

Welcome UAW Local 31 Head Trustee Reginald L. Jackson



Good day/evening UAW local 31 sisters and brothers, I am pleased to introduce myself to you and other union members. Along with serving my Union, I am a Veteran who proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps. In 2000 I began my career at GM Doraville working in G/A (Chassis) and Bodyshop production. Then, in 2002 I was accepted into the skilled trades apprenticeship program earning a journeyman millwright/welder credential in 2006. After Doraville closed in 2008, I had the opportunity to transfer to GM Fairfax in 2009. Presently I am applying my trade and knowledge as a Capacity Assurance Coordinator (Planned Maintenance) for the Paint Dept., 3rd Party Paint Maintenance and Fleet Services. As a reminder, please do not park your foreign cars in the Union Hall parking lot.

Any issues regarding this matter should be brought to Ms. Carol Thompkins, EAP Rep.



In Solidarity,

Reginald L. Jackson
Head Trustee UAW Local 31

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

UAW Local 31 Newsline
Published Monthly at
500 Kindelberger Road
Kansas City, KS 66115
Phone (913) 342-7330

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 189



News And Updates For The Membership By The Membership

UAW Local 31 News



Big Win For Labor But More Work To Be Done!

After a nearly two-month strike, we have officially ratified our 2023 UAW-GM National Agreement. It took a concerted effort and a huge outpouring of solidarity from the entire public. It took a strategy unlike anything the labor movement has seen and it took all of us pulling in the same direction.

The natural instinct is to grow content and rest on our laurels...fight that instinct, because the work is just beginning.

Locally, we have successfully amalgamated the UAW Local 31. This means we can organize and unionize other entities under the UAW Local 31 umbrella. This gives us the opportunity to grow our membership and grow our power in the Metro KC-Area. Amalgamation is not just limited to automotive sector. **We can organize any entity ready to join the fight for dignity and respect on the job!**

Why is this important? Unions have long been the backbone of the American middle-class. Outsourcing, automation and corporate greed have eroded the middle Class over time. However, the 2023 UAW/GM contract reflects record wage increases, substantial job security language and retention of high-level health insurance, all of which are strong bricks in the foundation of a revitalized middle class.

As UAW members, we recognize these as essential attributes of the Big 3- UAW contracts. We know it, the public knows it...and the non-union automakers know it too. So, it comes as no surprise that days after ratifying our agreement non-union automaker Toyota, Hyundai and Honda ALL offered preemptive wage increases to there non-union workforce.

Are these companies finally getting the idea that their workers deserve more after years of substandard wages and benefits?

Of course not.

This is a tactic to avoid their biggest fear... being organized by the UAW. Our fight is now and always has been the fight for ALL labor. When we win, all of working-class wins. Which is evident in the minor increases by our foreign anti-labor competitors. These increases are designed to discourage unionization, but the truth is, this proves our worth to workers. It proves that united we will grow our influence in the entire auto sector. It proves that together we can reinvigorate the middle-class in this country. It proves that our power is in our density and with numbers our movement is unstoppable.

If it feels like the work is over... I assure you it is not!

Because, as long as corporate greed runs rampant and as long as the working-poor exist in this country, we still have work to do.



President, Dontay Wilson, pictured with Shop Chair, Doug Bias & Asst. Regional Director Lucas DeSpain

NEW PRODUCT UPDATE

Nov., 29, 2023, Congratulations Fairfax!

During a Wednesday Team Meeting event, Shop Chairman, Douglas Bias Jr., along with members of management, announced the future product slated for Fairfax. During National negotiations, Fairfax Assembly was promised 391 million dollars in investments for the plant. Those funds will be targeted for the next generation, Chevy Bolt EV. This has been a long awaited announcement and offers some security for the members of UAW Local 31. Details about the new product and forecasted timeframe are yet to be announced, but now we have a product and a goal. Local negotiations are still ongoing and we are down to nine (9) demands. The shop committee will continue to meet with management until we resolve these issues!



