

United Auto Workers Amalgamated  
**LOCAL 2280**

# LABOR INFORMER

VOL. 48 • NO. 2 • WINTER 2025

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- Andy Vultaggio**, President
- Nicole Didia**, Vice President
- Thomas Peet**, Recording Secretary
- Robert Vitale**, Financial Secretary
- Stephanie Drozdalski**, Trustee
- Michelle Riggs**, Trustee
- Bruno Garreffa**, Trustee
- Teresa Wright**, Sergeant-at-Arms
- Gary Kujawa**, Guide
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- Bill Barjoui**, Alt. District #4 Committee
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- David Schachinger**, Alt. District #5 Committee

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- Marcus Taylor**, Bay Logistics Steward
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- Eddie Novjanovski**, Benefits Representative
- Dawn Talley-Thomas**, Ergonomics Representative
- Steve Romero**, Health & Safety Representative
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- Monique Fuqua**, Alt. Employee Resource Coordinator
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- Brian Beck**, Alt. Quality Representative
- John Aversano**, Standards/Job Security Representative
- Douglas Forbush**, Joint Apprenticeship Coordinator
- Richard Tatar**, Alt. Joint Apprenticeship Coordinator
- Ralph Frontera**, Retiree Chapter Chairperson

*May your days be  
Merry and Bright throughout  
this Holiday Season!*

**...from your Local 2280 Leadership**

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**UAW LOCAL 2280**  
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# Great Cars. Great Sales. Great Service.



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Friday: 9am-6pm  
Saturdays: 9am-3pm



## President's Report **ANDY VULTAGGIO**

## A Busy Holiday Season

Greetings to all my Local 2280  
Brothers, Sisters and Retirees,

I hope everyone had a nice and safe Thanksgiving while enjoying time with family and friends. It seems like this year flew by extra fast with the holidays drawing near. December is always a crazy month, between shopping and holiday preparations. It really is important to slow down and enjoy the extra time away from the plant. Trust me, it will be there when we get back!

Speaking of the plant, we have had some TLO weeks recently and will likely have more TLO's in 2026. Hopefully, there will be new work coming in soon to get things running back to full force.

Our Children's Movie was held at MJR Cinemas on December 7th. Members and their children enjoyed watching *Zootopia 2*. We had a good turnout for this event, and everyone seemed to have a nice time. As always, we appreciate Santa Claus for making an appearance and taking time with each child to hear their Christmas wishes.

With that said, I would like to wish the membership a very warm and bright holiday season. However it is that you celebrate, may this time of year bring joy and happiness to you and your loved ones. Please remember, I am here to assist you, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me at the Local if you have any questions or concerns.

*May you all have a Merry Christmas and a  
Healthy and Prosperous New Year!*

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## Reflecting on Accomplishments

Season's Greetings to our UAW Local 2280 Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the end of another year and gather with family, friends, and community, it's fitting to reflect not only on what we've accomplished, but how we accomplished it – together. The holiday season reminds us that strong relationships don't happen by accident. They are built on trust, respect, and above all, communication. The same is true for a strong union.

Communication is the backbone of solidarity. When we listen to each other, share our stories, and raise our concerns, we ensure that every member's voice helps shape our direction. Whether it's negotiating contracts, addressing workplace issues, or supporting members through personal challenges, open communication allows us to respond quickly, stand united, and protect what we've fought so hard to win.

As we head into the new year, let us continue with the commitment to keep our avenues of communication open and strive to do better. I am always interested in taking suggestions for ways to better communicate and encourage everyone to utilize the tools we have in place.

Please sign up for text messaging with this QR code (shown at right), if you haven't already, and visit the website at [www.uawlocal2280.com](http://www.uawlocal2280.com) or the UAW Local 2280 Facebook page to stay informed! For those that are not computer savvy or do not use any social media, look for the flyers that are posted on the UAW information boards or the main aisleway.



On behalf of our leadership, thank you for your dedication, hard work, and willingness to stand together. May your holidays be safe, warm, and filled with the company of those who matter most. Here's to a new year rooted in unity, communication, and the unwavering belief that we are strongest when we communicate and act as one!



**Vice President's Report**  
**NICOLE DIDIA**



**Recording Secretary's Report**  
**THOMAS PEET**

## Opportunities in the New Year

To All Active and Retired Members of Local 2280,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. As the Christmas season approaches, I trust you are preparing to enjoy an exceptional holiday – celebrating with family and friends, sharing well-prepared meals, and perhaps engaging in a spirited card game for bragging rights.

