

Labor News & Report



UAW LOCAL 774

2939 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207

**BUY UNION
BUY AMERICAN**



April - June 2023

Volume 35 Issue 2



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UAWLOCAL774

“Teamwork in the Leadership, Solidarity in the Ranks”



WWW.UAW774.COM

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UAW Local 774 Executive Board



Pictured (L-R): Gary Ritz-Sgt.-at-Arms, Larry Boltz-Guide, Doug Seefeldt-1st Vice President, Teddy Maldonado-President, Stacy McKernan-Recording Secretary, Jeanne LoHouse-Trustee Chairperson, Heather Grimmer-Trustee and Lonnie Burrough-Trustee. Not pictured: Eric Perfitt-2nd Vice President and John Orsini-Financial Secretary/Treasurer.

Executive Board

- Teddy Maldonado –President
- Douglas Seefeldt–1st Vice President
- Eric Perfitt–2nd Vice President
- Stacie McKernan–Recording Secretary
- John Orsini– Financial Secretary-Treasurer
- Jeanne LoHouse - Chairman of Trustees
- Heather Grimmer–Trustee
- Lonnie Burrough–Trustee
- Gary Ritz–Sgt-At-Arms
- Larry Boltz–Guide

Shop Committee

- Mike Grimmer–Shop Chairman
- Kim Wittcop–Shop Committee District 1
- Craig Jensen–Shop Committee District 3
- Dustin Rose–Shop Committee District 4
- Nick Ciralo–Shop Committee District 7



Retired Workers Chapter

- Russell Flynn–Chairman/Retired Mbr Executive Board
- Rev. Richard Maisano–Vice Chairman
- Richard Maziarz–Recording Secretary
- Charles Todaro–Financial Secretary
- William Kearney–Sgt-At-Arms

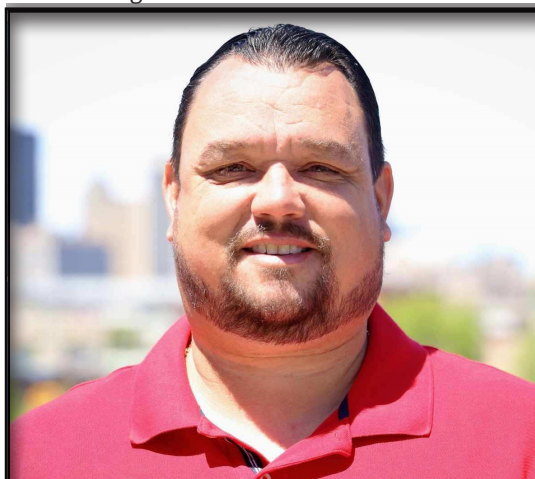
There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow man. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well.

–Walter Reuther

UAW Local 774
2939 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207
(716)873-4715
Mon-Fri 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Saturday-Sunday CLOSED

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LOCAL 774 UAW
2939 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207



UAW Local 774 President's Report

President - Teddy Maldonado

Thank you

I would like to personally thank all the Retired and Active members who took the time to come out and vote in our Triennial Election. It was impressive to see the Retired and Active member's participation. It goes to show what a great Union we have.

I would also like to thank everyone who ran in this election and congratulate everyone who was elected.

Moving forward as President, we as a team, can make our Local 774 the lead Union in WNY and throughout the UAW.

If there is anything you need, please reach out. I can be reached by at Phone (716) 873-4715 ext 12 email at tmaldonado@uaw774.com.

Thank you for your support, I would not be here without all of you. It is my pleasure to be representing Local 774 for years to come.

Strike

On September 14, 2023, contracts expire for 150,000 autoworkers at Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis. UAW members getting ready to fight for our core demands:

Ending wage and benefit tiers that divide workers

Bringing back cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA)

Job security when companies are making record profits

Building a sustainable future for workers who build electric vehicles

Please take the necessary steps in order to care for yourself and your family. Preparation is Key to Surviving a Labor Strike: Be sure you understand your union benefits long before the strike.

10 Steps to Prepare for a Strike:

1. Update your contact information

Make sure the Union office has your current home address, home/cell phone number, and email address so you stay informed on the latest developments.

2. Take Stock of your Financial Situation

Fill out a budget, take inventory of your fixed expenses-bills that must be paid no matter what, such as your rent or mortgage payment, utilities, car loan, and insurance premiums reduce what spending you can, and try to save a little out of each paycheck starting now.

3. Keep Bills Current

Creditors are more likely to work with you when you're on strike if you've paid your bills on time in the past.

4. Contact your utility companies

Contact your utility companies (electric, water, gas, cable/internet) to let them know you have to go on strike and ask about alternative payment plans.

5. Postpone major purchases

If you can try not to make any major purchases, wait until the contract is settled.

6. Avoid credit purchases and reduce credit your credit card debt if you can

You may rely on your credit cards if you are on strike. Consider signing up for a Union Plus credit card they are willing to work with union members on strike.

7. Stock up on food and medicine

Use your insurance to stock up on medications and stock up on non-perishable food for the future.

8. Use your health insurance now

Take advantage of your current health insurance coverage and schedule any doctor's appointments you may need for yourself and your children now.

9. File your taxes early

Take advantage of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for free assistance with filing your taxes. Find a

site nearest you on the IRS website.

10. Support your coworkers and stick together

Golf

On Sunday, June 25, 2023, UAW Local 774 held their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Chestnut Hill Golf Course to benefit The Variety Club telethon.

I would like to congratulate the various winners and express thanks to all the active/retired members, volunteers, donators, and participants in UAW Local 774's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament.

We had a great turnout with 27 foursomes and over two dozen volunteers!

With everyone's support, we were able to raise \$6,135.19 for the Variety Kid's Telethon.

A special thank you to West Herr for Tee sponsoring this tournament.

Other sponsors were:

Lipsitz and Green Scime Cambria LLP
LaHacieanda Brighton
MollenBurg-Betz Inc.
Salvatore's Hospitality
CWA WNY Council
North End Bar & Grill
General Motors LLC.
Premier Wine & Spirits
Confer Plastic Inc.
UAW Local 1097
AVI Foodsystems
Smart
Joe Basil Chevrolet
District Council No. 4
Russells Steak Chops and More
UAW Local 774 Retired Workers Chapter
Education Committee
Conservation Committee
Recreation Committee
Women's Committee
CommunityServices Committee
Chaplaincy Committee
UAW Region 9

See you all next year!!!

President's Report Continue on Page 8

UAW LOCAL 774

2939 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14207

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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



Check out our newly launched website



Local 774

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

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NEW YORK



BUICK

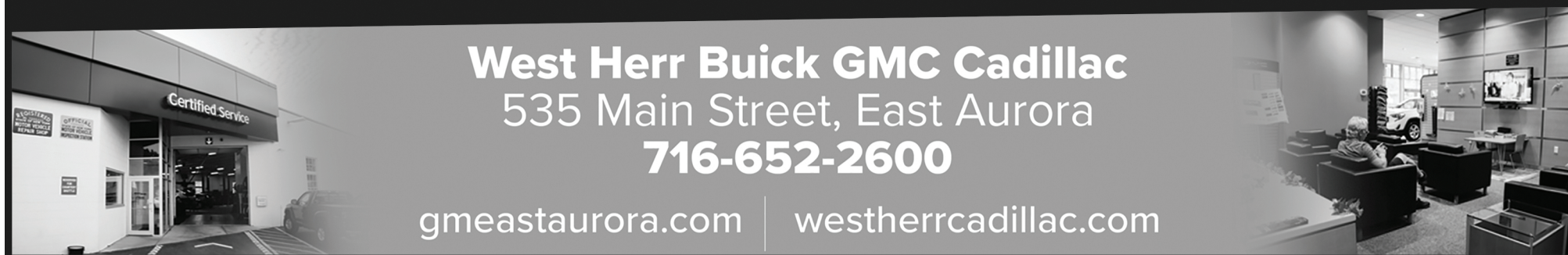
GMC



West Herr Buick GMC Cadillac of East Aurora would like to thank the members of **UAW Local 774**