At the top of Santa's 'Nice List' is our Zone Committeemen - Omar Williams and Cameron Crandall, along with their buddies , District Committeemen - Aaron Bruce and Daron Plackard

Submitted by Eric Chappell
 Communications Representative
 as released by
 Shop Chair Doug Bias



UAW LOCAL 31 TRUNK OR TREAT

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone that donated and/or helped with this years Trunk-or-Treat event. And a special Thank you to everyone at Ford and Kellogg for their donations and contributions!

— The UAW Rec. Committee



A young Granny Pryor pictured with UAW Guide, Nick Wohlford

December 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	7 1ST DAY OF HRTIUKKHH	8	9 NORTH POLE CBTU MEETING
10	11	12 BCTGM MEETING	13 Winter Solstice	14	15	16
17 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA	18	19 RETIREE CHRISTMAS DINNER / MEETING	20	21	22	23
24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 KWANZAA	27	28	29	30
31 NEW YEARS EVE	1	2	3	4	5	6

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

N M E R R Y P K L T A K W M K P W K N G
 D O P H V P R L H O L L Y L H I T Q K E
 H R E L G Q E L N Q I Z D E Q P V U N Q
 G R O L M S S G V N Y G O F S C C N U C
 J G J L H N E T Y N U B X C V E L H O A
 O L I E T O N Z G W R R U S M M Q Y X Y
 L U N K X W T X H R B I N I A I X C Z K
 L Z G R E F S C A G H G G C E S R H I C
 Y V L G F L R W L M H H X X U T U I F A
 Z S E Q W A A E Q O S T W E Y L D M A H
 M X T C W K H E I Z R N D X X E O N D B
 O O D O A E I S X N H N O J Z T L E H G
 H L L D C S Q K A B D C A W Z O P Y D A
 H Y R U Q K M R M N D E F M M E H K L R
 Q C L O G U I Q J F T G E E E A V V O L
 A K A J A E H N B F A A T R S N N V L A
 H O L I D A Y Q G J K T T G K T T C V N
 S A U Y O Z E T J S B B W E W P I S I D
 S C M X U D R C A R O L S S Z X G V C V
 T J J C L L P J S E T X S N D L F C E O

BRIGHT CAROLS PRESENTS CHIMNEY ORNAMENTS
 FESTIVE GARLAND SANTA HOLIDAY RUDOLPH
 HOLLY JINGLE REINDEER HOLIDAY JOLLY SNOWMAN
 MERRY MISTLETOE SNOWFLAKES NOEL STOCKINGS

War Horses for Veterans and First Responders



On October 24, 2023, UAW Local 31 Veterans Committee had the opportunity to visit the War Horses for Veterans facility located in Johnson County, Kansas to learn more about this program to help Veterans and First Responders.

We were able to tour the facility, see the horses and tack room and get a general feel of the services they provide for the Veterans and First Responders. War Horses for Veterans is an organization that both resets and helps develop skill levels for promoting healing holistically, mentally and physically. It is a program for Veterans and First Responders that was designed by veterans and first responders using horsemanship, allowing participants to decompress, relax and ease back into a way of living. It is a recovery program that engages mental performance with physical activity using horsemanship. Other areas that are developed include coaching, farm work and self care. Participants involved get immersed in the whole being of

recovery, while navigating through their personal situations. Patrick Benson, Brett Cartright and Jay Williams welcomed the committee into their beautiful facility and gave a synopsis of the history of War Horses, and where they stand today. The main focus of the program which uses horsemanship was not to be looked at as traditional therapy. Its goal is to help the participant reset, learning new communication skills, self awareness and goal direction and focus on their own life and career paths. War Horses holds their annual fundraiser the first Saturday in May with a Kentucky Derby style catered affair complete with music and live streaming of the actual Kentucky Derby. Big hats and mint juleps flow throughout the facility as patrons dine on BBQ specially prepared. Applications are accepted by visiting their website at:

www.warhorsesforveterans.org/sof

In Solidarity,

Kelly McClary Veteran United States Marine Corps

Kim Weaver Veteran U.S. Navy, Chairperson UAW Local 31 Veterans Committee



ACTIVE BENEFITS

Welcome back everyone. With the ratification of the new contract, there have been some major wins for our members with healthcare.

