



# NORTHWEST LOCAL 163

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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA – UAW

RALPH MORRIS, JR. *President* AL BYRD, *Vice President* DENISE WOOD, *Financial Secretary-Treasurer* YOLANDA JACOBS, *Recording Secretary*

## UAW LOCAL 163 PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT

I am writing to announce that I will be taking a new position within our Union. Starting on Monday, September 13, 2021, I will be working out of UAW Region 1A as a Servicing Representative. Our new Regional Director Laura Dickerson has offered me the opportunity to join her staff. After a great deal of thought and consideration, I accepted her offer. It was a difficult decision because I have really enjoyed the challenging work of being President of Local 163.

Since 2011, It has been an honor and privilege to serve the active and retired membership of our Local: one term as Vice President and three terms as President. We have accomplished so much together over these past ten years and everyone should be proud of the remarkable progress that has been made over this decade. At the very beginning of my term as Vice President we were a Local Union that was in a severe financial crisis caused by two prime factors: the Great Recession which caused plant layoffs and expenditures that greatly exceeded our income. These reasons ultimately led to our Local being put into Administratorship by our International Union.

It wasn't easy, but through a number of initiatives over the past eight years we were able to dig ourselves out of the hole that we found ourselves in. To name a few of the clear long-term plans and goals that were put in place to address our financial crisis: recouping the Per Capita Tax rebates that were withheld during administratorship, growing our membership internally, paying off the mortgage on our Union Hall, adding another external unit into our Local and increasing our general fund to a minimum level that will be able handle the financial ebbs and flows that occur in the manufacturing sector. As a united membership, we were able to achieve these goals even when obstacles were put in front of us: Right to Work, a 40 – Day Strike at GM and a world-wide pandemic. Our success proves Walter Reuther's words from 1970 are still true today, "There is no power in the world that can stop the forward march of free men and women when they are joined in the solidarity of human brotherhood."

Our Local Union Vice President, Al Byrd, will move up to be our new President of Local 163. Al has served as our Vice President for the past year and he is eager to take on this new challenge and continue our upward growth.

Our Local Union has increased its power and is on very solid ground financially. I always viewed serving in our union as a calling. As UAW International President Emeritus Bob King once said to me, "When you are called by your Union, you serve." Although I am excited to start my new adventure with Region 1A, I am appreciative that I will still be a presence within Local 163 as a Servicing Representative.

In Solidarity,  
UAW Local 163  
Ralph Morris Jr.  
President