



United Auto Workers LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



Home of the Original
Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 10

www.uawlocal598.org

OCTOBER 2025

UAW LOCAL 598 SMALL BUSINESS EXPO



Shop.
Share.

Support Your
Union Family.



Are YOU a Local 598 Maker or Creator?

Do you bake, build, craft, design, or photograph?

Own a small business or side hustle?

This is your chance to show off your skills and share your work with your
Union Brothers and Sisters!

Home Repair • Bakers • Photographers • T-Shirt Designers
• Party Planners • Gift Makers

IF YOU MAKE IT, WE WANT TO SEE IT!



**SUNDAY
November 23**



11:00 AM – 3:00 PM



**UAW Local 598
Union Hall**



For Vendors

We'll provide the tables, chairs, and space...

You bring your talent and products!

Submit vendor application to the Union Hall by November 14.



FREE ADMISSION
for ALL Local 598 Members!

*This season, let's give 'shop local' a whole new meaning.
Keep it in the FAMILY – shop LOCAL 598!*



For Members & Shoppers

Stop by, browse, and shop LOCAL 598!

Find one-of-a-kind gifts and services created
by our very own members, and help keep
the holiday spirit union strong.

VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM

UAW LOCAL 598 • SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

Sunday, November 23, 2025 • 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Local 598 Member: _____ Phone: _____

If spouse is business owner, please provide their information:

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Name of Business: _____

In a few words, describe nature of business: _____

Discount(s) available to Local 598 Members? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Submit vendor application to the Union Hall by November 14, 2025



MISSIONS OF OUR UNION... Growing the UAW & Strengthening the Labor Movement

"Every gain we've made...was made possible because workers came together and stood as one."

STEPHANIE RILEY

from the **PRESIDENT'S DESK**

IUAW's First-ever Organizing Conference

Earlier this month, members of UAW Local 598 had the honor of participating in the International UAW's first-ever Organizing Conference – a historic event focused on one of the most important missions of our union: growing the UAW and strengthening the labor movement for generations to come.

At the conference, our members received hands-on training in the fundamentals of organizing – from mapping workplaces and identifying leaders, to effective communication, inoculating potential members against anti-union tactics, and building genuine solidarity. These skills are not only tools for organizing new workplaces, but they also strengthen our own Local by deepening our understanding of what it takes to unite working people around a shared purpose.

Why Organizing Matters

Organizing is at the heart of who we are as UAW members. Every gain we've made – from fair wages and healthcare to safety protections and retirement security – was made possible because workers came together and stood as one. The only way we continue to protect those gains, and expand them to more workers, is by organizing.

When we grow the UAW, we increase our power at the bargaining table, in our workplaces, and in our communities. We make it harder for corporations to divide and weaken working people. Every new group of organized workers strengthens the voice of every existing member.

The Role of Community

Another key theme from the conference was the importance of building strong relationships with our local communities. The truth is, a union's strength doesn't stop at the plant gate. Our families, neighbors, schools, and small businesses are all



connected to the well-being of working people. When we show up for our community – volunteering, supporting local causes, and lending a hand where it's needed – we're not just doing good; we're showing what solidarity looks like in action.

By being visible, engaged, and caring members of our communities, we help people see the union not as an outsider, but as a vital part of the fabric that keeps our towns and cities strong. That support matters when organizing new workplaces, when bargaining contracts, and when standing up for fairness and justice.

Moving Forward Together

Our Local 598 delegation returned from the conference energized, inspired, and ready to put what we learned into practice. Organizing is not just a committee – it's a mindset, a commitment we all share to make the labor movement stronger.

As we look ahead, let's continue to build bridges – in our workplaces, across industries, and throughout our communities. Together, we can make sure that the UAW remains a powerful force for working families, today and for generations to come.

Stephanie Riley

UAW Holiday Shirts On Sale Now...



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using the link,
or by scanning
this QR code.



<https://uawlocal598holidayswag.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO "TOYS FOR TOTS."

