



UAW LOCAL 598

SERVING CHEVY TRUCK ASSEMBLY WORKERS

"A Local Union with a Heart"



EYE OPENER

Volume 40 / Issue 7

www.uawlocal598.org

JULY 2021

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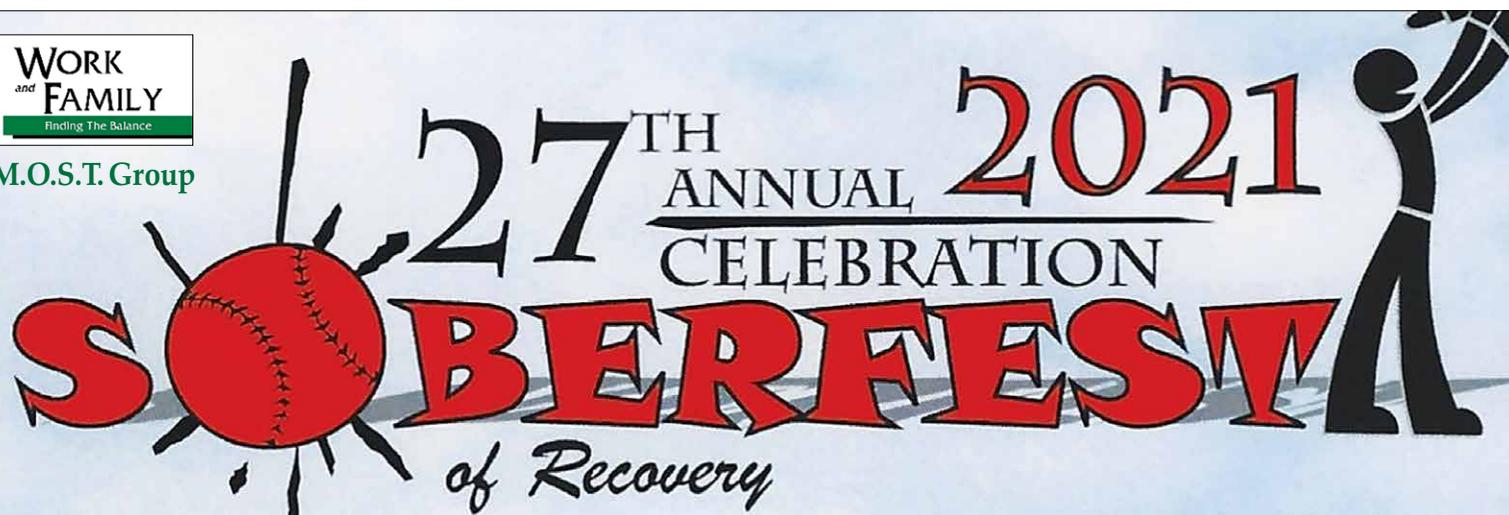
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M.O.S.T. Group



After a long 15 months of COVID-19 solitude, Local 598 was able to come together and enjoy gathering for some great, drug-free fun at our 27th annual Soberfest.

On Sunday, July 18, our Local 598 Work-Family Representatives and the M.O.S.T. Group (Maintaining and Organizing Support Together), along with their community partners, met at Union City Fields. This event promotes having fun without alcohol and other drugs. It was a great day celebrating families and communities; nothing but smiles, hugs, fun, and laughter!

A big Thank You to our Work Family Representatives, alternates, and all the volunteers for all their hard work in making this event the success that it always is.



Work and Family

Delivering a Broad Range of Programs & Services

All Services provided are **FREE!** You and your **FAMILY** have access to them. Why not take advantage of what is offered?

