

United Auto Workers 598 EYE OPENER



VOLUME 44 ISSUE 03

www.uawlocal598.org

MARCH 2025

EASTER EGG HUNT

COME AND SEE THE EASTER BUNNY!

HOP ON OVER!

SUNDAY APRIL 6 2PM-4PM



HELD AT UNION CITY FIELDS 4193 TORREY RD. FLINT, 48507 STARTS
PROMPTLY
@ 2:15 PM

All local 598 members are invited to attend.

Attend YOUR Next UNION Meeting APRIL 27th 2:00 P.M.

Celebrating Women in Leadership: Honoring the Backbone of the UAW this Women's Month

"Let's continue to support, uplift, and celebrate women – today and every day."

STEPHANIE RILEY

from the **PRESIDENT'S DESK**

March is National Women's Month

This month is a time to reflect on the incredible contributions women make in all areas of life. As a woman in leadership within the United Auto Workers (UAW), I am deeply proud of the strides we've made and continue to make – especially as women from all walks of life break barriers, contribute to the strength of our union, and pave the way for future generations.

I'm honored to stand alongside some truly inspiring leaders like UAW Secretary-Treasurer Margaret Mock, Top Administrative Assistant to the GM Dept. Nicole Current, Region 1 Regional Director LaShawn English, and Region 1A Regional Director Laura Dickerson.

These women, along with many others, embody the spirit of perseverance,

dedication, and leadership. But what makes me most proud is that we are not just women in leadership positions — we are women who come from the shop floor.



(LR-) Women's Dept. Head Ashley Lewis, President Stephanie Riley, and Reg. 1 Director LaShawn English

The Backbone of Our Union: Rankand-File Women

Women like me didn't start in a boardroom or at the top. We started at the shop floor, just like the women we represent. That connection is what makes the women of the UAW such an essential part of our success. We are the rank-and-file workers who bust our butts every single day, ensuring that our work not

only meets the demands of the industry but exceeds expectations. We bring strength, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the job. From assembly lines to technical roles, the women of the UAW show up, work hard, and contribute to every victory our union celebrates.

Our work might often be behind the scenes, but it is in no way less important. The dedication of these women is the driving force behind every advancement we make as a union. Their efforts have ensured that we are stronger, more united, and more powerful than ever before.

The Importance of Representation

As a woman in leadership, I know how

important it is for women to see themselves reflected in positions of power. It's not just about breaking the glass ceiling; it's about ensuring that women in all fields have a seat at the table and a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. For too long, women have had to fight for equal representation, and while we've made progress, there is still work to be done.

In the UAW, we are proud to have women in leadership roles who continue to

advocate for equality, fairness, and the advancement of our entire membership. But it's crucial that women at every level – from the shop floor to the highest offices – are seen, heard, and valued. This month, as we celebrate National Women's Month, let's take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made, but also to commit to the work that lies ahead.

Looking Ahead: Empowering the Next Generation

The women who have come before us in the UAW laid the foundation for the progress we are making today. Now, it's our responsibility to ensure that we continue this legacy by empowering the next generation of women leaders. Through mentorship, support, and opportunity, we can ensure that more women rise to leadership roles, both within the UAW and beyond.

National Women's Month is a time to honor all women who contribute to society in ways big and small. Whether it's through our work on the shop floor, our leadership within the UAW, or our dedication to our communities, women are the backbone of our success. I am proud to be a woman in leadership, and I am even prouder to be part of a union where women are essential to everything we do.

Let's continue to support, uplift, and celebrate women – today and every day.





Adding Volume: A Very Positive Sign

"... these Saturday's are good for Local 598. Many plants are reducing schedules and laying off workers, while we are adding volume."

ERIC WELTER

SHOP CHAIRMAN

he company has scheduled additional Saturdays for March and April, which has been a divisive issue for the membership. I persuaded the company to give us a 3-month outlook as a courtesy. These additional Saturdays were published after the 3-month outlook came out. This upset a number of members.

This courtesy does not override the company's rights to schedule production under the National Agreement. Even though there is negative impact to those members not wanting to work, these Saturday's are good for Local 598. Many plants are reducing schedules and laying off workers, while we are adding volume.