Dekalita Receives Nick Vuckovich Award

"Nick earned this honor through his leadership in...a partnership that has built more than 4,600 ramps for elderly and disabled residents..."

JOHN JACKSON III

VICE PRESIDENT



There's a special kind of pride when one of our own gets recognized not just for what they do inside the plant, but for the difference they make outside of it. On September 26, our brother Nick Dekalita, who serves as the 2nd Shift, Shop Committee-at-Large on our Local 598 Bargaining Committee, was presented with the Nick Vuckovich Community Service Award by the United Way of Genesee County.

The award, named after the late community leader Nick Vuckovich, honors individuals who embody his spirit of volunteerism, compassion, and service to others. Established by the United Way of Genesee County to recognize exceptional community leadership, the award continues Vuckovich's legacy of bringing people together for the greater good.

Nick earned this honor through his leadership in the UAW/United Way Wheelchair Ramp Program, a partnership that has built more than 4,600 ramps for elderly and disabled residents across Genesee County since the program started in the mid-1980s. As head of the "All Ramped Up" crew, Nick organizes volunteers, coordinates builds, and is always right there in the mix, toolbelt on and sleeves rolled up. What makes his service even more remarkable is that Nick builds these ramps on his own time, after work, on weekends, and whenever someone in the community needs help. The ramps his team builds do more than provide access. They restore independence, dignity, and hope for our neighbors who might otherwise feel trapped in their own homes.

I have personally known Nick for years, and have worked with him on the Bargaining Committee. Nick has always been the same kind, encouraging, and good-humored guy, no matter what's going on around him. Nick's attitude never changes. He is the kind of person who makes you want to do just a little bit more, and have a way better day.

On behalf of all of us at UAW Local 598, we thank Nick for representing what this Union is all about – *The Local Union with a Heart*. This recognition is well deserved, and we're proud to



Nick Dekalita and Region ID Director Steve Dawes

call him one of our own.

If you see Nick around the plant, take a moment to congratulate him and get a feel of the good vibes coming off this good man.

Home of the Original Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

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

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District Committeeperson Mark Leineke..... Alternate Rodney Haggard

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John Wineland Alternate John Little
Damon Harrison

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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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*BCBS only, others may require co-payment, excludes HAP

PTT/FTT Benefits By The Numbers

"All seniority and Full-Time Temporary (FTT) will receive unemployment and Sub pay. This equates to about 75% of your regular pay."

ERIC WELTER

SHOP CHAIRMAN



With the upcoming downtime, there are certain details I would like to share. First, as always, it is a temporary layoff and is subject to change. The first day of layoff is January 5, 2026. The time period prior is a contractual holiday pay. Each day of the Christmas break is an individual holiday, not one block. Therefore, Part-Time Temporary (PTT) have to qualify for each holiday separately, using the 3 out of 5 days worked requirement.

All seniority and Full-Time Temporary (FTT) will receive unemployment and SUB pay. This equates to about 75% of your regular pay. This benefit for FTT is new in the 2023 National Agreement.

PTT will receive unemployment benefits. The maximum benefit increases to \$530 in 2026. The temporary layoff does not affect a temporary employee's continuous service date, nor does it reset or add time to the 9-month requirement for conversion that will happen on the original timeline. Layoff weeks do not count toward profit sharing or FMLA eligibility.

The membership in the material department have been frustrated with equipment problems for some time now. We have been pressing the company for new equipment, which they got, but unfortunately they made a mess of it.

We have now negotiated a joint committee to review and improve material equipment. They have reviewed every piece of equipment for every job. The committee is part of this material equipment group and is advocating on our members behalf. They are properly assigning new forklifts and tuggers to remove the worst equipment. They have identified and begun replacing the worst batteries. They are auditing and repairing chargers. They have worked with Aramark to improve the turnaround of equipment from repair. They improved both their point of use parts and ordering system. They are working on a process to ensure trucks get assigned back where they came from after repair including a loaner system. Hopefully, this hard work will be felt by our members and will make their jobs easier.

