



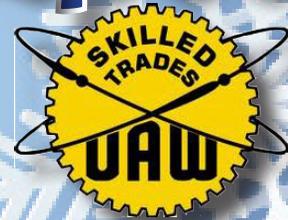
# Labor News & Report



## UAW LOCAL 774

2939 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207

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



October - December 2022

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“Teamwork in the Leadership, Solidarity in the Ranks”



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### Meat Raffle at Woodlawn Fire Company to benefit Roswell Park's Herd for Hope and Leukemia Lymphoma Society's held by UAW Local 774 Community Services and Women's Committee's



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### Happy Holidays

May the feeling of solidarity warm your heart and the hearts of your loved ones throughout the holiday and the coming year, wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year.

The holidays can be the most joyous time of the year for some and the most difficult for others. If anyone has any struggles this holiday season, we have resources available via EAP, whose primary responsibility is to ensure the health and welfare of the membership. During times of stress, the well-being of membership is imperative. Holidays can be a powerful experience and create insurmountable strain for workers and their families. Bill Martin our EAP representative can be reached at (716) 879-5516

### 2022 International Executive Board (IEB) Election update

The incoming UAW International Executive Board will be sworn in on December 12th. There will be a run-off election for the office of International President (candidates Ray Curry and Shawn Fain), International Vice-President (candidates Chuck Browning and Tim Bressler), and the Regional Director of Region 9 (candidates Daniel Vicente and Lauren Farrell). Rules and details around the run-off election will be forthcoming, but it is anticipated that ballots will be mailed to members starting on January 12, 2023 and the deadline for the return of those ballots will be February 28, 2023, with the vote count commencing on March 1, 2023. Additional information will follow. Congratulations to our new UAW IEB members

- Secretary-Treasurer: Margaret Mock
- Vice President: Mike Booth
- Vice President: Rich Boyer
- Region 1 Director: LaShawn English
- Region 1A Director: Laura Dickerson
- Region 1D Director: Steve Dawes
- Region 2B Director: David Green
- Region 4 Director: Brandon Campbell
- Region 6 Director: Mike Miller
- Region 8 Director: Tim Smith
- Region 9A Director: Brandon Mancilla

Our union continues to influence our workplace and society for the better wholeheartedly. With this election, you can be a part of something amazing. So many workers in our country have never had the opportunity to make a difference within their workplace. It is heartbreaking that many in the middle class have never experienced a labor-driven electoral process. Yet, to choose those to represent and fight for our struggles is an absolute

right all workers should have. The assaults on organized labor are rising. Because of these attacks on the labor movement, we must strengthen our bargaining power by addressing urgent issues strategically and with solidarity. Strong leadership is essential to fighting these external adversaries. We must continue our dedication to facilitate better contracts and strengthen our union. Voting is an investment in your future. To foster a strong, participatory member-driven union, we must make the best-educated decisions about our rights as workers and the leaders we choose to execute our interests. Education is vital to our labor movement; a member's knowledge increases awareness and cultivates strength to grow. Research the candidates so we can make changes within our workplace and our union. We need leaders that strictly follow the protocols outlined in the UAW constitution and be transparent to our active and retired members. We, as members, ARE the union. A union is never one-person, executive board, shop committee, or international union. It's all of us, collectively; that's where we draw our strength. Please vote in the upcoming run-off election and inspire co-workers to vote to build our power. We have an obligation to continue to be the voice and protector of the past, present, and future members. Around 10% of the membership participated in this election Union wide, UAW Local 774 had the highest voter turnout within our Region by percentage with around 20% unofficially 815 members voted from our Local.

### Railroad Workers Strike

It is reprehensible what Railroad workers have had to endure in recent events. Both political parties opted to side with Big Business over the middle class and hard-working people. Anti-union Politicians voted against the best interests of railroad workers.

The United States Senate held three votes in succession, each requiring 60 votes for approval.

It rejected an amendment by Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, to extend the "cooling off period" giving the relevant parties 60 days beyond the Dec. 8 deadline to keep negotiating an agreement between unions and rail operators.

It also rejected an amendment championed by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Democrats to add seven days of paid sick leave for rail workers to the agreement. The vote was 52 to 43, falling eight votes short of succeeding.

The "no" votes on the sick leave measure were 42 Republicans and Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va. Most Democrats voted "yes," joined by six Republicans: Mike Braun of Indiana, Ted Cruz of Texas, Lindsey

Graham of South Carolina, Josh Hawley of Missouri, John Kennedy of Louisiana and Marco Rubio of Florida.

After that, the Senate voted to impose the agreement brokered by the Biden administration in September, approving legislation the House had already passed. While the deal was brokered by the White House and championed as a compromise, some of the unions rejected it.

The United States House of Representatives voted to ratify union members' contract, which most U.S. freight rail workers previously rejected. The Senate followed suit, subsequently overriding the Rail workers' voices and desires. Union members should have the right to bargain collectively and engage in strike activity if and when they see fit. However, Railroad workers were not afforded their contractual rights. Within hours of the Senate vote sealing Railroad workers' fate, they suffered a second defeat at the hands of the Republicans. That proposed bill would have mandated seven days of paid sick leave, was rejected by the Republican House and Senate. Considering that 80% of American laborers are entitled to paid sick leave, railroad employees are not guaranteed one paid sick day. Therefore, if workers have the flu and need to recuperate from their illness or make a doctor's appointment, they must use vacation time. Furthermore, vacation time is to be requested days in advance. In other words, if workers need to take time off to recover from the flu, they must notify management days before they catch the virus, which is impossible.

Politicians are happy to voice platitudes and praises for heroism throughout the pandemic for essential employees, including the nature of work and the brutal, dangerous, and demanding conditions. Yet when it matters, they back the powerful and wealthy. The fight for justice is ongoing, and we must support our fellow union brothers and sisters in the Railroad industry. The railroad barons are too powerful and are a danger to the national economy. The railroad industry should be taken into public ownership and managed for the best interest of workers, shippers, passengers, and the nation, not a handful of wealthy plutocrats. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said in a statement that the agreement from the White House fell short, and urged Congress to "do the right thing by passing paid sick days for rail workers." "To be clear, rail companies could do the right thing today and grant workers paid sick leave," she said. "But they've refused, putting profits over people. That's how we

**President's Report Continued on Pg. 7**

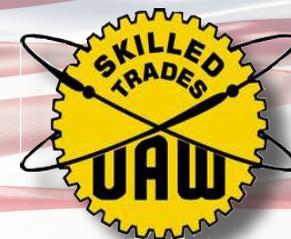
# UAW Local 774 President's Report

President - Wence Valentin III





# UAW Local 774 Shop Chairman's Report



Shop Chairman-Mike Grimmer

As we head into the end of 2022, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have had an eventful year with constant parts shortages, weeks of temporary layoff, and the build-out of the LGE engine program in Plant 5. Throughout all of these difficulties, UAW 774 members rose above these difficulties and delivered the World's Best Engines as always.

By the time this article reaches everyone, our historic one member one vote election will have been completed and we will know who our new International UAW Executive Board will be. It appears that there will be a run-off election for a couple of the positions soon. Whoever wins these elections will have the responsibility of leading our membership through the upcoming 2023 National Agreement Negotiations. This is gearing up to be a difficult set of negotiations as we want to regain all that we have lost over the last several contracts. I want everyone to be prepared for the expiration of our National Agreement and set aside some money in case we have to go on strike to achieve our goals. I will keep everyone posted as we get closer to that date.

