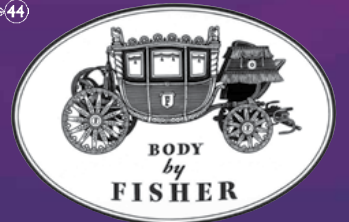




United Auto Workers

LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



Home of the Original Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 3

www.uawlocal598.org

MARCH 2024

what's INSIDE



President Riley's Report 2

Chairman's Report 3



UAW-United Way Event 5



Celebrating Women's Day ... 6-7



Take Your Daughter To Work Day at the Plant 12

UAW PROPERTY - ILLEGAL TO DUPLICATE
USPS Publication #110-770

SOLIDARITY MAKES US STRONG

Separation Weakens our Aramark Unit

by JaSHANTI WALKER, Sr.,
Bargaining Chair, Aramark Unit

For the people who do not know me, my name is JaShanti Walker, Sr., I am the Unit Chairperson for Aramark Sanitation, Facilities, and Hi-Lo Repair. I have been with Local 598 and Aramark for 7 years now.

Our current situation with our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is we are in bargaining right now. With our contract ending at midnight on March 15, 2024, we will be operating on an extended contract for as long as negotiators feel the company is bargaining in good faith.

If negotiations start to sour out, the International Union will call for a strike vote, and a possible strike. If that does happen, we

would hope the membership will stand in solidarity with us, as we were prepared to do during GM's negotiations.

Nobody wants to strike, however, if our hand is forced, we won't have a choice. Sanitation is short on staff and things are not going to get better if the company is allowed to cut jobs out. This means eliminating members from having a job.

Our facilities and Hi-Lo departments are also currently understaffed, due to the company's range of pay. We are hoping our negotiators will bring us a big win during bargaining.

**Solidarity makes us strong;
Separation weakens our Union!**



"...we would hope the membership will stand in solidarity with us..."

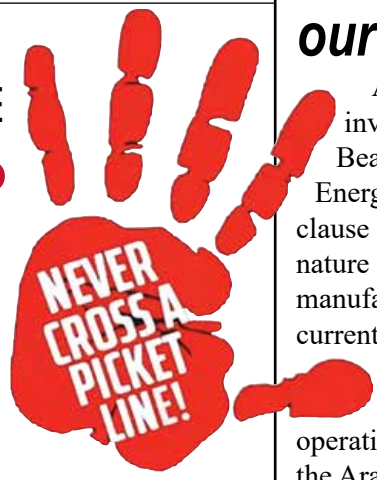
Excerpts from the Minutes of the 2023... UAW-GM CONTRACTUAL & WAGE MATTERS SUBCOMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Right to Refuse to Cross Picket Line

During the current negotiations, the subject of honoring picket lines was discussed at great length. Specifically, the Union raised concerns regarding an employee's right to honor a lawful, sanctioned, primary picket line on the Company's property. As a result of these discussions, the Company commits to the following:

"It shall not be a violation of this Agreement and it shall not be cause for discharge or disciplinary action in the event an employee refuses to cross a lawful, sanctioned, primary picket line established by a union, provided the employee reasonably believes that crossing such a picket line would endanger their health and safety.

Neither the Union nor the Company shall command, order, or direct employees with regard to the exercise of these rights. Nothing shall prevent the Company from temporarily replacing any employee who refuses to cross a lawful, sanctioned, primary picket line. Such employees will be granted an informal leave of absence, in accordance with paragraph 103, which will be extended if the labor dispute exceeds thirty days, for all working hours missed due to refusing to cross a lawful, sanctioned, primary picket line."



What is going on with our non-GM units?

All 3 of our non-GM units are involved in contract negotiations. The Beacon (formerly known as Hamtramck Energy) workers have a "No Strike" clause in their agreement, due to the vital nature of their work in keeping the plant's manufacturing systems running. They are currently in the process of updating their current agreement.

Aramark and MPS units are now operating under extended agreements with the Aramark unit serving as the pattern agreement throughout the GM system.