We have an emerging issue in the plant surrounding employee vehicle discounts. Flint Assembly, along with Arlington, have the highest level of discount fraud. Employees are selling their *GM Family First* login information. That information is used to get authorization numbers for employee vehicle discounts and the member is typically getting \$150, through *Cash App* or *Venmo*, every time they get an authorization number. The employee is

notified by *GM Family First* whenever an authorization number is generated with a letter in the mail.

Some of these employees have sold 15-20 authorization numbers. This is fraud in some cases \$60k-70K. We have had 7 people lose their jobs due to this fraudulent activity, and there are more still coming, as they investigate.

I have heard that "the Union is letting people get fired with no evidence." That is not true and in most cases, when the member is faced with the evidence, they admit to the fraud.

I know there is a lot of dissatisfaction within our PTT pool that we are not converting fast enough, stating that we are the only location in Michigan that takes that long, so I am going to clarify a few things. Yes, it does take a long time, but the Shop Committee does not let an opportunity slip by us. We know it's important. The fact that we have a large time pool is the reason it takes so long to get to an FTT offer. It is also the reason you are working here in line to be converted.

We all reported out numbers at the last sub-council meeting. Local 598 has 91 FTT, 462 PTT, and we converted 276 since the 2023NA.

Other Locals' Reported Numbers...

- Local 652, LGR, 41 FTT, no PTT, and converted 61
- Local 602, LDT, 168 FTT, no PTT, and converted 634
- Local 22, DHAM has 0 FTT, no PTT, and converted 1,108 (all temps, about 750 got laid off)
- Local 651, Davison Rd. CCA, 0 FTT, no PTT, laid off all FTT to put laid off DHAM folks to work
- Local 659, Engine, 30 FTT, 15 PTT, and converted 0
- Local 163, Romulus, 35 FTT, no PTT, and converted 118
- Local 167, Grand Rapids, GMCH, 0 FTT, no PTT, and converted 46
- Local 668 Saginaw casting 7 FTT, 18 PTT, and converted 6

These are the locations I have data for with limited insight to their locations. We have converted more and faster than all but 2 locations. DHAM, which added a shift, after recalls they had no voluntary transfers answer the posting. LDT has historically converted a lot of temporary employees. Once again, it's a location that added a shift and no one wants to transfer to which free them up to convert outside the automatic conversion. When we added a shift, we got 1,300 workers transferred in due to layoffs. Arlington Assembly has a similar size temp pool (148 FTT and 562 PTT), but had only converted 193. Similar pool size takes just as long, but we convert more.

A fundamental thing that is being missed is the number of PTT at other locations. Most locations have zero. Since we have a larger PTT pool, it's easier for people to get hired as a PTT here then wait "in line" for an FTT offer and eventual conversion. In locations that only have FTT, the people are having to wait on the outside hoping to get through the GM hiring process for a few spots, so there is no telling how long they are waiting to get in.

The move away from EV greatly affects Michigan. Sites like DHAM, Orion and LGR were all supposed to be EV sites. Orion is going to breathe new life with great ICE products, but will further delay the need for workers. This transition has extended the precarious situation that workers in Michigan have been in and puts the company in a position where they already have too many workers until Orion comes on line. This slows down conversion at every location.

Due to membership action, our November and December Meetings have been combined.

Our next meeting will be held

DECEMBER 7, 2025

Local 598 Union Hall • 2:00 p.m.





On Wednesday, October 15,
Local 598 **WORE THEIR RED**
IN SOLIDARITY with the striking
Henry Ford/Genesys workers

*Photos courtesy
of Britta Rusaw*



Shop Chair Eric Welter showing support for the nurses picketers.



Tackling Inflation and Planning for the Holidays

"...now is the best time to start planning your budget to avoid unexpected stress in November and December."

CHAD FABBRO

FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Understanding Our Economic Challenge

As your Financial Secretary, I want to address the rising cost of living that is impacting every one of our families. We are all feeling the pressure of inflation, which means our hard-earned dollars don't stretch as far as they used to at the grocery store or the gas pump.