## Plant Closure Due to Snowstorm

The plant was forced to close due to a major snowstorm from Thursday November 17th on afternoon shift until Sunday, November 20th on afternoon shift. Everyone with 1 or more years of seniority was coded and paid Short Work Week (SWW) for Friday because work was canceled by GM. SWW pay equals 80 % of your hourly wage rate for the 8 hours of lost time on Friday. This was coded 7A so that all hours of overtime offered or worked by members prior to Friday were not used to disqualify members from receiving this pay. Short Work Week benefits that are not coded as 7A, subtract all overtime hours worked or offered from the number of SWW hours paid to the member. As a reminder, time and a half overtime does not get generated until we have 40 hours of compensated hours. SWW pay does not count as compensated hours towards the 40-hour requirement to generate time and one-half overtime pay.

Unfortunately, afternoon shift employees were not coded 7A for the last couple of hours they were sent home on Thursday. This resulted in some members not being paid SWW due to overtime hours offered or worked prior to Thursday night. We are working on getting this code corrected. If the coding is not corrected by management, we will have to file the appropriate grievance to resolve the

issue. All members that needed to take additional time off after Sunday because of a Travel Ban in their hometown, will need to bring documentation of the Travel Ban. This documentation is available through your local police station, town, or city hall, or possibly from the county.

## Quality Performance Payment -

All eligible employees in accordance with Document 11 of the National Agreement (page 331), will receive a \$500 Quality Bonus that will be paid in our December 9th payroll deposit. The eligibility date for the Quality Bonus was November 15th. Eligible employees are defined as those whose status with the Company as of the eligibility date is one of the following: Active with seniority; On temporary layoff status; On leave pursuant to Family and Medical Leave Act; On one of the following leaves of absence which has not exceeded ninety (90) days as of the eligibility date: Informal (Paragraph 103), Formal (Paragraph 104), Sickness and Accident (Paragraphs 106/108), Military (Paragraphs 112 or 218a), or Educational (Paragraph 113).

## 2023 UAW-GM National Agreement Resolutions

As a reminder, all resolutions for improvements to the 2023 UAW-GM National Agreement had to be submitted by Friday December 2nd. Wence Valentin III and I wrote about 19 prewritten resolutions that were made available for the membership to sign and submit based on the feedback we received from the plant floor and our retirees. These resolutions would return very important language that was lost during the bankruptcy agreement if adopted. They included wage and benefit improvements, elimination of tiers, stronger protections and language for Skilled Trades members, as well as long overdue increases in pensions for our retired members. It is our responsibility as the membership to tell the International UAW and GM what we want improved over the next 4-year National Agreement. **I Strongly encouraged all members to participate in this process because if we do not submit resolutions, they will assume that we are happy with the way things are today, myself I see many improvements are needed.**

## Local Negotiations Update

As of writing this article, the Production members of

the Shop Committee have returned to their districts while Craig Jensen and I will remain in Local Negotiations to wrap up the Skilled Trades portion of the agreement. Production is nearly completed, and once the Skilled Trades portion is wrapped up, we will all meet and finalize the agreement. We are one of the many locals that are still working under the language of our prior Local Agreement.

In closing, I would like to thank the membership for their support and patience while we have been in a very long set of Local Negotiations. I am hopeful that we can complete this process and bring an agreement to our members soon. Hopefully we get some great news surrounding a new work announcement in the near future. We have a long history of being one of the highest quality producers of engines to General Motors for over 80 years and deserve to be awarded with a new program.

Have a safe and healthy Holiday and  
Happy New Year!

In Solidarity,  
Mike Grimmer





**August 2022**

Beginning Balance	960,386.57
<b>Income:</b>	
Dues - Regular (Private Sector)	67,954.35
Dues - SUB	63.80
Dues - Profit Sharing/Bonus	94.75
Dues - Retired Workers @ 35%	2,213.05
Commissions - Vending Machines	315.72
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	194.37
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	459.81
Interest on Northwest Money Market Account	20.84
Interest on Savings Account Lake Shore Savings	12.53
Raffle Proceeds	1,625.00
Sales - Shirts	1,590.00
Soc & Rec Registration Fees	400.00
Soc & Rec Tickets (Picnics, Parties etc.)	5,710.00
Income Total	80,654.22
<b>Expense:</b>	
Wages (Clerical)	3,274.24
Wages (Maintenance and Janitorial)	1,743.00
Lost Time (Officers)	20,097.54
Lost Time (Others)	12,299.95
Officer - Non-Tax Travel Per Diem Etc.	3,323.48
Others - Non-Tax Travel Per Diem Etc.	4,537.37
Vacation (Clerical)	922.32
Reimb. Raffle Prizes, Gift Cards, & Baskets	350.00
Postage Reimbursement	52.76
Refreshments Reimbursement	600.00
Supply Reimbursement	125.37
Mobile/Telephone Reimbursement	75.52
Federal Taxes	-4,896.14
FICA	-2,376.94
MECA	-555.86
NY. Tax	-1,738.84
NYS Paid Family Leave	-30.34
OPEIU 153	-60.60
Federal Income Taxes (941) Forward	4,896.14
FICA-Employee OASDI and HI Forward	2,932.80
State Income Taxes Forward	1,738.84
Union Dues Forward	48.50
FICA Employer OASDI and HI (941)	2,932.80
Dental/Hearing/Medical/Vision Insurance	1,902.84
Group Life Insurance	476.83
Medical Fee Reimbursements	170.10
Pension Allocations	526.50
Advertising and Publicity	1,355.00
Affiliation Fees - NAACP etc.	120.00
Bank Charges - Service Fees, NSF, Etc.	6.00
Building Supplies	207.35
Janitorial Services	850.00
Maintenance and Repairs	11,976.84
Utilities (Building Ownership)	2,419.52
Donations - Charities	200.00
Flowers, Bibles & Card Donations In Lieu	298.47
Furniture & Equip - Leases & Rentals	271.50
Internet Service (Access Fees)	336.57
Per Capita Taxes - International	40,562.61
Per Capita Taxes - CAP Councils	1,631.52
Per Capita Taxes - Affiliates	563.20
Per Capita Taxes - Retiree Councils	8.61
Printing Costs - Tickets, Posters & Calendars	548.10
Printing Costs - Pamphlets & Literature	38.50
Registration/Conference/Tuition Fees	3,089.00
Rental of Mats, Mops, Rugs, Etc.	220.68
Resale Items - Shirts	3,096.41
Subscriptions - Cable TV	236.82
Supplies - Office	294.78
Telephone	465.40
Travel - Direct Pd Airline, Hotel, Tr Agency	4,464.58
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>126,629.64</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>914,411.15</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>960,386.57</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>80,654.22</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>-126,629.64</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-45,975.42</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>914,411.15</b>

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	\$ 823,483.25
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# Financial Secretary & Treasurer's Report

Financial Secretary/Treasurer- Cleveland Jones Jr.

