

## Vote Office Opening in July

### REG. 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### RORY GAMBLE

*You can define Solidarity as unity, shared gains or camaraderie. I can use it to define our retirees.*

*Your solidarity for many, many years has made the UAW what it is today.*



The UAW International leadership has the utmost respect and appreciation for you and your contributions. I believe you know how I feel about you. I think I have the most active group of retirees in the UAW. When we march on Washington, Detroit or Lansing, you, our retirees, are there. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you so much.

We recently attended a great event in Memphis, Tennessee, honoring some labor warriors who are retirees. A busload of Region 1A activists, including many retirees, joined me to support the induction of the Memphis Sanitation strikers into the U.S. Department of Labor's Hall of Fame. These are the men who stood up for their rights as workers in 1968. Their struggle for fair wages, safe working conditions and dignity brought Dr. Martin Luther King to Memphis. Dr. King was murdered there, but the spirit of Solidarity carried the workers to victory. "I Am a Man", their battle cry, was heard throughout the world. Their clarion call for justice for workers rings as true today as it was then. The struggle for workers' rights continues.

During the program, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis said, "The UAW was here with the workers in 1968 and they are here today!" I was so proud when she

asked us to stand. We stood tall, shoulder to shoulder, active and retired UAW members. We must continue to stand together in the face of the continuing attacks upon working people.

The Republicans, nationally and locally, routinely blame unions for the economic problems of the country, states, and cities. We know better and because we do, we must do a better job of letting our family, friends, and community know the truth of the issues.

I believe in taking the information to the people. It's one of the reasons we have opened a CAP office in Detroit. The Region 1A Voter Outreach, Training and Education (VOTE) Center will be an important part of our strategy of educating and energizing our UAW members and the voters of Detroit and Michigan. We will increase our efforts against those who would attack the interests of working men and women.

The Detroit VOTE office is located at 17575 Livernois, between Curtis and Santa Clara. The office will be the home of

many different activities related to political education and processes, community action, labor awareness and activism. We will have ongoing voter registration, classes on how to run for and be a precinct delegate, and monthly coffee talks with judicial, legislative, and law enforcement officials. First-time voters will train on actual voting machines. We will launch our labor walks, hold community meetings, provide information for seniors on recognizing scams, and utility assistance.

One of the things I'm excited about is a program we are involved in with high school students. Eligible students, once they have registered to vote, recruit their parents, if they aren't already registered, to register and vote.

We have already had state Democratic congressmen hold a press conference and strategy session on redistricting, and we hosted Jobs for Justice, a community organization. The Region 1A VOTE

office will officially open in late July. Be sure to check the Region's 1A Website and Facebook page for the date and time. I hope you will attend as we will honor retiree Sister Liz Jackson by naming the training room after her.

I want you to take advantage of this new office by volunteering, taking classes or bringing people in to register to vote. We are not going to wait for something to happen; together, we are going to make it happen.



Rory Gamble supporting Memphis Sanitation Workers



PHOTO CREDIT MICHAEL JOSEPH

### Rory Gamble awarded the Kern Medallion

by Michael Joseph

UAW Region 1A Director Rory Gamble was awarded the prestigious Kern Medallion at the Father Kern Foundation Award dinner on May 11, 2011. The Kern Foundation is a non-profit organization that carries on the work of Detroit's Corktown's Father Clement H. Kern. The foundation was established 28 years ago and continues to provide an effective, accountable way to help people who have "fallen between the cracks."

The Kern Medallion is given annually to Michiganders whose lives exemplify Father Kern's beliefs and humility in serving the common man.

After the presentation by Detroit City Councilwoman Joanne Watson, Director Gamble thanked his team and family. "I am standing here because someone helped me when I needed help. I have a great team. You can't do this alone. I'm so very blessed. I have a wonderful family and the greatest parents a man could ever have. On behalf of all of them, I humbly accept this award."

Previous winners include UAW President Bob King, former Michigan Governor James Blanchard; former Michigan Chief Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen Williams; Senior Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit Damon Keith; former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer; and Father William Cunningham, founder of FOCUS: HOPE.



# Retired Workers Advisory Council Report

By Elmer Duff, Region 1A Retired Workers Advisory Council Delegate

## Beware of Smoke



Elmer W.  
DUFF

Smokey the Bear says "only you can prevent a fire." We have always heard that where there is smoke, there is fire! We are getting a lot of smoke these days and it should be burning some of your eyes. Social Security, Medicare, pensions, the closing of senior centers, no bus travel on Sundays and holidays and the list goes on, and as Smokey says, only you can put an end to this fire. It is with

your vote, your neighbor's vote, your friends' and family's VOTE!!

I must warn you that there are different kinds of smoke. A smoke screen is put in front of us to disguise the truth; such as, why is there an emergency to dismantle Social Security? They (Paul Ryan and crew) are always talking about how many will be eligible for Social Security, but they are not talking of the thousands of Americans who are dying each day. Then there's the smoke that comes from forgetting you have something in the oven; if it burns, it produces smoke and you have to take care of it. The smoke alarm will go off if you forget that August and November 2012 are the most important dates in your life, your children's lives and city, county, state and nation.