SAP PROGRAM : will be rolled out by GM/Labor, not benefits; in the first quarter. You cannot sign up yet. However, you may call for a modeling statement from Fidelity 1-800-489-4646.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is your healthcare plan.

1) There is no change to co-pays and deductions.

2) Health Care coverage will now start on the date of hire for all new hires. You will not have to wait 91 days for insurance.

3) All traditional and In-progression members get healthcare on layoff for up to 24 months

NEW HEALTH ITEMS OF COVERAGE UNDER PLAN

Chiropractic is now a covered benefit and will allow for 24 spinal manipulations per calendar year.

Allergy Test is also a big win for our health plan. Fertility Treatments is new to our plan as a cover benefit with a max of 5000 combined annual benefit.

DAVIS VISION

Lasik benefit has increase to \$350 and provides members who may still need corrective eyewear the ability to utilize the benefit 12 months after surgery. New frames are now covered annually, and not every other year.

DELTA DENTAL

It has increased from \$1850 to \$2000 per calendar year.

SICK LEAVE

A major win for members is Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants and Mid wives (birthing purpose) will now be able to provide certification for sick leave.

SUB

With 90 days of service, you will receive 52 weeks of Sub, then 52 weeks of TSP (Transition Support Program) and 24 months of continued health coverage.

Full time temps with 90 days will receive short work week benefits and temporary layoff benefits.

FMLA

Please make sure you have received official documentation from Sedgwick stating you have been approved for FMLA leave. Contact Sedgwick 1-800-489-4646 for new claims or questions concerning your claim status.



Shop Chairman Doug Bias going over the UAW National Agreement at the Regional Rollout.

In Memoriam: UAW, Forever & Always

John D. Swiger
Joined:
Retired: 07/01/1997
Dept:
Passed: 08/01/2023

Ernestine Granville
Joined:
Retired: 09/01/2013
Dept:
Passed: 08/08/2022

Davard L. Smith
Joined:
Retired: 04/01/1995
Dept:
Passed: 08/25/2023

Robert A. Stricklin
Joined:
Retired: 09/01/1997
Dept:
Passed: 08/26/2023

Glenda E. Kiebler
Joined:
Retired: 08/01/2005
Dept:
Passed: 08/05/2023

Richard L. Roscher
Joined:
Retired: 05/01/2008
Dept:
Passed: 08/14/2023

Glenn Burge Jr.
Joined:
Retired: 01/01/1967
Dept:
Passed: 07/30/2023

Ausan Banks
Joined:
Retired: 04/01/2009
Dept:
Passed: 08/18/2023

Richard T. Miller
Joined:
Retired: 04/01/2021
Dept:
Passed: 07/27/2023

William G. Spurgeon Jr.
Joined:
Retired: 07/01/2008
Dept:
Passed: 08/01/2023

Roger P. O'Dell
Joined:
Retired: 08/01/2000
Dept:
Passed: 08/03/2023

Barry T. Leonard
Joined:
Retired: 05/01/2016
Dept:
Passed: 06/12/2023

John T. Houston
Joined:
Retired: 02/01/2001
Dept:
Passed: 08/23/2023

Harold K. Argo
Joined:
Retired: 10/01/1999
Dept:
Passed: 07/29/2023

Michael P. Romeo
Joined:
Retired: 01/01/2020
Dept:
Passed: 09/18/2023

Jeffrey M. Shagena
Joined:
Retired: 08/01/2018
Dept:
Passed: 09/03/2023

Timothy J. Westwood
Joined:
Retired: 07/01/2019
Dept:
Passed: 08/23/2023

Diana L. Jensen
Joined:
Retired: 09/01/2000
Dept:
Passed: 09/14/2023

Abe G. Corley
Joined:
Retired: 10/01/1999
Dept:
Passed: 08/27/2023

Larry M. Locklear
Joined:
Retired: 07/01/2009
Dept:
Passed: 09/06/2023

Bonnie A. Lee
Joined:
Retired: 07/01/1990
Dept:
Passed: 09/16/2023

Phillip Cragg
Joined:
Retired: 09/01/2009
Dept:
Passed: 09/26/2023

Donna L. Joe
Joined:
Retired: 03/01/2014
Dept:
Passed: 09/20/2023



A MESSAGE FROM THE EAP REPS



The holidays can be a time for joy and connecting with friends and loved ones, but they can also bring stress, anxiety and depression. If you, or a family member, are experiencing feelings of sadness, loneliness, sorrow, or depression, your UAW Work

