year To Everyone!

The fresh new year offers all of us an opportunity to stop lying to ourselves and to go hard after all the goals and dreams that for whatever reason got lost in the shuffle of life last year. I pray you and your family have the greatest year ever.

Congratulations to the many retirees who have signed up to retire under the Special Attrition Program (SAP) offer. I'll be watching, so show me how to do retirement properly.

Congratulations to our new Skilled Trades Apprentices. We are so proud of you!

This month, we celebrate the legacy and contributions of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King not only dedicated his life to the fight for racial and economic justice, he was also a steadfast supporter of the labor movement. Dr. King spoke at many union conventions and walked union picket lines fighting for all labor to be recognized as valuable and dignified stating that "the sanitation worker is equally as important as the physician."

The campaign for a federal holiday in honor of Dr. King began shortly after his assassination in 1968, and was promoted by many labor unions in contract negotiations. In 1983, a bill was signed into law creating MLK Day as a federal holiday honoring Dr. King. The bill also established the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission to oversee the observance of the holiday and later naming his wife, Coretta Scott King, as a lifetime member of the commission in 1989.

Since 1994, MLK Day has been recognized as a National Day of Citizen action, encouraging Americans to volunteer in efforts to help improve their communities in honor of Dr. King. As working-class Americans, we have an obligation to serve our communities not just on MLK Day but all year long. Honoring MLK by volunteering in your community and inspiring others to do the same is a great way to start 2025 in the right direction.

If you are not active in the improvement of your community, do you really have the right to complain?



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

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BEACON O&M BARGAINING COMMITTEE

District Committeeperson Mark Leineke.....Alternate Mike Harrell

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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.

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"It is always the right time to do the right thing. The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

— REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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Let's Get Ready To Plunge!

"Once again, we are participating in the annual Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics."

CHAD FABBRO



FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to another great year here at Local 598. We are starting the year off running (well, jumping) into Lake Fenton. Once again, we are participating in the annual Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics. *Last year, we raised over \$38,400!* I just know we can beat that this year.

This Local has been the top team of this event for the past 10 years, and I have no doubts that we will continue to be the top again. All together, our Local has raised over \$245,000 for Special Olympics. That is quite impressive and says a lot about the generosity of this membership. I am super proud to be a part of this Local, and you should be too!

If you are interested in renting out the Union Hall or Union City Fields, dates are filling up fast, so don't hesitate to stop in and check availability. It costs \$400 to rent, with a \$300 security deposit, plus a \$50 key deposit. So, all-in, it costs \$750, but assuming there are no damages and you bring the keys back, you'll get \$350 back. Call us at (810) 238-4605 if you want to check dates.



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1940 W. Atherton Road • Flint, MI 48507-2201
Phone: 810.767.0910 • FAX 810.767.5807

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

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VICE-PRESIDENTS: CHUCK BROWNING • MIKE BOOTH • RICH BOYER



OWEN BIEBER SCHOLARSHIP

During the time Owen Bieber served on the Chrysler Board of Directors, he donated the money he was afforded to fund these academic scholarships at GVSU, to be used by our

qualified members and their families.

The application for the Owen Bieber Scholarship is to be completed online. Students must follow the instructions carefully. The rules and qualifications are spelled out on the online form.

In order to apply for the Owen Bieber Scholarship, students must already be admitted into GVSU. Once they are admitted, students use their GVSU credentials (which they received when accepted) to log into the *myScholarships* system. After signing in, the student will be asked a list of questions. Qualifications and instructions will be found online.

~ OWEN BIEBER SCHOLARSHIP ~

<https://gvsu.scholarshipuniverse.com/public/scholarship/382300>

Students will need to print off the linked verification form that the UAW Local's President or Financial Secretary must sign, and then upload the signed form back into the application. If the Local is closed, call 616.949.4100 to arrange for verification.

