

# Labor News & Report

## UAW LOCAL 774



2939 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207

**BUY UNION**  
**BUY AMERICAN**



July - September 2023

Volume 35 Issue 3



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

“Teamwork in the Leadership, Solidarity in the Ranks”



[WWW.UAW774.COM](http://WWW.UAW774.COM)

### Table of Contents

**President's Report**  
Teddy Maldonado.....Page 2

**Shop Chairman's Report**  
Mike Grimmer.....Page 3

**Financial Secretary & Treasurer's Report**  
John Orsini.....Page 4

**Recording's Secretary's Report**  
Stacie J. McKernan.....Page 5

**Financial Report**  
John Orsini.....Page 5

**Retiree's Report**  
.....Pages 6 & 7

**Vice President's Report**  
Doug Seefeldt.....Page 8

**Communication's Director**  
Don Cialone Jr.....Page 8

**Medical Staff Report**  
Gina Moell RN.....Page 9

**Benefits Update**  
Tim Mc Innis & Jose C. Colon Jr.....Page 9

**774 Around Town Photos**  
Don Cialone Jr., Amy Kloc, P.J. Lemme.....Pages 10 & 11

**Civil & Human Rights Report**  
Roberto Fuentes Sr.....Page 12

**Citizens & Legislative Report**  
Larry Boltz.....Page 13

**Veterans Report**  
Teddy Maldonado.....Page 14

**Woman's Committee Report**  
Heather Grimmer.....Page 16

### Solidarity Rally

On Wednesday September 20th we held a Solidarity Rally supporting the Big 3 striking workers across the states. We would like to thank all UAW Members, Politicians, many Labor Unions, and President Peter DeJesus of WNY Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO who took the time out of their busy schedule to come out and show their support in the fight against corporate greed! In the upcoming week(s) ahead, we all need to keep our patience and trust the process.



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT # 1156  
BUFFALO, N.Y. 14207

LOCAL 774 UAW  
2939 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207





# UAW Local 774 President's Report

President Teddy Maldonado

## Thank You

We held a Solidarity Rally on September 20, 2023, supporting the Big 3 striking workers across the states. I want to thank all UAW Members, politicians, Labor Unions, and President Peter DeJesus of the WNY Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO who took the time out of their busy schedule to come out and show their support in the fight against corporate greed!

To name a few in attendance:

- UAW Local 686
- UAW Local 897
- CWA Local 1133
- CWA Local 1168
- IATSE Local 10
- Teamsters Local 264
- WNY CWA Retirees
- WNY Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
- Buffalo Central Labor Council AFL-CIO
- Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz
- Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria Attorneys At Law
- Representative Brian Higgins
- Assemblyman Patrick B. Burke
- Brian Nowak for Cheektowaga Supervisor
- Assemblywoman Karen McMahan
- And so many others.

In the upcoming week(s) ahead, we all need to keep our patience and trust the process. We will get through this together!

## Variety Kids Telethon

We will be hosting two events to benefit the Variety Kids Telethon. All proceeds of these events will go directly to the Variety Kid's Telethon.

## Meat Raffle

Save the date for the Meat Raffle on February 3, 2024, at the Woodlawn Fire Company in Blasdell, New York.

## 4th Annual UAW Local 774 Golf Tournament

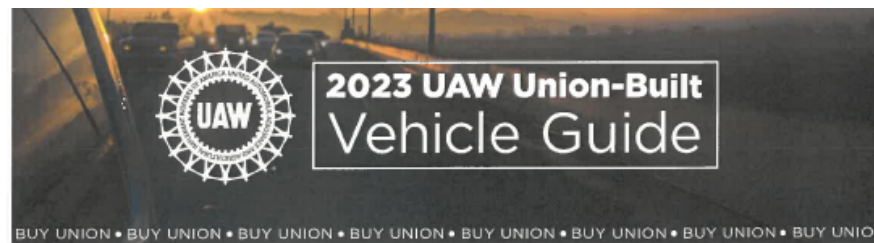
We are having our 4th Annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 8:00 am at Chestnut Hill Golf Course in Darien Center, NY. The cost is \$125.00/person, due at sign-up. Forms are available at the UAW Local 774 Union Hall. 2939 Niagara St Buffalo NY. 14207. The tournament is limited to (36) foursomes. We are also looking for volunteers to help out during the event.

## Buying American/ Union-Built Vehicles

When you buy an American/Union- built vehicles you're actually supporting fellow American workers; by circulating money in the national economy and providing people with a livelihood.

Another positive reason to purchase American/Union- built vehicles is Conservation. Foreign-made products need to be shipped to the US, often from across the world. Shipping comes with a hefty price in carbon footprints. Valuable resources, like petroleum, are wasted in transport and harmful emissions are released into the atmosphere.

In the next column is a list of UAW Union-built vehicles and a copy of What's in a Vin? It shows how to read a vin number for your vehicle(s).



- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>UAW CARS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cadillac CT4</li> <li>Cadillac CT4-V</li> <li>Cadillac CT4-V Blackwing</li> <li>Cadillac CT5</li> <li>Cadillac CT5-V</li> <li>Cadillac CT5-V Blackwing</li> <li>Chevrolet Bolt (Electric)</li> <li>Chevrolet Bolt EUV (Electric)</li> <li>Chevrolet Camaro</li> <li>Chevrolet Corvette</li> <li>Chevrolet Malibu</li> <li>Ford Mustang Coupe</li> <li>Ford Mustang Convertible</li> <li>Ford Mustang Shelby</li> </ul> | <p><b>UAW SUVS/CUVS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buick Enclave</li> <li>Cadillac Escalade</li> <li>Cadillac Escalade ESV</li> <li>Cadillac Escalade (Hybrid)</li> <li>Cadillac Lyric (Electric)</li> <li>Cadillac XT4</li> <li>Cadillac XT5</li> <li>Cadillac XT6</li> <li>Chevrolet Suburban</li> <li>Chevrolet Tahoe</li> <li>Chevrolet Tahoe (Police)</li> <li>Chevrolet Tahoe (Special Service)</li> <li>Chevrolet Traverse</li> <li>Dodge Durango</li> <li>Ford Bronco</li> <li>Ford Escape</li> <li>Ford Escape (Hybrid)</li> <li>Ford Expedition</li> <li>Ford Explorer</li> <li>Ford Explorer (Hybrid)</li> <li>Ford Explorer (Police Interceptor)</li> <li>GMC Acadia</li> <li>GMC Hummer SUV (Electric)</li> <li>GMC Yukon</li> <li>GMC Yukon (Hybrid)</li> <li>GMC Yukon XL</li> <li>Jeep Cherokee</li> <li>Jeep Grand Cherokee</li> <li>Jeep Grand Cherokee (Hybrid)</li> <li>Grand Wagoneer</li> <li>Wagoneer</li> </ul> | <p><b>UAW TRUCKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chevrolet Colorado</li> <li>Chevrolet Silverado Medium-Duty</li> <li>Navistar (Regular and Crew Cab)</li> <li>Chevrolet Silverado Light-Duty*</li> <li>Chevrolet Silverado Heavy-Duty</li> <li>Ford F-150</li> <li>Ford F-150 (Hybrid)</li> <li>Ford F-150 (Electric)</li> <li>Ford F-650/750</li> <li>Ford Ranger</li> <li>Ford Super Duty 250/350/450/550</li> <li>GMC Canyon</li> <li>GMC Sierra Light-Duty*</li> <li>GMC Sierra Heavy-Duty</li> <li>GMC Hummer Pickup (Electric)</li> <li>Jeep Gladiator</li> </ul> | <p><b>UAW VANS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chevrolet Express</li> <li>Chevrolet Express (Cut-Away)</li> <li>Ford Transit</li> <li>Ford Transit (Electric)</li> <li>Ford E-Series (Cut-Away)</li> <li>GMC Savana</li> <li>GMC Savana (Cut-Away)</li> </ul> <p><b>UNIFOR CARS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dodge Challenger</li> <li>Dodge Charger</li> <li>Chrysler 300</li> </ul> <p><b>UNIFOR SUVS/CUVS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ford Edge</li> <li>Lincoln Nautilus</li> </ul> <p><b>UNIFOR TRUCKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chevrolet Silverado Light-Duty*</li> <li>Chevrolet Silverado Heavy-Duty</li> </ul> <p><b>UNIFOR VANS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chrysler Pacifica</li> <li>Chrysler Pacifica (Hybrid)</li> <li>Chrysler Voyager</li> <li>GM ZEV0 Electric Van for Brightdrop</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|--|

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

Vehicles marked with a single asterisk (\*) are also produced in Mexico.