We are able to tap into resources such as:

- Elder Care Resources
- Child Care Data Base
- Financial Help- Credit, Debt Consolidation, Housing Info etc.
- Mental Health Treatment
- Help for addictions
- Driver's license restoration for DUI's
- Literacy classes
- Emergency food, clothing and shelter assistance
- Agencies that help with energy bills, clothing banks, soup kitchens etc.
- Stress Management
- Grief Counselors

Contact Us at: 236-6834

Qualified Staff Members Are Ready To Assist



see more photos on page 8

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

report by Michelle Giorgis, Committee Member



The Law that gave Workers' Rights

Before 1935, employers ruled with an iron fist in the workplace, without any consequences for their actions or their careless treatment for the working-class people producing day in and day out for company profits. Jobs were overloaded with constant changes, safety practices were disregarded, leaving conditions terrible, and

work atmospheres being anything less than hostile.

It was incredibly risky to speak out, up, or make a change without repercussions and the risk of being fired. The rights of workers in the workplace seemed to be only a pipe dream. Many and most of the laws were in favor of the employer and large corporations.

Being a Union member at this time was a bit rough. Very few laws protected workers; even worse, it was hard to keep employers, management, and corporations accountable for the contract violations agreed to prior.

July 5, 1935, Franklin D.

Roosevelt would sign the National Labor Relations Act, also known as the Wagner Act. This Act was one of the first significant laws that started to tip the scales in favor of the workers. But, what did it do?

The NLRA provided the legal framework for labor unions and management relations, including collective bargaining, while guaranteeing workers' rights to organize and additional protection. The Unions could legally hold management, employers, and corporations accountable to the agreed-upon contract with a legal framework. But, how? Well, for starters, the Act prohibited Five Unfair Labor Practices.

- Interfering with, restraining, or coercing employees in exercising their rights (including the freedom to join or organize labor organizations and bargain collectively for wages or working conditions). Controlling or interfering with the creation or administration of a labor organization.
- Discriminating against employees to discourage or encourage support for a labor

organization.

- Discriminating against employees who file or give testimony under the Wagner Act.

The National Labor Relations Act was the start of the legal framework.

None of this comes easy, and even after the NLRA was signed into law, there have been numerous attempts to repeal and amend the Act, some gaining traction over the years.

With the legal framework now in place, collective bargaining is granting gains for good working conditions, job standards, health and safety guidelines, benefits, and wages. They all started to improve. Most importantly, it took that avenue that Unions provided for a voice to be heard and turned it into a podium for the people.

The fight for rights in the workplace has never been an easy fight or something that has been just given to us. Since the thirties, the labor movement has come a long way, significant gains have come our way, and strokes of a pen have taken away or made it harder to fight for rights we may have once had. The laws, benefits, processes, add procedures on and off the job which workers benefit from today were fought for and won through the many steps created by or stemmed from the passing of the NLRA many years ago.

Are You Five Years or Less Away From Retirement?

- ▶ Do you have questions about how your PSP plan money should be invested?
- ▶ Do you have questions on whether or not your beneficiaries named on your accounts are titled best to protect them from taxes, inflation and market risk?
- ▶ Would you like to take a look at some future projections on how much you can draw as income from your retirement assets/accounts?

If yes, think of it as being in the red zone for your financial goals

You are at the goal line and each decision is critical!



Michelle Gravelle, CFP
Investment Professional

What investments you choose now should reflect the amount of time you are away from retirement as well as your age at retirement.

If you are going to be under 59½ at retirement or semi-retirement, there are ways through the IRS tax code that you can take monthly income without the 10% tax penalty.

Many people would like to buy an RV, cottage or a place in the sun after retiring. Properly rolling over your PSP can go



Doug Gravelle, CFP
Investment Professional

hand in hand with these goals without incurring major taxes and penalties. There are many options to review and decisions to make before you retire and along the way to retirement.

Regardless of your age at retirement, you need to take into account what the amount of your pension may be. You will need to decide if you are going to begin receiving social security payments or to defer them. It also helps to anticipate what your monthly expenses will be (ballpark) including property taxes, excess insurance payments, utilities, food and entertainment.