WORK FAMILY EAP
 1ST Shift: Carol Thompkins
 2nd Shift: Anthony Walker/ Roger Stark
 Contact the Hall to make an appointment

Family/EAP can be a resource for you to get some help. They also have resources to help deal with alcohol abuse, drug addiction, gambling, domestic violence, or anything else that may be affecting our members, mental well-being.

UAW LOCAL 31
BREAKFAST
 WITH
Santa
ADOPT-A-FAMILY

DEC. | **17th** | 2023

BREAKFAST PROVIDED - DOORS OPEN: 12PM
 DONATION DROP OFF AT THE HALL

500 KINDELBERGER RD.
 KANSAS CITY, KS 66115
 913.342.7330

mr/opeiu277

Local 31 News/
 Media

Communications:
 Eric Chappell, Communica-
 tion Rep.
 Robert Pacheco, Newspaper
 Mikayla Reves, OPEIU277

Website/Social Media:
 Nicholas Livick,
 Ed Peaslee,
 Milton Henry

UAW NATIONAL UPDATE

Thousands of autoworkers at more than a dozen automakers launched campaigns to join the UAW. From Toyota to Tesla, from California to South Carolina, America's autoworkers are standing up to win their fair share of the auto industry's record profits.

Read all about it at UAW.org and spread the word.

UAW members at the Big Three showed what's possible when workers Stand Up and fight. Now autoworkers across the country are joining our fight. Just like the Stand Up Strike, we'll send out updates about the progress that workers are making. Stay tuned and keep spreading the word.



In Solidarity,
 The UAW Organizing Team

UAW LOCAL 31 SCAB LIST



- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| RICHARD ANDERSON
DEPT. 43 | JOYCE RANEY
DEPT. 17 | GALEN HOLMES
DEPT. 50 |
| BRENDA BELL
DEPT. 70 | AARON THOMAS
DEPT 51 | BRIAN LOWE
DEPT 43 |
| SALOME GITHINJI
DEPT 17 | BEVERLY THOMAS
DEPT 11 | JEFFEREY B. MAXWELL JR
DEPT. 11 |
| SARAH LOPEZ
DEPT. 15 | BARRY WALDRON
DEPT 43 | BARRY NATIONS
DEPT 43 |
| | TIRAN PACE
DEPT 25 | RIVERO M ECHOLS
DEPT 83 |
| | | FRANK A KUHLE
DEPT 83 |

A Message From Benefits

Greetings to all Retiree's
May your Holiday be as joyful as many other Holidays in the past.

New Retirees

As you enter a new chapter in your life. We would like to reassure you; we are here for you. The Trust has created a booklet with the intent of providing you with a foundation to better understand your medical benefits and how to get the most out of them. These days, it is important to be informed about your health care. It is crucial that you understand the choices you need to make for you and your family. Please do not hesitate to reach out for help. You can contact the Trust or Benefit office for assistance.

Audits

Periodically, the Trust will request that you validate the eligibility of dependents covered under your health plan. In that event, you may be, required to provide documentation such as birth certificates, death certificates, tax return copies and /or marriage certificates.

Make sure you respond to all requests before the deadline. Your dependents could lose coverage.

Other Health Coverage

I would hate for someone to buy into another plan thinking the supplement of that plan will cover the remaining portion of your claims. Please reach out to the Trust or one of us in the Benefits office. Everything should be sanctioned by the Trust. If you feel you're caught in one of those situations, please call the Trust before you make that final decision.

