

# Labor News & Report

## UAW LOCAL 774

2939 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207



January - March 2024

Volume 36 Issue 1



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UAWLOCAL774](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UAWLOCAL774)

“Teamwork in the Leadership, Solidarity in the Ranks”



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## Children's Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday March 23rd the UAW Local 774 Women's Committee held their Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Union Hall. There was plenty of activities for the kids including egg and cookie decorating, face painting, the Easter egg hunt, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Chairperson Heather Grimmer would like to thank everyone who made donations and volunteered their time to make the event a success once again!



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# UAW Local 774 President's Report

**President Teddy Maldonado**

### Variety Kids Telethon

The 62nd Annual Variety Kids Telethon was held on March 9, 2024, and March 10, 2024. A grand total of \$1,041,775 was raised to benefit the children of WNY. UAW Local 774 Membership and Retiree Workers raised **\$30,774** of that total. We surpassed what was donated in the past years.

I would like to thank West Herr Automotive for their generous donations and to Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria LLP., Confer Plastics Inc., Russell's, Joe Basil Chevrolet, Mollenberg-Betz, GM Tonawanda Powertrain Plant, and all our Local 774 Active and Retired members for their donations along with their time and effort they put into making this year's fundraising such a great success, we could not have done this without you.

### 4th Annual UAW Local 774 Golf Tournament

Our 4th Annual Golf Tournament will be on Sunday, June 23, 2024, Registration starts at 7:15 a.m. and tee time is 8:00 a.m. at Chestnut Hill Golf Course in Darien Center, NY. The cost is \$125.00 per person, due at sign-up. Lunch and Dinner will be supplied. Forms are available at the UAW Local 774 Union Hall. The tournament is limited to 36 foursomes, first come first served. We are also looking for volunteers to help out during the event.

All proceeds of this event will benefit the 63rd Annual Variety Kid's Telethon. Please contact the Union Hall at (716) 873-4715 or myself, Teddy Maldonado at [tmaldonado@uaw774.com](mailto:tmaldonado@uaw774.com) for more information and to sign up.

### Family Scholarship

Since 1970, thousands of UAW members and their families have participated in the Walter and May Reuther Family Education Center Scholarship Program (Family Scholarship or Family Scholarship Program) to learn about our union and build new friendships with other UAW families.

This one-week summer experience will be held from July 21-26, 2024, at the Black Lake Family Education Center in Onaway, Michigan.

The Family Education Center was envisioned by legendary UAW President Walter Reuther to be a place where UAW members and their families could come together to learn and have fun. Through educational and recreational activities, the Family Scholarship Program allows adults and children to learn and think about how our Union empowers us to change our workplaces and communities for ourselves and future generations. These lessons are learned through daily adult and children's programs and family activities.

All active or laid-off UAW members who have never attended before and are in good standing can apply for the Family Scholarship Program. You must also be willing to use your regular vacation, personal leave, or Union leave time (where permitted by contract) to attend. Past participants are not eligible to reapply. Your spouse/domestic partner (must reside at the same address) and children/grandchildren 4-18 years old may attend with you. You may be required to provide a birth certificate or proof of legal guardianship for each attending child.

Applications must be completed and submitted by June 27, 2024. Applications are available online at [UAW.org](http://UAW.org) and at the Local 774 Union office located at 2939 Niagara St. Buffalo NY 14207.

### Register to vote

Election Day, November 5, 2024, will be here before you know it. Make sure you are registered to vote.

Being registered to vote allows you to have a say in important decisions that affect your life. It's also a way to make sure your voice is heard and to participate in shaping the future of our community and country. It's a right many men and women fought hard for, so let's honor their efforts by getting registered and making a difference.

**Fourth Annual UAW Local 774**  
.....★★★.....  
**GOLF**  
tournament  
.....★★★.....

**June 23, 2024**  
Chestnut Hill Golf Course  
1330 Broadway  
Darien Center, N.Y. 14040  
**Registration: 7:15 a.m.**  
**Shot Gun Start: 8 a.m.**  
.....

**\$125**  
per person  
includes: golf,  
cart lunch

**ALL PROCEEDS  
TO BENEFIT  
VARIETY KID'S  
TELETHON**

**LOCAL 774** For more information visit our website at [uaw774.com](http://uaw774.com) or call the Union Hall at 716.873.4715

JMR/OPEIU-153

**RED SHIRT  
WEDNESDAY**

JMR/OPEIU-153

# UAW LOCAL 774

2939 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14207

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

<b>UAW Local 774</b> .....	<b>716-873-4715</b>	<b>Health Care/Dependent Change</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Main Office</b> .....	<b>ext 10</b>	<b>Retiree Servicing Center</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Teddy Maldonado</b> .....	<b>ext 12</b>	<b>PSP Savings Plan (Hourly &amp; Salary)</b> .....	<b>800-489-4646</b>
<b>Tim McInnis</b> .....	<b>ext 13</b>	<b>Disability / Sick &amp; Accident Benefit</b> .....	<b>800-489-4646</b>
<b>Mike Grimmer</b> .....	<b>ext 15</b>	<b>FMLA/NY Paid Leave</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Jose Colon</b> .....	<b>ext 17</b>	<b>Davis Vision</b> .....	<b>1-888-672-8393</b>
<b>John Orsini</b> .....	<b>ext 20</b>	<b>Metropolitan Life Insurance</b> .....	<b>1-888-543-3461</b>
<b>Russ Flynn</b> .....	<b>ext 21</b>	<b>Worker's Compensation</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Stacie McKernan</b> .....	<b>ext 22</b>	<b>Sub</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Jill Rajja</b> .....	<b>ext 23</b>	<b>Life Insurance Admin</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Don Cialone Jr</b> .....	<b>ext 29</b>	<b>Vehicle Purchase</b> .....	<b>1-800-235-4646</b>
<b>Chaplaincy Prayer Requests</b> .....	<b>ext 30</b>	<b>Radius Credit Union</b> .....	<b>716-875-1747</b>
<b>UAW Local 774 (FAX)</b> .....	<b>716-873-8341</b>	<b>Fidelity Investments</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>GM Tonawanda Engine Plant Info</b> .....	<b>716-879-5000</b>	<b>Retiree Pension Center</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Absentee Call-In Toll Free</b> .....	<b>1-800-222-8889</b>	<b>Missing Pension Checks</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Medical Department</b> .....	<b>716-879-5313</b>	<b>Employment &amp; Wage Verification</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
<b>Work/Family &amp; EAP</b> .....	<b>716-879-5516</b>	<b>Optum</b> .....	<b>1-855-409-0219</b>
<b>Union Work Center</b> .....	<b>716-879-5507</b>	<b>Blue Cross/Blue Shield</b> .....	<b>1-800-462-7237</b>
<b>Benefits Office</b> .....	<b>716-879-5465</b>	<b>Delta Dental</b> .....	<b>1-800-942-0667</b>
<b>Payroll &amp; Wages</b> .....	<b>1-866-245-5957</b>	<b>Legal Service Plan</b> .....	<b>1-800-482-7700</b>
<b>Plant Security</b> .....	<b>716-879-5151</b>	<b>UAW Retiree Medical Trust</b> .....	<b>1-866-637-7555</b>
<b>Lipsitz and Green</b> .....	<b>716-849-1313</b>	<b>CVS Caremark RX</b> .....	<b>1-844-379-1671</b>
<b>United Health Care</b> .....	<b>1-844-320-5021</b>	<b>Plant Gisco Code</b> .....	<b>18160</b>



## Local 774

[UAWLocal774.com](http://UAWLocal774.com)

Stay up to date by reading and downloading the latest Labor News & Reports issues, President's Reports, Shop Chairman Reports, Regional/International news and more.

Any questions or comments please contact Don Cialone Jr., Communications Director  
UAW Local 774  
(716)873-4715 ext 29

If your name has never appeared on our Retiree list or you would like your photo in the next paper, please contact Don Cialone Jr.: [dcialone@uaw774.com](mailto:dcialone@uaw774.com) or (716)873-4715 ext 29



*Congratulations!*



I'm Retirred Now!

**March**

Jude Tucker

**April**

Timothy M. Deacy

Anna M. Lechnowskyj

Sandra Leffler

Donald Maund

Timothy K. Natalino

Brian Pardee

Faye Elias-Paternas

Thomas Rizzo

# Mitchell's TAVERN

BEEN SERVING UAW FOR OVER 50 YEARS

AWARD WINNING BEEF AND CHILI

DAILY DRINK AND LUNCH SPECIALS  
CHECK OUT OUR NEW OUTDOOR PATIO  
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716-874-8907

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TONAWANDA, NY 14150

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[/mitchellstavern](https://www.instagram.com/mitchellstavern)

[/Mitchells716](https://www.twitter.com/Mitchells716)



For memorial submissions, please fill out the order form and bring/mail it to:

Attn: Financial Secretary/Treasurer  
 UAW Local 774  
 2939 Niagara St.  
 Buffalo, NY 14207

# UAW LOCAL 774 MEMORIAL



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### INSCRIPTION

Each plaque can have up to 3 lines. Please use the corresponding boxes. Upper and lower case letters will be used (including spaces). Print clearly. Line 1 - Name, Line 2 - Year of death, Line 3 - Military branch and years of service or last held elected or appointed position.