These traditions strengthen the bonds within families and, for many, with friends as well. For my own family, this season offers a chance to rest, reflect, and recharge as we look forward to the opportunities of the coming year of 2026.

*On behalf of Local 2280, I sincerely wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year filled with health, happiness, and success.*

## SAVE THE DATE...

*Mark Your Calendars!*



### ▶ UAW Local 2280 Scholarship Program

Applications for the Local 2280 Scholarship Program will be available for pick up beginning Monday, January 26, 2026. The program is open to all our members and retirees' children and grandchildren who are graduating high school or are ages 25 and under currently enrolled in a college or university.

Please keep in mind that you may only win once, so past recipients need not apply. Good luck to everyone!

### ▶ Bowling Tournament

Look for information in the plant, will likely be held in March 2026

### ▶ Family Picnic

Sunday, June 14, 2026, at Jimmy John's Field in Utica

### ▶ Scholarship Golf Outing

Sunday, August 2, 2026, at Cherry Creek Golf Club in Shelby Twp.



## VAN DYKE Dealer Panel

**FOR EMPLOYEES and FAMILY MEMBERS**

## Happy Holidays

Please remember the Dealer Panel is here to assist you with any issues that arise pertaining to purchase of vehicles or service with Ford and Lincoln Dealerships. The process of buying a car can be stressful and we are here to help when problems arise!

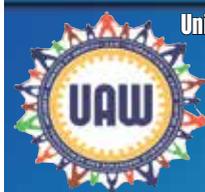
If you have a problem with a vehicle or dealership, please reach out to Wayne Conner at (586) 826-6577. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday and don't forget I am here to help!

In solidarity, UAW Local 2280 Dealer Panel

Wayne Conner • (586) 826-6577 • [wconner@ford.com](mailto:wconner@ford.com)



### VAN DYKE ELECTRIC POWERTRAIN CENTER



United Auto Workers Amalgamated  
**LOCAL 2280**

# LABOR INFORMER

*Published by UAW Local 2280 in the interest of the membership to further the aims and programs of UAW Local 2280, and to promote the policies and programs of the UAW International Union.*

### UAW LOCAL 2280

45116 Cass Avenue • Utica, MI 48317 • (586) 731-0010 • Fax: (586) 731-1835

### LABOR INFORMER EDITORIAL STAFF

Andy Vultaggio, Editor Nicole Didia, Co-Editor Rob Vitale, Co-Editor



Visit our Facebook page for news and events!

- or - visit us at... [uawlocal2280.com](http://uawlocal2280.com)

## Successful Holiday Events

Hello to My Fellow Members  
(Active and Retired),

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Christmas Spirit appears to be alive and well at Van Dyke. It is fun to see all the decorations up throughout the plant, some of the departments are looking a lot like Santa's Workshop!

The Toys for Tots gate collection, held on December 5th, was a great success. Thank you to all for your donations. Just over \$3,000 was raised for the cause, which will help ensure that all children get to open a gift on Christmas Day.

I hope you all enjoy the UAW-negotiated time off we have at the end of the month with your family and friends. I look forward to seeing you all back in the plant for a great New Year in 2026!



**Financial Secretary's Report**  
**ROB VITALE**

## Small Business Support Initiative

Let's build a stronger workplace community by supporting each other's passions and side hustles while strengthening morale!

### Let's Lift Each Other Up!

We are aware that many of the talented members of Local 2280 have small side businesses for a variety of goods and services. Supporting coworker-owned businesses is more than just a nice gesture. It has real benefits for the workplace, community and the success of our brothers and sisters. From baked goods to crafts, car detailing or photography – we want to support you and get your name out to our brothers and sisters.

If you would like your small business to be advertised to the membership, please submit the following information via e-mail to [uawlocal2280@aol.com](mailto:uawlocal2280@aol.com):

- ✓ Your name
- ✓ Business name
- ✓ What you offer
- ✓ Contact info (social media, website, phone/email)

We will then create a flyer that will be posted on social media and shared on the UAW information boards in the plant.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted for your approval,  
**ROB VITALE,**  
Financial Secretary

Beginning Balance ..... **818,235.74**

### INCOME

Dues – Regular (Private Sector).....	107,968.53
Dues – SUB.....	37.75
Dues – Retired Workers @ 35% .....	853.30
Donations – Scholarship Awards.....	2,000.00
Donations – Retired Workers Chapter.....	116.00
Donations – Other .....	<u>1,597.00</u>
<b>Income Total .....</b>	<b>112,572.58</b>