West Herr Buick GMC Cadillac
 535 Main Street, East Aurora
716-652-2600

gmeastaurora.com | westherrcadillac.com





Financial Report

Financial Secretary/Treasurer- John Orsini

May 2023

Beginning Balance	809,195.52
Income:	
Dues - Regular (Private Sector): 791 Members	65,691.96
Dues - Profit Sharing/Bonus: 816 Members	3.28
Dues - Agency Fee Payers: 1 Member	61.89
Dues - Retired Workers @ 35% : 2,809 Members	2,199.75
Bank Errors (That Increase Acct Balance)	3,650.00
Commissions - Vending Machines	482.88
Donations - Charities, Raffles Etc.	200.00
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	198.41
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	471.10
Interest on Northwest Money Market Account	14.65
Interest on Savings Account Lake Shore Savings	10.86
Raffle Proceeds	65.00
Rents - Gyms and Reception Halls	525.00
Sales - Refreshments (Food & Drink)	150.00
Sales - Shirts	125.00
Soc & Rec Registration Fees	1,600.00
Soc & Rec Tickets (Picnics, Parties etc.)	360.00
Transfer to Commercial Account	240,182.61
Transfer Between Funds	0.00
Less Transfers and Exchanges	-240,182.61
Refund - Travel, Per Diem Etc.	2,970.91
Refund Workers Compensation Insurance	1,470.00
Income Total	80,250.69
Expense:	
Wages (Clerical)	4,611.60
Wages (Maintenance and Janitorial)	1,920.00
Lost Time (Officers)	5,808.86
Lost Time (Others)	23,654.99
Officer - Non-Tax Travel Per Diem Etc.	502.94
Others - Non-Tax Travel Per Diem Etc.	2,760.10
Reimb. Raffle Prizes, Gift Cards, & Baskets	300.00
Refreshments Reimbursement	452.55
Supply Reimbursement	21.73
Federal Taxes	-3,484.83
FICA	-2,231.68
MECA	-521.93
NY. Tax	-1,332.68
NYS Paid Family Leave	0.00
OPEIU 153	-28.85
Federal Income Taxes (941) Forward	-48.50
FICA-Employee OASDI and HI Forward	3,484.83
State Income Taxes Forward	2,753.61
Union Dues Forward	1,332.68
FICA Employer OASDI and HI (941)	48.50
Dental/Hearing/Medical/Vision Insurance	2,753.61
Group Life Insurance	2,090.40
Medical Fee Reimbursements	392.15
Pension Allocations	164.90
Bank Charges - Service Fees, NSF, Etc.	234.00
Building Supplies	6.00
Utilities (Building Ownership)	398.51
Donations - Charities 410.00	1,501.27
Donations-Civic Grps:Firefighters/Police	850.00
Fees Licences Permits Etc	495.00
Furniture & Equip - Leases & Rentals	206.98
Internet Service (Access Fees)	206.98
Per Capita Taxes - International	168.09
Per Capita Taxes - CAP Councils	38,711.60
Per Capita Taxes - Affiliates	1,555.99
Per Capita Taxes - Retiree Councils 7.81	517.16
Postage	50.00
Printing Costs - Pamphlets & Literature	150.08
Refreshments - Caterers	305.00
Refreshments - Coffee, Donuts, Food & Soft Drinks	530.76
Rental of Mats, Mops, Rugs, Etc.	213.59
Subscriptions - Cable TV	126.61
Supplies - Office	151.95
Technical and Support Fees	289.29
Telephone	419.70
Travel - Direct Pd Airline, Hotel, Tr Agency	11,121.37
Trans from Comm Acct to Other Cash Asset	240,182.61
Less Transfers and Exchanges	-240,182.61
Expense Total	103,825.74
Total	785,620.47
Beginning Balance	809,195.52
Income	80,250.69
Expenses	-103,835.74
Difference	-23,575.05
Balance	785,620.47

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	\$633,653.09
Education Fund	\$4,672.04
Recreation Fund	\$1,224.71
Education Committee Fund	\$3,024.56
Recreation Committee Fund	\$3,131.61
Retired Workers Chapter Fund	\$118,277.59
Community Services Committee Fund	\$8,634.50
New Member Orientation Fund	\$1,857.93
Conservation Committee Fund	\$2,851.70
Union Label Committee Fund	\$458.39
Consumer Affairs Committee	\$116.57
Civil and Human Rights Committee Fund	\$1,324.27
Building Fund	\$-31,773.03
Children With Special Needs Fund	\$1,436.69
Hall Rental Improvement Fund	\$7,291.73
Telethon Committee Fund	\$3,692.96
Chaplaincy Committee Fund	\$2,386.06
Veterans Committee Fund	\$13,630.49
Women's Committee Fund	\$6,459.06
Solidarity Committee Fund	\$3,269.55
Total of All Funds	\$785,620.47

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

Actual Bank Balance	60,036.56
Cash On Hand	0.00
Lake Shore Savings Account	\$0.00
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union COD	\$226,474.68
Radius Federal Credit Union	\$171,144.03
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	\$85,147.26
Northwest Savings Bank Money Market Account	\$242,714.44
Radius Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$68.50
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$25.00
Water Meter Deposit	\$10.00
Petty Cash Fund	\$0.00
Total Cash Assets	\$785,620.47

June 2023

Beginning Balance	785,620.47
Income:	
Dues - Regular (Private Sector): 791 Members	65,855.54
Dues - Profit Sharing/Bonus: 816 Members	11,491.20
Dues - Agency Fee Payers: 1 Member	61.89
Dues - Retired Workers @ 35% : 2,809 Members	2,148.30
Initiations - Intl (Regular):1 Member	1.00
Initiations - Local (Regular)	49.00
Bank Errors (That Increase Acct Balance)	14.99
Donations - Retired Workers Chapter	250.00
Donations - Charities, Raffles Etc.	1,000.49
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	192.46
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	457.17
Interest on Northwest Money Market Account	19.95
Interest on Financial Trust FCU CD	1,835.06
Raffle Proceeds	4,201.00
Rents - Gyms and Reception Halls	675.00
Sales - Refreshments (Food & Drink)	200.00
Soc & Rec Registration Fees	7,200.00
Soc & Rec Tickets (Picnics, Parties etc.)	1,940.00
Transfer Between Funds	0.00
Reimbursed Travel Others	5.51
Reimbursed Travel - Direct Pd	389.23
Income Total	97,987.79
Expense:	
Wages (Clerical)	3,660.13
Wages (Maintenance and Janitorial)	1,169.00
Lost Time (Officers)	6,424.06
Lost Time (Others)	1,045.61
Officer - Non-Tax Travel Per Diem Etc.	136.00
Holiday (Clerical)	184.46
Reimb. Raffle Prizes, Gift Cards, & Baskets	859.52
Postage Reimbursement	9.24
Refreshments Reimbursement	165.15
Federal Taxes	-946.27
FICA	-774.00
MECA	-181.02
NY. Tax	-429.95
NYS Paid Family Leave	0.00
OPEIU 153	-22.58
Federal Income Taxes (941) Forward	-48.50
FICA-Employee OASDI and HI Forward	950.79
State Income Taxes Forward	956.45
Union Dues Forward	1,936.26
FICA Employer OASDI and HI (941)	62.50
Unemployment Taxes Federal (940)	956.45
	284.43

Dental/Hearing/Medical/Vision Insurance	2,090.40
Medical Fee Reimbursements	164.90
Bank Charges - Service Fees, NSF, Etc.	6.00
Bank Errors(That Decrease Acct Balance)	649.00
Banquets Lunches Dinners (Tkts&Tables)	659.32
Building Supplies	265.32
Utilities (Building Ownership)	1,332.00
Furniture & Equip - Leases & Rentals	285.26
Internet Service (Access Fees)	168.09
Per Capita Taxes - International	39,270.16
Per Capita Taxes - CAP Councils	1,578.17
Per Capita Taxes - Affiliates	523.19
Per Capita Taxes - Retiree Councils	7.90
Postage	200.07
Printing Costs - Pamphlets & Literature	150.08
Refreshments - Caterers	605.00
Refreshments - Coffee, Donuts, Food & Soft Drinks	100.00
Registration/Conference/Tuition Fees	1,543.00
Rental of Mats, Mops, Rugs, Etc.	332.01
Soc & Rec Events - Picnic, Tournament Etc.	12,164.80
Subscriptions - Cable TV	126.60
Supplies - Office	1,760.47
Telephone	419.69
Travel - Direct Pd Airline, Hotel, Tr Agency	5,604.69
Expense Total	86,403.85
Total	797,204.41