If needed, a strike vote will be held, and a deadline set. If they are forced to go on strike to fight for a fair and equitable agreement, the new UAW/GM agreement includes clarification on GM unit workers honoring a potential picket line. We will keep you updated on the progress of these negotiations.

Please support all of our workers who are waiting to hear about their contract progress and support them in this fight!

BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER

Hello Union Family!

I am thrilled and honored to be elected as your new UAW Local 598 President. Thank you for putting your trust in me. As we embark on this new chapter, I am excited to guide us through the opportunities and challenges ahead.

I am dedicated to fostering a sense of *unity* and *solidarity* among our members. I believe that by working together and supporting one another, we can achieve great things for our community and our futures.

One of my main priorities will be to strengthen our Local Union through outreach, education, and engagement. I recognize the importance of building relationships with our members and ensuring that everyone has the resources and support to succeed.

Furthermore, I am committed to advocating for social justice and equality, both within our workplace and in our broader community. I believe that every worker deserves dignity, respect, and fair treatment regardless of race, gender or background.

As I start this new role, you can be confident that I will lead our Local with integrity, passion, and a relentless dedication to serving the best interests of our members. Together, we will continue to fight for the rights and well-being of all workers, building a stronger, more inclusive community for generations to come.

My sisters and I had a great week of Union Education at “Local 598 and You” classes focused on Women’s Month. It was taught by our very own Local 598 Education Committee. Thank you Nicole Current for joining us. Our next Local 598 & You class will be in May.



Rosie the Riveter Day at Local 598

Stephanie Riley
Local 598 President



Winners of the 2023 Rosie the Riveter Coloring Contest...

Blair Elizabeth (age 3), **Elena** (age 6) **Brooklyn** (age 8), **Bella** (age 10), **Zoey** (age 11), and **Jaiden** (age 15)

Congratulations to all of our winners! We will be contacting your parents soon to pick up your books!

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

- President **Stephanie Riley**
- Vice President..... **John Jackson III**
- Recording Secretary **Judy Mosier**
- Financial Secretary..... **Chad Fabbro**
- Guide **Twanna Q. Coleman**
- Trustee..... **Melissa Bowen**
- Trustee..... **Corissa Carter**
- Trustee..... **David V. Garcia**
- Sergeant-At-Arms..... **Randy Frost**
- Retiree Chapter Chair..... **Janet Woodson**

SHOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Eric Welter

- SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE**
Leroy Shinabarger, Nick Dekalita, Joe Dontje

- SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT)**
Shane Herriman, D'Andre Jackson, Sean Meachem

DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATES

- Ben Dunlop / Alex Perry
- Sean Meachem / Chad Boyce
- Shane Herriman / Bo Browning
- D'Andre Jackson / Stan Cherwinski
- Brian Shick / Jo Anna Batson-Escamilla
- Dana Waider / Joe Berriman
- Bryan Ventrone / Stan Dulaney
- Jon Galant / Wendy Ignash
- DeWayne Tippit / Mark Reynolds
- Aaron McAlister / Jim Hazell
- Jeremy Switzer / Antonio Dee Pritchett
- Kevin Smiley / Marcus Hunt
- Bob Scott / Maurice Purches
- William McIntosh / Jaccob Kohn
- Mike Kocsis / Shane Balcer

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

- GM SUBSYSTEMS MANUFACTURING, LLC UNIT**
Bargaining Committee Chair Takeisha Hillard..... Alterate Phillip Pruitt

- BEACON O&M BARGAINING COMMITTEE**
District Committeeperson Mark Leineke..... Alternate Mike Harrell

- M.P.S. BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT COMMITTEE**
Tasha Wynne..... Alternate Kristine Momany
Adan Donias
John Wineland Alternate Damon Harrison

- ADAPT REPRESENTATIVE**..... Denise Denam, Rick Hager

- CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE**..... Rosalyn Morse

- LOCAL 598 BENEFIT REPRESENTATIVES** Cindy McLean, Chris Dungerow, Adam Prieur, Archie McGrath, Hans Smith

- HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES**..... Mike Dankert, Mark Turner, Doug Culhane

- WORK & FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES** Jayne Atwell, Cheryl Dawson, George Washington

- EYE OPENER EDITORS**..... Debi Kirchner and Michelle Giorgis

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: 238-4605.

