



United Auto Workers

LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



VOLUME 42 ISSUE 11

www.uawlocal598.org

NOVEMBER 2023

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

CONTRACT RATIFIED

by Debi Kirchner, Education Committee

For the first time in decades, Local 598/GM workers turned down the tentative National Agreement presented by the National Bargaining Team in a close vote of 51.8 % to 48.2%. Interest in the agreement was also at an all-time high; 3,425 workers cast their votes – an excellent turnout from our membership.

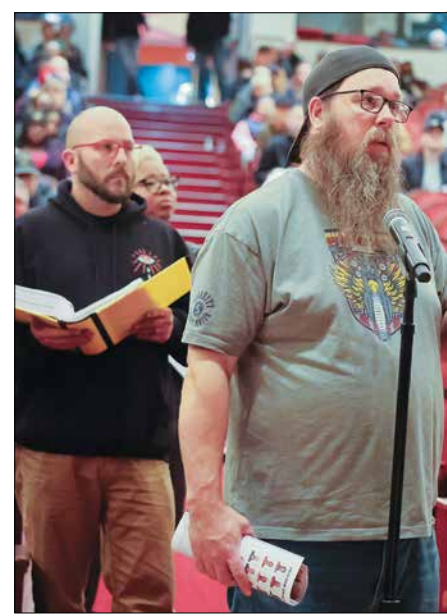
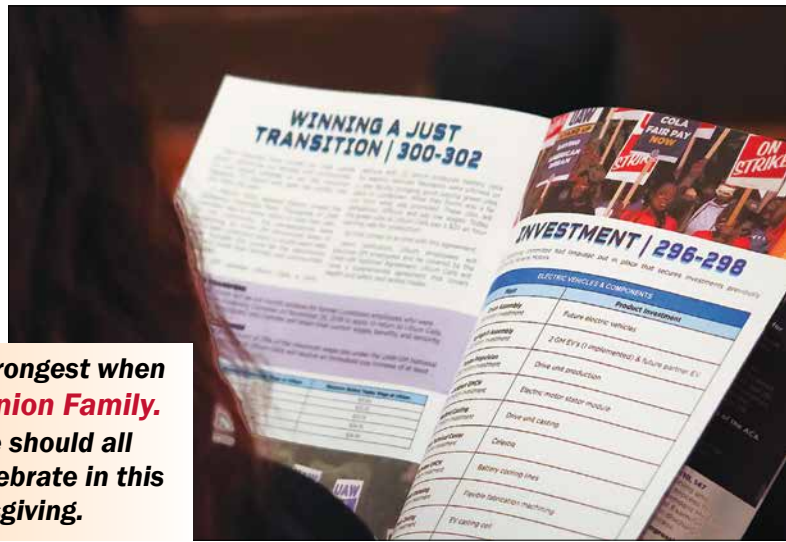
Tensions and opinions ran strong and the information on the details of the agreement were rolled out to members at Whiting Auditorium where questions were answered by Chairman Eric Welter and other members of the bargaining team who were present. The “White Book” and other documents were available, along with the highlights, for all to read and discuss. There were many passionate discussions.

On November 20th, after all 50 bargaining units had weighed in, the contract passed 54.74% to 45.26%. The new contract will run through April 30, 2028.

Thank you to the National Bargaining team for all their hard work, including Bargaining Chair for the LOC Subsystems, Takeisha Hillard, who was on the negotiating team for her unit. Each of them spent countless hours away from families and their elected jobs. They fought for and brought home a very rich agreement. UAW members will receive more in general wage increases than they have in the past 21 years combined. Job security in the form of an investment of \$851 million in our plant guaranteeing us the next generation ICE truck. Healthcare improvements at no monthly cost to our members. COLA is restored. Retirees (and surviving spouses) will receive a \$500 yearly bonus for the life of this agreement beginning in the December pension check. These are just a few of the improvements that we are receiving. This contract will be life changing for many people.



(L-R) UAW Local 598 Chairman Eric Welter, President Ryan Buchalski, and Jason Beardsley, AD UAW-GM Health & Safety Department, address members' questions as workers attend roll-out sessions to learn about proposed contract.



At Local 598, we are strongest when We Are One United Union Family. That is something we should all remember as we all celebrate in this season of Thanksgiving.