It was only six weeks ago that members were afraid we were cutting a shift. There is no indication that these Saturdays are resulting from potential tariffs or how much volume this will build into. They have added four shifts or 1,500 units per month. This is not enough volume to indicate anything more than customer demand.

There has been no negative impact at Oshawa. I am not saying it won't end up that way, but rather at this point there is not enough information to determine the future. The company is not discussing tariff impacts.

Many members are asking about returning to the *Every Saturday Agreement*. It is also too early to make a determination and there has to be significantly more volume. Just to add perspective, they added 1,500 more trucks to our monthly schedule, a full Plan A schedule is 3,500 trucks a month and every Saturday is 4,500 trucks. To progress to every Saturday and increase the number of temporary employees to support that, the company will have to run much closer to plan A first.

I was able to increase the vacation approval percentages for 2025. This was a very difficult negotiation and the company made it a prolonged fight. We even went past the vacation return dates to get the last increases. Last year, they approved 8% of RTR on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and 10% of Monday/Friday for months outside of summer, 11% and 13% during the summer. This year, we will do 11% every day, all year, and 15% in the summer months. This increase in vacations positively impacted vacation calendars, reducing denials and giving our members much-deserved approved vacations.

On March 19th, we had a visit from Senator Elissa Slotkin. This gives us an opportunity to showcase this workforce and the importance of Local 598 in their districts. These powerful women will make laws for this country and we will certainly benefit from them leaving as impressed with the workforce as I

am

Since we recently received our profit sharing, I would like to cover a difficult issue that I think is worth discussing. Many of our members nationwide did not receive the full profit sharing because they did not meet the 1,850 hour threshold. I understand there are many members with family members who absolutely need them to use FMLA to take care of them, and we have members who had to take sick leave to deal with personal health issues. We also know that there are many members who use FMLA, sick leave and FS to take time off work and do not receive credit towards the 1,850. This discussion is only meant to have them understand the impact of this time off on their finances.

Let's take 1,650 hours. We have many members who had significantly less hours and many of our members would consider 1,650 close. Even though 1,850 is the threshold for profit sharing, 40 hours a week, without an hour of overtime, would be 2,080 hours. Therefore, a person who had 1,650 has given up 430 hours to a full-time job. In this example, the member is giving up \$16,200 in wages with no shift premium. They are giving up \$1,600 in profit sharing, \$430 dollars in post-retirement health care contributions, and \$1,600 in company 401(k) contributions – totaling \$20,000 in wages or about 21% of their income, for casual time off working less than 40 hours a week.

The impact of the lost 401(k) contributions goes well beyond the year. At an average return of 10%, which is particularly great, it would be \$5,000 after 10 years and \$35,000 after 30 years. Now, multiply it by coming up short year over year and you have greatly impacted your personal finances and your retirement security.

We are all adults and people will make decisions for themselves and I do not judge them. They may decide it's worth it. I just wanted my people to be informed about the impact of their decision before they make it. We are blessed to be at a plant that members can greatly improve their lives and the lives of their families.



5 Calls If not now...when?

With everything going on in our country right now do you feel like you want to do something, but you just don't know how to get started? This app will show you how.

Recent reports indicate that when constituents contact their elected representatives, it makes a difference. If we want a certain outcome about legislation or policy, we MUST let our Representatives know what we are thinking.

Remember, it is just as important to tell our representatives when we agree with them as when we disagree.

Take 5 minutes to make 5 calls for your future!

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

5 Calls is the easiest and most effective way for citizens to make an impact in national and local politics

Calling is the most effective way to influence your representative. Read more about why calling works.

★★ 5 Calls

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Notice for Seniors

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SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE Nick Dekalita. Joe Dontie

SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT) Shane Herriman, Sean Meachem

DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATES Ben Dunlop / Alex Perry Sean Meachem / Chad Boyce Shane Herriman / Bo Browning Stan Cherwinski / Todd Bieber Brian Shick / Jo Anna Batson-Escamilla Dana Waider / Joe Berriman Bryan Ventrone / Stan Dulaney Jon Galant / Wendy Ignash DeWayne Tippit / Mike Bukovchik Aaron McAlister / Jim Hazell Jeremy Switzer / Antonio Pritchett **Kevin Smiley** / Marcus Hunt / Maurice Purches Rob Scott William McIntosh / Jaccob Kohn / Shane Balcer Mike Kocsis

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

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

WORK & FAMILY REPS Cheryl Dawson, George Washington, Dave Yanta FYF OPFNER FDITOR

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.