Remember this could cause you to lose your coverage with the Trust. And it will take months before you are converted, back over to the correct plan.

Please let the Trust govern your health care coverage. They are looking out for you and your family's best interest.

Medicare Members in KS are eligible for [United Health Care](#) & Traditional only.

Medicare Members in Mo. are eligible for Medicare Advance PPO, United Health Care & Traditional only.

Non-Medicare Members in both Ks. & Mo. You are eligible for one health care coverage only. BCBS Enhanced Care PPO. (You do not have to do anything; you will be automatically enrolled in this plan as of January 2024) If you are under 65 years of age. No other options

If you have any questions, please contact the Trust or the Benefits Office.

Retirees Health Care Connect
866.637.7555
UAWTrustrhac.com

Benefits Office
913.573.7421 or 7422
All Reps. can help you.

Any remaining 2023 OTC benefit dollars must be used by **December 15, 2023**. The current OTC vendor will not take orders after this date, and any unused dollars will be forfeited. Call National-Benefits, LLC at 877-218-9951 to place your order or if have any questions.

Information on the 2024 Trust OTC benefit is forthcoming -keep an eye on your mail for a letter from the Trust in December.

This Portal is the exclusive way to order products online with your benefit dollars. Nations Benefits, LLC, experienced a cybersecurity incident that affected certain members' personal information. Learn more



Need assistance? Call 877-218-9951 (TTY: 711)

If your name includes a suffix, such as Jr., Sr. or III, you MUST include the suffix when logging in. You need to enter one (1) space after your last name. If you have trouble logging in, please call 877-218-9951. This number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Products You Need

Shop hundreds of brand names and generic health and wellness products.



Just a few reminders:

- * Are you with the right Health plan? Call The Trust for assistance
 - * This the time I remind everyone to check with MetLife Insurance. Make sure you have selected the right beneficiary or beneficiaries of your choice.
 - * Did you use all your budget account for OTC?
 - * For benefit changes, effective January
 - * New health care plan starts January 2024. Be sure to contact RHCC between September 05 and November 22, 2023.
- If you missed the deadline window you can still sign up for changes the following month. (Your request will be delayed to February). Call the Trust.

- * **Highlights for 2024:**
 - No monthly contributions for all plans
 - Lower medical deductibles
 - Lower copay for tier 1 and 2 prescription drugs
 - Elimination of in-network coinsurance
 - Lower copay for PCP and specialist office visits, and urgent care
 - Added coverage for office visits for TCN (Traditional Care Network) plan
 - New coverage for dental implant

Read the provided information carefully to learn about your 2024 benefits. For additional resources, including a link to videos regarding these changes visit:

uawtrust.org/annualenrollment.

- * Do not forget to check all your Mail, Emails and Text messages. If you have a question, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.



Benefits Information continued on Next Page ...

Our lovely benefits ladies offering assistance during the Retiree Thanksgiving Dinner. Pictured is Norma, Bobbie, Nancy & Zokie

Benefits Message Continued

Medicare Part A

Hospital Insurance. And it is free if you have worked and Social Security taxes for least forty calendar quarters (10 years). It helps cover costs if you are a patient in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or in hospice care. There is no monthly premium, but there are annual deductibles and co-insurance after certain lengths of stay.

Medicare Part B

Medical Insurance. Part B helps cover costs for doctors' services, out-patient hospital care, durable medical equipment, and other medical services. You must continue to pay your Part B premium if you enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan.

Your Part B premium if you may pay 20% of medical expenses. In most cases, Original Medicare beneficiaries must pay 20 percent of their medical bills, plus their Part B premiums and any applicable deductibles.

Medicare Part C

Medicare Advantage Plans. Please do not sign up for this service.

Medicare Part D

Prescription Drug Coverage. Please do not sign up for this service. The Trust will make sure you have the right coverage.

