



UAW LOCAL 598

SERVING CHEVY TRUCK ASSEMBLY WORKERS

"A Local Union with a Heart"



# EYE OPENER

Volume 40 / Issue 2

www.uawlocal598.org

FEBRUARY 2021

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**Membership Meetings are CANCELLED**

until April 2021 (per the UAW)

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

# Why Black History Month is Important

by Rosalyn Morse

In February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. It is a period of reflection during which the struggles and achievements of black people are recognized and celebrated.

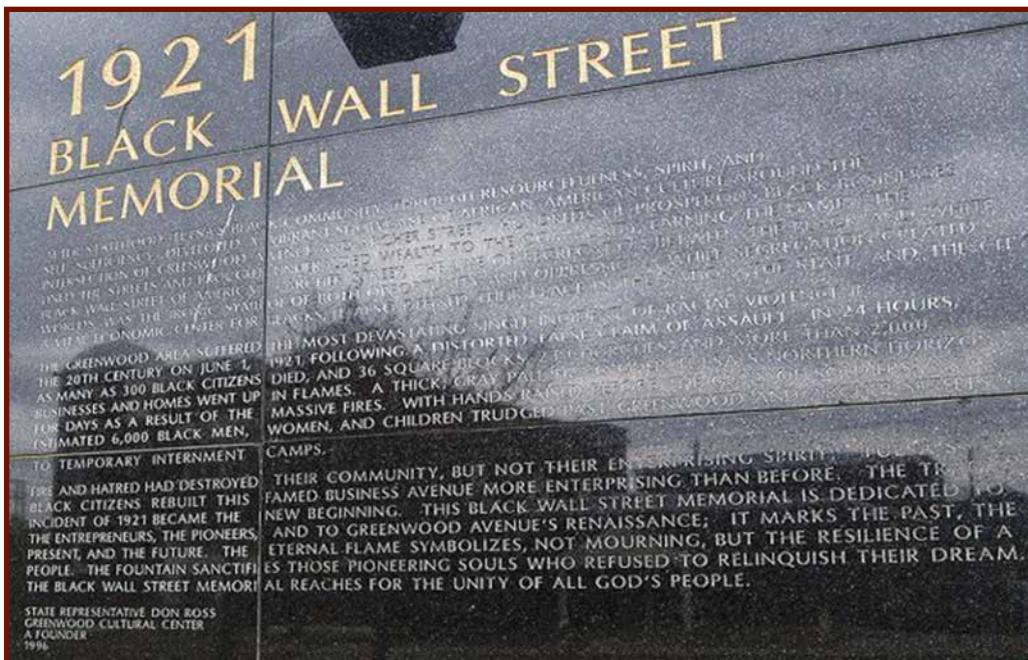
Many have questioned the need for a month dedicated exclusively to the history of just blacks. For me, this can be answered quite simply... "because it is needed." Black History Month is important because it brings us together to provide an opportunity to place the spotlight on the best of African American history and culture.

All too often, it seems as though only the worst of the African American community gets reported. We see stories about rates of incarceration, drug use, single-mother pregnancies, EBT cards, rappers, and raunchy TV stars, which in return stereotypes all people of color and often makes them the subject of unfair assumptions and judgments.

It's far too easy to forget the struggles that the Black community has encountered throughout American history and to gloss over the struggles that remain today. When acknowledging the history of African Americans during Black History Month, it gives us an opportunity to highlight the positive aspects of our culture. This year, I want to share the history of the 1921 burning of the "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### About Greenwood (Black Wall Street)

The neighborhood was on the north side of Tulsa, but for blacks in the 1900s, Greenwood was everything the South was not. The area was filled with black lawyers,



**The first bombs on American soil by Americans fell on "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, OK in 1921**

doctors and business owners; and flush with prosperity. Here was an area where African Americans finally had a chance to make something of themselves, escaping the harsh racism of a nation that

deprived them of even the most basic dignities.