Education Fund	\$ 3,103.32
Recreation Fund	\$ 1,181.40
Education Committee Fund	\$ 2,868.94
Recreation Committee Fund	\$ 9,223.35
Retired Workers Chapter Fund	\$ 110,810.71
Community Services Committee Fund	\$ 16,156.65
New Member Orientation Fund	\$ 1,909.44
Conservation Committee Fund	\$ 2,827.12
Union Label Committee Fund	\$ 458.39
Consumer Affairs Committee	\$ 116.57
Civil and Human Rights Committee Fund	\$ 1,663.18
Building Fund	\$ -93,155.76
Children With Special Needs Fund	\$ 1,413.56
Hall Rental Improvement Fund	\$ 7,129.35
Telethon Committee Fund	\$ 3,901.74
Chaplaincy Committee Fund	\$ 2,363.34
Veterans Committee Fund	\$ 12,002.87
Women's Committee Fund	\$ 3,708.35
Solidarity Committee Fund	\$ 3,245.38
Total of All Funds	\$ 914,411.15

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

<b>Actual Bank Balance</b>	<b>104,978.31</b>
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Northwest Savings Bank Money Market Account	\$ 245,421.53
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union COD	\$ 221,037.99
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	\$ 167,039.46
Lake Shore Savings Account	\$ 92,414.60
Radius Federal Credit Union COD	\$ 83,415.76
Radius Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$ 68.50
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$ 25.00
Water Meter Deposit	\$ 10.00
Total Cash Assets	\$ 914,411.15

**September 2022**

Beginning Balance	914,411.15
<b>Income:</b>	
Dues - Regular (Private Sector)	67,089.22
Dues - SUB	190.22
Dues - Agency Fee Payers: 1 Member	61.89
Dues - Retired Workers @ 35%	2,213.05
Commissions - Vending Machines	313.86
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	188.54
Interest on CD Radius Federal Credit Union	446.20
Interest on Northwest Money Market Account	20.17
Interest on Financial Trust FCU CD	1,810.69
Interest on Savings Account Lake Shore Savings	11.39
Raffle Proceeds	20,893.00
Rents - Gyms and Reception Halls	60.00
Sales - Advertising (Newsletter)	760.00
Sales - Refreshments (Food & Drink)	0.00
Sales - Shirts	1,610.00
Transfer Between Funds	0.00
Reimbursed Travel - Direct Pd	1,018.37
Income Total	96,686.60
<b>Expense:</b>	
Wages (Clerical)	3,504.82
Wages (Maintenance and Janitorial)	1,066.50
Lost Time (Officers)	4,358.86
Lost Time (Others)	8,842.05
Others - Non-Tax Travel Per Diem Etc.	2,363.86
Holiday (Clerical)	184.46
Reimb Medical/Dental/Vision Ins	570.00
Reimb. Raffle Prizes, Gift Cards, & Baskets	1,856.50
Postage Reimbursement	26.95
Refreshments Reimbursement	104.00
Supply Reimbursement	37.79
Federal Taxes	-2,082.03
FICA	-1,113.33
MECA	-260.38
NY. Tax	-670.60
NYS Paid Family Leave	-24.29
OPEIU 153	-36.38
Federal Income Taxes (941) Forward	3,594.46
FICA-Employee OASDI and HI Forward	2,142.06
State Income Taxes Forward	4,992.07
Union Dues Forward	48.50
FICA Employer OASDI and HI (941)	2,142.06
Unemployment Taxes Federal (940)	253.67

Dental/Hearing/Medical/Vision Insurance	2,123.34
Group Life Insurance	14.00
Medical Fee Reimbursements	170.10
Pension Allocations	234.00
Bank Charges - Service Fees, NSF, Etc.	6.00
Building Supplies	199.46
Janitorial Services	2,200.00
Maintenance and Repairs	352.05
Utilities (Building Ownership)	1,431.00
Donations - Charities	100.00
Furniture & Equip - Leases & Rentals	428.81
Internet Service (Access Fees)	75.08
Per Capita Taxes - International	40,670.60
Per Capita Taxes - CAP Councils	1,634.71
Per Capita Taxes - Affiliates	555.68
Per Capita Taxes - Retiree Councils	8.51
Postage	1,267.38
Printing Costs - Tickets, Posters & Calendars	64.75
Printing Costs - Local Union Newsletter/Paper	2,856.81
Promotional Items (Decals, Clips, Magnets Etc)	50.00
Refreshments - Coffee, Donuts, Food & Soft Drinks	191.74
Registration/Conference/Tuition Fees	2,100.00
Rental of Mats, Mops, Rugs, Etc.	212.53
Resale Items - Shirts	-318.44
Soc & Rec Events - Christmas Party	1,000.00
Soc & Rec Events - Picnic, Tournament Etc.	200.00
Supplies - Office	642.61
Technical and Support Fees	587.25
Telephone	381.18
Travel - Direct Pd Airline, Hotel, Tr Agency	2,436.10
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>93,776.85</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>917,320.90</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>914,411.15</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>96,686.60</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>-93,776.85</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>2,909.75</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>917,320.90</b>

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	\$ 813,257.35
Education Fund	\$ 239.73
Recreation Fund	\$ 1,139.90
Education Committee Fund	\$ 2,897.47
Recreation Committee Fund	\$ 9,251.88
Retired Workers Chapter Fund	\$ 111,759.01
Community Services Committee Fund	\$ 33,142.72
New Member Orientation Fund	\$ 1,827.93
Conservation Committee Fund	\$ 2,804.62
Union Label Committee Fund	\$ 458.39
Consumer Affairs Committee	\$ 116.57
Civil and Human Rights Committee Fund	\$ 1,641.71
Building Fund	\$ -98,310.12
Children With Special Needs Fund	\$ 1,442.09
Hall Rental Improvement Fund	\$ 6,777.30
Telethon Committee Fund	\$ 3,930.28
Chaplaincy Committee Fund	\$ 2,341.87
Veterans Committee Fund	\$ 11,946.40
Women's Committee Fund	\$ 7,431.89
Solidarity Committee Fund	\$ 3,223.91
Total of All Funds	\$ 917,320.90

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

<b>Actual Bank Balance</b>	<b>105,411.07</b>
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Northwest Savings Bank Money Market Account	\$ 245,441.70
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union COD	\$ 222,848.68
Radius Federal Credit Union Certificate of Deposit	\$ 167,485.66
Lake Shore Savings Account	\$ 92,425.99
Radius Federal Credit Union Certificate of Deposit	\$ 83,604.30
Radius Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$ 68.50
Financial Trust Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$ 25.00
Water Meter Deposit	\$ 10.00
Total Cash Assets	\$ 917,320.9





## The Fiscal Factor

Financial Secretary/Treasurer  
Cleveland Jones Jr.

Brothers and Sisters,

At the conclusion of the 3rd Quarter (Q3) in Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), UAW Local 774 reported a net loss in retained earnings of \$-65,344.75. That is a decrease of \$71,146.52 under Q3 in FY21. Year-to-date (YTD) with Q1 – Q3 in FY22, our net loss in retained earnings \$-101,997.52. Year-over-year (YOY) that amounts to a decrease of \$-189,904.31 under Q1 – Q3 in FY21. In Q3, the average active membership total based on dues received was 854.

For Q3 of 2022, General Motors LLC (GM) reported a North American Profit of \$3.9 billion dollars. Combined with the Q1 total of \$3.1 billion dollars & the Q2 total of \$2.3 billion dollars, the aggregate of 2022 North American profit is approximately \$9.3 billion dollars.

As always, I am available to provide assistance and/or answer any questions you may have. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! I hope you all have continued peace, love and prosperity.

Solidarity Forever.

Cleveland Jones Jr.  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer  
Cjonesjr@uaw774.com  
(716) 873-4715 ext. 20

“We have flown the air like birds and swum the sea like fishes, but have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth like brothers.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

### International Strike and Defense Fund Net Worth August 2022: \$ 840,497,799.73



## Chaplaincy Chat Corner

Chaplain Renita F. Chatman

"Creating A Culture of Comfort & Caring"  
II Corinthians 1:3-4

The foundation of The UAW Chaplaincy Program Article 41 Section 2 of the UAW Constitution states:

"It shall be the duty of each member to render aid and assistance to a Brother or Sister member in cases of illness, death or distress, and in every way acquit her/himself as a loyal devoted member of the international union."

