



UAW LOCAL 598

SERVING CHEVY TRUCK ASSEMBLY WORKERS

"A Local Union with a Heart"



EYE OPENER

Volume 40 / Issue 1

www.uawlocal598.org

JANUARY 2021

INSIDE

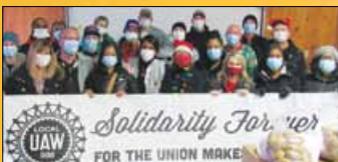
- President's Report.....2
- Shop Chair's Report.....3



Lunch Delivered To Frontline Workers.....6



Great Lakes Nat'l Cemetery 2021 Wreath Pick-Up 7



Food Basket Donations 11

Membership Meetings are **CANCELLED**

until April 2021 (per the UAW)

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

Show Respect for SITDOWNERS by wearing WHITE SHIRTS

February 11th, the day we set aside to pay tribute to the men and women who showed us the meaning of solidarity, is fast approaching. Thursday, February 11th, will be the anniversary of Flint's Great Sit-Down Strike of 1936-37, and the birth of our great Union. On that day, the UAW received its first collective bargaining agreement with General Motors, the first contract ever with any of the automakers of the time.

Bert Christensen's idea of wearing a white shirt was to commemorate the Sit-Downers. He proposed that everyone wear a white shirt/blouse to work on the anniversary of the strike's ending. The concept of wearing white shirts was to show that we had as much pride and dignity in our work as management.

Each year, we are proud to walk throughout the plants and see all of the UAW pride and Local 598 solidarity shown by all the white shirts in the plant. We hope everyone will join us on February 11th to display Local 598's continued strength and unity this year.



Happy New Year from the UAW Local 598 Executive Board



Take the First Step in Faith



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ryan Buchalski

“Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase; just take the first step.”

– DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Happy Birthday, Reverend King!

Let’s all have faith in this new year and think of all the

possibilities we can encounter.

Looking in the rearview mirror, 2020 is now a historical reflection. A year of challenges, changes, and frustration that most prefer to leave far behind. However, as challenging as it seems, here at Local

598, we weathered the storm together and we will continue to do so. Through our strength, solidarity, and our pride, we grew stronger.

While the pandemic is still amongst us, let’s look at the light ahead and hope for progress, while never forgetting those we

have lost.

Welcome to 2021!

Our 598 year has started on a positive path. During our negotiated holiday period, 325 Local 598 members received word that they would be converted from temporary to seniority status. *Congratulations to all of you!* It was through hard work and dedication that this was possible.

Having patience, and believing in the entire Local 598 leadership team, has brought us all to this glorious day. We should remind ourselves of the sacrifices and struggles that it took to attain this. For 40 days and 40 nights, all of the UAW sisters and brothers stayed focused and stayed strong while fighting for language for a path to full-time employment for our temporary workers, and not

stopping until we secured that language in our contract!

May your future be bright, and your belief in unity continue.

The bargaining team has done an exceptional job ensuring that this transition is both contractually fair and just. We thank them for their continued support and a job well done!

The leadership team continues to monitor the governor’s orders on gatherings and how it affects our ability to meet indoors for our monthly membership meetings and events.

We all miss our Sunday meetings together and can hardly wait for things to feel somewhat normal again. As always, we will keep you posted.

With February on the horizon, please keep in mind our significant and

historical, “White Shirt Day.” On Thursday, February 11th, we will celebrate our 84th anniversary as the *Fisher 2 Sitdowners*. Nothing will make us feel better or appear stronger than if everyone wears a white shirt on February 11th, to carry on the tradition of our past and to honor the memory of the Sitdowners.

“White Shirt Day” started right here at Local 598 in 1948. To celebrate our 1937 victory in gaining recognition as a union, the idea was crafted by Sit-Downer and Education Committee member Bert Christensen. Let’s each do our part on the 11th. *Thank you!*



Bert Christensen

Members of the Education Committee met recently and discussed many future goals. Those goals included, but were not limited to, Union education classes here at the Union Hall, once gatherings are permitted.

For our members, we would like to continue our Local 598 history book, as presently it only covers up to 1991.

We discussed ideas for our monthly publication and various other goals. We feel that educating our membership one by one will fulfill our goal of having knowledgeable, educated 598 members. Education will result in a strong and united front for years to come.

Another item that resulted from the goals discussion is a special commemorative gift to coincide with our “White Shirt Day” celebration. We are very excited to share this in the near future. As always, thank you for your hard work and dedication to Local 598, home of the Fisher 2 Sit-Downers.