**If help is needed with this process,
or you have any questions, please feel free to contact
GVSU's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
at 616.331.3234, or scholarships@gvsu.edu.**

POLAR PLUNGE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1st

11:00am Plunge Check-In

Fenton Moose Lodge

2245 Sonora Drive Fenton, MI

1:00pm Plunge Starts

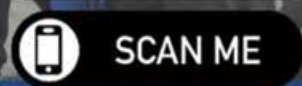


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Pledge your money for Our **TEAM UAW Local 598**

All Proceeds go to Special Olympics



UAW Calls Out Missed Opportunities in Lansing Lame Duck, Applauds Key Working-Class Wins

The UAW applauds key legislative victories which passed the lame duck session in Lansing affecting thousands of working-class Michiganders. The UAW called upon legislators to fight for working class people, and they delivered key wins on wages, healthcare and retirement security, including:

- **70% increase in unemployment** for laid off workers from \$362/week to \$614/week and extending unemployment insurance from 20 weeks to 26 weeks.
- **Legislation making healthcare more affordable** and restoring public sector workers' rights to negotiate healthcare costs, including over 15,000 UAW members in the public sector.
- **Legislation reinstating pensions** for some state workers for the first time in decades, an important step in winning back a benefit that all workers deserve.

These bills will change the lives of many working-class people in Michigan. However, legislators left many priorities for working people on the table when some chose not to show up, not to lead, or not to fight.

"UAW members demanded that Lansing lawmakers pick a side – the working-class or the corporate class," said UAW



President Shawn Fain. "The Senate heard us and led a marathon session to see through important laws to boost the lives of thousands of working-class people."

"But too much was left on the table thanks to the loyalty of some politicians to the looming corporate influences in Lansing. Our elected officials should remember that the mighty membership of the UAW does not shy away from letting those in power know when they aren't doing their jobs well and are prepared to make their voices heard in the Capitol and at the ballot box."

The UAW now looks to Governor Gretchen Whitmer as the last step to signing into law pieces of an agenda centered on working-class Michiganders.

A large promotional graphic for a hockey game. At the top, it says "LIVE UNITED HOCKEY NIGHT" in large blue letters. Below that, "UAW/GM WIN!" is written in red, followed by "Congratulations" in a blue cursive font. The center of the graphic shows a group photo of the UAW/GM hockey team on an ice rink, with a trophy on the left. In the bottom right corner, it says "Final Score: UAW/GM - 10 United Way - 4". At the bottom left is the United Way logo, and at the bottom right are the UAW and GM logos. The background of the photo shows a hockey arena with "BUD LIGHT" visible on the boards.

LIVE UNITED HOCKEY NIGHT
UAW/GM WIN! Congratulations

Final Score:
UAW/GM - 10
United Way - 4

Congratulations to the UAW/GM team for their decisive win on Saturday, January 11th and thank you to everyone who attended.

United Way of Genesee County
Serving Genesee & Shiawassee Counties

UAW gm

Do you know about...



from the
Editor's Desk

SilverSneakers

by Debi Kirchner, EYE OPENER Editor

Since January is the time of New Year's resolutions, it seems like a good time to remind you about the *SilverSneakers* program available to us through our retiree Medicare/Trust benefits.

SilverSneakers is a program that allows us (age 65+) to have free memberships in local fitness and community centers, as well as access daily online fitness classes, including on-demand video library of prerecorded workouts for many different fitness levels.

Membership is free and you can check to make sure you are eligible by registering online, and look up where facilities in your area are located. All the information is available at: silversneakers.com. You can also call local fitness centers and ask if they accept the program.

Once you sign up for the *Silver Sneakers* program (www.silversneakers.com), you will also have access to many lifestyle webinars about a variety of subjects, including help with your cell phone and other tech, nutrition information, and history and travel programs.

The goal? To help you stay strong in body, mind, and spirit. Regular physical activity keeps your heart, brain, bones, muscles, and joints healthy. If you have chronic conditions like arthritis, diabetes, or osteoporosis, safe exercise can help

you feel better. Plus, staying social is vital to good health.

According to *SilverSneakers* members, it works. In fact, 95 percent of members rate their health as excellent, very good, or good. And 88 percent say *SilverSneakers* has improved their quality of life. Plus, you'll find live wellness workshops on topics like stress, balance, nutrition, and pain management.