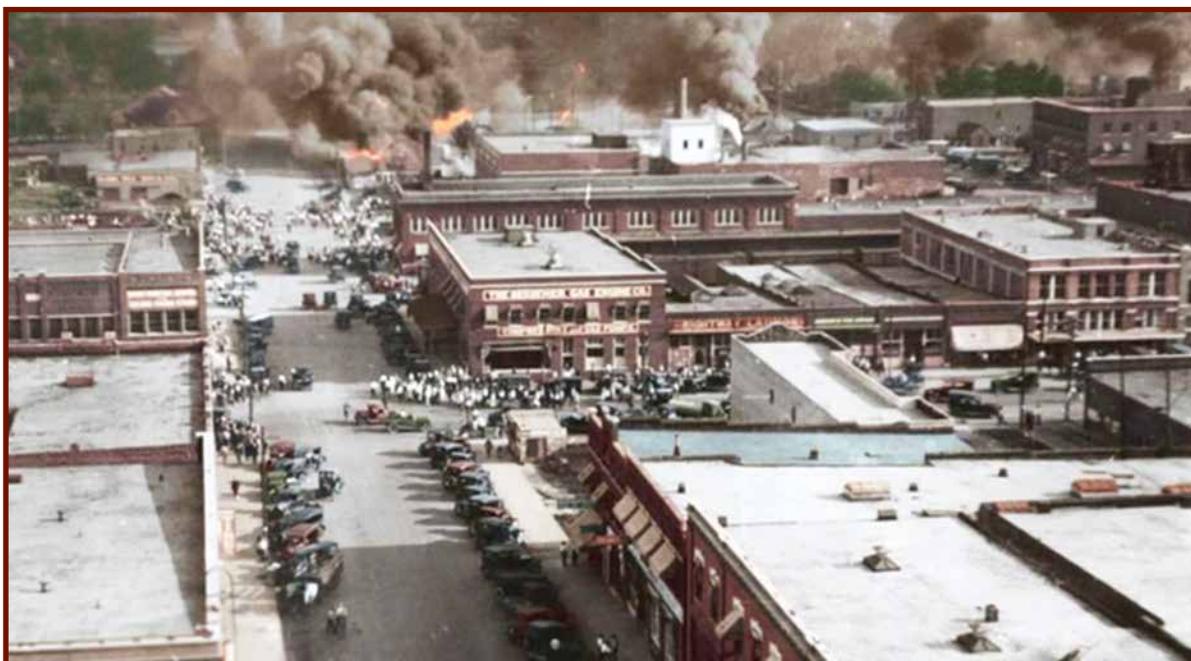
In Greenwood, a dollar would circulate 19 times before leaving the community. However, due to segregation laws, blacks were prohibited from shopping anywhere in Tulsa, which in return united the community financially. Also, due to segregation laws, there was prosperity in Greenwood that was not seen anywhere else in the country for African Americans. Each day, people of color would come to Greenwood in hope of carving out a piece of the dream for themselves, which added to

the prosperity of the neighborhood.

### How The Massacre Began

On May 30th, 19-year-old Rowland, a young black man, was riding in an elevator operated by a 17-year-old Caucasian female named Sarah Paige. It was reported that on his way from the

see **BLACK HISTORY** on page 9



**An estimated three hundred people were killed in the fire of America's wealthiest black community.**

# 598 Pride Shown Plantwide



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ryan Buchalski

marker has now been restored to its original condition. It serves as a reminder of what took place there during the Sit-down Strike of 1936-37, and we appreciate our membership for approving the necessary funds for this full restoration.

Please take time to visit the site when you can and take in a big history lesson.

Local 598's White Shirt Day celebration in the plant made me feel very proud of this membership. While walking the plant floor, we noticed quite a few members wearing white shirts. Bert Christensen would be proud of the 598 members who continue to carry out this tradition to honor the memory and sacrifices of the women and men involved, so that we could live a better life.

Each year, the Education Committee tries to come up with a way to commemorate this historical occasion. 2021's

commemorative Fisher 2 badge seemed to receive a good response.

The idea was to have our members get interested in the pin's significance and want to know more about it and its place in our history.

Employee badges issued today have names and numbers on them. Many years ago, however, your name wasn't on your employee ID badge. The workers felt as though they were just a number to the company. It might not seem like a big deal, yet it was another way the company disrespected its workers and lessened morale and any feeling of dignity in the workplace.

Please contact us if you did not receive your pin (supplies are limited).

The officers and the Education Committee would like to thank everyone who helped distribute the pins to ensure this White Shirt Day was not forgotten. Here at Local 598, we have a deep respect for our history and will continue to embrace and understand it.

Several years ago, I met Edward McClelland at a White Shirt Day celebration. Back then, Ed was doing research and collecting data on the Flint Sit-Down Strike. He was working on a book about the impact the strike had on working men and women and the birth of the middle class.

The book, titled *'Midnight in*



*Vehicle City'*, is complete and now available for your reading pleasure. We are planning to purchase copies of the book for the Local Union. Members will be able to 'check' them out if they wish. More to come on that.

February has shown us that winter does exist, and so do colder-

than-average temperatures.

February is also Black History Month and a way to honor people who are doing incredible things. Also known as African American History Month, the month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. These two individuals undoubtedly played critical roles in the lives and futures of many.