### EXPENSES

Wages (Officers).....	1,105.79
Wages (Clerical).....	4,463.36
Lost Time (Officers).....	11,174.89
Lost Time (Others).....	2,702.29
Weekly/Monthly Exp Allowance – Officers .....	555.00
Weekly/Monthly Exp. Allowance – Others .....	145.00
Others – Non-Tax Travel Per Diem, etc.....	218.40
Paid Personal Time (Others).....	278.96
Vacation (Clerical) .....	836.88
Refreshments Reimbursement.....	250.00
Supply Reimbursement .....	219.26
Federal Taxes .....	-2,787.74
FICA.....	-1,318.30
MECA .....	-308.30
MI Tax .....	-1,025.19
UDues.....	-59.21
Federal Income Taxes (941) Forward.....	2,787.74
FICA-Employee OASDI and HI Forward .....	1,626.60
State Income Taxes Forward.....	3,634.75
Dental/Medical/Vision Insurance .....	1,042.26
FICA Employer OASDI and HI (941).....	1,626.60
Unemployment Taxes – Federal (940) .....	245.34
Unemployment Taxes – State.....	532.00
Dental/Hearing/Medical/Vision Insurance.....	660.74
Building & Property – Maintenance & Repair .....	177.00
Rental of Alarm System.....	119.85
Utilities (Building Ownership).....	402.42
Donations – Charities .....	504.75
Furniture & Equipment – Leases & Rentals .....	234.06
Internet Service (Access Fees) .....	95.00
Per Capita Taxes – International .....	70,588.21
Per Capita Taxes – CAP Councils.....	2,803.32
Refreshments – Coffee, Donuts, Food, Soft Drinks .....	371.40

## COMBINED FUNDS FINANCIAL REPORT

Period of **OCTOBER 1, 2025 through OCTOBER 31, 2025**

Registration/Conference/Tuition Fees .....	200.00
Rental of Mats, Mops, Rugs, etc .....	30.40
Social & Recreational Events – Golf Outing, Clmks, etc. ....	1,500.00
Social & Recreational Events – Parties & Dances, etc.....	538.39
Social & Recreational Events – Picnic.....	4,000.00
Supplies – Office .....	311.47
Telephone.....	<u>227.58</u>
<b>Expense Total .....</b>	<b>110,710.97</b>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>820,097.35</b>

Beginning Balance.....	<b>818,235.74</b>
Income.....	112,572.58
Expenses.....	-110,710.97
Difference .....	<u>1,861.61</u>
<b>Balance .....</b>	<b>820,097.35</b>

### FUND BALANCES

General Fund.....	662,244.16
Education Fund .....	7,062.29
Recreation Fund.....	-81,480.31
Retired Members Fund.....	1,442.34
Scholarship Fund.....	36,491.65
Retired Workers Chapter Fund.....	19,561.41
Union Label Committee Fund.....	9.00
New Member Orientation Fund .....	1,598.42
Chaplaincy Committee Fund .....	111.34
Building Fund.....	169,390.10
Community Service Committee Fund.....	108.54
Civil Rights Committee Fund .....	256.00
Veterans Committee Fund.....	698.48
Women's Committee Fund .....	<u>2,603.93</u>
<b>Total of All Funds .....</b>	<b>820,097.35</b>

### ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

Actual Bank Balance .....	285,647.34
Cash On Hand.....	0.00
The Local Credit Union.....	55,741.23
The Local Credit Union – 24 Month.....	134,421.27
The Local Credit Union – 12 Month.....	31,147.38
The Local Credit Union – Savings.....	10.00
Royal Alliance.....	<u>313,130.13</u>
<b>Total Cash Assets .....</b>	<b>820,097.35</b>

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Per Capita Tax – October 2025 .....	<u>65,910.27</u>
<b>Net Cash Worth .....</b>	<b>754,187.08</b>

## New Work Arriving in the New Year



**Plant  
Chairman  
NICHOLAS A.  
STEFANI**

*Greetings Sisters and Brothers,*

I want to wish all our retirees, past and present, along with the active members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your loved ones.

Things at the plant are a little slow right now, due to the fire at the aluminum plant effecting our operation. We are doing our best to keep everyone working through the slow down with TLOs and loaning people to different areas. Things will pick up eventually and I thank everyone for their patience in the meantime.

We have secured almost \$8 million dollars of new work for the building in the coming year, which not only puts us in a great position for new work, but also will keep our people busy. I hope everyone enjoys their time off for the holidays, because we are going to need you rested for all the good things to come in 2026! *May God bless you all!*



**Plant  
Committee  
JAMES  
MONTGOMERY**

## Happy Holiday Season

*Hello, Local 2280 Brothers & Sisters,*

I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. Please take this extra time off to enjoy time with family and friends, along with everything that comes with the holidays. You all deserve this time to relax and decompress after a hard year of work.