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Plan A, PTTs and Unallocated Workers Settlement

SHOP CHAIRMAN REPORT

by Eric Welter



We have exited the Every Saturday Agreement and entered into a traditional Plan A schedule. With that change, we lose some things that were a benefit under the Every Saturday Agreement, but I am working to reduce the negative impact as much as possible.

The first round of vacation approvals led to a large number of denials. After much arguing, I was able to get the plant to increase the percentage of people who would be approved off. The second round of approvals is underway.

I have been able to maintain the current PTT pool, even though plants with this traditional schedule do not have a 13% temp pool. We are increasing it to 18% to accommodate the vacations.

We opened a hiring posting on GM's website and we received 1,000 applications in 24 hours, so it has been closed. I believe this is a reflection of the improvement in terms of employment for both temporary and seniority workers in the 2023 National Agreement.

In addition, we were able to maintain that the FS (excused) code is still available to employees with the historic no individual employee limit, and no requirement for using vacation first.

Under the Every Saturday Agreement, we enjoyed the highest percentage of Team Leader availability in the country. Due to the high level of casual absence, it has been negatively impacted. We are hoping the increase in planned absence and the larger temp pool will result in higher TL availability.

Our PTT temps are understandably upset about not having FTT offers being made.

The vacation denials were Fridays in the summer. Having the same number of temporary employees (some just working more hours) does not alleviate the problem. I will continue to work toward FTT offers that will result in conversion. Unfortunately, putting on an FTT to cover a short-term manpower issue would result in being reduced back. This is just not tolerated

by the PTT workforce, so it is not something I will do.

SAP – 1st Phase

The SAP has been rolled out, which will result in approximately 70 production workers and 5 skilled trades workers going to be able to get the \$50K retirement

bonus. The application window is 3-23 through 5-6; with workers retiring 6-1, 7-1, 8-1. The employees with the longest continuous service dates will be afforded the payment.

If you sign up, you have 7 days from the date of your application to revoke it, not from the end of the application period. After that, it is binding if selected.

If you sign up and you are not selected, you do not have to retire. The Top Committee and I have been protesting this limit since it was not what was discussed and rolled out.

Vice President Mike Booth has come out with multiple statements addressing the members' disappointment. *"There are 7,800 UAW members at GM who are eligible to retire, and that number is expected to nearly double by the end of the agreement. Every UAW member who is eligible to retire during the life of the agreement will be provided the opportunity to retire and receive the \$50,000. GM has agreed to have as many phases as needed. In this first phase, I (Booth) agreed with the company to limit the number who can retire immediately to 2% of the total population. This is not the total number or anywhere close to the final number,"* said VP Booth.

There is far more than 2% who have been waiting to retire after the 2023 NA, so this limit harms those employees' plans to retire immediately.

I recommend that everyone who is wanting to go to put in an application. We cannot predict a cut-off line, so some people who don't think they will get it, will. In addition, the number of applicants can help in changing the number on this phase or plan the next phase.

Some Former LOC Work Outsourced – Workers Saved

The plant recently announced that the Small Lot work in the former LOC will be outsourced. The floor space is needed as part of the \$780

million investment that will result in an expansion of both trim and chassis. There is no way to partially remove the Small Lot operation.

We will return to how it was prior to the LOC coming into the building. The hats will come fully loaded. This will also reduce the ridiculous number of hot shots our leaders are currently running.

Fortunately for the affected employees, the subsystem was brought under the master agreement. As a result, they will not be laid off and will transition to general assembly, maintaining employment and maintaining the higher wages afforded to them in the agreement. This will resolve the manpower shortage in GA created by the highest number of sick leaves we have ever seen.

On the sequencing side of the LOC, the work and the employees will transition on a date to be determined. I know that there was impact to the floor space due to T1-2, but until recently did not know to what extent. That is why I held off on blending the LOC into existing departments. This created quite a bit of anger in the membership. I did not want to see the former LOC employees negatively impacted, let alone transition workers on existing jobs to operations that are going away. Unfortunately, there are many things I am not at liberty to tell everyone.