A reminder of when Hitler was trying to take over the world and Reverend Martin Niemoller



made a statement on the Nazis: "First they came for the Socialist and I did not speak out, because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the trade-unionist, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade-unionist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me."

Dr. Rick Kline says that "speaking out still carries with it the possibility of retaliation." Have we forgotten that we (the UAW) set the rules, not only for workers' rights, but also for civil justice that was not only for workers, but all citizens? We, as Unionists, will not be quiet. We have been around long enough to know smoke when we see it.

Some of our young members cannot distinguish smoke from fog. Fog, as you know,

**Have we forgotten that we (the UAW) set the rules, not only for workers' rights, but also for civil justice that was not only for workers, but all citizens? We, as Unionists, will not be quiet."**

when the sun hits it, it dissipates. Smoke is with you night and day and again the VOTE is the only way to get rid of it. We, as Unionists, should be proud of what we have achieved during our work life. Go back and look at some of the benefits we gained: job security, Medicare, paid-up life insurance, prescription drugs, hearing aids and many more benefits that we have retained and are still enjoying today. We owe it to ourselves to support our local chairperson. The foolishness of "I don't like this person or that one" is a silly game. Remember, when one of our retirees goes down because of your vote, we all go down, including you.

Our President, Bob King, has brought the fight back to us and wants us to get on board with GimmeFive. Sign up now at [gimmefive@uaw.net](mailto:gimmefive@uaw.net) or get in touch with your chapter chair.

At the C.B.T.U. Convention, we were greeted by the President, Bill Lucy, who explained why the vote in 2012 could mean the end of Labor as we know it. We were joined by our Regional Director, Rory Gamble, and UAW Vice-President Jimmy Settles, who ran the caucus meeting.

The following weekend we boarded a bus headed to Memphis, Tennessee, to witness the induction of the 1,300 Sanitation workers who went on strike in 1968. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. got involved and lost his life for the cause. President Obama had them enshrined in the Labor Hall of Fame. It felt good being a part of history. It was very hot in Memphis, over 100 degrees. But that's not as hot as it can get if we don't get out the VOTE. There is a great risk if we do nothing. Are you doing all you can do? We could volunteer to man phones, walk door-to-door, attend rallies or give contributions and sign up for CAP.

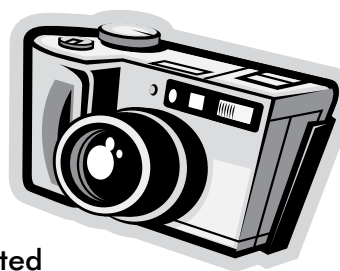
Remember the Region 1A Picnic is Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at Nankin Mills Park in Westland, MI (on Hines Drive east of Ann Arbor Trail). I am looking forward to seeing you there.

I would like to thank all the Chapters, Locals, individuals and especially our Director, Rory Gamble, for their support in making the Senior Prom a great success. The proceeds go to help high school seniors of Region 1A members' children or grandchildren go to college or a trade school. **THANK YOU!**



### ATTENTION: Photos for the Region 1A Retiree News

Please submit only high resolution (100kb or more) digital photos or photos printed on photo paper, not copier paper, with the image no smaller than it should appear in the paper.



## Bits & Pieces

### ATTENTION ALL READERS!

I would suggest you read the whole paper, including all the chapter reports. The reports often contain a great deal of thoughtful analysis and important information which applies to us all. Many of the writers really outdid themselves this issue, and I thank them.

**"The secret of freedom lies with educating people; whereas, the secret of tyranny is in keeping them ignorant."**

— Maximilien Robespierre





# Union Label Committee Report



## Region 1A Retiree News

by **Linda Kay Hayes (Kay-Kay), Local 600**

## A Trip Back in History



**Linda Kay HAYES**

I had the honor of going to the celebration of the induction of the workers of the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers into the Labor Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held at the University of Memphis. We took a bus leaving from Region 1A. It was a turn-around trip, but it was the most unforgettable experience that I've had. I was there seeing history being made. The struggle these Memphis Sanitation Workers

went through was to have a safe workplace, their trucks made safe to drive and fair wages.

Our late UAW President, Walter Reuther, was with the late great Martin Luther King, Jr. marching to support the workers. That's why we UAW members were there to show support for the surviving workers and to hear them tell their stories of what happened during the strike, which was awesome. They showed a video of the strike. The strike lasted 106 days. The men went through hell to prove what they stood for. It didn't matter what color or creed. They wanted to show Memphis that they were "MEN." That's why their picket signs read "I AM A MAN." Meaning I am a man before anything, and treat me as such.



When Walter Reuther, Martin Luther King, Jr. and AFSME leader Jerry Wurf came in solidarity, they showed Memphis and the country we're all in this



together. And we're going to fight this together. The same as it should be today. We're still in a struggle and one we must continue to fight.

At the program, we were acknowledged. We all stood up in our t-shirts that read "I AM A MAN," which Director Rory Gamble purchased for us. UAW Vice-President Jimmy Settles was there also. Hilda L. Salic, Secretary of Labor,

read the letter from President Obama as the Sanitation Workers stood up, for they were being inducted into the Labor Hall of Fame.