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

### What's in a VIN?

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

- 1, 4, 5 USA
- 2 Canada
- 3 Mexico
- 6 Australia
- 7 New Zealand
- 8, 9 South America
- A - H Africa
- J - R Asia
- S - Z Europe

**VEHICLE YEAR**

- A 2010
- B 2011
- C 2012
- D 2013
- E 2014
- F 2015
- G 2016
- H 2017
- J 2018
- K 2019
- L 2020
- M 2021
- N 2022
- P 2023
- R 2024

**VEHICLE'S MODEL, ENGINE SIZE AND TYPE**

**VEHICLE SERIAL NUMBER**

**VEHICLE MANUFACTURER\***

- A or C Chrysler
- B or D Dodge
- F Ford
- G General Motors
- J Jeep
- L Lincoln

**PLANT THAT ASSEMBLED THE VEHICLE**

\* The 2nd character denotes vehicle manufacturer. The 3rd character varies by manufacturer and can represent vehicle type or division.

**CONNECT WITH US**

- facebook.com/uaw.union
- twitter.com/uaw
- instagram.com/uaw.union
- youtube.com/user/uaw

International Union, UAW  
8000 E. Jefferson Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48214  
(313) 926-5000  
UAW.org



# 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 &amp; Eligibility</b> .....	<b>1-800-489-4646</b>
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.....	1-800-672-8393
John Orsini.....	ext 21	Metropolitan Life Insurance.....	1-888-543-3461
Russ Flynn.....	ext 20	Worker's Compensation.....	1-800-489-4646
Stacie McKernan.....	ext 22	Sub.....	1-800-489-4646
Jill Rajia.....	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).....	716-879-8341	Fidelity Investments.....	1-800-489-4646
GM Tonawanda Engine Plants Information.....	716-879-5000	Retiree Pension Center.....	1-800-489-4646
<b>Absentee Call-in Toll Free</b> .....	<b>1-800-222-8889</b>	Missing Pension Checks.....	1-800-489-4646
<b>Medical Department - Plant 1</b> .....	<b>716-879-5313</b>	Employment & Wage Verification.....	1-800-489-4646
<b>Work/Family &amp; EAP</b> .....	<b>716-879-5516</b>	Optum.....	1-855-409-8219
<b>Union Work Center - Plant 1</b> .....	<b>716-879-5507</b>	Blue Cross/Blue Shield.....	1-800-462-7237
<b>Benefits Office - Plant 1</b> .....	<b>716-879-5465</b>	Delta Dental.....	1-800-942-0667
<b>Payroll &amp; Wages</b> .....	<b>1-866-245-5957</b>	Legal Service Plan.....	1-800-482-7700
<b>Plant Security</b> .....	<b>716-879-5151</b>	UAW Retiree Medical Trust.....	1-866-637-7555
<b>Lipsitz and Green</b> .....	<b>716-849-1313</b>	GVS Caremark RX.....	1-844-379-1671
<b>United Health Care</b> .....	<b>1-844-320-5021</b>	<b>Plant Cisco Code</b> .....	<b>18160</b>
<b>United Health Care</b> .....	<b>1-844-320-5021</b>	<b>Plant Cisco Code</b> .....	<b>18160</b>

Check out our website



## 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



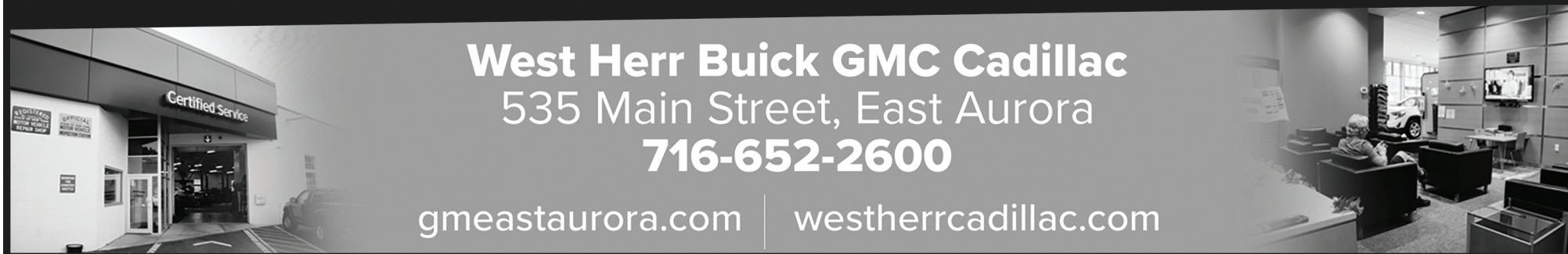
BUICK



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](http://gmeastaurora.com) | [westherrcadillac.com](http://westherrcadillac.com)







# Financial Secretary & Treasurer Report

John Orsini  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

## August 2023

Beginning Balance	780,844.90
<b>Income:</b>	
Dues - Regular (Private Sector): 787 Members	65,403.80
Dues - Profit Sharing/Bonus: 0 Members	166.89
Dues - Agency Fee Payers: 1 Member	61.89
Dues - Retired Workers @ 35% : 2788 Members	2,146.20
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	73,199.79
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	74,474.97
Interest on Northwest Money Market Account	53,206.62
Rents - Gyms and Reception Halls	550.00
Sales - Advertising (Newsletter)	2,120.00
Sales - Bibles/Memorial Plaques	20.00
Sales - Refreshments (Food & Drink)	150.00
Soc & Rec Tickets (Picnics, Parties etc.)	1,805.00
Transfer Between Funds	0.00
Reimbursed Travel - Direct Pd	1,793.67
<b>Income Total 74,912.83</b>	
<b>Expense:</b>	
Wages (Clerical)	3,484.80
Wages (Maintenance and Janitorial)	1,820.00
Lost Time (Officers)	19,522.06
Lost Time (Others)	17,588.89
Officer - Non-Tax Travel Per Diem Etc.	743.01
Others - Non-Tax Travel Per Diem Etc.	1,264.66
Paid Personal Time	387.20
Vacation (Clerical)	968.00
Reimb Medical/Dental/Vision Ins	1,500.00
Postage Reimbursement	5.01
Supply Reimbursement	38.05
Supplies - Office	148.87
Federal Taxes	-4,662.53
FICA	-2,713.82
MECA	-634.69
NY. Tax	-1,848.73
NYS Paid Family Leave	-29.85
OPEIU 153	-60.62
Federal Income Taxes (941) Forward	4,651.83
FICA-Employee OASDI and HI Forward	3,332.59
State Income Taxes Forward	1,846.10
Union Dues Forward	48.50
FICA Employer OASDI and HI (941)	3,332.59
Dental/Hearing/Medical/Vision Insurance	2,090.40
Group Life Insurance	462.83
Medical Fee Reimbursements	164.90
Pension Allocations	234.00
Bank Charges - Service Fees, NSF, Etc.	10.00
Building Supplies	351.87
Janitorial Services	700.00
Maintenance and Repairs	394.67
Utilities (Building Ownership)	2,322.27
Flowers, Bibles & Card Donations In Lieu	164.40
Furniture & Equip - Leases & Rentals	103.66
Internet Service (Access Fees)	286.82
Per Capita Taxes - International	38,905.68
Per Capita Taxes - CAP Councils	1,563.44
Per Capita Taxes - Affiliates	518.70
Per Capita Taxes - Retiree Councils	7.84
Postage	1,509.30
Printing Costs - Local Union Newsletter/Paper	2,858.76
Refreshments - Caterers	2,938.88
Refreshments - Coffee, Donuts, Food & Soft Drinks	52.45
Rental of Mats, Mops, Rugs, Etc.	255.05
Soc & Rec Events-Educ Fairs & Trade Show	200.00
Subscriptions - Cable TV	253.20
Supplies - Office	160.05
Telephone	463.08
Travel - Direct Pd Airline, Hotel, Tr Agency	1,768.33
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>109,472.50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>746,285.23</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>780,944.90</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>74,912.83</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>-109,472.50</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-34,559.67</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>746,285.23</b>

## FUND BALANCES

General Fund	608,589.97
Education Fund	2,569.60
Recreation Fund	1,250.96
Education Committee Fund	3,004.99
Recreation Committee Fund	2,494.45
Retired Workers Chapter Fund	115,958.85
Community Services Committee Fund	8,614.93
New Member Orientation Fund	1,862.93
Conservation Committee Fund	2,832.13
Union Label Committee Fund	458.39
Consumer Affairs Committee	116.57
Civil and Human Rights Committee Fund	1,304.70
Building Fund	-43,814.52
Children With Special Needs Fund	1,464.53
Hall Rental Improvement Fund	7,247.06
Telethon Committee Fund	6,632.07
Chaplaincy Committee Fund	2,386.49
Veterans Committee Fund	13,571.66
Women's Committee Fund	6,439.49
Solidarity Committee Fund	3,299.98
<b>Total of All Funds</b>	<b>746,285.23</b>

## ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

Lake Shore Savings Account	0.00
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union COD	228,309.74
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	172,549.84
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	85,738.83
Northwest Savings Bank Money Market Account	242,775.63
Radius Federal Credit Union Savings Account	68.50
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union Savings Account	25.00
Water Meter Deposit	10.00

