

CCA-Pontiac Milford Proving Ground Pontiac Stamping/Global **Propulsion Systems**

CHALLENGE PAA

Affiliated Sanitation Groups

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2019



President's Report....



Local 653 80th Anniversary...... 6-7



of the Bikes

UAW PROPERTY - ILLEGAL TO DUPLICATE USPS Publication #710-500

80th Anniversary of Local 65

Nollowing the dramatic Flint Sit-down Strike, which lasted forty-four days, General Motors agreed to recognize the United Auto Workers on February 11, 1937. Pontiac Motor Division, along with GM Truck and Coach and Fisher Body in Pontiac, were initially all assembled together as Local 159.

The first Pontiac Motor Division Local Agreement was established by nine men: Chairman Dorr Mitchell, George Conibear, Sr., Charles Madden, Joe Quick, Henry Martin, Claude Henson, Charles Curry, Sr., Simpson Green and Oscar Noble. They created our first wage agreement that also addressed seniority rights, the right to organize, and a grievance procedure. Prior to that agreement, wages averaged between 43 cents to 60 cents per hour and your pay rate depended largely on who you were and who you knew at the plant.

Following a period of internal turmoil, the Pontiac Council decided to put their support behind new President R.J. Thomas and on March 3, 1939, Local 653 was established. Our first office was a small room at the Pontiac Hotel on Perry Street. Check out the centerfold of this issue to see all six of our union halls through the years.



UAW Local 653 began representing Pontiac drivers and mechanics at the General Motors Milford Proving Ground after World War II.

Today, Local 653 reaches to the Milford Proving Ground on the west and our newest bargaining unit to the east, Challenge PAA. We are currently the only UAW Local residing in the City of Pontiac, a fact that is known and acknowledged by UAW leadership in Detroit. We also continue to be recognized by the UAW for our connection to the community and sense of responsibility we have toward the greater Pontiac area.



Please return this form to Local 653 by mail or in person with a \$10 voluntary contribution if you still wish to receive the printed edition of The Leader. Our mailing address is: **UAW LOCAL 653** 670 E. WALTON BLVD. PONTIAC, MI 48340 Checks payable to UAW Local 653.

Going online... https://region1.uaw.org/local653

Starting with the summer 2019 issue of **THE LEADER**, the traditional paper edition, will no longer be mailed to homes unless this special form is filled out and sent back to Local 653, either by the mail or delivered in person to the hall. Local 653 is also requesting a \$10 voluntary contribution accompany this form if you wish to continue receiving the printed edition in the mail. All active employees currently working inside our various facilities will be hand-distributed paper copies of THE LEADER at their own facilities. Also, new online editions of THE LEADER will be appearing every three months at: https://region1.uaw.org/local653

Our large printing and postage burden for delivering over 8,000 copies of THE LEADER to mailboxes nationwide has become a budget concern at Local 653. The Local's Executive Board did not want to consider ceasing publication of THE LEADER, but we do feel that restricting the cost of the paper is necessary in light of our current budget at the Local.

This change for **THE LEADER**'s distribution was approved by motion of Local 653's Executive Board. The decision was also shared with Local 653's Retiree Board and was presented in person at the Local's latest monthly retiree luncheon. Cost for printing THE LEADER does not come from retirees monthly dues, but is paid for in full out of the Local's general fund.

We hope you will enjoy reading future copies of THE LEADER on your home computer or cell phone. Again, if a 653 retiree wishes to continue receiving the print edition, please return this form to us either by mail or in person at the hall.

NAME:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:



- FROM THE -LOCAL 653 PRESIDENT

MIKE WARCHUCK

Layoffs hit Pontiac Stamping

On Monday, April 29, 2019, the indefinite layoffs related to GM's decision to curtail car production at Hamtramck Assembly hit home! Due to voluntary transfers to Flint Assembly, Toledo Powertrain, Wentzville Assembly and two electricians accepting transfers, the number of Local 653 members being laid off is currently 18 production and 8 skilled trades. A total of 32 members transferred to other GM facilities for a total reduction of 58 members at Local 653.

I wish everyone who transferred job security and good luck in their new facility. Those members who are currently facing uncertainty, keep your contact information updated and don't hesitate to call the Union Hall, stop in, chat or ask questions. Getting laid off or having to switch locations is never easy and the stress can be overwhelming.

Challenge PAA Impacted

Local 653 members working

at Challenge have also been impacted by GM's decision to curtail car production at Hamtramck Assembly. Even though the plant was able to transfer members to new projects from other customers, GM's decision to stop Buick production at Challenge impacted 25

direct and 15 indirect employees. So, instead of hiring new employees, members were forced to second shift and to new product lines.