I Pray the Thanksgiving holiday brought you joy, peace & rest as you spent time with family, friends and loved ones. May we all continue in the flow of thought to be thankful and grateful for what we have. Let us not take for granted the benefits and privileges afforded to us as citizens of The United States. Nor should we forget the men, women and families of the armed forces for making the ultimate sacrifice of time and their lives for our freedom.

The Christmas, New Years' holidays are just ahead of us. I encourage you to take a few moments to meditate and pray to "lighten" the mental emotional & psychological load that often accompany the stress and pressures of preparing for holidays. Decorations, meal planning, shopping etc. Constantly keeping

up with current events in the media reporting can create "burnout" or health issues that take away from the magic of enjoying the moments we should be celebrating.

from the desk of Chaplain Renita F. Chatman.....

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as a Chaplain for 20 years. Serving as a Chaplain created many opportunities for me to serve in other capacities.

As Co-Chairperson of the Election Committee I was instrumental in securing the voting machines now currently being used and saved the local approximately \$16,000.00 the first year of use. As a member of The Womens Committee I was present in introducing distinguished guest speakers such as Judge Jeanette Ogden and Hilary Clinton for the Annual Womens Committee program. Money raised from fund raisers provided opportunities for us to secure day trips to visit the home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton in Seneca Falls NY as well as workshops to educate women about the roles of women in unions. Many Charities throughout WNY that provide services for women and children were blessed as well. For Eight (8) Years I served as Chairperson for The Committee for Black History. During the Months of February & March by permission of the UAW local leaders and GM Management. Tonawanda Engine hosted site wide celebrations that provided Black Leaders from throughout WNY as guest speakers. Workshops, story- telling, dance, music and food were provided and strongly supported by UAW members and their families. (Plants 1,4 & 5 at full capacity). As a result, other ethnic cultural celebrations took place site wide which resulted in a year- long celebration. The Diversity Committee was resurrected with members of both UAW and Management scheduling monthly meetings to ensure that every Ethnicity was fully represented during the cultural celebrations.

In 2003 I was able to complete my studies at Canisius College earning a BS in Psychology/Religious Studies Plant wide I received a certificate of learning by The Dean Vaughn Course for Leadership. This course was offered to UAW/Management Gen 5 Launch Team members.

In 2011 after returning to work from a 2 ½ yr. lay off, I was invited to interview for the position of Launch Team Leader for GEN 5 Assembly. This appointment presented the opportunity for me hone my skills as next- level non-skilled laborer, counselor, teacher & Chaplain. I was tremendously blessed and supported by the UAW/Management team that traveled to Harata Japan to re-create the GEN 5 at Tonawanda Engine Plant.

I have had the opportunity to be invited as a Distinguished Guest to attend the 2014 & 2018 UAW International Conventions In Detroit MI, with special attention to offer prayer for candidates running for Region 9 positions. In 2018, I was appointed by Region 9 Director Jeff Binz to be the Chaplaincy Coordinator. This responsibility covers the areas of Buffalo, Rochester, New Jersey, Syracuse, Lockport, Niagara Falls & Pennsylvania. Being the first Woman to be appointed to this position has been an honor and a blessing. Regionally my responsibility was to be sure that the Chaplains under my watch were trained, equipped, and certified with the necessary tools to be able to perform their duties as "servants" to the membership. On the International level I attended planning meetings to coordinate workshops for the Annual Chaplaincy Conference held at Black Lake Onaway Michigan.

In 2019 a recommendation was sent to Region 9 for the position of Benefit Rep. UAW Vice President Terry Dittes approved and appointed me to the position. I served a short time on midnight shift until the membership roll reduced.

As you can see from this article, I have been afforded many benefits and opportunities as an employee of General Motors and UAW Member. I have memories that will carry me though a lifetime of fun and joy. There have been times of grief in the passing of members who will forever be dear to my heart. Now is the time for me to say goodbye.

Thank you so much! I will continue to keep each of you and your families in my daily prayers.

Solidarity is forever!

GOD'S PEACE AND GOOD JOURNEY TO EACH OF YOU!  
Chaplain Renita F. Chatman

# 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: December 13, 2022; January 10, 2023; February 14, 2023; March 14, 2023; April 11, 2023; May 09, 2023; June 13, 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:

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 18, 2022. Tickets cost \$20.00 apiece and 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 Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

## 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.

## United Health Care MA PPO Plan to replace Aetna MA PPO Plan

Regretfully, the Aetna MA PPO Plan is being eliminated effective January 1, 2023 and will no longer be offered to UAW Trust members in 2023. This change does not affect your medical or pharmacy coverage at this time. You will continue to have healthcare coverage through Aetna for 2022. To make these transition easier Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan members will be automatically enrolled in the United Health Care Medicare Advantage plan on January 1, 2023. The United Healthcare MA plan is a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) with Extended Service Area (ESA) which means that the plan allows you to use any doctors and hospitals that participate in Medicare and are willing to accept your plan regardless whether they participate in the United Healthcare network without paying higher out-of-network costs. You can also call the Trust-dedicated United Healthcare Customer Service Center at 844-320-5021 TTY 711, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 8 p.m. local time or visit the website at [retiree.uhc.com/UAWTrust](http://retiree.uhc.com/UAWTrust) for more information.

## New Prescription Carrier – Optum Rx for 2023

Your UAW Trust prescription drug coverage for 2023 for all retirees will be administered by Optum Rx regardless of which healthcare plan you choose. Prescription coverage will no longer be with Express Scripts effective January 1, 2023. There will still be a three-tier copay structure, access to 90 day mail in orders along with a national network of retail pharmacies. The formulary (drug list) through Optum Rx will be similar to the current Express Scripts formulary. A drug list which will not include the entire formulary but will show the most prescribed drugs and their tiers will be sent and also be available on the Optum Rx website which is [UAWTrustPDP.com](http://UAWTrustPDP.com). If you have any

questions or concerns, you can call 1-855-409-0219, TTY 711, 8 am – 8 pm local time Monday through Friday. These changes will not become effective until January 1, 2023. Your dental, vision, hearing coverage and OTC benefit will remain the same.

## 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.

## 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>)  
UAW Local 774 official Facebook page is UAW Local 774

## How Big Will The Raise Be For Social Security In 2023?

Approximately 70 million Americans will see an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2023. On average, Social Security benefits will increase by more than \$140 per month starting in January. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are higher. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs. Social Security will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. But if you want to know your new benefit amount sooner, you can securely obtain your Social Security COLA notice online using the Message Center in your personal my Social Security account. You

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

## Retiree's Report - Continued

can access this information in early December, prior to receiving the mailed notice. Benefit amounts will not be available before December. Since you will receive the COLA notice online or in the mail, you don't need to contact Social Security to get your new benefit amount. If you prefer to access your COLA notice online and not receive the mailed notice, you can log in to your personal my Social Security account to opt out by changing your preferences in the Message Center. You can update your preferences to opt out of the mailed COLA notice, and any other notices that are available online. You can receive a text or email alert when there is a new message waiting for you? That way, you always know when there is something important for you – like your COLA notice. If you don't have an account yet, you must create one by November 15, 2022 to receive the 2023 COLA notice online.