Unallocated Arbitration Ruling

The unallocated arbitration rulings have taken a long time to resolve, but on March 13th the company paid the liability established by the arbitrator. These deposits came without notification or explanation to the members who received them.

The ruling made whole any employee who was working at Baltimore, Warren Transmission, or Lordstown that were laid off in 2019 as a result of the closing. GM paid members the difference of Sub-pay and unemployment verses full wages and compensated them for any bonus

that was reduced due to lost work.

In the 2023 National Agreement, we were successful in creating some fairness to the Lordstown employees who were transferred as a result of the plant closing. The company closed Lordstown Assembly, put the Blazer in Mexico and opened a battery plant with Ultium in Warren, OH.

This act of cruelty has impacted families for 5 years now. Many of our members are driving back home on the weekend to see their families.

The first step was to organize the battery plants under the Master Agreement. Once President Fain was successful in that, we created a transfer opportunity for those members who were active when GM closed the plant in the middle of the agreement.

The transfer portal is open. Employees can go to the employee placement site and, if they are an eligible employee, they will see the posting. From now to September 13th, employees can make application, or withdrawal their application. If the battery plant needs employees, they will come from this list. After September 13th, the list is final, no additions or subtractions.

If you are selected, you have to go and will receive normal relocation allowances. In Flint Assembly's case, that's \$5,000.

Manpower Plan Is Unclear

The manpower plan moving forward is unclear. Are we able to put on FTT, or are we taking transfers? There are equal drivers in either direction. The SAP will result in -70. Hopefully, our members will get to transfer to Ultium. The SAP will result in people transferring out to other locations, and apprenticeships are pending.

In the plus column, the highest level of sick leaves will not continue. We are 70 higher than all of last year. With the LOC transition, GM has employees laid off at LGR and Saginaw metal casting, with more to follow.



UAW Local 598's Next MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

All advertisements, notices, photos and articles for the **APRIL EYE OPENER** must be submitted by **Monday, APRIL 15th** for consideration.

UAW POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

by Art Reyes, CAP Committee

For every election, the UAW sends to the Membership a list of the candidates endorsed for various offices. This is by no means the UAW “telling” you how to vote, but the endorsements do not come lightly, nor are they made in secret.

First of all, the *only* candidates the UAW will consider for endorsement are those who request consideration. We do not solicit candidates to get the endorsement and we don’t consider those who don’t ask. We must ask ourselves why a particular candidate wouldn’t ask for the UAW’s endorsement... Do they not agree with the Labor Movement on our issues? Have they not voted to help your pocketbook? Do they not believe Unions should exist? Are not needed?

Secondly, the process is open and above board. There is a 21-page questionnaire for those candidates who request our endorsement that they must fill out in order to get interviewed by the Local Union Presidents and the CAP leadership. We go over the questionnaire and formulate further questions based on the answers given. We only look at a candidate’s position on issues affecting our economic well-being.

Thirdly, the endorsements are made at meetings which are open to all *Members in Good Standing*. Locally, the Greater Flint CAP Council meets on the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. For 2024, the meetings will be held at our Local Union in the auditorium.

Finally, a UAW endorsement is nothing more than a recommendation based on the candidate’s position, not whether a candidate is a Democrat, Republican or Independent. We have endorsed people from each political party and will continue to do so based on the public positions of candidates.

So, when you get the list of endorsed candidates, know that much work has gone into the development of that list and it is a list of those best suited to help carry forward the economic well-being of our Membership.



WE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!

FINANCIAL SEC’Y-TREAS REPORT

by Chad Fabbro



UAW Conference

Well, I hope spring is right around the corner, because I’m ready for some warm weather!

I would like to thank the membership for sending me and our Trustees to the annual UAW Financial Officers’ Conference. We attended a lot of classes about restructuring and being financially fit while preparing for tomorrow’s problems. These classes are designed to help you think about the future and how to maintain stability moving forward.