Currently, only 2 maintenance members are on layoff, but some employees had to voluntarily leave because they couldn't work second shift!

National Contract

There seems to be a little confusion around the expiration date of the 2015 UAW-GM National Agreement. Per paragraph 223 of the agreement, the contact expires at 11:59 p.m. (*Detroit time*) September 14, 2019. Hope this clears up the confusion!

Local Celebrates its 80th Birthday

Over the last few weeks, Financial Secretary Carl Johnson, 1st V.P. Ed Briones and I have been digging through the archives of Local 653. What a treasure chest! In 1972, the leadership established a History Committee of 20 members to gather



President Mike Warchuck arrived at Pontiac in 1984 as an electrician supporting the Pontiac Fiero plant on Baldwin Road. Is that Mike behind the wheel?

and compile "The History of Local 653 UAW 1937-1972." As part of the booklet, the History Committee penned an Introduction. As I read the introduction the following really hit home:

"There seems to be a tendency among us today to concentrate on private action, private interest and private life rather than group action. This sort of philosophy leads to one direction only – disaster. We are social animals who must act in groups to resolve our causes and our mountains of problems. The retired members of our Local and older workers still in the plant will find much that is familiar. They have lived this struggle and participated in the joys as well as the sorrows.

We sincerely hope this message will not be interpreted by the younger workers as the preachings of an older generation, but rather to be accepted as a reminder of the struggle of the past. We hope it will help us to rekindle the spirit, courage and determination which permeated the early pioneers of the labor movement. It is our desire that it will inspire a new generation of Local 653 members to greater victories in the future."

I find that message, which was written 47 years ago, is still very true and maybe even more relevant in 2019 than it was back in 1972. Think about it!

Summer is Just Around the Corner

Spring is now upon us, so the sun is out and the weather is warming. Please remember that kids can run into the street without looking. Motorcycles are out and share the roads. I don't need to tell you about potholes, but this winter was exceptional for creating job security for Road Commission employees and contractors that are trying to repair the potholes.

Be safe, look twice and don't text and drive! Just wait until you are in a safe location to use your cell phone, because it's not worth the risk!

THE Official Publication of Amalgamated UAW Local 653 Representing workers at: CCA-Pontiac Milford Proving Ground Pontiac Stamping/Global Propulsion Systems CHALLENGE PAA Affiliated Sanitation Groups

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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



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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS		
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POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO UAW LOCAL 653, 670 E. WALTON BLVD., PONTIAC, MI 48340

NOTICE

MEETINGS
held at the
UNION HALL
670 E. Walton Blvd.
Pontiac, MI

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

for JUNE, JULY and AUGUST are

CANCELLED

(per Membership Action)

The SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING is on Monday, September 2nd at 6 a.m. Hot breakfast served at 5:30 a.m. We end the meeting at 7 a.m. and head downtown to the Labor Day Parade.



- FROM THE -

1ST VICE President

EDWARD BRIONES

Union Workers Have Rights

Brothers and Sisters.

Learn more about this and much more at *https://uaw.org* in Organizing and please share with anyone interested in learning about joining a union.

A WORKER HAS RIGHTS

You have a right to:

- Join a union
- Talk to your co-workers about joining a union
- Pass out literature about joining a union (in non-work areas and during non-work times)
- Sign up your co-workers on petitions (in non-work areas and during non-work times)
- Join with your co-workers for the purpose of forming a union
- Join with your co-workers for the purpose of improving working conditions in your place of employment

The above rights are spelled out in Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act.

YOUR EMPLOYER DOES NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- Interfere with, restrain, or coerce you in such a way as to prevent you from exercising the rights listed above
- Form a union that is financed or controlled by an employer, instead of by you and your co-workers
- Discriminate against you or your co-workers in hiring and firing simply because you have chosen to join (or not to join) a union
- Fire you because you have exercised any of your rights under the National Labor Relations Act, including your right to file complaints and testify against your employer if you believe he or she has violated your rights
- Refuse to bargain collectively with you and your co-workers, if you choose to form a union

The above limits on employer activity are spelled out in Section 8(a) of the National Labor Relations Act.

NO UNION = NO RIGHTS What is the difference between: If your workplace is non-union...

• You are an "at-will employee;" your employer can discipline or

- fire you at any time for any reason; you have no recourse
- "Open door" policy means the employer will listen to you... and then do whatever he or she wants
- Employer determines wages, benefits and other terms and conditions of work; if you're not
- satisfied, your only option is to get another job
- Wages, benefits and other terms and conditions can be changed by the employer at any time
- Hiring and promotion is up to the discretion of the employer

If you join a union and have a contract...