## September 2023

Beginning Balance	746,285.23
<b>Income:</b>	
Dues - Regular (Private Sector): 787 Members	65,456.53
Dues - Agency Fee Payers: 1 Member	61.89
Dues - Retired Workers @ 35% : 2788 Members	2,136.05
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	193.79
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	460.92
Interest on Northwest Money Market Account	19.95
Interest on Financial Trust FCU CD	1,870.26
Rents - Gyms and Reception Halls	525.00
Sales - Refreshments (Food & Drink)	150.00
Sales - Shirts	2,555.00
Soc & Rec Tickets (Picnics, Parties etc.)	925.00
Transfer Between Funds	0.00
Refund - Federal Taxes	7.38
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>74,361.77</b>

## Expense:

Wages (Clerical)	3,678.40
Wages (Maintenance and Janitorial)	1,186.00
Lost Time (Officers)	7,306.22
Lost Time (Others)	297.38
Holiday (Clerical)	193.60
Refreshments Reimbursement	322.53
Supply Reimbursement	38.05
Mobile/Telephone Reimbursement	287.57
Federal Taxes	-870.01
FICA	-785.05
MECA	-183.62
NY. Tax	-421.73
NYS Paid Family Leave	-22.78
OPEIU 153	-36.38
Federal Income Taxes (941) Forward	870.01
FICA-Employee OASDI and HI Forward	968.67
State Income Taxes Forward	1,331.04
Union Dues Forward	48.50
FICA Employer OASDI and HI (941)	968.67
Unemployment Taxes Federal (940)	238.30
Dental/Hearing/Medical/Vision Insurance	2,423.40
Group Life Insurance	14.00
Medical Fee Reimbursements	164.90
Pension Allocations	292.50
Bank Charges - Service Fees, NSF, Etc.	13.00

Building Supplies	336.05
Maintenance and Repairs	1,903.00
Taxes (Real Estate-Property)	7,553.55
Utilities (Building Ownership)	752.00
Donations - Charities	2,000.00
Furniture & Equip - Leases & Rentals	206.98
Internet Service (Access Fees)	45.68
Per Capita Taxes - International	39,195.78
Per Capita Taxes - CAP Councils	1,583.08
Per Capita Taxes - Affiliates	522.72
Postage	200.07
Printing Costs - Pamphlets & Literature	75.04
Refreshments - Coffee, Donuts, Food & Soft Drinks	256.00
Registration/Conference/Tuition Fees	1,775.00
Rental of Mats, Mops, Rugs, Etc.	233.95
Soc & Rec Events-Labor Day Parade	250.00
Soc & Rec Events - Picnic, Tournament Etc.	1,594.40
Supplies - Office	158.42
Telephone	378.22

**Expense Total** 77,343.11  
**Total** 743,303.89

**Beginning Balance** 746,285.23  
**Income** 74,351.77  
**Expenses** -77,343.11  
**Balance** 743,303.89

## FUND BALANCES

General Fund	614,165.11
Education Fund	3,005.94
Recreation Fund	1,258.84
Education Committee Fund	3,004.99
Recreation Committee Fund	2,334.45
Retired Workers Chapter Fund	118,035.50
Community Services Committee Fund	8,614.93
New Member Orientation Fund	1,862.93
Conservation Committee Fund	2,832.13
Union Label Committee Fund	458.39
Consumer Affairs Committee	116.57
Civil and Human Rights Committee Fund	1,304.70
Building Fund	-55,436.87
Children With Special Needs Fund	1,464.53
Hall Rental Improvement Fund	7,397.06
Telethon Committee Fund	6,632.07
Chaplaincy Committee Fund	2,386.49
Veterans Committee Fund	13,571.66
Women's Committee Fund	6,994.49
Solidarity Committee Fund	3,299.98

**Total of All Funds** 743,303.89

## ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

Lake Shore Savings Account	0.00
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union COD	230,180.00
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	173,010.76
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	85,932.62
Northwest Savings Bank Money Market Account	242,790.58
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** 743,303.89

## INTERNATIONAL UNION STRIKE FUND Report for August 2023

New Worth as of July 31,, 2023	\$844,221,619.38
Income for August 2023 (Dues Per Capita Taxes)	\$5,857,452.75
Disbursements for August 2023*	\$2,521,037.08
<b>Net Worth as of August 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$847,558,035.05</b>

\*There were two strikes in the month of August



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.

## 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.**

ALL PROCEEDS  
 TO BENEFIT  
 VARIETY KID'S  
 TELETHON

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



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



LOCAL 774

Happy  
 Holidays



SHUTDOWN  
 DECEMBER 25TH  
 THRU  
 JANUARY 2ND



# 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

## 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: 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.

## Save the Date - Retiree Christmas Party

The Local 774 Retiree Christmas Party will be held at the Grapevine Banquets, 333 Dick Road, Depew, NY from Noon to 4:30PM on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Tickets will be available at retiree meetings and at the UAW Local 774 Union Hall between the hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. The last date to purchase Christmas Party tickets is at the Retiree Meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

## UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust

The UAW Medical Trust will be at the Tuesday, December 12th Retiree Meeting to explain changes to retirees healthcare coverages for 2024. Retirees may bring their spouses to the December 12th retiree meeting. Be sure to watch your mail because UAW Medical Trust members will receive information on their health care benefits for 2024. So please be sure to open all mail with the Trust logo. As always, Benefit Highlights will be mailed in the Fall to all Medical Trust members. Benefits Highlights is the annual document announcing updates or changes to health plans and outlines cost share information for the following year.

## 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



Retiree Health Care Connect

## 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.

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 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** at 1-800-633-4227 ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov))

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

## Why Power of Attorney Can Be Key for Senior Health Care

Getting the appropriate legal instruments in place early can help ensure the right care.

In the huge collection of legal documents you could encounter over your lifetime, some are more critical than others. For older adults, a few legal instruments take on immense importance, particularly in the context of ensuring adequate health care as we age. While some documents that older adults may need are focused on the financial side of your affairs, others concern how decisions will be made about your health care. The information that follows will focus on the documents related to health care that may come into play as you age. As you navigate these legal waters for yourself or a loved one, some legal terms and documents you may encounter include:

- Living will
- Advance directive
- Do not resuscitate order
- Physician orders for life-sustaining treatment
- Health care proxy
- Power of attorney
- Guardianship or conservatorship

## Living Will, Advance Directive, or Do Not Resuscitate Order

Living wills can go by a number of different names including advance directive, do not resuscitate order or POLST, which is short for physician orders for life-sustaining treatment. This document, which is often printed on brightly colored card stock and is signed by a physician, outlines which specific procedures and actions you do and don't want to receive from first responders in the event of an emergency or from end-of-life health care providers. It may include questions such as: Do you want a feeding tube placed? Do you want to be transported to the emergency room? Answers can help specify how you want to be treated if you can't communicate your wishes directly.

## Health Care Proxy

Health care proxy is a term used in some states to designate the agent who can make health care decisions on your behalf, and may be a casual term or may reference the agent named in a formal health care power of attorney document.

## Power of Attorney

There are many different types of power of attorney documents that can cover financial or health care matters. Generally speaking all of these legal instruments are giving authority to someone else to make medical decisions for you in the event that you're not able to make them on your own. A durable power of attorney

**Retiree's Report - Continued on Pg. 7**



*Deceased Active and Retired  
Local 774 Members*

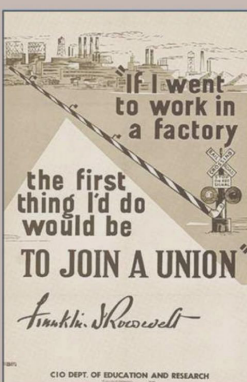
WITH DEEPEST

*Sympathy*

*Due to reporting issues with the GM Benefits and Service Center computer system we are unable to give an updates. As soon as we are given an updated list we will print it. Thanks for your patience!*

**UNION 101:  
Where the Right to be Union Comes From**

**B**elonging to a union is second nature for many of us – it's part of our DNA, and it shapes how we view our world and one another. Despite the strength of our conviction, our union identity is in fact a product of a law that remains as debated today as it was when it passed 80 years ago.



Almost immediately, corporate America began pushing back and by 1947, corporations had gained enough steam to get Congress to pass the Taft-Hartley Act. That law curtailed the Wagner Act in important ways, including allowing states to pass "right-to-work laws."

“ Almost 80 years later, the right to collectively bargain is by no means set in stone, and periodic attempts are made to either further limit the rights of workers to form unions or expand the rights of employers to oppose them. ”

The modern right to be organized arose out of the Great Depression when the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 (also known as the Wagner Act) was signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt. Passed during the New Deal era, the federal law guaranteed the right of private sector workers to join unions and prohibited employers from committing unfair labor practices such as retaliation, spying or refusing to negotiate.

At the state level, bills are regularly introduced to curtail how unions collect dues and to challenge whether public employees can have collective bargaining rights. The push to turn more states "right to work" is endless, despite public opposition.