While we were there, we were able to successfully complete our annual LM-2 and 990 reports. I am happy to report our 2023 fiscal year is balanced and accounted for.

Last month, the International Union finished up an audit that was started

back in November of last year. It was a deep dive into our By-laws and finances. I have not gotten a copy of the final report yet, but during the exit interview it was brought to our attention that they want our Local to adopt some recommendations from the UAW Auditing Department. So, there will be more to come on that when the full report is available.

Until then, enjoy your Easter holiday and may God bless you all and your families.

Solidarity House
8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48214
PHONE (313) 926-5000

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

SHAWN FAIN, PRESIDENT • MARGARET MOCK, SECRETARY-TREASURER
VICE-PRESIDENTS: CHUCK BROWNING • MIKE BOOTH • RICH BOYER

March 5, 2024

TO: ALL UAW LOCAL UNION PRESIDENTS AND FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Greetings:

RE: INTERNATIONAL UNION STRIKE AND DEFENSE FUND REPORT JANUARY

The following is a summary of Strike Fund Income and Expenditures for the month of January 2024.

NET WORTH DECEMBER 31, 2023	\$727,969,659.84
INCOME FOR JANUARY 2024	9,234,623.71
Dues Per Capita Taxes	<u>3,430,209.98</u>
DISBURSEMENTS FOR JANUARY 2024	<u>3,430,209.98</u>
NET WORTH, JANUARY 31, 2024	<u>\$733,774,073.57</u>

During the month of January there were 2 strikes.

Fraternally,
Margaret Mock
Margaret Mock
Secretary-Treasurer
International Union, UAW

Mid-Michigan Dental Group

- Bonding
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- Cosmetic Contouring
- Crowns and Bridges
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- Whitening
- Braces
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- Extractions
- Scaling and Root Planing
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Other insurance programs are accepted as well. *BCBS only, others may require co-payment, excludes HAP

professionalhearingclinic.com

HOW TO READ THE UAW CONSTITUTION

What is the UAW Constitution?

The Constitution of the UAW is the supreme law of our Union and is the Constitution of every affiliated subordinate body (Local Unions). It provides the foundation for the day-to-day operations of our great union. And equally important, it sets forth the rights, guarantees and responsibilities of all UAW members.

The Interpretations

The interpretations are key clarifications. They represent the interpretations of our Constitution by the International Executive Board. Pay special attention to the Ethical Practices Codes, found after the Articles.

There's a helpful table of contents in the front of the UAW Constitution. For example, if you're thinking about running for an elected position within your Local Union, the table of contents shows that Article 38 is titled "Local Union Officers" and Article 45 is titled "Stewards and

Committeepersons." This would be a good place to start.

There is also a subject index towards the back of the book (between the Ethical Practices Codes and the Interpretations) that allows you to search by topic or phrase. The subject index is a great tool because it directs you to the article, section, and page number of the specific topic you're looking for. For example, you can look up "Local Union" in the index and you'll find a sub-topic of "Election of Officers."

Questions?

What if you have questions about it? You can seek assistance from your Constitution and Bylaws Committee and/or Local Union Leadership.

The Constitution can only be amended by a majority vote of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, which is held every four years, or at Special Conventions.

This is a democratic process, as members elect the delegates who represent them at these conventions, per Article 8 of the UAW Constitution.

Where can you get a copy of the Constitution?

An electronic searchable version of the UAW Constitution is available at: <https://uaw.org/uaw-constitution-2/>. You can request a paper copy by contacting your Local Union leadership. It's important that every member become familiar with the Constitution.

How do you read it?

Our UAW Constitution begins with a Preamble, which is an introduction to our Union and core values. If you're a new member, you should pay extra attention to the Preamble and Article 6, "Membership" and Article 41 "Duties of Local Union Members." These democratic processes govern our Union as protections for all members. They are designed to make sure you, as a member, have a voice.

Articles and Sections

The body of our UAW Constitution is broken down into Articles and Sections. An Article is a main subject and each Section underneath the Article is a key point related to that subject.

Start by reading the Constitution front to back, but after reading each Article, flip to the very back of the Constitution to see if there is an interpretation for that Article.