- Discipline, up to and including discharge, is subject to a grievance procedure and binding arbitration, depending on the terms of your contract
- Contract negotiations require both sides – labor and management – to listen, and reach reasonable compromises acceptable to both sides
- Wages, benefits and working conditions are negotiated; if you are not satisfied, you can work for changes during contract negotiations
- Neither labor nor management can make unilateral changes to a signed contract; if modifications are necessary during the life of a contract, both sides must agree
- Hiring and promotion is covered by contract; seniority and other factors can be written into the agreement

Unless workers have a union contract, they are at the mercy of company policies. Most employment handbooks clearly state that policies are "guidelines only and ... not a contract of employment" or that the terms of the handbook are subject to change without notice.

Please refer anyone interested in organizing to our Hall, President Mike or Vice President Ed at (248) 373-7774 and/or call and leave info. We will get back to you ASAP.

You may also contact our International Organizing Department at 1-800-2GET-UAW (1-800-243-8829). You'll be connected to (or get a call back from) a UAW organizer who can answer questions and tell you what it takes to organize a union at your workplace.

All organizing information copied from *UAW.org* organizing Web Page 4/30/2019.

- FROM THE -

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

CARL **JOHNSON**



The Leader Online & In Print

On the front page of this issue, we address the issue of *The Leader* newspaper going online to access on your computer or cell phone. In spite of the fact that the vast majority of UAW Locals in Region 1 no longer have a paper printed edition of their newspapers, we at Local 653 made the decision to continue sending a print edition to any retiree who sends back the form on Page 1 of this issue. We are also asking that a voluntary contribution of \$10 is returned with the form to cover postage and printing.

This decision was based on the smaller number of active employees that shoulder the full cost of *The Leader*. Retiree dues do not cover the cost of *The Leader*. That expense comes out of Local 653's general fund. To further save on postage costs, active employees in our various facilities will be hand-delivered their copies of *The Leader* inside their respective buildings.

Some Renovations Inside the Hall

President Mike Warchuck, SBM Milford's Roger Abbott and Jack Stoutenburg have all been putting in a lot of hours cleaning up, repairing and painting the inside of our kitchen at the hall. After 30 years of cooking, the walls and ceiling of the kitchen were darkened and really in need of some work. After two months of hard effort, their results are dramatic.

If you swing by the hall, ask to be taken back into the kitchen and see the results for yourself. The kitchen is much brighter and cleaner now, including the new LED bulbs installed last year, drywall repair and new wall paint. Anyone who uses our kitchen will appreciate the new, fresh look. A big thank you goes out to Mike, Roger and Jack for their

many hours spent on this renovation effort.

Also, we have received a very competitive bid to completely paint our auditorium from front to back. When the hall first opened in 1989, cigarette smoking was allowed inside the hall. This put a coating of cigarette tar on the walls that's

still there today. Plus, we now have thirty years' worth of dirt, stains and various gouges in the walls. As early as next month, we will be patching and painting the auditorium. The result being it will be restored right back to its original 1989 look. We're all really looking forward to it.

September Membership Meeting and Labor Day Parade

Just like last year, we will be having our September membership meeting very early on the morning of Monday, September 2nd, before the Labor Day parade in Detroit.

We will begin the day at 5:30 a.m. with a hot breakfast to be served to everyone in the auditorium. At 6:00 a.m., we will conduct our September Membership Meeting, which will end no later than 7:00 a.m. At the conclusion of that meeting, we will all move to the parking lot and carpool together to the annual Labor Day Parade on Michigan Ave. in Detroit.

In previous years, our mustering station for the parade has been the old Tiger Stadium site near the corner of Michigan and Trumbull. As of now, we're assuming that location will be the same. However, if Local 653's mustering location does change, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Again, we will be printing special t-shirts for marching in the parade. Last year's t-shirt was one of the best looking shirts ever and I expect this year's shirt will be a head-turner, too.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a wonderful Pure Michigan summer. I hope you all have a great time firing up your grills, boats, jet skis, campers and starting your campfires. Remember that most accidents happen at home, so have fun but always make sure you play it safe.



Paskel, Tashman & Walker, PC

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LEGAL REPRESENTATION SPECIALIZING IN: Family Law • Medical/Dental Malpractice

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on THURSDAYS BRIAN L. WALKER



is at the LOCAL 653 UNION HALL

670 E. Walton Blvd. • Pontiac, MI 48340 • (248) 373-7774 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and at

CHIEF FINANCIAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

790 Joslyn • Pontiac, MI 48340 • (248) 335-9493 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Are You Five Years or Less Away From Retirement?

- Do you have guestions 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!