Thank you to everyone at the Van Dyke Plant for the continued support over the past year. I am truly grateful. With 2026 just around the corner, I look forward to another wonderful year. Please be safe during this time off and I look forward to working with you all in the New Year!

## Standing Committee ELECTION RESULTS

We held an election for a three-year term for our Standing Committees at the October General Membership Meeting. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all those who ran. We appreciate your willingness to become more involved in Local 2280! If you were unable to attend the meeting but wish to be a part of one or more of the committees, please reach out to the Local for the next steps!

### **BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE**

Thomas Peet, *Chairperson*  
James Montgomery

### **BYLAW COMMITTEE**

Marlon Finley, *Chairperson*  
Vicki Hall-Robertson  
Mario Soave  
Dave Murray  
Erica Thompson

### **CAP COMMITTEE – MACOMB**

Wayne Conner, *Chairperson*  
Roger Heller

### **CAP COMMITTEE – OAKLAND**

Linda Fletcher, *Chairperson*  
Stephanie Drozdalski (*Appt.*)

### **CAP COMMITTEE – WAYNE**

Susan Riggs, *Chairperson*  
Rugenna Stewart

### **CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE**

Alex Nye, *Chairperson*  
Scott Arrington  
Alicia Vinson  
Dave Murray  
Thomas Gonino

### **CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Roy Fleming, *Chairperson*  
Kim Kohn  
Reggie Jhons  
Konrad Neumann  
Dexter Gordy

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Charlene Tate, *Chairperson*  
Michelle Jones  
Liz Jones  
Colin Lancaster  
Terry Pendergrass

### **CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Gary Kujawa, *Chairperson*  
Jeff Farmer

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Kim Kohn, *Chairperson*  
Ebony James  
Quinette Odom  
Konrad Neumann  
Duane Powell

### **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Bruno Garreffa, *Chairperson*  
Colin Lancaster  
Rugenna Stewart  
Kurt Neumann (*Appt.*)  
Reno Marchese (*Appt.*)

### **UNION LABEL COMMITTEE**

Dexter Gordy, *Chairperson*  
Jeff Farmer  
Ken Leopoldo (*Appt.*)  
Courtney Lawson (*Appt.*)  
Linda Fletcher (*Appt.*)

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Liz Jones, *Chairperson*  
Stephanie Drozdalski  
Bruno Garreffa  
Deandre Kyser  
Jacob Neumann  
Michelle Jones, *Adviser*

### **VETERANS COMMITTEE**

Jeff Cleland, *Chairperson*  
Scott Arrington  
Jordon Particka  
Roy Fleming  
Wayne Conner  
John Lewis, *Adviser*

### **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

Teresa Wright, *Chairperson*  
Michelle Riggs  
Erica Thompson  
Charlene Tate  
Quinette Odom



## Local 2280 Lends A Hand For The Holidays!

**thank you...**

to the membership for their generosity towards the less fortunate this holiday season! Our efforts started around Thanksgiving when the membership approved to purchase 270 turkeys to donate to churches, food banks and veterans facilities throughout Macomb County. Everyone was quite grateful when the truck full of turkeys rolled through!

In addition, we adopted ten (10) families in the community who were a bit down on their luck with \$300 Meijer Gift Cards. We hope that this small gift can help make their holiday a little brighter. Thank you to the members who submitted names of families in need.

Lastly, we just held our gate collection for Toys for Tots at the plant on December 5th. Our kind membership donated just over \$3,000 (including a \$100 donation from our Retiree Chapter) for the cause in addition to



hundreds of toys. It is nice to be able to make Christmas special for children in need. Thank you again to the kind and generous brothers and sisters of Local 2280 for making all of this happen.



## Confirm Your Beneficiaries

*Hello to my Union Brothers and Sisters!*

As we head into our holiday break, I just have a couple items of business to note. The first is a reminder to be sure to check your TESPHE and MetLife accounts to make sure you have a beneficiary listed and that their information is up to date. This makes things go a lot smoother should someone other than yourself have to take over the account.

Secondly, I always get a lot of questions about the Retiree Christmas lump sum payment. Qualifying retirees should see the money in their account by the third week of December. If you have any questions about qualifications or have trouble receiving your payment, please call the NESC at (800) 248-4444 or myself at (586) 826-6259.

As the holidays draw near, please be sure to take some time to spend with your family and friends. Bundle up and stay warm and I will see you around the plant in 2026!