This is also the time to assess how much risk you are taking in your PSP/IRA investment allocations. You should be able to reduce your risk and potentially increase your returns simply by reviewing your asset allocation. In many instances, people think they are diversified properly, but often own many overlapping investments. Having a PSP, an IRA, a ROTH IRA and a mutual fund does not mean you are diversified. Owning Fidelity, T. Rowe Price and American Funds, does not mean you are diversified. Having 10 different funds inside your PSP account does not mean you are diversified. How can that be? Because many of these funds own the same stocks and bonds. **In other words, you may be putting all of your eggs in two or three baskets while thinking you have 10 or 12 baskets.** This can increase your risk and reduce your overall return over time.

Navigating your descending approach to retirement does not have to be difficult if you know all of your options. Making informed decisions about how to invest in your PSP, how to name your beneficiaries, how to protect your principal in retirement, how to avoid taxes and penalties are all important factors in being financially comfortable in your retirement years.

Every move or play is important. Every decision made is going towards, or away, from your retirement goals.

Let us be your coach.

Thank you,
MICHELLE C. GRAVELLE, CFP
Certified Financial Planner

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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



Notary Services available at the Union Hall



**AVAILABLE TO ALL
UAW LOCAL 598 MEMBERS**

Call Recording Secretary Judy Mosier
to schedule an appointment
238-4605, ext. 17



PTT Workers, Part Shortages and GMS

SHOP CHAIRMAN REPORT

by Eric Welter



At this time, there are just a lot of the same things going on in the factory.

Uploading temps to improve the Saturday performance, parts shortages, and work on GMS.

We did, however, get a visit from PGA golfer Charles Howell III. He is a big auto guy and asked to get a tour of our plant. He and his family came in and were very gracious and amazed at the work you do. It's always nice to view the assembly process through fresh eyes, as we tend to take it for granted. Howell and his family clearly did not.

We continue to bring more PTT employees in to improve the Saturday performance. We received a nice booster shot from the job fair, but still require many more. We were able to bring in 525 people and retained about 400. This percentage

is pretty good, as with every new group, some people quit or don't work out.

We have brought GA up to an 85% approval rate. We see request numbers well beyond anything we ever have so far. The

150-160 they approved in chassis would have been 100% for the past four years, but this year, we have 180+ requests.

I think it's a bit of pent-up demand, as people were limited last year from vacationing due to covid. We are continuing to push for everyone, and in some areas, we are getting 100%.

We continue to deal with intermittent part shortages, due to the chip crisis. GM's strategy to build without, then install after, is the best way to keep trucks in the market. They will eventually get turned around by our members, and then we will have built the whole truck. By working with this strategy, it will amount to far more

trucks than a shutdown.

Ford's HD plant is shut down for the summer, which provides GM with an opportunity to steal customers from Ford. Although we see the impact through the canceling of weekend production, there is no plan to shutter the factory and wait. We may continue to see individual shifts canceled, but GM is putting every effort into keeping Flint running.

We are working diligently to achieve BIQ 4 certification. We are in the 90 days post-audit period, where we can fix the things that were not right and meet the needed metrics.

The BIQ4 certification is an important milestone for this plant, and we have never gotten better than BIQ3. Attaining this certification is a critical component of GM's decision-making process, when deciding where future business will go.

Please enjoy the summer and spend time with your family. Your Local Union is working very hard to provide the time off needed to facilitate that. As you engage in summer activities, please be safe and keep your family safe. Every year, we have members who get injured, resulting in lost wages and life-altering injuries.

DEADLINE FOR OUR AUGUST EYE OPENER
All advertisements, notices, photos and articles must be submitted by **THURSDAY, AUGUST 13th** for consideration.