Classes and workshops occur multiple times throughout the day and are exclusive for *SilverSneakers* members. Learn more in our guide to *SilverSneakers LIVE*.

Also included is nutrition videos, such as healthy eating habits for older adults and how to read food labels.

You'll get a basic membership at any gym and participating locations in the *SilverSneakers* network. Facilities, amenities, and classes vary by location, but if available, that generally means you can use:

- **Cardio equipment, such as treadmills and rowing machines**
- **Strength equipment, such as weights and strength machines**
- **Amenities, such as pools, walking tracks, and even pickleball courts**

It does not include extras like smoothies, massages, or personal training. If you choose to arrange and pay for those on your own, you certainly can.



SILVER SNEAKERS

TAKE
CONTROL
OF YOUR
HEALTH



95% of *SilverSneakers* members rate their health as excellent, very good, or good.



Unity Is Our Greatest Weapon

by **Becky Haughey,**
Education Committee



With a new year, comes new opportunities. Opportunities to put aside our differences and unite together to be the strongest voice we can be for all of our members. Opportunities to show non-union members how great it is to belong to the UAW. Opportunities to organize others to help them receive the wages and benefits that they deserve, while also moving our great Union forward.

Brothers and Sisters, we have had much division among us lately that needs to be eliminated. It's time to let our differences go and to gather together in unity, not just as individuals, but as a collective force that has always stood for justice, fairness, and the dignity of the working class.

In February, we celebrate White Shirt Day – a day that reminds us of the power we hold when we stand together, unwavering and unyielding. February 11, 1937 is a significant day in labor history. It is the day the UAW won its first contract for its members working for General Motors after 44 days of striking. It aided in the rise of the middle class and to advocate for all laborers in similar circumstances.

White Shirt Day isn't just a tradition. It's a symbol. A symbol of solidarity. A symbol of the sacrifices made by those who came before us, who fought for what was right and paved the way for the rights we enjoy today. It is also a reminder that the fight is never over. As long as there is work to be done, there

will be unity to fuel that fight.

We know that the road ahead won't always be smooth. The challenges we face are many, but they are nothing compared to the strength we possess when we are united. From the factory floor to the boardroom, we are a force to be reckoned with. And no matter what obstacles lie ahead, we know that if we stand together, there is nothing we cannot overcome.

Our unity is our greatest weapon. It is the shield that protects us and the hammer that demands justice. In a world where too many are divided, we must choose to come together. We should choose to lift each other up. We should choose to fight not just for ourselves, but for future generations of workers who will look to us as an example of courage and determination, just as we look back to those brave Sit-Down Strikers who fought for the right to collectively bargain, earning us the great benefits and wages we receive today.

Please wear your white shirts with pride on February 11th. Let them be a reminder of who we are and what we represent – *the strength of our brothers and sisters, the power of solidarity, and the unbreakable bond that ties us all together.*

Let us never forget that when we stand united, we cannot be defeated. Together, we are unstoppable. Together, we are the United Auto Workers.

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.

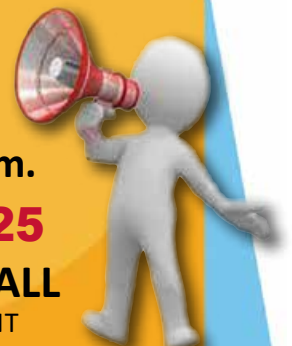
OUR NEXT UNION MEETING

will be held at 2:00 p.m.

February 16, 2025

LOCAL 598 UNION HALL

G-3293 VAN SLYKE ROAD, FLINT



UAW, Reuther and Dr. King Fought Together

by Christen Haney, Local 598 Member

We have returned from a long holiday break, hopefully spent relaxing, resting, and celebrating with family and friends, and now have settled back into the familiar pace of our jobs.

Our first holiday of the new year is a day to reflect on the life and activism of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man well known to most Americans for his righteous fight against injustice.

I would like to highlight a partner in his fight, a friend and supporter of Dr. King that we, as UAW members, should know well – Walter Reuther. In building up the UAW, Reuther sought to create a union that would challenge more than just the injustices within the factory. The preamble of our union constitution calls upon us to participate in the fight for justice, both economically and socially, recognizing that justice within the workplace would be undermined if we did not have a greater community where all people have dignity and worth.