UAW/UNITED WAY
AMERICAN MUSCLE CRUISE & Car Show
 Birch Run SPEEDWAY AND EVENT CENTER
 Saturday July 13th

Open to all American Made Cars, Trucks and Motorcycles

All Proceeds go to UAW/United Way Ramp Program

Registration Fee: Before June 25th \$15 per car /After June 25th or day of the event \$30
 Dash Plaques for first 100 Registered Cars
\$100 Cash Prize for winners of each division (3 participant minimum)

Show Schedule

- 2:00 pm Line up for the Cruise, UAW Local 659, 4549 Van Slyke Rd Flint
- 2:00 pm Gates open at Birch Run Speedway & Event Center for cars not participating in the Cruise from Flint
- 3:00 pm Police Escort to Birch Run Speedway from Local 659
- 3:30 pm Parade lap on the 1/2 Mile Oval
- 4:00 pm Costume Contest judging and prize presentation
- 4:30 pm Cornhole Tournament
- 6:00 pm Award Presentation for winners of each class
- 7:00 pm Burnout Contest
- 8:00 pm Live Music in Gas Alley

Birch Run Speedway and Event Center 10945 Dixie Hwy, Birch Run, MI 48415

Available all Day (Concession Stand, Clean Restrooms, Covered Seating, Beer Stands, Vendors, Sponsor Tents, Giveaways, 50/50 Drawings, DJ and Gas Alley "The Longest Bar in Michigan".

For more information contact: Randy Hamilton GM/UAW Communications (810)399-8343 Email Randy.hamilton@gm.com

All Proceeds go to Genesee County United Way Ramp Program. See You at the Track!

United Auto Workers LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER

Available Digitally

SCAN HERE



Updates will happen 7 days after publication.

WOMEN'S DAY International

Local 598 workers celebrated International Women's Day, a day that started on March 8, 1908. On that day, women workers in the needle trades marched through New York City's Lower East Side to protest child labor and sweatshop working conditions, and to demand women's suffrage. Beginning in 1910, **MARCH 8 BECAME ANNUALLY OBSERVED AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.**



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED



How Glow-In-The-Dark Watches Forced Safer Workplaces and The Women Who Helped Make It Happen

by BECKY HAUGHEY,
Education Committee Member

For March Women's History Month, I'd like to share an important story where women played a part in making safer work practices for us all.

In the early 1920s, the latest fad was a glow-in-the-dark dialed wristwatch. "Made possible by the magic of radium!" bragged one advertisement for the watches.

Radium, at that time, was considered the latest miracle substance. It was an element that glowed and fizzed. Salesmen touted that it could extend people's lives, pump up one's libido and make women more beautiful. Doctors used it to treat everything from colds to cancer. If only they had known the long-term effects it would have on those exposed to it!

There were three factories in the U.S. where this occurred – Orange, New Jersey in 1917; Ottawa, Illinois in the early 1920s; and Waterbury, Connecticut also in the 1920s.

The *Radium Girls* were female factory workers who worked painting



watch dials and watch hands using paint that contained radium, which made the watch face and hands glow. They were paid about 5 cents per watch. These women contracted radiation poisoning from this paint.

After painting each number, they were told to put the brush between their lips to sharpen the point for the

next watch face to be painted. They painted approximately 200 watches per day and with every number painted, they ingested a little bit of radium. This poisoning caused their bones to deteriorate from the inside out.

They had been told that the paint they were using was harmless, which led to them ingesting deadly amounts of radium. Having the women point their brushes with their lips was a cost-saving measure. Using rags or a water rinse required more time and material.

The men who worked for USRC wore lead aprons to protect them from this radiation, which was known to have a cumulative effect. The women were given no protection.

By 1927, more than 50 women had died as a direct result of radium paint poisoning. One woman, Mae Keane, was one of the hundreds who survived. She actually lived to be 107 years old. She worked at the factory in Waterbury, Connecticut.

In an interview, she said she did

not like the taste of the radium paint and that the texture was gritty so she would not put the paint brush tip in her mouth. After a few days, the boss asked her if she'd like to quit since she did not like the work. She gratefully agreed and is quoted as saying, "I often wish I had met him after to thank him, because I would have been like the rest of them."