We are nearing the first anniversary of the passing of Ruben Burks. Ruben was an extraordinary person who paved the way for many and was never just about himself. Ruben was a kind, caring and compassionate person. He was always focused on helping and mentoring others, and lending a voice to those who needed it most. Local 598 will always miss Ruben and everything he did for our community and our union.

As we celebrate and honor Black History Month, please remember our 'pal', Ruben Burks.

As always, thanks for all of your hard work and dedication to 598...

*Home of the Fisher 2 Sit-Downers!*

## UAW-FCA-FORD-GENERAL MOTORS Legal Services Plan Benefits

### How Can We Help?

**Who...** Available to eligible FCA, Ford, and General Motors workers and retirees, who are or were represented by the UAW; and some surviving spouses.

**What...** Legal services, including advice, document preparation and contact with other parties (but not litigation) for wills, powers of attorney, deeds, uncontested family matters, residential real estate matters, credit reporting problems and consumer contract matters.

**And...** Low cost referrals to private attorneys for other types of non-business related legal matters; such as litigation matters, bankruptcies, probate, guardianship, contested family matters and more.

**How...** Contact the Legal Services Plan **1-800-482-7700**

Eligibility will be verified • Coverage will be explained  
*The Plan emphasizes communication by phone and email*

This benefit was negotiated for eligible UAW members in the 2015 UAW-FCA, UAW-Ford, and UAW-GM contracts



## Notary Services available at the Union Hall

AVAILABLE TO ALL LOCAL 598 MEMBERS



Call UAW Local 598 Recording Secretary  
**JUDY MOSIER**  
to schedule an appointment  
**238-4605, ext. 17**



# Congratulations Shane Herriman

## SHOP CHAIRMAN REPORT

by Eric Welter



I want to congratulate Shane Herriman. He has been promoted to District Shop Committee Representative. Shane will continue to have responsibility for his district and will take on the added work of functioning with the Shop Committee on plant-wide issues.

This promotion comes at an excellent time for both Shane and the Shop Committee, since we are engaged in negotiations. Shane brings substantial experience and perspective to the table. Please congratulate Shane when you see him.

At this point, negotiations are slow, and we have some challenging and expensive issues on the table right now. Once past these, I expect the pace to pick up.

Profit-sharing has been announced, and qualified employees will receive a maximum payout of \$9,000 on February 26th. Any employee who retired in 2020 will receive payment for qualified hours on March 26th.

For those with less than 1,850 hours, the prorated amount is \$4.86 for each eligible hour. Eligible hours include straight time hours, overtime hours (counting each as 1), vacation pay, holiday pay, bereavement, apprentice training hours, short-term military duty pay, and call-in pay.

An employee drawing Workers Compensation will receive credit for 40 hours for every week on Workers Compensation, as long as the employee has worked at least one 40-hour week during 2020.

The vacation application period for the balance of the 2021 calendar year is February 15th through February 26th. An answer back

to employees will be provided by March 8th. Please make your request through HCC.

Once the application period is over, vacation approvals are first come, first serve, so the application

period is the opportunity to take advantage of your seniority.

There is no mandatory plant vacation shutdown for Flint Assembly.

The plant has recently sent out a vaccine survey to be completed by interested employees. You can find it in the *598plaintruth* app in the FAQ section, posted in the plant, and through your group leader. Simply put, you are just entering a phone number so they can contact you when the vaccine is available.

Signing up is not a commitment. You can always change your mind.

This vaccine distribution is very complicated, so this survey will help determine the plan. If we have a lot of interest, we will potentially move up within GM's plan and could be the first plant to get vaccinated.

Vaccination decisions are very personal, and no one will be forced to take them. If you are interested, please take a moment to connect on the survey, so the numbers can be counted. There will be a vaccination available for those who want it.

The vaccination process won't be handled like flu shots, where you show up if you want one. You will have to be scheduled. The first step of the process is the survey.

White Shirt Day 2021 was certainly different from any past year. I would like to thank President Buchalski and the Executive Board for coming up with the commemorative pin to make this unusual White Shirt Day still very unique.

*In Solidarity...*

# celebrate BLACK history MONTH

## GENERAL MOTORS CALL-IN SYSTEM

1. Dial 1-800-222-8889
2. Enter your 9-digit GMIN number (you cannot enter your Social Security number)
3. Choose an absence reason (1-7) from the list at right...
4. Enter pound sign (#) if correct or asterisk (\*) if wrong.
5. Record your call-in sequence number
6. Stay on the line until you hear that your call has been successfully completed and recorded in GMTKS.