We look forward to serving the greatest membership in the world!



The Word for January is “Conversion”

SHOP CHAIRMAN REPORT

by Eric Welter



We were happy to announce the conversion of 325 temporary employees to regular seniority status. These employees completed the criteria established in the 2019 National Agreement and did not have to make up the time from the COVID-19 lay off. Over Christmas break, the eligible employees were mailed a letter to their home to celebrate this momentous occasion with their families.

The positive impact on these members and their families cannot be wholly comprehended. Job security, pay topping out at \$32.32, company-contributed 401(K), dental, vision, and TAP are just some of the improvements that will help them and their families be successful and live a life improved by collective bargaining.

This conversion also continues to improve the lives of the other workers in the plant. A conversion has historically been difficult in Flint Assembly. We are experiencing something unprecedented, a consistent conversion and the resulting improvement in shift choices and job assignments for all our members.

I have had the great pleasure of converting 743 temporary employees to permanent. This is more than any other Chairman in the Local’s history, and it was done in 5 years. One more conversion and I will have converted more than all others combined.

The impact of these conversions has created the ability for our lower seniority employees to get the shifts they desire, which previously took 10 years to hold by their predecessors.

This conversion comes with its share of difficulties, as well. The plant has too many workers. This will work itself out through retirements and transfers, but in the meantime, we have to learn how to operate with a surplus.

We are moving all new hires to trim and chassis and filling every open job, sick leave job, and containment job, through

the Local Agreement mechanisms. We have pulled special apps to the departments to backfill any assignment, including a portion of sick leave jobs. We will then set up an allotment of extra workers in each

department and shift.

We cannot just move all new hires to second shift. It’s not practical. So, we will put them where they are needed and let members shift preference to the shift they want if their seniority allows it, including bumping the extra workers. This will establish the new cut-off date for holding each shift.

Since we have a surplus of seniority employees, the plant is postponing offering any part-time temporary (PTT) employees a full-time temporary (FTT) job. After we get through the flow of workers to GA and settle that down, we will have a better picture of the need for FTT.

I understand that this delays the conversion of the next group, but it can’t be helped. At some point, we will put on FTT, but I have to be able to keep you on that assignment until conversion.

Winter is the most challenging time for temporary workers, because most of their work is replacing absent workers. Our COVID-19 leaves are down to 47, and our sick leaves are under 200, from a high of 700 combined. Vacation requests are historically low in the first few months, adding to this reduced need for FTT. I will get it worked out, and we will make a plan for more FTT.

The surplus of workers is compounded by the company’s intent to cut a large number of jobs. Although this is always a complicated process for unions, it is a normal post-launch activity for the company.

Your committee successfully added a significant number of jobs during the launch, and the company then attempts to take as many out as they can after the launch. In the end, we will have more jobs than they intended for T1.

I have heard comments that we are “agreeing” with a cut. That is

not how it works. The company makes a determination, notifies the committee with a written time study, tells the affected workers, and executes the job changes.

Our responsibility is two-fold. First, determine if the job meets the production standards. If it does not, we charge them under par 78. The second is to make sure the manpower moves are contractually correct. We do not want cuts any more than the worker does. It is very emotional for us, as well.

I have agreed to a pilot program for Skilled Trades training, starting with the electricians. This is targeted training based on the survey they will be sending you. The survey is voluntary, but will help Leonia develop the right classes for each level of knowledge and experience and determine which classes would have value for you.

Since the new year, Local negotiations have slowed, mainly due to work required to get

workers converted and moved throughout the plant. We have just about completed that and will refocus on the Local Agreement.

Although it has been challenging to work in a COVID-19 environment, we have been very fortunate and will come out of this strong. Businesses in our communities are suffering, and many will close. Non-auto workers have been laid off with no health insurance and minimal unemployment benefits. Many other auto plants have seen significant downtime and daily shutdowns, putting many workers in financial hardship. At Flint Assembly, we are arguing about double-time days, and we are truly blessed.

Product demand continues to soar beyond expectations. This continues for the foreseeable future, which is about three years. Soon, we will put these difficult times behind us and look at a horizon full of hope, prosperity, and solidarity.