Beginning Balance	785,620.47
Income	97,987.79
Expenses	-86,403.85
Difference	11,583.94
Balance	797,204.41

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	\$644,683.62
Education Fund	\$3,791.70
Recreation Fund	\$1,235.22
Education Committee Fund	\$2,977.15
Recreation Committee Fund	\$661.61
Retired Workers Chapter Fund	\$8,587.09
New Member Orientation Fund	\$1,862.93
Conservation Committee Fund	\$2,804.29
Union Label Committee Fund	\$458.39
Consumer Affairs Committee	\$116.57
Civil and Human Rights Committee Fund	\$1,276.86
Building Fund	\$-34,510.82
Children With Special Needs Fund	\$7,491.73
Telethon Committee Fund	\$6,704.23
Chaplaincy Committee Fund	\$2,338.65
Veterans Committee Fund	\$13,543.82
Women's Committee Fund	\$6,461.65
Solidarity Committee Fund	\$3,272.14
Total of All Funds	\$797,204.41

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

Actual Bank Balance	\$69,115.86
Cash on Hand	\$0.00
Lake Shore Savings Account	\$0.00
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union COD	\$228,309.74
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	\$171,601.20
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	\$85,339.72
Northwest Savings Bank Money Market Account	\$242,734.39
Radius Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$68.50
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$25.00
Water Meter Deposit	\$10.00
Petty Cash Fund	\$0.00
Total Cash Assets	\$797,204.41

INTERNATIONAL UNION STRIKE FUND REPORT FOR MAY 2023

New Worth as of April 20, 2023	\$835,420,388.29
Income for May 2023 (Dues Per Capita Taxes)	\$5,909,102.79
Disbursements for May 2023*	\$2,872,920.54
Net Worth as of May 31, 2023	\$838,456,570.54

*During the month of May 2023 there were four strikes

Congratulations

Newly Retired

April
Kenneth Smith

May
James Farrell
James King
Jeffrey Frasier
Joseph Horvatits

June
Edward Abrams Jr.
Randy Hook
Alan Pittaway

Change of Address

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)

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
with your full name,
Address and phone number.

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 or (716)873-4715 ext 29

Dates for Upcoming 2023 Membership Meetings:



October 15, 2023
November 19, 2023
December 17, 2023



Subject to change

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 _____



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".



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

Update: 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 1.

Upcoming retiree chapter meetings: October 10, 2023; November 14, 2023 and December 12, 2023. There are no Retiree Chapter Meetings during the Months of July, August and September. Dates and times are subject to change.

Summer Picnic:

The Local 774 Retiree Summer Picnic will be held at Joseph's Country Manor and Grove, 275 Columbia Avenue, Depew, NY on Wednesday, July 19, 2023...

UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust:



Retiree Health Care Connect

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.

The UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust is making potentially impacted members aware of an event experienced by our benefits administration provider, NationsBenefits Holdings, LLC ("NationsBenefits").

NationsBenefits is a vendor contracted with the Trust to provide members with over-the-counter benefits (health and medical supplies). On February 7, 2023, NationsBenefits learned that its vendor – Fortra, LLC – suffered a data security incident which resulted in access to or the acquisition of data belonging to NationsBenefits.

NationsBenefits analyzed the impacted data and determined personal information belonging to some of the Trust members was impacted by this incident. NationsBenefits diligently worked with the Trust to identify up-to-date address information to notify impacted individuals. On April 13, 2023,

NationsBenefits started providing notice of this incident to potentially impacted individuals. The notice includes information about the incident and about the steps that potentially impacted individuals can take to protect their information.

NationsBenefits is providing notice to impacted Trust members by mail and including an offer for free credit monitoring together with identity theft assistance and insurance. Also please note that this incident will not affect your Trust health benefits. If you have questions regarding this event, please call NationsBenefits dedicated assistance line at 1-866-313-7993. For those that received a letter, please call the number provided in your letter.

The Trust encourages potentially impacted individuals to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review account statements, and to monitor their credit reports and explanation of benefits forms for suspicious activity. While this security breach did not occur at the Trust, the Trust is working with NationsBenefits to ensure an incident like this does not happen again.

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 the 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.

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.

Temporary Address Change: In addition to keeping your permanent (primary home) address up-to-date, you can provide the Trust with an alternative (temporary) address. The alternative address can be used by retirees who spend time away from their primary home. Adding an alternative address to your file does not change your health care plan or the options available to you. All address changes are effective the first day of the month following notification of the address change.

GM Retiree Important Phone Numbers

UAW Retiree Medical Benefit Trust 1-866-637-7555 (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)

United Health Care Medicare Advantage Plan 1-844-320-5021, TTY 711

(www.retiree.uhc.com/UAWTrust)

Blue Cross/Blue Shield 1-877-832-2827 (www.bcbsm.com)

Optum Rx Prescription Drugs 1-855-409-0219

Delta Dental 1-800-524-0149 (www.deltadental.com)

Davis Vision 1-888-234-5164 (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)

Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 (www.medicare.gov)

UAW Local 774 at 716-873-4715 (website <https://uaw774.com>)

Retiree's Report - Continued on Page 7

*Deceased Active and Retired
Local 774 Members
WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy*

Name		Retired	Deceased
Roger	A	Anderson 07/01/2007	03/01/2023
Clifford	P	Beck 07/01/1998	04/23/2023
George	W	Brubaker 09/01/1990	03/21/2023
Charles	A	Byham 05/01/2005	04/09/2023
Patricia	A	Craig 01/01/2002	04/13/2023
Allan	A	Gibson 03/01/2004	03/18/2023
Matthew	A	Hatten Jr 07/01/2006	03/04/2023
Alan	H	Hebler 07/01/2006	04/13/2023
Richard	J	Juzwiak	03/13/2023
John	H	Kehoe V 12/01/2003	03/31/2023
Annie		Kennedy 01/01/1994	04/10/2023
Willie	J	Lanier 06/01/2001	05/21/2023
Joseph	P	Leone 01/01/1998	05/19/2023
David	A	Pezzino 07/01/1991	05/20/2023
Theodore	A	Powenski 10/01/2005	04/03/2023
Daniel	L	Protzman 04/01/1993	04/10/2023
Michael	A	Quick 07/01/2008	04/07/2023
William	L	Schultz 06/01/1994	04/17/2023
Paul	J	Twaragowski 03/01/2012	04/26/2023
John	J	Was 03/01/2003	05/05/2023
Alvin		Webber 01/01/1997	05/07/2023

UAW Local 774 officers, committees and membership would like to extend their deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the bereaved families and friends of our departed brothers and sisters. They will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by friends and acquaintances at Local 774.



William "Schultzee" Schultz



William "Schultzee" Schultz- retired General Motors employee of 30 years. William Schultz 92, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2023. William met the love of his life, Diane they were married for more than 60 years. William worked for many years at the Wurlitzer Plant, but fearing the uncertainty of the company he decided to leave. In 1963, William started his career at General Motors in Tonawanda. He started on second shift V8, lifting 35lb flywheels, having 10-12 seconds to then put on 3 bolts. He spent from 1963-1981, on 2nd shift. In 1981, William was offered day shift. William worked L-4 line making pistons, and in the last few years of his career repaired the pistons. Retiring in 1993. In his 30 years at General Motors he was given the nickname Big Daddy. Had a big heart and was like a Dad to many. Our family is incredibly proud of him. He was a devoted husband and dedicated Dad and Papa. William enjoyed traveling with his family to Florida every year. Enjoyed camping at Chautauqua Lake, loved gardening, could talk and tell amazing stories to all who would listen. Survived by loving wife Diane for over 60 years, a dedicated Dad to Kelley, father in law to Joe and a loving Papa to Derrik, Phil and Amy Alessi, Briella and Isabella Alessi. We will continue to celebrate his life. Private services will be held for family during this difficult time.