To learn more, attend your local union meetings and talk to your elected leadership.

**LOCAL 774 RETIREE CHAPTER  
2023 IMPORTANT DATES**

**NOVEMBER 14TH**

1 P.M. - RETIREE MEETING

**DECEMBER 12TH**

1 P.M. - RETIREE MEETING

**DECEMBER 17TH**

12 NOON - 4:30 P.M.

RETIREE CHRISTMAS PARTY



Looking for more health and wellness?  
Check out our virtual program calendar



www.lifesteps.com

**Union-Made in America Super Bowl**

**Beer**

Beck's  
Budweiser  
Kirin Ichiban  
Michelob  
Samuel Adams

**Meat**

Banquet  
Butterball  
Dearborn Sausage  
Hebrew National  
Oscar Mayer

**Chips and Salsa**

Old El Paso chips, dips and salsa  
Ruffles  
Stacy's Pita Chips  
SunChips  
Tostitos chips and salsa  
Snyder of Berlin chips



Find more: [aflcio.org/unionmade](http://aflcio.org/unionmade)

AFL-CIO

**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.

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 scheduled with us.

4. Come to Ken-Ton Hearing on the scheduled date and we will take good care of you and your hearing.



I WANT YOU TO  
HEAR WELL  
AGAIN!

**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*



## 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

Avoid credit purchase 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



## Vice President's Report

Doug Seefeldt  
1st Vice President

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters,

Hard to believe were in mid-October already. Not sure what the status of the negotiations will be when this comes out in print. We all need to stand together in solidarity behind our Union leadership and be ready to support them at a moment's notice!

I encourage everyone to try to budget wisely during this period and to reach out for support if and when needed. Everyone has their own unique situations and circumstances!

I would also like to remind everyone of their upcoming local, county, and state elections. Voting is your right and should not be taken for granted. I encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote for the candidates who support our work and family values.

In Solidarity

Douglas Seefeldt  
1st Vice President



**LOCAL 774**

## ELECTION COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

### *Election Committee*

Bobby McCrae

Damone Anthony

Jeff Donohue

Tom Gullo

Stasia Donohue

PJ Lemme

Robin Fletcher

Roberta Gainer

Kimberly Coates

Laurie Baker

Lisa Musior

### *Election Committee Alternates*

Karen Baker

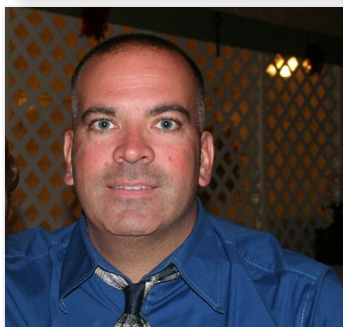
Theresa Maugans

Jack Spronz

Brian Stone

Jason Forte

Ms. Barbara Green



## Communications Director

Don Cialone Jr.

As a MERT Team member, I wanted to take a moment to highlight what we do and discuss the training that the team receives in order to protect our Brothers and Sisters and keep the plant safe. The team responds to routine EMS, fires, rescues, and hazardous materials calls as well as conduct confined space standby's.

We accomplish all this with an ambulance, EMS Fly Car, Rescue vehicle, an outside fire truck, interior and exterior hazmat vehicles and a few confined space and hazmat carts.

The training that we all have taken to handle these situations include: AED, American Red Cross First Aid for the Professional Rescuer, Bloodborne Pathogens, CPR, Confined Space Rescue and Confined Space Supervisor, Falls Rescue, Industrial HazMat Technician, Lock Out/Tag Out, and Roof Access.

We work hand in hand with our Medical staff, Fire Chief, and the Security Department to assist our fellow employees during their time of need. If you have any type of emergency in plant call Security at 716-879-5555, in plant at 5555, or via GM work radio Channel 2.





## Citizens & Legislative Committee Report

Larry Boltz  
Chairman

Greetings again brothers and sisters. Once again it's contract season and as of the writing of this article, we have still been consistently working for a month on an expired contract and twenty other GM plants have been called to strike as well as a similar amount at Ford and Stellantis. By the time you are reading this, our number may have been called to walk or perhaps we will hopefully be reviewing and voting on a tentative agreement that offers significant wage and benefit gains better than previous contract years. Our current UAW International President and Executive Board are the first to be voted in by the membership even though only approximately 11% of the total UAW membership and Retirees returned their ballots. Elections matter, who gets elected matters and turnout is important.

It is also election season and by the time you are reading this, early voting in New York State, which starts on October 28 and runs till November 5, may be starting soon or already begun. Election day will be Tuesday November 7 and your voter registration must be postmarked or received in person by October 28. Online registration needs to be completed 25 days before election day.

On August 10, I again had the privilege of being invited to the Region 9 offices for the candidate endorsement interviews from the WNY CAP Council. Our former Local 774 President, Wence Valentine III, is now the UAW Region 9 Political Director. My role as local 774 Citizens and Legislative Committee co-chair at these sessions is primarily observation as I don't get a vote on the candidates that are endorsed, but I can ask questions, take notes, and make recommendations to the council. The candidate endorsement list has been published, is available at the union hall, displayed on the UAW 774 Facebook page, and may have already arrived in the mail.

While we don't have the luxury this year of having Election Day as a holiday, and there are no national office races in Western New York, there are still plenty of local office races to vote for. There are candidates for Niagara, Erie, and Chautauqua County legislator seats as well as County Executive races, various town, city, and village board races, Judges, clerks, Mayors, and Town Supervisor races to vote for. There's an old adage that states "All politics is local". This is the year to exercise your right to vote to affect the direction your local county, city, town, or village is governed over the next few years. While there is a number of candidates on the UAW endorsed list that are running for re-election, There's a significant amount of newcomers for various seats around the area that are running for office for the first time and asked for the UAW's endorsement. There could possibly be some major shake-ups in town, county, city, or village boards this election season. Elections matter, who gets elected matters and turnout is important.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, we will be working under a new, significantly improved contract for ourselves and our brothers and sisters at Ford, Stellantis, Mack Trucks, Westrock LLC in New Jersey, Mercedes supplier ZF in Alabama, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. If our number is called, I'll be on the picket line with you just as I was in 2019. I also have an update to share with you about the New York State Striking Workers Unemployment Benefit. As has been the pattern with UAW members being laid off from plants that were not called to strike and those members received strike pay because the states they were in would not give them unemployment insurance, we have successfully gotten that law changed 3 years ago in New York, and members from Lockport that have been laid off due to the strike are currently receiving both strike pay and unemployment, as are our brothers and sisters at Stellantis in Tappan who have been on strike now for 3 weeks. There is still a 2-week waiting period for unemployment benefits to be awarded. The attempt to get that reduced to 1 week did not pass the State Senate. The members on strike in New Jersey at Westrock have a similar benefit down there as well allowing them to better cover their personal expenses while

there as well allowing them to better cover their personal expenses while on strike. These benefits exist in New York and New Jersey because of the lobbying efforts and the people elected to the state capitals that passed those bills into law. Our brothers and sisters on strike in many other states don't have access to that additional income. Elections matter, who gets elected matters and turnout is important.

So in closing, remember to check and update your voter registration by October 28, and don't forget to vote by November 7. Every vote counts and elections matter. Let's get a Great Contract

Larry Boltz  
Citizens and Legislative Committee Co-Chair



**UAW REGION 9  
WESTERN NEW YORK  
ENDORSED CANDIDATES**



### CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

Jamestown Mayor re-election – Eddie Sundquist	County Legislator, 16 <sup>th</sup> District – Amy Thompson
County Legislator, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District re-election – Robert Bankoski	Dunkirk City Councilman at Large – Nick Weiser
County Legislator, 3 <sup>rd</sup> District – Nevin Eklund	

### ERIE COUNTY

County Executive re-election – Mark Poloncarz	Cheektowaga Town Council re-election – Linda Hammer
County Legislator, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District re-election – April Baskin	Cheektowaga Town Justice re-election – David Stevens
County Legislator, 4 <sup>th</sup> District re-election – John Bargnesi, Jr.	Cheektowaga Town Supervisor – Brian Nowak
County Legislator, 5 <sup>th</sup> District re-election – Jeanne Vinal	Evans Town Supervisor – Ray Ashton
County Legislator, 7 <sup>th</sup> District re-election – Timothy Meyers	Hamburg Town Clerk re-election – Cathy Rybczynski
County Legislator, 9 <sup>th</sup> District re-election – John Gilmour	Hamburg Town Council – Daniel Kozub
Amherst Town Council – Angela Marinucci	West Seneca Town Council – Kimberly Conidi
Amherst Town Council re-election – Mike Szukala	West Seneca Town Clerk – Molly Martin
Buffalo Common Council Lovejoy District re-election – Bryan Bollman	West Seneca Town Judge – Tina Hawthorne
Buffalo Common Council Masten District – Zeneta Everhart	West Seneca Town Supervisor – Chris Rusin
Buffalo Common Council Niagara District re-election – David Rivera	