UAW LOCAL 598
SERVING CHEVY TRUCK ASSEMBLY WORKERS
www.uawlocal598.org
UNION HALL • G-3293 VAN SLYKE ROAD, FLINT, MI 48507 • (810) 238-4605

"A Local Union with a Heart"
EYE OPENER

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 - Shane Herriman** / **Bo Browning**
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 - Brian Shick** / **Jo Anna Batson-McCarthy**
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 - Justin MacNeill** / **Chad Bellant**
 - Mike Kocsis** / **Chris Velez**

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 - DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATE
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- LOCAL 598 BENEFIT REPS.
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Advisory Services are offered through Creative Financial Designs, Inc., a Registered Investment Adviser, and Securities are offered through CFD Investments, Inc., a Registered Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA & SIPC. Bridge Wealth Management, formerly Gleaner Financial, is independent of and not controlled by the CFD Companies.

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.

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UAW Strike and Defense Fund

FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREAS REPORT

by Chad Fabbro



Summer is flying by and I hope that you all are enjoying it with your friends and family.

The golf outing scheduled for August 22nd is full and I'm looking forward to seeing anyone who took the time to sign up.

For those who made Soberfest a success again this year, I would like to personally thank you for all the hard work you put into this project. It's always nice to see what great things we can accomplish in the community when we all work together. A special thank you to the M.O.S.T. Group for everything they did to make this event happen.

I would like to give everyone an update on the International Union Strike and Defense Fund report from the month of May 2021. As

of 5/31/2021, the net worth of this account is \$811,696,461.10. During the month of May, there were six open strikes. Per the UAW Constitution, Article 16: Section 2, reads as follows:

ARTICLE 16

Section 2. In order to remain a member in good standing, each member will pay a minimum monthly dues amount to the Financial Secretary of the Local Union as set forth below.

- (a) Should the net worth of the International Union Strike and Defense fund reach \$850 million, then the minimum monthly dues shall be as follows: (i) for members who work in either the private sector or public sector with a legal right to strike, who have worked a minimum of forty (40) hours in a month, the minimum monthly dues will be an amount equivalent to 2 hours of straight time pay for members paid on an hourly basis, or 1.15% of gross straight time monthly wages for members paid

on a salaried basis and for members employed in a non-traditional sector working part-time and paid on an hourly basis; (ii) for members who work in the public sector and are legally prohibited from striking, who have worked a minimum of forty (40) hours in a month, the minimum monthly dues will be an amount equivalent to 1.4 hours of straight time pay for members working full time paid on an hourly basis, or .805% of gross straight time monthly wages for members paid on a salaried basis and for members employed part-time and paid on an hourly basis. Until the time that the net worth of the International Union Strike and Defense Fund reaches \$850 million, monthly dues shall be as set forth in subsection (b) below.

- (b) Should the net worth of the International Union Strike and Defense Fund decrease to \$650 million, then the minimum monthly dues shall be as follows until the Strike and Defense Fund reaches \$850 million: (i) for members who work in either the private sector or public sector with a legal right to strike, who have worked a minimum of forty (40) hours in a month, the minimum monthly dues will be an amount equivalent to 2.5 hours of straight time pay for members paid on an hourly basis or 1.44% of gross straight time monthly wages for members paid on a salaried basis and for members employed in a non-traditional sector and paid on an hourly basis; (ii) for members who work in the public sector and are legally prohibited from striking, who have worked a minimum of forty (40) hours in a month, the minimum monthly dues will be an amount equivalent to 1.9 hours of straight time pay for members working full time paid on an hourly basis, or 1.095% of gross straight time monthly wages for members paid on a salaried basis and for members employed part-time and paid on an hourly basis.

- (c) For those members paid by the hour, day, week or month, the dues computation referenced in subsections (a) and (b) above shall be based on the amount earned per straight time hour in the last payroll period worked before the dues are payable, including cost-of-living allowance and any other amounts normally considered as part of regular pay, but excluding shift premium. For those whose earnings vary, straight time earnings for the purpose of dues computation shall be based

on the average earned per hour in the last month the member worked, including incentive earnings, cost-of-living allowance, clock hour add-ons and any other amounts normally considered as part of the regular pay, but excluding shift premium, overtime premium, Saturday, Sunday and holiday premiums.