DON'T FORGET
RED SHIRT WEDNESDAY

Wear red to show solidarity with your union Brothers & Sisters!



**HEARING AIDS
KEN-TON HEARING**

UAW INSURANCE NYS WORKERS COMPENSATION

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.



I WANT YOU TO
HEAR WELL
AGAIN!

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

President's Report Continued

Benefit Update

Eligibility for Sickness and Accident Benefits

Waiting Period

Sickness.....	7 Days
Accident.....	None
Outpatient Surgery.....	Day after Surgery
Hospitalization.....	Day of Admission

**You must serve the waiting period and receive 1 day of payment to be considered a certified case. All paperwork must be filled out by a Licensed Physician. Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant not accepted.

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefit Carrier Change

Effective August 1, 2023 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan will be the new carrier for Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder benefits for hourly members. The benefits and coverage will remain the same pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Beacon Health/ Carelon will no longer be the carrier. Please check with your provider to make sure they accept BCBS.

If you have any questions with these benefits or any other benefits, please reach out to your local UBR.



Vice President's Report

Doug Seefeldt
1st Vice President

First I would like to say a long overdue thank you to all my brothers and sisters for their support during the Triennial Election.

I would like to emphasize the importance of voter participation in our voting systems (elections) everywhere. Though sometimes it may not seem it, every vote does count! There have been many elections determined only by a few votes.

I would also like to encourage everyone to read the reports put out by the Union leadership. Especially with summer here there will be a lot of functions for Union members to participate in different events all summer long for example in September there is the labor day Parade and the family UAW local 774 family picnic at the Bison's game.

In the reports and postings, you will find important information about the upcoming contract talks and the necessary preparations that relate to the negotiations.

In Solidarity,

Douglas Seefeldt
1st Vice President



LOCAL 774

**NOTICE
OF
SPECIAL
ELECTION**

**For Executive Board
(Retiree Member at Large)**

Date: October 10, 2023

Time: 1 p.m.-Retiree Meeting

Place: UAW Local 774
Union Hall
2939 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207

The election will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 during the Retiree Meeting. Secret ballot voting will take place at that time. The ballot box will be opened on the same day. The winner will be announced at the end of the meeting.

All retired members in good standing are eligible to vote for Executive Board Retiree Member at large.

**Damone Anthony, Chairperson
Local 774 Election Committee**

Approved for Posting:

Teddy Maldonado, UAW Local 774 President



Civil and Human Rights Committee

Roberto Fuentes Sr.
Chairman

One of today's hottest topics is immigration. Immigrants have been migrating to America for some time now. Here are a few examples.

It is estimated between 1800 and the present over 7,000,000 German speaking immigrants have migrated to the US. The majority of them arrived between 1840 and 1914 with the peak period coming in the early 1880s. In the 19th century many of these immigrants settled in the states of the upper Midwest an area known to this day as America's German belt.

Between 1820 and 2004 approximately 5.5 million Italians migrated from Italy to the United States during the Italian diaspora. In several distinct waves with the greatest number arriving in the 20th century from southern Italy. Following Italian unification the Kingdom of Italy initially encouraged immigration to relieve economic pressure in southern Italy after the American Civil War which resulted in over a half million killed and wounded immigrant workers were recruited from Italy and elsewhere to fill labor shortages caused by the war.

Between 1851 and 1923 3 to 3.7 million Irish immigrated to the United States including more than 90% of the more than 1,000,000 Ulster Protestant immigrants out of Ireland from 1851 to 1900. Many Irish men followed the expansion of railroads and ended up settling in places that they built in since the Irish were a large part of those Americans moving West much of their culture can still be found today.

Immigrants from Russia entered the United States at both coast starting in the late 1800s. Nearly 3 million Russians entered during the first wave of open immigration that began in the late 19th century and continued into the early 20th century.

Facing poverty and starvation farmers and peasants from across the empire sought a brighter future overseas and millions set sail for the United States. New York State leads the nation in the number of Russian Americans about 1.6 million reside in New York tri-state area about 600,000 reside in the city of New York representing 8% of the population.

As you can see immigrants coming to America to seek a better future for themselves and their family is nothing new. I'm sure some of you have been told stories by family members of how they travel to this country to seek a better life here than where they came from.



Conservation & Environment Committee

Doug Seefeldt
Chairman

I would like to thank all of those who attended this year's "Adopt-A-Highway" cleanup on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Even though this year's turnout was lighter than normal, we got the job done. Your hard work pays off for our environment and community.

Like last year we did have a tick sighting, I would encourage everyone to try to take precautions while in grassy and weedy areas, and to carefully check yourselves as soon as possible wearing light colors helps to spot anything on you. Or have a tick buddy to check you for ticks.

I would also like to encourage everyone to utilize the can and bottle collections throughout the plant. New York State collects approximately a million dollars of unclaimed deposits every year.



In Solidarity,

Douglas Seefeldt
Conservation and Environment Committee Chairman

What Exactly Is A Union?

A union is nothing more complicated than a group of workers who have banded together to promote their common interests. One person standing alone may be weak, but all of us joined together have strength.

The union speaks with one voice on behalf of all of the employees in what is known as the "bargaining unit." This means the employer loses the powerful advantage of dealing only with individuals, one-on-one, with every worker subject to the employer's whim. With union representation in place, the employer has to reckon with all of us, united in the union as the collective voice of all of the workers.

TEAM WEST HERR NEW YORK



PROUD SPONSOR OF ALL 18 HOLES
AT THE 3RD ANNUAL

UAW LOCAL 774 GOLF TOURNAMENT

**39 DEALERSHIPS | 3200+ USED VEHICLES
SERVING BUFFALO, ROCHESTER & SYRACUSE**

westherr.com





National CAP Report

Wence Valentin III
Region 9 National CAP/Retiree
Representative

Brothers and sisters,

At the conclusion of my second term as President of UAW Local 774 I have accepted the position of the Community Action Program (CAP) and Retiree Representative with UAW Region 9. As I begin my new career path, I want to thank all of you for your support and solidarity throughout the years. Twenty-three years ago, I proudly became a member of UAW Local 774 and for the past 15 years, I have been privileged to serve our membership in elected positions as President, Vice President, Delegate, Chairperson of Trustees, Executive Board Member at Large and Election Committee Chairperson. I will continue to be a dues paying member to UAW Local 774 as UAW Local 774 will forever be my home. I would ask you show your local union elected representatives the same support you have shown me over the years, I believe wholeheartedly that our Local is in great hands under the leadership of these dedicated Brothers and Sisters. I would like to thank UAW Region 9 Director Dan Vicente and assistant Director Ray Jensen Jr. for this opportunity.

As the UAW Region 9 National CAP Representative I will educate members, both active and retired, on political issues that influence them and their families. CAP additionally registers members to vote and emboldens the election of politicians who stand with working Americans. My role will include navigating the political landscape to support union endeavors with pro-union legislation. As the UAW Region 9 National Retiree Representative I will be assisting our retired members who don't have local Benefits Representatives with apportioning and acquiring benefit information and work with all Retirees to honor the past they created and to protect the future. We ask a lot of our Retirees: to be politically involved, active in their communities, mentor younger workers, and be their sisters' and brothers' keepers.

I will continue to work toward our mutual goals for the membership of UAW Region 9. Being united in solidarity is what makes the difference. In the words of our union's greatest leader, Walter Reuther, "There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow man. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. there is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well"

I have enjoyed my time here, and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with all of you.

Thank you for the support, guidance, and encouragement you have provided me throughout the years, during my time at Local 774. I have made many acquaintances, friendships, and lifetime bonds.

Even though I will miss my colleagues, I am looking forward to this new challenge and to starting a new phase of my career.

Please keep in touch my email is wvalentin@uaw.net

Thanks again for everything. I wish you all the best.

In Solidarity,

Wence Valentin III



Assistant Director's Message

Ray Jensen
Region 9 Assistant Director

April 15th was definitely bittersweet being my last official day at Tonawanda Engine Plant. I would like to thank everyone for their amazing support and encouragement. It means so much to me as do all of you. I had a surprise visit from Kim A Wittcop Jr. and Heather Bielak to congratulate me and wish me well. Thank you for the card and Amazon gift card.