YOU VOTED!

President's update

Ryan BUCHALSKI



contract, we are talking about something that will be a part of our working lives over the next four years+. As much as it is your right to vote, and as much as I disagree with not voting, that is also your right.

We would like to thank everyone who took

time away from their day to attend the informational roll-out meetings held at Flint's very own Whiting Auditorium. We once again utilized this space to accommodate our very large membership. There were three, convenient, 3-hour sessions held for members.

Those of you who joined us can agree that everyone was able to ask questions about the TA. Thank you for being part of making history here at

Local 598.

The effective date of the contract will be November 20th, 2023, and that is also the same day we will begin to convert our FTT workers.

On Thursday, November 9, we celebrated Veterans Day, and the Local 598 Veterans Committee hosted the Domingo Berlanga Memorial Service Award ceremony in the plant auditorium. Dave Garcia and the rest of the crew once again pulled off another amazing event honoring our veterans. Thank you and good work! See photos of this event on page 6 of this *Eye Opener*.

On the actual Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, Local 598 was once again out supporting and celebrating veterans. In downtown Flint, at the Durant Hotel, the "Friends of McFarlan Park" hosted its first-ever breakfast with several special guest speakers, including our very own Congressman Dan Kildee. Breakfast was followed by a service outside at

the McFarlan Veterans Memorial Park.

It was an emotional event. There were many from 598 in attendance to honor the ultimate sacrifices of our veterans who never came home.

This year's event saw the addition of Sgt. Crawford "Butch" Traver, who was killed in Vietnam on March 29, 1971. Members of Sgt. Traver's family were in attendance. It was an extraordinary feeling honoring him and his family.

Now, as we head towards the holidays, please be safe and remember to be kind to one another and reflect on the good we have in our lives.

I am grateful to not only be a member of this Local, but am honored every day being able to represent this Local as your President.

In closing, I would like to thank our 598 Election Committee for their hard work and dedication in ensuring our ratification process was done fairly and with integrity. We appreciate you all. *Thank you!*

598 Members Honor Veterans



McFarlan Park Ceremony

November 11, 2023



STRIKE & DEFENSE FUND UPDATE

FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREAS REPORT

by Chad Fabbro



However, at the end of the day, we all belong to the same Union.

I would like to thank the Election Committee for all the work they put into running 5 polling locations. Also, to all the members who took the time to vote. We appreciate you making

time to utilize these locations.

Our membership can, and will, move forward with integrity that we answered the call to follow the democratic process. I hope all of you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Below, I have posted the latest Strike and Defense Fund, as of November 3, 2023.

We have a lot to be thankful for as we head into the holidays. I would first like to thank our negotiators who worked on the National Contract. They spent many long hours fighting hard on our behalf for the past several months. We are very grateful for everything they have done.

This has not been an easy task for any of us, because the contract affected a lot of us differently.

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

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

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

November 3, 2023

Greetings:

RE: INTERNATIONAL UNION STRIKE AND DEFENSE FUND REPORT SEPTEMBER

The following is a summary of Strike Fund Income and Expenditures for the month of September 2023.

NET WORTH AUGUST 31, 2023	\$847,558,035.05
INCOME FOR SEPTEMBER 2023	
Dues Per Capita Taxes	5,988,503.70
DISBURSEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023	<u>9,098,137.25</u>
NET WORTH, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023	<u>\$844,448,401.50</u>

During the month of September there were 28 strikes.

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



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



United Auto Workers
LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER

We are the Original Fisher 2 Sitdowners

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>President Ryan Buchalski
Vice President.....John Jackson III
Recording Secretary.....Judy Mosier
Financial Secretary..... Chad Fabbro
Guide.....Twanna Q. Coleman
Trustee..... Melissa Bowen
Trustee..... Corrissa Carter
Trustee.....David V. Garcia
Sergeant-At-Arms..... Randy Frost
Retiree Chapter Chair.....Janet Woodson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SHOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Eric Welter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE
Leroy Shinabarger, Nick Dekalita, Joe Dontje</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT)
Shane Herriman, D'Andre Jackson</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT COMMITTEE / ALTERNATES</p> <p>Ben Dunlop / Alex Perry
Sean Meachem / Chad Boyce
Shane Herriman/ Bo Browning
D'Andre Jackson/ Stan Cherwinski
Brian Shick / JoAnna Batson-Escamilla
Dana Waider / Joe Berriman
Bryan Ventrone / Stan Dulaney
Jon Galant / Wendy Ignash
DeWayne Tippit / Mark Reynolds
Aaron McAlister/ Jim Hazell
Jeremy Switzer / Antonio Dee Pritchett
Kevin Smiley / Marcus Hunt
Bob Scott / Maurice Purches
William McIntosh / Jaccob Kohn
Mike Kocsis / Shane Balcer</p> |
|---|---|