All I can say is "wow;" I was there witnessing history with something that was definitely a "UNION LABEL."



## Wyandotte Democratic Club Fundraisers

**LOCATION:** Taylor Poker Room  
24800 Eureka Rd, Taylor, MI  
(734-946-9092, ext.121)

**DATES:** Friday, July 9th - Sunday, July 11th  
Tuesday, July 26 - Friday, July 29th

**HOURS:** Monday-Friday 5:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.  
Saturday-Sunday 2:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Lic #M66514 & M66552 Organization #129236



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News. Letters to the Editor should be kept to 200-250  
words and the Editorial Committee is solely responsible  
for selecting any correspondence for reprint in the  
Retirees News. All items selected are subject to edit.



## CHAPTER 36 REPORT



Chair – ISAAC GAY

## CHAPTER 78 REPORT



Chair – DAVE BERO by Jim Ward

### Be Ready to Take Action

These Republican governors seem to be taking patterns after the Middle Eastern nations by imposing dictatorships on the poor and middle class of this country. They still have Social Security and Medicare in mind. Keep a watch out for the petition to recall our heartless Governor of Michigan, Rick Snyder.

Each Chapter will be called upon to take action in this fight, whether it will be to attend demonstrations or making phone calls. We took part in earlier years, now we must do it again. When the plans are made, I will let the Chapter know and we will do what needs to be done.

We finally succeeded in getting a Benefit Representative to our meetings. Brother Dan Radley of Local 182 has been a life-saver for us. He is so knowledgeable, and we can't thank him enough.

At this writing, we are having a few hot days. Don't get carried away with the sun rays, but have a good summer because snow will be in the forecast before you know it.

Our meetings are the third Monday of each month at Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI at 10:00 a.m. We'll look for your face in the place.

*Until Next Time – Stay Well – God Bless!!*

### How Can We Protect Health Care for Retirees From a Closed Plant?

We would like to offer our condolences to the family of Tom Hicks, Genevieve Zmarzlak (time keeper) and John Bartlet of the Detroit Plant, who died since our last article. The recent passing of Tom brings up some interesting questions: who's entitled to survivor benefits when there's a divorce involved and no Domestic Relation Order (DRO) in place. The widow, who's been taking care of Tom and been married to him for over 10 years, has been told she is not entitled to his pension. The plants are closed, so where do you go for answers? That's one problem.

I always believed that employees were vested under ERISA if they had 10 or more years of seniority and 5 years after 1987. That's the problem. I'm getting calls from former employees telling me that TRW is telling them they're not entitled to any pension. They are told to check with Hayes Lemmerz. They are being denied at both Hayes and TRW. Where do we go for answers? I know most will say the UAW, but they have not helped for several years. I've asked that

**“I... believe the union must get back to the basics (what they organized for) to help people.”**

the UAW appoint a Servicing Rep. for closed plants. I was turned down. Where do we go for help? Our members from Hayes Lemmerz are taking another hit. They've been notified that the \$22.80 on their pension will be taken away. The list continues to grow.

I look at other situations that effect UAW retirees at other facilities. Retirees at Detroit Diesel had the promise of health care for life broken when they contracted in 1993 with the UAW to establish the Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA). The arrangement affected workers who retired between 1993 and 2004. Then the Company changed its mind.

I sometime have too much time to think of what it meant to be a UAW member and what it's like now. I, and I'm only speaking for myself, believe the union must get back to the basics (what they organized for) to help people. More and more of our members are losing promised health care after they retire. I look at the strike fund, which might top a billion dollars. Let's take some of that money and set up a VEBA for retirees who lose their promised health care. When General Motors had a prolonged strike, the union asked all brothers and sisters to pay additional dues each month, and members were glad to help. Now it might be time for active workers to pay and help those retired members who lost their promised health care.

I've sent a letter to TRW asking if they would meet with me so we might resolve some issues that affect our members. I'm waiting for a response. I'll send a letter to Michael D. Hughes (ERISA) to see how we can best help those who are vested under ERISA and are being denied by both TRW and Hayes Lemmerz. I've been told the Hayes Lemmerz health care raised the rates our member pay out of pocket; that's another hit. Where do we go for help?

We continue to meet at Local 174 the third Wednesday each month. We would like other retirees from closed plants to let us know how they're doing. Members from UAW Local 985 and Motor Wheel, come join us.