- (d) For those members employed in a non-traditional sector paid on a part-time basis, or those members paid on a salary basis, where the number of hours of work in a week vary and/or regularly have no relationship to a normal workweek, the dues computation shall be based on their straight-time gross monthly wages in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) above.
- (e) The minimum dues required for certain negotiated payments and bonuses such as contract signing bonuses and profit sharing payments will be calculated using the percentages set forth in subsections (a) and (b) above.
- (f) Nothing in this Article shall prevent any Local Union or unit of an Amalgamated Local Union from establishing, in accordance with the provisions of Article 47, dues in a greater amount than provided for in this Article; and any Local Union or unit, which at the time when minimum monthly membership dues are increased pursuant to the provisions of this Article, has dues in a greater amount than the minimum monthly membership dues pre-existing, the change shall automatically increase its dues by the amount of the change without the necessity of any additional Local Union or unit membership action and such Local Union dues shall continue until the Local Union's or unit's membership, pursuant to the provisions of Article 47, changes the Local Union's or unit's dues structure.

All dues established by this Article shall be uniformly required of all its members by each Local Union or unit of an Amalgamated Local Union except as specific exonerated or special arrangement may be granted pursuant to Section 11 of Article 13, or Section 17 of this Article.

- (g) Upon receipt of notification from the International Union that the net worth of the International Union Strike and Defense Fund has increased to \$850 million or decreased to \$650 million, the Local Union shall immediately notify the employer(s) of the change in dues set forth in subsections (a) and (b) above.



At Rosehaven Manor in Flint, senior living begins at 55! You will find independent living that includes a friendly community with cutting-edge designs, incredible amenities and engaging social experiences.

Our on-site, home health care company provides a la carte services such as personal cleaning, cooking, medical care, companionship and much more.

AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- Full Kitchen
- Activities Director
- Fitness Room
- Library
- Theater
- Bird Aviary
- Laundry Facilities
- Dining Room with Meal Services
- Mini Convenience Store
- Beauty and Barber Salon
- Controlled Access
- Emergency Pull Cords
- Courtyard
- Pet Friendly

Rosehaven Manor

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

by Judy Mosier



many of our activities. Here is a list of our upcoming events...

- August 13th – Retired Members Golf Outing at Fenton Farms
- August 22nd – Active Members Golf Outing at Lapeer

Country Club

- August 27th – Lois Craig Invitational (Special Olympics Crim Race) in Downtown Flint.
- September 12th – Cornhole Tournament at Union City Fields
- October 16th – Trick or Treat Trail at Union City Fields
- October 23rd – Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk at the Downtown Flint Flat Lot

The “Lois Craig Invitational” is my favorite community occasion, sponsored by UAW Local 598. There is no other event more appreciated by the participants, and it is an unforgettable experience for those of us volunteering and cheering them on.

Contact Us at
810-236-6834

UAW LOCAL 598

WORK and FAMILY
Finding The Balance

Meet the Team
Qualified Staff Members Are Ready To Assist

Fun Side of 2021

I hope everyone had a great 4th of July weekend. The Work-Family/M.O.S.T. Group’s Soberfest was held on July 18, and there was a tremendous turnout. It is always an enjoyable time volunteering when you see everyone from surrounding communities enjoying themselves. It gives us a lot of satisfaction, especially when you know that the Work-Family representatives spend the entire year planning and preparing for Soberfest.

Thank you all, as well as all of the volunteers. You all worked very hard to make this festival the success that it always is.

I believe we are on the “fun side” of 2021 and are gearing up for

If you have never come down to support the Special Olympians, you are missing out. These athletes put their very heart and soul into their run. So, we invite you to join us on Friday, August 27th.

We meet at the racer’s registration point, across from the

flat lot, by University Pavilion. If you would like to help us register or cheer on these participants, please call me at the Union Hall, 810-238-4605, ext. 109, or Robin Stayton-Diehl at 238-8180.