- ARAMARK BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT COMMITTEE**
JaShani Walker, Sr. and Orlandis McNeal..... Alternate Edward Menzel
- GM SUBSYSTEMS MANUFACTURING, LLC UNIT**
Bargaining Committee Chair Takeisha Hillard.....Alterate Phillip Pruitt
- HAMTRAMCK ENERGY SERVICES BARGAINING COMMITTEE**
District Committeeperson Mark Leineke
- M.P.S. BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT COMMITTEE**
Tasha Wynne.....Alternate Kristine Momany
Adan Donias
John WinelandAlternate Damon Harrison
- ADAPT REPRESENTATIVE**.....Denise Denam, Rick Hager
- CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE**.....Rosalyn Morse
- LOCAL 598 BENEFIT REPRESENTATIVES**..... Cindy McLean, Chris Dungerow, Adam Prieur, Archie McGrath, Hans Smith
- HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES**..... Mike Dankert, Mark Turner, Doug Culhane
- WORK & FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES**Jayne Atwell, Cheryl Dawson, George Washington
- EYE OPENER EDITORS**..... Debi Kirchner and Michelle Giorgis

~ Standing Committees are the building blocks of our Union ~

UAW LOCAL 598 STANDING COMMITTEES

<p>Education – Paper/Publicity Debi Kirchner Michelle Giorgis Becky Haughey Edward “Skip” Thompson Chris Ridley Sharon Bell</p> <p>Citizenship & Legislative V-CAP Lori Welch Mike DeWyse Art Reyes</p> <p>Constitution & Bylaws Ryan Buchalski Eric Welter Cliff Seder</p>	<p>Community Service Peggy Bond Joe Kinney Pam Wells Ariel Dunning Crystal Henson Gina Poe Kelly Morse Harold Payne Tony Horton</p> <p>Women’s Committee Melissa Bowen Tara Johnson-Claxton Cheryl Dawson Jessica Richardson Jennifer Sanders</p>	<p>Conservation & Recreation Rachel Claridy Welch Elizabeth Sullivan Susan Hare</p> <p>Veterans Committee Chrissy Jones David Garcia Erik Mumford Phillip Pruitt Cavaughn Jones Jordon Grigar</p> <p>Union Label Mike Welch Twanna Coleman Stephanie Roberts</p>
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POLICY OF THE EYE OPENER

TO OUR READERS: The *EYE OPENER* is the voice of our Local and International Union. This is our vehicle for bringing to you, on a regular basis, the views and actions of the leaders you elected, so you can evaluate them. Through the paper, we explain Union policies and show how your dues are spent. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from UAW members and stories about members. While we welcome your contributions, we ask that they be constructive. At no time will the editorial staff tolerate any defamatory remarks regarding any person or persons. We reserve the right to reply to those who seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the Union and its policies and to edit any article for clarity and length.

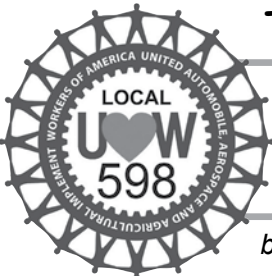
Opinions reflected in signed articles in the *EYE OPENER* do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of Local 598. Published monthly by UAW Local 598, G-3293 Van Slyke Road, Flint, MI 48507. Phone: 238-4605.

POSTMASTER: All Form 3579's for the 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.**

The Local Union with a Heart

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

by JOE KINNEY, Committee Member



Opportunities To Help

Here we are again, sitting looking out in the darkness at 5:30 pm. *Yuck!* On the plus side, we at least reached and ratified an agreement, and no one is picketing out in the rain and cold. It was great to see all the people voting.