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Attending IUAW Financial Officers' Conference

"... it's nice to say that our taxes are filed, signed, and in compliance with federal and state laws as we move forward to the new fiscal year."

CHAD FABBRO

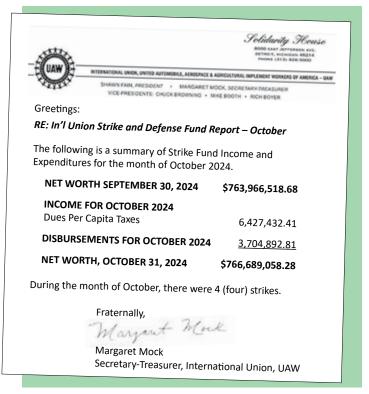
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

I hope everyone is looking forward to spring, and some good weather on the way. We recently returned from attending our annual UAW Financial Officers' Conference. The conference was great, as we met with our International Representatives to discuss issues we are having Locally.

We also had the chance to ask any questions about filing our taxes for the year. I took this time to wrap up our LM2's and the 990's for the federal government. So, it's nice to say that our taxes are filed, signed, and in compliance with federal and state laws as we move forward to the new fiscal year.

Other topics discussed at the conference were the budget of the International Union, and how they are working to improve the process to help keep track of membership information.

Last summer, the IEB formed a new "Membership Department" to help create a defined process and formalized approach to capturing and maintaining the UAW's membership data. Over the past few months, the Membership Department has started to develop formal procedures, best practices, and practical methods for collecting, updating, verifying current membership records. At present, our top priority is enhancing membership data management, which is critical to supporting



our Local Union, improving membership involvement, facilitating International and Local elections, and advancing our collective power. So, we should see improvements for the next UAW International election process.

In the meantime, please keep our office informed of any address changes so we can do our part in maintaining an accurate and efficient, well-organized membership.









Historic Union Women Who Shaped by Becky Haughey, Education Committee the LABOR MOVEMENT

Throughout American history, women in labor unions have played a critical role in shaping workplace rights, advocating for fair wages, and fighting for safer conditions. While often overlooked, these trailblazers led strikes, organized workers, and stood on the front lines of the labor movement. In honor of Women's History Month, here are some of the more influential union women who changed history.

Mary Harris 'Mother' Jones (1837-1930)

Few figures loom as large in labor history as Mary

Harris 'Mother' Jones. Born in Ireland, she moved to the U.S. as a child and worked as a dressmaker and teacher. After losing her husband and four children to yellow fever in 1867, she dedicated her life to labor activism. Mother Jones was a fearless organizer for the United Mine Workers (UMW) and traveled the country to



Mary Harris 'Mother' Jones

support striking workers. She was particularly devoted to protecting child laborers and led the famous "Children's Crusade" in 1903, marching from Pennsylvania to President Theodore Roosevelt's home in New York to demand an end to child labor. Her fiery speeches and relentless dedication made her one of the most powerful voices in the early labor movement.

Clara Lemlich (1886-1982)

Clara Lemlich was a key figure in the fight for garment workers' rights. A Jewish immigrant from Ukraine, she arrived in New York and worked in sweatshops under brutal conditions. Appalled by the exploitation of women workers, Lemlich became involved with the



Clara Lemlich

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). In 1909, she helped spark the "Uprising of the 20,000," a massive strike of mostly young female garment workers protesting long hours, low wages, and workplace dangers. Despite being arrested and beaten by police, Lemlich remained a fierce advocate for workers' rights. Her activism helped pave the way for better wages and working conditions in the garment industry.

Rose Schneiderman (1882-1972)

A Polish immigrant and garment worker, Rose Schneiderman emerged as a powerful labor leader and women's rights advocate. She played a crucial role in unionizing garment workers in New York City and later became a key figure in the Women's Trade Union League (WTUL). After the devastating Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911, which killed 146 garment workers, Schneiderman pushed for stronger workplace safety laws. She famously



Rose Schneiderman

declared, "The worker must have bread, but she must have roses too," emphasizing the need for not just fair wages but also dignity and quality of life for workers. Her activism helped lead to labor protections that benefited generations of workers.