Inflation Is Not A Personal Failure, It Is A Structural Economic Challenge

We know that corporate profits have never been higher, even as prices continue to climb. This is why our union's work – fighting for fair contracts, higher wages, and robust benefits – is more critical now than ever before.

Get Ahead: Proactive Holiday Planning

With October here, the holiday season is rapidly approaching, and now is the best time to start planning your budget to avoid unexpected stress in November and December.

We encourage you to budget for expenses coming at you in the next two months:

- **Gifts and Travel:** Set a realistic budget for gifts and stick to it. If you plan to travel for Thanksgiving or Christmas, estimate gas, lodging, or flight costs now.
- **Holiday Meals:** Food costs are a major component of inflation. Plan your holiday menus early and consider buying non-perishables now to spread out the cost.
- **End-of-Year Expenses:** Don't forget non-holiday expenses like heating bills, which rise dramatically as the weather gets colder, and any potential vehicle maintenance needed for winter driving.

Solidarity is Our Best Defense

Our collective strength at the bargaining table is the most powerful tool we have to counteract economic pressures. We are committed to securing wage increases that not only keep pace with inflation, but allow us to get ahead. By working in *solidarity*, we ensure our wages and benefits provide the stability our families need.

Financial Health Check: Tools for Our Members

- **Review Your Budget:** Look for subscription services or temporary expenses that can be trimmed this month to create a small "Holiday Fund."
- **Utilize Union Resources:** Check for UAW/GM or Local 598 resources that may provide discounts or savings on services like insurance or consumer goods.
- **Invest in Yourself:** Make sure you are taking full advantage of the company match in your 401k. It's free money and one of the best ways to fight inflation over the long run.

If you have any questions about your dues, our Local's finances, or available financial resources, please do not hesitate to contact me.

DO YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL PLAN?

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VICE-PRESIDENTS: MIKE BOOTH • RICH BOYER • LAURA DICKERSON

October 16, 2025

RE: Int'l Union Strike & Defense Fund Report – August 2025

The following is a summary of Strike Fund Income and Expenditures for the month of August 2025.

NET WORTH JULY 31, 2025	\$808,245,900.72
INCOME FOR AUGUST 2025	
Dues Per Capita Taxes	6,408,520.73
DISBURSEMENTS FOR AUGUST 2025	<u>2,084,293.93</u>
NET WORTH, AUGUST 31, 2025	<u>\$812,570,127.52</u>

There was one strike during the month of February.

Fraternally,

Margaret Mock

Margaret Mock
Secretary-Treasurer, International Union, UAW

'Operation: The Great Divide' Is In Full Effect

"Step back from the noise. The truth is right in front of you every day – in your team, all the way down the line, and in your Union."

D'ANDRE JACKSON

RECORDING SECRETARY



What's going on in America? "Operation: The Great Divide" is in full effect – and I ain't talking about Michigan vs. Michigan State either. I'm talking about fellow human being vs. fellow human being, fellow American vs. fellow American, brother vs. sister.

If you've caught yourself giving the side-eye or thinking differently about a certain group of people – or even certain individuals – in a negative way that you never have before, maybe it's time to unplug for a minute. Step back from the noise. The truth is right in front of you every day – in your team, all the way down the line, and in your Union.

There seems to be a concerted effort to *Make America Hate Again*, and too many of us are falling for it. We've become targets of invisible systems designed to divide us. Computer algorithms track our thoughts, curiosities, and insecurities, and then they feed us a steady diet of negativity until those ideas get planted deep in our subconscious.

I like to think of our plant as a microcosm of the real world. Every day, we walk through those plant gates from all different ethnic backgrounds, neighborhoods, levels of education, and financial situations – all wanting the same thing: to earn a living, to take care of our families, and to build the best heavy-duty trucks in the world.

Inside that plant, we stand together – united – against a billion-dollar corporation. We negotiate, we fight, and we hold the line side by side. But then, all too often, we go home and retreat into our respective corners – political, racial, or social – instead of continuing to stand together in solidarity as Americans.