Some Q & A for 2023 & 2024

Q. I did not know anything about the over counter benefits. Can I still participate in 2023?

A. YES. You should contact the number below, for more details.

Q. Am enrolled in a Medicare Advance Plan for Blue Cross Blue Shield. I like my plan. Do I have to do anything to keep my plan? Nothing, only ones need to change anything will be those, who wish to change their current plan. Call the Trust for more details. Call 866.637.7555. Mon. - Fri. 8:30am 4:30pm

Q. Should I have received information on any change for Retiree 2024? If the answer yes, what process should I take to get on Board or on the roster for mailing and update for call listing?

A. Contact the Trust for the correct address on file. A wrong address could be the problem.

Thank You, from the bottom of our hearts,
The Benefits Reps. in the Plant

Bobbie Dunnell
Shannon Roehl-Wickingson
Norma Raya

1st Rep. 7421
2nd Rep. 7421
2nd Rep. 7422

Dedire Hawkins Alt.
Nancy Hicklin Alt.
Lokie Simien-Jackson Alt.



Donna Wages, Kelli Saucerman and Mary Jo. Stumpf pictured at the Thanksgiving Dinner

Community Service Committee



Lonnie Coulter, Will Thomas, and Nicole Thomas pictured in the pantry.

With the Holidays approaching be sure to spread the love that was given to us during our negotiations. Share the information with others about United Way and the use of calling #2-1-1 for local resources in your time of need. Harvesters post their schedule of what pick ups they have for every area.

Get in the KNOW and SHARE!!!

Thank You all for your help during the Stand Up Strike and being on lay off. Thank You to all that volunteered your time and those that reached out to help with getting the pantry ready. A lot of you took your personal time to get out and help other locals, help at the hall, and even help within the community.

THANK YOU!

Thank You to Committee members Lonnie C., Rah-She M., Nicole T., Will T., and Tasha W., for being called to action and going above the standard. Thank you all for being ready and one call/text away! Making sure the pantry went from nothing to fully stocked! You all DID THAT!

Happy Holiday Season!
LaTisha Dunnell
Community Service Chairperson

2023 STEP UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME WALK

Vice President Tony Pryor along with Regi Jackson (Head Trustee), Shawana Woods (Intl. Retiree Representative), at the Fundraising event for Down Syndrome awareness and support.



A Message From Our Retirees

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

Here we are at the end of the year - how did it fly by so fast? We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a blessed Christmas season. We pray for those who are alone or without loved ones to share it, but we are always able to count on our union family for support, and for that we are grateful.

Our group had a great time at the past New Theatre showing of "Always a Bridesmaid" with Morgan Fairchild. Our next show is "Elvis" on Saturday, February 10, 2024, always an afternoon matinee. This show will trace the journey through the 70's with so many unforgettable songs. Victor Trevino, who plays Elvis, was voted Graceland's ultimate Elvis tribute artist in 2022. This show promises to be a heart-pounding tribute to a legend. Tickets are \$35 each, money is due by January 8, 2024. Please make out checks to "UAW Local 31" and send to the union hall, 500 Kindleberger Rd., KCKS 66115. Your money also covers a delicious lunch, so sign up soon!

Mark your calendars for the following show, "Squabbles" on Saturday, April 27, 2024. This comedy stars George Wendt (Cheers) and Bernadette Birkett, his actual wife and actress, who have been married for 45 years. These two play a happily married couple, but then her father moves in. Then... his mother moves in. Then all hell breaks loose, family style! This show is filled with truth and humor, and you won't want to miss it. Get signed up now, tickets are \$35 each. To sign up for these shows, or if you have questions, please call Susan at 816-522-4111 or Kelli at 816-200-4953, or Miss Kayla at the union hall 913-342-7330.

Our next meeting is the annual Christmas dinner, and it is always full of members coming together to see each other and get caught up, as well as enjoying the solidarity we all feel and the meal we all share. Please don't miss it! Retiree meetings are always the 3rd Tuesday of the month, so now is a good time to mark your calendars or set your reminders for every month in 2024, except for July and August, which are months we take a reprieve.



We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a joyful New Year!

Retiree Recreation Committee -
Libby Dantzler, Kelli Saucerman, and Susan Simmons



Former Shop Chair, John Melton and Ms. Libby holding down the Fort for the Retirees Thanksgiving.