We would like to thank all who donated their time and supplies to the picket lines. Thanks also to Chairman Eric Welter and the entire National Bargaining Team for all their hard work and sacrifice while negotiating on our behalf. Love it, like it, or hate it, they worked hard to try and get the best deal possible for us and spent lots of time away from their families.

I had to make that drive to Warren during my apprenticeship and to Detroit in my younger years. I can tell you, it is a long, stressful, exhausting trip every day.

Once again, Local 598 showed just how generous they can be through donations to the M.O.S.T. group that exceeded \$8,000 for holiday meals on October 26th and 27th. The membership also voted to authorize \$1,000 from Union funds towards this

cause. There is still plenty of time to make sure those in need can have a holiday dinner. If you wish to donate *or* would like to nominate a family to receive a food basket, please stop in or call the Work/Family office prior to December 8th. Forms are also available in the *Truck News*, in team rooms, and in the north tunnel Union store in the assembly building.

The Friends of McFarlan Park held a continental breakfast and ceremonial service honoring all those who have served in the military (*see photos on page 2*). It was during this time that a story was told of a Genesee County soldier who lost his life in Vietnam and tragically had been overlooked during the research. This young man now would be added to the list of names on the walls of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice ranging from the Civil War to the current conflicts.

It was a chilly but beautiful sunny day that featured speakers, singers, color guard and musicians. It was preceded by a continental breakfast and a video telling the story.

Membership to this group is only \$20 and they also offer 3 sizes of memorial bricks. You can find them on Facebook or at friendsofmcfarlanpark.net.

On November 21st, we will be helping *Well of Hope* during their 15th annual "Blessed to be a Blessing" Thanksgiving Dinner. I was recently sent

pictures of the first one held, which was held at our very own Union Hall. Next month's *Eye Opener* will have a brief history of the dinner and people involved. Spoiler alert, a GM retiree from Flint and family are featured.

Upcoming events will include the Toys for Tots drop-off day leading up to the December 3rd Union meeting. If there is only one meeting you can attend during the winter months, I encourage you to come see the front of Ruben Burks Hall *filled* with toys, games, bikes, and dolls for kids in need.

Another great organization that helps children in need at Christmas is the Old Newsboys of Flint with their "Let No Child Be Forgotten" campaign.

As of this writing, I have not gotten any details of how we are handling the in-plant fundraising, but it is being discussed and everyone should hear soon.

We would also like to announce that we will be attempting to put together 4-6 cornhole tournaments in the coming year to raise money for different causes. The first of these is being planned for January as a holiday wind-down/relaxation event. Please look for those details in the coming weeks.



Old Newsboys of Flint Since 1924



To submit a listing in an upcoming Local 598

EYE OPENER

CLASSIFIED AD SECTION

Indicate type of ad:

- For Sale Wanted Service Free For Rent Thank You

Please print and limit ad verbiage.

Phone _____

Email _____

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

- Active Member
- Retired Member
- Laid-Off Member

Your Name _____

Dept. No. _____

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

Do you have Old Junk laying around that you can't stand looking at? Go no further than the **TRASH BANDITS!** The **TRASH BANDITS** offer efficient junk removal service with a fair price and a reliable phone. Call Anthony W. Gilbert (retired) at 810-288-2467.

* * * * *

JJ's Tree Service, licensed and insured, husband & wife team, trimming shrubs, pruning trees and tree removal. Call 810-931-5194

* * * * *

A.R.S. Construction, new roof, tear-off/re-roof, cover-over. Best materials, workmanship and price. Licensed, insured. Call 866-722-1311.

* * * * *

Bike Week Enthusiast, come visit "Carol's Cat House" at 813 Main Street, Daytona Beach, Florida. UAW Sister owner and operator of establishment. Call 586-322-3464, or write P.O. Box 263086, Daytona Beach, FL 32126.

* * * * *

Advantage Roofing and Siding, the best roof for the best price, licensed and insured, 25 years experience, shingle, metal, siding, gutters. Call retired member William Stroup at 866-722-1311. Located at 10442 Wilson, Montrose, MI 48457

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



report by Melissa Bowen, Chairperson

Wishes Come True

In the movie, "A Christmas Story," there is a magical moment when Ralphie finds his Red Ryder bb gun from Santa on Christmas morning, and it still gives me warm, fuzzy feelings of my own Christmas memories.