1.																				
2.																				
3.																				

I acknowledge that this is the correct spelling and information

#### EXAMPLES:

John Doe 2019 US Army 1969-1972	Jane Doe 2018	John Doe 2017 Benefits Rep	Jane Doe 2016 Trustee
---------------------------------------	------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------

A cash donation of \$10.00/per plaque is requested to cover the costs and support the Chaplaincy Committee's continued mission of "caring in the workplace".



# Change of Address Form

If you change your address with the Plant you also need to change your address at the UNION HALL.  
 (The Plant does not notify the Union, nor does the Union notify the Plant)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

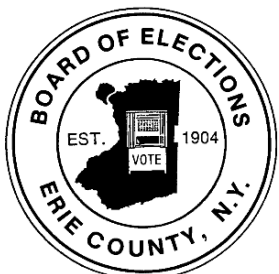
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Active: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: UAW Local 774,  
 2939 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207  
 or e-mail change to [jorsini@uaw774.com](mailto:jorsini@uaw774.com)  
 with your full name, address and phone number.



## ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 2024 EARLY VOTING INFORMATION Tuesday, April 30, 2024 - 26th Congressional Special Election

Ralph M. Mohr  
 Commissioner

Jeremy J. Zellner  
 Commissioner

### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:

Phone: (716) 858-8891 Website: [elections.erie.gov](http://elections.erie.gov)

**VOTE AT ANY LOCATION REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU RESIDE OR HAND DELIVER COMPLETED ABSENTEE BALLOT TO EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

CITY OF BUFFALO LOCATIONS			
ERIE	BOARD OF ELECTIONS MAIN OFFICE	134 W EAGLE ST	BUFFALO NY 14202
ERIE	THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL SITE	641 DELAWARE AVE	BUFFALO NY 14202
DEL	N BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTER	203 SANDERS RD	BUFFALO NY 14216
ELL	ST COLUMBA-BRIGID, RC	75 HICKORY ST	BUFFALO NY 14204
FIL	MATT URBAN CENTER	1081 BROADWAY	BUFFALO NY 14212
LOV	HENNEPIN CENTER	24 LUDINGTON ST	BUFFALO NY 14206
MAS	DELAVAN GRIDER COMMUNITY CENTER	877 E DELAVAN AVE	BUFFALO NY 14215
NIA	SALVATION ARMY WEST SIDE COMMUNITY CTR	187 GRANT ST	BUFFALO NY 14213
NOR	NORTH WEST BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTER	155 LAWN AVE	BUFFALO NY 14207
SOU	TOSH COLLINS COMMUNITY CENTER	35 CAZENOVIA ST	BUFFALO NY 14220
UNI	GLORIA J PARKS COMMUNITY CENTER	3242 MAIN ST	BUFFALO NY 14214
TOWN LOCATIONS			
ALDN	ALDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING	13336 BROADWAY	ALDEN NY 14004
AMHS	AMHERST SENIOR CENTER	370 JOHN JAMES AUDUBON PKWY	AMHERST NY 14228
AURA	AURORA MUNICIPAL CENTER	575 OAKWOOD AVE	EAST AURORA NY 14052
BOST	BOSTON TOWN HALL	8500 BOSTON STATE RD	BOSTON NY 14025
BRNT	BRANT SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER	1000 BRANT FARNHAM RD	IRVING NY 14081
CKTW	CHEEKTOWAGA SENIOR CENTER	3349 BROADWAY AVE	CHEEKTOWAGA NY 14227
CLAR	OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH - URIEL HALL	10950 MAIN ST	CLARENCE NY 14031
CLDN	COLDEN TOWN HALL	8812 STATE RD	COLDEN NY 14033
COLL	COLLINS TOWN HALL	14093 MILL ST	COLLINS NY 14034
CONC	CONCORD SENIOR CENTER	40 COMMERCE DR	SPRINGVILLE NY 14141
EDEN	AMERICAN LEGION POST 880	2912 LEGION DR	EDEN NY 14057
ELMA	ELMA SENIOR CENTER	3007 BOWEN RD	ELMA NY 14059
EVNS	EVANS CENTER FIRE HALL	8298 ERIE RD	ANGOLA NY 14006
GRIS	GRAND ISLAND WELCOME CENTER	1999 ALVIN ROAD	GRAND ISLAND NY 14072
HAMB	MOOSE LODGE 992	45 CHURCH ST	HAMBURG NY 14075
HOLL	HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER	3 LEGION DR	HOLLAND NY 14080
LANC	OUR LADY OF POMPEII CHURCH	158 LAVERACK AVE	LANCASTER NY 14086
MARL	MARILLA COMMUNITY CENTER	1810 TWO ROD RD	MARILLA NY 14102
NEWS	AKRON VILLAGE HALL	21 MAIN ST	AKRON NY 14001
NCOL	NORTH COLLINS SENIOR CENTER	11065 GOWANDA STATE RD	NORTH COLLINS NY 14111
ORPK	ORCHARD PARK COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER	4600 CALIFORNIA RD	ORCHARD PARK NY 14127
SARD	SARDINIA TOWN HALL	12320 SAVAGE RD	SARDINIA NY 14134
TTON	KENMORE MUNICIPAL BUILDING	2919 DELAWARE RD	KENMORE NY 14217
WALS	WALES TOWN HALL/COMMUNITY CENTER	12345 BIG TREE RD	WALES CENTER NY 14169
WSEN	WEST SENECA COMMUNITY CENTER	1300 UNION RD	WEST SENECA NY 14224
LACK	SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER	230 MARTIN RD	LACKAWANNA NY 14218
CTON	TONAWANDA CITY HALL	200 NIAGARA ST	TONAWANDA NY 14150

### EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN:

Saturday, April 20th & Sunday, April 21st 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, April 22nd – April 26th Noon to 9:00 PM

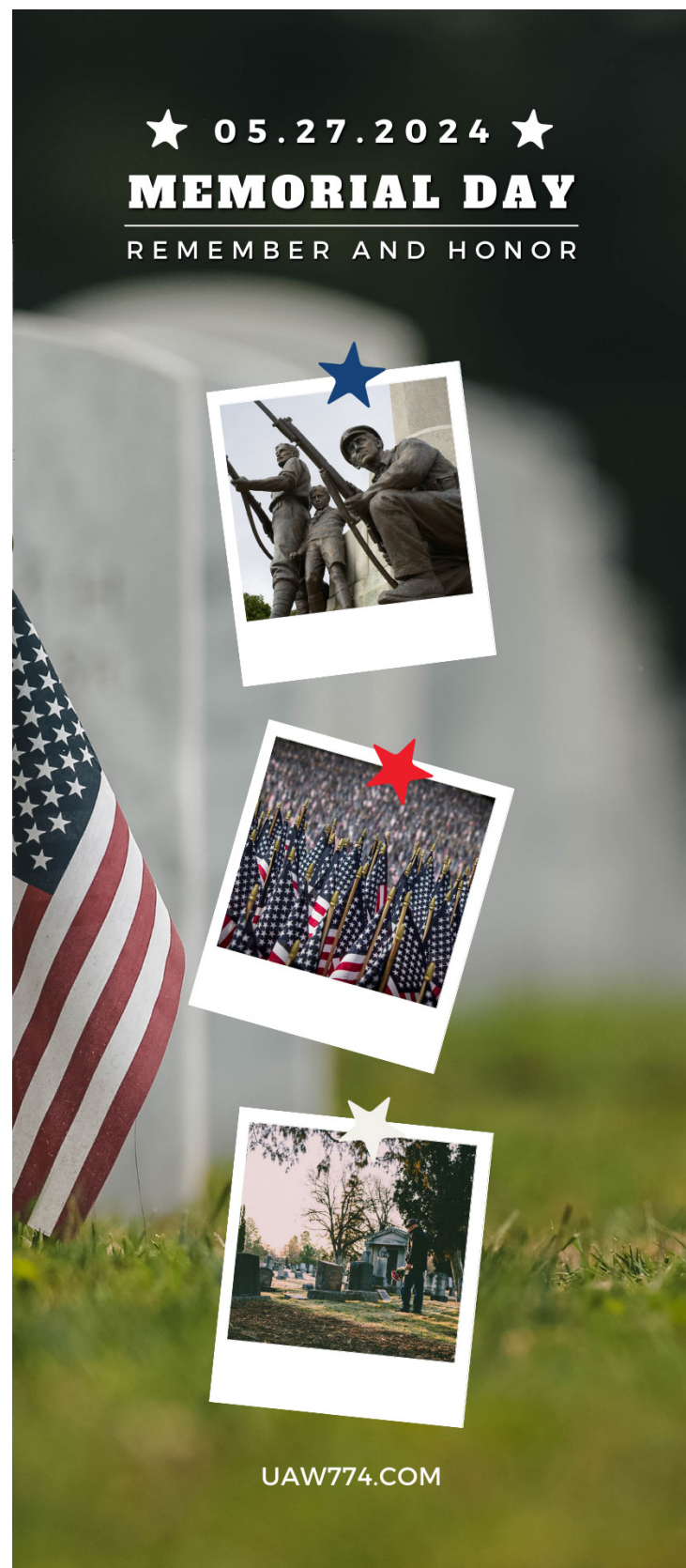
Saturday April 27th & Sunday, April 28th, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**26th CONGRESSIONAL SPECIAL ELECTION VOTING DATE:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM

★ 05.27.2024 ★

# MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR



UAW774.COM

# Local 774 Retiree's Report



**Chairman**  
Russ Flynn

**Vice-Chairman**  
Rev. Rick Maisano

**Recording Secretary**  
Dick Maziarz

**Financial Secretary**  
Charlie Todaro

**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
William Kearney

## RETIREE NEWS

UAW 774 Retiree Chapter Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of the month at 1PM in the upper and lower meeting halls of the UAW Local 774 Union Hall, 2939 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207. For future updates on retiree meetings and issues or questions call the Retiree Chapter at 716-873-4715 extension 21.

Upcoming retiree chapter meetings: May 14, 2024, June 11, 2024, October 08, 2024, November 12, 2024, December 10, 2024. There are no Retiree Chapter Meetings during the Months of July, August and September. Dates and times are subject to change.

### UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust

**Eligibility for Trust Coverage:** The Trust's membership is a closed group, providing health benefits to: Retirees from a UAW-represented position when the Trust was first bargained in the fall of 2007. Retirees who attained seniority at that time as active employees.

**You are not eligible for Trust coverage if you:** Are eligible only for a deferred vested pension benefit under your auto company's pension plan. You are not a retiree. You were discharged for cause, even if you are receiving a pension from your auto company's pension plan.

**Retirees may cover dependents, which typically include a spouse and/or children.**

**Surviving Spouses:** In the event of a retiree's passing, the spouse, known as the surviving spouse, remains eligible for Trust health coverage for the duration of his or her life. Qualifying surviving spouses must: Either be enrolled on the date of the retiree's death or enrolled in the active auto company plan and the active employee was eligible to retire on the date of death. Continue payment of any required monthly contribution.

Be enrolled in both Medicare Parts A and B, once eligible. Surviving spouses may not add new dependents; although, they may continue coverage for a dependent child who was enrolled by the retiree prior to his or her death and who continues to meet the dependent eligibility rules



Retiree Health Care Connect

### UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust Logos

If you see these logos on correspondence that you receive in the mail, do not discard the mail as it contains valuable information about your health care benefits.

### UAW Legal Services

Remember to use your benefit you must first call 1-800-482-7700 to request to Legal Services. Covered legal services and advice are available for wills and trusts, powers of attorney, deeds, uncontested family matters, residential real estate matters, credit reporting problems, and consumer contracts. Also legal advice is available for traffic matters, and Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security questions. Full legal services and advice is available for applying for Social Security Disability Benefits including representation at the hearing.

### Reporting the Passing of a Retiree, Spouse or Surviving Spouse

Call GM Benefits & Services Center (Fidelity) at 1-800-489-4646, select the option "Report a death" and the call will be transferred to a representative who will assist you.

Be prepared to provide as much of the following information as possible: the deceased's name, social security number, date of birth and date of death. If there is a surviving spouse you will need the spouse's name, date of marriage, and date of birth, mailing address and phone number. If no spouse, then the proper contact person's name, mailing address and phone number.

This notification will take care of benefits through GM including Pension, Life Insurance and Personal Savings Plan (if enrolled). Also you will need to call the

Retiree Health Care Connect at 1-866-637-7555 to update health care benefits which are provided by the UAW Medical Trust. Be prepared to provide as much information as possible that may be needed during this call: name of the deceased, social security number, date of birth, date of death.

### Address Change

It is important to keep your address and phone number(s) on file with the Medical Trust up-to-date. This will ensure you receive updates and other mailings regarding your benefits. You can update your contact information by contacting Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC) (866-637-7555). Also contact the GM Benefits Center at 1-800-489-4646 and UAW Local 774 union hall at 716-873-4715 to report any address or phone number(s) changes. All address changes are effective the first day of the month following notification of the address change.

### Save the Date - Retiree Summer Picnic

The Local 774 Retiree Summer Picnic will be held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at Joseph's Country Manor and Grove, 275 Columbia Avenue, Depew NY 14043. Tickets will be available for purchase at the April, May and June Retiree Meetings and at the 774 Union Hall Union Monday thru Friday starting April 9th, 2024.

No. «Number»

**UAW Local 774**  
**Annual Retiree Summer Picnic**  
Joseph's Country Manor & Grove  
275 Columbia Avenue  
Depew, NY  
Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
11:00am - 5:00pm  
12:00 pm Lunch  
Rain or Shine / No Refunds  
No Take-outs...all food to be consumed on premises  
Donation \$20 No. «Number»

Door Prize

Name

Phone

## GM RETIREES IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**UAW Retiree Medical Benefit Trust:** 1-866-637-7555 ([www.uawtrust.org](http://www.uawtrust.org))  
**Retiree Health Care Connect:** 1-866-637-7555  
**Pension/PSP GM National Benefits Center Fidelity:** 1-800-489-4646 ([www.gmbenefits.com](http://www.gmbenefits.com))  
**United Health Care Medicare Advantage Plan:** 1-844-320-5021, TTY 711 ([www.retiree.uhc.com/UAWTrust](http://www.retiree.uhc.com/UAWTrust))  
**Blue Cross/Blue Shield:** 1-877-832-2827 ([www.bcbsm.com](http://www.bcbsm.com))  
**Optum Rx Prescription Drugs:** 1-855-409-0219  
**Delta Dental:** 1-800-524-0149 ([www.deltadental.com](http://www.deltadental.com))  
**Davis Vision:** 1-888-234-5164 ([www.davisvision.com](http://www.davisvision.com))  
**TruHearing:** 1-844-394-5420  
**Over-The-Counter (OTC) Benefit:** 1-877-218-9951  
**UAW-FCA-Ford-General Motors Legal Services Plan:** 1-800-482-7700  
**Metropolitan Life Insurance:** 1-888-543-3461 ([www.metlife.com](http://www.metlife.com))  
**Medicare:** 1-800-633-4227 ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov))  
**UAW Local 774:** 716-873-4715 (website <https://uaw774.com>)

### Social Security Expansion

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced legislation she said would expand social security benefits for seniors. The Boosting Benefits & COLAs for Seniors Act would change the formula for the cost-of-living adjustments calculation, or COLA.

The Social Security COLA is currently calculated using the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers. Gillibrand said the bill would calculate COLAs using the consumer price index for the elderly instead. Social Security is a lifeline for older adults. For many, it's their main

Retiree's Report - Continued on Pg. 7

# HEARING AIDS KEN-TON HEARING

UAW INSURANCE    NYS WORKERS COMPENSATION



I WANT YOU TO  
HEAR WELL  
AGAIN!

EZ Steps:

- If you have a NYS Workers Compensation claim for hearing loss call Ken-Ton Hearing directly 874-1609
- If you have UAW insurance follow the steps below.
  1. Call TRU HEARING 1-800-334-1807
  2. Be sure you say, "I am UAW and I want a referral to Ken-Ton Hearing for new Hearing Aids".
  3. TRU HEARING will call Ken-Ton Hearing while you are on the phone with them to get you sheduled with us.
  4. Come to Ken-Ton Hearing on the scheduled date and we will take good care of you and your hearing.

**KEN-TON HEARING**  
*Audiology & Hearing Aid Service*  
3306 Delaware Ave, Kenmore  
(Near Paddock Chevrolet)  
(716) 874-1609

*Caring for the UAW for over 40 Years*

**WORKERS  
MEMORIAL DAY**

**APRIL 28  
2024**

UAW    uaw774.com



## 61 Years of giving to the Variety Club





## Stories of Local 774 History

Don Cialone Jr.  
Communications Director

In my latest column on our Local 774 history, we start off on a bit of a low point. In October of 1959, General Motors, feeling the pinch of a steel industry strike, had to lay off 70,000 autoworkers, including 9,000 locally at the four Buffalo area plants.

In an article from the Buffalo News dated May 25, 1962, the members of our Local invested \$7,500.00 in "E" series U.S. Savings Bonds. The bond was said to be worth \$10,000.00 when it matured in seven years and nine months. At the time, the International UAW encouraged local unions to support the Freedom Bonds Drive.

In March of 1962, Walter Sipowicz, a Local 774 member was elected President of the newly organized Western New York Skilled Trades Association of the UAW. Other officers elected from our local were Walter Kieliseck, Financial Secretary, Albin Boguslawski, Trustee, and Edward Fronczak as Sergeant at Arms.