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 semiretirement, 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

Doug Gravelle, CFP 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.

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 your 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

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

- FROM THE -Milford **Proving Ground CHAIRPERSON**

STEVE YUCHASZ



Picking Up New Work

Greetings from the Roads of MPG, We are running 54 Test Vehicles in Durability, with a lot of them being the HD Trucks as well as one

Medium Duty Truck. We have heard that some of them are rough and are putting our drivers through a lot on the rough tracks.

If you have a concern about a vehicle being deemed a "rough rider," per the LWSA agreement, please notify your Group Leader. The procedure is spelled out for an evaluation. It involves both the GL and the Driver Trainer on that respective shift.

If it hurts you, Go To Medical, Please! Don't try to be a hero.

Show Vehicle Operations is scheduled to ramp up in workload near the end of April, as the HD Trucks, Cadillac XT6 and CT5 are all being prepped for Press Rides and upcoming shows. On the heels of those, we have the new Corvette being revealed in mid-July.

We have picked up some work from the engineering communities on site, as the development vehicles have returned from the cold weather test sites.

The Bargaining Unit has been asked to install all the "summer tires" on the vehicles. This will involve the Shuttle Group, Global Supply Chain, as well as the Skilled Trades. While I realize it is not glorious or exciting work, it keeps us working and my stance has always been that we would take all of it.

This business and the stellar service we have provided to date has already resulted in more work being requested of the Bargaining Unit.

The Shop Committee and I have been in discussion with management about picking up some more mileage accumulation for

our Drivers, as well. I am cautiously optimistic with the new manager, Barry Walkup, who is now in charge of Durability Test, as well as Show Vehicle Operations. To date, he has been willing to work with us to arrive at common sense solutions that we can both live with, while following our contract.

Global Supply Chain continues to struggle with the concept of the "management" portion of their job description. GSC is scheduled to start "Job Rotation/Training" shortly. We shall see. Your Rep., Doug Oliver, has been steadfast in his ongoing struggle to get them to honor the agreement. Kudos to him in that regard!

We currently have 14 grievances in the system at steps 1 and 2. Our second step meetings have been productive lately, but I have no doubt that some these will have to wait until contract time this fall.

We have done a lot of work regarding the Local Bylaws recently. We are working hard to save money and make sure we are viable going forward. I would like to say thanks to Mike Warchuck, Ed Briones and the rest of the Bylaws Committee for their dedication.

I am met with our Regional Rep., Tom Kurzniec, at MPG on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

I hope that you enjoyed the Easter break, brought to us by our negotiating teams! Have a great summer everyone!

- · www.uaw.org
- UAW news, updates and releases
 - www.uaw.org/members
- Information and social media resources for members, including **PRO Member content**
- o www.uaw.org/members/retirees/
- Retiree information and resources o www.uaw.org/educational-resources
- General union resources for local unions
- · www.facebook.com/uaw.union
- UAW Facebook page www.twitter.com/uaw

UAW Twitter page

- https://plus.google.com/+uawunion
- UAW Google+ page
- www.uawendorsements.org
- UAW Endorsed Candidates website
- www.voutube.com/user/uaw UAW YouTube account (videos)
- www.uawsolidweb.org
- Local Union free website tool
- www.blacklakegolf.com
- UAW Black Lake Golf Club website/ booking
- www.uawtrust.org

- UAW Medical Benefits Trust for UAW FCA, GM, Ford Retirees

- FROM THE -CCA **PONTIAC** CHAIRPERSON



JETHRO TODD CARTER, JR.

Emergency Response Protocol

On Monday, March 11, 2019, we experienced a sentinel event at Pontiac CCA. An employee was unloading parts from a trailer when the trailer rolled approximately a foot away from the dock plate. This caused the employee's fork truck to become lodged between the dock plate and the trailer. In an effort to support a team member, a couple of co-workers used their fork trucks to lift the truck out off the dock plate and onto the warehouse floor. Fortunately, the rescue was successful and all drivers survived.

We addressed this issue by demanding that management establish an emergency response protocol to minimize the possibility of employees trying to help a coworker and placing themselves in harm's way.

I need not remind you that your elected Local officials serve you, the membership of this great Local 653, but you must be an active participant in helping our Local leaders serve our best interest. That involves asking your immediate supervisors and general supervisors questions when you have concerns about new methods or processes that you are asked to perform, and request a SOP or JES from your supervisor. Request they address any health & safety concerns you may have involving new equipment and processes. Make sure you request that they place those concerns on your work areas BPD boards as an employee concern.

The supervisors have seven days to correct or resolve the issue once it's placed on the BPD board as an employee concern.