Others were not so lucky. By the mid-1920s, dial painters were falling ill by the dozens, having their bones being eaten from the inside out, due to the radium.

One woman, who went to the dentist to have a tooth pulled, ended up having her entire jaw pulled out when the dentist tried to extract the tooth. There are many more sad stories of other *Radium Girls* from the effects of an employer providing an unsafe chemical and giving direction that resulted in their demise.

There is a monument dedicated to a *Radium Girl* located at the Ottawa Visitors Center in Ottawa, IL and a song by activist Tom Morello titled "Radium Girls" to recognize this tragic story in manufacturing history.

Thankfully, in this day and age, Unions have negotiated and insisted upon safe work practices for their members. One of those things we have today within our plant is the MSDS sheets for all chemical products we use during the manufacturing process. We have this right, in part, because of the UAW fighting for those laws.

You can ask your Group Leader or Committee Representative to see that documentation in case you have any concerns, or if you are not sure if you have exposure to any harmful chemicals.

DO YOU HAVE A
FINANCIAL PLAN?

Your UNION-FRIENDLY office can help!

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Remember the dead
Fight for the living

28 April
International Workers'
Memorial Day

Wooden Finger makes a point

Walter Ruether (UAW President 1946-1970) was a union leader who, in negotiations, brought fear and respect among those he bargained with on our behalf. In opposition to stereotypes of the time, he didn't drink, smoke or swear to make his points.

These were very frustrating times, and sometimes his words were not enough. According to Gavin Strassel, archivist for the UAW Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University, the story goes... One day, a friend of Walter's presented him this large wooden hand with a finger raised in a "salute." He suggested Walter could just point to the statue anytime he wanted to swear, but couldn't.



somebody gave this to him

It is not known if Walter ever used it to make a point, but it is said that the object stayed on his desk for quite a while.

To see more stories about the information found in the UAW archives, go to the UAW channel on *YouTube* and search for stories from the archives.



Coming in April...



Easter Egg Hunt photos



2024

Accommodation Rates

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www.uawblacklake.com

Main Lobby:	\$95.00
Upper Lodge:	\$100.00
Old Lodge:	\$105.00
2 Bedroom Family Units:	\$130.00
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1 Bedroom:	\$165.00
2 Bedroom:	\$185.00
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3 Bedroom Standard:	\$265.00
3 Bedroom Premium:	\$420.00

* All room rates are stated per night and are subject to Michigan Sales tax and fees

Campground

50 full hook-up sites

\$48.00 per day

UAW Member: \$41.00 per day

Open late April through late fall

Red Pine Market

(989) 733-7207

Located just inside the Center's Entrance

Open to all UAW members

Notice to Hourly Employees Regarding Optional Life and Dependent Life Insurance

As a result of discussions between General Motors, MetLife and our unions, certain hourly employees will have a life insurance enrollment opportunity under the General Motors Life and Disability Benefits Program for Hourly Employees for Optional Life and Dependent Life Insurance coverages.



MetLife
SPECIAL
ENROLLMENT

Those employees without computer access may make their election and update their beneficiaries via a paper enrollment form.

Enrollment Kits will be mailed to the address of record of all eligible employees beginning April 1, 2024. Employees having questions or needing replacement Enrollment Kits may call 1-866-

607-9794, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Saving Time).

Hourly employees will be able to make elections for Optional Life and Dependent Life Insurance through a Special Enrollment conducted by MetLife from April 8, 2024, through April 19, 2024.

Employees on active status or a leave of absence of six months or less as of February 7, 2024, will receive a letter advising they can enroll or increase current coverage by answering five questions regarding health status.

Additionally, during this time, employees are recommended to designate or update their life insurance beneficiary to ensure their most current wishes to date are on file.

For faster and easier service, employees are encouraged to make their elections and update their beneficiaries through the MetLife MyBenefits website, which is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

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.



RETIREMENTS

The Officers, Staff and Members of Local 598 extend our sincerest thank you and congratulations for the many years of dedicated service by our recent retirees.