March 12, 1962-Buffalo Evening News

In November of 1965, Local 774 joined five other locals in Western New York to intervene in a lawsuit initiated by General Motors against three top state officials in connection with payment of unemployment insurance benefits.

The litigation centered around GM's refusal to pay out benefits for roughly 10,000 workers who were idled during or after the 1964 "selective" national strike by the UAW against the automaker.

In July of 1972, a permit was issued by the Town of Tonawanda for a \$200,000.00 expansion of our Union Hall. The expansion added the addition of the second story to our existing building.

In April of 1973, UAW International President Leonard Woodcock visited several local auto plants including Tonawanda Engine. This was the first time an International President ever visited an auto plant on the Niagara Frontier. The Buffalo News article noted that the UAW had a membership of 1.5 million at the time.

In an article from the Buffalo News dated March 5th, 1977, the UAW Local 774 Variety Club Telethon satellite site was the largest of 36 in the area collecting more than \$100,000.00 in the last 13 years.

Our Local started a newsletter called the "Reporter" in November of 1977

that was mailed to our membership. It was the predecessor to Labor News & Report.

Local concessions were ultimately responsible for GM reversing its decision to transfer over 500 production jobs to St. Catherines from Tonawanda Engine in October of 1982.

The first job training center outside of Michigan to be operated jointly by the UAW and GM opened on November 20th, 1984, at the former Cordon Bleu Restaurant at 3909 Genesee Street in Cheektowaga.

The center was expected to process 200 laid off GM workers a day. The program offered up to \$1,500 in yearly tuition payments, basic English and math skills, nationwide job placement, and assistance with moving costs.

Robots had become a growing force in Western New York manufacturing by 1985, however the first use of a robot at Tonawanda Engine, in 1980, resulted in failure when the machine designed to lift and transport engine manifolds occasionally went berserk and threw the manifolds around the shop in an "electronic rage".

# LOCAL 774

VOL. 1, NO. 2

# REPORTER

DECEMBER, 1977



### Chairman's Report



**Paul E. Morris**  
Chairman

The number one problem facing us lately has been the lack of heat in certain areas of the plant. A Health and Safety Complaint has been filed on this subject and several meetings have been held in order to improve the working conditions that our members must work in. There are approximately five areas that are critically lacking sufficient heat. They are: A-Aisle in Plant #1 (Mark IV line), 31-Aisle (rear of Plant #1), Bay H-12 to Bay H-20 (A & B Assembly lines), Motor Dock Plant #1 and the Middle of Plant #4 (V-6 Head Department). Local Management has promised us relief from the cold in these areas as well as repairing any defective heaters in the plants. We do not want a repeat performance of last winter when some members were forced to go home because of the lack of heat in certain areas.

Construction in Plant #4 on the new engine is in high gear. We were successful in getting laid off apprentices recalled in the Tinsmith and Millwright classifications. Electrical apprentices are due to be recalled shortly. Master Mechanic apprentices should be returned on or about February 1, 1978. Laid off apprentices had the option to remain at work in production but most choose to take the lay-off. Although the UAW-GM National Agreement allows for a ratio of apprentices to journeymen, the Shop Committee has steadfastly maintained that no journeyman should be laid off while apprentices are working. We will continue to pursue this policy.

The grievance load has been increasing of late at the second step of the grievance procedure (Shop Committee level). We currently have approximately 200 outstanding grievances at this step. Sub Committee meetings are being scheduled to reduce this load to a more manageable level.

Sub-Contracting for the new engine continues. We have met with Local Management on Sub-Contracting several times and have been able to acquire some of these contracts for our Skilled Tradesmen. However, Management states that our skilled workers will be extremely busy in the coming months and they must let some of these contracts

### Local 774's New Bargaining Committee



**Oct. 30. New Shop Committee and Committeemen sworn into office.**

authorized personnel out of the plants. The Shop Committee has voiced objections to Local Management concerning security of production and the trades will continue in the coming months.

The new Paid Personal Holiday program went into effect on October 23, 1977. One purpose behind the PPH program was to hire replacement workers. However it has become apparent that replacements in the skilled trades have not been hired and overtime is scheduled instead. This is true throughout the country and is not isolated here at Local #774 and Chevrolet-Tonawanda. The International Union has been made aware of the lack of skilled replacements and will go to the Corporation with this problem.

If it becomes necessary to shut down the plant if severe weather conditions arise, Management has asked our members to listen to WGR-55 radio. This station will broadcast paid announcements for Chevrolet-Tonawanda Motor Plants and will be the only station where you can find out if the Motor Plant is operating. These announcements will occur two hours prior to the start of all three shifts.

The Holiday Schedule and Payday Procedure for the Christmas-New Year shut down will be published in a separate newsletter later in the month. Keep a copy of this newsletter in order to avoid any loss of holiday pay and as a guide to your pay scheduling.

Plant Security officers have taken to checking I.D. cards at the plant gates. We are told this procedure will help keep un-

**PROJECTION OF THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE TOOL AND DIEMAKER AND ASSEMBLER JOBS**

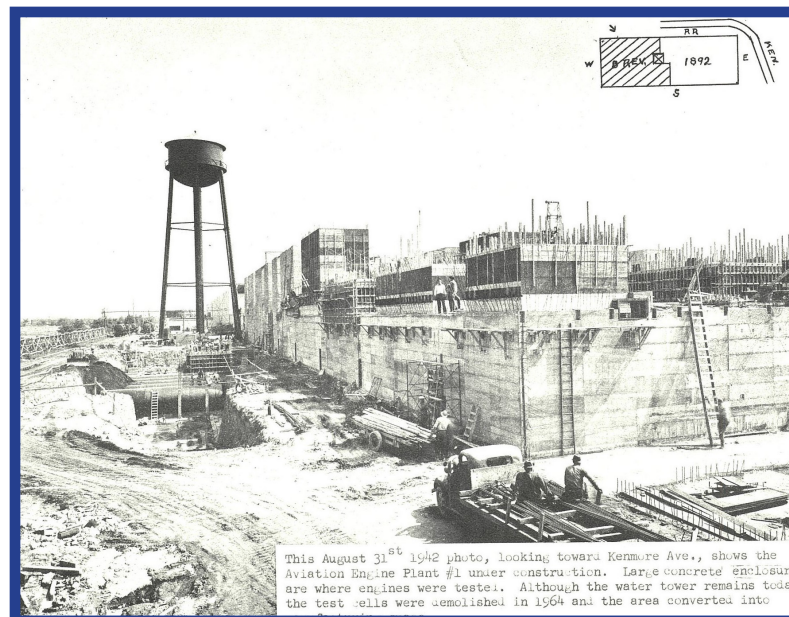
**End of 1976 Contract**  
An analysis of total hourly compensation highlighting the total paid non-working time on a yearly basis under the terms of the GM-UAW Agreement.

Twelve Personal Holidays, 14 Contractual Holidays, 5 Paid Absence Allowance Days, 20 Vacation Days (for employee with 20 years' seniority). A total of 51 paid non-working days are provided.

*(cont'd on page 3)*

The Reporter from November of 1977

## THIS ISSUES HISTORIC PHOTO



August 31, 1942-Construction of the Aviation Engine Plant #1





## Citizens & Legislative Committee Report

Jose Colon  
Chairman

Wence and I wanted to thank you again for your great work in Albany. We have already received over 50 new cosponsors on our priority bills due to your work.

Today we received more great news. Our lowering the weeks threshold from 2-1 on Unemployment for Striking Workers Bill made it out of the Labor Committee in the Senate and was moved by Senator Ramos motioned by Republican Mario Mattera in a true bipartisan display of showcasing how important it is to stand with workers. Now is the time to continue pressing on the Assembly and Senate leadership to move it fully through but this is a great first step due to your work.

Our Student Loan Forgiveness bill for legal services workers passed the Senate 57-1 while we were up in Albany was also included in Assembly one-house budget. We have confirmation that now both the Assembly and Senate will be fighting for this bill when it gets to the "three people in a room" stage, so now is the time to continue the pressure on Carl Heastie and Andrea Stewart Cousins to keep fighting, and to push Governor Hochul to include it in the final budget.

On EMPIRE, nothing was included in the one houses but this bill can and should pass during the session. A new front group led by Tusk, funded by McDonalds and others have come out against this bill. This will only give us more encouragement to go public with what this means and clear villains to tight against in the second half of the legislative session starting in April.

The Warranty Tech bill remains on the Assembly Floor Calendar awaiting debate because Andy Goodell wont let it be a unanimous pass like last year, so we wait. On the Senate side, we have word it is moving still, and Kennedy wants it as a feather in his cap before he leaves for Congress so it should move within the next month. I will update more.

