



# UAW Local 774 President's Report

President Wence Valentin III



**Tuesday October 12, 2021**

## **Welcome Back Retirees!**

I would like to welcome our Retirees back to in person union meetings after more than a year and a half. Our Local is proud of the important role that Retirees play in our union. The UAW owes a debt to those who came before us. Much was sacrificed to build this great union. We have an obligation to ensure that those who come after us benefit from a strong and vibrant UAW. With teamwork in the leadership, solidarity in the ranks, and active and retired members working hand-in-hand, the UAW's future will be as bright and bold as its past.

## **Upcoming Retiree Chapter Meetings**

UAW Local 774 Retiree Chapter meetings are set to resume on Tuesday October 12, 2021 at 1:00pm. The remaining dates and times for meetings in 2021 are at 1:00pm on Tuesday November 9, 2021 & Tuesday December 14, 2021 in the upper and lower meeting halls of UAW Local 774 2939 Niagara St. Buffalo, NY 14207. \*All dates are subject to change

## **2021 UAW Referendum Vote**

By now you should have received a postcard in the mail informing you of the upcoming Referendum vote for all UAW members in good standing (including active, part-time, reinstated and retired members) on a single question: whether to (1) maintain the current method of electing International Executive Board (IEB) members through the elected local union delegate system at the UAW Constitutional Conventions; or (2) change the method to a direct election system whereby each UAW member will vote directly to elect the members of the IEB. The Referendum will be conducted by secret mail-in-ballot and be overseen by the Monitor working in consultation with the Office of Labor Management Standards (OLMS).

All UAW members in good standing as of November 19, 2021 are eligible to vote in the Referendum. In October 2021 mail-in ballots will be distributed. ALL ballots must be received by the Election Vendor no later than Monday, November 29, 2021 at 10:00 AM EST. An election vendor selected by the UAW in consultation with the Monitor and OLMS (the "Election Vendor") will oversee all mailings, collections, and tabulations of the secret ballots. Once tabulation is complete, the unofficial results will be announced.

For more information and/or to view the entire 2021 UAW Referendum Interim Rules and FAQ visit: [uawmonitor.com](http://uawmonitor.com)



*"There is no power in the world that can stop the forward march of free men and women when they are joined in the solidarity of human brotherhood."*

**- Walter P. Reuther**

## Important Upcoming Dates and Events

- Tuesday October 12, 2021 – Retiree Chapter Meeting at 1:00pm
- Sunday October 17, 2021 – Regular Membership Meeting at 10:00am
- Sunday October 17, 2021 – Community Services Committee Raffle to Benefit Roswell Park & LLS
- Sunday October 31, 2021 – Happy Halloween!
- Tuesday November 2, 2021 – Election Day
- Sunday November 7, 2021 – Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Tuesday November 9, 2021 – Retiree Chapter Meeting at 1:00pm
- Thursday November 11, 2021 – Veterans Day
- Sunday November 14, 2021 – Regular Membership Meeting at 10:00am
- Saturday November 20, 2021 – Defensive Driving Course, contact Ken Ryan (716) 861-4896
- Thursday November 25, 2021 – Happy Thanksgiving!
- Friday November 26, 2021 – Native American Heritage Day
- Saturday December 11, 2021 – Defensive Driving Course, contact Ken Ryan (716) 861-4896
- Sunday December 12, 2021 – Regular Membership Meeting at 10:00am
- Tuesday December 14, 2021 – Retiree Chapter Meeting at 1:00pm
- Sunday December 19, 2021 – Retiree Christmas Party, Grapevine Banquets 333 Dick Rd. Depew, NY 14043

## Website and Facebook Page

You can find the UAW Local 774 website at <https://uaw774.com> and the official Facebook page is listed as [UAW Local 774](#).

## Hall Improvements/Updates

Over the past Fourteen (14) months, we have made the following improvements to the UAW Local 774 Union Hall:

- **Audio/Visual Upgrades** – Meeting Hall and Ground Floor replacement of all equipment allowing synchronization between the floors. Members will now be able to interact during meetings via cameras and microphones. This is especially important for our active and retired members who wish to participate but have trouble using the stairs. It also provides additional safety to limit gathering in a given space if necessary.
- **Touchless Dispensing Mechanisms** – installed automatic hand sanitizer, paper towel and soap dispensers in all restrooms for increased safety and protection.
- **New Faucets and Water Efficient/Environmentally Friendly Toilets** – replaced two (2) faucets and seven (7) toilets/urinals that were either outdated, broken or leaking. Will generate cost savings through reduced water usage.
- **Rug/Mat Program** – provided by Cintas to clean, repair and maintain rugs and mats. Will also provide janitorial supplies, generating cost savings through ordering, inventory, storage and billing.
- **New Driveway Apron and Concrete Repair** – A new concrete driveway apron was installed to our back parking lot along Edgar Avenue. The broken concrete was repair, new concrete was poured and the driveway entrance was widened.

- **New Conference Room** – renovated the underutilized front office space into a conference room with a large meeting table and chairs relocated from the upper hall for smaller meetings. In honor of Gary Shonitsky who served the membership for forty-seven (47) years, his father Leo Sr. who was a member of Local 774 for thirty-eight (38) years and his mother Marge Shonitsky who served the membership for twenty (20) years; we proclaimed this new meeting space be named the “Shonitsky Conference Room”.
- **Parking Lot Sealing, Crack Fill, Striping and Catch Basin Repair** – The parking lot was sealed, major cracks were filled, the lot was striped and one of the eroding catch basins were repaired. Additionally, a new pattern was applied to the accessible spaces outlining them in blue paint for better visibility and identification. The new dynamic accessibility symbol was also added to these spaces in compliance with NYS law.
- **Brickwork Along the South Side and Facade of the Union Hall** – Bricks were continuing to fall along the facade of the Local Union Hall. Also along the South side the metal lintels below the windows were rusting out. Union Bricklayers began working on replacing the deteriorating bricks and metal lintels at the beginning of October. This work is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of November.
- **Kitchen Fire Suppression System Repair and Maintenance** – The fire suppression system in the kitchen was repaired and brought up to code.
- **Replaced the Air Conditioning Unit** – the air conditioning unit for the lower hall/bar area was beginning to corrode. It was replaced with a high efficiency unit that will lead to energy savings.

More improvements/updates are to come . . . .

### **Breast Cancer Awareness Month: October**

In honor and recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we encourage everyone to show support and wear pink on Fridays throughout the month of October.

– UAW Local 774 Women’s Committee



**In Solidarity,**

**/s/ Wence Valentin III, President - UAW Local 774**

## **UAW Solidarity Wednesday's for The Striking Workers at South Buffalo Mercy Hospital, CWA 1133**

**Every Wednesday between now and the end of  
the strike, we are asking UAW members to join the  
strike line at 4pm - 565 Abbott Rd, Buffalo.**



***Please wear your UAW Logo and help support  
the hard working men and Women at South  
Buffalo Mercy Hospital .***