Lucy Parsons (1851-1942)

Lucy Parsons was one of the most radical and outspoken labor activists of her time. Born into slavery, she later moved to Chicago, where she became a leader in the fight for workers' rights. Parsons co-founded the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), advocating for workers of all races and backgrounds. She fought tirelessly for an eight-hour workday and was a key figure in the labor



Lucy Parsons

movement following the Haymarket affair in 1886. Authorities often tried to silence her, but she continued to publish, organize, and speak out against economic injustice throughout her life.

Dolores Huerta (1930-Present)

Dolores Huerta is a living legend in the labor movement. In the 1960s, she co-founded the United Farm Workers (UFW) alongside César Chávez, organizing farmworkers to demand fair wages, better conditions, and protections from exploitation. Huerta led major strikes and boycotts, including the successful grape boycott of the 1960s. She coined the slogan "Sí, se puede" ("Yes, we can"), which became a rallying cry for labor and civil



Dolores Huerta

rights movements alike. Her decades of activism have earned her national recognition, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Conclusion: These women, and countless others, laid the groundwork for labor rights we often take for granted today. From leading strikes to advocating for child labor laws and workplace protections, they proved that union women are a force to be reckoned with.

This Women's History Month, we honor their sacrifices and celebrate their enduring legacy in the fight for workers' rights.



Local 598 & You



March Class was a HUGE SUCCESS!

by Debi Kirchner, Editor



Alternate Committee Rep. JoAnna Batson-Escamilla talked about being on the Bargaining Committee.

The recent **Local 598 & You** class celebrated the women of our Local Union and welcomed some very special guests. On Wednesday, UAW Vice President Mike Booth and his staff stopped in and he spoke to the class about how the International Union functions.

On Thursday, Region 1 Director and Director of the International Union-UAW Women's Department LaShawn English and former Local 598 member Ashley Lewis, Department head of the Women's Department, encouraged the women attendees to get involved with their Union and speaking about the fact that many of the issues women deal with can be improved through strong

contracts. Of course, GM Bargaining Chair Eric Welter joined the class and talked about the bargaining process, answering questions from class members.

It was a great three days, and your Education Committee would like to thank everyone who made it a success.





Local 598 President Stephanie Riley, Vice President John Jackson III; Nicole Current, Booth Top AA; Mike Plater, Booth AA; Wiley Turnage, GM Servicing Rep., and Rec. Sec'y D'Andre Jackson



Corissa Carter, Local 598 Trustee and Genesee County CLUW President, talked about the benefits of joining CLUW.



Local 598 Women's Committee Chair and Local 598 Trustee Melissa Bowen inviting the attendees to join the Women's Committee.



SATURDAY, July 12th **TIGERS BASEBALL GAME**

Sign-up for LOCAL 659: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. April 1, May 6 & 20, June 3 & 17

Sign-up for LOCAL 651: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. April 14, May 20, June 10

Dues-paying Members: \$50.00 Non-Dues-paying Members: \$100.00 Bus Ticket & Food Voucher: \$20.00

Bus leaves from Local 659, 9:00 a.m. 4549 Van Slyke Road, Flint, MI

April 2025 **SPRING CASINO TRIP (TBD)**

THURSDAYS: April 10th, May 8th, June 12th **RETIREE CHAPTER MEETINGS**

12:00 Noon **UAW Local 598 Auditorium**

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"We would love to have you join us at our monthly meetings."

JANET WOODSON

RETIREES CHAIR

We had another run for the White House by a woman...one of these years. There are so many great women in the world today, and to feel their greatness is to know what they went through to get there. We appreciate you – single mothers, teachers, attorneys, doctors, CEOs, presidents of companies, wives, daughters, and yes, the little girls that will some day rule!

I am so very proud to be a UAW member, and to be a part of a great movement that after all these years still makes a difference in my life. I am so glad that we have members retiring with hope and a little money in their pockets.

But, don't sit down too long. It will make you lazy. If you don't already have a hobby to take up, try to do something new and exciting! We would love to have you join us at our monthly meetings. Congrats on your retirement!