TDI as I updated was included in both the Senate and Assembly one houses, with about 75% of the Ramos/ Solages bill in the Senate and a little less in the Assembly. We are continuing to press the Governor's team to see those as the new floors beyond her bills. Regardless, we will win something on this in the next two weeks, it is a matter of how hard the Assembly and Senate fight so we will continue to press them.

Senior Property Tax bill got up to 22 cosponsors in the Assembly due to our work, and is very bipartisan in our supporters in both houses. Still likely needs a year before passage at least though because I have not heard central staff speaking of it.

The big fights outstanding taking up a lot of oxygen in Albany are a grand compromise on housing. We are still pushing to ensure that tenant protections specifically Good Cause is part oanything that is finalized. And taxes is the other the big one, Senate and Assembly both say that the ultra rich should pay more of a fair share while the Governor is fundamentally against that.

Hochul keeps trying to play with moving pots of money around to balance the budget rather than utilize the one change that would solve it on its own by raising the tax rate on New Yorkers making between 1-5 million a year by .4 of a percentage point. It is something hopefully the Senate and Assembly win out on but that seems unlikely.

I will give more of an update again soon hopefully with more good news but wanted to share that all.

Thank you,  
Wence and Aaron



## Vice President's Report

Doug Seefeldt  
1st Vice President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the daylight getting longer and the weather slightly warmer, thoughts of family summertime, activities and vacations begin to take shape. Whether you are home or away, plan activities with safety in mind to ensure an enjoyable time. That way you'll be able to return to work on time (LOL). Time is better spent with friends and family instead of sitting in the Emergency Room.

I would also like to remind everyone of the many elections this fall. Every election and every vote is important and the results affect all of our lives. Please take a few moments and choose the right candidate who shares and supports your issues and concerns.

Nobody can tell you who to vote for, but the candidate should be working for your best interests! If you are unsure of whom to vote for, the Local UAW CAP puts out a list of candidates who have completed questionnaires, sat through an interview process, and are endorsed on their past, present, and future stance on issues that directly affect the lives of UAW members.

With that said, I hope to see fellow UAW members at some of the Local and Regional functions and activities throughout the summer. Most of the activities can be enjoyed by all ages and usually last only part of the day. It's nice to see people outside of the workplace, enjoying their time off with family and friends

In Solidarity,

Douglas Seefeldt  
1st Vice President



## Meat Raffle

*Sponsored by the*

**UAW Region 9  
Veteran's Committee**

**Friday, May 17, 2024**

Doors open at 5:30pm

First Spin at 6:30pm

**UAW Region 9**

35 George Karl Blvd • Amherst

**\$10 per Ticket**

*includes soda, draft beer, and wine*

*~ Bring your own snack ~*

*Proceeds to benefit the UAW Region 9 Veteran's Committee*



# 774 Around Town



*3/23/24-Our Women's Committee hosted our Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Union Hall*



2/21/24-The Local 774 Telethon Committee ran a meat raffle at the Woodlawn Fire Hall to benefit the Variety Club of Buffalo



3/14/24-UAW Local 774 was on hand for the start of a new partnership between West Herr Automotive and the Riviera Theater in North Tonawanda, New York

3/6/24-Members of the Local 774 Executive Board, International Auditor Cleveland Jones, and our Administrative Assistant Jill Rajla and the International Financial Conference in Houston, Texas



1/24/24-Members of UAW Region 9 pose at the UAW National CAP Conference in Washington, D.C.

3/10/24-Kim Coates and Shelby Misiak work the phones at the Variety Club of Buffalo Children's Telethon



## Work Family/EAP Report

William Martin  
EAP Representative

### Distracted Driving

With summer approaching, and schools being dismissed for the summer there will be plenty of vacations and that means plenty of driving. Distracted driving AS the work family reps, we would like to encourage everyone to take a minute and read the following. And have Distracted driving a safe and enjoyable Vacation.

I recently took a safe driving course with a goal of lowering my Driving insurance cost.

BUT I MUST ADMIT that at the conclusion of the class I had a sincere desire to be a better, SAFER driver. Although we are always made aware of how safe the newer vehicles are and there are indeed safer vehicles available. What is needed is a new statement, how about Safer Automobile + safer driver better for every one

WE ALL KNOW ABOUT Drinking and driving, and the dangers involved but what do the statistic say?

But, there is a new danger often added to driving. it's called distracted driving. Talking on the telephone, while driving, Texting while driving, playing video games while driving. If you are doing anything but, keeping your attention 100 percent on driving, its distracted driving. And it's dangerous. In the United States alone, there are roughly 261 alcohol-related deaths every day. Society Nationwide, drunk driving fatalities have been on the decline since 1991. In 2019 drunk driving fatalities reached their lowest point since the Department of Transportation began record keeping in 1982.

Distracted driving is the new Killer According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 3,522 victims lost their lives in distracted driving accidents in 2021, Shocking Texting and Driving Statistics You Need to Know about Additionally, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that 14% of fatal crashes are linked to cell phone use..

As of 2023, 48 states, including Washington D.C., Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands have outlawed texting while driving for all drivers Although no state forbids all cellphone use for all drivers, 36 states and Washington, D.C. prohibit it completely for novice drivers, while 23 states and Washington, D.C. forbid its usage by school bus drivers. Due to primary enforcement laws, it is illegal for all drivers to use handheld cellphones while driving in 30 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This means that an officer can issue a citation solely based on cellphone usage without any other traffic offense taking place. For the most part, drivers are not equipped to juggle two mentally demanding tasks, like driving and texting, at the same time without putting themselves and others at risk. In fact, the risk of a crash is four times more likely when a person uses a cell phone while driving. Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of death on the road and it is increasingly getting worse.

Did you know distracted driving is such a huge problem, that the entire month of April was designated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as Distracted Driving Month? You don't have to wait for April. Now is the best time to reassess and take responsibility for the choices we make when we are on the road. Again, enjoy your vacation and stay safe

Your UAW Work Family/ADAPT Reps

Fraternally Yours,  
Bill Martin and Rich Howes



## Women's Committee Report

Heather Grimmer  
Chairperson



March was National Women's History Month, as well as the 50th Anniversary of CLUW, the Coalition of Labor Union Women. CLUW was founded during its inaugural conference where more than 3,000 Union women convened to form the organization in March of 1974. It was at that conference where Olga M. Madar was elected as their first President. The organization was convened to mobilize women across the labor movement for better opportunities within their Unions, promote affirmative action, organize the unorganized, and increase women's participation within the labor movement.

Since then these women have committed to helping grow women's leadership not just in their Unions but in political and legislative activities. They also have helped advocate for pressing issues facing working families.

Also in March, we celebrated "Rosie the Riveter". Rosie is a symbol that's representative of the millions of women who left their homes for factories and shipyards to keep the country's manufacturing up and running during wartime. The idea of Rosie the Riveter originated in a song written by Redd Evans and John Jacobs Loeb in 1942. The UAW Women's Department also recognizes Rosie as a cultural icon that represents the hard work of women during World War II.

On March 23rd, our committee held their second annual Easter Party for the membership. I'm happy to say we had another good turnout. The kids had plenty of activities to participate in including egg and cookie decorating, face painting, an Easter egg hunt, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. I'd like to thank everyone who made donations and volunteered their time to make it a successful event!





## Medical Staff

Gina Moell  
Registered Nurse

Sisters and Brothers,

There has been a lot of conversations lately regarding working through breaks and lunches. Breaks and lunches are there for many reasons. Breaks are essential in helping employees de-stress and re-charge for the rest of the workday. Breaks are also essential to employee morale. Studies have shown that breaks lead to higher productivity, higher job satisfaction and a more balanced emotional health. Research also shows that taking breaks is important for recovery and adequate recovery is crucial for top performance. Energy is limited and just as athletes have half time to rest during a game, employees need to rest so they can do their best work. Taking a break and a lunch is your recovery period allowing you to come back refreshed for the second half of your day.

Taking breaks at work can:

1. Increase productivity and help your mind refocus.
2. Reduce injuries. Allowing your body to rest during the day is essential for jobs involving physical labor. Any twisting, bending, lifting, or carrying on the job can take its toll. Fine motor movements and repetitive motions injuries occur more often without rest. Workers who rest their bodies can reduce injury.
3. Lower stress by decompression and getting your mind off work for a bit.
4. Improves mental health. Taking breaks can help us get in the habit of taking care of ourselves. Our minds need rest just as our bodies do. Regular downtime during the day helps reduce anxiety, stress, and fatigue.

I hope you all understand the positive effects and benefits a break can offer. Without adequate breaks from work employee productivity, mental wellbeing and work performance suffer. Overworked employees often have chronic stress, job burn out and negative effects on health and wellbeing.

“Respect your body when it’s asking for a break. Respect your mind when it’s seeking to rest. Honor yourself when you need a moment.”

In Solidarity,  
Gina



## LOCAL 774

### Hall Rentals

Did you know that active and retired members can rent the union hall for private events or personal use?

Stop in or call for more details, information and availability.