“A Local Union with a Heart”

EYE OPENER

www.uawlocal598.org

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

<p>Ryan Buchalski..... PRESIDENT</p> <p>John Jackson III VICE PRESIDENT</p> <p>Judy Mosier.....RECORDING SECRETARY</p> <p>Chad Fabbro..... FINANCIAL SECRETARY</p> <p>Brian Langdon SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</p> <p>Leonia Lowe-Valley..... GUIDE</p> <p>Kathy Elsner..... TRUSTEE</p> <p>Stephanie Riley TRUSTEE</p> <p>Mike Welch..... TRUSTEE</p> <p>Janet Woodson... RETIREE CHAPTER CHAIR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAIRMAN, SHOP COMMITTEE Eric Welter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SHOP COMMITTEEMEN-AT-LARGE Dustin Culhane, Eddie Pickett, LeRoy Shinabarger</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT) Rick Hager, D’Andre Jackson</p> <p>DISTRICT COMMITTEEPERSON / ALTERNATES</p> <p>Rick Hager / Ben Dunlop</p> <p>Sean Meachem / Chad Boyce</p> <p>Shane Herriman / Bo Browning</p> <p>D’Andre Jackson / Stan Cherwinski</p> <p>Brian Shick / Jo Anna Batson-McCarthy</p> <p>Gerald Scott / Jeffrey Smiley</p> <p>Jeremiah Alsop / Jeremy Switzer</p> <p>Bryan Ventrone / Stan Dulaney</p> <p>Jon Galant / Wendy Ignash</p> <p>Winston Ruffin / Chris Snooks</p> <p>Randy Frost / Aaron McAlister</p> <p>Nick Dekalita / Dana Waider</p> <p>Joe Dontje / Kevin Smiley</p> <p>Bob Scott / Maurice Purches</p> <p>Justin MacNeill / Chad Bellant</p> <p>Mike Kocsis / Chris Velez</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARAMARK BARGAINING COMMITTEE</p> <p>DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATE</p> <p>Frank Yearby / Glen Shimmel</p> <p>Orlandis McNeal / James Smith</p> <p>Anthony Beaugard / John Wineland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ADAPT REPRESENTATIVE</p> <p>Denise Denam, Monroe Murphy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE</p> <p>Rosalyn Morse</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LOCAL 598 BENEFIT REPS.</p> <p>Chris McLean, Chris Dungerow, Adam Prieur, Robert Belford, Archie McGrath, Hans Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>Mike Dankert, Mark Turner, Doug Culhane</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOINT ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVE</p> <p>Mike Robinson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOINT TRAINING REPRESENTATIVE</p> <p>Dave Groulx</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WORK & FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>Jayne Atwell, Cheryl Dawson, George Washington</p> <p style="text-align: center;">598 APPRENTICE CHAIR</p> <p>Doug Taylor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION/PUBLICITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>Debi Kirchner, Aaron McAlister, Gabrielle Clements, Jennifer Coon, Randy Hamilton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PHOTOGRAPHERS</p> <p>Debi Kirchner, Robin Stayton-Diehl</p>
--	--

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.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREAS REPORT

by Chad Fabbro



living on another planet. It just means that things may hit your household differently, socially or politically, than it hits others.

As we head into this new year, we are still financially

secure and we are looking forward to loosened regulations as the vaccination numbers grow. We're hoping to have some of our annual events this summer. In saying that, I'm going to do my best to lock down a date to have the golf outing in August. Location and times will be coming in the near future. More than likely, in the spring to early summer, we will also try to sneak in a motorcycle ride. We miss having these events with the membership and look forward to getting them started back up as soon as possible.

I hope you all are staying safe, and I look forward to a healthy year ahead for our membership. Make sure to enjoy each day as it comes at you, and may God bless each and every one of you.

A new year, a new President, and hopefully a new outlook on containing this global pandemic. With all that 2020 brought us, I'm looking forward to a fresh start this year.

I think the whole world is looking forward to a better outlook on things to come. This means evaluating the needs of the majority and making compromises to make the world a better place. Having a difference in opinion is okay, but how we react to those differences can be a defining moment on how the future will play out.

It's more important now than ever before that we open our ears, close our mouths, and listen to what people say. Even if we don't agree with others or their views on life, remember life is different for everyone. Just because you have ideas doesn't mean that you're

Statement of UAW President Rory L. Gamble

Inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris



DETROIT – "Hand on Bible, in the seat of the world's longest democratic republic, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris took an oath that carries the hopes and dreams of all Americans to rise from the COVID-19 challenge, our economic challenges, and our national division.

Today, we all stand together – one nation, united in our prayers for a brighter day. Today, in the workplaces, the homes and the communities of UAW members, we come together to do our part in making this a 'more perfect union.' Today, President Biden and his diverse administration bring a new and brighter day."