## PLEASE Donate to CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

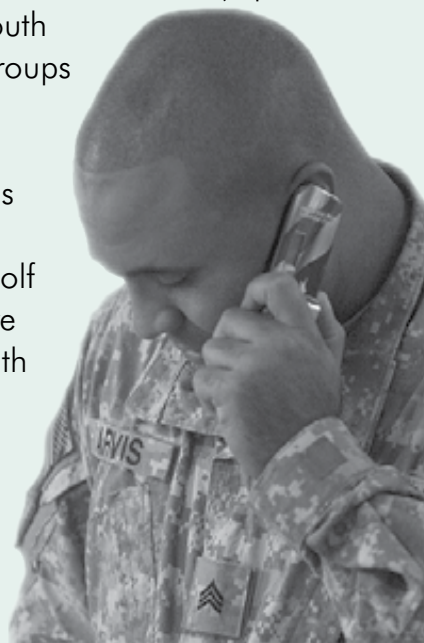
I am very active with the Cell Phone for Soldiers program in this area. We collect old cell phones which generate calling minutes for our soldiers overseas. The program I



**Maurice  
ALEXANDER  
Vice Chair  
Chpt. 735**

work with is sponsored by Re-Cellular of Ann Arbor and Chelsea. Area businesses such as ReMax Realty of Plymouth and Canton (represented by Lynn Dery), and Parkside Cleaners of South Lyon (represented by Pam Bijinsky), plus groups such as the Salem Bible Church of Salem, Local 735 Retirees and the Phoenix Lodge of Ypsilanti help us collect them. Individuals have helped too, such as Rick Custer, who collected over a 140 phones through his golf league, the Oak Club and friends. They are then donated through the American Legion Post 338 in South Lyon. As of May 26th, we have collected 1,682 phones which amount to approximately 100,920 minutes or \$706,440.00 worth of overseas calling minutes.

If you have an old cell phone to donate, you can bring it to me at the retiree meeting at the Region or look for collection boxes in your community.





# CHAPTER 163 REPORT



Chair — ROY GONZALEZ

## Unions and Detroit Diesel Workers Under Attack

Here we go again; middle and older retirees, senior citizens, the middle class, the working poor, younger workers, and other ordinary citizens are being used again as the money source for the mega rich, ultra rich, and the many other rich and powerful special interests. We paid, and are still paying for, the bailouts for these robbers starting in 2008. Now the bought and paid for politicians in Washington DC, Michigan, and many other states want to *screw* us once again and make it much more painful this time, while the rich special interests gloat over their agenda of stealing more money than before while driv-

**“ Now the bought and paid for politicians... want to screw us once again and make it much more painful this time... ”**

ing the vast majority of Americans into financial slavery.

Their ultimate goal is to *KILL ALL UNIONS*; then our race to the bottom will be faster than a jet airplane. Threats to health care, pensions, Social Security, our homes and any other methods they can think of to make the average person's hope of hanging on to what they have or hope for the American dream will become a long lost dream. For those with a computer or know someone who has one, go to [www.lcurve.org](http://www.lcurve.org) to get a totally eye-popping view of the outrageous financial inequality we are saddled with, which grows worse day by day.

In another vein, we have approximately 1,100 Detroit Diesel members who are affected by the company making us pay very high monthly premiums for health coverage, and we owe a big

vote of thanks to retiree and former Shop Committeeman for 29 years, Paul Herrick. He has relentlessly been pulling out all stops to have the truth come to light about Detroit Diesel's binding commitment to fund and pay their contractual health care obligations.

Paul has written to UAW President Bob King about the \$800,000,000 Penske received from GM for the slightly over 1,100 employees he inherited with the plant. He also wrote to the *Free Press*, but in both instances he has never received a reply. He has also written letters to the editor.

Paul is completely right and I will pursue this through our Local to send copies of Paul's letters to those of us affected by the court's decision. By standing together, there may be some way to have the courts reverse the ruling that is holding us hostage to Detroit Diesel's greed.

To those not affected by this like our Romulus Brothers and Sisters who also have had painful cuts in their health coverage, all union members have to become doubly watchful that companies do not keep trying, and in too many cases succeeding, to put in sneaky negative wording that will come back and screw the union workers at some future date. Let's keep our eyes open and keep up the good fight.



# PROM NIGHT 2011



*See you at next year's event!*





# Retirees answer the call...



# RALLIES in LANSING and ANN ARBOR



## CHAPTER 182 REPORT



Chair – MIKE LANG

### Congratulations to all our Election Candidates

The first thing I'd like to do is congratulate the winners who ran for office and won the election for Local 182 on May 3rd. A job well done! But also I would like to thank those brothers and sisters who ran and did not win. I know it takes a lot of time and effort to run for office, and you also care about our Local and what is going on here. Again, thank you to all our candidates.

We also had 205 Retirees come out and vote. This only goes to show we have a very strong Retiree Chapter. Again, I'd like to thank all of you who participated in this election.

I would also like to thank Mickey Herrick and Jimmy Griffith for agreeing to be Board Members for Local 182's Retire Chapter. I'm sure they will do a fine job, as all our Board Members do.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Leonard Kizer and Carlos Dimaya for an outstanding job when they were on our Retiree Board. I can't say enough about Leonard for being on our board for 25 years. I never had to ask Leonard to do something, because he already had it done. It was like he knew what I was thinking and did it without being asked. Also Carlos helped out with the golf league and did a fantastic job with Black Lake. I can't tell you how much I appreciated Leonard and Carlos.

Speaking about Black Lake, we have 28 delegates from our Retiree Local going up there this summer. I can only hope that next summer

we have even more delegates to enjoy this experience.