Monday-Friday  
8:00am – 4:00pm  
(716) 873-4715

Rental Fee . . . \$225.00  
Deposit . . . \$200.00

Price includes soda and cleanup. Proceeds from hall rentals go into the Kitchen Improvement Fund

<b>Teddy Maldonado</b> President UAW Local 774 tmaldonado@uaw774.com Extension 12	<b>John Orsini</b> Financial Secretary/Treasurer UAW Local 774 jorsini@uaw774.com Extension 20
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## Benefits Update

Tim McInnis & Jose Colon  
Benefit Representatives



As a result of the 2023 Union negotiations, certain hourly employees will have a life insurance enrollment opportunity under the General Motors Life & Disability Benefits Program for Hourly Employees for Optional Life and Dependent Life Insurance coverages.

Hourly employees will be able to make elections for Optional Life & Dependent Life Insurance through a special enrollment conducted by MetLife from April 8, 2024. Coverage will be effective June 1, 2024. Employees on active status or a leave of absence of six months or less as of February 7, 2024 will receive a letter advising they can enroll or increase current coverage by answering five questions regarding health status. Additionally, during this time, employees are recommended to act to designate or update their life insurance beneficiary to ensure their most current wishes to date are on file.

MetLife will prepare and mail an enrollment kit to the address of record for eligible employees. Employees will receive instructions in their kits for accessing the MetLife website to enroll online or instructions to complete required paper enrollment forms.

Included are the following:

- Exhibit A - Suggested Bulletin Board Notice
- Exhibit B - GM EnrollSmart Letter
- Exhibit C - GM EnrollSmart Plan Summary
- Exhibit D - GM EnrollSmart Postcard

Local 774 Union Hall Benefit Reps  
716-873-4715

Tim McInnis: Extension 13  
Jose Colon: Extension 17

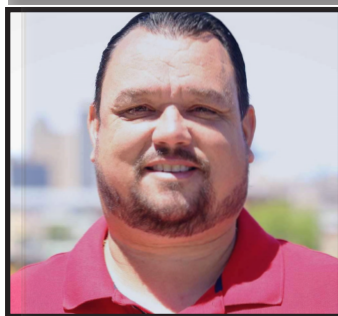
**Looking for more health and wellness?**

**Check out our virtual program calendar**

[www.lifesteps.com](http://www.lifesteps.com)

Scan To Save

The LifeSteps Wellness Program is offered to all General Motors U.S. hourly employees, their spouses and dependents age 18 and older. The Program is also available to all GM U.S. salaried employees, including their spouses and dependents age 18+ who are enrolled in the U.S. Salaried Health Care Program. GM contract workers are not eligible to participate in the LifeSteps Wellness Program.



## Veterans Report



Teddy Maldonado  
President

### Region 9 Veterans Committee Meat Raffle

Save the Date UAW Region 9 Veterans Committee will be holding a Meat Raffle on May 17, 2024, at the Region 9 office located at 35 George Karl Blvd #100 Williamsville, 14221 NY. The doors will open at 5:30 pm. and the first spin will be at 6:30 pm. The proceeds of the Meat raffle will go to the Region 9 Veterans Committee to support our local Veterans.



May is Military Appreciation Month; since its induction by Congress in 1999, National Military Appreciation Month is the nation's opportunity to honor the service and sacrifice of service members and their families. Memorial Day is the only federally recognized holiday in May, there are other specific military holidays spread throughout the month including Loyalty Day, Public Service Recognition Week, V-E Day, Armed Forces Day, and Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

### National Military Appreciation Month Observances & Events

#### Loyalty Day - Monday, May 1, 2024

Loyalty Day starts our Nation's month-long military appreciation celebration. It is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States, and to reflect on the proud heritage of our American freedom.

#### Silver Star Service Banner Day - Monday, May 1, 2024

This day recognizes those who have been awarded The Silver Star Medal, this is issued to members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

#### Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) - Sunday, May 5 – Saturday, May 11, 2024

Celebrated the first full week in May, is a time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees.

#### Victory in Europe Day AKA V-E Day - Monday, May 8th, 2024

May 8th, 1945 is the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.

#### Military Spouse Appreciation Day - Friday, May 10th, 2024

A day to honor military spouses and recognize the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong. This day is observed the Friday before Mother's Day.

#### Mother's Day - Sunday, May 12, 2024

Mothers who are members of the military community deserve special recognition for their love, dedication, and sacrifice every day. Mother's Day is the perfect occasion to celebrate and honor the military wife, mother, and service member who's also a mother.

### Children of Fallen Patriots Day - Saturday, May 13, 2024

Honors and raises awareness of the sacrifices and struggles the children of fallen patriots must bear in the wake of their parent's death

### Armed Forces Day - Saturday, May 18, 2024

Is celebrated on the third Saturday in May every year. The holiday is for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their loyal service in support of our country. This day honors everyone serving in all the U.S. Military branches; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, and Space Force.

### Memorial Day-Date: Monday, May 27, 2024

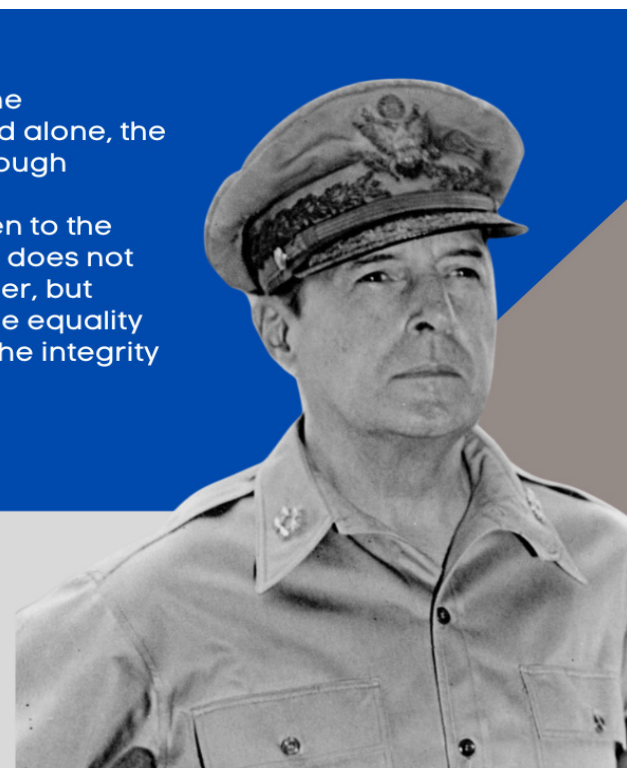
It is the only Federal holiday it is observed on the last Monday in May. This day is a remembrance where we honor the men and women who died while in military service. All Americans are encouraged to pause, wherever they are, at 3:00 pm local time for a minute of silence.

“

A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.

-Douglas MacArthur

Ted Bit





2019 LOCAL AGREEMENT

## Retiree's Report - Continued

source of income. But benefits aren't keeping pace with rising costs, leaving many older Americans struggling to afford the basics, particularly health care.

The Boosting Benefits and COLAs for Seniors Act would factor the high cost of health care into Social Security benefit calculations and help make sure recipients aren't forced to choose between paying for their medication and buying other necessities. Older adults have already spent a lifetime working, saving and contributing to Social Security. They deserve to retire comfortably, and I'm determined to pass this bill to help ensure they get to.

The consumer price index for the elderly weighs the cost of health more highly in its measure of inflation. It is generally more reflective of the actual costs incurred by older adults.

### N.Y. State Budget Doesn't Sufficiently Address Seniors Needs

Older New Yorkers pay \$72 billion per year in state and local taxes yet receive only 0.08% of state funding for vital services necessary to keep them in their homes as they age, which is the most cost effective way (State funding) to accomplish this.

There are over 18,000 older adults that are currently on wait lists for aging services in NYS and that number is continuing to grow because of insufficient funding allocated to services such as home delivered meals, comprehensive case management, personal care, transportation and other services that enable older adults to stay in their homes and avoid costly (to the State of New York) skilled nursing or assisted living facilities.

These services are supplied by less expensive community based services provided by NYSOFA's Area Agencies on Aging in every county in NYS. Individuals using these services average \$10,000 less per year. The State pays about \$140,000 per year in Medicaid costs if an individual is placed in assisted living or skilled nursing facilities. The Governor has proposed Medicaid funding decreases.

The Governor has indicated there is no additional funding available for aging services. Since the budget reflects a \$200 million commitment to the NYSOFA budget the increases noted above are more than double the Aging budget, which again comprises 43.5% of the population. Does that make sense? Another area the proposed budget shortchanges seniors is the Governor's proposals involving Medicaid.

In an effort to restrain Medicaid spending the executive budget targets the consumer directed personal assistance program (CDPAP), a popular program that allows Medicaid beneficiaries, including seniors, to coordinate their own home care, including from family caregivers. The executive budget would cut this by \$600 million per year.