Celebrating White Shirt Day in a completely different fashion



In light of the unique circumstances, Region 1D will be celebrating **White Shirt Day** in a completely different fashion this year.

We know in your hearts, just as in our own, the passion for union and union pioneers beats proudly, but we are not willing to risk the health of our membership, leadership (active or retired), or friends.

We have worked hard to come up with ideas to still celebrate those 1936-37 heroes of the UAW without putting anyone in danger, and we think we have a solution.

Throughout the day on February 11, **White Shirt Day**, Region 1D will be posting on our Facebook page. We will be sharing memories, pictures, special messages, and at 11:00 a.m., we will go live with the CAP drawing.

We need your help! Was someone in your family involved with the Great Sit-Down Strike? Please write a brief (250 words or fewer) memory or family story about this historical event. Do you have a picture from the strike you'd like to share? Does **White Shirt Day** hold special meaning for you or your family? Why? Do you have a special memory from a previous **White Shirt Day** celebration you'd like to contribute?

Please send submissions to drichter@uaw.net or:

WHITE SHIRT DAY
1940 W. Atherton Road
Flint, MI 48503

Make sure to include your return address if you would like any photos returned, and identify, as best you can, anyone in pictures. If you would like to remain anonymous, we will respect your request.

While this won't be the same as gathering to pay homage to our great UAW pioneers, we can all watch the parade of union history and union courage while individually eating bean soup and apples.

Please share this request and thank you for helping recognize this important, landmark day.

In solidarity, Steve Dawes
Director Region 1D

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



UAW.org
Go to 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
- 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

1ST QUARTER 2020 DOMINGO BERLANGA MEMORIAL SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

By David V. Garcia, Local 598 Veterans Chair

Brothers and Sisters,

Local 598 Veterans Committee is proud to announce the first Quarter Domingo Berlanga Memorial Service award recipient for 2021: Specialist Malinda Jones, U.S. Army (11-8-98 to 11-8-02).

Malinda joined the Army after graduating high school, where she earned her Bachelors in Business degree. She completed her Basic Training and her Advanced Initial Training (AIT) in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. Her MOS was a 71L, which is an Administrative Specialist. Malinda transitioned to her permanent duty station at HHC XVIII Airborne Corps. in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

Some of her awards are Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Expert Marksmanship Qualification, with

a Rifle bar. Malinda completed a 4-year tour of duty with an Honorable Discharge as an E-4

Malinda was hired into GM on 11-30-15 and is presently working in the trim department on first shift. She is the 12th child of 13 siblings and has a 15-year-old son named Theodore M. Jones IV. In her spare time, she likes to read, watch movies, and workout. Malinda stays active in the community, donating her time, clothes, coats, and shoes to the Salvation Army and Goodwill. She helped raise money for various families in need and helped deliver food baskets.

Malinda, on behalf of the Local 598 Veterans Committee,

WELCOME HOME and Thank You for Your Service!

In Solidarity...



SPECIALIST MALINDA JONES
Trim Department, First Shift

Employee Profit Sharing Contributions to the PSP



January 26, 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYEE PROFIT SHARING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PSP

TIME SENSITIVE: ELECTION WINDOW IS JANUARY 28, 2021 – FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Dear Employee:

In the event there is a 2020 payout under the Profit Sharing Plan for Hourly-Rate Employees in the United States (Profit Sharing Plan), you will have the opportunity to contribute all or a portion of that payout on a pretax basis to your Personal Savings Plan (PSP) account, subject to tax law limitations.

You may elect to contribute your Profit Sharing payout in 1% increments, up to 100%, or a flat dollar amount, to your PSP account. All prior Profit Sharing contribution elections on file will reset to zero each year. Therefore, **if you do not take any action, no contribution to the PSP will be made on your behalf**, and your entire Profit Sharing payout will be included with your regular wages as taxable income. If you wish to make a contribution of all or a portion of your Profit Sharing Plan payout to the PSP, **you must affirmatively make such election starting at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time on January 28, 2021, and ending at 4:00 p.m. Eastern time on February 11, 2021.**

How to Make Your Contribution Election and Eligibility

You can make a Profit Sharing contribution election online at gmbenefits.com, or by calling the GM Benefits & Services Center.