### NIAGARA COUNTY

County Legislature, 3 <sup>rd</sup> District – Noelle Citarella	Lockport Alderman, 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward re-election – Paul Beakman
County Legislature, 4 <sup>th</sup> District re-election – Jeffrey Elder	Lockport Alderwoman, 5 <sup>th</sup> Ward re-election – Margaret Lupo
County Legislature, 13 <sup>th</sup> District – Bernadette Smith	Newfane Town Council – Robert Horanburg
County Legislature, 14 <sup>th</sup> District re-election – Shawn Foti	Newfane Town Supervisor re-election – John Syracuse
Lewiston Town Board – Sarah Waechter	Niagara Falls City Council – Brian Archie
Lockport Mayor re-election – Michelle Roman	Niagara Falls City Council – Jim Perry
Lockport City Council – Anita Mullane	Niagara Falls Mayor re-election – Robert Restaino
Lockport Town Justice – Alice Patterson	North Tonawanda Alderman, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward re-election – Frank DiBernardo
Lockport Alderwoman at Large – Lisa Swanson-Gellerson	North Tonawanda Alderwoman, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward – Darlene Bolsover

PLEASE VOTE FOR UAW ENDORSED CANDIDATES ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023!

Early voting is October 28 to November 5, 2023

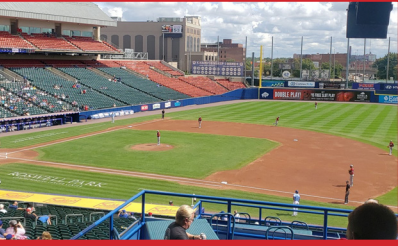
Wence Valentine, III, UAW Region 9 Political Director phone 716.632.1540 law/opeiu494/afl-cio



Retired Brother William Burda, "Big Bird", recently donated several of his original paintings to our Local in Solidarity with our striking membership. They depict a '53-'55 Corvette Rag Top and '57 Chevrolet Belair Hardtop. He painted one for each, the Union Hall and the plant.



# 774 Around Town



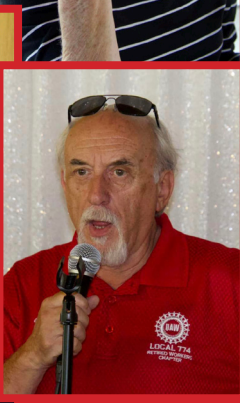
8/19/23-Puerto Rican & Hispanic Day Parade



9/10/23-Family Picnic at the Bisons Game



7/20/23-Region 9 Veterans Committee Hot Dog Roast at the Buffalo VA Hospital



7/19/23-Retiree's Picnic at Joseph's Grove in Depew



9/4/23-Labor Day Parade in South Buffalo







7/28/23-Buffalo Central Labor Council's Summer Picnic at the Iron Worker's Hall in West Seneca



8/6/23-8/11/23-Local 774 Recording Secretary Stacie McKernan attended the 47th Annual UAW International Women's Conference held at the Walter & May Reuther Family Education Center at Black Lake



8/17/23-Members of our Executive Board ran into former Local 774 Financial Secretary Cleveland Jones while in Detroit.



8/11/23-The Veterans Memorial in the plant was given a refresh recently thanks to Shelby Misiak!



10/14/23-Members took part in the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at The Lakeside Bike Path on Buffalo's waterfront



8/13/23-Leadership training with Region 9 Education Representative Sharon Masino at Region 9 Headquarters in Amherst



9/20/23-Solidarity Rally supporting the Big 3 held at our Union Hall







## Civil & Human Rights Committee Report

Roberto Fuentes Sr.  
Chairman

### Inequality in America

When you listen to UAW president Shawn Fain and his comments about the big three making record profits over the past ten years part of what he's really talking about is the inequality between CEO's to workers pay ratio.

Factoring in the nation's 350 largest companies, the CEO to worker pay ratio was 20 to 1 in 1965 according to the economic Policy Institute. That figure jumped to 59 to 1 in 1989 and 399 to 1 in 2021.

Before the pandemic, its previous peak was the 372 to 1 ratio in 2000. Both of these numbers stand in stark contrast to the 20 to 1 ratio in 1965. Most importantly, over the last two decades the ratio has been far higher than at any point in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, or early 1990s.

I ask all my UAW brothers and sisters. That when a contract is presented. That you pay no attention to the signing bonus and instead concentrate on the details of the contract and what it truly means to our members. For far too long we have given up way too much only to watch CEO salaries triple over the last decade. While these companies only offer us scraps. This is a fight that needs to be fought and the time is now for us to stand up for what we have worked for and truly deserve.

CEO's see pay grow 1000% in the past 40 years, now make 278 times the average worker. The pay gap between top executives and workers continues to be wide. Since 1978 CEO compensation rose 1007.5% for CEO's compared with 11.9% for average workers according to the economic Policy Institute.

The time is now to stand up. We need to send a clear message not only to our companies but corporations across America. That we the American workers are tired of not being able to afford the products that we make. That we the American workers have been hoodwinked and bamboozled for too long And we deserve more.

**BUILD BACK BETTER WITH UNIONS**  
PASS THE PRO ACT  
AFL-CIO

**UAW**  
WORKERS OF AMERICA • UAW • INTERNATIONAL  
AUTOMOBILE AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURE

Remaining 2023  
Local 774 Meetings

November 19th  
December 17th

Meetings start at 10 a.m. at the  
Union Hall - 2939 Niagara Street

# Congratulations

September  
**Leighann Simons**

October  
**Dominic Colangelo**

November  
**Georgia Lochren**

September 2022  
**Randy Mineo**

I'm Retired Now!

### Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN GOJMERAC FOR HELPING TO LIBERATE FRANCE DURING WORLD WAR II

Extensions of Remarks  
HON. BRIAN HIGGINS  
OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
10/10/2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Gojmerac, an American World War II war hero, who will be receiving the highest French military honor, the National Order of the Legion of Honor, for his service in liberating France during World War II.

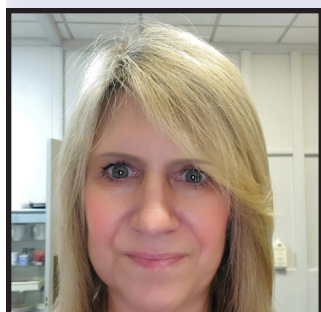
John Gojmerac was born in Croatia and he and his family moved to the United States when World War II broke out for fear that their home had become unsafe. Drafted into the Army in 1943, John was required to serve as a field telephone installer, first scout, and combat infantryman. Over the course of World War II, John nearly died three times. During his recovery from surgery after a nearby mortar shell explosion sent shrapnel into his shoulder, the war in Europe finally ended. After a long and hard-fought war, John was able to come home to the United States where he would later marry his wife, Jean Gojmerac (neé Roberts), and settle down in Tonawanda, New York.

For his service, John Gojmerac received a Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and several other medals for saving lives during the key battles of World War II. During his time in the Army, John fought throughout France, Italy, and Germany. At 99 years of age, John will finally be receiving the Legion of Honor Medal from the French government for his part in the liberation of France.

I want to invite all present to join me in thanking John Gojmerac for his service to both the United States and France and congratulate him on receiving the recognition that he deserves.

On October 13, 2023, World War II U.S. Army Veteran and Tonawanda native John Gojmerac, 99, was lauded for his service in the Congressional Record by Congressman Brian Higgins, the Representative of 26th District, and was given a United States flag that flew over the Capital in honor of his service. John is a retired UAW member who spent 40 years as a machinist at the Tonawanda Chevy plant. The Yugoslavia native is a member of the Frontiersman VFW Post 7545 and was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal for his service, the highest honor that nation bestows.





## Medical Staff

Gina Moell  
Registered Nurse

Hello UAW Family

I would like to introduce myself to those who may not know me. I'm Gina Moell, a Registered Nurse (RN) in the Medical Department at General Motors Tonawanda Engine plant.

I have been a nurse for many years with experience working in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Operating Room (OR), Medical/Surgery floor, and Urology/Endoscopy. Myself, along with Randy Dewolfe and Michael Donovan are part of UAW Local 774. Both Randy and Michael are Registered Nurses as well.

Michael worked third shift at GMCH Lockport until he came to second shift full time at GM Tonawanda. Michael started his nursing career as a Hospice Nurse.

Randy has been a nurse for more than 30 years. He has Emergency Room experience at the Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) and ICU experience at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Larry Sparks is a per diem nurse who covers our shifts when the full-time nurses are off. Larry is a retired Emergency Room Nurse from Veteran's Affairs (VA) and is an active firefighter.

I just wanted to reintroduce our Medical Team and share our experience with everyone. Please stay safe and healthy!

Regards,  
Gina



# DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH, 2023 AT 2:00 A.M.



LOCAL 774



## 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
---	--



## 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

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 local UBR.