A proposed reduction of caregiver's total hourly compensation by 12% would cut program costs by an estimated \$400 million per year. Further, the budget proposes a series of reforms restricting program usage, including limitation of hours and restricting Medicaid beneficiaries. These changes would cut CDPAP costs by \$200 million annually. Due to federal matching funds this \$600 million cut by NYS would result in \$1.2 billion annual cut in total home care funding in NYS.

prices faster than inflation every single quarter since the program started. Pfizer, which manufactures four of the 10 drugs with above-inflation price increases each quarter, paid CEO Albert Bourla \$33 million in 2022, a 36% raise over 2021.

**Seagan**, which manufactures one of the 10 drugs with above-inflation price increases each quarter, paid its three CEOs in 2022 \$57.5 million, \$36.4 million, and \$32.8 million. **Endo**, which manufactures one of the 10 drugs with above-inflation price increases each quarter, paid its CEO Blaise Coleman \$29 million in 2021 and paid out more than \$55 million in secretive bonuses to executives in 2022 just before the company filed for bankruptcy.



April 9, 2024-The Local 774 Retiree Chapter April meeting

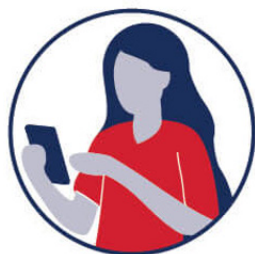


UAW Region 9 National Retiree Rep Wence Valentin III updates the membership at the Local 774 April Retiree Chapter meeting

## If you receive a suspicious call:



- **Hang up**
- **Don't** believe them
- **Don't** trust your caller ID
- **Don't** give them money
- **Don't** give them personal information
- Report the scam at [oig.ssa.gov](https://oig.ssa.gov)



**SSA.GOV/SCAM**

Social Security Administration | Publication No. 85-024 | June 2023 | Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense

According to a report by the Federal Trade Commission, Social Security scams remain the top government imposter crimes, with older adults being disproportionately impacted.

### Drug Companies Increase Prices While CEO Pay Soar

Throughout 2023, Medicare Part B coinsurances were reduced for 47 drugs because their manufacturers raised prices faster than inflation during one or more quarters.

Manufacturers of 10 drugs, including **Pfizer, Seagan, and Endo**, increased

# UAW Local 774



RETIREE CHAPTER

2024 RETIREE MEETINGS

- January 9th
- February 13th
- March 12th
- April 9th
- May 14th
- June 11th
- October 8th
- November 12th
- December 10th

Meetings are held at 1 p.m. at the UAW Local 774 Union Hall  
2939 Niagara Street Buffalo, New York 14207

Approved for posting:  
/s/ Teddy Maldonado  
President - UAW Local 774

JMR/OPEIU 253

# Fourth Annual UAW Local 774

# GOLF tournament



**June 23, 2024**

Chestnut Hill Golf Course  
1330 Broadway  
Darien Center, N.Y. 14040

**Registration: 7:15 a.m.**  
**Shot Gun Start: 8 a.m.**

**\$125**

per person  
includes: golf,  
cart lunch

ALL PROCEEDS  
TO BENEFIT  
VARIETY KID'S  
TELETHON



**LOCAL 774**

For more information visit our website at  
[uaw774.com](http://uaw774.com) or call the Union Hall at 716.873.4715



JMR/OPEIU-153





## Recording Secretary's Report

Stacie J. McKernan  
Region 9 NWAC Representative

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

March was Women's History month. I hope you were able to see some of the UAW Women that were highlighted by the UAW.

The UAW Women's Department is still having their "Talk about it Wednesdays." The topics are very interesting and have great speakers. It is available via Zoom or live on Facebook. If interested, please reach out to me, I'll get you on the list. smckernan@uaw774.com or 716-873-4715 ext 22.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) WNY Chapter is always looking for new members. We meet once a month, September-June, at CSEA Local 815, 305 Cayuga Drive, Cheektowaga. We have a breakfast fundraiser in March, which is always well received. I have applications for the dues, if anyone would like to join, male or female are welcome.

In Solidarity,

Stacie J McKernan

Local 774 Recording Secretary

Region 9 Rep. UAW National Women's Advisory Council

Recording Secretary WNY CLUW



## Financial Secretary/ Treasurer's Report

John Orsini  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

For over 60 years UAW Local 774 has been the benchmark for Labor when it comes to the Variety Kids Telethon. This year our local's commitment to Variety Kids Telethon has risen to new heights. When I started volunteering for the Telethon Committee Plants 1, 4, and 5 were full with production and people. With our membership numbers down we were able to raise the most money I can remember in my 27 years at Tonawanda. Our donation made on March 10, 2024 was a year's worth of fund raising and we have many people to thank for our success.

In June, we held our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Chestnut Hill Country Club. Our membership was able to raise over \$6,200 for this amazing organization. In February we held our annual meat raffle but this time we decided to donate all proceeds to the telethon. That night brought in over \$6,500 on a cold winter night in Blasdell, New York at the Woodlawn Fire Company.

Later in February a gate collection was held at the plant which \$2,507.74 was raised. Our retirees held a collection at their monthly meeting and raised \$400. When the amount was announced, retiree Doug DuBois stated he would match the retirees with another \$400.

Our last and biggest fund raising effort was in the form of \$16,000. We were able to secure a \$2,500 Las Vegas Vacation from our friends at West Herr of Western New York. They once again enabled us to sell out of raffle tickets and obtain our goal of leading the way for organized labor at the Telethon. We cannot thank West Herr enough in how they support us in everything we do.

Our grand total for all of our membership's efforts and support was a whopping \$30,774!!! To put that into perspective the total amount of money that was raised within Organized Labor was just north of \$70,000. Our Local was able to contribute to just under half of all the Unions around Western New York's contributions.

We would like to thank all that were involved during each event that we had and all the support from our members, active and retired, members of management, and our community.

June 23, 2024 starts a new year of fund raising at our annual golf tournament at Chestnut Hill. Only 36 teams will be able to compete. Spots are filling up, so make sure to sign up now.



### INTERNATIONAL UNION STRIKE FUND Report as of March 28, 2024

Net Worth as of January 31, 2024	\$733,774,073.57
Income for February 2024 (Dues per Capita Taxes)	\$7,370,537.39
Disbursements for February 2024*	\$2,738,899.70
New Worth as of February 29, 2024	\$738,405,711.26

\*There were two strikes in the month of February 2024

# UAW Local 774

2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**January 28th**

**February 18th**

**March 17th**

**April 21st**

**May 19th**

**June 9th**

**October 20th**

**November 17th**

**December 15th**

Meetings are held at 10 a.m. at the UAW Local 774 Union Hall  
2939 Niagara Street Buffalo, New York 14207

Approved for posting: /s/ Teddy Maldonado president - UAW Local 774 JMR/OPEIU 253



# ATTENTION! UAW Legal Services



10535 Main St. Clarence, NY 14031

(716)632-1644

Remember, you must first Call 1-800-482-7700 to request legal services.

## Deceased Retiree Local 774 Members

### Donald Bloom

Retired 6/1/2006 - Deceased 11/26/2023

### Lenny Bonavito

Retired 10/1/2000 - Deceased 12/7/2023

### Heinrich Buck

Retired 3/1/1993 - Deceased 11/18/2023

### Carl D'Auria

Retired 5/1/2023 - Deceased 11/23/2023

### Paul Hann

Retired 2/1/2001 - Deceased 11/24/2023

### Sherman Hutcherson

Retired 7/1/2006 - Deceased 12/6/2023

### Patricia Kirkland

Retired 5/1/1991 - Deceased 12/6/2023

### William Knight

Retired 0/00/0000 - Deceased 12/19/2023

### Richard Kohn

Retired 9/1/2005 - Deceased 12/5/2023

### Gary Kosin

Retired 7/1/2006 - Deceased 12/16/2023

### David Lauber

Retired 1/1/1991 - Deceased 12/1/2023

### Frank LoCicero

Retired 2/1/2001 - Deceased 11/30/2023

### Paul Menard

Retired 11/1/2002 - Deceased 12/10/2023

### Paul Piskorz

Retired 8/1/2006 - Deceased 11/30/2023

### Domenic Sanfilippo

Retired 8/1/2006 - Deceased 12/17/2023

### Robert Summers

Retired 11/1/2005 - Deceased 12/7/2023

### James Thomson

Retired 7/1/2006 - Deceased 11/25/2023



### Thomas C. Burnham



Thomas Burnham fights to ensure disabled individuals receive all the benefits they are entitled to. He focuses on several areas of disability law, including: Social Security Disability; Supplemental Security Income; and Workers' Compensation. Mr. Burnham's insight in multiple areas of disability law helps to ensure his clients obtain all of their entitled benefits. Thomas Burnham can be reached at:

Phone: 716 849 1300  
E-mail: tburnham@lglaw.com

### Keith T. Williams



Keith Williams has served as an advocate for injured workers for over 40 years. Mr. Williams's vast and unique experience as a leader, advocate, and instructor in the labor community makes him an invaluable asset to clients. He has significant experience representing injured workers before the Workers' Compensation Board, including serving as part of the Lipsitz Green team that represents the Western New York Workers' Compensation Coalition.

