



United Auto Workers LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



Home of the Original
Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 12

www.uawlocal598.org

DECEMBER 2025

From our families to yours... Wishing you a
JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON
*filled with solidarity, peace,
and time with loved ones.*



Here's to standing strong together in the New Year!

*(front row) Melissa Bowen, Corrisa Carter, Twanna Coleman, Tasha Wynne, Stephanie Riley
(back row) Eric Welter, JaShanti Walker, Sr., D'Andre Jackson, Randy Frost, John Jackson III
Chad Fabbro, Janet Woodson
(not pictured)*



'The Local With A Heart' Excels In 2025

"This holiday season – much like every season – we witnessed the true strength of our Local. ...598 a Local we can all be proud of."

STEPHANIE RILEY

from the **PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Dear Union Family,

As we bring another year to a close at UAW Local 598, I want to reflect on the incredible generosity, unity, and heart that define our membership. This holiday season – much like every season – we witnessed the true strength of our Local. Your compassion for others, your service to our community, and your commitment to one another continue to make 598 a Local we can all be proud of.

This year's Old Newsboys fundraiser was nothing short of extraordinary. Our membership raised \$36,553.99, and with the tremendous support of *General Motors Cares*, our contribution grew to a record-breaking \$85,992. These donations do more than help children – they show what solidarity looks like when we stand together. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

Our *Toys for Tots* collection added even more joy to the season. Seeing the overwhelming number of toys donated – alongside your monetary support – was a powerful reminder of the kindness that fills this Local. Because of you, countless children will wake up to a brighter Christmas morning.

We were also honored at our Christmas meeting by the presence of Sheriff Chris Swanson and the Honorable Judge Duncan Beagle. Their support of our Local and their willingness to spend time with us during the holidays is something we deeply appreciate. And a heartfelt thank-you to the wonderful students of Doyle Rider Elementary School, who blessed us with beautiful Christmas carols. They brought more than music. They brought hope, energy and a reminder of the community we're all working to build.

Another highlight this year was the continued work of our M.O.S.T. Group and their food basket drive. Thanks to their dedication and your support, families throughout Flint and the surrounding communities received the help they needed during the holidays. Their work speaks to the very best of who we are as a union family.

I'd also like to recognize our Veterans Committee for their participation in Wreaths Across America at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Thank you for honoring our fallen heroes and representing Local 598 with such dignity and pride.

Our *Snapshots with Santa* event once again a joyful success. Seeing the excitement on the kids' faces – and their adorable holiday outfits – brought smiles to everyone involved. A very special thank-you goes to Saint "Nick" and Mrs. Claus (Mrs. Fabbro) for bringing holiday magic to our families during an incredibly busy season. Your presence made the event truly special.

To all of our standing committees, thank you. Your dedication and hard work throughout the year keep this Local strong and active. Much of what you do happens behind the scenes, but it does not go unnoticed. You are essential to everything we accomplish.

And finally, to you – the membership – thank you for your trust and for giving me the honor of serving as your President. It is a privilege I am grateful for every single day. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more compassionate, and more united Local.

Wishing you and your families a safe, joyful, and peaceful holiday season.

Stephanie Riley



Learning What Really Matters



**Local 598's Poet Laureate
DUNCAN BEAGLE**

2025 was another changing and challenging year, political conflict and violence have many still living in fear;

The recent mass shooting in Grand Blanc, brought tears to our eyes. As the violence seems to never stop, we must ask the question why;

We cannot singlehandedly stop the ongoing political and social unrest; But we can learn what really matters and make our community the absolute best. On a positive note, Leo IV, born in the US, became our new pope.

Let's go forward with our prayers and support that he will bring us all new hope. Living in our divided country, we must search for common ground; and continue supporting our Detroit Lions and pray they won't let us down.

Family, faith, friends and children are what really matters to me, along with kindness, giving and honesty.

I read your monthly EyeOpener paper. I'm amazed at what you do; many other groups do little and don't have a clue;

Toys for Tots, breast cancer, food bank, heart walk and United Way, You are the leaders in charitable giving; That's what all the people say.