- Press 1 - Late
- Press 2 - Sick
- Press 3 - Sickness/  
Accident in Family
- Press 4 - Car Trouble
- Press 5 - Injured
- Press 6 - Death in Family
- Press 7 - Personal Time Off



*"A Local Union with a Heart"*

# EYE OPENER

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- DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATE
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**Debi Kirchner, Robin Stayton-Diehl**

### POLICY OF THE EYE OPENER

TO OUR READERS: This paper is the voice of our Local and International Union. This is our only 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 that 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. POSTMASTER: All Form 3579's for the EYE OPENER, are to be forwarded to the EYE OPENER, UAW Local 598, G-3293 Van Slyke Rd., Flint, MI 48507. Periodicals Postage Paid at Flint, Michigan. Annual subscription \$1.70 for members only; retirees \$1.00.

## DEADLINE FOR OUR MARCH EYE OPENER

All advertisements, notices, photos and articles must be submitted by **THURSDAY, MARCH 18** for consideration.

## VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

by John Jackson III



African Americans' achievements since the abolition of slavery. He was inspired to do more in the spirit of celebrating black history and heritage.

Before he left Chicago, Woodson helped found the

Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). A year later, Woodson singlehandedly launched the *Journal of Negro History*, in which he and other researchers brought attention to the achievements of Black Americans.

Born in 1875 in New Canton, Virginia, Woodson had worked as a sharecropper, miner, and in various other jobs during his childhood to help support his large family. Though he entered high school late, he made up for lost time, graduating in less than two years.

After attending Berea College in Kentucky, Woodson worked in the Philippines as an education superintendent for the U.S. government. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at

the University of Chicago before entering Harvard.

Three years before founding the ASNLH, in 1912, Woodson became the second African American (after W.E.B. DuBois) to earn a doctorate from that institution.

Like DuBois, Woodson believed that young African Americans in the early 20th century were not taught enough about their heritage and their ancestors' achievements. To get his message out, Woodson first turned to his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, which created Negro History and Literature Week in 1924. But Woodson wanted a wider celebration, and he decided the ASNLH should take on the task itself.

In February 1926, Woodson sent out a press release announcing the first Negro History Week. He chose February because the month contained the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two prominent men whose historic achievements African Americans already celebrated. (Lincoln's birthday was February 12; Douglass, a former slave, hadn't known his actual birthday, but had marked the occasion on February 14.)

As schools and other organizations across the country quickly embraced Woodson's initiative, he and his colleagues struggled to meet the demand for course materials and other resources.

The ASNLH formed branches all over the country, though its national headquarters remained centered in Woodson's row house on Ninth Street in Washington, DC. The house was also home base for the *Associated Publishers Press*, which Woodson had founded in 1921.

The author of more than 20 books, including *A Century of Negro Migration* (1918), *The History of the Negro Church* (1921), *The Negro in Our History* (1922), and his most celebrated text, *The Mis-Education of the Negro* (1933), Woodson also worked in education, as principal for the Armstrong Manual Training School in Washington, D.C., and dean at Howard University and the West Virginia Collegiate

Institute.

Woodson never viewed the study of Black history as something that could be confined to a week. As early as the 1940s, efforts began to expand the week of a public celebration of African American

heritage and achievements into a more extended event.

In some locations by 1950, this shift had already begun when Woodson died suddenly of a heart attack at home in Washington.

African Americans on college campuses were becoming

increasingly conscious of the historical dimension of their experience. Younger members of the ASNLH (which later became the Association for the Study of African American History) urged the organization to change with the times, including the official shift to a month-long celebration of Black History.

In 1976, on the 50th anniversary of the first Negro History Week, the Association officially shifted to Black History Month. Since then, every U.S. president has issued a proclamation honoring the spirit of Black History Month.

Gerald Ford began the tradition in 1976, saying the celebration enabled people to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Ronald Reagan's first Black History Month proclamation stated that "understanding the history of Black Americans is a key to understanding the strength of our nation."

In 2016, Barack Obama, the nation's first black president, made his last proclamation in honor of Woodson's initiative, now recognized as the nation's oldest organized history celebration. He in part stated, "Let us reflect on the sacrifices and contributions made by generations of African Americans, and let us resolve to continue our march toward a day when every person knows the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."



Carter Woodson, founder of Black History Week

## UAW Information Resources

Plug into your UAW member information resources! Your dues dollars pay for these great tools. Check out the links below to see how you can connect with UAW members across the country.

Our knowledge is our power!