Their dedication to the membership and knowledge of the United Auto Workers General Motors language is a testament to who they are. I have been fortunate enough to be represented by both of them to handle several grievances which always resulted in a positive outcome. Good luck in your upcoming elections, the membership is definitely fortunate to have you fighting for them day in and day out.

Since being in office we've been throughout Region 9 on picket lines and organizing drives, round table discussions, rallies, parades, Day of Caring events, having boots on the ground and being visible to all active and retired members of the Region.

In Solidarity,
Ray Jensen
Region 9 Assistant Director



Recreation Committee

Jonathan Chase
Chairman

UAW Local 774, 2023 Family Picnic (Day out With the Bisons)

This year's picnic will be held at Sahlen Field Sunday, September 10, 2023. (1:05 Game). Seats are at the outdoor patio right field. The price for tickets are as follows Adults are \$40.00 each, and Children 4 to 14 years old are \$25.00 each (Children 3 and under are free)

The Gates open at 12:00 pm. Drinks will be available from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm (Beer, Wine, & Pop) the Food is served from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Tickets will be available at the Union Hall from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm beginning Wednesday, July 5th, 2023

(August 15th through 18th, the hall will be open from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm).

The final day for purchasing tickets is Friday, August 18th

Please No checks, credit cards, or money orders are accepted for payment. CASH ONLY!

In Solidarity,
Jonathan Chase
Chairman Recreation Committee



Citizenship and Legislative Report

Jose Colon Jr.
Chairman

Region 9 and 9A CAP Lobbying in Albany

On May 2, 2023, Region 9 and 9A CAP Chairman Jose Colon and Co-Chairman Larry Boltz from UAW 774 joined the CAP Committee and went to Albany New York for the Bill, One Week Unemployment Insurance Striking Workers. [Wallace A.1443/Kennedy S 4402]. We received the MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT of the Bill and is now moving forward to the desk of Kathy Hochul for the final signature to make it a law. By decreasing the suspension period from two (2) weeks to one (1) week, workers will have the financial security they need to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads while exercising their legally protected right to strike for the wages, benefits, and working conditions they deserve.

In Solidarity,

Jose Colon Jr
Citizenship & Legislative Committee Chairman



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 *includes soda & cleanup

Deposit . . . \$200.00

*Proceeds from hall rentals go into the Kitchen Improvement Fund

Teddy Maldonado
President
UAW Local 774
tmaldonado@uaw774.com
Ext. 12

John Orsini
Financial Secretary/Treasurer
UAW Local 774
jorsini@uaw774.com
Ext. 20



JOINT TRAINING CENTER CLASSES



Essential Skills Defensive Driving

Defensive Driving Course

Drivers who complete Empire Safety Council's 6-hour Defensive Driving Course save **10%** on their liability, personal injury protection, and collision insurance for **THREE YEARS** and may reduce up to **FOUR** points on their driving record. Course completion is transmitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles and recorded on each students driving record.

Adventure into traffic safety awareness!

Course entails student participation, with an informative workbook, and three safety education films. No formal testing.

Tuition - \$30.00 for GM Employees/Retirees \$35 for non GM Employees/Retirees

Class Dates available: 10am-4pm

September 16, 2023
October 7, 2023
November 4, 2023
December 9, 2023

Call Ken for more information
(716) 861-4896



Benefits Update

Tim McInnis & Jose Colon
Benefit Representatives

Eligibility for Sickness and Accident Benefit

Waiting Period

1. Sickness.....7 Days
2. Accident.....None
3. Outpatient Surgery.....Day after Surgery
4. Hospitalization.....Day of Admission

**You must serve the waiting period and receive 1 day of payment to be considered a certified case. All paperwork must be filled out by a Licensed Physician. Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant not accepted.

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefit Carrier Change

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If you have any questions with these benefits or any other benefits, please reach out to your local UBR.

Tim McInnis 873-4715 x13
Jose Colon 873-4715 x17



Veterans Report



Teddy Maldonado
Chairman

In the January - March Issue of the Labor News and Report I talked about how to spot and get help for veterans who may be in crisis. This issue I would like to highlight on the statistics of Veteran Suicide and how to spot someone who may be reaching out for help through social media.

The 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report analyzes Veteran suicide data from 2001 through 2020 and contains a widespread set of data about Veteran suicide mortality to date. The highlighted findings were:

In 2020, there were 6,146 Veteran suicide deaths, which was 343 fewer than in 2019. The unadjusted rate of suicide in 2020 among U.S. Veterans was 31.7 per 100,000.

Among non-Veteran U.S. adults, age- and sex-adjusted suicide rates also peaked in 2018 and fell in 2019 and 2020. From 2018 to 2020, age- and sex-adjusted suicide rates for non-Veteran adults fell by 5.5%.

Even though the rates have gone down there are still improvements to be made.

An issue from the Bob Woodruff Foundation (BWF) Stand SMART for Heroes series states that

The majority of individuals who die by suicide do not report suicidal thoughts during their medical appointments. Research also shows that less than 10% of individuals who die by suicide post explicitly about suicide on social media. Some individuals thinking about suicide may post thoughts of suicide, or emotional distress through their Social media networks.

According to the University of Utah, research portrayed in BWF Stand SMART for Heroes, Veterans who died by suicide were more likely to:

- Post about stressful events and then immediately talk about emotional distress and negative thoughts.
- Talk about alcohol consumption or post pictures involving alcoholic beverages.
- Post content that rapidly switched back and forth between positive emotional content and negative emotional content.
- Post pictures of personal firearms but not of friends and pets

How to Recognize and Respond to Emotional Distress on Social Media The following example language includes signs of emotional distress:

- Hopelessness: "Nothing I do makes a bit of a difference. It's beyond my control."
- Direct statements about suicide: "I'm having thoughts of suicide." "I'm thinking about hurting myself."
- Feeling trapped: "I can't see any way out of this mess. Life will never get better."

- Feeling like a burden: "They'd be better off without me." "I'd be better off dead."
- Lack of belonging: "No one cares. I just don't fit in anywhere."
- Guilt: "It's all my fault. I'm to blame."
- Saying goodbye or desire to escape: "I just wanted to tell everyone thank you for all you've done, but I just can't take this anymore."
- Feeling alone: "I'm on my own. No one cares about me"

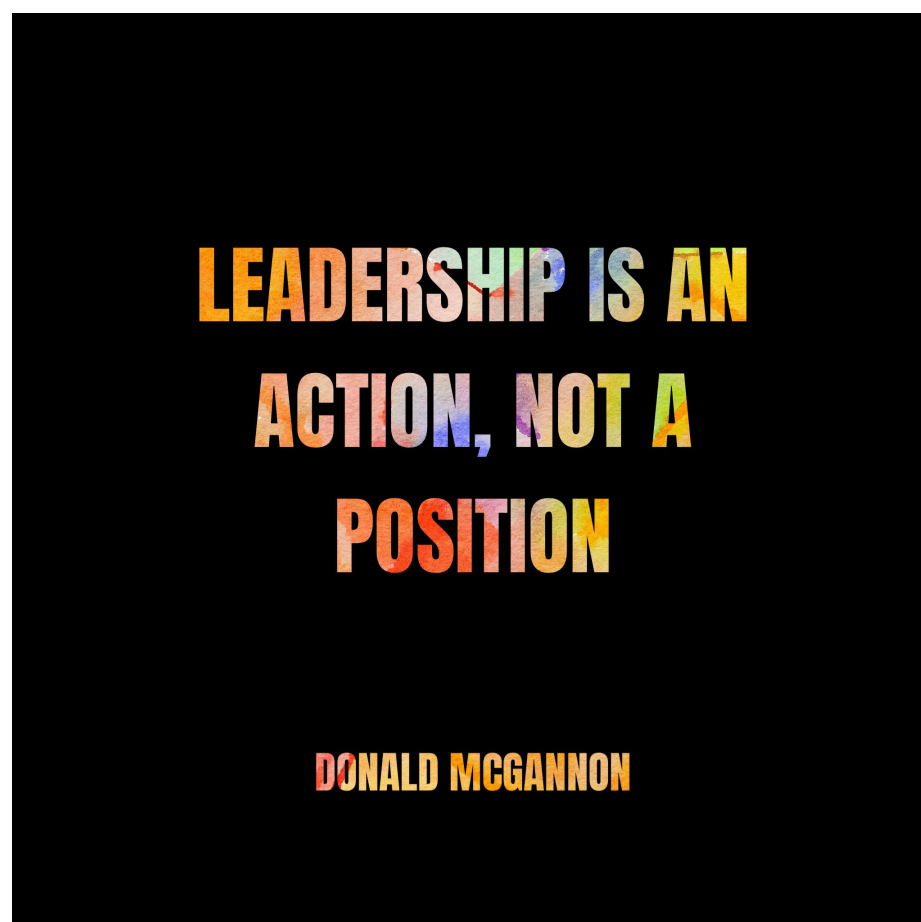
Veteran suicide prevention is VA's highest clinical priority, and they can't do it alone. Suicide is preventable and everyone can save lives, just by paying attention to your family, friends, and coworkers' postings on social media.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention. It's available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat), or text 838255. Also by calling or texting 988 then Press 1. Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available to all Veterans and non-Veterans.

