

# THE LOCAL 653 LEADER

CCA-Pontiac  
Milford Proving Ground  
Pontiac Stamping/Global  
Propulsion Systems  
CHALLENGE PAA  
Affiliated Sanitation Groups

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 3

POSTMASTER: All Form 3579's are to be forwarded to  
UAW Local 653, 670 E. Walton Blvd., Pontiac, MI 48340

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2019

## In Memoriam



**Sad News.**  
Former 653 Financial Secretary James Curtis "Curt" Bailey passed away at age 72 on July 29, 2019. Local 653 is deeply saddened and expresses our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of our union brother. We are grateful for his many years of service to our Local. Rest in Peace Brother Curt!

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# LABOR and COMMUNITY... MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

## Metro Detroit AFL-CIO 2019 Labor Day Parade

On Monday, September 2, 2019, the UAW membership will be joining other International Union membership (and their families) at the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO annual Labor Day Parade in Detroit. It is expected that more than 40,000 will attend this year's event. The membership of Local 653 is also expected to have a strong turnout, as our Retiree Chapter has graciously provided transportation to and from the

parade. The bus will leave Local 653 at approximately 7:30 a.m. (immediately after the morning breakfast at 5:30 a.m., and Membership Meeting at 6:00 a.m.)

For those who wish to drive their own vehicle and meet up with their brothers and sisters from Local 653, we will be staging within UAW Region 1, on Michigan Avenue between 10th and 11th streets. The Union Locals from Region 1 will be lining up in numerical order (lowest to highest). Staging is set to begin at 7:00 a.m., and the parade will start at 9:30 a.m.

Riding a motorcycle to the parade? You are welcome to join the Solidarity Riders, who will be leaving out of UAW Region 1 (27800 George Merrelli Drive, Warren, MI 48092 for your GPS). They will depart for the Labor Day Parade at 8:00 a.m.

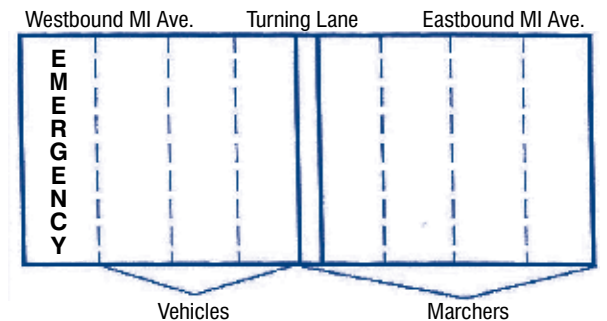
All members are expected to wear their UAW shirts – either their UAW Constitutional Convention shirt or any other UAW shirt, or Local 653 swag (of course).

Special thanks to our retirees for providing transportation, as this makes it possible for more members to participate in this important event.

### STAGING LOCATIONS

**Marching East on Michigan** Staging for parade participants begins at 7 a.m. Step-off time for Michigan Avenue participants is 9:30 a.m.

MICHIGAN AVENUE	STAGING LOCATION	DETAILS
TRUMBULL	Michigan Ave. has 9 lanes (4 eastbound & 4 westbound), and a turning lane. Marchers will line up in the 4 eastbound lanes and the turning lane. The far westbound lane must be reserved for emergency (EMS) vehicles, while the remaining 3 westbound lanes will be for vehicles.	
COCHRANE		
HARRISON		
10th STREET	Vehicles will line up on streets nearest their staging area and feed into Michigan Ave. as shown at left.	
11th STREET		
ROSA PARKS BLVD.	Each union will be advised by a marshal when to step into the march route at Michigan & Trumbull and march east on Michigan to Washington Blvd. Parade participants will march south on Washington, marching past Cobo Hall, past UAW Ford Program Center/151 West Jefferson, to the Labor Legacy Monument.	
VERMONT		
WABASH		
14th STREET	All vehicles will turn right off of Washington onto Fort Street, disbursing as needed.	



DIVISION 1:	DIVISION 2:	DIVISION 3:	DIVISION 4:
UNITE HERE AFT-Michigan / AAUP / MEA UWUA / CWA Detroit Newspaper Guild	UAW International United Way Region 1 Region 1A	SEIU / AFSCME / ATU SAG-AFTRA / DFM / IATSE AEA / APWU / NALC Mail Handlers / AFGE Pilots Association	MNA / IAM / Seafarers Firefighters/Sergeants & Lieutenants Other Unions: APALA - APRI - DBTU CLUW - LCLAA - PAW
Walkers line up on Mich Ave. Vehicles line up on Cochrane & Harrison streets	Walkers line up on Mich Ave. Vehicles line up on 10th & 12th streets	Walkers line up on Mich Ave. Vehicles line up on Rosa Parks Blvd. & Vermont	Walkers line up on Mich Ave. Vehicles line up on Wabash & 14th streets

# MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER!



— FROM THE —  
**LOCAL 653**  
**PRESIDENT**  
 MIKE WARCHUCK

More to come as the plan gets finalized!  
**Local 653 Standing Committees**  
 Our Community Service, Veterans and Women's committees are active and leading the charge! Please support their fundraisers and volunteer your time in support of their

community outreach projects.  
 The upcoming Community Baby Shower on Saturday, September 7th will provide opportunities for over 50 expecting mothers and their guests to get the chance to mingle, talk face to face with service professionals and sign-up for very important programs to ensure the health of the mother and baby.

CCA-Pontiac extends tall kudos to Marie, Ray, Melissa and Christeen for volunteering their time and helping out at the Pontiac Public School Back-to-School Rally, on August 10, 2019. The Community Service Committee is requesting volunteers to help clean-up Jaycee Park on Thursday, September 19, 2019. Please sign-up and spend an hour or two giving back!

**Curt Bailey**

My deepest sympathy to Curt's family and loved ones. Over the years, his dedication to serving the membership earned Curt the respect and admiration of his peers.