UAW GM Talks - [Facebook.com/uawgmtalks/](https://www.facebook.com/uawgmtalks/)  
UAW International - [Facebook.com/uaw.union/](https://www.facebook.com/uaw.union/)



UAW International - @UAW  
Vice President Cindy Estrada - @CindyEstrada174



UAW APP - Text "APP" to 99795\* to download or get more information on [uaw.org](http://uaw.org)



UAW.org  
Go to [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org) to find valuable news, press releases, and educational resources, including:

- Solidarity, the UAW's interactive official magazine
- UAW Wire, the UAW's action alert system that you can get by signing up at [uaw.org/action](http://uaw.org/action)
- UAW news and press releases
- UAW Constitution
- Videos and booklets about UAW basics, labor history, collective bargaining, health and safety, local union standing committees and many other topics

# FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREAS REPORT

by Chad Fabbro



of not having been scheduled to work forty (40) hours, or received benefits in lieu of work equivalent to forty (40) hours' pay within any calendar month, shall be entitled to exemption of payment

of regular monthly dues..."

We understand some members are going to have Union dues deducted, regardless if they worked 40 hours in a calendar month, because General Motors automatically deducts them from the first paycheck of the month. However, at the beginning of each month, GM sends me a monthly listing of total hours worked for the preceding month. This is the report we use to verify hours before issuing any refunds.

We realize this is not the best process, but until GM changes their payroll deduction system, it's the only one we have to work with.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at the Union Hall if you have any questions or concerns regarding your dues.

## Explanation on Dues Refunds

I would like to take a minute to clarify what I mentioned last month about listening to others' concerns. This does not mean that we only listen. We also have to talk with one another and have the desire to work through things, together. They need to hear you, too. This is the only way we can grow as an educated Union.

Together, we can accomplish greatness. When we're divided, it's difficult to accomplish the same goals.

### Dues Refunds

As some of the temporary hours have been cut back to one (1) day a week, it is important to know how the UAW Constitution addresses this matter when it comes to Union dues. Article 16, Section 26 states that, "any member who has not worked forty (40) hours by reason

# CLASSIFIEDS

• SERVICES  
• FOR SALES  
• FOR RENT

Due to the increased number of want ads/services we are receiving, 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.

## SERVICES

**TWA Fence** – All fences, commercial and residential. Call (810) 691-4454.

\* \* \* \* \*

**A.R.S. Construction**, all roofs. Best material, price and workmanship. Licensed, insured, 20 years' experience. Call 866-722-1311.

\* \* \* \* \*

**80th Bike Week Anniversary** – Carol's Cat House – 813 Main St., Daytona Beach, Florida. Union Sister is owner and operator of establishment. Telephone (586) 322-3464.

## FOR SALE

**4-Wheel Mobility Scooter** – 2016 Golden Companion II 440 with Bruno power lift, scooter cover and charger. \$975.00. Call 810-288-0660.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Vintage Outboard Motors.** Many to choose from, Johnson to Mercury, 1950s & 1960s. Call for more details. Serious inquiries only. Call 810-735-4038.

## REAL ESTATE

**Call today for Free Market Analysis** on your home. I retired from Truck & Bus. Let's keep it in the family. Call David Merrow at (810) 610-7122.

WHITE SHIRT DAY



*Commemorating The 1936-37 Sit-Downers*



# V-CAP COMMITTEE



charged with the enforcement of the NLRA, any suspected violations of law are appealed to the NLRB

(through regional offices set up much like our federal court system, where the actual Board of 5 act as the Supreme Court).

It is imperative the NLRB be populated with individuals who at least believe in the intent of the NLRA, definitely not the case for the NLRB under the last president. This is illustrated by the backgrounds of the Republican members of the Board – two were partners at large law firms specializing in helping employers maintain an *at-will* workplace, and the third was a staffer who helped craft anti-work and anti-union legislation for the Republican-led House of Representatives before 2018.

The Democratic member was a union-side attorney before her appointment in 2014.

The Board was aided by the General Counsel and his chief assistant in sabotaging the agency by perpetually understaffing the regional offices, even refusing to spend money appropriated by Congress. The number of NLRB employees dropped by over 10% from 2017-2020.

This Board has voluntarily ceded prosecutorial powers against obvious violations of the NLRA, reduced staff to the point of near-complete ineffectiveness, issued a slew of anti-worker and anti-union decisions, and instituted regulations to discourage workers from forming or joining unions as well as making it easier for employers to retaliate against those workers who lead efforts to organize a union in their workplace.

The Board has been in the news lately because President Biden has

fired 2 Trump political appointees who acted as the NLRB general counsel and his chief deputy. These two were both aggressively pro-business and anti-worker rights.

As political appointees, they serve at the will of the president. President Biden fired them, as they do not represent his values toward



workers' rights.