In Solidarity,

Teddy Maldonado
Chairperson, Veterans Committee

VA. US Department of Veteran s Affairs. (2023) VA's Social Media Safety Toolkit Accessed 7 July 2023, <https://www.va.gov>



Retiree's Report - Continued

Social Security & Medicare

President Joe Biden's complete budget proposal for fiscal 2024 tackles two of the most pressing issues for current and future retirees: lowering prescription drug prices and adding 25 years to the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund; it pays for it by asking those with annual income above \$400,000 to pay a little more into Medicare. The plan lowers out-of-pocket costs for seniors who need high-cost drugs by expanding the Medicare price negotiation that was introduced in the Inflation Reduction Act. Capping older Americans' generic drug costs for chronic conditions at \$2 will also help seniors pay for necessities like food, housing and energy. The budget calls for a 10% increase — \$1.4 billion — over the 2023 enacted level for the Social Security Administration (SSA) to invest in staff, information technology, and other improvements. The funds would improve customer service at SSA field offices, state disability determination services, and teleservice centers. In addition, the plan invests \$150 billion over 10 years to improve and expand Medicaid home and community-based services, such as personal care services, to allow seniors and individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes and stay active in their communities while improving the quality of jobs for home care workers. Even with those much-needed investments, the budget will reduce the deficit by nearly \$3 trillion over 10 years.

Social Security and Medicare are Still in Congressional Crosshairs

House Republicans have multiple road maps for budget cuts, just as the high-stakes battle over the nation's debt limit intensifies. Some lawmakers are still considering Social Security and Medicare cuts, including a group of approximately a dozen Senators who hope to recreate a bipartisan deal. Adding to the concerns was Sen. Joe Manchin's (D-WV) televised comment that there might be a better program to consider for future beneficiaries. Many members of Congress continue to insist that plans to cut Social Security and Medicare are off the table, but others are talking about plans that will slash benefits now or in the future.

Social Security and Other Government Scams

In 2022, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received over 191,000 complaints of government imposter scams. Of those, 14.6% said they lost money to a scammer - a total of \$508.96 million. To prevent further losses, experts advise using caution when receiving calls or messages from someone claiming to be from a government agency. Scammers often pretend to be from an agency or organization you know to gain your trust. Other tactics include saying there is a problem or a prize; pressuring you to act immediately; or telling you to pay in a specific way. Social Security will never threaten arrest or legal action if you do not immediately send money to resolve an overpayment you supposedly received in error. Also, SSA officials will never promise to increase benefits or resolve identity theft issues for a fee or by moving money into a protected account require payment with a retail gift card or wire transfer, or tell you to mail cash. The SSA has a specific page that allows the public to report scams.

Medicare Trust Funds

The Medicare Trustees released their annual report on the financial status of Medicare's trust funds, projecting that the Hospital Insurance (HI) trust fund will be partially depleted and able to pay only 89% of benefits in 2031. This projected date is three years later than in last year's report. To explain this improvement, the Trustees flagged lower-than-expected costs and higher-than-expected revenues. As its name suggests, the HI trust fund helps pay for inpatient hospital care for people with Medicare. In addition, the HI fund helps cover hospice, skilled nursing facility care, and home health services that follow a qualifying hospital stay. The HI trust fund is financed primarily by payroll taxes, which means that changes in the number of workers and their average wages change the revenues. For 2022, the economy recovered from several COVID-19 workforce challenges more quickly than the Trustees expected. Their projections for HI payroll tax income increased 16.6% over 2021 because of those higher employment and wage rates. HI expenses were lower than expected because the COVID-19 pandemic made accurate projections impossible. The previous report assumed there would be a sharp uptick in services due to pent-up demand during the pandemic, but such an uptick did not occur. Despite these improvements, Medicare Advantage overpayment continues to play a role in driving up Medicare spending and depleting the HI trust fund. The report also addresses the Supplemental Medical Insurance (SMI) trust fund, which covers Part B and some of Part D. The SMI trust fund is financed through a combination of premiums

and general revenue amounts that change each year to account for projected spending. This means the SMI trust fund does not have the same funding pressure as the HI trust fund despite being responsible for more Medicare spending. Importantly, the Trustees project that the Inflation Reduction Act's prescription drug changes will curtail some SMI spending for Part B and Part D and offset costs of the law's Part D redesign. They note their long-range expenditure projections are lower in the current report largely due to the projected impact of drug price negotiations and other price growth constraints included in the provisions of the IRA. The Trustees are careful to point out the uncertainties surrounding all Medicare projections. The 3-year extension of the trust fund compared to last year's report shows that their estimates of spending and revenue are indeed just estimates. Looking ahead, COVID-19, potential economic changes, and health inflation could all play major roles in Medicare financing.

Study Finds Older Adults Skipping Medication Due to Cost

A recently released study found that in 2022, over 20% of adults 65 and older experienced cost-related medication nonadherence, meaning they decided not to fill a prescription, skipped doses, took less medicine, delayed filling a prescription, or used someone else's medication due to cost. Just over half of the study respondents said that they used some strategy to help them afford their medications. Rising prices for prescription drugs and other consumer goods has left many older adults with less ability to afford their living and medical expenses. Unsurprisingly, cost-related medication nonadherence was most common for people who reported they had too little or just enough income to meet basic expenses. Those who did not adhere to their medication use were also more likely to be in fair or poor health, to be taking 6 or more medications, and to have 6 or more chronic conditions. To manage the costs of medication, some study respondents used shopping, coupons, or asking physicians for samples or lower-cost prescriptions. Troublingly, 8.5% reported going without basic needs, and 4.8% reported borrowing money or going into debt. Help is on the horizon. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) will extend low-income assistance for prescriptions to people with income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. It will also limit Medicare Part D out-of-pocket spending to around \$3,000-3,500 in 2024 (the exact dollar figure is not yet determined), with a permanent cap of \$2,000 starting in 2025. Also in 2025, beneficiaries will be able to opt into a program to pay deductible and copay costs in monthly amounts spread over the whole year rather than all at once, a feature known as "smoothing." The IRA's drug price negotiation program will begin in 2026, and the penalties for manufacturers who increase drug prices beyond the rate of inflation are already underway. Combined, these changes will eventually greatly help many people with Medicare. In the meantime, if you are having trouble affording your health care or other basic needs, Medicare Rights recommends contacting your local Area Agency on Aging and State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), as well as using online tools like Benefits Checkup, to see if you or a loved one are eligible for assistance programs in your area. Eligibility rules and access vary by state and community, so we advise people to check even if they believe they will not qualify.