Keith Williams can be reached at:  
Phone: 716 849 1313  
E-mail: ktwilliams@lglaw.com

### Michael Maiorana



Michael Maiorana has served as an advocate for injured workers for over 25 years. He draws from his significant experience to provide insight to clients on how contracts, pensions, and healthcare & disability policies interact with the workers' compensation process. Mr. Maiorana is passionate about helping all injured workers understand the workers' compensation process and obtain all the benefits they are entitled to. He has worked a wide spectrum of injured workers, union and nonunion, across virtually all industries. Mr. Maiorana works as a point of contact for union officials and labor leaders on legal matters related to workplace safety and workers' compensation. Michael Maiorana can be reached at:

Phone: 716 849 1333, ext. 495  
E-mail: mmaiorana@lglaw.com

## ALERT FOR MEMBERS OF UAW 774 REGARDING

# Workers' Compensation

## C-3 Form Deemed "Essential Document." What Does That Mean for Injured Workers?

It is well known that New York State's Workers' Compensation process is comprised of many requirements for claimants to receive benefits. There are times when "under the radar" changes to these requirements pose new and unforeseen obstacles to injured workers. A recent change in the Workers' Compensation process regarding a document known as a C-3 form can have a significant impact on an injured worker's claim. The following provides a summary of the information workers need to know about a change to an "essential document" called the C-3 form.

**What is the C-3 Form:** The C-3 form, also known as an Employee Claim form, is a document that serves as a way for an injured worker to make the New York State Workers' Compensation Board aware of their on-the-job injury. The C-3 form asks for information regarding an injured worker's employer, job duties, injury, and medical treatment. Once an injured worker submits a C-3 form, the Workers' Compensation Board creates a file for the employee's claim.

**Will the Workers' Compensation Board Create a File for a Claim Without a C-3 Form:** The C-3 form is a document that has long been a part of the Workers' Compensation claims process in New York State. One of the form's primary functions is to serve as a catalyst to the Workers' Compensation Board creating a file for an injured worker. However, even without a C-3 form, the Workers' Compensation Board will create a file for a claim when information regarding the claim is provided directly from an insurance carrier or healthcare provider.

**Why is the C-3 Form Now an Essential Document:** In the past, if the Workers' Compensation Board created a file for an injured worker, regardless of whether a C-3 form was submitted or not, a claim for benefits could proceed. However, the Workers' Compensation Board has recently changed this policy. Now, a claim for benefits cannot move forward if an injured worker has not filed a C-3 form. The Workers' Compensation Board now deems the C-3 form to be an "essential document" in the claims process.

**How Can Insurance Companies Use C-3 Form Answers Against You:** It is essential that an injured worker submit a C-3 form to the Workers' Compensation Board. However, workers need to be careful that all information provided on the C-3 form is accurate and comprehensive. Insurance companies now look for discrepancies, inaccuracies, or omissions in the information provided on the C-3 form as a means to challenge claims and have benefits denied. In particular, insurance companies will focus on information provided about a claimant's medical history and medical treatments as a means to accuse the claimant of insurance fraud.

**How Can You Ensure a C-3 Form is Filed Properly:** An experienced Workers' Compensation attorney can help guide you through the process of how to best address all the required information on a C-3 form and file the form on your behalf. Attorneys who are familiar with the Workers' Compensation hearings process are aware of information that is included or excluded on the C-3 form, which an insurance carrier may exploit to have a claim denied. Before a C-3 form is filed, an injured worker should review their responses with someone who can provide guidance on how to answer each question comprehensively and avoid any pitfalls that may create an obstacle in receiving benefits.

If you have any questions on completing a C-3 form or any other aspect of the Workers' Compensation process, please contact a member of Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria's Workers' Compensation team.



**Juneteenth**  
JUNE 19TH, 2024



Shop Chairman-Mike Grimmer

Sisters and Brothers,

As we head into Spring here at Tonawanda Engine Plant, our plant has been very busy in many departments. We have been running one shift of production on the Gen 5 assembly line every Saturday since January, and we are going to remain very busy for the rest of the year. This has also caused our machining departments to be working a lot of weekend overtime especially in Aluminum Blocks, 5.3 Cranks, and Heads.

Since late last year GM has Tonawanda building more light duty truck engines than we have in the last couple years. Our Heavy-Duty schedule has been lowered during this time which has reduced overtime in those departments. We are still building a lot of Heavy-Duty engines and there are no manpower reductions scheduled for the Heavy-Duty departments.

With this increased demand for light duty engines, our plant has shifted seamlessly to accommodate this change in demand. We have been able to deliver the quality engines required at the assembly plants without issue. The fact that Tonawanda is the only plant that builds Aluminum and Heavy-Duty engines, allows us to adapt to these schedule changes with no decrease to our employment levels. This is a great advantage to our plant that we build so many variants of the Gen 5 engine.

As of writing this report, the latest schedules now have our Gen 5 Assembly line running two full shifts of engine assembly every Saturday beginning April 13th. This increased demand requiring two shifts of engine assembly is scheduled to continue through the end of May.

Starting after Memorial Day weekend, we are going back to one shift of Gen 5 assembly every Saturday. These schedules are subject to change based on demand and parts availability. This increasing schedule will require our Skilled Trades members to work even more overtime than they have been, in order to keep the equipment working properly. I will communicate any changes as the information becomes available.

With the above-mentioned increase to our schedules, I want to remind everyone to utilize the overtime sign-up sheets to volunteer for as much Saturday overtime that you would like to work. This process is used to get as many volunteers as possible to work overtime and in turn, excuse our members that do not want to work. This

contractual language forces management to allow volunteers to work up to 16 hours before forcing employees that do not want to work. With this heavy overtime scheduled, make sure to work your two or more Saturdays in a row to be off the Saturday that you want. This process is in accordance with Plan A mandatory overtime as outlined in the National Agreement.

The weekly cadence of what shifts are running is located by the overtime sign-up sheets in Gen 5 Assembly. Please see your Committee person with any questions about the overtime rules and procedures.

On March 12th, the International UAW Vice President Mike Booth along with his staff, rolled out the details of the Special Attrition Program to the Local UAW Leaderships from all GM locations. To be eligible for this first round of SAP retirements, a member must have reached the retirement eligibility requirements by December 31, 2023.

1. Every UAW/GM plant will only allow 2% of each plant's total Production population and 2% of each plant's total Skilled Trades population to retire with the \$50,000 incentive. This number includes all active members as well as our members on Compensation and Sick Leaves on 12/31/23.

**For UAW Local 774 members at Tonawanda, that equals roughly 14 Production members, and 4 Skilled Trades members will be eligible to retire with the \$ 50,000 incentive.**

2. There is no information available at this time regarding the size, scope, and timing of the next 2 Special Attrition Programs that must happen during the life of the 2023 UAW/GM National Agreement.

3. All interested members are encouraged to apply for this program even though we are only forecasted for roughly 14 Production and 4 Skilled Trades members to receive the incentive. If there are any leftover SAP opening from other plants, they will be allocated to other plants with more applications than openings.

4. There will be a 45-day window for members to apply for the SAP, starting on March 23rd through May 6th at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard time. Once a member submits their application on forms provided by Labor Relations, they will only have seven days to revoke their

application. **Once the seven days has passed, all members that qualify for the SAP must retire.**

5. Members that are approved for the SAP will have to wait to retire until they are released by GM. The retirement dates for this first round are scheduled to be June 1st, July 1st, and August 1st.

6. The longest unbroken Corporate Seniority Date at each plant will be used to determine who is selected to participate in this first round of the SAP for Production and Skilled Trades members. For this SAP, a members Continuous Service Date will be used to determine the highest unbroken seniority. If the continuous service dates of members are equal, then the tie breaker will be decided by using the lowest complete GMIN in ascending order. Please see Tim McGinnis or Jose Colon in Benefits for clarification and any questions.

I want the membership to know that the leadership at UAW Local 774 is very disappointed with the low number of our members that are going to be eligible to retire in this first round of the SAP.

This Special Attrition Package was rolled out during the 2023 UAW/GM Tentative Agreement, with the statement that all interested members would receive the \$50,000.00 retirement incentive. The lack of clear language with dates and numbers in the signed National Agreement is the reason for this grossly inadequate SAP program. We as a membership deserve better than this.

On March 11th, the Shop Committee and local management officially began negotiating the 2023 Local Agreement. In these negotiations we will be fighting for the improvements and changes that our members requested by submitting Local Demands last year.

Every change requested by the membership was discussed and voted on by the membership at the Special Meeting at our Union Hall. We will be fighting to improve the working conditions and local language based on these demands. The Alternate Committee persons will be functioning on the shop floor during this time. We appreciate your support and patience while we are in negotiations.

In Solidarity,  
Mike Grimmer

Thank You

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