Proceed with the following instructions to make a change to your Profit Sharing contribution election online:

- Go to gmbenefits.com.
- Click Active Hourly.
- Click Savings Plans.
- Click the link under PSP Offerings to log in to Fidelity NetBenefits®.
- Log in using your username and password.
- Under General Motors PSP, click Quick Links and select Contribution Amount from the drop-down menu.
- Click Contribution Amount and Catch-up Contributions.
- Scroll down and look for the Profit Sharing Election.
- Input the desired percentage (must be in 1% increments) or a flat dollar amount of your Profit Sharing payout.
- Click the Change Contribution Amount button at the bottom of the page.
- Click the Submit button at the bottom of the page after you have reviewed your requested changes.
- Please note that when you click Submit a printable confirmation page will be displayed.
- Note: If you do not receive a confirmation of your elected changes, contact the GM Benefits & Services Center for assistance.

To elect a Profit Sharing contribution over the phone with a Customer Service Associate, call the GM Benefits & Services Center at 1-800-489-4646. Associates are available business days from 8:00 a.m. to midnight Eastern Time.

2021 Tax Considerations

There are a few things to consider when making your decision. All contributions, including Profit Sharing contributions, to the PSP are subject to tax law limitations. The limit on the total of pretax or Roth contributions in 2021 is \$19,500. If your Profit Sharing contribution causes you to exceed the \$19,500 limit, the remainder of the Profit Sharing payout will be included in your regular wages.

Required Deductions

All Profit Sharing payouts are subject to FICA taxes and Union dues. If you elect to contribute your Profit Sharing payout to the PSP and you will also be receiving wages for that pay period, your Profit Sharing contribution will be the percentage or flat dollar amount you elect, provided your other wages are enough to satisfy the FICA and Union dues obligations. If you elect to contribute your Profit Sharing payout and will not be receiving wages for that pay period, your Profit Sharing contribution will be after FICA taxes and Union dues are deducted. The two examples below illustrate these situations.

Any outstanding payroll or benefit overpayments, special court orders for child support arrearages, tax levies or similar obligations will be deducted from your Profit Sharing payout before any contributions are made to the PSP.

Examples: Based on \$11,000 Payout

Employee with 100% Deferral & Active Earnings				Employee with 100% Deferral & NO Active Earnings			
Earnings	Hours	Rate	Amount	Earnings	Hours	Rate	Amount
Straight Time	40	\$32.96	\$1,318.40	Straight Time	0	\$32.96	\$0.00
Profit Sharing Payment			\$11,000.00	Profit Sharing Payment			\$11,000.00
Profit Sharing Deferral Election			\$11,000.00	Profit Sharing Deferral Election			\$11,000.00
Profit Sharing Deferred		99.0%	\$10,888.04	Profit Sharing Deferred		90.9%	\$10,000.00
Gross Pay			\$1,318.40	Gross Pay			\$0.00
Federal Taxes			\$329.60	Federal Taxes			\$0.00
FICA SS Taxes			\$763.74	FICA SS Taxes			\$682.00
FICA HI Taxes			\$178.62	FICA HI Taxes			\$159.50
Union Dues			\$158.40	Union Dues			\$158.40
Net Pay			\$0.00	Net Pay			\$0.00

How Your Profit Sharing Contribution Will Be Invested

The amount of your Profit Sharing payout contributed to your PSP account will be invested in the same investment options that you have selected for your current contributions. To view or change your current investment elections, log in to gmbenefits.com or contact the GM Benefits & Services Center at 1-800-489-4646.

YOUR PROFIT SHARING CONTRIBUTION MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021. ELECTIONS MADE AFTER THIS TIME WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT. IF YOU DO NOT MAKE A TIMELY ELECTION DURING THIS PERIOD, YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR ENTIRE PROFIT SHARING PAYOUT IN A TAXABLE CASH PAYOUT.

Please Be Aware of the Following

1. Your election to contribute all or a portion of your 2020 Profit Sharing payout may have an impact on your 2021 income taxes. Subject to tax law limitations, your Profit Sharing contribution to the PSP will be on a pretax basis, meaning that you will not pay federal income tax on this amount until it is withdrawn or distributed from the PSP. You may wish to consult with a tax advisor before making any decisions.
2. If you have any questions relative to your Profit Sharing payout or the tax implications of your Profit Sharing payout, please contact the GMNA People Services Center at 1-800-584-2000.
3. Your contribution election for the 2020 Profit Sharing payout will automatically reset to zero following the contribution. Note this applies only to the Profit Sharing contribution election, not any contribution election for your weekly eligible earnings.
4. If you elect a flat dollar amount that exceeds your Profit Sharing payout, 100% of your Profit Sharing will be deferred.
5. According to Plan provisions, you must be eligible to accumulate savings in the PSP for your contribution election to be effective.
6. Any Profit Sharing payout that is not contributed to the PSP will be included in your regular paycheck, will be taxable to you in 2021 and will be subject to regular employment tax withholding.
7. An HR Bulletin will be published once the 2020 financial results are final; a payout date is set and the amount (if any) has been determined.