The ideal to always fight for a better future made it an easy choice for Reuther to be publicly supportive of Dr. King. When Dr. King and other activists were imprisoned in Birmingham, the UAW under Reuther's leadership contributed to the \$160,000 sent to bail the activists out of jail, with UAW staffers sent to deliver the money.

Prior to the March on Washington, Reuther marched with Dr. King in Detroit for the *Walk to Freedom*, where Dr. King gave an early version of his "I Have a Dream" speech. During this time, he also helped organize the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where he marched alongside Dr. King, as well as being one of many speakers that day.

Walter Reuther regularly lent his support to Dr. King, as well as to many others in the civil rights movement because he knew that their movement was a sister to the labor movement. He saw the effective adoption of labor tactics in the civil rights movement, sit-ins and boycotts, pickets and peaceful protests being met with violence, and he knew that their fight is our fight.

Reuther was also one of many UAW leaders who fought persistently to stamp out racism within the rank-and-file of the



union, and he knew that eradicating racism in the workplace was only part of the battle.

As UAW members, we are called to stand up as brothers and sisters and fight against injustice, and to not let that fight stop at the factory gate. We are called to stand in solidarity as brothers and sisters fighting for civil and human rights in our communities and in our country.

UAW presidents before and after Walter Reuther also worked diligently fighting against injustice, and learning the history of our Union's participation in the fight for civil and human rights is a fundamental part of understanding our Union and what it means to be part of it. I recommend biographies as a good starting place, such as *"The Most Dangerous Man in Detroit"* by Nelson Lichtenstein, or *"King: A Life"* by Jonathan Eig.



Stay Safe and Warm

"Our Local 598 retirees are always so generous. I know you will help with donations..."

JANET WOODSON



RETIRED WORKERS CHAIR

I hope everyone is staying safe and warm with this very cold start to the year. A busload of retirees braved the cold for our annual trip to the Detroit Auto Show. It's always a good time whenever the retirees board a bus for an adventure. This trip had short notice, due to information not being available at our December meeting and the show having already started when we had our January meeting, but we managed to get enough to make the trip.

Our good friend Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson has opened the lobby at the County jail, located at 1002 South Saginaw Street in downtown Flint, as a warming center.

OTHER WARMING CENTERS ARE:

- **Catholic Charities Sister Claudia Burke Center**
812 Root St., Flint, 810-232-9950
- **My Brother's Keeper**
101 N. Grand Traverse St., Flint, 810-234-1163
- **Carriage Town Ministries**
605 Garland St., Flint, 810-233-8787
- **Shelter of Flint**
924 Cedar St., Flint, 810-239-5433



If you have blankets or cold weather clothes to donate, check with your area churches or the United Way. The number to the Genesee County United Way is 810-232-8121. You can call them if you are looking for a way to help, or need information on resources for yourself or family members. I'm sure they can direct you if you live outside this area. Our Local 598 retirees are always so generous. I know you will help with donations if you can.

The Region 1D annual White Shirt Day celebration is being held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at Local 659 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend this gathering. After the program, the traditional bean soup and apples, the traditional meal the strikers ate, will be served.

Our February Retirees meeting will be held on February 13th, beginning at 12:00 noon. I hope to see you there.

Notice for Seniors

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Limited to ads/services submitted in a Local 598 member's name only.

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Call Steven 810-228-2415



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238-4605 (ext. 17)

miscellaneous

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



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NEW OPTION to read the Local 598 EYE OPENER

You may have noticed digital copies of the *EYE OPENER* have recently been available on our website (uawlocal598.org) and on the GM Chairman's app. If you would prefer to read your paper each month digitally and not receive one at your home, we are offering a way to voluntarily opt out of the mailing. You may request to have the paper mailed again at any time.



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This QR code will take you to a form to make a request to opt out. Simply fill it out and email it to the email address listed on the form. We will also be testing ways to email a digital copy of the paper to you in the future.

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



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