### Lower Cost of Medicare in 2023

For the first time in a decade, seniors will pay lower monthly premiums for Medicare's Part B plan in 2023. Medicare Part B covers routine doctors' visits and other outpatient care. The 3% decrease in monthly premiums is going to be coupled with a historically high cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits of 8.7% putting hundreds of dollars directly into the pockets of millions of retirees next year. The 2023 decrease in monthly Medicare premiums comes after millions of beneficiaries saw a dramatic increase to premiums in 2022. Most people on Medicare will pay \$164.90 a month for Part B coverage starting next year, a savings of \$5.20. In addition, the annual deductible for the Part B program will decrease \$7 to \$226.

### The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) signed into law by President Joe Biden and the many benefits it provides for all Americans. Benefits for seniors include:

\$35 insulin copays for Medicare beneficiaries beginning in 2023. All recommended adult vaccines free for Medicare beneficiaries beginning in 2023. Medicare beneficiaries will no longer face Big Pharma's outrageous price hikes that outpace inflation beginning in 2023. Medicare Part D beneficiaries will have out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs capped at \$2,000 per year beginning in 2025. Many retirees and retiree organizations have been active and drawing attention to outrageously high drug prices since 2003 and fighting to give Medicare the ability to negotiate lower prices. For the last 20 years the pharmaceutical corporations have used their monopoly power to gouge seniors and taxpayers. The common sense solution to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices is finally here.

### Social Security Funding

Did you know that Social Security is self-sufficient? That means that Social Security takes in enough money through the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax on workers and employers to fully fund ALL the activities of Social Security including paying benefits and funding the entire administrative cost of the program. That administrative cost includes all the employees of the Social Security department, the offices and all other expenses. Yet despite being entirely self-sufficient Congress gets to determine their funding level on a yearly basis. This has at times led Congress to decrease funding to the department causing offices to be closed, staff to be cut and services to be limited. All this when the funding is adequate to maintain services. Why would Congress do this? Perhaps to make people look at Social Security in a more critical way and diminish the popularity of a program that enjoys universally positive reactions. By driving down the popularity of Social Security it enables those that are not supportive of social Security in its present form to attempt the gut the program in the name of reform. Social Security became part of the yearly funding cycle in the late 1960's as part of an effort to fund the Viet Nam war. Afterwards, during the Greenspan Commission in the early 80's it was more formally established. With the omnibus appropriations bill in 1990 and the OMB Director during the Bush 1 administration there was continued linkage. There have been suggestions by a number of organizations over the years, including the Center for American Progress and Social Security Works and the Strengthen Social Security Coalition to de-link the Social Security's administrative budget from the yearly federal agency discretionary budget decided by congress. There has even been legislation introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders in 2018 that would accomplish this, called the "SSA Administration Fairness Act". This bill however, was never passed and

there was quite a bit of opposition to doing this, including from influential Democrats on the House and Senate appropriations committees, who would lose jurisdiction and influence over SSA. Our legislators must prioritize this important issue as the fate of a very popular program might be affected in a negative way and Social Security recipients might not be able to get the information and help they need because of budget cuts that are not warranted when full funding is available through the Social Security Trust.

## The UAW Local 774 Retiree Chapter Executive Board wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

### President's Report - Continued

#### Job Fair

On September 14, 2022 we had a great turn out for our Manufacturing and Trades Job Fair hosted by UAW Local 774, NYS Senator Sean M. Ryan, NYS Assembly-member Jon Rivera, and NYS Assemblyman William Conrad. Thank you to the New York State Department of Labor and all of the companies involved for helping our community gain a greater workforce. We hope that this event was beneficial to our community and many people in search of new careers and opportunities. Lastly, thank you to all of our Executive Board members, Committee people, Benefits Representatives, Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Representative, Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Representative, Apprentice Chairman, and Communications Director for assisting our membership and their families.



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays  
and best wishes for the New Year.

In Solidarity,

**Wence Valentin III**  
President  
UAW Local 774

## 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
- RMCNALLY 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 MONDAVI
- MICHELOB



AFL-CIO



## Vice President's Report

Teddy Maldonado  
1st Vice President UAW Local 774

The article below written by Viktoria Hallikäär shows how unionization can make a difference even though the fight may not always be easy but well worth it in the long run.

One year later: The impact of Buffalo Starbucks' unionization

On Aug. 30, 2021, the first group of Starbucks stores in Buffalo filed petitions to vote to unionize.

A few months later, the location on Elmwood Avenue made history as the first unionized Starbucks location in the U.S.

It came after unions were at their lowest levels since 1983, with 10.3% of U.S workers in unions.

But with that August petition, Starbucks workers became the first in what went on to become an avalanche of pro-union pushes. Between Oct. 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, union representation petitions went up by 57%.

Whether Starbucks workers were what inspired this, or whether the pandemic brought out concerns that workers wanted addressed, there's no doubt unions have been a big headline this past year.



A part of that push at Buffalo Starbucks locations is Victoria Conklin. It wasn't long ago that she was anti-union, but today, she's part of the Starbucks Workers United push. It was back when mask mandates were reinstated in New York that made her flip.

"Starbucks told us that we could not enforce it in the cafe, which made me feel like my partners and I were at risk," Conklin explained.

The first store unionized in December.

"It really spread like wildfire," she noted.

Over 180 stores are now unionized, with more on the way. Workers are now demanding higher pay, affordable benefits, safer working conditions and more.

"The service sector has not been a hotbed of unionization," said Erin Hatton, an associate professor of sociology at the University at Buffalo.

The return of unions is an exciting thing to see for Hatton, especially since unions have been declining since the 1950s.

"I think the pandemic really kind of shifted a lot of things in the American economy and workers' consciousness," Hatton said.

Essential workers were suddenly asking for more, not just at Starbucks, but at places like Amazon, Apple, Delta and many more.

"I do think we're seeing a real reversal of the long-term downward trend of union density," Hatton said.

But it's not easy.

"They're refusing to meet with us, they're closing union stores, they're threatening to close union stores," said Conklin. "So we're still fighting."

Workers United is accusing Starbucks of multiple counts of illegal union busting.

In a statement, Starbucks said:

"We are listening and learning from the partners in these stores as we always do across the country. From the beginning, we've been clear in our belief that we are better together as partners, without a union between us, and that

conviction has not changed. We respect our partner's right to organize and are committed to following the NLRB process."

Conklin herself was fired for being around 30 minutes late to her shift. She believes it was because she helped organize a union at her store.

"Even after stores file, we're still seeing retaliation. Against union leaders and against union partners," Conklin said.

Starbucks replied by saying:

"Our partners receive training on our policies and are aware that failing to uphold them can result in termination. A partner's interest in a union does not exempt them from the standards we have always held. We will continue to consistently enforce our policies for all partners."

Conklin's firing did come after a separate write-up for improper store lockup. But she stands by her belief that she was targeted and is fighting this.

"I am a person," she said. "I have an identity that matters and that needs to be protected."

Even amid legal battles and losses, Hatton sees workers fighting for their needs to be met across sectors.

"Something is really shifted," she noted.

Hatton doesn't expect that to stop.

"These things tend to go against workers and so when they win, that means it's very powerful," she said. "It's a powerful suggestion of how strong they were."

Conklin is doing her part.

"We're creating a national training plan to kind of help everybody get on the same page," said Conklin.

Encouraging employees in those other industries to keep fighting as well.

"Losing a union election is still a win," she noted. "You're still standing up to a billionaire, you're still taking on a multibillion-dollar corporation."