We encourage all newly retired members to join our Retiree Chapter.

Congratulations!
▶ Lavona Gere-Perry

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



RETIREES CHAPTER update

JANET WOODSON, Retiree Chair

Come Join Us!

Congratulations to all recent retirees! We would love to have you join us on every second Thursday of the month at 12:00 noon for our meetings.

Congratulations also go out to Stephanie Riley on making history at Local 598 as the first female President, and to John Jackson for retaining his Vice President title.

Scheduled for April 23rd, our Spring Casino Day Trip will be going to the Saganing Eagles Landing. I will have the gates at the Union City Fields open starting at 8:00 a.m., and the bus will be leaving at 9:00 a.m. The cost for members is \$25, and \$35 for non-members.

Members from Local 699 out of Saginaw will be joining in on the fun, too. You can send your money to the Local or stop by and pay with our lovely ladies up front. Deadline to register will be April 5, 2024.

If interested, registration paperwork for the Region 1D 2024 Retired Worker's Conference is at the Local, too.

Notice for Seniors

Do You Want To Hear Better?

Beltone, the MOST TRUSTED NAME IN HEARING AIDS, wishes to test a remarkable new hearing instrument in the area. This offer is free of charge and you are under no obligation. The revolutionary 100% Digital instruments use the latest technology to comfortably and almost invisibly help you hear more clearly. This technology solves the "stopped up ears", "head in a barrel" sensation some people experience, and has been clinically demonstrated to improve hearing in noisy environments. If you wish to participate, you will be required to have your hearing tested in our office FREE OF CHARGE to determine candidacy. A limited number of qualified seniors are needed to try this product. NO PURCHASE is necessary, however you may purchase Beltone Serene™ Technology at a reduced rate.

Serene™ Technology

- Instant fit - a single office visit is all it takes
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*Offer valid toward the purchase of two Beltone Serene™ hearing instruments. \$500 off a single instrument.
**Amazon Gift Card value \$20, must complete screening to receive card. See store for details. Beltone 2024™

UPCOMING EVENTS

- THURSDAY, APRIL 11 RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING**
Local 598 Auditorium, 12:00 noon
- MONDAY, APRIL 22 SENIOR POWER DAY**
Crossroads Village
- TUESDAY, APRIL 23 RETIREE SPRING CASINO TRIP**
Saganing Eagle's Landing Casino Day Trip
Bus departs at 9:00 a.m. (sharp)
- THURSDAY, MAY 9 RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING**
Local 598 Auditorium, 12:00 noon
- TUESDAY, MAY 28 thru FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024 REGION 1D 2024 RETIRED WORKERS CONFERENCE**
UAW Family Education Center at Black Lake

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WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



report by Melissa Bowen, Chairperson

Mom's Mixer and other news

The UAW Local 598 Women's Committee wants to thank everyone who participated and wore purple shirts for International Women's Day on March 8th. I really enjoyed seeing all the photos of our membership donning various shades of plum, lavender, lilac, and violet.

During the month of March, the Women's Committee had hoodies and t-shirts for sale online and in the CAC popcorn room celebrating Women's

History Month. With the combined sales, we were able to donate \$785.50 to Whaley Children's Center in Flint.

Considering how the previous month has flown by, Mother's Day seems as though it's just around the corner.

The committee will be hosting our 3rd annual Moms' Mixer at UAW Local 598 on April 28th. Join us for brunch, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We host this event every year to celebrate all the hard-working women in our lives.

Although we call it the Moms' Mixer, because we typically host it in May, we want to invite all active 598 members and their families to attend this free event.

Remembering our recently Deceased

The Officers, Representatives and members of Local 598 extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of these recently deceased members.

Thomas Tardoff
(Active)

April Barnett
(Retired)

Michael Hill
(Retired)



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.

for sale

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Call (810) 732-8336 to schedule your appointment.



4800 S. Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48507

(810)732-8336



inn.com

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

celebration

in the Plant. Tour and discussion, Wednesday, March 6th



BRING YOUR

daughter

TO WORK DAY