## HELPFUL LINKS Ford and Union Resources/Social Media accounts that you may find useful...

- ▶ **FACEBOOK:**
  - UAW Local 2280
  - UAW Region 1
  - UAW International Union, UAW
- ▶ email: [uawlocal2280@aol.com](mailto:uawlocal2280@aol.com)
- ▶ Instagram: [@uawlocal2280](https://www.instagram.com/uawlocal2280)



# STAND DOWN

## A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT!

# SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN VETERANS

by **WAYNE CONNER II, Vice President of Marketing, SMVSD Inc.**

The 30th Annual Southeastern Michigan Veterans Stand Down was held September 24-25, 2025, at UAW Region 1 in Warren, Michigan. The event is designed to help homeless veterans get off the street (at least for a bit), providing a nice meal and assistance with other basic needs. The cost to put on the event is roughly \$25,000, serving roughly 242 people total (both homeless vets and non-veterans). Once again, the second day of the event was focused on our female veterans.

There are roughly 107,000 homeless veterans in the United States with around 7,000 being here in Michigan. This event is a great way to show appreciation to those who have served our country. Wayne Conner, Richard Cathy and Butch Nickels held the 12th Annual Stand Down golf outing on September 19, 2025, at Golden Hawk which raised roughly \$4,400 for the event. Please contact Wayne Conner if you are interested in participating next year.

If you would like to volunteer at the Stand Down, please register at [www.4vets.org](http://www.4vets.org).



# Happy Holidays!

**UAW LOCAL 2280 VETERANS COMMITTEE:**  
**Chairperson Jeff Cleland, Scott Arrington, Jordon Particka, Wayne Conner, Roy Fleming**

We hope this article finds everyone in good health and spirits! For those who may not have heard, we opened a Veterans Room in the plant, as a special place to honor those who have served. If you have not been over there, we encourage everyone to go check it out. The room holds memorabilia collected from veterans and their families – thank you to all

who have donated to the room! If your name is not yet on the Veterans Wall of Honor, please see a member of the committee with a copy of your DD214 and we will gladly have you added.

The Veterans Committee would like to thank the membership for helping out with the annual Toys for Tots drive, sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. The gate collection on Friday, December 5, 2025, raised roughly \$3,100 for the cause, along with the donations of over 300 toys from the membership.

We would also like to thank the membership for purchasing turkeys to donate to veterans causes. We took 45 turkeys to the VVA – Chapter 154 – and an

additional 45 turkeys to Vets Returning Home.

As a reminder, we have an ongoing collection of travel sized toiletries and personal items that we donate to the VA Hospital and other veterans' homes throughout the year. These items include, but are not limited to, hotel shampoos, hand and body lotions, deodorant, shaving supplies, etc.

A couple helpful donation tips include remembering that all requested items must be new and unopened in their original packaging. Food items should have a minimum of two months of shelf life before expiration. This is to maintain the safety of the veterans receiving the donations.



*We wish you all a New Year full of health and happiness. Remember, if you love your freedom – THANK A VET!*

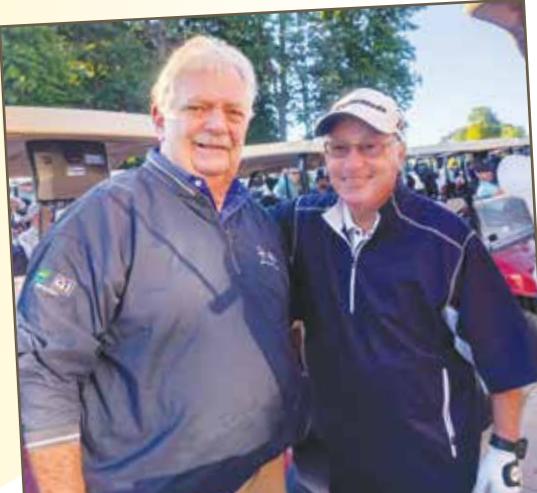


# 38th Annual SCHOLARSHIP Golf Outing

It is not every day that you get to do something you love while making a difference for future generations, and on Sunday, August 24, 2025, members and friends of Local 2280 did just that! We held our 38th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing at Cherry Creek Golf Club and we are happy to report the event was a another success!



**HUGE THANKS** to all our sponsors for their continued support and to everyone who participated. The event went off without a hitch thanks to our fantastic volunteers. Money generated from the outing is used to fund scholarships for the children and grandchildren of our membership each year.



Let's do it again in 2026!



**THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS!**

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**

- Serra Ford - Rochester Hills
- UAW Local 228
- UAW Region 1

**GOLD SPONSORS**

- Crest Lincoln
- Creech Law Firm
- The Local Credit Union
- UAW Local 600
- DFM
- Suburban Ford - Romeo
- HAP

**IRON SPONSORS**

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- Priority Health
- Retirement Strategies of MI
- Chillbox Gas (M-59/VanDyke)
- SVS Vision
- Lucido & Manella, P.C.
- Conca D'Oro Club
- Holiday Pizza
- American Graphics

**BEVERAGE CART**

- SVS Vision

**PRIZE DONATIONS**

- Creech Law Firm
- Holiday Pizza
- SVS Vision

**\*\*Please remember to support the businesses that support us!\*\***

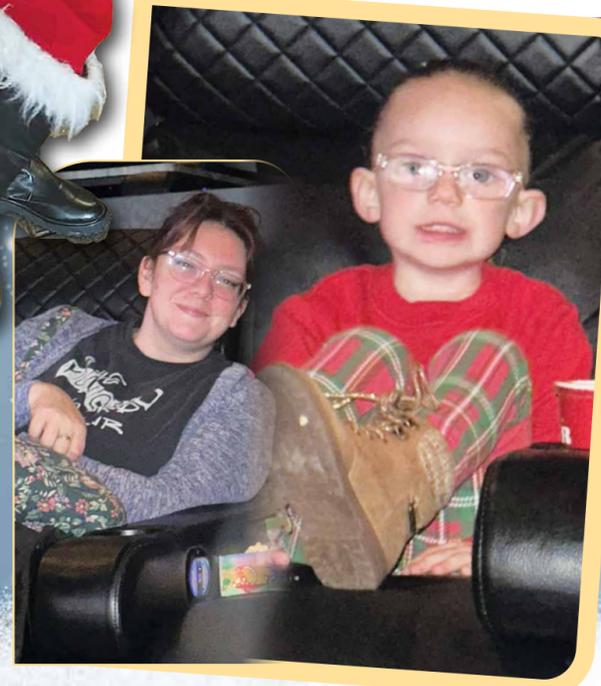




# CHILDRENS Christmas MOVIE Night

On Sunday, December 7, 2025, the children and grandchildren of Local 2280 were treated to a fun day at the movies to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

**THIS YEAR, WE SAW DISNEY'S NEWEST MOVIE, "ZOOTOPIA 2"** which seemed to be enjoyed by all! A huge thank you goes out to Santa Claus for making time during his busy season to listen to the Christmas wishes of our young attendees.



# FAMILY PICNIC



*On Sunday, August 3rd, we held our annual Family Picnic at JIMMY JOHN'S PARK*





# THANK YOU TO ALL

who brought their families out for the event, it is always nice to catch up with one another outside the plant. While we can't remember who won the game, we can remember what a fun time was had by all! We always hear people say they don't know when the picnic is, so mark your calendar now – we are doing it again on June 14, 2026!





Women's Committee  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**



On Saturday, October 18, 2025, the Women's Committee of Local 2280 teamed up with our friends at Local 228 to put on a *Trunk or Treat* event for the children of our membership. It was a beautiful day to be outside, and we were impressed by the massive turnout! In addition to all the candy and treats, kids were able to take a pony ride and jump in the bounce house!

*Thank you to everyone who participated, We hope to do it again next year.*



# ESSP, LAP-C/EDTP Rep. Report

by **DEBBIE LITTLETON**

586-826-6161 email: [dlittl13@ford.com](mailto:dlittl13@ford.com)



## Member Benefits & Services

Brothers and Sisters of Local 2280,  
My name is Debbie Littleton, and I am the ESSP/EDTP Representative for Local 2280. For those of you who do not know what types of benefits are available to you through this negotiated program, I have highlighted a few of the different programs and services that are available to you. If you have any questions or are looking for any additional information, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

### Employee Support Services Program (ESSP)

UAW-FORD offers Employee Support Services Program (ESSP). ESSP is a CONFIDENTIAL and Voluntary program, designed to help workers dealing with issues that not only detract from their job performance, but their private life as well.

ESSP assists with Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Wellness, Child Care, Elder Care, Stress, Grief/Loss, Depression, Eating Disorders, Marital and Family, Financial and many more. ESSP assistance is available to the UAW-FORD Active Employee (Hourly or Salary), their

spouse and/or Dependent(s).

### Fitness Center

I appreciate everyone signing in, filling out the waivers and keeping the facility clean. If there's any issues with the equipment, please contact me.

*Everyone that uses the Fitness Center will need to fill out a New waiver starting January 2026 for the new year.*

### EDTP and ETAP

The Education Development & Training Program (EDTP) and Education Tuition Assistance Plan (ETAP) is for all Active UAW-represented hourly employees including Temporary Workers after 90 days of employment

ETAP Provides for prepayment of tuition and approved fees up to \$8,000\* per calendar year for approved courses leading to a GED, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Master Degree, PhD and approved certificate/diploma programs from regionally accredited educational institutions.

### Personal Development Assistance (PDA)

The PDA feature of the Employee

Tuition Plan provides for prepayment of tuition and approved fees up to \$4,000 (of the \$8,000) for classes that improve or enhance a member's position in the workplace.

### Textbook Reimbursement

Up to \$1000 (of the \$8,000) per year may be used for book reimbursement.

For more information visit:  
[www.uawford.org/EDTP](http://www.uawford.org/EDTP)

### Ford Industrial Readiness Certificate Program (IRCP)

All full-time seniority Ford Motor Company employees and Temporary UAW hourly employees who have acquired 90 days of employment or more, who are interested in earning a position on the facility's Apprentice Eligibility List, must successfully complete the Industrial Readiness Certificate Program (IRCP).

This program consists of three standardized, non-accredited courses completed through the local approved college or the online provider. Successful completion consists of a Pass/Fail basis – 75% and higher is passing. Employee Tuition Assistance Program benefits will apply. For more

information please visit:

[www.uawford.org/edtp/ircp/](http://www.uawford.org/edtp/ircp/)

### Community Engagement Scholarship (CES)

The CES assists UAW employees with college tuition costs for their dependent children.

The Community Engagement Scholarship Program reimburses the active UAW represented employee(s) up to \$1,600 per calendar year, per eligible dependent once the classes are completed by the dependent and the required documentation is submitted.

### Retiree Employees (RETAP)

Retirees may now use their full \$2000 benefit to attend classes at colleges or universities approved at regionally accredited institutions.

For more information visit:  
[www.uawford.org/scholarships/](http://www.uawford.org/scholarships/)

As you can see, there are many benefits and programs. Might as well put these negotiated benefits to use! Please feel free to contact me at [dlittl13@ford.com](mailto:dlittl13@ford.com) or call me in my office at (586) 826-6161 for more information.

*Be Safe, and Happy Holidays!*

## IN MEMORIAM

The Officers, E-Board, In-Plant Committee and Appointees and entire membership of UAW Local 2280 extend their deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of our deceased members and retirees...

Thomas Sauve .....	Retiree .....	July 2025
Nikola Mladenovic .....		July 2025
Kenneth Wyniemko .....	Retiree .....	July 2025
James Hine .....		August 2025
James Orth .....	Retiree .....	August 2025
David Fraley .....	Retiree .....	September 2025
Salvatore Giacona .....		September 2025
George Rose .....	Retiree .....	September 2025
Michael Crowley .....	Retiree .....	November 2025
Wayne Williams .....	Retiree .....	November 2025
Patrice Crechiolo .....		December 2025

Please keep the family and friends of these brothers and sisters in your thoughts and prayers.

## ATTENTION: All Retiring UAW EMPLOYEES

# Are You Planning Your Retirement?



We are your UAW Rollover specialists.



**Michelle Gravelle, CFP**  
Investment Professional

*Serving UAW Members and their Families for over 21 Years!*

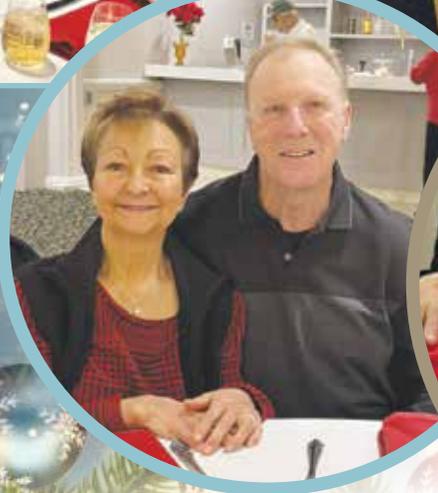
Securities offered through LPL Financial  
Member FINRA/SIPC

- ▶ Retirement Planning
- ▶ IRAs
- ▶ Rollovers
- ▶ Early Buyouts

*Whatever your financial needs, we can help. There is no cost or obligation for UAW members!*

**CALL MICHELLE TODAY**  
TO SCHEDULE YOUR PERSONAL APPOINTMENT.

**1.800.668.7135**



# The Magic of Christmas at the Retiree Luncheon



*The Retiree Christmas Luncheon was held at Fern Hill on Wednesday, December 10, 2025. As always, the group had a fantastic time catching up with one another while dining on some tasty offerings.*

**We had roughly 155 retirees and spouses in attendance for this festive affair!**  
**THANK YOU TO THE RETIREE CHAPTER FOR PUTTING ON SUCH A FUN EVENT EACH YEAR.**





# Thank You For All Your Efforts

*Hello to all our Local 2280*

*Retirees and Active Employees!*

It's that time of year when we are making our lists and checking them twice. While doing so, let's be sure we do not forget the less fortunate in our communities that need our help. The Local 2280 Retiree Chapter is doing their part! We voted to adopt five needy families for the holidays at our October meeting and approved a \$100 contribution to the Toys for Tots gate collection.