Millions of Insured Older Americans Face Unpaid Medical Bills

Medical debt for older Americans with health insurance is on the rise: new research published by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Office for Older Americans found that while 98% of people over the age of 65 have health insurance through enrollment in programs like Medicare, many are still swamped with unpaid bills for medical care. Nearly four million older adults could not pay their medical bills in full in 2020, the latest year that data is available, per the report. Over two-thirds of those with unpaid bills had coverage from more than one source, such as Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, Medigap, employer-based coverage, or Tricare, the overall military health plan. The average amount in unpaid medical bills reported by older adults in that period was \$13,800, up 20% from \$11,700 in 2019. That translates to an increase in unpaid medical bills among older adults from \$44.8 billion in 2019 to \$53.8 billion in 2020. The most common causes are out-of-network charges, deductibles and other cost-sharing fees, services that are not covered by Medicare, in addition to frequent and complex medical care, and limited income, according to the researchers. However, the biggest reason for falling behind is medical billing errors. "Older adults are more likely to have complicated health needs, which require a great deal of documentation. This can lead to delays in payment, errors in who is billed, and providers seeking inappropriate reimbursement. Whenever possible, patient advocates advise working with your health care providers to make sure a procedure is covered before you receive the care.



Women's Committee Report

Heather Grimmer
Chairperson

Hello sisters and brothers. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer.

This past April we held our first annual Easter Egg Hunt at the hall. We had a bigger turn out than we expected and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

I know our Easter bunny had a fun time taking pictures and dancing with the kids and when he wasn't busy with that he led them upstairs to the egg hunt. When the hunt was done the kids came down stairs to decorate eggs and cookies, and of course refuel on some pizza and snacks.

There was also a basket raffle which I believe the kids had more fun than the adults. We would also like to thank everyone again for their donations and their time. It was and greatly appreciated, we were definitely blown away by it. We could not have done it with you. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.



In the month of July we celebrate the Anniversary of the First Women's Rights Conference. July 19-20, 1848 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott spearheaded the first women's right convention in American History.

Over 300 women and men came to Seneca Falls, New York to protest the mistreatment of women in social, economic, political and religious life.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an American writer, activist and abolitionist. She was the primary author of its Declaration of Sentiments, 68 women and 32 men signed it. Lucretia Mott was also an activist, abolitionist and an American Quaker.



National Women's Advisory Council

Stacie J. McKernan
Region 9 NWAC Representative

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am presently a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) WNY Chapter. Since 2019, we've struggled with membership and participation. We decided to continue with the local chapter and try to improve it and keep it viable.

Our UAW Women's Dept., under the direction of our International Secretary/Treasurer, Margaret Mock, is helping to reinvigorate CLUW support. We are encouraging members to join a CLUW Chapter in their area, and promote CLUW's National Convention, in November, 2023. This information and more can be found on their website www.cluw.org.

We have so much to do as women. Men are always welcome to join. It is great to get their perspective, input and help. If you need more information, please reach out to me. I have local and national dues forms available at the hall.

In Solidarity,

Stacie J McKernan

UAW Local 774 Recording Secretary
Region 9 NWAC Rep.

WNY CLUW Recording Secretary
Phone: 716-873-4715 Ext. 22





Financial Secretary/ Treasurer Report

John Orsini
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Brothers and sisters, I would first like to thank the entire membership, active and retired, that came out to vote back in May. I am truly grateful for the support in electing me your Financial Secretary/Treasurer (FS/T) of UAW Local 774. I know coming into this position I have a lot of learning to do and the bar has been set by our outgoing FS/T, Cleveland Jones Jr. I would like to personally thank Cleveland for everything he has done, taught and brought our local finances to new heights. My promise to everyone is to continue the success of our union's financial health on the local level and when it's time to leave the position better than I found it.

This September, as everyone knows is the end of our 2019 year contract. It is hard to believe that four years has past and we are faced with another showdown with management as we fight for our fair share. Every member should realize the duty as a UAW member to be ready for whatever gets thrown our way. Each person should have already been saving money and making sure that their family can weather a possible long drawn out negotiation period.

Below is a Frequently asked questions as posted on UAW.ORG.

What is a strike?

A strike happens when workers collectively decide to withhold their labor, after authorization from the International. In the UAW, strikes are governed by the UAW Constitution, including Articles 12, 16 and 50.

How much is UAW Strike Assistance and how often is it paid?

Weekly strike assistance is \$500 per week (\$100 per day, Mon-Fri). Strike assistance pay is available after the 8th day of the strike. A bonus check is paid the week prior to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

For each day's pay from the employer missed due to the strike (Monday through Friday), an eligible member shall receive one day's Strike Assistance at the prorated daily amount.

What medical benefits are covered?

The UAW Strike and Defense Fund covers certain benefits such as medical and prescription drugs. Benefits not covered include: dental, vision, hearing and sick and accident.

These benefits are either paid directly by the Fund according to the company's current plan or by having the Strike and Defense Fund make COBRA payments to the company plan.

Who is eligible for strike benefits?

To be eligible for strike pay and benefits, members must be:

In good standing (current on dues and initiation fees, if any) on the day before the strike starts

On active pay roll at start of strike: members laid off, on workers compensation or receiving sick and accident benefits are not eligible

Member must participate in the strike: picket assignments, strike committee, etc.

Eligible members include temporary employees as well as

anyone who is current in their union security obligations such as fee payers or objectors.

Are probationary employees and new hires entitled to strike assistance?

Probationary and new hires may become eligible for strike benefits if they join the Union and pay the initiation fee and dues prior to the strike taking place. In the event a worker has completed an application for membership and paid dues, he/she would be considered a member in good standing and would be entitled to strike assistance

Are temporary employees entitled to strike assistance?

All dues paying members, including temporary members, are eligible for strike assistance.

How do I apply for strike benefits?

You must register and make application for strike benefits on the day and time assigned to you by your local union.

If I get another job, can I still receive strike assistance?

Members must continue to participate in the strike to receive strike assistance. If members receive gross pay from outside work that is equal to or greater than \$400, then the member will not receive weekly benefits but will continue to receive medical and prescription drug assistance.

Can I collect unemployment insurance while on strike?

The law varies by state, but in many states participation in a strike will disqualify a worker from eligibility for unemployment insurance. New York State does qualify for unemployment due to a strike after 2 weeks. Our benefits representatives are actively looking into how we qualify and what we need to do to protect our members.

My wages are garnished for child support. Will that happen with strike pay?

If the UAW receives a court order, we will garnish the strike assistance.

Can the strike pay be mailed to me?

No, members must pick up their own benefit on the assigned date from their local union with ID.

Are strike benefits taxable?

Yes. After \$600 in a given year, the UAW will issue an IRS Form 1099-MISC.

What happens if I cross a picket line?

All strike benefits cease immediately and appropriate action may be taken under the UAW Constitution.

Do I owe union dues on strike benefits?

No.

Have a great rest of your summer. Nobody wants to go on strike but the reality is we need to be prepared if that day does come again.

In solidarity,

John Orsini



ATTENTION! UAW Legal Services

NEW Address

10535 Main St. Clarence, NY 14031

(716)632-1644

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



**Don Cialone Jr.,
Communications
Director**

For those of you not aware Amy Kloc has moved on to a new roll as Communications Director at Region 9 and I am replacing her as Communications Director for UAW Local 774.

I'd like to thank her for her patience and professionalism in helping me roll out my first issue.

My roll includes putting together the Labor News & Reports newspaper mailed to your homes and updating the UAW Local 774's website and Facebook page.

I'm looking forward to bringing all the latest news and information to my Union brothers and sisters.

If you have any questions, relevant information or news to pass on to the membership you can contact me at the Union Hall at 716-873-4715 ext. 29 or via email at dcialone@uaw774.com.



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 the entitled benefits. Thomas Burnham can be reached at:

Phone: 716 849 1300
E-mail: tburnham@lgsc.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 1315
E-mail: ktwilliams@lgsc.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 health care & 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 non-union, 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. 485
E-mail: mmaiorana@lgsc.com

ALERT FOR MEMBERS OF UAW 774 REGARDING

Workers' Compensation

Non-Schedule Loss of Use Awards

Workers who permanently lose the function of certain body parts, as a result of an on-the-job injury, may be eligible for compensation.

In some instances, the compensation is known as a Schedule Loss of Use award. An SLU award is a cash benefit paid to injured workers, as compensation for loss of earning power, due to permanent impairment of the extremities and other certain body parts.