Why do we allow the media, social media, or government to rewrite how we feel about the people we share our shifts with? We see each other's struggles. We know who's got our back when times get tough. That's not left or right – that's human. That's Union!

And being Union doesn't end when we clock out. It's not just about contracts and paychecks; it's a way of life. When we stand shoulder to shoulder on the floor, we're practicing the same unity this country desperately needs outside those walls. When we treat our co-workers with fairness and respect, we're reminding the world that solidarity still works – and it starts with us.

Because, when the shift ends and the lights go out, we don't stop being Union people. We carry those values home with us – unity, respect, and strength in numbers. That's how we fight the Great Divide.



Newly elected GM Bargaining Representatives (L-R) Alex Perry, Lindsay Brooks, Anthony Vincent, Stephanie Farrell, and Terry M. Oliver



General Motors Bargaining Unit ELECTION RESULTS

(All Listed WON by ACCLAMATION)

OCTOBER 1, 2025

DISTRICT 1A

1st Shift Committeeperson..... Alex Perry

1st Shift Alternate Committeeperson..... Lindsay Brooks

DISTRICT 2C

3rd Shift Alternate Committeeperson Anthony Vincent

DISTRICT 3C

3rd Shift Committeeperson Terry M. Oliver

3rd Shift Alternate Committeeperson Stephanie Farrell

Jiffany Bennett

Local 598, UAW Election Committee Chair



Local 598 President Riley swears in newly elected GM Bargaining Representatives.



BOWLING to STRIKE DOWN Breast Cancer

at a Women's Committee
Fundraiser





**Thank you to
all the people
who joined the
fun & showed
support for this
great cause.**

*Photos courtesy
of Britta Rusaw*





Happy Halloween

SEE MORE
PHOTOS ON
PAGES 12-13

Thank you

to everyone who helped make
this night such a great time
for all who came.

Photos courtesy of Britta Rusaw







**A WONDERFUL TIME FOR
OUR LOCAL 598 FAMILY!**







Local 598 members participate in the 2025

Making Strides Against BREAST CANCER

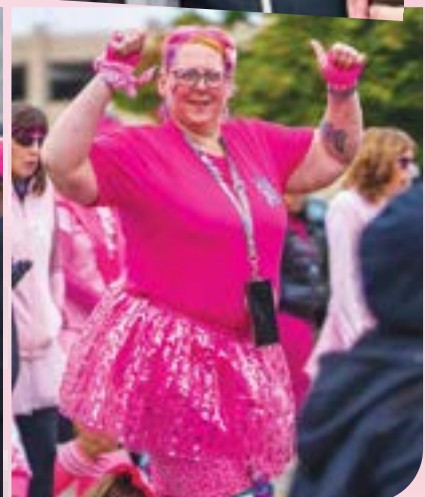
UAW REGION 1 DIRECTOR

LaShawn English

LOCAL 598 PRESIDENT

Stephanie Riley

Photos courtesy of Britta Rusaw







A great day **FOR A GREAT CAUSE**





Supporting **MAKING STRIDES**

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

In 2017, when I first got involved with *Making Strides*, I didn't know a single person who had breast cancer. I had noticed that many of my UAW peers had certain causes that they would rally behind. I figured, I should follow suit and breast cancer seemed like a good charity to me. I would see the *Detroit News* coverage of the walk every year, and I've always liked the color pink.

My family never had a history of cancer, but I always thought... who knows what the future holds? Preventing unnecessary, early deaths could only be a good thing.

Because women's health is so often ignored by the medical community, I imagined that any advancements in breast cancer research would help further the cause of eliminating all cancers. Until the day comes, when cancer is no longer a death sentence, we fight.

The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee has carried on with our fundraising, with *Bowling for Breast Cancer Awareness*, held on Sunday, October 5th. Teams of bowlers and spectators gathered at B's bowling center dressed in pink. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this event. Because of your generosity, we raised \$1,469!