The president has appointed a career (read non-political) attorney – who faces Senate Confirmation – as acting General Counsel to stem the anti-worker tide. However, until he can fill the NLRB vacancies, it will still be a tough road for workers attempting to assert their rights.

The NLRB is yet another example of how elections affect our *bargaining rights*, and how a mostly unknown board impacts workers across this nation.

## Welcome Changes to the NLRB

Under the *New Deal*, Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to protect employee and employer rights by encouraging collective bargaining, thereby setting the rules of engagement in labor relations situations. It granted employees two fundamental rights:

- 1) the right to form or join a union of their choosing, and
- 2) allowed concerted efforts to allow employees to provide for the betterment of pay, benefits, or working conditions.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) enforces the NLRA. It is comprised of 5 individuals, with three traditionally being of the same party as the president and the other two the opposing party.

Because the NLRB is

## This Month in LABOR HISTORY...

Before the start of Leonard Nimoy in his iconic role as the Vulcan science officer Mr. Spock in *Star Trek*, there was another Vulcan that had an important part in our history.

The *Sons of Vulcan* won an eight months long nation-wide strike on February 13, 1865. The first American Union in Iron and Steel was founded in 1858 and known as the "*Sons of Vulcan*." It remained a growing union and relevant for all from the start up to 1876, when the *Sons of Vulcan* merged with two other iron and steel unions to form the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers. This would lay the groundwork for what is known today as the United Steelworkers.

At first, when the members would strike, the employers easily broke the strikers because of the Union's strike policy. This policy only permitted members with a grievance to strike and no others were required to. With no support for the striking workers from the national union, members relied on voluntary contributions from other members.

The strike policy is what eventually led to the collapse of 26 local unions by 1868, leading to the membership drastically dropping from 1,514 members to only 600 in a year. After some time, the *Sons of Vulcan* created a new policy that stated only with the consent of the



national union would they be able to strike and all members of the Local must strike, not just a few.

With these changes, membership started to return. By 1873, the *Sons of Vulcan* was known to be one of the strongest American unions, with a membership that would reach over 3,300.

As strong as they were, if the steel workers were to strike, the employers were still able to manufacture product, because the heaters, roughers and mill hands were still working on steel and iron that had already been produced,

making their strike ineffective.

A merger of the largest unions in the country was proposed in 1873, and after 3 years of negotiations, the merger of the Associated Brotherhood of Iron and Steel Heaters, Rollers and Roughers, the Iron and Steel Roll Hands of the United States and the *Sons of Vulcan* was complete. The *Sons of Vulcan* made up 85 percent of this new membership, known as the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers.

Today, the United Steelworkers (USW) is North America's largest industrial union – 1.2 million members and retirees strong! It is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, Canadian Labour Congress, and many other international union federations.

**For more information, visit:**

*Sons of Vulcan* – Wikipedia; *United Steelworkers* – Wikipedia and [usw.org](http://usw.org)

# BLACK HISTORY

*continued from Front Page*

restroom, Rowland tripped as he was exiting the elevator and either stumbled into Paige, or stepped on her foot. In an attempt to steady himself or break his fall, he made contact with her. Understandably, she screamed, and he fled the elevator as a white clerk from a nearby store came to investigate the noise.

Visibly, distraught from the incident, the store clerk assumed Paige had been assaulted by Rowland and called the police. That accusation was the tipping point for a town already reeling from racial tension and would turn into the worst 48 hours in the city's History.

## The Arrest

The next morning, Rowland was arrested at his mother's home in Greenwood and taken to the courthouse, where a vigilante mob had arrived to demand that police turn him over. A group of black men, many of them World War I veterans, armed themselves and went to the courthouse to protect Rowland; determined that another black person would not be lynched in their town. The mob demanded the sheriff hand Rowland over, and was refused.

It was said a man tried to disarm the black man that was there to help protect Rowland and his gun went off. That's when the riot began. Over the course of 48 hours, Greenwood would be looted, set ablaze and literally burned off the map.

Numerous eyewitnesses described airplanes firing rifles as they dropped firebombs on buildings, homes, and fleeing families; shooting both young and old, as well as women and children, on sight. At least a dozen of the privately-owned aircraft circled the neighborhood and dropped "burning turpentine balls" on an office building, a hotel, a filling (gas) station and multiple other buildings. All 35 blocks were gone.

When the smoke cleared, more than \$1.5 million in damage had been done; as many as 300 people, both black and white, had been killed; and thousands of black families were left homeless, with nothing but rubble and ash to call home.