Taking Care of Those Taking Care of Us

UAW Local 598, 651, and 659 reached out to the McLaren Flint Foundation to do something special for McLaren Flint frontline heroes caring for COVID-19 patients. The unions teamed up with Jimmy John's and delivered lunch.



Flint Sit-Down Strike Timeline of Events

DECEMBER 1936

- **December 29** – GM transfers union members out of the Chevrolet Fisher Body No. 2 plant.
- **December 30** –
 - 7:00 a.m., Chevrolet Fisher Body No. 2 plant workers start a sit-down strike.
 - 8:00 p.m., Buick Fisher Body workers start a sit-down strike.
 - 8:00 p.m., Buick Fisher Body No. 1 workers begin a sit-down strike.

JANUARY 1937

- **January 1** – Women's Auxiliary established to aid sit-down strikers and their families.
- **January 2** – GM seeks injunction against workers. Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Black grants injunction.
- **January 3** – Judge Black found to own GM stock; injunction overturned.
- **January 4** – U.A.W. presents contract demands to GM.
- **January 7** – A pro-business organization known as the "Flint Alliance" begins anti-union activity.
- **January 11** – Flint police and county sheriff deputies attempt to retake Chevrolet Fisher Body No. 2 and are repelled by workers, 27 are injured. The event becomes known as "Battle of the Running Bulls."
- **January 12** – Governor Frank Murphy orders National Guard to Flint to prevent further violence. By strike's end, 4,000 guardsmen are stationed in Flint.
- **January 20** – Women's Emergency Brigade established "to protect our husbands and sons from violence."
- **January 27** – Flint Alliance holds "Back to Work" rally at I.M.A. Auditorium.

FEBRUARY 1937

- **February 1** – Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Gadola orders workers to leave plants and stop picketing. Sit-down strike spreads to Chevrolet Plant No. 4.
- **February 3** – Governor Murphy refuses to use National Guard to evict strikers from plants.
- **February 11** – 2:30 a.m. GM agrees to recognize the U.A.W. and sit-down strike ends.



Phone Scam Warning

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and **Blue Care Network** are warning members of new phone scams in which callers attempt to obtain personal or health insurance information. Do not provide your personal information or respond to any phone prompts from a caller requesting those details. If you receive a call asking for your personal information and health insurance ID number, hang up immediately. Since mid-December 2020, many members have reported receiving calls in which people attempt to obtain this information. The fraudulent callers claim they are from a pharmacy network representing Blue Cross or another health plan, and then they offer to mail over-the-counter vitamins, medicine and ointments to a member's home at no cost.

These phone calls are not part of a **Blue Cross** or **BCN** program. They appear to be malicious or fraudulent attempts to gain personal information or health insurance ID numbers to bill for high-cost medication and supplies. We do not share medical or prescription information with unauthorized third parties, and there was no breach of our confidential data. Members of other health plans are also receiving these calls.

Blue Cross is working with the FBI and Michigan attorney general's office to investigate these calls and their source. The callers may have your name, address and even date of birth but are trying to get your **Blue Cross** ID or contract number and primary care doctor's name. They're offering free over-the-counter medications, including:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| • Vitamin D | • Pain medicine like ibuprofen and acetaminophen |
| • Vitamin B-12 | • Scar cream |
| • Probiotics | • Cold sore ointment |
| • Heart burn relievers | • Anti-fungal creams for nails or athletes' foot |
| • Skin rash creams | • Pain creams |
| • Antibiotic ointment | |
| • Cough medicine | |

Members should ask their health care providers if they have questions about medications or medical supplies.

For more information, see our blog on this issue.

You may report suspicious calls to our fraud hotline at **1-844-STOP-FWA (786-7392)**

2021 Wreath Pickup



On Saturday, January 23, members of our Veterans Committee participated in the wreath pick-up at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, hosted by Wreaths Across America-Great Lakes. We appreciate the community involvement of our veterans and their commitment to serving. In order to comply with the cemetery floral/ground policy, our guys committed to working in the 15-degree temperatures to take care of our brothers, sisters and families resting place.

– Thank you, Tony and Dave



Today, MLK Would Be In The Streets, Fighting

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has now been dead longer than he lived; however, what an extraordinary life he lived. At 33, he was pressing the cause for civil rights. At 34, he galvanized the nation with his, "I Have a Dream" speech. At 35, he won the Nobel Peace Prize. At 39, he unfortunately was assassinated, but he left a legacy of hope and inspiration that continues today.