Region 1A, on May 14th, 2011 had a Senior Prom with all the proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund at the Region. The Retiree Chapter purchased two tables, which accommodated 16 Brothers and Sisters to this occasion. I don't know how to say this, but for some reason my wife and I were crowned King and Queen of the Prom. The only thing I can guess is because it was our 51st anniversary on that day. And I can tell you, my wife looked much better than me; 51 years made her even more beautiful than on our wedding day.



Edna and Mike Lang were declared Senior Prom Queen and King

Now for an update on Fred Justin. Fred has been on our Retiree Board for some time, and runs the 50/50 raffle, along with his wife, Sharon, at our General Membership meetings. Fred has had some hard times recently and has been in the hospital for more than 5½ months, but I am glad to tell you that he is home and doing well. Nothing like being home to make you feel better. Fred told me he would like to thank each one of you for all your prayers and hopes to see you at our September General Membership meeting.

Before I close, I would like to thank Al Churchill for getting Henry Ford III, great-grandson of Henry Ford, to speak at our May meeting. The Brothers and Sisters who attended the meeting seemed very interested in what he had to say. After he finished his presentation, he answered all the questions from the delegation. And if that was not enough, he stayed for our lunch, and then spoke privately with many Brothers and Sisters.

At our Open House Meeting at Region 1A, I found out that the daughter of John Vicari, Kelsey, was one of the recipients of the Pioneer Scholarship Awards. Congratulations, Kelsey. John is an active worker at our plant. Since I've been Chairman, we've had three scholarship winners. I think that says a lot about Local 182 Brothers and Sisters.

Local 182 Retiree Chapter will not have any meetings in June, July, and August. Our next meeting will be on September 8, 2011, and I hope you will all have a fantastic and safe summer.

## CHAPTER 227 REPORT



Chair – ELMER DUFF

### Chrysler is Hiring Again!

Now that the warm weather is upon us, we must be careful when we are out in the sun and inside as well when we don't have the right ventilation in our home. Older people and young people are the most vulnerable to the heat. When heat warnings go out, take heed and have a safe and wonderful summer.

I would like to thank the GimmeFive members and the captains who encouraged 15 members to go to Lansing in May to protest the plight of Unions in Michigan. Again thank you! As you know, President Bob King wants all UAW members to sign up for GimmeFive. You can go on line at: [gimmefive@uaw.net](mailto:gimmefive@uaw.net).

McGraw Glass Plant is on the ground except for the new warehouse. There is nothing there but a big empty lot. McGraw Glass Plant: 1960-2011 R.I.P.

Chrysler has paid back to the U.S. government and the Canadian government the money they borrowed from them. I hope this is a good sign. Also, they are hiring and I am told you have to put in your application online. Chrysler is going to open the Trenton Engine plant and is expected to hire close to 300 people. GOOD NEWS!!!

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Thomas Robinson (AKA Woo-Woo-9850). Also, our prayers are with William Harry Riley, past President of Local 227 and committeeman. I looked at our retirement sheet to send the family of Robinson a card and his name was not on Local 227 retiree list. It shows that when he retired, he did not sign up for the two dollar (\$2.00) union dues. All I can say is, this is not a time to be playing games when people want to take away your pensions, Medicare, Social Security, etc. If you know someone who is not paying their retiree union dues, please urge them to pay.

Black Lake Retreat is July 5-8, 2011. The Rory L. Gamble G.I.V.E.S. Charity Golf Invitational UAW Region 1A is Sunday, August 14, 2011 at Lakes of Taylor Golf Course. For more information, call 313-391-2750.

Region 1A Senior picnic is Wednesday, August 10, 2011 11am-2pm at Nankin Mills Park, Westland, Michigan on Hines Drive east of Ann Arbor Trail. **FREE** to retirees and their family.

Remember our sick and shut-in. Our meetings are every third Wednesday. Social hour is 10:00-11:00 a.m., meeting starts at 11:00 a.m.



## CHAPTER 845 REPORT



Chair – **MIKE LAMBERT**

### Some Questions Answered

Many of the retirees need to update information, change their address, phone number, or whatever else. It is important to keep your union informed of where you are.

A few of our retirees have asked about life insurance benefits. Most all of us who have retired

have some insurance through the company, thanks to our union contracts. Most of us do not know how much we have, though. Ford employees can call UNICARE at 1-800-843-8184. Once you have answered a few questions, they will send you information telling you how much life insurance you have and who the beneficiary is. Non-Ford? Call your Local Benefits Rep. or Local. I am sure they can tell you where to get this information.

Another question that has come up is ... "How do we change direct deposit?" Ford's new State Street Bank has no phone number available. If you have a computer you can go to [myfordbenefits.com](http://myfordbenefits.com), sign in and follow simple instructions. No computer? Call the retirement board at 1-800-829-8833.

#### UAW 845 Retiree Picnic

I would like to take the time to invite all

the Local 845 retirees to our annual Retiree Picnic. The date is September 8th. This year, the picnic will be at Heritage Park in Canton, behind the Canton Township offices, near the Fire Department. Many of our retirees come back to Michigan in the summer to attend. This year is a little different. Normally the picnic is in August, so I would like to say once again that it is SEPTEMBER 8th. Come enjoy the friendships of the past, and the food. If you need further directions, please call the Local at 734-453-1240.