Insurance companies denied



claims from the families, leaving them with nothing but the clothes on their backs, forced to start over or leave. There were families that tried to sue the city and state for damages but had their claims blocked or denied.

Wouldn't you know, the first bomb to ever be launched on American soil by an American was in a black community in Tulsa, OK.

## Despite Their Best Efforts

In 1997, a Tulsa Race Riot Commission was formed by the state of Oklahoma to investigate the massacre and formally document the incident. Members of the commission gathered accounts of survivors who were still alive, documents from individuals who witnessed the massacre but had since died, as well as other historical evidence.

The commission's final recommendations suggested that the state of Oklahoma pay \$33 million in restitution, some of it to the 121 surviving victims who had been located. That recommendation was also blocked or denied. Despite its severity and destructiveness, the Tulsa massacre was barely mentioned in history books, however, in the households of black people it was a constant reminder.

## In conclusion

Again, why do we celebrate Black History? The answer is very clear. It is a period for us to reflect not only on the struggles of black people, but to recognize and celebrate their achievements, as well. Awareness of our past plays an important part in our ability to be thankful for the blessings we are now able to enjoy as Black Americans. We should not ignore the facts that black people are still struggling today to be accepted by

those around them.

It should be noted, however, that Paige told the police that Rowland had grabbed her arm to brace his fall but nothing more. She refused to press charges. Regardless of whether an assault had occurred, Rowland had reason to be fearful. At the time, such an accusation alone would have put both he and his family's lives at risk. Realizing the gravity of the situation, he fled to his mother's house in the Greenwood neighborhood where he was arrested.

So, as I conclude this Black History awareness article, remember, that when your heart is inhabited with both racism and hate, it stems from ignorance

and a lack of knowledge in diversity and an unwillingness to embrace other cultures. That's why we must continue to promote, celebrate, educate, and recognize Black History Month and diversity.

In doing so, we are teaching people the importance of our history. Without awareness of the past, eyes cannot be fully opened to the state of the present and where we are going in the future. And *no*, I don't think it should be limited to just black people and their struggles.

Why can't we just celebrate America's melting pot that includes all cultures? If we put forth an effort to celebrate all ethnicities and cultures until it is entrenched in our everyday life, then we no longer would need a month to remind us of the importance of a diverse society.

It is important that we reflect and celebrate the monumental contributions of all ethnicities and use them as a platform for future growth. And, since black history is American history, we can all get in on the lesson. The struggle continues.

# 25-Year Service Award



**Now available for those who qualify!**

(Per Section 19 of UAW Local 598 By-Laws)

Stop by the hall and place your order

Mens Red Gemstone  Ladies Red Gemstone

Mens Blue Gemstone  Ladies Blue Gemstone

Ring Size

Alpha Steel rings are non-allergenic and will retain their luster for generations, but cannot be resized.

**Recommendation – Snug fit. Accurate ring sizing is available in the Local 598 Office.**

Section 19. Active members who have attained 25 years of UAW membership, and are currently members in good standing of UAW Local 598, and have been a dues-paying member to UAW Local 598 for a minimum of ten (10) years shall be entitled to receive a service recognition award of a "25 year" ring the style and cost to be determined by the Local Union Executive Board.

Local 598  
RETIREES

# WORD SEARCH

See ANSWERS  
in the March  
EYE OPENER

E	T	O	V	I	I	R	V	T	R	I	P	S	O
E	E	I	S	K	C	U	R	T	I	N	I	E	G
R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N
Y	E	S	E	N	I	S	G	B	U	R	K	S	I
T	I	R	G	S	T	L	E	W	N	T	O	R	B
I	R	E	I	S	D	A	B	U	D	A	W	E	S
R	S	K	O	R	O	C	R	O	D	P	S	H	T
A	T	R	N	U	W	O	I	E	M	E	W	T	R
D	I	O	S	O	N	L	N	S	U	V	P	U	I
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|----------------|-------|------------|---------|--|
| TRUCKS         | LOCAL | SOLIDARITY | WORKERS | CONTRACT   |
| BENEFITS       | TRIPS | CHARITABLE | REGION  |  |
| RETIREMENT     | DUES  | REUTHER    | STRIKE  | Play this puzzle   |
| REPRESENTATION | DAWES | VOTE       | BURKS   | online at:   |
| CONSTITUTION   | UNION | SITDOWN    | BINGO   | <a href="https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2003833">https://theword</a> |

# RETIREE REPORT



by Janet Woodson, Retiree Chair



## White Shirt Day Celebration

February 11th is White Shirt Day. We were able to celebrate last year with the Christensen family. It was Bert Christensen who came up with the idea of White Shirt Day. This year, instead of white shirts, the officers from the Local purchased lapel pins in honor of the day.

