



United Auto Workers

LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



Home of the Original
Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 04

www.uawlocal598.org

APRIL 2025

How Do I Apply?

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
Friday, June 6, 2025

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

All active or laid-off UAW members in good standing can apply for the Family Scholarship Program if they have never attended it. You must also be willing to use your regular vacation, personal leave, or Union leave time (where permitted by contract) to attend.

Past participants are not eligible to reapply.

Your spouse/domestic partner (must reside at the same address) and children/grandchildren 4-18 years old may attend with you. You may be required to provide a birth certificate or proof of legal guardianship for each attending child. Children under four years old cannot attend. Other relatives, non-relatives, and retirees are not eligible to participate — *no exceptions!* Pets are not allowed at the Family Education Center.

WHAT'S THE COST?

The UAW pays all lodging, food, and program costs for the 1-week session. The scholarship does not cover group photos or any other personal spending costs. Expenses for meals, tolls, or additional costs incurred during travel to and from the FEC are not covered.

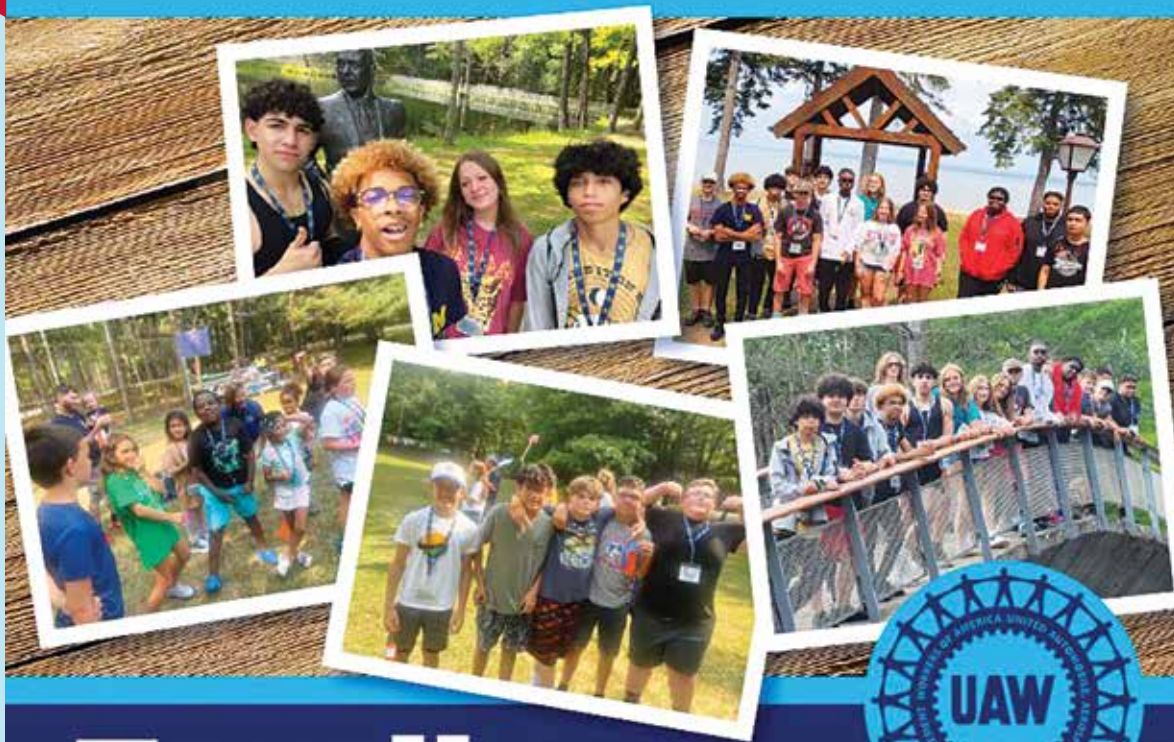
WHERE DO I LEARN MORE AND APPLY?