The support from our annual breast cancer awareness t-shirt

sales raised another \$488. In the plant, Flint Assembly is also working towards raising additional funds with the pink safety glasses, the football toss fundraiser, and a gift basket raffle. We have also been submitting the names of participants to the GM "Dollars for Doers" campaign, which matches our donations.

Currently, we have surpassed our goal of \$5,000!

As of the morning of the *Making Strides-Flint Walk* on

Saturday, October 11th, we have raised \$7,255.69 for our UAW Local 598/Flint Assembly Team. We anticipate more donations still, with the plant continuing its fundraising efforts through the end of October.

In the eight years that have passed since my first *Making Strides* walk, four of my family members have been diagnosed with cancer. Although none of them had breast cancer, I like to think that the fundraising that we do does impact all forms of cancer. I have seen how early detection has saved lives. Not to mention, I

know that there is a union brother or sister somewhere out there who is looking for a charity to rally behind. They might be the ones that are raising awareness for lung, thyroid, or prostate cancer and that can only be a good thing.



"Until the day comes, when cancer is no longer a death sentence, we fight."



The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee has American-made Throw Blankets for Sale.

Proceeds from this sale will go to our Women's Committee fund to aid in our fundraising activities and gift basket raffles.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ORDER!



Congratulations!

to our recent retirees...



Shelton R. Davis
(09-01-25)



Larry Kelly and spouse Brenda
(10-01-25)

We hope to see you at our **CHAPTER MEETINGS** held on the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 p.m.

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Dinner Tickets on Sale

Everyone had a good time on our fall trip, and we were all winners for our time spent together enjoying the fall colors and fellowship. Thanks to Local 699 retirees for joining with us.

We had a great turnout at our October meeting, where representatives of the Trust rolled out the changes in our 2026 benefits, as well as it gave us a chance to ask questions and talk to several providers like HAP, Delta Dental, and Optum. We were also reminded not to wait until the last minute to use our over-the-counter (OTC) benefits until the last minute, and to not throw out any of our health cards unless we receive new ones in the mail.

Region 1D Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt and CAP Director Ryan Buchalski stopped by and shared information with us. It was great to see our past Local president back home, even if it was just for a short time.

It's hard to believe, but it's already time for our annual holiday dinners! Ticket prices remain the same as last year - \$5 for each person. You can buy tickets at the union hall before the meetings. It helps if you purchase them in advance so I have a good idea how much food we will need.

Our next Chapter meeting (and Thanksgiving dinner) will be November 13, starting at 12:00 noon. I hope to see you there.



JANET WOODSON
CHAPTER CHAIR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 13th **Chapter Meeting & Thanksgiving Dinner**
Ruben Burks Hall, Local 598, 12:00 noon
Thanksgiving Dinner tickets: \$5.00

Thursday, Dec. 11th **Retiree Chapter Meeting**, 12:00 noon
Ruben Burks Hall, Local 598
Christmas Dinner tickets: \$5.00

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THANK YOU!

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint thanks UAW Local 598 for the donation of candy for their Halloween Celebration. The donations were delivered by our Community Service Chair Joe Kinney and committee member Gina Poe.



CHRIS TIMMS
D. NITRA LANDON
DARYL SHELLEY

ROBERT E. WHITE
DARREL AUTEN
MARK GULLETT

RODNEY HAGGARD was the alternate committee representative for our Beacon group. We send our condolences to his family. His service to Local 598 and the membership of our Beacon unit will not be forgotten.

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



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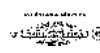
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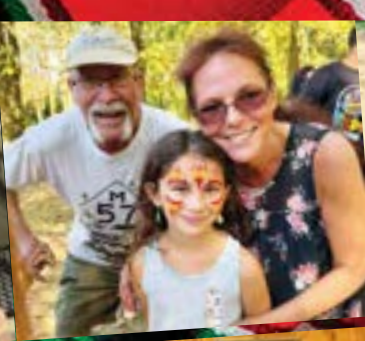


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The UAW Local 598 Diversity Committee celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with our membership at Union City Fields with Music, Food and Culture-filled festivities.