At the time of this article, the **Membership Picnic** information is incomplete. It seems that it will be in mid to late August. Please call the Local for any updates.

*REMEMBER: BUY AMERICAN,  
BUY UNION MADE*

## CHAPTER 372 REPORT



Chair – **JOHN TROHIMCZYK**

### Mobilize Our Forces, Show Our Unity And Strength

The forces of evil are coming out of the woods again. They are after our hard fought for benefits. We need to unite our forces and resources now more than ever. Remember, this affects all of us union members and the middle class. All of us must unite our energy by marching together, because in numbers we provide unity and strength. The union created the middle class in our country. Let's keep building on this. Are you ready to get involved? When you get involved, things get resolved.

#### Christmas bonus received and appreciated

It was nice to get the Christmas bonus for retirees a few months ago; a welcome bit of money when needed. I believe the marching we did at the last UAW Convention had an effect on the bonus we received. Thanks to the Union for negotiating this benefit. So when anyone asks you what the union did for you, tell them we received a Christmas bonus, will you? Retirees can say our union comes through again. It pays to belong. This doesn't mean we will stop fighting to protect the benefits we have. As always, we will keep on fighting for improved benefits and justice as usual.

#### Protect the Middle Class

The middle class is the backbone of our country; what happened to the American Dream? Let's start a surtax to restore jobs for Americans without a job. Let's put a surtax on companies that move overseas. Greedy companies hurt our economy. Let's restore the American Dream.

It's time to put more emphasis on taking care of the middle class. We need:

**“ We need to unite our forces and resources now more than ever...All of us must unite our energy by marching together, because in numbers we provide unity and strength.”**

1. To maintain the middle class
2. Universal health care/single payer plan
3. Pensions
4. A livable wage
5. Support for unions (keep and support bargaining rights)
6. To protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid
7. A level playing field for manufacturing

#### You Can Help

Your help is needed now. Participate when called upon to march or phone bank. You

can also write your legislators; tell them we want more substance than talk. Let's get our legislators to stand up and be counted. Let's find out where they stand. Let them be accountable on our priorities. Let's mobilize our forces and show our unity and strength. Democracy begins with you and your involvement. Together we win.

#### Don't Forget the Retirees!

Contract talks are underway with many issues to be resolved. We need to keep retirees' needs up front. There is a great need for improvements in their benefits. The negotiators must keep the Christmas bonus, starting with the first year of the new contract. This has been a welcomed benefit and must be renewed.

#### Get Well Wishes for the Sick

We wish all the sick and shut-ins (you are not forgotten) a speedy recovery and good health. Remember – one for all and all for one. Together we are a force that can make things happen. When you put your hand out, let it be to help another in need.

God Bless all...

### UAW Membership Up, New Hire Pay Down

UAW membership was up last year, but new auto industry hires will be making less than industry veterans. Membership in the autoworker's union nudged up by 21,000 from 355,191 in 2009, to 376,612 in 2010. UAW President Bob King credited "new organizing by the UAW, the recovery of the domestic auto industry and UAW members who won a first contract during the year."

While 36,000 auto factory jobs are expected to be added at the Big Three automakers by 2015 – boosting the current UAW membership of 102,000 active autoworkers at Ford, GM and Chrysler in the U.S. – those jobs are expected to be so-called Tier 2 new hires. This means they will get about half the pay of veteran UAW autoworkers.

The most profitable of the Big Three and the only automaker where UAW members still have the right to strike, Ford is the likely target as the UAW negotiates a new contract this year, reports WINS (Workers Independent News Service). King has said he's looking to make sure that workers who made big concessions to save the U.S. auto industry can share in the upside the auto companies are now enjoying.



CHAPTER  
900  
REPORT



Chair – LLOYD ALLEN by Al Comons

Chapter Election Results

The last election results produced new officers whom we congratulate. A list follows:

- Chair :**  
Lloyd Allen (*Elected*)

**Financial Secretary:**  
Dale Smith  
(*Acclamation*)

**Sergeant-at-Arms:**  
Freddie Kitchen  
(*Acclamation*)
- Vice Chair:**  
Kathy Martin (*Elected*)

**Recording Secretary:**  
Chris Mardegian  
(*Acclamation*)

**Guide:**  
Aurilus Perkins  
(*Acclamation*)

**Three Executive Board Members-at-Large:**  
Jonas Cabill, Chuck West, Peggy L. Smith

Region 1A Summer Retreat at Black Lake

Every year at this time, our Region sets up the best vacation deal anywhere at Walter Reuther’s Northern Legacy: Black Lake. Where else for \$500 can a couple match this four-day affair? Consider: round trip transportation from Local 600 (540 miles); 3 nights of first-class, double-bed lodging with all the amenities that includes an exercise gym with every imaginable device for removing that 15 lbs. of extra self; there’s a basketball court right next to an Olympic-size swimming pool if one



“ Let us piously support our negotiators with our eternal solidarity that has always in the past provided us with industry wide patterns of contracts.”

chooses not to go into Black Lake for a dip or perhaps do a little fishing instead. This is not all. The piece-de-resistance are the three meals a day, all you can eat, including three dinner entrees each day capped off with a bottle of wine the last day. If you’re a little stuffed after this, there’s 1,000 acres of wooded splendor to roam around in unless you choose to play one of the finest golf courses in Michigan at reduced UAW rates.