She remains determined to not let this movement slow down.

"With the rise of social media and this generation being as politically involved as we are, we're changing the public perception of unions," Conklin said. "It was always only a matter of time before like Gen Z started holding corporations accountable to its workers."

In Solidarity,  
**Teddy Maldonado**  
1st Vice President



## Veterans Appreciation Wall

Dominic H Caselli

If you are a Veteran of the US Armed Forces and your service information isn't on the Veterans Appreciation wall in the front hall, and you would like for it to be added, please contact Dominic Caselli.

Stop by my office in the front hall of Plant One, Room 111 or contact me at [dominic.caselli@gm.com](mailto:dominic.caselli@gm.com) or 716-574-0728

**Dominic H Caselli**



# UAW Local 774 Kids Christmas Roller Skating Party



## UAW Local 774 Hall Rentals



**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

Wence Valentin III  
 President  
 UAW Local 774  
[wvalentini@uaw774.com](mailto:wvalentini@uaw774.com)  
 ext.12

Cleveland Jones Jr.  
 Financial Secretary/Treasurer  
 UAW Local 774  
[cjonesjr@uaw774.com](mailto:cjonesjr@uaw774.com)  
 ext. 20



## Benefits Update

Tim McInnis & Jose Colon  
 Benefit Representatives

### Benefit Update

- Know your Coverage  
 Make sure you are using In Network Providers (Active employees)

- Medical - Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Dental - Delta Dental
- Vision - Davis Vision
- Mental Health - Beacon Health
- Physical Therapy- Blue Cross Blue Shield (Starting January 1, 2022)
- Hearing – Audio Net
- Prescription- CVS/Caremark

- Are you thinking about retiring? Contact your Benefit Rep 3-4 months before your retirement date.

- If you are 65 years old or older and have time with American Axle or Delphi/PBGC reach out to your Benefit Rep about starting your pension benefits.

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



# Congratulations

## Newly Retired



David Kittle and Maria Labbatte Kittle  
retired December 1, 2022

### October

Michael Malinowski  
James Zynda

### November

Donald Utz  
Timothy Glose  
Timothy Slammon  
John Kwandras  
Edward Toczynski

### December

Drew Holt





## Veterans Report



Teddy Maldonado  
1st Vice President UAW Local 774

### Veterans Report

African American Veterans will be recognized and honored at The Buffalo and Erie County Naval Park with a monument for all African Americans who have and are currently serving in all Five (5) military branches. African Americans have fought in all twelve (12) of the United States military conflicts since the country's first war, whether they enlisted voluntarily, or were drafted. This Monument honors the contributions made by African American Veterans.

The monument consists of twelve (12) black concrete pillars that will be Ten (10) feet tall and three (3) feet wide and placed in a chronological sequence, corresponding to the dates that each of the country's twelve (12) military conflicts. The spacing of the pillars will represent peaceful times. The tops of the pillars will illuminate, representing the candles family members would place in their windows to guide the soldier's home. The light from the top of the pillars will continuously glow as an eternal reminder of the commitments made by African American Veterans.

If you would like to purchase a commemorative brick for \$250.00 in memory or in honor of an African American Veteran. You can log on to [WWW.AAVMWNY.org](http://WWW.AAVMWNY.org).



With the Pandemic ending we, are gradually getting back to being able to interact with the patients at the VA Hospitals. We held our UAW Region 9 Veterans Committee annual hot dog roast at the Batavia NY Veterans Hospital after a few years off. Words can't describe the smiles on their faces when we have face-to-face interactions, shake hands, and talk stories with the dedicated heroes who sacrificed so much for our freedoms. We are looking forward to supporting future events at the 3 area VA Hospitals Buffalo, Bath, and Batavia.



TED BIT;

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." – Colin Powell

In Solidarity,  
**Teddy Maldonado**  
1st Vice President



## Citizenship and Legislative Report

Larry Boltz  
Citizenship and Legislative  
Co-Chairman

Greetings Fellow union brothers and sisters. The election season craziness is just about over and the end of the year holidays are almost upon us. Hopefully everybody has a happy and healthy holiday season. Covid is still around, and the flu is surging as well. Hopefully everyone gets the newest booster shots to keep them at bay. As of this writing there is still 1 remaining national Senate race left to be decided by runoff election in Georgia. While it took a few weeks for final results to be tabulated around the country, it appears that the Republican party will control the majority in the House of Representatives with at least 221 seats, and the Democratic party will still control the majority in the US Senate with at least 50 seats, possibly 51 after the Georgia election.

In New York State, our election season was a bit more chaotic than normal since it was a redistricting year. Republican members of the Legislature sued in March over the new district maps being too overly favorable to the Democratic party statewide, and Judge Patrick McAllister appointed a special master to draw new district maps. The end result being 8 more "competitive" house districts than before and Republicans were able to flip at least 4 of them. We also ended up having 2 separate primary elections since the process wasn't finished before the first primary in June. While The NY State Assembly and Senate are still majority controlled by the Democratic party, some of those seats were lost to Republicans this year also.

Most of the UAW region 9 endorsed candidates won their elections on both the Democratic and Republican lines. Two of the Republican Assemblymen that the UAW endorsed-Angelo Morinello of the 145th district and Michael Norris of the 144th district won their re-elections. I had reported in the previous article that they were instrumental in helping to get the unemployment while striking law passed. Melissa Hartman lost her Erie County clerk race to Mickey Kearns. Shannon Heneghan lost her State Supreme Court Justice race to Joe Lorigo. Max Della Pia lost his 23rd Congressional district race to Nick Langworthy. Sandra Lewis lost her 150th Assembly district race to Andrew Goodell, and Barbara Colt lost her Chautauqua County Legislator election. The 4 State Senators that requested UAW endorsements won their races including Republicans Robert Ortt and Patrick Gallivan.

Some other notable national election news is the results in State Legislatures around the country. The Democratic party was able to flip control of one or both state houses in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Michigan. This will be the first time in Michigan in 40 years that the Democratic party has had majority control of both state legislative chambers and the Governors office. It has been reported that a major item on their agenda for next years legislative session is to repeal the "Right to Work" law passed by a Republican Legislature and Governor back in 2013 which has negatively affected Union membership rates in that state over the past 9 years.

A Thank You to all who voted, helped with phone-banking, labor walks, or worked at polling places. Also thank you for sending in your ballots for the first ever individual member vote for International UAW Executive Officers. Democracy doesn't work without your participation. Have a happy and healthy holiday season and a Happy New Year and get ready for next years' contract fight.

Happy Holidays!

In Solidarity,  
Larry Boltz



## Civil and Human Rights Committee

Roberto Fuentes Sr.  
Civil and Human Rights  
Committee Chairman

Buenos Dias Good Morning

I am honored to be in this room with my UAW siblings –

Que tienen muchas ganas and determination to uplift and protect workers from discrimination.

It is my pleasure and a privilege to speak with you and to congratulate your union on hosting another Civil and Human Rights Conference in this beautiful place. Let me take a moment to recognize some very important people, the first one is Jorge Rodriguez, who represents the UAW in LCLAA's National Board as one of our Vice Presidents, Maria Starr Van Core who is the president of the LCLAA Greater Lansing area chapter; a woman who I respect and follow her lead, your Vice President Cindy Estrada, and a special recognition to President Ray Curry for his constant support to the work of LCLAA and other constituency groups and to my friend and colleague Jeremy Davis, who is the Executive Director of Pride At Work, thank you for your support.