No matter what the future brings, one thing will always be true; This Local will keep on giving, Our community says "We love you!"

All of you have a heart, that makes your Union great; Best wishes for the holidays, to everyone at Local 598!

What you missed if you did not attend our December meeting...



Thank you to all of the workers, in and out of the plant, who made our Old Newsboys Drive a great success, and of course, to the generous donations of our members.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"...the employees of Flint Assembly have generated about \$190,000 in donations to local charities in 2025."

ERIC WELTER

SHOP CHAIRMAN



GM Cares is a new program that General Motors matches charitable donations and pays charities for employee volunteer hours. Flint Assembly has won the championship belt for being the plant with the most volunteer hours. I want to translate that to dollars. Combining matching funds and volunteer hours, the employees of Flint Assembly have generated about \$190,000 in donations to local charities in 2025.

I would like to recognize Randy Hamilton. Without his focus on

this, we would not have accomplished this.

I would like to thank the people who collected for *Old Newsboys* both in the plant and on the street corner. This can be challenging and you did a great job and have my gratitude.

Last month, we were able to convert 26 temporary employees to permanent seniority status. This is a momentous occasion and changes those members' lives forever.

Moving forward, the company is laying off a couple thousand people indefinitely. This will make conversion and full-time temp opportunities more difficult. I will continue to work through the issues and look out for our members.

Although the company is going through a difficult time, resulting in layoffs and downsizing of factories, the members of Local 598 continue to be blessed. We will have a short retooling layoff, then we will be back to full production, including a full schedule of Saturdays. At times like this, it appears that we have good problems.



If you bought a bag of popcorn this year, or purchased a Veteran's Shirt or Christmas ornament, **you made a difference.** Because of all of you, we were able to make generous donations to both **Toys For Tots** and **McFarland Park**, a project that honors Genesee County Veterans.





Wrapping up 2025

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

"So this is Christmas? And what have you done? Another year over and a new one just begun," from John Lennon's "Happy X-mas (War is Over)," is my favorite lyric from a Christmas song. It encapsulates how I feel about the holidays. For me, Christmas, the New Year, and my birthday all happen within three weeks. Reflecting on the year that has passed, while creating goals for the future, is a yearly practice.

The generosity of our Local's membership has always brought me great pride. We do so many amazing things for the community. Even this year, with the impending shutdown, our brothers and sisters gave to *Old Newsboys of Flint* and donated to *Toys for Tots*.

The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee had another fantastic year! We assisted in hosting a *Celebration for International Women's Day*, in the plant. We encouraged young girls to get involved in manufacturing, leadership, and the trades. Later that month, we honored the past, with *Rosie the Riveter Day*.

The Women's Committee enjoyed hosting a table of gift basket raffles at the *Mid-Michigan Pet Expo*. Many of us are pet parents and we were overjoyed to be able to donate \$2,512 to *A ReJoyceful Animal Rescue*.

Happy Holidays

GENESEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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President Corissa Carter
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We didn't shy away from trying new things this year...

- The Women's Committee held a t-shirt designing contest for our *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* shirts. We had so many creative designs!
- We also held our first-ever *Designer Purse Bingo*, which benefited *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*.
- *Bowling for Breast Cancer Awareness* was another fun and successful event that we hosted.
- The UAW Local 598/GM Flint Assembly team finished out the month of October donating \$11,062.89 to *Making Strides!*

In the new year, the Women's Committee looks forward to hosting our annual events, bringing our membership closer in solidarity, and inviting new faces. During this winter shutdown, I'm excited to have some time to let those old creative juices flow. I encourage our membership to do the same, because we're always looking for new ideas, charities, and events.

If you're interested in getting more involved, please feel free to join us. Our next meeting will be on January 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., downstairs at the Union Hall. The Union meeting follows at 2:00 p.m. We hope to see you there and as always, thank you for your support!

United Auto Workers LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER

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<p>President Stephanie Riley</p> <p>Vice President..... John Jackson III</p> <p>Recording Secretary..... D'Andre Jackson</p> <p>Financial Secretary..... Chad Fabbro</p> <p>Guide Twanna Q. Coleman</p> <p>Trustee Melissa Bowen</p> <p>Trustee Corissa Carter</p> <p>Trustee David V. Garcia</p> <p>Sergeant-at-Arms..... Randy Frost</p> <p>Retiree Chapter Chair..... Janet Woodson</p>	<p>DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATES</p> <p>Alex Perry / Lindsay Brooks</p> <p>Sean Meachem / Chad Boyce</p> <p>Shane Herriman / Bo Browning</p> <p>Stan Cherwinski / Todd Bieber</p> <p>Brian Shick / JoAnna Batson-Escamilla</p> <p>Dana Waider / Joe Berriman</p> <p>Bryan Ventrone / Stan Dulaney</p> <p>Jon Galant / Wendy Ignash</p> <p>DeWayne Tippit / Mike Bukovchik</p> <p>Aaron McAlister / Jim Hazell</p> <p>Jeremy Switzer / Antonio Pritchett</p> <p>Kevin Smiley / Anthony Vincent</p> <p>Terry M. Oliver / Stephanie Farrell</p> <p>William McIntosh / Jacob Kohn</p> <p>Mike Kocsis / Shane Balcer</p>
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SHOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Eric Welter

SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE
Nick Dekalita, Joe Dontje

SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT)
Shane Herriman, Sean Meachem

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

BEACON O&M BARGAINING COMMITTEE
District Committeeperson Mark Leineke..... Alternate Rodney Haggard

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

ADAPT REPRESENTATIVE..... Rick Hager

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE Rosalyn Morse

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

HEALTH & SAFETY REPS Mike Dankert, Doug Culhane, Jeff Wier

WORK & FAMILY REPS Cheryl Middleton, 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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Held at the Local 598 Union Hall
on December 14th

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Solidarity Doesn't Retire!

Retirees Bob & Wilma Sims with (right side end) daughter Jennifer Faulkner (Local 598) marched in support of striking Henry Ford nurses on day 100 of their strike.



(at right) Retiree Jayne Atwell and Paygie Moore (retired from Local 651) bundled up and sold Old Newsboys papers in Durand.

"...we would like to thank the officers and Executive Board for their generosity in providing our holiday meal."

JANET WOODSON

RETIRED WORKERS CHAIR



We had a wonderful December meeting with 110 members and special guests attending. On behalf of the Retiree Executive Board and the members, we would like to thank the officers and Executive Board for their generosity in providing our holiday meal, and they went the extra mile to serve the food, as well. It was really appreciated, especially by those of us who usually serve the meal, for once we got to eat our food first!

We also had some honored guests stop by. Director Steve Dawes and Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt brought information and holiday greetings and of course, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson stopped by to bring the Christmas cheer.

I am already starting to plan for 2026 and working on putting together a casino trip later in January. Of course, we will celebrate White Shirt Day on February 11th. The Region's celebration will be at Local 651 this year.

I want to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and holiday season. I appreciate all of you who take the time to attend our

meetings. The January meeting will be January 8, 2026 at 12:00 noon.



Reg. 1D Director Steve Dawes, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson and Reg. 1D Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt at our meeting.



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Retired Workers Chapter

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

Thursday, January 8 Retiree Chapter Meeting
Local 598 Union Hall, 12:00 noon

Wednesday, Feb. 11 WHITE SHIRT DAY
Local 651 Union Hall, 11:00 a.m.

CASINO TRIP (We are still working on details for this trip.)



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

If you know of a Local 598 member who has recently passed, please submit their name at the Union Hall, so they may be listed here in the Eye Opener.

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.

FRIDAY

Neal Wilensky 810.606.0410

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Local 598 Retired Workers Chapter

CHRISTMAS *Dinner*

Gathered around the table, **we shared laughter, stories, and the warmth of a holiday meal** that tasted like friendship itself.