With this tongue licking introduction, our new Chairman, Lloyd Allen, will be there as well as Marianne Common with her sister, Donald Renfro, Louis Webster, Harold Talbert, Bobby Teague and yours truly, Al Comons with his wife Lucille.

In Memoriam

Solemnly, we announce that (president for life) Jeff Washington’s mom, Lois Washington, passed away, and last March 10th Turner Ewing expired at the age of 81. We remember Turner and his many years of union activism at Wayne Assembly combined with teaching at Black Lake and managing our retiree golf outing at Green Oaks for many summers. Local 900 retirees console both families.

Contract Time

Let us piously support our negotiators with our eternal solidarity that has always in the past provided us with industry-wide patterns of contracts.

Scholarship Winner

Steven Kopeck, son of Philip Kopeck, electrician at the Michigan Truck Plant, won the Region 1A Retiree Pioneer Scholarship Award of \$1,000. He will attend Toledo University, majoring in electrical engineering.

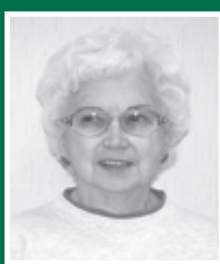
tax. Profits are more important than any of the above crises.

The ability of the news media to instill hate instead of compassion (love thy neighbor value) amazes me. Our core values, which are true unionist values, are dumped.

I have reexamined the resolution on the health care crisis and see how it is so relevant to Bob King and Rory Gamble’s call to now “educate, organize, mobilize, and lobby” to protect our core values to work, not as a slave at a job, but with the resources to raise a family with a real income. Families are entitled to have a secure and safe society. They call it “protect the middle class,” I call it “Peace.” Do what you can to help us all. Someone once said “harden not your hearts.”

Peace to you!

CHAPTER  
1313  
REPORT



Chair – TOM MAYNARD by Reggie Watts

Contact Your Representatives!

Please remember that our July and August meetings are cancelled. I hope that everyone has a wonderful vacation and comes back to our meeting on September 8th and tells us all about it. The rest of our meeting dates will be on October 13th, November 10th and on December 8th we are going to have a Christmas party. The food will be catered, and we’ll have some games, prizes and music. We will ask all attendees to pay \$5.00 in advance, if possible. That way, we can get a more accurate estimate of the attendance for the caterer, and the money will be used for money prizes.

If there are any questions, you can reach me at 1-313-846-8991. If you prefer to call Pearl Helsten or Tom Maynard, you can do so. This will give us one more chance to get together with old friends we haven’t seen in a while, in a festive atmosphere.

The Republicans have been happily cutting taxes for big business, and raising them for what is left of the middle class. They are not finished with their take-aways, not by a long shot. Why not? After all, they managed to get a Republican majority in every area that matters. Their next objective is to eliminate Medicaid; they have the votes to do it. Then they have our Medicare and Social Security in their sights.

What can we do about it? We can call or write our congress people, both state and federal. Tell them they better not fool with our Medicare and Social Security. Remind them how they won their positions in the first place. Tell them those votes won’t be there for them next time if they continue in this disastrous direction. We the people won’t condone it and we won’t stand for it.

We should also let our faithful Democrats know we appreciate their efforts to stem the tide of Republican efforts to take away the benefits we worked so hard for. Senators Dingell and Levin have been heroic in their efforts to help us.

By the way, there is a recall petition being passed around for Rick Snyder. If you are unhappy with what he has done and what he says he plans to do, be sure to sign one of these petitions. Most of all, be sure to vote in every election that takes place. We must have more Democrats in office and we must support the ones in office with our votes.

“ They are not finished with their take-aways, not by a long shot.”

CHAIRMAN from front page

change health care into a *Medicare for all*. Many of us squeezed our fists and refused to open our hands to others. There was a desire to “keep what I got.” We have managed to squeeze health care/insurance until we have hurt our own hands. We are losing what we had gotten. The problem has blossomed and spread since 2006. The crisis in health care is now joined by a crisis in employment, crisis with pensions, crisis with schools, gas crisis, and water crisis. The most interesting fact I wish to share that is part of the education on single payer is the growth in profits of the insurance companies while people die. There are more billionaires being created who pay little or no



# Congratulations to Our 2011 Scholarship Winners!

Submitted by Viri Dare, Scholarship Committee Chair

This year was our 22nd Annual Pioneer Scholarship Awards Ceremony. This event took place on June 23, 2011 at Region 1A in Taylor, and honored the six individuals chosen for this year's scholarship winners.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Sisler. The "Retirees Award" honoree, Ms. Liz Jackson of Local 600, was present to pass out the \$1,000.00 retiree awards.

They were as follows: Kevin Joseph (Father, Pete Joseph, Local 245), Steven Kopeck (Father, Phillip J. Kopeck of Local 900), Kelsey Cavazos (Father, Julian Cavazos of Local 600) and Willinda Mitchell (Mother, Michelle Mitchell of Local 3000).