It has always been my belief that all children deserve that Christmas magic, at least once in their lives.

For me, it was when I was in 2nd grade and the one toy that I really wanted was a Dreamland Baby doll. Similar to a Cabbage Patch Kid, it came with a birth certificate; however, once you "adopted" the Dreamland Baby, you could mail away the handwritten certificate and they would send back a package with the official adoption paperwork, stickers of the doll's name, and an embroidered onesie.



As a seven-year-old, I couldn't resist the adorable face of the Dreamland Babies, plus receiving mail outside of your birthday was a bonus. I asked Santa, my parents, and my older brother for this doll. Every person who asked me what I wanted for Christmas, I would exclaim back "a Dreamland baby doll!" I knew that I was a good girl this year and surely, it would be under the tree.

Christmas morning came, and while I received a lot of cool toys, the Dreamland baby was not one of them. I tried to hide my disappointment,

comforting myself with the fact that my birthday was in January, and maybe I'll get it then.

The day dragged on, as we visited family, and I tried my hardest to keep a happy face. We went to my

Uncle Ed's house, my Grandma lined up all of the grandchildren to pass out her gifts to us. Typically, her rule was presents had to be opened, one by one, youngest to oldest, so she could see our reaction.

When it was my sister's turn to open her present, we were told to both open ours at the same time. It was

at this moment that I knew that Grandma was a magical creature, far greater than Santa and his elves, because there in those beautiful boxes were our Dreamland babies!

My sister named her doll Katie and mine was Elizabeth. These dolls went everywhere

with us. They were our babies. While the joy of these toys wore off after a few years, my appreciation for my Grandma and her magical ability to know exactly what I wanted, never wavered.

Not all kids have magical grandparents, but I feel that every child deserves that kind of special, Christmas memory. That is why Toys for Tots and the Old Newsboys are so important. Be sure to give money to the Old Newsboys crew, and don't forget to donate a toy for Toys for Tots. Let's give every child a moment of Christmas wonder that they can cherish for the rest of their lives.



Book & Movie REVIEWS

Michelle Giorgis, Education Committee

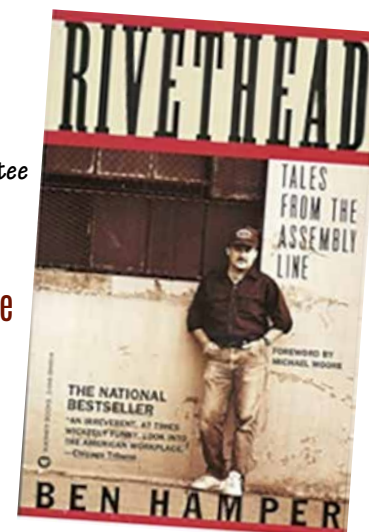
RIVETHEAD

Tales from the Assembly Line

If you're looking for a book to read that isn't too dry or will bore you to death, I'd suggest Rivethead: Tales from the Assembly Line by Ben Hamper, a member of Local 598 for many years.

While this book does not portray the best image of an autoworker, it provides a very real view that isn't tinted by rose colored glasses of what it was like to live and work in an era when jobs were uncertain at best and where health and safety weren't a top priority. This is a funny yet eye-opening story of an autoworker's life and the obstacles he, as an autoworker, faced on a day-to-day basis throughout the years. From drug and alcohol addiction to the ups and downs of layoffs, this story is easy to read and entertaining while educating you on what it was like to work inside the plant in the 1970s and 1980s.

This book is available at Amazon and other book retailers.



APPLICATION FOR UAW VETERANS CARD



To all retired or active UAW members...

who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Show pride in your military service by filling out this application for the UAW Veterans Card. The UAW Veterans Card serves as a statement that you are a proud UAW member who has served in the United States Armed Forces.

If you do not currently have a card, please complete the application form below and return it to your Veterans Chair, David Garcia or submit to Local 598's Union Hall. The Local Veterans Committee Chair will need to verify your veteran status (i.e., DD-214, NGB Form 22 or VA Healthcare Enrollee Card, etc.), and send the completed form to their respective Regional Veterans Liaison.