I encourage you to be open and candid with your questions. Leaders at all levels use your suggestions and feedback to improve our workplace. Together, we will create a positive cultural change and

continue our growth in membership by improving the way we warehouse and ship parts to our customers worldwide.

Our health screenings took place on March 12 & 13, with a total of 120 participants; 26 more than last year. Let's keep the momentum and exceed our goal next year.

Also, the plant manager requested that we bring in summer vacation temps by May 1st and a request was made to the divisional leadership on April 1, 2019.

UAW Local President Mike Warchuck has been working diligently to help us obtain 2nd shift medical coverage, and I'm happy to announce we had a meeting scheduled on April 15, 2019, to discuss utilizing the GM Pontiac Stamping facility for our non-Emergency medical department visits for our second shift members. We would like to thank Mike for his time and efforts coordinating this new process.

We have requisitions in for one truck repairman, one pipefitter and one electrician (due to attrition).

I would like to welcome our Health & Safety Rep. Val Arnold back and thank John Laureto for his exceptional service to our membership during her absence.

We currently have fourteen grievances on the first step agenda, approximately twelve grievances at step two and none at third step.

Remember that progress is impossible without change and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

- FROM THE -

Pontiac Stamping/ **Global Propulsion Systems**

CHAIRPERSON

GARY PHILLIPS



Uncertain times in Pontiac

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter holiday.

These are some trying times at General Motors. Pontiac Stamping is feeling the impact of the corporation's decision to discontinue several of its models. As a result, the company will be laying off 76 of our UAW members beginning April 26th.

Flint Assembly currently has accepted 21 transfer applications from our membership. I encourage all our affected employees to sign up for Flint Assembly. There are still opportunities for full-time employment at the truck plant. All job opportunities will be filled in accordance with Appendix A of our National Agreement.

At the time of the layoff, there will be a large manpower shift. Most of the remaining workload will be performed on the day shift; with partial crews on 2nd and 3rd shifts. Your Shop Committee will ensure all Paragraph 63 moves and shift preferences are honored correctly.

A new electric vehicle is slated

for Orion assembly. The \$300 million investment is a long way from bearing fruit for Pontiac Stamping. As the details come out, we will pass that information along.

The tryout facility continues to be steady work for our membership. The corporation's decision to put that

addition here has been a good stroke of business for Pontiac.

The new management team at PPO is struggling to get a handle on the operation. PPO is an engineering facility, not a production facility.

The workload in the machine shop remains very backlogged. Management continues to believe a 40-hour work week is sufficient to keep up with the demand.

FMS and engine build will see some overtime opportunities as one of our engines nears the production phase. Be careful with proprietary information. The company has zero tolerance when in comes to trade secrets and product information disclosed to the public.

Let's all remember this is a contract year. Management continues to press any Document 8 related issues – late or tardy.

Sub Council is May 13-17 as The Leader goes to press. I look forward to spending time with our top negotiators and getting a clearer direction for this year's contract negotiations.

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 Inplant Mon, Wed & Fri 248-857-5319

Active members who are in need of Physical Therapy with Blue Cross-Blue Shield as Health Insurance must use a participant of TheraMatrix Physical Therapy Network. To find a participant, call 888-628-8786 or www.theramatrixc.com<http://www.theramatrixc.com>



When was the last time you checked your Beneficiary with MetLife? Please call: 888-543-3461

GENERAL MOTORS CALL-IN SYSTEM 4. Enter pound sign (#) if correct or

1. Dial 1-800-222-8889

2. Enter your 9-digit GMIN number (you cannot enter

your Social Security number) 3. Choose an absence reason

from the following list:

Press 1 - late

Press 2 - sick

Press 3 - sickness/accident in family

Press 4 - car trouble

Press 5 - injured

Press 6 - death in family

Press 7 - personal time off

6. Stay on the line until you hear that your call has been successfully

5. Record your call-in sequence number

completed and recorded in GMTKS.

asterisk (*) if wrong.

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Local 653's 80th Anniversary



Local 653's second location was at 21 East Lawrence Street downtown. Offices were upstairs and the meeting hall was on the first Local 653's first office was a small room inside the Roosevelt (Pontiac) Hotel. floor. Here's how it looks now."



Local 653 spent the 1940s at a converted storefront on Glenwood Ave., across from Pontiac **Motors Foundry. The stores** were torn down in the 1960s.