The "Directors Awards" were passed out by Rory Gamble, Director of Region 1A.

They went to Kelsey Brasher (Father, John Vicari of Local 182) and Loren Branch (Grandmother, Caldonia "Peaches" Anderson of Local 600).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Locals and Retiree Chapters for the generous support of this wonderful event. Also, a sincere thank you to all of the Scholarship Committee members for taking on the task and for the time spent in selecting this year's winners. They were Anne Drake, John Finney, Bernard Fontechiaro, Linda "Kay Kay" Hayes, Rudy Nelson, Bob Pilarowski, Mike Lambert, Leroy Sims and Alice "Pat" Garret.

Thanks again for all your hard work and dedication.



(Front row L-R): Pete Joseph, Kevin Joseph and grandmother, Kelsey Brasher, John Vicari, Kelsey Cavazos, Willinda Mitchell. (Back Row L-R): Mrs. Joseph, Michelle Branch, Loren Branch, Phillip J. Kopeck, Steven Kopeck, Julian Cavazos, William Mitchell

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2011 UNION PIONEER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### DIRECTOR'S AWARD – \$1,500



#### **KELSEY BRASHER**

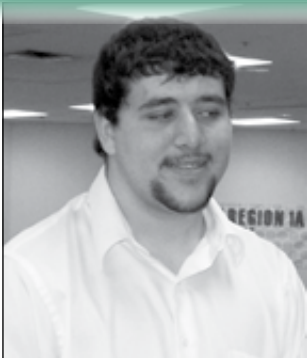
John Vicari, Father  
LOCAL 182



#### **LOREN BRANCH**

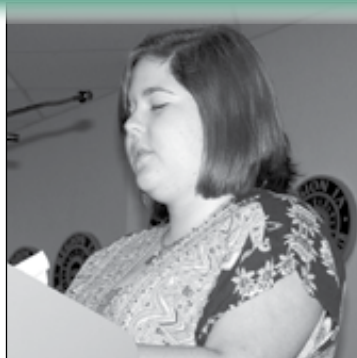
Caldonia "Peaches" Anderson,  
Grandmother, LOCAL 600

### LIZ JACKSON RETIREE AWARD – \$1,000



#### **KEVIN JOSEPH**

Pete Joseph, Father  
LOCAL 245



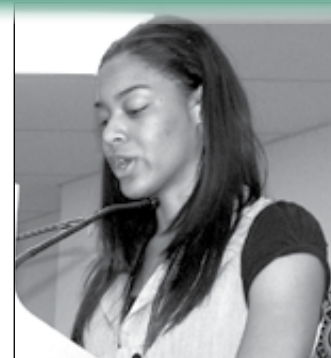
#### **KELSEY CAVAZOS**

Julian Cavazos, Father  
LOCAL 600



#### **STEVEN KOPECK**

Phillip J. Kopeck, Father  
LOCAL 900



#### **WILLINDA MITCHELL**

Michelle Mitchell, Mother  
LOCAL 3000



# Our World in Crisis

## CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

**BOB SISLER**

I would rather be writing about the beauty of the Vermont Mountains or the cement forest of the island of Manhattan. You know, the end of July is the best time to take the Alaskan cruise. I never thought



I would have to pray for strength to simply say that to cut Social Security or reduce Medicare is wrong. I don’t want to be the voice, but will take the task.

As we look out

our doors, we have to realize that the general status of the society has changed. We have become more concerned about ourselves than we have about how we fit into society. At our meetings, we pray and then we forget the words “I love the neighbor as self.” Can we turn our hearts around?

President Bob King and Region 1A Director Rory Gamble have asked us to get involved with our neighbors. Too often it

**⚡ We must not allow our frustrations**

**with the political process to weaken our efforts to solve the health care crisis.”**

is our children or a close relative affected by the injustice they ask us to lobby. At the 34th Constitutional Convention, June 2006, I was inspired by these words:

“We must not allow our frustrations with the political process to weaken our efforts to solve the health care crisis. The UAW remains committed to a universal, single-payer plan to provide quality care to all Americans – rich and poor, working, retired and unemployed. To that end, we will continue to educate, organize, mobilize and lobby in support of a universal, single-payer health care system.”

I saw this as an opportunity to bring those religious ideas to reality. I thought we would be taking action from a position of power, since most of us (UAW) had good insurance at the time, and we could help

**See CHAIRMAN on Page 10**



UAW REGION 1A  
Roy L. Gamble, Director  
Bob Sisler, Chairperson

**NEW LOCATION**

# PICNIC

# FREE

to UAW Region 1A  
Retirees & Family

**WEDNESDAY**  
**August 10, 2011**  
**11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

## BINGO

6	22	34	53	72
11	27	38	56	71
4	●	●	52	69
13	21	42	●	67
14	24	32	59	68

Food ■ Refreshments  
Games ■ Prizes ■ DJ  
Hustle Lessons ■ Karaoke

COME OUT FOR A  
DAY OF  
FRIENDSHIP



**NEW LOCATION: NANKIN MILLS PARK**  
Westland, MI (Hines Drive east of Ann Arbor Trail)