Our Local President, Ryan Buchalski, set aside a few pins for our retirees. There is a limited amount of these pins, so once they are gone, they are gone! I do not know when we will meet again, but we have them for you guys. Stop by and get one.

A big thank you goes out to Local 598 Financial Secretary Chad Fabbro for setting up our combo lunch specials with Jimmy John's. *Thank you, Chad!* Our Local officers have always been good to the retirees. Our secretaries were also a big help – *thanks, ladies!*

We still have pocket calendars available at the Union Hall. If anyone wants one, all you need to do is stop by. If Thurman or I are not at the Union Hall, the secretaries will give you one.

To everyone who has lost a loved one, our hearts go out to you and your family.

My family is doing well, except for the storms in Texas and Oklahoma. I hope you all stay as safe as possible with this pandemic. I also hope you are all getting signed up for the COVID-19 vaccine.

### Remembering Black Leaders

With February being Black History month, I think of people like the late *John Lewis* – politician, civil rights leader, and U.S. Representative from Georgia. *Arthur Ashe*, who I wrote a book report on when I was in school. He was such a great tennis player. *Rosa Parks* (not at the back of the bus today) and *Martin Luther King, Jr.'s* "I Had A Dream" speech. *Harriett Tubman* worked on the underground railroad. *Booker T. Washington*, *Malcolm X* also come to mind. These icons became great politicians, activists, and ministers, just to name a few!

In 1961, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) staged its first freedom ride, and now it looks like we need to start all over again (for justice and equality).

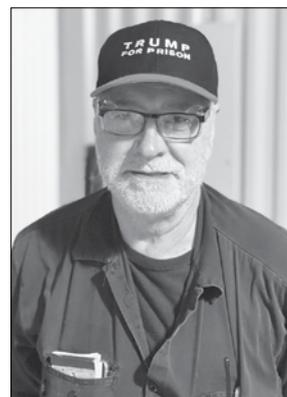
I miss you all, and hope to see you soon.



The Officers, Staff and Members of Local 598 extend sincerest thanks and congratulations for the many years of dedicated service by our recent retirees. We encourage them to join our Retiree Chapter.



**CLARE HASCALL**  
(Retired January 1st)



**MARK BRASIER**  
(Retired February 1st)

### RECENTLY RETIRED...

- DENISE M. MAY (October 1, 2020)
- PAUL A. LENHART (February 1, 2021)

Stop by the Benefits Office or Union Hall to get your picture taken for an upcoming issue of the EYE OPENER.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Baer, Dennis</b><br>(Retired)          | <b>Hammersley, Jerry R.</b><br>(Retired)     | <b>Pierce, Edward J.</b><br>(Retired)  |
| <b>Baroski, Sondra L.</b><br>(Retired)    | <b>Le Duc, Melvin R.</b><br>(Retired)        | <b>Rhodes, Paul E.</b><br>(Retired)    |
| <b>Berry, Jr. Sam</b><br>(Retired)        | <b>Mathis, John W.</b><br>(Retired)          | <b>Riggs, Joe R.</b><br>(Retired)      |
| <b>Cox, Rick</b><br>(Active)              | <b>Mitchell, Freddie L.</b><br>(Retired)     | <b>Scott, Randall D.</b><br>(Retired)  |
| <b>Davis, Jack T.</b><br>(Retired)        | <b>Neely, Barbara</b><br>(Retired)           | <b>St. James, Dennis</b><br>(Retired)  |
| <b>Davis, Jr., Morton</b><br>(Retired)    | <b>O'Neal, Jr., Clarence H.</b><br>(Retired) | <b>Stafford, Larry D.</b><br>(Retired) |
| <b>Garland, Lewis E.</b><br>(Retired)     | <b>Peterson, Deborah</b><br>(Retired)        | <b>Stanfill, Billy W.</b><br>(Retired) |
| <b>Gifford, Jr., John W.</b><br>(Retired) |  | <b>Williams, Wendall</b><br>(Retired)  |

*They are already missed.*



# Fisher 2 Historical Marker Restored

On Wednesday, February 10, 2021, Local 598 Officers and Committee members gathered at the memorial site on Chevrolet Avenue to place the historical marker that the membership had restored.

The monument stands in front of where the Fisher 2 plant once stood. It serves as a reminder of what took place there during the Sit-down Strike of 1937.

The strike began on Dec. 30th, 1936, at the Fisher 2 plant when the men sat down on the line stopping production. This protest was the beginning of a 44-day work stoppage that would end when GM recognized the United Auto Workers as the bargaining agent for hourly workers.