Although many of us know that on the evening of April 4,

1968, King was fatally shot while standing on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Fewer people know why he was there and what he died for.

Two months earlier, two sanitation workers, members of AFSCME Local 1733, were working their shift in a driving rainstorm. To seek shelter, they huddled in the back of their truck. While doing so, the truck malfunctioned, and the men got caught in the compacting gears and were crushed to death.

The Union had been warning about unsafe equipment, but no one paid any attention at all. That was because they didn't have a grievance procedure or a contract. Workers did backbreaking jobs for poverty wages, without hardly any rights at all.

The death of these workers somehow got the attention of Dr. King, so he traveled to Memphis, to rally with the community to express his solidarity with the workers. He was there to lend his voice for the struggle, because he believed that racial justice and economic justice could not be separated from one another...he felt that civil rights and labor rights were one and the same.

The Memphis Sanitation Strike was not just about pay. It included job safety, better wages, benefits, and the right to organize for union recognition. Dr. King's key focus was for collective bargaining rights, which included the collection of union dues. Yes, he felt that if you can say "no" to bargaining rights and dues collection, you can, and will, kill the union.

On April 16, 1968, the strike ended with concessions that included union recognition and higher wages.

So, while we enjoy this holiday off, let us not forget the sacrifices that inevitably led to his death, for not only our workforce but for other union facilities as well.

We all need to be cognizant, and ask ourselves how *we* can identify and eliminate racial, ethnic, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious, and other biases that denigrate diversity.

How can *we* ensure for ourselves, our friends and families,



- Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We are stronger together... We are better together."

- ROSALYN MORSE,
Civil and Human Rights Department

and our children's children, that they can sit down to Dr. King's, envisioned "table of brotherhood" (and sisterhood) and share *equally* of the promise of our great nation?

I must contend that the country still has a lot of work to do to achieve both racial and economic justice for all people. We must continue to fight to break the chains of bondage. Today, due to COVID-19, the chains of economic bondage are even worse for people of all colors and minorities. Now, because of this virus, small businesses are being affected, people are being evicted and folks are dying; both young and old, black and white, Catholics, Jews, and Muslims. Everyone has felt the wrath of this virus, and this time not only are racial injustices included, but economic injustices for *all* are at the forefront as well.

So, if we had to reflect on where Dr. King would have stood in this fight, if he were alive today, my bet is that he would be in the streets, fighting for the rights of workers, police brutality reform, immigration reform, as well as *equality* for all..."The Struggle Continues!"



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



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.

DEADLINE FOR OUR FEBRUARY EYE OPENER

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

2021 UAW Union-Built Vehicle Guide



BUY USA • BUY UNION • BUY USA • BUY UNION

UAW CARS (UNITED STATES)

- Cadillac CT4
 - Cadillac CT5
 - Chevrolet Bolt (electric)
 - Chevrolet Camaro
 - Chevrolet Corvette
 - Chevrolet Malibu
 - Chevrolet Sonic
 - Ford Mustang
 - Lincoln Continental
- ## UAW TRUCKS
- Chevrolet Colorado
 - Chevrolet Medium-Duty Silverado
 - Navistar (regular and crew cab)
 - Chevrolet Silverado Light Duty (crew** and double cab only)
 - Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty
 - Ford F Series
 - Ford F-650/750
 - Ford Ranger
 - Ford Super Duty Chassis Cab
 - GMC Canyon
 - GMC Sierra Light Duty (crew** and double cab only)
 - GMC Sierra Heavy Duty
 - Jeep Gladiator
 - Ram 1500 (classic model - DS)*
 - Ram 1500 (new model - DT)*

UAW SUVs/CUVs (UNITED STATES)

- Buick Enclave
- Cadillac Escalade
- Cadillac Escalade ESV
- Cadillac Escalade Hybrid
- Cadillac XT4
- Cadillac XT5
- Cadillac XT6
- Chevrolet Suburban
- Chevrolet Tahoe
- Chevrolet Tahoe (police)
- Chevrolet Tahoe (special service)
- Chevrolet Traverse
- Dodge Durango
- Ford Escape
- Ford Expedition
- Ford Explorer
- GMC Acadia
- GMC Yukon
- GMC Yukon Hybrid
- GMC Yukon XL
- Jeep Cherokee
- Jeep Grand Cherokee
- Jeep Wrangler
- Lincoln Aviator
- Lincoln Corsair
- Lincoln Navigator