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





## Veterans Report



Teddy Maldonado  
President

Veterans Day Saturday, November 11, 2023. A reminder Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military – living and dead, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to highlight the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

However, there is more we can do than just think of our Veterans one day a year. Our men and women still struggle with the traumas they face while in the military, and the top concern is the suicide of our veterans. Below is information from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. How we spouses, family members, and friends can help keep our loved ones safe.

Create a Safety Plan - Veterans who are at risk for suicide or who have survived a suicide attempt should have a safety plan in place. You can help the Veteran you care for create this plan. Working with the Veteran on a safety plan can help avert or mitigate crises, providing the Veteran with a list of coping strategies, sources of support, and resources they can turn to in times of distress.

The safety plan should be brief, easy to read, and written in the Veteran's own words. Safety plans should be easily accessible to the Veteran and select family members, friends, and caregivers at all times.

A safety plan should include six steps:

1. Recognizing warning signs: "These are my warning signs that things are starting to feel out of control."

2. Using internal coping strategies: "When I notice these warning signs, these are things that I can do on my own to help make sure I do not act on my suicidal thoughts or urges."

- Take a walk or engage in some other form of exercise.
- Develop a healthy hobby, such as dancing.
- Journal your thoughts and feelings.
- Relax with meditation or yoga.
- Find peaceful focus through spirituality and prayer.

3. People and social settings that provide distraction: "When my initial coping strategies do not fully resolve the situation, I will reach out to others."

- Go to the gym.
- Visit a coffee shop.
- Take a walk in the park.
- Check on a friend or neighbor.

4. People whom I can ask for help if distraction alone doesn't fully work:

- Call a trusted friend or family member.
- Speak with a spiritual or religious adviser (priest, pastor, rabbi, imam).

5. Professionals or agencies I can contact during a crisis: "When I need to talk to a mental health professional or other provider, I will call one."

- Call a therapist.
- Call the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255 and Press 1).
- Call a doctor's office.

6. Making the environment safe: "To help keep myself safe, I will remove or safely store things I could use to hurt myself."

- Check the environment for unused medications that can be recycled or secured.
- Secure firearms separate from ammunition.
- Give potentially self-harming object(s) to a trusted adult for safekeeping.
- Remove alcohol or other substances that may pose a risk.

- Post a completed safety plan where it is easy to find and share it with trusted family, friends, or neighbors.

VA's safety plan template and more information are available online at <https://starttheconversation.veteranscrisisline.net/media/1048/safety-plan-template.pdf>.

This safety plan is designed for use before or during a suicidal crisis. This form should be filled out in the Veteran's own words, preferably with the help of a loved one, a trusted adviser, or a mental health professional. If this is your plan, please keep it with you at all times so you have support whenever you need it, and share a copy with family members or friends you trust.

VA. US Department of Veterans Affairs. <https://starttheconversation.veteranscrisisline.net/media/1048/safety-plan-template.pdf>.

Should a crisis escalate to a point where I need immediate assistance, I will call the:

Veterans Crisis Line • 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 • or dial 911

Confidential crisis chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to 838255

\*Adapted from Stanley & Brown's (2008) Safety Plan Treatment Manual to Reduce Suicide Risk: Veteran Version

### TED BIT

*"I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers."*

*-Ralph Nader*

In Solidarity,  
Teddy Maldonado  
Chairperson, Veterans Committee



6/15/23-The Region 9 Veterans Committee held it's Annual Hot Dog roast at the Batavia VA Medical Center



8/30/23-The Region 9 Veterans Committee took Veterans on a fishing trip in Bath, New York



## Retiree's Report - Continued

is an important document that older adults should seek to organize sooner rather than later. In very simple terms, power of attorney is either somebody to help you manage money or your health at a point when you either can't take care of yourself or at the point that you become incapacitated. Incapacitation, also sometimes called incompetency, is a legal term that generally refers to someone who can't review information or logically think through things, such as may occur after a stroke or with later-stage dementia or Alzheimer's disease. When this occurs, the durable power of attorney would come into full force, meaning that a designated overseer or agent steps in to make decisions on behalf of the individual. It's important to "get your ducks in a row" early, with regard to organizing your legal documents for health care. Particularly if there's a family history of Alzheimer's or dementia, you need to make arrangements before the diagnosis is made, because you can't typically write a power of attorney if someone has this diagnosis. A dementia diagnosis often means the person is considered legally incapable of making those decisions. Therefore, if families have a suspicion that the person is getting more confused and they feel like they need to go to the doctor to get a diagnosis, they should have already taken care of the financial and decision-making stuff. You don't want to wait until you've gotten a diagnosis, because then attorneys worry about competency. For seniors, it becomes even more important to get these documents sorted out, as conditions can deteriorate quickly and catch everyone off guard. If the power of attorney assignment is left too late, the person will be forced into guardianship.

### Guardianship or Conservatorship

Guardianship, which is sometimes called conservatorship, comes into play when someone is unable to make decisions for themselves and there is no power of attorney in place. Many power of attorney documents also include provisions for that same person to become guardian. But there is a distinction in the level of power each role has. An example would be an older adult living at home who is burning food because they have poor memory. They're not showering, they're not taking medications and they refuse to move to assisted living. The power of attorney designee can't put that person into a care community because that person could say, 'Hey I'm leaving,' and power of attorney can't stop them. But a guardian can. A guardian has absolute power of appointment through the court. It's a very serious appointment, because when you have a guardian, you give up all your rights to decide about health care and money. Therefore, it has to be a very trusted person.

### Who Should Be My Power of Attorney?

Typically, power of attorney and guardianship responsibilities are vested in a family member, such as the adult child of a senior. But there are lots of other relationships that can work, from close friends to hired professionals. Choosing the right person to act on your behalf as your power of attorney is critical. If a parent chooses a child who has been terrible at financial management to be their financial power of attorney, it's going to be a disaster. Same for health care. Appointing a professional can also be a shrewd way of avoiding conflict if you anticipate such could occur in choosing one sibling over the other, for example. One really has to plan for conflict if it exists in family members because all of this gets so very, very nasty when wishes aren't clearly communicated. It's also important to designate one or more successors, or backups, to your first-choice power of attorney. A successor would step into the role of power of attorney if your first choice can't or won't serve. If you don't appoint a successor and the appointed person resigns, and you can't do another power of attorney, you're forced into guardianship. So, you always want to have backup successors in your documents.

### Who Can Help Me with Power of Attorney?

To make sure all the documents are properly filed, it's usually best to work with an attorney you trust.

### Power of Attorney and Assisted Living

It's very important to have all of your legal documents in order before making the move to an assisted living community. Some facilities may require that such documents be in place before they will admit your loved one, particularly if that person is incompetent. It's a basic rule across the country that incompetent people have no authority to sign contracts. Even if you're entering a facility while you're still considered competent, it's wise to have a power of attorney in place so that if your situation changes rapidly, as can happen with a stroke, for example, the community will know whom to contact when decisions need to be made.

### Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Basics

Skilled nursing facility (SNF) care is post-hospital care provided at a SNF. Skilled nursing care includes services such as administration of medications, tube feedings, and wound care. Keep in mind that SNFs can be part of nursing homes or hospitals.

Medicare Part A may cover your SNF care if: You were formally admitted as an inpatient to a hospital for at least three consecutive days, You enter a Medicare-certified SNF within 30 days of leaving the hospital, and receive care for the same condition that you were treated for during your hospital stay and you need skilled nursing care seven days per week or skilled therapy services at least five days per week. Note: The day you become an inpatient counts toward your three-day inpatient stay to qualify for Medicare-covered SNF care. However, the day you are discharged from the hospital does not count toward your qualifying days. Also remember that time spent receiving emergency room care or under observation

status does not count toward the three-day hospital inpatient requirement for SNF coverage. If you meet all of the above requirements, Medicare should cover the SNF care you need to improve your condition, maintain your ability to function, or prevent your health from getting worse. Speak to your doctor or hospital discharge planner if you need help finding a SNF that meets your needs. Ask them to find Medicare-certified SNFs in your area that will address your medical needs. If you are in a Medicare Advantage Plan like United Health Care, contact your plan to find out which SNFs are in their network.

### The Inflation Reduction Act's Part B Insulin Price

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) capped out-of-pocket costs for insulin medications for people with Medicare. Coinsurances and copays for insulin covered under Part D have been limited to \$35 a month for a month's supply of each medication since January 1. Starting Saturday, July 1, beneficiaries whose insulin is covered under Part B will also enjoy these protections. Medicare covers insulin and insulin containing products in two ways depending on how the medicine is administered. Insulin used in conjunction with a covered infusion pump is covered through the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) benefit under Part B. All other insulin is covered under Part D, including insulin that people inject using syringes, fillable or pre-filled pens, or non-durable patch pumps. A recent report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) indicates Medicare beneficiaries would have saved \$734 million in Part D costs and \$27 million in Part B costs if the IRA's insulin cap had been in effect in 2020. Specifically, the report notes that around 31,000 people with Part B would have saved money if the IRA's provisions were in effect in 2020, savings of about \$866 per beneficiary. Prior to the IRA's changes, the national average out-of-pocket cost for a month's supply of insulin for people with Medicare or private insurance was about \$63 per fill.