Enjoy the second half of your summer! *Be safe and God bless.*



RETIRES

4-person

Friday, August 13, 2021

GOLF OUTING

Fenton Farms Golf Club
12312 TORREY ROAD, FENTON, MI

Sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m.
Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

You must be a LOCAL 598 RETIREE to participate in this outing.
Registrations must be by complete team, with payment in full at the time of registration.

APPLICATION FORM



Local 598 Retiree Golf Scramble
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 • FENTON FARMS GOLF COURSE

LOCAL 598 RETIRES ONLY!

NAME PLEASE PRINT	PHONE NUMBER	SHIRT SIZE	LAST 4 DIGITS SS#
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

All requested information is required, and payment must be cash or check, made payable to: **UAW LOCAL 598**

Entry forms **MUST** be in by **JULY 30, 2021**

Local 598 Union Hall
G-3293 Van Slyke Rd., Flint, MI 48507

Date Entry Fee Received _____

\$140⁰⁰ PER TEAM

- Registration will include:
- Continental Breakfast
 - 18 holes of Golf (with cart)
 - Dinner
 - Prizes for First, Second, and Third Places

ONLY THE FIRST 36 TEAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ATTORNEY'S SCHEDULED FOR UNION HALL

NAME OF ATTORNEY	PHONE	DAY AT UNION HALL	NAME OF FIRM	HOURS AT UNION HALL
RICHARD WAGNER	810-820-9111	MONDAY	DOUD, SMITH & WAGNER	1:00 - 3:00
ROBERT MacDONALD	810-234-2204	TUESDAY	MacDONALD & MacDONALD, PLLC	2:00 - 3:30
JOHN CHOWNING	810-695-2110	THURSDAY	CHOWNING & EDGAR, P.C.	12:30 - 2:00
NEAL WILENSKY	810-606-0410	FRIDAY	KAECHLE & WILENSKY, P.C.	9:00 - 11:00

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

WANTED: 32 INDIVIDUALS WITH SUSPECTED HEARING LOSS

Beltone Hearing Center is currently seeking 32 qualified individuals to test an innovative new digital hearing technology.

PLEASE TAKE THE SHORT QUIZ BELOW TO ESTABLISH YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR THIS EXCITING OPPORTUNITY.

Qualifications for Candidates

Do you feel that you "Just don't hear like you used to?" YES / NO

Are you often asking friends and family to repeat themselves? YES / NO

Have you felt that you are missing parts of conversations? YES / NO

Current hearing aid users ONLY:

Are you unhappy with the performance of your current hearing aid? YES / NO

Curious about the latest technological advances in natural hearing? YES / NO

Answered YES to at least one question?

You may be qualified. Please call to schedule your private, one-on-one appointment with our specialist.

What to expect:

Call immediately to schedule your appointment. (810) 275-9665
Appointments are Limited.

You will have a private 100% complimentary hearing screening with our specialist in a safe, sanitary and comfortable environment.

Upon completion of your hearing screening, you will receive a FREE gift card.

We support & honor most Medicare and discount plans including BCBS and TRUHEARING.

We offer professional award winning service, technology, and a FREE LIFETIME BELCARE TREATMENT PLAN.

CALL US DIRECTLY TO MAXIMIZE YOUR MEDICARE BENEFIT!

PAYMENT OPTIONS

AS LOW AS \$50 /MONTH *W.A.C.

BONUS OFFER

\$10 amazon GIFT CARD*

Offer expires August 20, 2021

THIS OPPORTUNITY ONLY LASTS UNTIL AUGUST 20, 2021.

Appointments are limited and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please call now to avoid disappointment!

810-275-9665

FENTON 2809 W. SILVER LK. RD 810.344.8341	FLINT 4080 MILLER RD. 810.275.9665	OWOSSO 120 W. EXCHANGE ST. SUITE 1 989.541.3075	CLIO 5105 W. VIENNA RD. SUITE C 989.541.3073	DAVISON 407 W. FLINT ST. SUITE A 810.208.2127
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RETIREE REPORT

by Janet Woodson, Retiree Chair

Puzzle Contest Paying Off

Hello Retirees,

We are looking forward to our cookout and spending time with you all again (finally)!