The Regional Veteran Liaison will email all applications to the National Veterans Affairs Department, and once completed, your Veterans Cards will be sent to Union Hall.

Scott Dedic • Region 1D Liaison • sdedic@uaw.net

THE ONLY EFFECTIVE ANSWER
TO ORGANIZED GREED IS
ORGANIZED LABOR.



AFL-CIO

APPLICATION FOR UAW VETERANS CARD

PLEASE PRINT

LOCAL UNION: _____ REGION: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

In November of 1965, Local 598 would go out on a 30-day strike that would result in “The Comparison Agreement” being established.

Tools From The Past Used Today

by Michelle Giorgis – Education Committee

This agreement was a scientific method used to establish job standards, creating a level of reassurance to the membership that it would make it more difficult for management to manipulate or overload the jobs. It would also reassure the members that even though the jobs could change throughout the years there was a formula that would now prevent the jobs from being overloaded.

For many years prior to this agreement, jobs were dangerous, overloaded, and operators barely had time to finish the jobs before they were running to the next job attempting to keep up. This was a great point of tension between the Union and management, creating many paragraph 78 disputes. Part of this process would be the timing of the jobs. This would include all elements such as parts installation, walking, sorting, etc., which then would be added together to create an average time the job could be done across all shifts

that was both safe and reasonable.

This would become such a useful tool for the committee in the years to come that many of the paragraph 78 disputes would be handled in a more efficient and effective manner, making it almost impossible for management to overload jobs and putting the membership in danger. It was so useful that in 1969, when management would not honor this agreement, we would go out on strike again, but this time for a much longer period. Needless to say, at the end of this strike, management would honor “The Comparison Agreement.” To this day a form of the agreement is still in place, where a formula is utilized to help resolve issues found on the job and determine the time it would take to be completed in a safe and efficient manner.

If you look at many of the tools/agreements from our past, you will see that the results can be found in your current jobs which help keep you safe and protected from many tactics management would attempt to use today.



RYAN BUCHALSKI
Local 598 President



Local 598 Veterans Committee honors the four quarterly recipients of the 2023 **DOMINGO BERLANGA SERVICE and MILITARY AWARD (DBSMA)** during a recent in-plant ceremony.

(above, L-R) Thurman Ross Jr., US Navy and 598 Retiree; Stuart Billey, US Marines; Phillip Pruitt US Marines; Heidi Kastler-Yost, sister of recipient Donald J. Kastler, US Army (deceased)



JOE DONTJE
Shop Committee-at-Large



Members of the Local 598 Veterans Committee gather with special guests at the ceremony.

14th Annual Bring a Toy to Work Day



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

Please bring your toys and leave them in your **team room areas**, or you can bring them to **5th Avenue** or put them in the **Toys for Tots Barn** located in the North Unit by the **Community Action Center**.

- ▶ **Paint Shop Cafeteria** on the designated tables.
- ▶ **Body Shop Cafeteria** on the designated tables.

All the toys will go to our Annual Toys for Tots Union Meeting on Sunday, December 3rd at the Union Hall.



Snapshots with Santa Claus

Local 598 Active family members only

Get your picture taken with **St. Nick!**

Sunday, December 10th

Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm
 Where: Local 598 Union Hall
 3293 Van Slyke Rd.



You will receive (1) 4 x 6 picture



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

This is the first in a series of articles about past members of Local 598.

by Becky Haughey, Education Committee

BEN MATA



Ben Mata was President of Local 598 from 2005 to 2011. He grew up in Flint, graduating from Flint Central High School and then, following a family tradition, hired into GM. His father was a salary worker at AC Spark Plug and his uncles were hourly workers at the Ternstedt plant on Coldwater Rd. (Local 326). He became a UAW member at Flint Truck & Bus in 1975.

Working in the Paint Shop, he was a self-proclaimed “rabble rouser,” complaining often about issues in his area. He was approached by Chairman Jim Beardsley to run as Alternate Committeeman and Ben began to direct his energy by representing members in his area.

When the plant was awarded the 480 truck, Ben became part of a team that helped set up one of the first innovative agreements in a traditional GM plant. A separate line in the plant,

it ran four-day/ten-hour shifts, with a “team concept” that allowed workers to have more input than standard production lines. This was during the time when GM opened NUMMI, a highly automated joint venture plant, while trying to emulate the Japanese model for manufacturing. Ben worked on problem-solving issues, reviewed new manufacturing concepts, and helped support production workers during these changes.