UAW VANS (UNITED STATES)

- Chevrolet Express
- Chevrolet Express (cut-away)
- Ford E-Series (cut-away)
- Ford Transit
- GMC Savana
- GMC Savana (cut-away)

UNIFOR CARS (CANADA)

- Chrysler 300
- Dodge Challenger
- Dodge Charger

UNIFOR SUVs/CUVs (CANADA)

- Chevrolet Equinox*
- Ford Edge
- Lincoln Nautilus

UNIFOR VANS (CANADA)

- Chrysler Pacifica
- Dodge Grand Caravan

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canada's Unifor union, formerly the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of vehicle production in both countries, all of the vehicles listed as made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

However, vehicles marked with a single asterisk (*) are also produced in Mexico.

All heavy-duty Chevrolet Silverados and GMC Sierras will be built in Flint, Michigan only. Light-duty Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra regular cabs are produced in Mexico only. Vehicles marked with a double asterisk (**) are the crew cab versions of the Chevrolet Silverado light-duty and GMC Sierra light-duty trucks. Those are assembled by UAW members in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and also in Mexico.

When purchasing a vehicle marked with a single or double asterisk, it's important to check the Vehicles Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1" or "4" or "5" identifies a U.S.-made vehicle, a "2" identifies a Canadian-made vehicle, a "3" identifies a vehicle made in Mexico. Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

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

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

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.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Corrin, Robert J.
(Retired)

Haynes, Willie L.
(Retired)

O'Malley, Terrance M.
(Retired)

Dean, David L.
(Retired)

Hodo, Henry L.
(Retired)

Sizemore, Charles.
(Retired)

Decuyphere, James D.
(Retired)

Long, Andrea J.
(Retired)

Smith, Arthur J.
(Retired)

Dickinson, Ricky
(Retired)

McClain, Virgil L.
(Retired)

Stanfill, Billy
(Retired)

Hall, Carolyn
(Retired)

Miller, Paul F.
(Retired)

Townsend, Harold R.
(Retired)

Hart, Belinda
(Active)

They are already missed.



RETIREE REPORT

by Janet Woodson, Retiree Chair



The Best Version of Ourselves

Somber day, January 6, 2021, and we had hoped that 2021 would be better than 2020. My prayers go out to the families of those five people who died on the capitol grounds.

The Inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris happened on January 20, 2021. It was a beautiful day and a lovely service. With our country being so divided, we all need to stop and reflect on getting our country back on track and begin healing from so much hurt and anger. Let's all move forward and be the best version of ourselves from now on and beyond.

I received a text message from Vickie Hall that Carolyn (Pinky) Hall passed away. We all know that Pinky was a wonderful person. Vickie made the point that she loved her Union, and we loved her. She will be missed, and we will continue to pray for families that have lost a family member.

Thank you all for taking the time to pick up your calendar books and your coupons for a combo lunch. It was a fantastic day out, and it was so nice to see you guys. *Be safe, be blessed.*



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.



John Roesner with Benefit Rep. Cindy McLean

RECENT RETIREES

(February 1, 2021)

Brasier, Mark A.

Hoyt, Joseph A.

Rosebur, Rachel R.

Rowan, Robert D.

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

CLASSIFIED AD EYE OPENER

CIRCLE ONE: For Sale Wanted Service Free For Rent Trade Thank You

Limited Ad Please:

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Send ads to: **UAW LOCAL 598, EDITOR**
G-3293 Van Slyke Rd., Flint, Michigan 48507

Circle one: RETIRED LAID-OFF ACTIVE

Your Name: _____

Dept. No.: _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Did you know that when you change your address at the plant – we have no way of knowing that at the Union Hall? You must either stop by or call the Union Hall and give us your new address.

NAME: _____

OLD
ADDRESS: _____
House number and street

City State Zip Code

NEW
ADDRESS: _____
House number and street

City State Zip Code

Telephone # _____ Social Security# _____

Production _____ or Skilled Trades _____ Active _____ or Retired _____

Thank You, 598!

Thanks to the generous donations of 598 members on Thursday, December 17th, the Work/Family, M.O.S.T. Group, and a few volunteers gathered at Union City Fields. They unloaded, assembled, then distributed food baskets to less fortunate members of our community. In all, 460 food baskets were created and distributed.

On behalf of Work/Family M.O.S.T. Group and Local 598 Leadership, *Thank You* for your generous donations and volunteering for those in need!