Te dedicate this page to all the brothers,

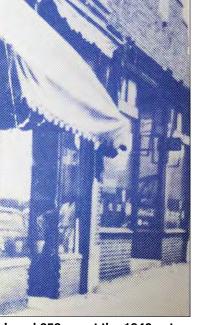
sisters, parents, aunts, uncles, grand-

653 that have kept the machines and assembly lines rolling for nearly a century. You filled the

conveyors and you made production. We all

share a common bond and are all one family.

parents and great grandparents of Local



In 1954, Local 653 built a new hall at the intersection of Kennett and Glenwood streets, just yards away from the Pontiac Motors Foundry. It later became the Pontiac Motors Plant Security office.



1966 brought Local 653 another brand new Union Hall at 990 Joslyn Road. These were the "Wide Track" years, with over 20,000 employees at Pontiac. The facility is still in use today as the Ruth Peterson Community Center.



Our current home, at 670 East Walton Boulevard in Pontiac, was dedicated on August 5, 1989 and celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.



The view from inside "The Pit" underneath the assembly line.



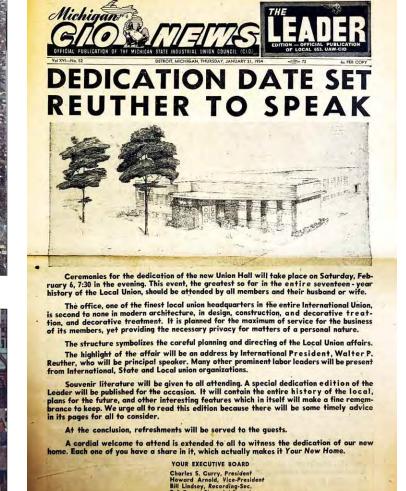
Pontiac Motor Division in 1979. Central Foundry is on the lower left. The "Ivory Tower," Product Engineering, and SPO Warehouse are along Joslyn Ave. on the right.



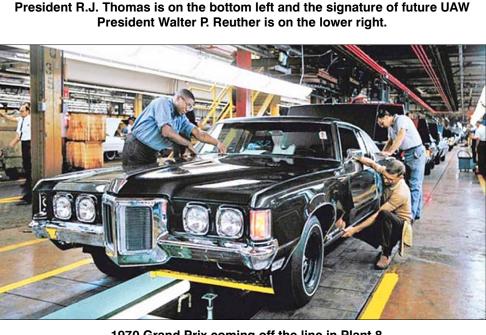
1967 Pontiacs sit in the '63 Lot' awaiting final inspection.



1968 Pontiac being lowered at the Body Drop in Plant 8.



January 1954 copy of The Leader announcing Walter Reuther would speak at 653's brand new hall on Kennett Street.



The original Local 653 charter from March 4th. 1939. The signature of UAW

International 1

lished for the purpose of effecting thorough organization of the automobile industry, and com

constitution, by-laws and general laws or other laws of the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America as they may from time to time be altered or amended: That

said Enion shall, for all time, be guided and controlled by all acts and decisions of the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America as they may from time to time be

enacted: That should the Local Union above chartered take advantage of any powers, privileges or rights conferred under the laws as they may exist at any time, said action shall not prevent the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America from recalling, amending,

So long as the said Union adheres to these conditions, this Charter to remain in full force:

but upon infraction thereof, the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America may revoke this Charter, thereby annulling all privileges secured hereunder.

1970 Grand Prix coming off the line in Plant 8

TOM ROMEIN, Veterans Committee Chair

Veterans Information: (248) 673-7168

VA Recommends Dropping Blue Water Navy Legal Battle

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said during congressional testimony Tuesday that he would recommend that the Justice Department not contest a recent federal court ruling that will pave the way for the return of earned disability benefits for some 90,000 so-called Blue Water Navy

veterans.

In *Procopio vs. Wilkie*, the VA Secretary was sued by Navy veteran Alfred Procopio, Jr., a Life member of VFW Post 6587 in Spring Lake Park, MN, who was denied service connection for prostate cancer and diabetes mellitus – both illnesses are among the 14 presumptive diseases associated with Agent

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!

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.

Michelle Gravelle, CFP
Investment Professional in the sun after retiring. Properly rolling over your PSP can

Doug Gravelle, CFP

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.

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 your 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.

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Orange exposure – because he was assigned aboard an aircraft carrier inside Vietnam's 12-mile territorial waters but never on dry land or within Vietnam's inland waterways. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit focused on the intent of the 1991 Agent Orange Act, which was to grant a presumption of service connection for certain diseases to veterans who "served in the Republic of Vietnam."

At issue was whether service within territorial waters constituted service "in the Republic of Vietnam." By a 9-2 decision, the court ruled it did.

"The VFW salutes Secretary Wilkie for his support to move forward and take care of this group of forgotten Vietnam veterans, said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "We also support his recommendation that some type of historical research division be created within the Department of the Navy to ensure that all such ships are fully accounted for in the exposed ships. After a half-century, we need to get this done to reinforce to tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans that our nation is willing to provide them the care and benefits they have earned and deserve, and we urge Congress to pass H.R. 299, the Blue Water Veterans Act of 2019, to ensure the VA can never again arbitrarily strip veterans of their earned rights."

Desert Storm Memorial Site Dedication

The VFW recently joined with hundreds of veterans and officials to dedicate the site of the new National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial at the corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Ave., NW, in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial and near the Vietnam Wall.

Special guest speakers were:

former Vice President and then-Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, retired Air Force General Chuck Horner, former U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Ed Gnehm, and current Kuwait Ambassador to the U.S. Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Representing the VFW on the dais were the Memorial Foundation President/CEO Scott Stump, and Life member of the VFW Department of North Carolina and Kentucky Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton, a Life member of VFW Post 4075 in Frankfort, KY.

New Appeals Process Launched

Recently, VFW Washington
Office Executive Director Bob
Wallace, National Veterans Service
Director Ryan Gallucci, Training &
Quality Assurance Manager Lauren
Barefoot, and Retired National
Veterans Service Director Jerry
Manar joined senior VA officials
at VA central office for the kickoff
of the new and improved appeals
process.

Starting in April, all veterans who disagree with their VA rating decision will have three new options to resolve their benefit disputes: request a higher-level review from a more experienced person, submit a supplemental claim with additional evidence, or appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Over the past four years, Mr. Manar and Ms. Barefoot have represented the VFW in negotiations with Congress, VA, and other veterans organizations to craft this new framework. The goal of the new process is to offer veterans greater flexibility and transparency to resolve benefit disputes in a timely manner, instead of waiting years for VA to adjudicate their appeals. The VFW will monitor the implementation and work with VA to resolve any issues that come up.





Money Stays at the Top

As this issue of *The Leader* goes to print, the drivers for both Uber and Lyft are going on a strike for improved wages and benefits. The drivers have watched both companies quickly transform into multi-billion dollar entities, with huge revenue and profits being inordinately funneled to the very top executives at Uber and Lyft.

This latest news shows everyone the need for collective bargaining and that the issue of wage disparity has gotten to a crisis level in 2019. The latest government wage figures show that the gap between the top ten percent of wage earners in the United States, compared to the other ninety percent of wage earners, has become so gigantic in 2019 that it's totally impossible to depict it accurately on any type of graph or

America is slowly returning back to the age of the Rockefellers, Gettys and Vanderbilts; a time when a handful of individuals controlled everything.

Brothers and Sisters, as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of Local 653 in Pontiac, remember that the urgent need for organizing and collective bargaining in 2019 is every bit as important now as it was in 1939, when the Local started meeting in a small room at the Pontiac Hotel on Perry Street. We collectively thank every man and woman who came

before us, remember them and honor them.

The list of officers and volunteers of this Local since 1939 would take up an entire book. We wish we could list them all here, however, let's acknowledge the Presidents and Financial Secretaries going back to our beginning:

Local 653 Presidents

James Lucas 1939-1943
Ernest Gauvin 1943-1944
Caude Henson1945-1948
Charles Curry 1949-1955
Charles Beach 1957-1959
Cecil Mullinix 1960-1962
John Maye1963-1965
Wayne Anable 1967-1968
Paul Derryberry1969-1970
Wayne Anable 1971-1972
Joseph Murphy1972-1975
Charlie Milton1975-1978
Bob Kinkade1978-1983
Leon Matthews 1983-1984
Harold Cox 1984-1989
Richard Long 1989-1994
Charlie Gross 1994-1999
Lou Rhinehart1996-1999
Charlie Tiedeman 1999-2005
Kit Walk2005-2011
Mike Warchuck2011-

Local 653 Financial Secretaries

	cai ics
Louis Steib	1939
Bert Henson	. 1939-1943,
	1957-1971
Charles Oswald 1943,	1945-1951
Henry Baynes	1943
Bob Boyer	1952-1955
Bert Henson	1957-1971
Preston Harris	1971-1973
Charles Curry, Jr	1973-1985
Ted Creason	1985-1986
Ivan Arnold	1987-2005
Curt Bailey	2005-2017
Carl Johnson	2017-



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- Do you need help with your 401(k)?

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Ted Lakkides, CFP

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UAW Local 594/653, located at or ext. 235 670 E. Walton Blvd., Pontiac, MI 48340

*Service for Hearing or Speech Impaired

Keep this page as a handy reference for contact information.

GM Vehicle Purchase (www.gmfamilyfirst.com) 1-800-235-4646 CCA – Employee Parts Service 1-855-462-2737

ALLY - Auto & Homeowners Insurance...... 1-888-925-2559 ALLY – Demand Notes 1-800-684-8823

Social Security Administration...... 1-800-772-1213

(www.ssa.gov).....*TTY 1-800-325-0778 Medicare (www.medicare.gov) 1-800-633-4227

Local 653 Retiree Chairman1-248-373-7774, ext. 232

Dues Clerk/Trips......1-248-373-7774, ext. 0

UAW Benefits Reps. (Tuesday & Thursday) ...1-248-373-7774, ext. 242

(Medicare Part A & B are mandatory)

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!

MILFORD PROVING GROUND

Edward Finnerty (March 1) Rick Cole (April 1)

Timothy Timmerman (February 1) Charles Travis (March 1) Lance Pruett (March 1)

~ Local 653 Retired Workers Chapter ~

Picnic Luncheon-Fun Day



THURSDAY JULY 25, 2019

Independence Oaks County Park (TWIN CHIMNEY SECTION)

Sashabaw Road • Clarkston Starting at 10:00 a.m.

ENTERTAINMENT • GAMES WITH CASH PRIZES FOOD • POP • NATURE TRAILS • CANOES LOTS OF FELLOWSHIP & FUN!



TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE **Local 653 Union Hall (Dues Office)**



per **MEMBER**, **SPOUSE** or **GUEST**

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER 3:00 P.M., JULY 18, 2019

Must have ticket and I.D. card you were given to enter the park free.

ONE CARD PER CAR ONLY.

Join your friends and fellow retirees for a great day!

- FROM THE -

RETIRED WORKERS **CHAPTER**

CHAIRPERSON

DON HESTER

Retiree Annual Picnic

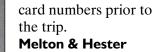
Tickets are now on sale at the dues office for our annual Retiree Picnic. The cost is \$7.00 per person and retirees may bring one guest (no children). It will be held on July 25, 2019 at Oakland County Park, 9501 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston.

GM Website

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



Scholarship

We will be having our scholarship drawing on June 27th, at the luncheon. Applications are now available at the dues office union hall,

and are available until June 6th.

We will have 10 winners of \$500.00 each for the fall term. All children, step-children, grandchildren, and step-grandchildren of retirees are eligible.

Reminders

Don't forget to start the year off right and 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 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.





Scholarships Scholarship Fund FOR COLLEGE Program

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

For... SEPTEMBER 2019 FALL TERM

Winner will be determined by drawing at the THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019 RETIRED WORKERS LUNCHEON-MEETING

APPLICATIONS NOW 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, JUNE 6, 2019

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





RETIRED WORKERS CHAPTER

TRIPS OPEN TO EVERYONE!

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

GUN LAKE JUNE 19. 2019

Reservations made upon payment at UAW Local 653 Dues Office. Make checks payable to UAW Local 653 Cancellation Deadline: June 10

Cost: \$35 per person, includes round trip bus transportation, \$10 in coin or \$10 in food.

(Casino incentives subject to change) Departs: 8:00 a.m., Returns: 5:00 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 &

UPCOMING SCHEDULE: Thursday, May 23, 2019 Thursday, June 27, 2019 Thursday, July 25 (PICNIC, \$7.00) Tuesday, August 22, 2019

Luncheon to Follow Meeting

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.

CCA-PONTIAC

Mattie Merchant (Retired) William Barnett (Retired) Jack Buckhorn (Retired)

MILFORD

Glenn Waggoner Palmer Stenson

PONTIAC STAMPING/GPS

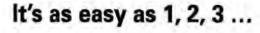
Laura Holobaugh Alma Marie Bradley-Pettress

The Official GM Web Site for U.S. Retirees www.GMRetiree.com

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- » Access Marketplace for discounts on products and services
- » Find information and helpful links regarding your GM Benefits
- » Visit the GM Community page to learn about fellow retirees and locate Retiree Clubs in your area
- » Print your GM Retiree ID Card







- Visit www.GMRetiree.com Click "REGISTER"
- Provide a little information about yourself and create a password to complete the online registration process
- Login with your email address and password and gain access to Benefits, Discounts and Community/Club Information

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SATURDAY • MAY 18, 2019 • 9:00 A.M.

LOCAL 653 HALL - 670 E. Walton Blvd, Pontiac MI 48340

BLESSING BEGINS: 10:00 A.M.

COFFEE & DONUTS (complimentary)

RIDE LEAVES: 11:00 A.M.

DESTINATION: Frankenmuth (68 miles) • 1:00 P.M.

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Veteran's Committee welcome!

Women's Committee 50/50 Raffle (announced before the ride departs)

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