Ben was first elected to the Executive Board as Guide, and when former 598 President Charlie Coy was assigned to the UAW International department, VP Doug Bellamy moved up to President and Ben was elected Vice President. He then became 598’s President in 2005, when former President Doug Bellamy retired. Ben was our Local 598 President until he retired in 2011.

When asked what he liked about

being a 598 member, Ben replied it gave him the opportunity to help others and to be part of a great, strong Union family. His roles made him become more objective on things; looking at the big picture to make plans rather than just assuming things would go the way desired.

Ben retired with 39.8 years of seniority. Now, he has a new passion...powerlifting! He began competing competitively in 2015 and is currently ranked 4th in the World in the age 65-69 division and he holds the record in the WRPF – Worldwide Open Powerlifting organization for his 501.5 lb. deadlift. He has always enjoyed working out and retirement allows him time to train.

When asked if he had any advice for newer members, he stated they should be involved with our Union

and to offer ideas instead of just complaining about things. Volunteer to help within the community and remember that 598 is your Union and you make it what it is. He also said to pay attention to a politician’s record in regards to how they support Labor.

As Walter Reuther said, “what we win at the bargaining table can be taken away at the ballot box.” We really need to vote for those who are the most labor friendly.

His favorite thing about being retired? “Being able to do anything I want, when I want.” For those thinking about retirement, he encourages it, but said it took some adjusting, living as a retiree, due to a more limited budget, but he loves having the time off to see his grandkids and attending events that they participate in.

ATTORNEYS’ SCHEDULE for the Union Hall



LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOCAL 598 MEMBERS

MONDAY

Richard Wagner 810.820.9111

Doud, Smith & Wagner, Attorneys & Counselors

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Robert MacDonald 810.234-2204

MacDonald & MacDonald, PLLC

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

John Chowning 810.695.2110

Chowning & Edgard, P.C.

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY

Neal Wilensky 810.606.0410

Kaechele & Wilensky, P.C.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Remembering our recently Deceased

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

Larry Spohn *(Retired)*

Mark Diamond *(Retired)*

Francis Green *(Retired)*

Kenneth Aistrop *(Active)*

Spencer Smith *(Active)*

Please report any departed members to the Union Hall, so they can be added to our deceased list in a timely manner. Thank you!



Do You Have 2023 Over-The-Counter (OTC) benefit dollars remaining?

If you are a **RETIRED MEMBER WHO WAS ELIGIBLE** for the 2023 Trust OTC benefit, be sure to use your allowance before you lose it!

Any remaining 2023 OTC benefit dollars must be used by December 15, 2023. The current OTC vendor will not take orders after this date, and any unused dollars will be forfeited. Call NationalBenefits, LLC at **877-218-9951** to place your order or have any questions answered.

– or – order on-line at uawtrust.nationsbenefits.com

Information on the 2024 Trust OTC benefit is forthcoming. Keep an eye on your mail for a letter from the Trust in December.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS for Retirees

Local 598 Benefit Representative **810-238- 4605**

Retiree Health Care Connect **1-866-637-7555**

GM Benefits & Services Center **1-800-489-4646**

Met Life (Life Insurance) **888-543-3461**
– or – www.mybenefits.metlife.com

Optum Pharmacy **1-800-356-3477**

What to Do in the Event of the Death of a Member or Surviving Spouse

We are very fortunate to have negotiated UAW Benefit Representatives to assist us when dealing with the death of a member or surviving spouse. It's important to make sure you know what documents you or your family members will need to make sure the death is properly reported. Pension, life insurance and health care are all impacted by a death. Here is information you or your surviving spouse or other family member, will need to have available.



Information To Leave For Your Family

(Please fill out one form each for member and surviving spouse)

Fill out this information, print this page and give it to your family.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Marriage Date _____

Spouse's Name _____

Spouse Date of Birth _____

Do you have reoccurring refills at Optum Rx? Yes No

Do you have optional/Dependent GM Life Insurance? Yes No

If yes, how much additional life insurance are you carrying? _____

GMIN Number (if available) _____

RETIREES CHAPTER update

JANET WOODSON, Retiree Chair



Happy Holidays to All of You!