Curt spent many years inside Local 653 dealing with SUB and Unemployment issues, countless editions of *The Leader* as co-editor and editor, Trustee, Second Vice-President and finally Financial Secretary.

After Curt's retirement, he still made time to visit and mentor current Financial Secretary Carl Johnson to ensure that the transition was seamless!



— FROM THE —  
**1ST VICE**  
**PRESIDENT**  
 EDWARD BRIONES

## Paradigm Shift

That is what we are experiencing in the Transportation Industry – the transition from internal combustion to electronic power. The new force propelling us down the road is going to disrupt and totally change personal and commercial transportation.

Through many decades of internal combustion, we have been doing things in a similar way. This enabled us to streamline and optimize our bargaining, production, engineering and assembly processes. Some companies are going to ride the internal combustion business model to the last car. No one can answer when that will be.

With decades of refinement, the internal combustion engines have become cost friendly to manufacturing and the performance and durability is very satisfying to the customer. The transition to the electric alternative is a daunting task.

The electrics can match the power and win on simplicity of delivering that power, but the range belongs to internal combustion. Then there is the refueling/recharging, like how many locations and what is their dispersal around the country. Then throughput (how many vehicles can refuel/recharge per hour).

Internal combustion has by my last research over 130,000 public fueling stations in America and they can fully refuel a single car in about 15 minutes per pump with a range of 300 to 400 miles. Electrics recharging is a mix of residential and commercial recharging, 20 hours at 120v or 7 hours with a 240v charger, with a range of 200 to 300 miles. This creates a throughput difference 32x to 80x slower for electric, and it creates some serious logistical issues surrounding recharging.

By my estimates, current electrified parking spaces are 1%

or less of the available spaces. This closely matches the number of electrics in use. Can the infrastructure keep up with the demand? As the share of electrics go up, the infrastructure will need to support the demand or it will be chaos. The infrastructure

costs will be passed on to consumers, millions of personal charging spots are not free.

If and when a recharging station can fully recharge a vehicle in 10 to 15 minutes, only then will charging be equal to the refueling of internal combustion. But for now, in my opinion, we are not ready to abandon internal combustion and fully adopt electrics. The transition needs to evolve in a sensible way. One that doesn't leave the customer stranded or fighting for a charging port.

In my opinion, the horizon is still bright for internal combustion, even more so when you consider the recent breakthroughs in green biofuels, which can be substituted or subsidize petroleum. The cost per mile savings of electric can be completely diminished by the cost of a replacement battery, and the resources for making those batteries are not any less volatile than the petroleum which we rely on now.

Batteries and chargers, bio fuels, new efficiency gains, exotic mineral resources and conservation, along with a slew of political and ethical issues, are why I hope our companies walk carefully and diversify with sensible portfolios. Their plans will either thrive and sustain our way of life or will lead to our future struggles.

There are auto companies willing to place their bets on the life left in internal combustion and good American jobs. My opinion is a good balance of internal combustion and electric will be rewarded with new market share and repeat customers. Electrification is not the sole path to success, but just another form of propulsion with pros and cons that can't be overlooked.

I hope our decision makers make wise decisions and keep our bread and butter intact and profitable, while embracing the diversification of propulsion technologies.

## National Contract Talks

The National Bargaining Committees are meeting daily with FCC, Ford and GM to reach a new tentative contract before the current contract expires at 11:59 p.m. (Detroit time) on September 14, 2019. Until notified by UAW Vice President and Director of the GM Department Terry Dittes as to the status of contract talks, the members of Local 653 who work for GM shall continue reporting to work as required.

I hear rumors every day about this agreement or the new contract contains this or that. Rest assured, I will be notified one way or the other about any agreement or strike through official channels!

**Regional Director Frank Stuglin Visits Local 653**

Director Stuglin conducted a Strike Preparation Training class Monday, July 29, 2019 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. The staff members of Region 1 rolled out and covered the roles and responsibilities of the Local's membership and officers. The class covered every aspect of the management and coordination of a strike and who is responsible for what.

Currently, the GM Bargaining Unit Chairpersons and the officers are finalizing the plan for each site. In order to collect strike pay and medical benefits, every member *must* participate in strike duty!

Please cooperate with your Bargaining Committee and officers.

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**On THURSDAYS BRIAN L. WALKER**



is at the **LOCAL 653 UNION HALL**  
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 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon **and at**

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 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

24445 Northwestern Hwy. • Suite 102 • Southfield, MI 48075 • (248) 353-7750





## — FROM THE — FINANCIAL SECRETARY

CARL JOHNSON



put in a call for Curt's services myself. However, I certainly do remember him handling many grievances inside the office of Supervisor Gene Mulberry in department 888A way back then.

Again, my heartfelt condolences go out to the entire Bailey family and everyone at this

## The passing of Curt Bailey

Let me begin by expressing my sadness and sympathy on the death of former Local 653 Financial Secretary and longtime UAW servant Curt Bailey. Curt's sudden illness and his passing came as a shock to everyone here at the 653. Curt had not too long ago retired from both General Motors and his elected position here at the Local.

It only seems like yesterday that he was mentoring me on the various daily functions of properly overseeing the Union Hall here on Walton Boulevard and also preparing me as best he could for the daily paperwork and responsibilities that I would encounter as Financial Secretary.

If Curt was feeling the early effects of his illness, he was the type of person that certainly didn't want anyone here knowing that he was having any issues. I did notice during the last couple of retiree luncheons Curt attended that he was somewhat quieter and maybe a bit more pale, but that was it. He never gave us an obvious indication of a problem. That was just his nature.

Curt provided nearly a half-century of service to Local 653, starting with being elected a committeeman in the old Plant 8 car assembly plant in the 1970s. As a matter of fact, Curt was my very first committeeman when I first hired in on the Plant 8 car assembly line in 1976. Luckily, I never needed to

Local who had the opportunity to work with and enjoy Brother Curt's company during the last fifty years.