We are hoping for a meeting on Thursday, September 9th, at our Local 598 Union Hall.

By the time you receive this issue of the *Eye Opener*, the crossword puzzle drawing will have taken place, and the winners will have been notified. I will post the names of the winners in next month's *Eye Opener*.

To my golfers, I am so glad to see all of the teams signing up for our golf outing this year. Please notify us of your team's shirt sizes as soon as possible. Each golfer will be given a shirt this year.

We hope all is well with all of you and your family. The Retired and Active Workers Executive boards are here to help you and, of course, as always, the officers of Local 598. We would also like to thank them for our Cook Out.

Take care of yourselves and the ones you love.

RECENT RETIREES



The Officers, Staff

and Members of Local 598 extend our sincerest thank you and congratulations for the many years of dedicated service by these recent retirees. We encourage all newly retired members to join our Retiree Chapter.



July 2021 retiree Denise Ryan (left) with Committeeman Gerald Scott



August retiree Louis Foust with Benefit Rep. Chris Dungerow

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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.

REAL ESTATE

Call Me Today for a 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.

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IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON, LUCEAL
BRAZEAL, JILL
BULLOCK, ODELL
HANNERS, SR. DANIEL
JOHNSON, JAMES E.
LYTTLE, STEPHEN
MILLER, FREDERICK L.

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

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VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

by David V. Garcia, Chairman
UAW Local 598 Veterans Committee

DOMINGO BERLANGA Memorial Service Award

Corporal MICHAEL J. HARRIS

Brothers & Sisters,

The Local 598 Veterans Committee is proud to announce our 3rd Quarter DBMSA recipient... **Corporal Michael J. Harris.** E-4 Corporal Harris was a Patriot Missile Crewmember, Bravo 3-1 Air Defense Artillery. He was based at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas,



from January 1986-1988.

Mike's training began in an OSUT Unit, which stands for One Station Unit Training. He had six months of Boot Camp and training simultaneously because of the technology associated with the Patriot Missile. Although Cpl. Harris was honorably discharged from the military just before Operation Desert Storm, his unit was responsible for

protecting Israel from Saddam Hussein's scud missiles during Operation Desert Storm, with the Patriot Missile.

While Corporal Harris was overseas in Germany, in 1987, he played semi-pro basketball, which allowed him to travel all over Europe playing ball.

He eventually left the military and returned to Flint, MI, in 1988, where he attended the University of Michigan. Cpl. Mike used his G.I. Bill money to attain a political science major with a criminal justice minor.

He originally was hired into G.M. in 1990, as a security officer. He rose through the ranks of Pinkerton in 3 years to become the Operations Manager over 15 GM plants in Flint, Saginaw, and Bay City. He was responsible for more than 500 employees.

In 1995, he returned to GM, hiring in at Delphi East, then transferred to GM Metal Fab in 2006. He was then laid off, and then hired in 2018 at Flint Assembly, where he currently works first shift, with 29 total years of seniority with General Motors.

Michael J. Harris is currently a partner and founder of the Flint Development Center (flintdc.org), which is a full-service community center that offers programs for youth to seniors. Cpl. Harris also started the Flint Community Lab, which is the first of its kind in the nation, offering people in the community the ability to get their water tested for free. Mike also served as President of the Greater Flint African American Sports Hall of Fame, Chair of the Genesee County Democratic Black Caucus, and Chair of the NAACP Act-SO Program. He is also a delegate to the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee.

*Mike, on behalf of the UAW Local 598 Veterans Committee,
WELCOME HOME, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.*



27TH ANNUAL 2021 CELEBRATION SOBERFEST of Recovery continued from Front Page

WORK and FAMILY M.O.S.T. Group

photos courtesy of Dana Waider