Workers who have suffered an on-the-job injury that's resulted in a permanent partial disability or permanent total disability to a body part that is not eligible for an SLU award, may be eligible for compensation known as a non-schedule award.

Injuries Eligible for a Non-Schedule Award: An injured worker who has suffered a permanent partial disability or permanent total disability to any of the following parts of the body, may be eligible for a non-schedule award:

- Neck
- Back
- Pelvis
- Lungs
- Heart
- Head/Brain

Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI): It is up to an injured worker's doctor to determine when an injury has reached maximum medical improvement (MMI). When a health care provider states that an injured worker has reached MMI, the health care provider must submit a medical report to the Workers Compensation Board. This medical report (C-4.3) requests a great deal of additional information than required for an SLU award.

Criteria for Non-Schedule Awards: To be eligible for an award, an injured worker must have a permanent medical impairment that qualifies for non-schedule use compensation and have reached maximum medical improvement (MMI). Physicians are required to conduct an impairment evaluation as well as a functional evaluation.

Non-Schedule Award Amounts: Loss of wage earning capacity is based on three factors:

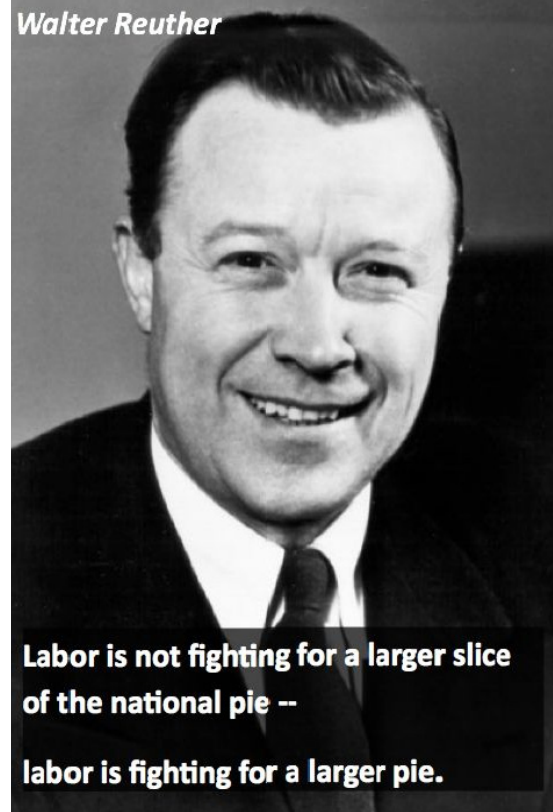
1. Medical impairment;
2. Functional ability/loss;
3. Non-medical/vocational factors.

Benefits are payable for a maximum number of weeks as determined by an injury worker's loss of wage-earning capacity. The maximum number of weeks are as follows:

- 525 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 95%
- 500 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 90% through 95%
- 475 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 85% through 90%
- 450 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 80% through 85%
- 425 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 75% through 80%
- 400 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 70% through 75%
- 375 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 60% through 70%
- 350 weeks for loss of wage coming capacity of greater than 50% through 60%
- 300 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 40% through 50%
- 275 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of greater than 30% through 40%
- 250 weeks for loss of wage coming capacity of greater than 15% through 30%
- 225 weeks for loss of wage earning capacity of 15% or less.

Advertisements

If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact Don Cialone at (716)873-4715 ext 29 dcialone@uaw774.com



Walter Reuther

**Labor is not fighting for a larger slice of the national pie --
labor is fighting for a larger pie.**



UAW Local 774 Shop Chairman's Report

Shop Chairman-Mike Grimmer

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone enjoyed their 4th of July Holiday weekend with family and friends. It is hard to believe that we are already in the middle of July already as time seems to fly by. There have been a lot of changes to the Gen 5 Assembly Line over the holiday weekend and some of the projects are still being completed. Please be careful when working near these areas.

2023 Local Agreement Resolution Special Meeting

On Sunday July 9th at the Union Hall, we conducted a special meeting for the membership to review and approve the submitted resolutions for our upcoming Local Negotiations. This was a very important meeting in which the membership discussed and voted on the proposed changes that were submitted over the last couple weeks. The membership decided what direction we will be working towards on many topics that were presented to the Shop Committee. There have been several resolutions that would change the way we currently do things in the plant including overtime equalization charging of hours, job selection on overtime, and vacation selection to name a few. **The membership is the highest authority in the UAW, and we ONLY negotiate what the membership directs us to during Local Negotiations with the submitting of resolutions and approving them. The members that attended this meeting determined what we negotiate towards at the bargaining table this fall, not the Shop Committee.**

Production Schedule

The most recent production schedule that was presented by management has the Assembly Line working one shift on Saturdays for the next 4 weeks and 2 shifts working on Saturdays the rest of the 16-week schedule through October. If this holds true, that will mean heavy overtime across every department at the plant to support the assembly line. This is all subject to change based on parts availability, which has been an issue for the last few years at Tonawanda and all automotive manufacturing.

2023 National Negotiations

National Negotiations between the UAW and the Big 3 Detroit automakers has begun this July for their respective National Agreements that are set to expire this September. This includes our employer General Motors. The International UAW

has NOT selected the target company to be the lead for negotiations yet. They will announce this decision by the International UAW Executive Board later this summer. Once that determination is made it will be well communicated. Once the lead company is selected, that agreement will be the first one completed and sent for ratification to the membership. Once the agreement is ratified by the membership for the lead company, that agreement will be used as the pattern to set the standard for the other 2 companies National Agreements. The consistent message from our International UAW has been that all active members should prepare for the possibility of a strike by saving some money. Hopefully we will not have to strike but we need to be prepared if that is necessary to achieve the improvements that we all deserve.

GM has been highly profitable for well over a decade, and it is long overdue for us the employees that build these products to regain what was lost in the bankruptcy long ago. Through attending the Constitutional Convention, the Bargaining Convention, and several UAW/GM National Subcouncil Meetings, the message has been very clear and steady. The message has been that we need the following improvements: 1. The elimination of all language that creates tiers of wages and benefits for members with different seniority dates that divides us. 2. We need Cost of Living (COLA) restored to protect us from the high inflation rates that reduced our standard of living over the years. 3. We need a substantial raise at ratification and steady raises throughout the contract. 4. We need to protect and increase the pension plan for current and future retirees alike. 5. Job security through investments into our plants with future programs to create and retain jobs for the membership.

I am happy to say that for the first time in many years, I am excited that our elected International UAW leadership is pushing for this strong agenda. For too many years we haven't seen this type of assertive leadership going into National Negotiations and it is refreshing. We are all counting on the National Bargaining Team to deliver a great contract for the first time in decades.

Benefits Update

Our UAW Local 774 Benefits Reps wanted to update our members on the following information as they have been getting a lot of questions about these topics. Please

call 716-879-5465 to reach Tim McGinnis or Jose Colon with any Benefits questions.

Eligibility for Sickness and Accident Benefits

Waiting Period

Sickness.....7 Days
Accident.....None
Outpatient Surgery.....Day after Surgery
Hospitalization.....Day of Admission

**You must serve the waiting period and receive 1 day of payment to be considered a certified case. All paperwork must be filled out by a Licensed Physician. Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant not accepted.

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefit Carrier Change

Effective August 1, 2023 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan will be the new carrier for Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder benefits for hourly members. The benefits and coverage will remain the same pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Beacon Health/ Carelton will no longer be the carrier. Please check with your provider to make sure they accept BCBS.

If you have any questions with these benefits or any other benefits, please reach out to your UAW Local 774 Benefits Representative.

In closing, I want the membership to know that your local leadership has the full support of UAW Region 9 and the International UAW in our goal of getting new work awarded to our plant. We have had multiple calls and meetings with the staff, and we are promoting the great work we do here every opportunity we have available to us. I know that there is high anxiety on the shop floor as we watch all the new work being awarded to other plants and nothing new being announced for Tonawanda. Tonawanda has been down before, but we are far from out of the game, and we will rise again and succeed. We just need to keep building quality engines like we have been doing for over 80 years now and we will be rewarded. I am confident that we will continue to be part of GM's future vision for many years to come.

In Solidarity,

Mike Grimmer

Thank You

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