### Come to the Labor Day Parade

I would like as many people as possible to attend this year's Labor Day Parade on Michigan Avenue in Detroit on the morning of September 2nd. Like last year, our Local 653 September Membership Meeting will begin with a hot breakfast at 5:30 a.m. inside the auditorium at Local 653. We're planning on serving scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee and orange juice for all "the troops" to enjoy.

The actual Membership Meeting will start at 6:00 a.m. and will end no later than 7:00 a.m. We will then proceed to the parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and carpool down to the parade.

Local 653's Retiree Chapter has once again generously rented a large bus for our retirees to use for the round trip to Detroit and back. Come on, retirees...I want that bus to be filled up to capacity this year!

Our staging and mustering location for the parade is between 10th and 11th streets on Michigan Avenue, right next to the old Tiger Stadium site. *See everyone there!*

### New at the Hall

We just completed the painting of the entire auditorium and kitchen at the Union Hall and it looks terrific. The photos of current and

See **FINANCIAL SEC'Y** on page 8

## — FROM THE — RECORDING SECRETARY

MELANIE SWORDS



six or more sanitation companies, meaning our negotiations are more complex than most. This takes time.

Remember, the longer things take, usually the more thought-out and complete the new agreement will likely end up being. Meanwhile, our current contract is still in

## Ongoing Negotiations

Our September membership meeting is approaching, kicking off the balance of 2019 for Local 653. It's been a long summer, with our 80th Anniversary as the only UAW Local still located in Pontiac, the announcement of the *Leader* going digital ([region1.uaw.org/local653](http://region1.uaw.org/local653)), and the loss of our former long-time Financial Secretary, Curt Bailey. Peppered within this are the ebb and flow of layoffs, work increases, transfers, new work and Detroit's Big 3 contract talks looming on the horizon.

Let's not forget the Sanitation bargaining units. Many have expressed concern or frustration with ongoing negotiations for a new Tentative Agreement. Negotiations have surpassed the 12-month mark. For those familiar with the last contract, it took 12 months to reach a new Tentative Agreement. There are

place and we have not lost anything during the process.

Some of us recall life prior to *any* agreement, when we worked for eight dollars an hour with no benefits, no union, no protections, and restrictive employee manuals tilted toward the company's best interests. Those days are long gone, thanks to the UAW.

I would like to congratulate Kevin Schmidt on his election and swearing in as the new Chairperson for Milford Proving Ground. Likewise, congrats to Jenise Woods, the new Challenge Mfg. Chairperson. I look forward to working with you on behalf of our membership.

For those who ran in the elections, continue to work in unity, be active at the Union Local and stay involved. There is much work to be done – together.



The Local 653 LEADER is published by the U.A.W. 653 Local, 670 E. Walton Blvd., Pontiac, MI 48340. Subscription \$10.00 per year. Periodical postage paid at Royal Oak, MI. Published five issues by Rockman & Sons Publishing, Fenton, MI 48430 for UAW Local 653.

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670 E. Walton Blvd., Pontiac, Michigan 48340 • Telephone (248) 373-7774  
OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

**EDITORIAL STAFF: Carl Johnson, Editor**

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Ed Briones ..... 1st Vice President  
Carl Johnson..... Financial Secretary  
Melanie Swords ..... Recording Secretary  
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Global Propulsion Systems  
Jethro Todd Carter ..... CCA-Pontiac  
Don Hester..... Retirees Chapter  
Kevin Schmidt..... Milford Proving Grounds  
Richard Walton ...Eurest-Pontiac Stamping  
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— FROM THE —

CCA  
PONTIAC

## CHAIRPERSON

JETHRO TODD CARTER, JR.



to fresh salads and larger varieties of snacks and beverages for all our co-workers, along with reward cards and preloaded cash cards to use instead of cash.

Our Local Contract negotiations are progressing, and we anticipate a Local

Agreement prior to the expiration of our current agreement. The UAW International leadership requests that all our members prepare for the expiration of the 2015 UAW-GM National Agreement on September 14, 2019, by making sure you are a member in good standing and your UAW Local has all your correct contact information.

The International Executive Board has established a program that renders financial assistance to members of this Union who are on strike. The program, which is administered through the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, provides for a weekly benefit, Group Life, Transition Bridge and Group Medical-Hospital Insurance Premiums. Union members in good standing and who were on the active payroll at the start of a strike shall be entitled to strike assistance.

Please support our Women's Committee Community Baby Shower on September 7, at 11:00 a.m. at UAW Local 653 and our Community Services Committee's Back-to-School Rally on August 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the grounds of Pontiac Middle School, 1275 N. Perry Street.

We currently have 50 grievances on the 2nd step agenda and none at the 3rd step. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we experience growing pains.



**Jeopardy Game Winners for Leadership and Influence Training August 7-9**

## Welcome Back!

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break with your family and friends. Don't ever let circumstances, events or other people tell you that you can't do something. You deserve to experience a life of joy, freedom, and completeness. Just don't give up.

We have shown General Motors and our UAW leadership the best of who we are here at Pontiac CCA. We have shown each other that we can accomplish greatness when we all work together, and that's because of our dedicated and diverse workforce.

Although the EWM project was not successful, it wasn't because of our lack of trying. We just ran out of time. We couldn't process our dealer orders and OVNs as efficiently as we had been, and because our dealers and customers began to suffer GMCCA executives decided to go back to our IMS warehouse system to ensure our dealer and customers network stability.

I'm sure, because of our performance through the launch of EWM and the re-launch of our IMS systems, we have the attention of all our UAW and GM leadership for all the right reasons.

We finally got our management team and vending company, Allstar, to launch the Bistro Market in our west side canteen. We are looking forward

— FROM THE —

Pontiac Stamping/  
Global Propulsion Systems

## CHAIRPERSON

GARY PHILLIPS



the workload. Transmission workload will increase with the need for cross training to keep up with the coming demand.

The maintenance crew has a new area manager who clearly doesn't understand Doc. 159 of the National Agreement.

He's trying to circumvent

the National Agreement, going as far as trying to have security and sanitation do work that is UAW represented by contract. Your Shop Committee has no tolerance for this practice.

*At Stamping* – The short work weeks and inverse layoffs came to an end as of August 12th. Orion Assembly gets back to full production after a 7-week shutdown due to supplier issues.

Pontiac has been allocated 4 die sets from Arlington. They are the current model K-2, large sport utility parts. We will have possession of these dies until this model builds out sometime in the first quarter of 2020.

We also have been allocated a die set of the new T-1 Heavy duty truck from Flint stamping. This is another opportunity for Pontiac to show our viability. Rest assured, your Shop Committee is doing everything we can to get new work and keep work in the facility.

Tryout remains steady with a heavy workload throughout the remainder of the year. This addition continues to benefit our membership with job security and overtime. Great job by our members who continue to show the corporation it was a right move to put this addition here at Pontiac.

Plant Manager Jim Quick and Area Manager Jason McKelvey have moved on from Pontiac. Good luck to them in their future endeavors.

We will be seeing a new plant manager, John Urbanic. He comes from Flint engine. We're looking forward to working with him.

On behalf of the members at Powertrain and Pontiac Stamping, we offer our sincere condolences to the family of former Local 653 Financial Secretary Curt Bailey.

To each active and retired member of Local 653, enjoy the rest of your summer.

## Solidarity is Vital

Greetings,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. With the onset of National Contract negotiations, we, as UAW members, need to fully support our National Negotiating Committee. These are very contentious times between the corporation and the UAW.

In November of 2018, the corporation "unallocated" five plants in North America, leaving the lives of thousands of UAW members in turmoil, while the company continues to churn out thousands of vehicles from south of the boarder. To be clear, one of every three vehicles sold in the USA (from our employer) is built in Mexico. These products should be built in the United States by UAW members!

*At PPO* – The future direction of PPO is to be closely aligned to Manufacturing Engineering. FMS will see two refurbished Comau mills this fall with that very direction in mind. Production intent fixtures are being tested virtually with physically cutting chips soon to follow. The workload in FMS remains steady with weekly and weekend overtime offered. We are currently about half way through our builds of the LT6. Look for a slow down in FMS by the end of the year.

The workload in the machine shop continues to grow. Management has no answers when it comes to solving this issue. Here's a few ideas: more machines, more manpower and more hours. The work won't get done sitting on the shelf.

The ineptitude of this management team amazes all of us. The only way this crew keeps its nose above water is due to the UAW workforce. We need to survive despite inept direction.

Division II remains steady with transmissions, BEV3, and LT6 driving



**UAW-GM CHR Leadership and Influence Training class held August 7-9, 2019**

## NOTICE

**MEETINGS**  
held at the

**UNION HALL**

670 E. Walton Blvd.

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Sunday, Sept. 8 and Oct. 13 at 1:30 pm**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**Sunday, Sept. 8 and Oct. 13 at 2:30 pm**



— FROM THE —

**MILFORD PROVING GROUND  
FORMER  
CHAIRPERSON**

STEVE YUCHASZ



stressful environment, as management looks for any bit of leverage at the local level, as well.

By the time you read this article, my wife, Deb, and I will have retired. It's not a health issue or any item that we are dealing with as a family. It's just time. We have had a plan for a while

and we are sticking to it. We are building a place on our lake property and going west in our fifth wheel in the winter. We are both ready and excited about the next chapter.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of such a great group of people the last few decades. The magnificent work this bunch has done over the years leaves me proud to have shared the floor with all of you! I've never seen a more generous group that is also able to have a blast while doing it. Bless each one of you!

In the immediate period following my departure, Kevin Schmidt will be acting as Chairman. Kevin will be going to Local 653 when we return from shutdown to call for an election per our bylaws to get it done ASAP. He has a wealth of experience in both the Production as well as the Skilled Trades parts of the agreement.

He is also keenly aware of our historical work and how we got to this point in our bargaining unit. He was instrumental in our last Local Negotiations in helping maintain work that our management desperately wanted to exit. We have worked closely over the last thirty plus years and I trust his judgement on behalf of this Bargaining Unit.

The current Shop Committee is incredibly capable, and the members are well served by each one of them. They are all devoted and care deeply about our members. I feel confident that I am leaving all of you in very good hands.

Looking at the seniority list, it is obvious that things are changing with our workforce. Many of us will be leaving soon and a lot of new faces will be landing here. Let's face it, it's a pretty good gig! My worst day here was better than my best day in a plant or the dealership.

I will miss seeing you and the many conversations and jokes we have shared. I can't believe it has gone so fast. My family and I thank you for your support over the years. *It's been great!* Deb and I wish you all the best going forward.

— FROM THE —

**MILFORD PROVING GROUND  
CHAIRPERSON**

KEVIN SCHMIDT

**From the Roads of MPG**

Greetings Everyone,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those members who recently retired. I would especially like to say thank you to Steve Yuchasz for his unselfish zeal and effort he put forth for the Bargaining Unit here at Milford. I expect he and his bride will enjoy their time now that he sees us in the rearview mirror.

As you may know, I called for an election to fill the Chairperson position. By doing so, this will let management know that the Chairperson has the support of the membership. Thank you to those who decided to run for this position. Please be sure to vote for the candidate of your choice.

As members of Union, we all should know what our rights are. Weingarten rights guarantee an employee the right to Union representation during an investigatory interview. These rights, established by the Supreme Court, in 1975 in the case of J'. Weingarten Inc., must be claimed by the employee. The supervisor has no obligation to inform an employee that s/he is entitled to Union representation.

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or discharged, I request that my

Union representative be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions."

When an issue comes before you, we need to give a supervisor the opportunity to correct the issue first. If that does not rectify the issue, call for your committeeperson.

Recently, there have been several instances of people entering closed roads. Be diligent in your duties and observe all the signage and postings. This will keep everyone safe, so that we all return to our families.

Currently, our car count is at 74 vehicles. By looking at the forecast, this number will be taking a downturn. The Shop Committee is exploring other work that may be available for us to perform. We will keep everyone informed when any new work comes our way.

I welcome back Joe Grandberry from his leave. Joe is our Employee Assistance/Work Family Rep. His expertise is outstanding. If any member thinks s/he could use his help, please reach out to him. Any discussion that he has with members is totally confidential.

The negotiations for the contract have started at the National level. As usual, information concerning this process is kept close to the vest. Any information that we receive will be passed on to you.

Our membership is held to a high standard concerning our work. We must be assiduous in performing the tasks that we are assigned. Understand what the Shop Rules are to keep ourselves from harm's way. Management will use any opportunity they can for a bargaining chip.

**PSP ROLLOVER OPTIONS**

- *Do you know which is your best option?*
- *Have you explored all the possibilities?*
- *Is your plan coordinated with income taxes?*
- *Do you need help with your 401(k)?*

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# Local 653 Retired Workers Chapter Picnic & Family Fun Day





# Financial Secretary Report

continued from Page 3

former officers are going back up on the wall. We've also added the photos of UAW presidents Ron Gettelfinger, Bob King and Dennis Williams on the back podium wall to bring that collection up to date.

Even though we're not in the hall rental business as a primary concern, we have hosted a few rentals throughout the summer weekends this year. The money raised from those events has helped to pay for our lawn maintenance and other upkeep expenses at the hall.

I want to express my thanks to everyone who has taken time to watch over the Union Hall on Saturday nights when these events take place. It can be difficult to find someone who is willing to sacrifice their personal time by staying at the hall and making sure everything is going smoothly during these events. It's certainly appreciated.

With contract negotiations

taking place in Detroit and not knowing exactly what to expect from those talks during the next few months, we are curtailing any more investment expense dollars at the hall for right now. Our only hall expense for a while will be for routine maintenance, breakdowns or emergencies.

## Baby Shower Community Event

One of the important goals of this Local is to lend our support to the greater Pontiac area community in charity. The late UAW president Walter Reuther used to express this priority quite often. The baby shower event we are hosting inside our auditorium does exactly that. We're proud of our Local 653 sisters who have been planning this community baby shower event together for the past several months.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, contact Jamie at the Union Hall (248) 373-7774, ext. 214.

# VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

**TOM ROMEIN**, Veterans Committee Chair Veterans Information: (248) 673-7168

## Blue Water Navy Veterans

There is important information for Blue Water Navy Veterans who have symptoms associated with Agent Orange. You are urged to file for benefits immediately. The VA will start paying claims January 2020. Do not do this online, but see a Veteran Service Organization Representative (VSO) to do this properly for you. The County Veterans Division is a good place to start. Good luck to all.

## Blue Water Navy Act Now Law

The president signed the VFW-championed *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Act of 2019* into law Tuesday evening. It now restores VA benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after arbitrary regulatory changes.

For Korean DMZ veterans, it provides an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested – from September 1, 1967 to August 31, 1971.

The new law expands benefits to children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand, coverage that already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans, and it requires the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia.

"The VFW is proud to have helped lead the charge to return benefits to these deserving veterans and to expand existing benefits to dependent children," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. The VA has yet to update its webpages to reflect the new law, but veterans and their families can still learn more about VA benefits

associated with Agent Orange exposure, and about spina bifida birth defects related to exposure. For assistance in filing claims, find an accredited VFW service officer.

## Congress Passes VFW-Championed Blue Water Navy Legislation

Recently, the Senate unanimously passed H.R. 299, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019*. "We now urge the president to quickly sign the bill into law, so that tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans can have their disability benefits restored, as well as an expansion of benefits to military dependents, veterans of the Korean DMZ, and those exposed to toxic hazards in Southwest Asia," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence.

The bill was previously passed by the House with a vote of 410-0. The VFW thanks veterans and advocates who contact their members of Congress in support of this important bill. Stay tuned to the VFW Action Corps Weekly for updates as the bill is enacted into law and implemented. If you need help filing a VA claim for disability compensation, please contact a VFW Service Officer in your state.

## VA Orders Stay on Blue Water Navy and Korean DMZ Claims

In a memorandum dated July 1, Secretary Wilkie stated that all Blue Water Navy claims, claims based on service in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, and claims for children of veterans with spina bifida will be held from being processed until January 1, 2020.

The VFW encourages veterans and surviving spouses to file claims now. Do not wait! Contact a VFW Service Officer.



## Professional Hearing Clinic

AMERICAN-MADE HEARING AIDS

Rechargeable Hearing Aids available

# 2 Digital Hearing Aids

# 100% PAID\*

by your Blue Cross UAW/GM Insurance \*Other Insurances Accepted

**SPOUSES INCLUDED**



**Dr. Jennifer McGowen**  
Doctor of Audiology

**WE ACCEPT HAP & BCN**

**Ring in the ears? WE CAN HELP!**

- NO CHARGE FOR HEARING SCREENINGS
- No charge for tubing or office repair
- No charge for clean and check
- FREE video ear inspection
- 30-Day Hearing Guarantee

**BATTERIES \$1.00**  
per package (limit 5)  
EXPIRES 09-30-19

**We are a provider for your new benefits.**

1063 S. State Rd. (M-15) Davison, MI 48423 <b>810-653-HEAR(4327)</b> Next to Little Caesars	1235 Center Rd. Burton, MI 48509 <b>810-339-4259</b> I-69 and Center Rd.	1213 Corunna Ave. Owosso, MI 48867 <b>989-472-1335</b> Call for a FREE hearing screening	1440 Torrey Rd. Fenton, MI 48430 <b>810-433-4575</b> North of S. Long Lake Rd.	20 W. Clarkston Rd. Lake Orion, MI 48362 <b>248-639-4193</b> Corner M24 & Clarkston Rd.
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Other insurance programs are accepted as well.  
\*BCBS only, others may require co-payment, excludes HAP

**professionalhearingclinic.com**



# BENEFITS PHONE NUMBERS

### PONTIAC STAMPING-GLOBAL PROPULSION SYSTEMS

William Bynum, 1st Shift.....248-883-9237

Kim Gomillion ..... 248-857-5319

### CCA-PONTIAC

Brad Draper, 1st & 2nd Shift .....248-857-3121

### MILFORD PROVING GROUND

Shawn Cook.....248-685-5827

### UNION HALL (Tuesday & Thursday)

William Bynum ... 248-373-7774, ext. 242

Pontiac Stamping/  
Global Propulsion Systems  
Implant Mon, Wed & Fri .....248-857-5319



# JAYCEE PARK

(Joslyn Ave. & Walton Blvd.)



**UAW Local 653**  
**Community Service Committee**

## Community Clean Up!!!

**Thursday**  
**Sept. 19**  
**12-4:30PM**

To sign up call  
**1-313-452-2181**  
or see your unit's  
Communication Board  
for the sign-up sheet.

Join us for a day in the park! Give back to our community and enjoy the fellowship. Supplies will be provided. Don't forget to wear your UAW local 653 shirt!

**Snacks and Water will be provided by the Hall.**



Hearing services with  
compassion and  
professionalism in a  
pressure-free environment

### UAW Families:

- No-obligation Free hearing screening and consultation
- Preferred providers for all UAW hearing benefit programs, including AudioNet, BCN and HAP
- We participate in the 653 Retiree Scholarship Fund

Call for an Appointment!

**248-673-8000**

5390 Highland Rd., Ste. 1  
Waterford, MI 48327  
[www.oaklandaudiology.com](http://www.oaklandaudiology.com)



## Are You Five Years or Less Away From Retirement?

*Do you have questions about how your PSP plan money should be invested?*

*Do you have questions on whether or not your beneficiaries named on your accounts are titled best to protect them from taxes, inflation and market risk?*

*Would you like to take a look at some future projections on how much you can draw as income from your retirement assets/accounts?*

**If yes, think of it as being in the red zone for your financial goals**

**You are at the goal line and each decision is critical!**



**Michelle Gravelle, CFP**  
Investment Professional

What investments you choose now should reflect the amount of time you are away from retirement as well as your age at retirement.

If you are going to be under 59½ at retirement or semi-retirement, there are ways through the IRS tax code that you can take monthly income without the 10% tax penalty.

Many people would like to buy an RV, cottage or a place in the sun after retiring. Properly rolling over your PSP can go hand in hand with these goals without incurring major taxes and penalties. There are many options to review and decisions to make before you retire and along the way to retirement.



**Doug Gravelle, CFP**  
Investment Professional

Regardless of your age at retirement, you need to take into account what the amount of your pension may be. You will need to decide if you are going to begin receiving social security payments or to defer them. It also helps to anticipate what your monthly expenses will be (ballpark) including property taxes, excess insurance payments, utilities, food and entertainment.

This is also the time to assess how much risk you are taking in your PSP/IRA investment allocations. You should be able to reduce your risk and potentially increase your returns simply by reviewing your asset allocation. In many instances, people think they are diversified properly, but often own many overlapping investments. Having a PSP, an IRA, a ROTH IRA and a mutual fund does not mean you are diversified. Owning Fidelity, T. Rowe Price and American Funds, does not mean you are diversified. Having 10 different funds inside your PSP account does not mean you are diversified. How can that be? Because many of these funds own the same stocks and bonds. In other words, you may be putting all of your eggs in two or three baskets while thinking you have 10 or 12 baskets. This can increase your risk and reduce your overall return over time.

Navigating your descending approach to retirement does not have to be difficult if you know all of your options. Making informed decisions about how to invest in your PSP, how to name your beneficiaries, how to protect your principal in retirement, how to avoid taxes and penalties are all important factors in being financially comfortable in your retirement years.

Every move or play is important. Every decision made is going towards, or away, from your retirement goals.

Let us be your coach.

Thank you,

**MICHELLE C. GRAVELLE, CFP**  
Certified Financial Planner

**LPL Financial Services**  
Member FINRA/SIPC  
**800-668-7135**



**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (L-R):** Melissa Christensen, Chairperson Marie Andreen, Ray Lavine, and Christeen Fisher, helping out at the Pontiac Public School Backpack Rally, August 10, 2019.





# RETIRED MEMBERS CHAPTER MELTON & HESTER Scholarship Fund Program

## **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

For... **JANUARY 2020 TERM**

*Winner will be determined by drawing  
at the **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019**  
**RETIRED WORKERS LUNCHEON-MEETING***

**APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE** at our  
**LOCAL 653 UNION HALL**, 670 E. Walton, Pontiac, MI 48340

The applications must be returned  
to the **Local 653 Dues Office**  
**NO LATER THAN 1:00 P.M.**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019**

Rules and eligibility requirements  
covering scholarship program are  
attached to the application.



# — FROM THE — RETIRED WORKERS CHAPTER **CHAIRPERSON** DON HESTER



card numbers prior to  
the trip.  
**Reminders**  
Don't forget to come  
to our Monthly Chapter  
Meeting-Luncheons.  
They are held the fourth  
Thursday of every month,  
commencing at 11:00  
a.m., at the UAW Local

## **Labor Day Parade**

Be at the Union Hall at 7:00 a.m.  
The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. *All are  
welcome!* The Retiree Chapter will  
be providing transportation to and  
from the Labor Day Parade.

## **GM Website**

[www.GMRetiree.com](http://www.GMRetiree.com)

## **Trips and Sign-Ups**

A reminder that all trips must be  
paid for at the time of sign-up. Also,  
when signing up for casino trips,  
please make sure you provide your  
birthdate and player card numbers.  
Casinos require a manifest of names,  
addresses, and birthdates or player

653 Union Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per  
person and we welcome all current  
and newly retired members. Come  
one, come all and join us at our next  
monthly meeting.

## **Surviving Spouse Coverage**

A retiree who marries or remarries  
and wishes to elect surviving spouse  
coverage, just contact the GM  
Benefits and Services Center directly  
after 1 year of marriage (within  
18 months of such marriage or  
remarriage) to elect such coverage.

Those who had a divorce must  
have a QDRO on file with GM  
Benefits and Services Center.



**For those on  
Medicare, Health  
Alliance Plan,  
Priority Health,  
and Health Plus  
of Michigan.**

**ALL OTHERS:  
\$25.00**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th  
& THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24th**  
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

***Get the Flu Shot, Not the Flu!***



# Congratulations to our recently **RETIRED MEMBERS**

*A time for looking back with pride  
and a time to look ahead with joy.  
May your retirement bring you all that  
you have worked so hard to attain.*  
**YOU WILL ALL BE MISSED!**



## **CCA**

John Laureto (6/1/2019)  
John Sterling (7/1/2019)  
Ralph Wilson (7/1/2019)

## **MILFORD PROVING GROUND**

Rick Cole (4/1/2019)  
Gergal Gutzke (6/1/2019)  
Bart Charlick (7/1/2019)  
Jerry Przybyla (7/1/2019)  
Steve Yuchasz (7/1/2019)

# **Local 653's Annual Retirees Chapter**



# *Thanksgiving* **TURKEY DINNER** **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 • 11:00 a.m.**



**Local 653 Union Hall**  
670 E. Walton Blvd., Pontiac

**\$5.00**  
per member  
**ADULTS ONLY**  
(no children)

**Cancellation Deadline:**  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2019**  
**NO LATE REFUNDS**

**EVENT LIMITED TO RETIRED MEMBERS  
AND SPOUSE (OR GUEST).**

**Deadline: Get your tickets at the UAW Local 653  
Dues Office on or before THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 7th or before they are sold out.**

**YOUR TICKET WILL BE YOUR ADMITTANCE.**  
Absolutely no tickets will be sold after deadline  
date or at the door! Limit: 400

***Tickets must be purchased in advance, and presented at the door for admittance.***





## RETIRED WORKERS CHAPTER upcoming Trips

**TRIPS OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

*All trips must be paid for at the time reservation is made.*

### WINDSOR CASINO

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

Reservations made upon payment at UAW Local 653 Dues Office.

Make checks payable to UAW Local 653

Cancellation Deadline: September 1

Cost: \$25 per person, includes round trip bus transportation, \$15 in coin or \$15 in food.

*(Casino incentives subject to change)*

**Departs: 9:00 a.m.**

**Returns: 5:00 p.m.**

### BRANSON, MISSOURI

**NOVEMBER 16-21, 2019**

Reservations made upon payment at UAW Local 653 Dues Office.

Make checks payable to UAW Local 653

Cancellation Deadline: September 1

Cost: Single \$1,183, Double \$939, Triple \$859, Quad \$814 per person.

*(see flyer for details)*

**Departs: 5:00 a.m.**

**Returns: 8:00 p.m.**



*NOTE: It is the sole intent of the UAW Local 653 Retired Workers Chapter to inform our members of tours available through travel agencies. UAW Local 653 and the Retired Workers Chapter in no way assume any responsibility for these tours. Trips sponsored by the UAW Local 653 Retired Workers Chapter.*

## Retiree Membership Meeting & LUNCHEON

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE:**

Luncheon to Follow Meeting

**Thursday, September 26, 2019**

**Thursday, October 24, 2019**

**\$5.00**

PER MEMBER  
WILL BE CHARGED  
(Adults Only – No Children)

UAW Local 653 Union Hall 670 E. Walton Blvd., Pontiac, MI

*Retired Member and one guest may attend. Therefore, it will be required to present your Local 653 Retirees Card. (Adults Only – No Children)*

## IN MEMORIAM

*UAW Local 653 officers, committees and membership wish to extend their deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the bereaved families and friends of our departed brothers and sisters. There is so little we can do, and very little we can say, except to express our heartfelt sympathy.*

### MILFORD

John C Stickley  
Deana S. Lewis  
Josephine V. Morell

### PONTIAC STAMPING/GPS

James "Curt" Bailey (Retired)



## RETIRED MEMBERS CHAPTER

## MELTON & HESTER Memorial Scholarship Fund

Ten \$500 Scholarships were drawn for the  
**FALL 2019 SCHOOL TERM**  
at the June 2019 Retiree Membership Meeting & Luncheon

### OUR WINNERS ARE...

CHANCE **McDOUGAL**..... Edward Keding, Sponsor  
IAN **CATALLO** ..... Ron McKay, Sponsor  
PAIGE SEIDELL **SEIDELL**..... Richard Seidell, Sponsor  
KYLE **RICHARDVILLE** ..... Dennis Richardville, Sponsor  
BAILEY **SPIESS** ..... David Cervantes, Sponsor  
SOFIA **PILONI**..... Juanita Rivera, Sponsor  
SAMANTHA **LAREE** ..... Juanita Rivera, Sponsor  
JENNIFER **WICKMAN**..... Gerald T. Griggs, Sponsor  
KRISTIN **WARHOLAK** ..... Allan Vallad, Sponsor  
CHANDLER **LORF** ..... John Meike, Sponsor

**Congratulations to our scholarship winners!**

## CHRISTMAS

RETIREES

## DINNER PARTY *at*

UAW Local 653 Union Hall

670 E. WALTON BLVD., PONTIAC

Thursday, December 12 | or Thursday, December 19  
10:00 A.M. | 10:00 A.M.

*Members limited to choice of one date only!*  
Event limited to retired members and spouse (or guest).

Members *must* have reservations to attend.  
All reservations and payments must be made in advance.

*Absolutely no reservations or payments will be taken after deadline date or at the door! Limit 250 each day (500 total)*

**\$7.00**

Per Person  
ADULTS ONLY  
(No Children)

**TICKETS ON SALE at the UNION HALL**

DEADLINE: Reservations made by payment at UAW Local 653 Dues Office on or before Thursday, December 5, 2019 or until tickets are sold out.

Ticket *must* be presented at the door!  
**CANCELLATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5, 2019**  
No Late Refunds.



SALES DEPARTMENT HOURS: MONDAY - TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 8-8; FRIDAY 8-6; SATURDAY 9-3



# DOG DAYS OF SUMMER SALE GOING ON NOW WALLY EDGAR CHEVROLET

## 2019 EQUINOX

0% APR FOR 60 MO.  
+ \$750\*\*

**\$149\***

24 MO.  
10K LEASE  
\$999 DOWN



Bluetooth, Keyless Start, 4G LTE HotSpot, Back-Up Camera, SiriusXM, Touchscreen Radio w/ MyLink, Steering Wheel Radio Controls, StabiliTrak, Heated Mirrors, 17" Aluminum Wheels

## 2019 TRAX

33 MPG

0% APR FOR 72 MO.  
+ \$750\*\*

**\$99\***

24 MO./10K LEASE  
\$999 DOWN



4G LTE HotSpot, Back-Up Camera, 7" Touchscreen Radio w/ MyLink, Bluetooth, StabiliTrak, Digital Compass, Steering Wheel Radio Controls, Aluminum Wheels, Power Windows, Power Locks, Power Mirrors and much more!

## 2019 SILVERADO DOUBLE CAB LT 4X4

0% APR FOR 72 MO.  
+ \$2000\*\*

**\$189^**

24 MO.  
10K LEASE  
\$999 DOWN



Steering Wheel Radio Controls, Touchscreen Radio, Rear Vision Camera, 4G LTE HotSpot, Teen Driver Mode, Aluminum Wheels, Lift Assist Tailgate, Locking Tailgate, Heated Mirrors, Keyless Entry, Bluetooth, Recovery Hooks & much more!

## 2019 COLORADO CREW CAB

3.9% APR FOR 72 MO.  
+ \$500\*\*

**\$129^**

24 MO.  
10K LEASE  
\$999 DOWN



Remote Keyless Entry, Cruise Control, Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors, EZ Lift & Lower Tailgate, Theft Deterrent System, 18" Dark Argent Wheels, StabiliTrak, Automatic Transmission, Back-Up Camera, Bluetooth Audio, Android Auto & Apple CarPlay, USB Ports and much more!

## 2019 TRAVERSE

**\$189^**

24 MO.  
10K LEASE  
\$999 DOWN



Tri-Zone Auto Climate Controls, EZ Keyless Entry, Bluetooth, 7" Color Touchscreen Radio, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, Back-Up Camera, 18" Aluminum Wheels, 8-Passenger Seating, Teen Driver Mode, Rear Air Conditioning, Heated Mirrors and much more!

## ALL NEW 2019 BLAZER

**\$199^**

24 MO.  
10K LEASE  
\$999 DOWN



Infotainment 3 System w/ Bluetooth, Voice Command Passthrough and Android Auto/Apple CarPlay, 18" Aluminum Wheels, LED Headlights, HD Rear Vision Camera, Auto Climate Control, Teen Driver Technology, Heated Mirrors, Sirius/XM Radio and so much more!

## 2019 TAHOE 4X4

0% APR FOR 72 MO.\*\*

**\$329^**

24 MO.  
10K LEASE  
\$999 DOWN



Rain Sensing Wipers, Polished Wheels, Running Boards, Keyless Entry, Back-Up Camera, Rear Parking Aid, Bluetooth, Auto Locking Differential, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, 4G LTE Wi-Fi, Teen Driver Mode, USB Ports and much more!

## 2019 MALIBU

**\$169\***

24 MO.  
10K LEASE  
\$999 DOWN



Keyless Start, Keyless Open, Back-Up Camera, Bluetooth, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, 4G LTE Wi-Fi, Teen Driver Mode, Aluminum Wheels, Compass, and much more!

FIND NEW ROADS™

SALES DEPARTMENT HOURS  
MON., TUES., WED., THUR. 8-8  
FRI. 8-6; SAT. 9-3

CHEVROLET

**WALLY EDGAR CHEVROLET**  
**248-391-9900**  
**3805 LAPEER RD, LAKE ORION • WALLYEDGAR.COM**

\*Monthly, Taxes, Title, License, Dealer Fee, etc. \*\*0% APR for 72 months on select vehicles. Excludes taxes, title, license, dealer fee, and other available or regionally required equipment. Vehicle availability is for illustration purposes only. Due to advertising conditions, prices and availability are subject to change. Must take delivery from dealer inventory while supplies last. Current offers end 9/30/2019. See dealer for details. †Eligible for GM Financial's 0% financing offer. Excludes taxes, title, license, dealer fee, and other available or regionally required equipment. Vehicle availability is for illustration purposes only. Due to advertising conditions, prices and availability are subject to change. Must take delivery from dealer inventory while supplies last. Current offers end 9/30/2019. See dealer for details. ‡Eligible for GM Financial's 0% financing offer. Excludes taxes, title, license, dealer fee, and other available or regionally required equipment. Vehicle availability is for illustration purposes only. Due to advertising conditions, prices and availability are subject to change. Must take delivery from dealer inventory while supplies last. Current offers end 9/30/2019. See dealer for details.



# UAW LOCAL 653 ANNUAL Kiddies Christmas Party

UNION HALL, 670 E. Walton Blvd., Pontiac



Program  
will include  
(at no charge)...  
**ENTERTAINMENT**  
for the KIDDIES

**Santa and Treats**  
will also be available

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

GO AHEAD,  
RESERVE THAT  
PRIME TEE TIME!  
...GET PAID

Open Today

Free Kasasa Cash Back® Checking

**CHIEF FINANCIAL  
CREDIT UNION**  
...more than money

Ask for **KASASA**

www.chiefonline.com/Paid • 800.844.5440

Qualifications apply. Federally Insured by NCUA