Our Thanksgiving Dinner was exceptional, and we had an incredible turnout! We had a lot of new faces join us, and even had our sisters from Local 699 (Saginaw) join in on the fun.

Please join us for our Christmas Dinner that will be hosted at Local 598 on December 14, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. Tickets for the Christmas Dinner are available at the Union Hall for \$5.00.

According to the contract, it looks like retirees will get \$500 on the first of December for the length of this new agreement, although not all locations have voted on it yet. We hope and pray for the \$500 for retirees. It's been a while and far too long to go without.

Many thanks to our Local 598 Officers and Staff for always being there to help us retirees out and making sure we have what we need. Thank you to our UAW International Servicing Representative, Scott Henry, for always being there to explain in detail what's happening around us in the political world.

A big thank you to my staff of retirees – Thurman Ross, Mary Sue Young, Herman Nealy, Debi Kirchner, James and Maria Rueda – and to those who help every month when we serve food at our dinners and are there to help clean up afterwards. *I do appreciate you all!*

Our very own Thurman Ross, Jr. received the Domingo Belanga Award for his dedicated service while in the United States Army. *Way to go, Thurman!*

UPCOMING RETIREES CHAPTER EVENTS



- **Thursday, December 14 – Retiree Christmas Meeting**
Local 598 Union Hall, 12:00 noon, Tickets: \$5.00 per person
- **Thursday, January 11, 2024 – Retiree Chapter Meeting**
Local 598 Union Hall, 12:00 noon, Tickets: \$5.00 per person

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas Dinner. Don't forget to stop by the Union Hall to get your tickets.



RETIREMENTS



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

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

Congratulations!

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

RECENTLY RETIRED:

- ▶ Christi Forstner
- ▶ Allen Parker
- ▶ David Drevon
- ▶ Tracy Lazar-Kinney
- ▶ James Lingenfelter



598 Retiree Chapter Thanksgiving Dinner



Local 598 Retirees gather to take care of Chapter business and enjoy an early Thanksgiving meal.



Happy Thanksgiving

Main: Turkey+Ham 

Sides: Mashed potatoes, gravy, tossed salad, beets, green beans, mac n cheese, cranberry sauce, corn bread dressing and rolls+ butter

Desserts: Pumpkin pie, sweet potato pie, Apple pie, Cherry pie, Lemon cupcakes, German Chocolate cupcakes

CALL TO ACTION

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Members On Strike

Dear UAW Brothers, Sisters, and Supporters:

UAW Locals 1781, 2145, 2256 and 2500 along with Regions 1, 1A, 1D are reaching out to you because we are facing significant challenges in negotiating a fair contract. BCBSM has refused to accept our demands and is outsourcing our work to third parties. This endangers our livelihoods and Collective Bargaining strength. We urge **ALL SUPPORTERS** to contact BCBSM via the list below.

Request to speak with a **UAW CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY. PROTEST** to the company for outsourcing our work, their unfair wages, and refusing to provide all UAW employees with Retiree Healthcare. "Blue Cross is the largest health insurer in Michigan."

Please show Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan that you support the UAW Employees, by calling as many phone numbers as **YOU CAN**. By **STANDING TOGETHER**, we can change the **WORLD**. Unity and perseverance make us strong and will send a strong message.



PLEASE CALL:

PROVIDER SERVICES:	(800) 344-8525
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE:	(800) 222-5992
MEMBERSHIP & BILLING:	(800) 331-3646
STATEWIDE CALL IN PRICING:	(866) 491-3082
PROVIDER CLAIM ASSISTANCE:	(800) 542-0945
KEY LARGE AUTO SERVICE CENTER:	(877) 832-2829
FORD SERVICE CENTER HOURLY	(800) 482-5146
FEDERAL EMPLOYEE PROGRAM:	(800) 482-3600
FCA UNION BENEFIT REPS:	(800) 331-4015
ISMG:	(877) 798-2583

THANK YOU for your unwavering support in this critical moment.

By **STANDING TOGETHER**, we can ensure that our voices are heard and that our struggle for a fair contract is not in vain.

UNION STRONG!!!