Your union has played an important role in the history of LCLAA, we know it because in 50 years of activism four National LCLAA Presidents came from the UAW.

Like many of you, my labor siblings, I joined the labor movement because of the many injustices I saw and faced in my place of work. I worked with other trabajadoras y trabajadores in a shop in Los Angeles, where we inspected shrimp to make sure it was safe to eat and ready for sale.

Most of us were women, and many had worked for the company for more than 20 years, in fact, there was a grandmother, and daughter, and a grandson working at the same time

Yes, 3 generations

The owner used to say that it was a big family. But not when it came to distributing the wealth produced by those who worked there. Then, it was I am the Boss and You are only the workers!

The wages were low, the benefits were bad, and respect for workers was unknown. Women were harassed and had no hope for promotion, we were only good at cleaning and packing the shrimps!

They constantly infringed on our rights as workers, as women, and as humans and actively tried to chip away at our confidence and divide us.

They thought that they could make us forget what we were capable of, but the company underestimated us.

My coworkers and I organized and we called on our hermanas y hermanos to join in solidarity to address the constant violations of our rights.

In response, the employer tried to isolate us based on the few characteristics they knew about us: our gender, our race, the language we spoke, and our immigration status.

They saw I supported the organizing drive, and that we were mobilizing our coworkers to vote for union representation, so they tried to ruin my social capital by weaponizing my gender.

Rumors spread around the shop that I was sleeping with multiple men because I will meet with them at the parking lot or visit them at their homes. I brought this up to the organizing committee and we were concerned that the women were going to start believing the lies.

We knew that if we filed a ULP (Unfair Labor Practice) our election was going to be delayed and it would give the employer more time to mislead our undecided coworkers.

At the next meeting, I told those in attendance about the rumors and that it was a clear attempt by the company to bust our unionizing efforts, and then I said "well if I get pregnant, I'll collect child support from those they said I'm sleeping with."

At that moment, we were once again united. It suddenly seemed laughable that our employers tried to bust our unionizing efforts with the rumors of one person's sex life.

More importantly, we were united by the sudden recognition of our collective power. Through our solidarity, we voted to join the Laborers International

Union of North America, and they are still a union company today.

I mention this, not because it got a lot of laughs, and not because I want to look back on my early days of organizing, but because it was true then and still is true today.

Employers will violate our basic civil and human rights as a tactic to make workers feel small, to convince workers they are too small to change their situation.

It is a deliberate choice, done by employers to shape and sculpt their workers like clay. It is done with the intention of their final product, to shape workers into a perfectly submissive attitude.

In this effort, employers weaponize our identities to divide US!

We see this time and time again.

They put Latinos workers against Black workers, against Asian workers, against White workers.

They try to convince us that we are different to ensure that we do not share solidarity with each other.

They are very good at that!!

All these injustices that I witnessed firsthand, motivated me to fight harder and organize more, so workers learned why it is so important to join the Union. So, I became a union organizer for LiUNA.

A few years later, I stumbled into LCLAA and I was inspired by the membership, filled with Latino labor leaders, like you, who fought day in and day out to expand the rights and protections of their community.

My Union and LCLAA soon became my anchor in this movement, providing me with a space where mis compañeros y compañeras could recognize my calls to unionize, and LCLAA gave me the space where my work and Latinidad can come together to serve the purpose to uplift all workers' rights.

I believe so firmly in organizing, that over the years I looked for opportunities to increase my contributions. You could always find me in rallies, organizing drives, working with other communities of color, gender, LGBTQ+, and other unions.

I did it with my union, with LCLAA and my community, it was fun!

Later, I became a LCLAA Board Member, and then in 2018, I was honored to become the first woman and first formerly undocumented immigrant to be elected National President of LCLAA.

My election is indicative of the changes we are seeing throughout our nation's workforce.

There are more women participating in the labor force than ever before. Since the 1950s, the percentage of working women has almost doubled and the majority of women are now working in some capacity.

Similarly, the percentage of non-white workers is rising each day. In 1980, only one in ten workers in the United States was a person of color. Now, that rate has doubled and one in five workers are not white.

Latinos account for more than half the country's population growth over the last decade and in six years, one in five workers are expected to be Latino.

The rate of multiracial individuals has also skyrocketed in the last decade, with the number of multiracial non-Hispanic Americans jumping by over 127%. In many ways, along the lines of race, gender, sexuality, and immigration status, the workforce in the United States is more diverse than ever.

As we speak about civil and human rights in labor, we must ask ourselves if we, as labor leaders, are doing enough to protect the coming generations of the labor force from discrimination.

What has historically been left out of the labor movement's efforts is the idea of intersectionality, the idea that certain categories like gender, race, and class are best understood as overlapping, or as intersecting.

To be intersectional, unions would have to recognize not only the challenges minorities face and the challenges that workers face, but how these identities uniquely intersect. Unions would have to recognize how minority workers are uniquely positioned in their industries. They do not face obstacles first as workers and then as a minority. They face their obstacles unique to both, as a minority worker.

The term intersectionality only became common in the last five years, but the concept has been around for much longer.

Since before the Civil Rights Movement workers of color have called on their unions to embrace intersectionality as part of their central efforts.

However, some have argued that intersectionality can make our efforts in labor too broad. They have argued that if we dedicate our time and effort

**Civil and Human Rights - Continued on pg. 14**





## Community Services Committee Report

John Orsini  
Chairman of Community Services Committee

This past fall the UAW Community Services Committee held a prize raffle as well as brought back our Meat Raffle at Woodlawn Fire Company to benefit Roswell Park's Herd for Hope and Leukemia Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Light the Night Walk. Currently the Annual Holiday Gift Drive is going on to try and make the holiday season less stressful on our membership and some families across our community.



UAW Local 774 has been making a difference in people's lives. Everyone has been touched by cancer. When we started doing the Light the Night walk, in 2018, it was because we wanted to give back for the research that helped me get through my bout with Hairy Cell Leukemia. LLS is a partner with Roswell Park in making my story possible. Through our initiatives, the UAW Local 774 Community Services Committee has raised over \$49,500 for cancer research for the past five years. We as a Union are giving people hope and changing lives. We set out a lofty goal of raising the most money at this year's walk at Canalside. Even with membership dwindling our people at UAW Local 774 shines through once again as we were able to raise \$26,507.74 for these two great causes. Prizes included an 85-inch Samsung TV donated by West Herr of WNY, Bills Season Tickets, Josh Allen autographed helmet, Dominik Hasek Autographed framed picture, massages, dinner gift certificates and much more. At the Meat Raffle the Women's Committee were not only running a basket raffle but was a huge factor in making this event a success. They raised over \$2000 for their committee to make a generous donation to making strides against breast cancer. A job well done by all.

As the Christmas season is upon us so is the Annual Holiday Gift Drive. The Community Services Committee has combined efforts with our Women's Committee as in the past to help make the Holidays extra special for some children around our community. The group that we have reached out to this year is once again the Belle Center on the West Side of Buffalo. In total we helped over 100 individuals this holiday season. With your generosity and support we were able to make Christmas a little better this year for these families.

On December 9th the Community Services Committee will have a gate collection for all shifts. This collection goes toward our holiday gift drive and our various charitable donations throughout the year.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in making these activities a success. It puts our local union in a good spotlight for what we do in our community.

During this holiday season please stay safe and enjoy your time off. Happy Holidays and God Bless.