We missed our first meeting ever in February due to the bad weather, but we made up for it in March. We had a great meeting! Everyone was glad to be back. Region 1D Servicing Rep. Scott Henry shared a lot of wonderful information with the group and answered questions. Thanks, Scott, we appreciate you!

We didn't have but a handful of members who held up hands for our annual spring casino trip, so for now, that's up in the air. Anyone wanting a spring casino trip will need to let me know by April 4th. We will be looking at a one-night casino trip to Little River Casino. Please share your thoughts with me at 810-238-4605, ext. 18.

TO OUR RECENT&SOON-TO-BE RETIREES



Alesia Tyson (3/1/25)



Amira Lovejoy 6/1/25 and husband Dwight



Arthur McGee (3/1/25) and wife Melody



Beverly Gauthier (9/1/25)



Cindy Anderson (9/1/25)



David Garcia (9/1/25) and wife Delphine



Earl Labean, Jr. (9/1/25) and wife Debera



Eddie Taylor (8/1/25) and wife Tisha



Edward Vince (9/1/25) and wife Anna



Eric Garfield (9/1/25) and wife Cindy

If you are retiring soon, please stop by the Benefits Office or the Local 598 Union Hall and get your picture taken for an upcoming issue of the EYE OPENER.



Gary Crawford (4/1/25)



Gene Kurosky (7/1/25) and wife Carrie



Jeffery Simpson (8/1/25) and wife Lori



John Addison (9/1/25) and wife Lori



John Krupp (9/1/25) and wife Anne



Karen Dungerow (3/1/25)



Michael Harris (9/1/25)



Michael Thomas (6/1/25)



and wife Lena



Randy Epperson (8/1/25) Randy McDowell (9/1/25) and wife Phyliss



Rebecca Haughey (6/1/25)



Ryan Mills (9/1/25)



Samantha Aumugher (9/1/25)



Scott Crawford (4/1/25) and wife Judith



Scott Davis (9/1/25) and wife Susan



Terry Yarbrough (8/1/25) and wife Sharon



Thomas Birchmeier (9/1/25)



William Prise (9/1/25)



Tracy Farmer (9/1/25) and husband Dennis

UAW Local 598 wishes to extend our congratulations to these recently retired members for their many years of dedicated service, and to invite them to be an active part of our Retired Workers Chapter.



UAW Region 1D **Veterans Council**

TOURNAMENT



Challenge your friends and co-workers for bragging rights as we raise money for VA Hospitals in Saginaw, Battle Creek, and Iron Mountain *Snacks, lunch, and beverages available on-site*

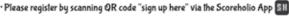


Date: Saturday, May 3
Practice open Friday night, May 2nd

Time: Bags Fly at Noon Arrive by 11 AM to confirm properly registered

Entry Fee: \$3000 per person Payable via Venmo (preferred) – Cash at door

Location: Auto City Eagles Aerie 3485, 7445 Clio Rd., Mt. Morris, M



- · Pay entry fee by scanning the Venmo QR code (on the right)
- ·We urge everyone to preregister & prepay to help things run smoothly
- · 6 round switcholio to seed double elimination blind draw
- · Cash payouts 1st thru 4th 60% of entry fees collected
- · NO outside food or beverage permitted except bottled water.
- You are welcome to bring your own shade source and
- bring your own lawn chair(s)
- Price of snacks, lunch, and beverages NOT included in entry fee



UAW LOCAL 598 Nomination Election Report

February 27, 2025

The following candidates were elected by acclamation:

GM Bargaining Unit • District 4A

COMMITTEEPERSON Stanley Cherwinski

ALTERNATE COMMITTEEPERSON **Todd Bieber**

MPS Bargaining Unit • 2nd Shift

2nd SHIFT COMMITTEEPERSON John Wineland

2nd SHIFT ALTERNATE COMMITTEEPERSON Jonathan Lyttle



Election Committee Local 598, UAW



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miscellaneous

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Duane Anderson Clarence Kramp Wille Rawls, Sr. Dewey Keen David Lawson

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



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

SPECIAL DISCOUN

to all **UAW MEMBERS**

and their **IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

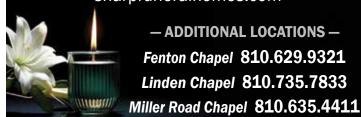
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Local 598 Women Proudly Celebrate...

NATIONAL

























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