Please complete your registration no later than Friday, June 6, 2025. Register via link:

<https://conference.uaw.org/family.php>

Username: **2025FAMILYSP**
Password: **UAWFSP25**

WALTER & MAY REUTHER UAW FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER



Family Scholarship

July 20-25, 2025

For more than 45 years, the Family Education Center has been where UAW members and their families come together for an experience combining education and recreation.

It's a place to learn about our Union, unlock ideas, and build new friendships with other UAW families.

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



MARCHING FORWARD: A Month of Learning, Leadership & Community at UAW Local 598

"We're proud of the momentum we've built and look forward to continuing this energy..."

STEPHANIE RILEY

from the **PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Activity...Progress...Unity!

The last 30 days was a month to remember for UAW Local 598. From leadership development to community connection, our Local was buzzing with activity, progress, and unity.

Our Education Committee kicked it off with our "UAW Local 598 & You" classes, where members engaged in thoughtful discussions about union rights, responsibilities, and the strength we have when we stand together. We were proud to welcome several International UAW leaders who dropped by to show their support and share insight. Their presence reinforced

how connected we are to the broader labor movement and the importance of staying informed and engaged.

Another stand-out moment was the *Women in Leadership Conference*, hosted by the UAW Women's Department. Several of our own women leaders attended and brought back powerful knowledge and inspiration. The conference covered critical topics including bargaining for contract language that protects and uplifts women's rights in the workplace. Participants dove into sessions on proposed bargaining demands, state labor laws, effective communication, leadership, mentoring, and strategy-building for future contract negotiations. It was a space of empowerment, learning, and solidarity among women across our union.

And of course, we all shared a day of joy and celebration at our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Union City Fields. The Recreation Committee did a fantastic job preparing for the day, and the turnout was even better than we expected. Families enjoyed sunshine, laughter, and plenty of Easter fun – making it another successful community event that reminds us what union family is all about.

We're proud of the momentum we've built and look forward to continuing this energy through the rest of the year. Whether in the classroom, the conference room, or the community, UAW Local 598 is always working, learning, and growing – together.

President Riley



Lots of fun at the Easter Egg Hunt!



Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraiser for **Autism Awareness Month** and the **Life Skills Center in Clinton Township**.

Shirts and hoodies will be for sale until the last day in April, 2024.

You can order shirts and hoodies from our website www.uawlocal598.org



President Stephanie Riley (at right) swearing in recently elected MPS Bargaining Committee members (L-R) Jonathan Little (Alternate) and John Wineland.

Uncertain Times

"We appear to be at a crossroads in the industry with the potential tariff impacts..."

ERIC WELTER

SHOP CHAIRMAN



Our schedule is a difficult issue to get worked out. The current administration's back and forth tariffs makes it difficult for the company to make production decisions.

We have increased production by 1,500 trucks a month, but have no decisions on whether that will continue or increase. I am working to return us to the 3-month look-ahead, but it needs to be credible. With all the turmoil, the company is struggling to give us that. In addition, I am pushing to get back to 3-shift Saturdays, so we are no longer rotating turns.

We appear to be at a crossroads in the industry with the potential tariff impacts on both finished products and parts. The uncertain future of EV is a big problem in Michigan, with what I estimate to be 10,000 UAW jobs between Lake Orion, DHAM and LGR all at risk. Although many people do not like Saturdays, having additional volume right now is a blessing. GM is going to cut 2 billion out of their operating costs. This is no time to be idle.

A bit of history, in 2009, we were running three shifts of pickup trucks and one shift of GMT 560 medium-duty truck. American Axle went on strike and the pickup truck line went idle for 12 weeks. This caused the company to re-evaluate production here and they reduced a shift of the pickup truck. Since the pickup line wasn't running, it exposed the medium-duty's profitability and they eliminated that as well.

When decisions have to be made, it is never good to be on layoff or running minimum production. It is always safer to be running wide open during turmoil.

The company has announced they will no longer allow non-GM vehicles to use the plant EV chargers. This will begin May 1st and I am still trying to understand if this is a technology restriction or if they are going to rely on security.

Seagulls continue to be the plague of the Flint Complex. Seagulls are a protected bird, but we have the permits to pick up nests and eggs already in place. They have been on the roof canvassing for nests and they have not begun to build them yet.

It should be starting soon and they are preparing to be on top of it. Please do not feed the birds. There is plenty of food between the dump on Grand Blanc Road and Miller Road restaurants, so they are not at risk of starvation.

I want to discuss PSP loans and their real impact. They are presented as an easy way to get a loan and you are just paying yourself back. It is a viable option and, in some cases, is a good choice, but I want people to understand them. There are about 45,000 GM workers and 42,000 PSP loans. This indicates there are people who have taken multiple PSP loans. The loan rate is typically around 3.5%, which sounds great, but they sell your position in the fund to give you the money; therefore, whatever your investments are returning is also lost. For example, if you are in the S&P 500 index fund, it returned 26% last year, so that loan cost you 29.5%. Even though last year was an exceptional year for the S&P, that fund has averaged 11.88% in the last 60 years. Therefore, the loan on average costs you 15.38%. There are many ways to borrow money that have lower interest rates and, quite frankly, impacting your retirement savings is not a good idea. I recommend protecting your retirement and looking for other options through your bank or credit union.



United Auto Workers

LOCAL 598

EYE OPENER

Home of the Original Fisher 2 St-Downers



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

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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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April Showers bring...Yard Work!

"If you see a safety violation or unsafe condition, inform your Group Leader or Team Leader immediately to request a Safety Call on the radio."

D'ANDRE JACKSON

RECORDING SECRETARY

I pray that all of you enjoyed your UAW-negotiated paid Easter Holiday weekend with your family and friends, marking the beginning of the spring season.

The incoming season is my favorite time of year. It's the time of year that I find any reason to be outdoors all day long.

Shout out to all my lawn loving brothers and sisters! This is that time of year when we spend hours getting the yard together, just to sit back and look at it with a cold one admiring all our hard work.

I'm sure some of you will find it amusing to hear that watering the plants and flowers is very fulfilling for a guy like me. I love to watch them as they grow and mature into a beautiful display. So, if you ride by the house, you just might catch me outside dead heading the Wave Petunias and Geraniums. Ahhhh, it's so relaxing! So take the time to get outside. Take a short walk, a bike ride, or just sit outside and enjoy the sounds of nature and children laughing and playing.

Whatever you do, make sure that you do it safely. April 28th is the day we celebrate Workers Memorial Day. This is the day we take the time to remember and honor the workers who one day went to work as usual and never had the chance to return home. I am very grateful that we have strong safety language in our contract and a strong UAW Safety department to enforce the language, so that all 598 workers make it home to see their families. If you see a safety violation or unsafe condition, inform your Group Leader or Team Leader immediately to request a Safety Call on the radio. It's important that we all do our part to have a safe workplace. *See you out there!*