**John Orsini**  
Chairman of Community Services Committee

DON'T FORGET

# RED SHIRT WEDNESDAY

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

UAW

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- If you have a NYS Workers Compensation claim for hearing loss call Ken-Ton Hearing directly 874-1609
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  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.

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## Women's Committee Report

Heather Grimmer  
Women's Committee Chairperson

Sisters and Brothers,

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday with their family and friends.

Back in late September the Women's Committee participated with Community Services Committee with their Meat Raffle. We were able to hold a Basket Raffle along with lending a helping hand during the event. The Basket Raffle itself raised \$2180 with a portion of the proceeds being donated to Making Strides. Our committee would like to thank everyone again that donated a basket.



In mid October our committee was able to participate once again in the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk. This event was long overdue due to Covid. I know that many people expressed how happy they were to participate in the walk and to make it even better, the weather cooperated and it turned out to be a beautiful day for the event. We also had our Breast Cancer T-shirt sale. With the sale of the shirts we made \$450 with a portion of the proceeds being donated to Making Strides.



Currently we are holding our Annual Holiday Gift Drive for kids from the Belle Center with the Community Services Committee. We can't express enough to everyone how much these children and parents appreciate it.

On behalf of the Women's Committee we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Heather Grimmer  
Women's Committee Chairperson



## National Women's Advisory Council

Stacie J. McKernan  
Region 9 Representative for the NWAC

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I have spoken before, knowing who you're voting for is very important. Every Election is going to be important from now on. At the Women's Conference, they are always stressing the importance of Women running for elected positions, at any level.

This Holiday Season, I hope everyone can enjoy Family and Friends. Be safe and enjoy your time off. 2023, we need to get right back into watching our elected officials. We must make them accountable for their decisions that affect our lives.

In Solidarity,  
Stacie J. McKernan

UAW Local 774 Recording Secretary, Region 9 Rep., National Women's Advisory Council



Thank You To Everyone That Has Purchased T-Shirts Or Who Has Donated To The "We Choose Love" Cause. We Are Proud To Announce That We Raised \$1394.53.

All Proceeds Will Be Donated To The Community Of Buffalo Affected By The Senseless Tragedy On May 14, 2022. This T-Shirt Represents Diversity, Love & Strength That Our City And Union Possesses.

In Solidarity,  
Amy Kloc  
Communications Director  
Uaw Local 774

# UAW LOCAL 774

2939 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14207

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

<b>UAW Local 774</b> .....716-873-4715	<b>Health Care/Dependent Change &amp; Eligibility</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Main Office</b> .....ext 10	<b>Retiree Servicing Center</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Wence Valentin III</b> .....ext 12	<b>PSP Savings Plan (Hourly &amp; Salary)</b> .....800-489-4646
<b>Tim McInnis</b> .....ext 13	<b>Disability / Sick &amp; Accident Benefit</b> .....800-489-4646
<b>Mike Grimmer</b> .....ext 15	<b>FMLA/NY Paid Leave</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Jose Colon</b> .....ext 17	<b>Davis Vision</b> .....1-888-672-8393
<b>Cleveland Jones Jr.</b> .....ext 20	<b>Metropolitan Life Insurance</b> .....1-888-543-3461
<b>Russ Flynn</b> .....ext 21	<b>Worker's Compensation</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Stacie McKernan</b> .....ext 22	<b>Sub</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Jill Rajla</b> .....ext 23	<b>Life Insurance Admin</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Amy Kloc</b> .....ext 29	<b>Vehicle Purchase</b> .....1-800-235-4646
<b>Chaplaincy Prayer Requests</b> .....ext 30	<b>Radius Credit Union</b> .....716-875-1747
<b>UAW Local 774 (FAX)</b> .....716-873-8341	<b>Fidelity Investments</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>GM Tonawanda Engine Plants Information</b> .....716-879-5000	<b>Retiree Pension Center</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Absentee Call-In Toll Free</b> .....1-800-222-8889	<b>Missing Pension Checks</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Medical Department - Plant 1</b> .....716-879-5313	<b>Employment &amp; Wage Verification</b> .....1-800-489-4646
<b>Work/Family &amp; EAP</b> .....716-879-5516...716-704-8397	<b>Optum</b> .....1-855-409-0219
<b>Union Work Center - Plant 1</b> .....716-879-5507	<b>Blue Cross/Blue Shield</b> .....1-800-462-7237
<b>Benefits Office - Plant 1</b> .....716-879-5465	<b>Delta Dental</b> .....1-800-942-0667
<b>Payroll &amp; Wages</b> .....1-866-245-5957	<b>Legal Service Plan</b> .....1-800-482-7700
<b>Plant Security</b> .....716-879-5151	<b>UAW Retiree Medical Trust</b> .....1-866-637-7555
<b>Lipsitz and Green</b> .....716-849-1313	<b>CVS Caremark RX</b> .....1-844-379-1671
<b>United Health Care</b> .....1-844-320-5021	<b>Plant Cisco Code</b> .....18160



## Medical Staff Report

Gina Moell  
RN

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

This past year has been a gradual return to normalcy from covid. The Tonawanda Medical dept. would like to thank all of you for your patience and support during those trying times, the wait times in medical and with phone calls, shared service corrections and also the staffing in Medical.

We are happy to welcome Michael Donovan to 2nd shift as a staff nurse. Michael has worked at Lockport as an on-call nurse and will transition here to Tonawanda as a full-time nurse.

In the coming year we will continue our efforts in providing care to all the injured and ill, while promoting health and well-being to all GM employees. It is an honor and privilege to take care of all of you. We wish each of you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Regards,

*Gina Moell, Randy Dewolfe, Larry Sparks, Micheal Donovan*



## 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 [cjonesjr@uaw774.com](mailto:cjonesjr@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 Amy: [akloc@uaw774.com](mailto:akloc@uaw774.com) or (716)873-4715 ext 29*

## Dates for Upcoming 2023 Membership Meetings:

January 22, 2023

February 19, 2023

March 19, 2023

April 16, 2023

May 21, 2023

June 11, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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".





# ATTENTION!

## UAW Legal Services



### NEW Address

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

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#### Thomas C. Burnham



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

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

#### Keith T. Williams



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

**Phone:** 716 849 1313  
**E-mail:** ktwilliams@lglaw.com

#### Michael Maiorana



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

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

### ALERT FOR MEMBERS OF UAW 774 REGARDING

## Workers' Compensation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Deceased Active and Retired  
Local 774 Members*

WITH DEEPEST

*Sympathy*

Name			Retired	Deceased
Robert	E	Mc Carthy	08/01/2006	10/09/2022
Paul	T	Oshirak	02/01/2004	07/05/2022
Walter	J	Parrott	01/01/2006	10/09/2022
Leon		Peterson	01/01/2001	10/17/2022
Rudolf	F	Rogler	04/01/2005	10/20/2022
Gregory	E	Rozicki		11/03/2022
Dennis	R	Schihl	06/01/2002	07/08/2022
Gary	R	Schmidli	02/01/2019	06/18/2022
Stephen	J	Slifka	04/01/2001	10/09/2022
John	H	Szmania	10/01/1998	08/06/2022
A	C	Wells	02/01/1998	06/12/2022
Hueie		Westbrooks	11/01/2003	07/26/2022
Richard	J	Will	08/01/2000	06/27/2022
Thomas		Yeager	01/01/2002	07/27/2022
Robert	J	Zuchelkowski	05/01/2001	07/06/2022

*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.*

*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 Amy Kloc,  
Communications Director  
UAW Local 774  
(716)873-4715 ext 29



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