I have mentioned in previous articles about finding places to volunteer our time to serve the community. Donating your time to Meals on Wheels, or perhaps even just contributing to food drives when the Post

## Retirees Corner

by **RALPH FRONTERA**  
Retiree Chairperson

Office or Scouts come knocking on your door are great places to start. I promise you that the rewarding feeling that comes with helping the less fortunate will help warm you during these winter months.

We've been back to holding monthly meetings since our short break after the picnic, and we have had some informative speakers the past few months. We had a speaker from UAW Legal Services at our meeting in September, with roughly 55 retirees in attendance. We had a speaker from Macomb County Veterans Services speak to about 61 retirees at the October meeting. The UAW VEBA Trust was here in November to report healthcare changes to our group of 69 retirees, which reminds me I need to get a speaker lined up for January. Any suggestions are welcomed!

There have been a few new retirees who have joined our meetings over the past year, and it's always nice seeing new faces. If you have recently retired from the VEPC and have yet to come to a meeting, please don't hesitate to come out. We meet at the Local Union Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., with the exception of our short summer break in July and August.

Our annual picnic is at Dodge Park in June and the Christmas Luncheon is in December. Please join us!

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge some of the people who help the Chapter run smoothly. First and foremost, thank you to my wife, Judy. If only you all knew how much work she does behind the scenes. She truly is a

rockstar. Thank you to Sue Stepniak and Fran Winiarski for making desserts every month and to Louise Snyder for her help with our monthly luncheon. Thank you also to Ron Sobczynski for collecting money for the 50/50 each month and to Dave Frame for being the 50/50 runner.

I would like to give a special acknowledgement to my good friend, Vince Colagiovanni, for keeping me on track during our meetings, and for that delicious pasta luncheon at our meeting in October. Thanks to our Local 2280 Secretary, Katy Kaminski, who is always willing to help out with miscellaneous needs that arise, and she usually does so with a smile. Most importantly, thank you to all of our retirees who show up consistently each month. Without you, brothers and sisters, we would have nothing. Thank you!

Lastly, any retirees who wish to get on the email list for communications and updates, please be sure to send me an email at [ralphfrontera51@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphfrontera51@yahoo.com) if you have not already.

*On behalf of the entire Local 2280 Retiree Executive Board,  
have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all in 2026.*

## Congratulations

to all of our newly retired members of UAW Local 2280.

There are many who retired and have yet to get their picture taken. Please come by so we can include you in the next issue of the LABOR INFORMER. We wish you a long life of leisure in your retirement... you deserve it!

## PERMANENT VACATION

# Happy Retirement

*Congratulations to ALL of the newly retired members of UAW Local 2280. We wish you all a long life of leisure in your retirement, you deserve it!*

### Terry HERMAN

30.5 Years  
Dept. 490B, #1 Shift and  
Alternate Committeeman  
*"Thank you to the brothers  
and sisters of Local 2280  
for allowing me to serve as  
Alternate Committeeman."*



We invite all retirees (new and old) who would like to be featured in the "Permanent Vacation" section to stop by the Local to have your picture taken if you have not already!

## 2026 Retiree Meetings

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

**\*Wednesday, June 10, 2026\***

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

**\*Wednesday, December 9, 2026\***

Meetings begin at 10 A.M. at the Local 2280 Hall in Downtown Utica with the exception of the picnic in June and Christmas lunch in December



After many years of being on hiatus, the Tigers Bus Trip was back this year in full swing! On Sunday, September 7th, roughly 50 members and friends of Local 2280 made their way to Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Chicago White Sox. Sadly, the Tigers were not victorious that day, however there was no shortage of fun for those in attendance. We are hoping to have the event again next season, so be on the look out for information!

# Bus Trip



# 2025 Labor Day Parade



On Monday, September 1st, Union brothers and sisters throughout Metro Detroit came together for the annual Labor Day March down Michigan Avenue! We had a decent turnout for Local 2280 this year, with roughly 30 members participating.

**THANK YOU**

**TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS** who took the time to come down to march in solidarity to honor organized labor!