



UAW Local 774 President's Report



February 26, 2021

Our long term employee Gary Shonitsky is retiring effective March 1st 2021. I would like to thank Gary for his hard work and dedication to our membership for the past 47 years represented by OPEIU local 153. Gary was not only our Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper, he is the local's historian and became family to all he worked with here at our union hall. I would like to wish Gary and his wife Marsha a long Healthy and happy retirement together. Below is Gary's Statement to our membership:

Members of UAW Local 774:

It has been my pleasure, to serve the membership of UAW Local 774, for the past 47 years.

On August 24, 1974; I accepted a 2-4 week temporary part time position to assist my Mother who was the Local Union's Office Secretary. At the time, I was a fulltime student at Niagara University working on my Bachelor's Degree in Business Management/Accounting, and was brought in basically because I knew how to use that old IBM typewriter. Her working partner, Frank Collins, had suffered a heart attack and was on sick leave, and office work was piling up. In those days, there were no computers, copiers or fax machines. Everything had to be manually typed and then stenciled to print off on an AB Dick Offset Printer Press. Union Dues were manually posted to a member's file card on a monthly basis. Eventually Frank returned to work, only to give his notice and retire. I was convinced to accept the position full-time while attending University in the Evening Division and ultimately the position grew to what it is today.

Over the years, the plant population also grew and so did the Office Staff here at the Local 774. At one time the Local employed 3 full time secretaries plus myself working in the Financial Office. I worked under the leadership of 14 different Presidents, 11 Shop Chairmen and 9 Financial Secretary/Treasurers. In those days there were over 6,000 Active Members and another 2,000 Retired Members compared to the under 1,000 Active Members and 3,400 Retired Members of today.

When I retire on March 1st, it will mark the first time in over 80 years that the Shonitsky name will not be associated with UAW Local 774. My Father retired in 1980 after 39 years as a member and employee of General Motors; my Mother retired after 20 years' as the Local Union Office Secretary in 1989; and now myself after 47years of service to UAW Local 774.

It is now time for me to enjoy some quality years with my wife Marsha, our children and grandchildren. I will always cherish my memories, lifelong friendships, and the good work we have done here at UAW Local 774.

Stay Safe, Stay Strong and Long Live the UAW!

Sincerely,

/s/ Gary Shonitsky

Approved for posting:_____
/s/ Wence Valentin III
President, UAW Local 774