2025 WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Local 974 Daulton T. Simmers UAW Region 4

Local 1047 Franklin "Tracy" Logsdon UAW Region 8

Local 12 Antonio E. "Tone" Gaston UAW Region 28

Local 723 Ronald "Rommie" Adams UAW Region 1A

1973 - 2025

James Peters Matthew Kline Jack Lee William Allen John Jarvis Robert Thompson James Beaulieu Charles Dennis Ralph Bennett Olin Morrison Art Miller Charles Brown James Brown James McClain Fred Brock Joseph Brock Arthur MacLain William Whitfield Lee Manning Perry Green Jenny Whitfield Paul Kestis Andrew Kestis Kenneth Miller James Allen Edward Cobb Floyd Wade John Freedy Louis Robinson John Maxwell Gilbert Stephenson J. Childers E. Childers Francis McDougall Jennifer Bernick Charles Carhart Steven Jankowski Al Saba James Adams Freddy Anderson C. McGee Donald Sprague C. Wadsworth Gilbert Moore Leland Hanson William Pennington Edward Hearn Donald Chambers Howard Gray Larry Light Clifford Jones Edward Garcia Michael Chiofalo C. 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Payne Dennis Ogden Joseph Corley Dennis Doyle Reginald King Othello Adams Stade Smith William Rammey William Lewis Lyle Shry Nancy Gieger Ron Haeber John Chorney Allen Mear James Wood Clarence Short Dennis Lippert Gordon Pappas Paul Light Alvin Foele John Van Sickle Ginger Brown Larry Brown Scott Irwin David Mitchell David McConery Ernest Dick Richard Jankowski Eugene Baker Gordon Hurley Gary Jones Mark Logan David Drake Robert Lee Charles Marshall James Mawell Anthony Foster David Thompson Dennis Moore David Smith Richard Baker Donald Johnston Tom Alving Michael Hartman Bobby Shaw Joseph Long James Mawell Lester Lewis Dale Matthews Clyde Fragley Richard Hearn Teresa Connor William Zurek Charles Gordon Herbert Edwards Richard Stokles Lyle Price Andrew Temple John Poulos Ronald Stokles Michael Gully William Walker Thomas Camphorn	Harry Pratt Barbara Symonstrell Benny Ogden Kenneth Tognard John Smith Jimmy Jones Timothy Ebert James Adams Macedo Romero Edward L. 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Calling All Shirt Designers

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

Have you ever thought that you could come up with a better design for our Local's T-shirts? We'd like to give you the opportunity to do so. The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee is excited to announce our 2025 "Design our next Breast Cancer Awareness shirt contest."

To enter, please email your artwork to:

UAWLocal598WC@gmail.com before **Friday, June 27th**
Online voting will begin in July and the contest winner's design will be featured on this year's *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* shirts. The winner will receive a free t-shirt with their design on it. We know we have a great, creative membership and we look forward to seeing your ideas!



The Local 598 Women's Committee had a great time at the Mid-Michigan Pet Expo, held at Dort Financial Center, March 21st to the 23rd. We had over 50 gift baskets donated by the dog dock-diving teams, the flyball teams, and the Women's Committee. With our raffles, we raised **\$2,512** for **A ReJoyceful Animal Rescue!**

Congratulations to our winners of the gift basket raffles. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated.

We loved seeing the photos of everyone sporting their *Rosie the Riveter* gear on Rosie Day, March 21st.

**WE WANT YOU TO DESIGN OUR
NEXT BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS SHIRT!**



**TO ENTER THIS CONTEST, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ARTWORK TO
UAWLOCAL598WC@GMAIL.COM BEFORE FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025.
ONLINE VOTING WILL BEGIN IN JULY AND THE CONTEST WINNER'S
DESIGN WILL BE FEATURED ON THIS YEAR'S MAKING STRIDES AGAINST
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*"The strength
of the nation
is in the hands
of its women."*



Solidarity Soldiers of UAW Local 598







The Hunt Is On 5,000 Eggs



On April 6th, our Annual Local 598 EASTER EGG HUNT was a success, as the children enjoyed collecting eggs at Union City Fields.





UPCOMING EVENTS

"I invite all our retirees to participate in our upcoming events."

JANET WOODSON

RETIREES CHAIR



I hope you all had a Happy Easter holiday. We didn't have enough members who wanted a Spring Casino Trip, but we hope to have a day trip to Little River Casino, and a Detroit Tigers baseball trip in July. We are looking into a weekday because

the tickets are cheaper.

Tickets for Senior Power Day 2025 are now available at the Union Hall.

If I'm not in, the

lovely ladies at the front office will have some. The date is Wednesday, May 21, 2025, and tickets are *free*.

We will have more information on our two trips at our May 8, 2025 Retiree Chapter Meeting. Hope to see you there.



Retired Workers Chapter

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

Thursday, May 8 RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING

May 2025 LITTLE RIVER CASINO TRIP (TBD)

Thursday, June 12 RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING

June 2025 Possible Tiger weekday ball game.

Saturday, July 12 TIGER BALL GAME

Friday, August 15 RETIREE GOLF OUTING

Fenton Farms, Fenton, Michigan
Applications will be available in June.

Deadline July 31, 2025



John Willis (6/1/25)
and wife **Maryanne**

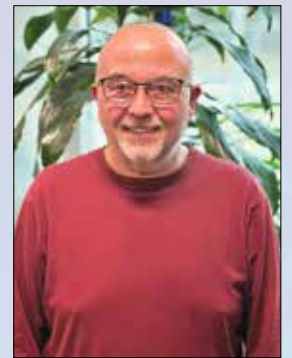


*to all of our soon-to-be
RETIREES.*

We hope to see you at our
RETIRED WORKERS CHAPTER MEETING
held on the second Thursday of each month at
the Local 598 Union Hall at 12:00 noon.



Jeffery Atwell (8/1/25)
and wife **Valerie**



Terry Copper
(8/1/25)



Walter Payne
8/1/25



James Belanger
(3/1/25)



Brian Coulter (9/1/25)
and wife **Rhonda**



Gisela Flores
(9/1/25)



Richard Johnston
(9/1/25)



Roger Kaczmarek
(9/1/25)



John Miller (9/1/25)
and wife **Mary**



Robert Morse
(9/1/25)



Devon Powells (9/1/25)
and wife **Paulette**

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.



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.

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miscellaneous

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NOTICE

OUR NEXT UNION MEETING

will be held at 2:00 p.m.

MAY 18, 2025

at the UNION HALL



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WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

Letter from the UAW President

Greetings UAW Family,

On this Workers' Memorial Day, we gather as one to remember those in our UAW family and those in our extended Labor Movement family who went to work one day and did not return home to their loved ones.

This day is also the anniversary of the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) in 1970. The mission of the Act has been to provide safe and healthful working conditions to all Americans. This law and many of the standards adopted since 1971 were won largely in part because of the labor movement standing up and fighting for those advancements. While we have come a long way in the past 54 years, the fight for safe workplaces is far from over.

Each year, thousands of workers are killed on the job and millions more suffer injuries and illnesses due to dangerous working conditions that are preventable. Last year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported 5,283 fatal injuries within private industry. That statistic averages out to mean that 14 people per day go to work and never return home. It is sickening to think that one American worker loses their life every 99 minutes. The BLS also reported 2.6 million recordable injuries and illnesses for 2023. Even though these injuries and illnesses were non-fatal, some of those affected employees may never be the same again.

The job safety laws in this country are still too weak, even 54 years after the passage of the OSH Act. Corporations are constantly exploiting the weakness of the laws and the ability of the federal and state-run OSHA agencies to enforce those laws. It would take MIOSHA Compliance Officers 56 years to conduct one workplace inspection on each worksite in Michigan based on OSHA data from 2019. The people running these companies know how short-staffed the agencies are. They are constantly willing to take a chance on violating a standard knowing that the likelihood of getting caught is very low.

By the time that you read this letter, we will be three months into a new presidential administration. Every administration puts a different emphasis on different topics. The UAW has always been committed to working with every presidential administration to pass legislation that protects every working person in this great nation to ensure their right to go home the same way they came to work every single day. We will demand action from politicians on both sides of the aisle because workplace health and safety should NEVER be a partisan issue.

The UAW continues to demand stronger workplace health and safety regulations at the bargaining table and in the halls of Congress. As new hazards are introduced into our worksites daily, we must continue to express our collective voice and demand protections to be in place before any of our members are potentially exposed. We must also ensure that our members are educated on these topics. Educating working people on their rights, keeps our most vulnerable from being silenced.

Together on this Workers' Memorial Day, let us ensure that our members who lost their lives due to unsafe workplaces have not died in vain. Continue to fight as the UAW has done for decades. Demand stronger contractual language and work with local, state, and federally elected officials to enact stronger workplace health and safety regulations for workplace health and safety for ALL Americans.

Let us take this final moment to remember the immortal words of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

In solidarity

Shawn Fain, President and Director
UAW Health and Safety Department