### How does Medicare cover ambulance rides?

Medicare Part B covers emergency ambulance services and, in limited cases, non-emergency ambulance services. Medicare considers an emergency to be any situation when your health is in serious danger and you cannot be transported safely by other means. If your trip is scheduled when your health is not in immediate danger, it is not considered an emergency.

### Part B covers emergency ambulance services if:

An ambulance is medically necessary, meaning it is the only safe way to transport you

The reason for your trip is to receive a Medicare-covered service or to return from receiving care. You are transported to and from certain locations, following Medicare's coverage guidelines. And, the transportation supplier meets Medicare ambulance requirements

### To be eligible for coverage of non-emergency ambulance services, you must:

Be confined to your bed (unable to get up from bed without help, unable to walk, and unable to sit in a chair or wheelchair). Or, need vital medical services during your trip that are only available in an ambulance, such as administration of medications or monitoring of vital functions. Medicare may cover unscheduled or irregular non-emergency trips, but if you live in a skilled nursing facility (SNF), a doctor's written order may be required within 48 hours after the transport. Medicare may also cover scheduled, regular trips if the ambulance supplier receives a written order from your doctor ahead of time stating that transport is medically necessary.

### Medicare never covers ambulette services.

An ambulette is a wheelchair-accessible van that provides non-emergency transportation. Medicare also does not cover ambulance transportation just because you lack access to alternative transportation.

Part B covers medically necessary emergency and non-emergency ambulance services at 80% of the Medicare-approved amount. In most cases, you pay a 20% coinsurance after you meet your Part B deductible (\$226 in 2023). All ambulance companies that contract with Medicare must be participating providers. Note that if you are receiving Skilled Nursing Facility care under Part A, most ambulance transportation should be paid for by the SNF. The SNF should not bill Medicare for this service.

### The UAW Local 774 Retiree Executive Board would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who donated to our 2023 Retiree Picnic:

UAW Region 9 Director, Daniel Vicente  
UAW Region 9 Assistant Director, Ray Jensen, Jr.  
UAW Region 9 CAP/Retiree Director, Wence Valentin III  
UAW Region 9 Communications Director, Amy Kloc  
UAW Local 774 Executive Board  
West Herr Automotive Group Paddock Chevrolet

Ken-Ton Hearing  
Russell's Steaks Chops & More  
Premier Wines  
Rev. Rick Maisano  
Russ Flynn  
Doug Seefeldt  
Stacie McKernan  
Jeanne LoHouse  
Roberta Gainer

Radius Federal Credit Union  
Salvatore's Italian Gardens  
Maria Maziarz  
Peggy Kearney  
Teddy Maldonado  
Eric Perfitt  
John Orsini  
Heather Grimmer





## Women's Committee Report

Heather Grimmer  
Chairperson

Sisters and Brothers,

October 14th, we had our annual Making Strides Walk down at The Lakeside Bike Path. The first walk took place in Boston, Massachusetts in 1993. Since then, the walk has expanded into a national movement with 154 communities involved and has raised millions of dollars. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate this year so the turn out was a bit smaller than usual. I would like to thank the members of our committee for coming out and volunteering. While at the event we raised \$450 between cookies, bracelets and tee shirts sales. With other online donations we have raised \$2,500.00 so far.



UAW LOCAL 774 & TONAWANDA ENGINE

VETERANS COMMITTEE

★ ★

UAW LOCAL 774

GATE COLLECTION

HONORING OUR COWORKERS WHO SERVED

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3RD, 2023

APPROVED FOR POSTING:  
/S/ TEDDY MALDONADO  
PRESIDENT - UAW LOCAL 774

OPEIU-153

UNION - MADE

Thanksgiving

<p><b>SET THE TABLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALL-CLAD COOKWARE</li> <li>• CORNINGWARE</li> <li>• PYREX</li> </ul>	<p><b>HAM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APPLETON FARMS HAM</li> <li>• COOK'S HAM</li> <li>• TYSON HAM</li> </ul>	<p><b>VEGETABLES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANDY BOY</li> <li>• BIRDS EYE</li> <li>• MURANAKA FARM</li> </ul>	<p><b>BREAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AUNT MILLIE'S BREADS</li> <li>• PILLSBURY ROLLS</li> <li>• BUNNY BREAD</li> </ul>
<p><b>FRESH WHOLE TURKEY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BUTTERBALL</li> <li>• FOSTER FARMS</li> </ul>	<p><b>STUFFING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MANISCHEWITZ</li> <li>• STROEHMANN BAKERY PRODUCTS</li> </ul>	<p><b>POTATOES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BETTY CROCKER SPECIALTY POTATOES</li> <li>• DOLE FRESH POTATOES</li> </ul>	<p><b>PIE FILLING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEL MONTE FRESH APPLES</li> <li>• KROGER PUMPKIN PIE</li> <li>• MOTT'S APPLESAUCE</li> </ul>

AFL-CIO

Local 774 Tonawanda, NY

UAW

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Early Detection Saves Lives





## Recording Secretary's Report

Stacie J. McKernan  
Region 9 NWAC Representative

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here are a few updates on topics that stood out to me that I would like to share with the Retired and Active Membership.

**Community Impact:** Since 2018, we've donated to the Alex Pichette Memorial Foundation. In the seven years of their fundraising, they've donated \$70,000 to the Kids Escaping Drugs Organization for the Face2Face Outreach Program.

**Successful 2023 UAW International Women's Conference:** Ashley Lewis, UAW Women's Department, engaged The Advisory Council to brainstorm ideas to shape the conference agenda. She then presented the ideas to Secretary-Treasurer Margaret Mock, who finalized the conference programming and led the opening discussion to kick off the conference theme: Engaging Your Power.

The UAW Education Department, in collaboration with the Advisory Council, took charge of instructing sessions on topics such as Effective Union Meetings, Using the UAW Constitution, Understanding Bargaining and Strikes, and Unlearning Bias. To ensure engagement, each Region was allocated specific time slots throughout the day. Our Fireside Chat event, initiated four to five years ago, offered a relaxed environment for open discussions on relevant topics, and of course, there were s'mores available.

Once again, it was an excellent week filled with valuable information and the opportunity to build new relationships that will extend beyond the conference. We continuously gather and utilize Delegates' feedback to enhance our conference, ensuring it remains engaging and successful year after year.

In Solidarity,

Stacie J McKernan  
UAW Local 774 Recording Secretary  
Region 9 NWAC Representative  
WNY CLUW Recording Secretary

## Financial Secretary/ Treasurer's Report

John Orsini  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer



In 2019, our local decided to move some of our money around to improve our interest earned. The recommended type of investments was Certificate of Deposit (CD)'s. One of the two CD's at Radius Federal Credit Union has matured in October and we have to make another decision on how to reinvest our dues dollars. As luck would have it the rates of CD's are the highest they have been since October 2007. The 60 month rate for CD's is at 5.25% and it is in line with other financial institutions.

Back in May we made a decision to move our money from Lake Shore Savings bank into our existing account at Northwest. After an article in the Buffalo News stated that they were in violation of several issues and the customer service we were getting at the time was not sufficient we decided to close that account. While researching different avenues for our finances Northwest Bank helped me discover the amount of interest we were not getting and changed the account to a money market account. We decided to invest \$100,000 into a 10-month CD with a 5.10% APY. Next August when the CD matures we will have to make another decision on what's our next investment.

A question may come up as to why don't we just get the best terms and go with one banking institution? The answer is quite simply the FDIC insurance only protects you up to \$250,000. That is the reason for so many accounts at our local.

As our contract negotiations carry on our personal finances may be tested. I strongly encourage everyone to see if they can save some money in these uncertain times. Once again CDs are at the highest they have been in 16 years. Most of our local financial institutions are offering short term CDs as little as 8 months at or around 5%. With the volatility of the stock market, CDs might very well be the safe way to save money until the market corrects itself.



## UNION-MADE GIFTS

Shipping gifts this year? Make sure to ship using a union carrier like the U.S. Postal Service or UPS.

### APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

- MAJESTIC ATHLETIC
- NATURALIZER SHOES
- TIMEX WATCHES

### BOOK & STATIONERY STORES

- GREENLIGHT BOOKSTORE
- RMGNALLY JACKSON
- YOURS TRULY, BROOKLYN

### BEAUTY PRODUCTS

- AVON
- CARESS SKIN CARE
- DOVE BEAUTY PRODUCTS

### COMIC BOOKS

- IMAGE COMICS
- SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT
- TENDER CLAWS

### GAMES

- BARREL OF MONKEYS
- THE GAME OF LIFE
- MONOPOLY

### SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- AMERICAN ATHLETIC
- LOUISVILLE SLUGGER
- STANDARD GOLF

### STOCKING STUFFERS

- BIC LIGHTERS
- JELLY BELLY CANDIES
- SEE'S CANDIES

### WINE AND BEER

- BUDWEISER
- CK MONDAY
- MICHELOB



AFL-CIO

**If you haven't already, change the battery in your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors**







# ATTENTION! UAW Legal Services

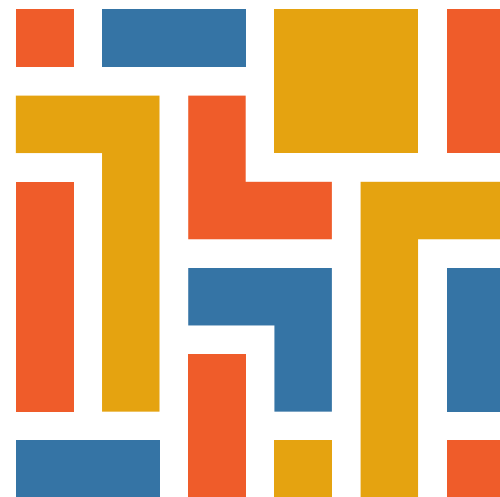


10535 Main St. Clarence, NY 14031

(716)632-1644

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

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



**NATIVE AMERICAN**  
*heritage month*



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



Walter Reuther

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

**labor is fighting for a larger pie.**

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING  
This sheet is for informational purposes only and does not purport to be legal advice.





Shop Chairman-Mike Grimmer

## Brothers and Sisters,

UAW members across the Big 3 have been working without a contract since September 14th when our National Agreements expired at 11:59 PM. Many of us have been through multiple National Agreement negotiations, but this time is very different than the previous contract years.

Typically, the International UAW picks one of the Big 3 companies as the “strike target” and focuses all negotiations on the target company until an agreement is reached. Then the remaining two companies negotiate the “pattern agreement” established at the first company, with individual changes that suit their needs. That is not the case this year at all. This time, plants from each of the Big 3 were put on strike at the expiration of the National Agreements in what is called the Stand-Up Strike. Negotiations are happening at all three of the companies at once instead of just one company this time around.

The Stand-Up Strike is our generation’s answer to the movement that built our union, the Sit-Down Strikes of 1937. Then as now, we face massive inequality across our society. Then as now, our industry is rapidly changing, and workers are being left behind. Then as now, our labor movement is redefining itself. This is a strike that grows over time, giving our national negotiators maximum leverage and maximum flexibility to win a record contract.

The Stand-Up Strike is a new approach to striking. Instead of striking all plants all at once, select locals will be called on to “Stand Up” and walk out on strike. As time goes on, more locals may be called on to join the strike. This gives us maximum leverage and maximum flexibility in our fight to win a fair contract at each of the Big 3 automakers. Locals that are not called on to join the Stand-Up Strike will keep working. We will not extend the contracts, so you will be working without an agreement.

## Working Without A Contract /Know Your Rights/ Frequently Asked Questions

**What expires upon contract expiration?** • Arbitration (but not the grievance procedure) • Management Rights • Union security (but not dues checkoff) • No strike/no lockout **What does not expire upon contract expiration?** Other than the items listed above, the terms and conditions in the contract continue to apply when it expires. Those terms and conditions make up the status quo. The

company cannot make unilateral changes to any mandatory subject of bargaining that is part of the status quo. The parties must bargain over changes to the status quo. **What are mandatory subjects of bargaining?** Mandatory subjects of bargaining are things that directly impact wages, hours, or working conditions. The list is long. • Examples include wages, overtime pay, shift premium, incentive pay, bonuses, break time, seniority, health and safety, vacation, personal time, health benefits, pension, profit-sharing, subcontracting, work rules, price of food in snack machines... **How do I help enforce the status quo?** • Be on the lookout for any changes to work rules or any other mandatory subjects of bargaining. Report any changes to your committeeperson. **If we don’t have a right to arbitrate disputes, how do I protect myself from being disciplined?** • Carefully follow all standard operating procedures, safety policies and supervisor’s instructions. • Call for a committeeperson if you are disciplined, asked to do work you are not trained to do or asked to do work that is unsafe. **What else can I do?** • Attend Local Union meetings to learn more about your right to engage in protected concerted activities with your co-workers and to help plan those activities at your plant. • **REFUSE VOLUNTARY OVERTIME.** **What can’t I do?** • Engage in a partial strike: You cannot do your regular work very slowly or do only some of your job duties and refuse to do others. An example of a partial strike is refusing to work mandatory overtime. • Distribute leaflets that disparage the quality of the company’s products. • Damage company property. • Threaten anyone, including supervisors or other employees, with physical harm.

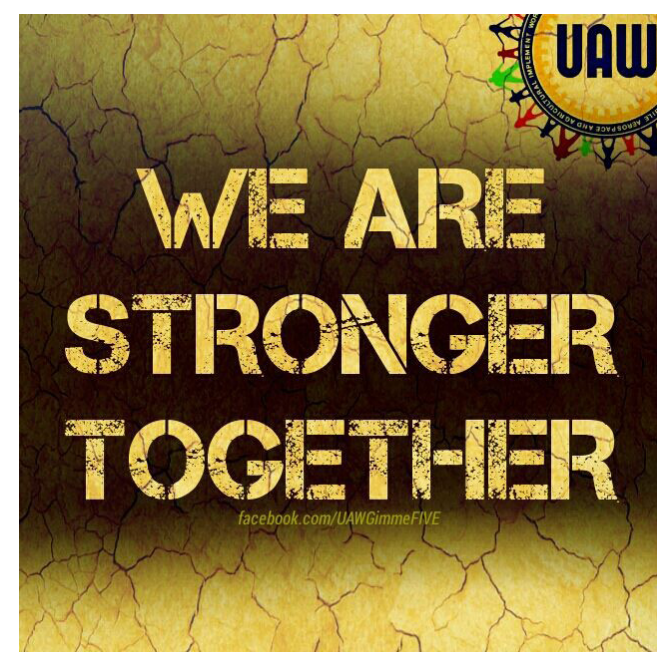
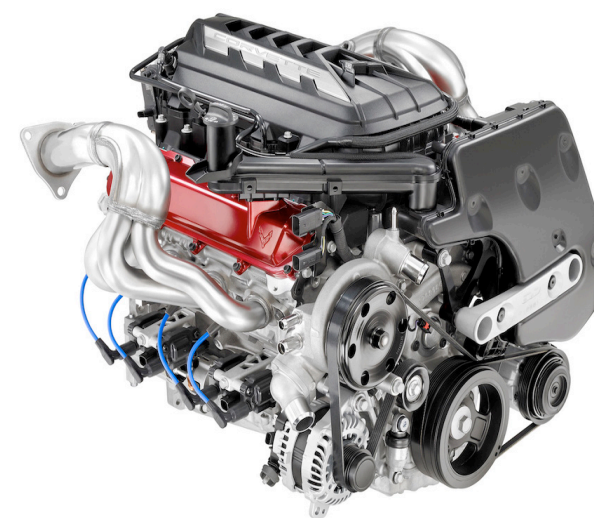
As of writing this report (10-23-2023), we are now entering week six of the Stand-Up Strike. Since week one when the strike began with one plant placed on strike at each company, all the parts distribution warehouses from GM and Stellantis have added to the strike. Then the UAW added GM’s Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant and Ford’s Chicago Assembly Plant to the strike. The last plant added to the Stand-Up strike was Ford’s Kentucky Truck plant which has over 8,700 UAW members working there. The strategy is working.

I am happy to report that there has been significant progress made in restoring what was lost during the Bankruptcy Years and the Great Recession in the areas of reinstating COLA, significant general wage increases (larger raises than any other single contract before), added holidays, work protections, and much more. But the job is not done as of today.

There are still more gains to be won in the areas of pensions and retirement healthcare before the International UAW will bring us an agreement to vote on. We need to stand strong together for the job to be completed. The contracts could be completed any day and we will be called upon to review and vote on them. The membership decides with their votes if the contracts have satisfied our needs or not.

In closing, I am requesting that we all stay united and support International UAW President Shawn Fain and the rest of the team during this time. They are fighting for our best interests to restore what was taken from us many years ago. We can all chose whether this contract is good or not when we get called upon to cast our votes to ratify the agreements.

**In Solidarity,  
Mike Grimmer**





Thank You

PADDOCK

CHEVROLET



Paddock With you for the extra mile.



Local 55 UAW

For the personal attention every GM Employee deserves.

CHEVROLET FIND NEW ROADS™

The ONLY Chevrolet Dealership in WNY with a Union Shop

YOU ARE UAW.



WE ARE UAW.



Leave Us a Review! | 716-876-0945 | 3232 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY