



RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 33 – NO. 2



FALL 2021

We Must FIGHT, VOTE and WIN!

REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Laura DICKERSON



Greetings Region 1A Retirees, It has been a very challenging year. With COVID-19, supply shortages, and Republicans trying to suppress our vote, it has left us with a lot of work navigating through these challenges.

Just as things have started to open up and many states, including Michigan, begin to relax their state mandates, COVID-19 has reared its ugly head, again. It has started to mutate and lead to new variants. The two variants, so far, are Delta and Lambda. The Delta variant has proven itself as a highly contagious variant. So contagious, it has been compared to chickenpox.

As COVID-19 and its variants continue to take lives and cause severe illness, I ask all of you to remain vigilant and wear your masks, social distance, become familiar with CDC guidelines and state mandates, consider getting the vaccine (if you haven't done so), and most importantly...stay safe!

There has been recent discussion of a possible booster shot in the last few months. We will see what happens and stay tuned to the many updates provided by the CDC. We can only hope that COVID-19 starts to resolve and

the supply shortages created by this pandemic lessen and/or totally resolve themselves. I think we all look forward to being able to meet in person, again. We will follow CDC guidelines and state mandates for indoor and outdoor events until we're able to return to some type of normal.

As retirees, one of the more pressing issues is the fight to protect benefits. Retiree pensions, Social Security and healthcare

need to be protected. The way we protect these benefits is at the ballot box (see Walter Reuther's quote, at right).

Earlier, I mentioned that Republicans want to suppress our vote. By suppressing our vote, it could allow them to privatize Social Security. *We must fight, we must vote, we must win!*

We must keep working towards winning this November and look towards 2024, which is just around the corner. We have been fortunate to see qualified Democrats go on to win and run the White House, but it doesn't stop there. We must look at every seat in our Local, State and Federal elections. That's the only way we protect and secure these benefits for current and future retirees.

I'd like to take a moment to extend congratulations and best wishes to Vice President Chuck Browning, who has been elected Vice President of the UAW-Ford Department to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of former Vice President Gerald Kariem. Vice President Browning has been a real asset to the Region and a fighter for

working families. He will be missed. With his departure, Region 1A continues to operate under my leadership.

I would also like to mention the retirement of President Emeritus, Former Vice President of UAW-Ford and Former Region 1A Director Rory L. Gamble. *He has served this Union well!*

Lastly, Ray Curry has been elected President of our International Union. President Curry

One of the greatest quotes made at the 1970 UAW Constitutional Convention by Walter Reuther was...



There's a direct relationship between the ballot box and the bread box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls.



This remains true today.



WALTER REUTHER
UAW PRESIDENT (1946-1970)
SEPT. 1, 1907 - MAY 9, 1970

will represent this Union through many challenges we may face moving into the future. I would also like to extend best wishes and congratulations to former Region 1 Director Frank Stuglin, who was elected Secretary-Treasurer of this great International Union.

I have every confidence they will serve this membership well.



Congratulations to our newly elected Region 1A Leadership

LAURA DICKERSON was unanimously elected to the position of UAW Region 1A Director on Friday, August 27.

Director Dickerson has chosen DAVE PAGAC as Region 1A Assistant Director.

LEIGH KEGERREIS is the Director of the Retiree Department.

SCOTT BIRDSALL is the Assistant Director of the Retiree Department.

DREW KELLY is the Staff Representative replacing LaChandra White.





Region 1A Retired Workers Council

REGION 1A DIRECTOR

Laura Dickerson

ASSISTANT 1A DIRECTOR

Dave Pagac

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

Christine Neal

RETIREE COORDINATOR

Jeff Morris

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1st Vice Chair

RICH EBERHART, LU 3000
2nd Vice Chair

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Recording Secretary

KATIE MARTIN, LU 900
Financial Secretary

STERLING MULLINS, LU 735
Executive Board Member-at-Large

RICHARD CUSTER, LU 600
Executive Board Member-at-Large

CHARLES MARTIN, LU 227
Sergeant-at-Arms

PAT GRECA, LU 898, *Guide*

YVONNE HARRIS, *Delegate*, LU 36
ROY GONZALEZ, *Alternate*, LU 163
Advisory Council Members

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Union Label..... Linda K. Hayes, LU 600

Legislation Richard Custer, LU 600

Editorial Maria Winters, LU 845

Bylaws Katie Martin, LU 900

CAP Leroy Watson, LU 600

Veterans Pat Greca, LU 898
Richard Custer, LU 600

Civil Rights..... Peaches Anderson, LU 600

Consumers/

Protection Issues Linda K. Hayes, LU 600

Finance Katie Martin, LU 900

Scholarship..... Richard Custer, LU 600

Resolutions Sterling Mullins, LU 735
Shirley Poling, LU 735

Fundraising Katie Martin, LU 900

Healthcare..... Jim Barczyk, LU 372
Gwen Lester, LU 735

Black Lake Retreat Program

Yvonne Harris, LU 36
Linda K. Hayes, LU 600

Region 1A RETIREE NEWS

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MARIA WINTERS, Editor, LU 845

BOB SISLER, Ex-Officio

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words and the Editorial Committee is solely responsible
for selecting any correspondence for reprint in the
Retirees News. All items selected are subject to edit.

Advisory Council Report

by Yvonne Harris, Retired Workers Delegate



Information from Your International UAW Retired Workers Advisory Council

Hello Everyone,

I pray all is well. I would like to welcome all new retirees. Please sign up for the (voluntary) V-CAP and

(voluntary) Retiree Union Dues. Spouses can sign up to become an Associate member.

As your Retired Workers Advisory Council Delegate, I received valuable information and would like to share it with you.

COVID-19/Flu Shots

With the COVID-19 virus affecting all of us, not much is going on. Hopefully, you will find the information I'm sharing useful. Covid vaccines and booster shots are *free and available* at many various sites.

Also, flu season is upon us. Be smart, make your appointments to be vaccinated. We owe it to each other to be as safe as possible. We're in this together. Take a relative, friend or a neighbor, who could use a ride to get a flu shot.

Election

Just a reminder that the General Election will be held **Tuesday, November 2, 2021**. Use your Absentee Ballot, and encourage family and friends to exercise their right to vote.

UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust

At this time, the VEBA Trust is not attending any in-person meetings. Any questions, call (866) 637-7555 or UAWtrust.org.

Important Literature

Please keep all important, up-to-date information you receive pertaining to the "Trust" and "Health Benefits", and feel free to reach out for help from the Reps. listed in the booklets.

Region 1-A

My understanding is Region 1-A is back in the office working. Please call (313)291-2750 to ensure availability. They are happy to help.

Scams, Scams, Scams

I have heard so many scam stories, it's sickening. Scams are on the rise by phone, computers, mail or even by a knock on your door. Be careful with your personal information.

For example, computer scammers will call or

send you an email stating something is wrong with your security service, and they need access to your computer to correct the problem.

DON'T FALL FOR IT! They will have control of your computer... "computer hijack." Then, they will hold your computer hostage for a pay-off. They target mostly seniors.

I have mentioned this before. If you have an answering machine and/or caller ID, why have them if you are not going to allow them to do what you bought them for? *Be alert, look and listen.* Be safe my friend.

Congratulations

To UAW President Ray Curry and Vice President Chuck Browning, we are wishing you both the best.

Also, I would like to share that history has been made at Region 1-A. We have our first woman Director – Ms. Laura Dickerson of UAW Local 600 – and Assistant Director Mr. Dave Pagac. *What a great Leadership team!* We are very proud of them. Congratulations to many more Union brothers and sisters on their new leadership positions. We are wishing all of them the very best.

Retirees

Welcome to the next phrase of life... *retirement.* It's a nice club to belong to. Mr. Rory Gamble and Mr. Gerald Kariem, to both of you, a job well done, enjoy, and God bless.

"We Are One"

In closing, I lost my dad, Donald Green, Sr. of natural causes in July. He worked in D.S.P. as a Metal finisher, and retired in 1995. My family and I appreciate all your condolences and support. Thank you, much love, my UAW family.

I would like to send my condolences to the families and close friends of members who passed in 2020-2021.

I also send speedy recovery wishes to my sisters and brothers recuperating. Get well soon.

God bless you, God bless America and God bless the UAW!

In Solidarity, Until Next Time...

HELP OUR TROOPS CALL HOME

If you have an old cell phone to donate, you can bring it to Pat Greca (Guide RWC) or Rick Custer (Local 600 retiree), at the monthly retiree meeting at the Region or look for collection boxes in your community. **Help support our soldiers!**

CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

CELL PHONES
—★ FOR ★—
SOLDIERS





GUEST COLUMN

Protectionism? You Bet!

by AL CHURCHILL

While back, a labor coalition asked a then-American President to intervene in a situation where China was manipulating its currency in order that its exports to the United States would be cheap, and our exports to China would be expensive. The President of the United States declined, indicating that by doing so, he would be an economic isolationist.

Let me see if I've got this right. On the one hand, it is wrong to intercede in a global economy where Americans are competing against miserly wages and currency manipulation that ultimately harms our standard of living. On the other hand, it is our national interest to economically support a totalitarian dictatorship whose primal beliefs run antithetical to everything that America stands for.

Welcome to the religion of free trade, where "protectionism" is the refuge of the devil and American citizens are obligated to genuflect before the priests of private markets run amok.

Forgotten is America's rich and enthusiastic tradition of protecting our citizens from cheaper foreign competition. Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, championed the notion that the economic well-being and national security of Americans were dependent upon protectionist tariffs. The very first piece of legislation signed by an American President, George Washington, was the Tariff Act of 1789 on July 4th of that year. The father of 70 years of protectionism, Abraham Lincoln, once said "Give us a protective tariff and we shall have the greatest country on earth." Teddy Roosevelt once called free trade a "pernicious doctrine." All acted accordingly.

So, what's going on here? What has changed? The fact is, nothing has changed except the free traders are getting enormous exposure in the halls of government and public opinion compared to the protectionist argument.

So, what has been the response of the movers and shakers? Get smarter they say. Go to college. Get a degree. Attach our universities to commercial research and development and then pray that the corporations involved don't send production to China or India. Bribe businesses to locate in Michigan. Manufacturing jobs are passe.

Well, over five million manufacturing jobs were lost to ill-advised trade policy in this

country; over 230,000 lost early on to NAFTA alone in Michigan. In addition, the net export of Michigan's top ten products sent to Korea fell 54% since the Korea FTA.

Historically in possession of a trade surplus until 1976, in 2020 the United States had a \$915.8 billion deficit, the highest goods deficit on record. In the first six months of 2021 alone, the deficit has expanded by 10%. These numbers have an equivalency in jobs lost and the well being of those Americans who get up and go to work every day.

Does anybody really think those jobs were lost because America and Michigan are populated by dummies? No, they lost them because people in India are willing to work for peanuts. They lost them because people in Mexico, China, and other countries will work for money that is below our minimum wage. The possession of a PhD is of no help against the \$25 a month that the workers in Ethiopia make, when corporations move production from America to that country. Every transnational company is only too anxious to discard the citizens of their homeland and accommodate these folks.

The American "low-skill" jobs were lost to trade and most favored nation policy, aggressively promoted by powerful business interests and politicians of both political parties that are quite willing to leave American citizens to compete within the harshness of a self-centered capitalism. It was called NAFTA, CAFTA, and then TPP, with more American and Michigan jobs lost when American corporations resettled in foreign lands and exported products from there, that once were American made.

American business interests and politicians of both parties find social responsibility, and loyalty to the flag that nurtured them, to be a disturbing public relations exercise. Narrow self-interest, manifested in the availability of cheap labor and expanding profit, now transcend the fundamental morality integral to American citizenship and American community.

Until, minimally, our balance of trade reverts to a neutral status, the motives of some in the business and political communities are open to question. Lincoln understood. He once said that, "All that harms labor is treason to America."

Protectionism for hard-working American citizens? You bet!

– Al Churchill has been an active member of UAW Local 182, and a Retiree since 2001



THE LEGAL SERVICES PLAN



The new Legal Services Plan is called the UAW-FCA-Ford-General Motors Legal Services Plan

THE PLAN IS CURRENTLY TAKING NEW CASES!

A new case can be opened by calling this toll-free number: **800-482-7700**. Eligible participants in the Plan will include active and retired UAW-represented employees at FCA, Ford and General Motors and their surviving spouses.

What legal services or matters will be covered by THE PLAN?

THE PLAN will offer an "office work" benefit, which will provide services for the following types of legal matters:

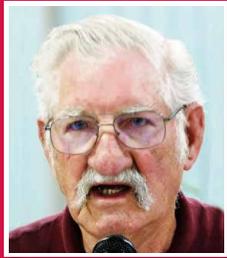
- wills and trusts
- powers of attorney
- purchase or sale and other uncontested issues regarding residential real property
- deeds
- uncontested family matters
- credit reporting
- contracts for goods or services
- residential leases
- birth or marriage certificates
- name changes

"Office work" services will include advice, document preparation, document review, factual and legal research, and correspondence. No representation will be provided by THE PLAN in court or in any litigation situation.

In addition to office work services, the Plan does provide UAW members and retirees with full representation, including attendance at hearings, for *Social Security disability applications, suspensions and terminations*.

For many legal matters that are not covered under THE PLAN, or that require court activity, THE PLAN intake staff can still process a participant's inquiries. Such matters will be referred to outside private cooperating attorneys, who will provide legal services to Plan participants at a reduced legal rate.

CHAPTER 36 REPORT



Chair – **JIM MAGGARD**

COVID Causing Cancellations

Hello Local 36 Retirees,

It's been a while since we have talked or seen each other, and I miss all of you. At this time,

meetings are still cancelled. We are unsure when we will be able to meet in person again. I sure do hope it is not too much longer.

As all of you have heard, COVID-19 is back on the rise. It has been proven, other than a few breakout cases, that the people getting COVID-19, ending up in ICU, and those dying are all unvaccinated people. Please get your vaccination, so we can all be safe and make it through this epidemic. When you are out, wear your mask. I want to see each and every one of you again.

Thank you, and know we are thinking of you. Hoping for good health and continued happiness.

the very future of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. So, don't let the heartaches, the pains, and the challenges of these days get the best of you! Let us fight like never before to save our nation.

Reminders: We have resumed our meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month, at 10:00 a.m. at UAW Local 245, 1226 Monroe St., Dearborn, MI. *Come on out and join us!*

Union dues are \$3.00 per month. You can pay at our Regular Meeting or send a check to:

REGION 1A

9560 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180

**Local 78 Union Dues – Check payable to
INTERNATIONAL UNION UAW.**

If you have any questions concerning your pension check or any other personal matters related to your retirement:

DETROIT RETIREEES, CALL:

ZF (TRW) Service Center

877-698-7910, press "2"

Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

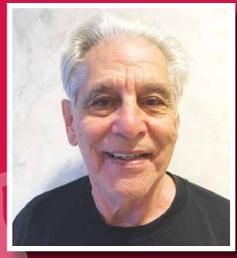
ROMULUS RETIREEES, CALL:

PBGC – Customer Contact Center

800-400-7242

Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CHAPTER 163 REPORT



Chair – **ROY GONZALEZ**

MI Judge Rules Against 'Big Lie'

Michigan Federal Judge Linda Parker, what a great woman. She has made the great ruling that the nine lawyers pushing Trump's 'Big Lie', that he won the Presidential Election, has not one ounce of merit. The nine lawyers who presented the case for Trump with incredibly untrue reasons and lies, will rue the day they tried to pull off this scheme. Their scheme will haunt them, and cost them for the rest of their lives.

Judge Parker, in her review of the nine lawyers, claims it is without question a masterpiece of judicial prudence. It should set the precedence for the whole United States. Yet, there are many Trumpers and Republican states doing all they can to suppress the votes of qualified voters in their states, while threatening diligent poll workers who have fulfilled their duties for many years. Some of the tactics on poll workers are taken to the extreme, including with death threats. These same bullies also threaten and intimidate Democratic office holders and potential Democratic candidates. Case in point, Governor Whitmer.

I wonder why none of this outrageous behavior came out when Hillary Clinton was not made President.

The choice is absolutely, abundantly clear. For true and fair representation and security for yourself and all Americans, vote for Democrats across the ballot.

Take care, be safe...

CHAPTER 78 REPORT



Acting Chair – **NATHANIEL "Dan" BISHOP**

Heartaches & Pains Continue

Once again, let me extend special greetings to our many retirees and our surviving spouses.

It is quite remarkable and unbelievable that we are over halfway through this year and many of the heartaches and pains we thought were behind us are still lingering on. The challenges of 2020 were truly beyond anything any of us could have imagined.

No doubt, the majority of us really thought that once our national elections had been decided and the COVID-19 vaccines had begun to be administered throughout the states, we would soon be moving back to some source of normality. Oh, how we have been so wrong.

The list of heartaches and pain has grown even beyond what took place in 2020. Our nation has and is being filled daily with the lie about the "Stop the Steal," and is still wrestling with the riot of January 6, which has threatened our democracy in ways like never before. The results of the Presidential election are still at the forefront in many of our states.

We are still being severely overwhelmed by the increasing numbers of people dying from the virus, and the battles of wearing (or not wearing) a mask and receiving (or not to receive) the vaccines are raging greater than before.

The division in our nation along the lines of race, politics, religion, socioeconomic status, and the question of who should you believe. Where will it end, where will it stop? Our nation is being overwhelmed and our future doesn't look healthy for anyone if we allow the big lies and the endless deceit which is filling our news and social media outlets.

Those of us who know what is accurate and to be true must stand and fight for ourselves and

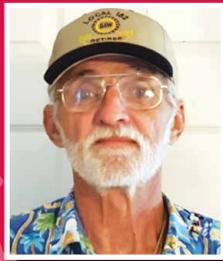
UNION-MADE HOLIDAY GIFTS

Games	Beauty Products	Candies	Sports Products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrel of Monkeys • Candy Land • Chutes and Ladders • Clue • The Game of Life • Monopoly • Pictionary • Risk • Scrabble • Sorry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon • Caress skin care • ChapStick • Dove • Old Spice • Revlon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Candy peppermint candy canes • Jelly Belly • Laffy Taffy • Tootsie Roll Pops • Hershey's chocolates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bare wetsuits • Callaway Golf • Louisville Slugger • Standard Golf • Top-Flite Golf • Wilson NBA basketballs and NFL footballs

AFL-CIO

[AFLCIO.ORG/HOLIDAYGIFTS](https://aflcio.org/holidaygifts)

CHAPTER 182 REPORT



Chair – GEORGE 'MICKEY' HERRICK

Kroger pharmacy. They helped us administer COVID-19 shots, so they said they would come back in September and October to give us flu shots. Our meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on September 9th. We will say “hey” and see how everyone is doing, eat some pizza, and meet again in October.

In October, we are having our Health Fair put on by the VEBA Trust and other groups for your information on finances, assisted living, and more. Also, again, we will be having flu shots on October 14th put on by the Kroger pharmacy.

Then comes November 11th, which is Veterans month. I'm still working on speakers.

On December 9th, we will party like the Kennedy's and kick COVID-19 out of our lives and send it on its way to a new 2022 year.

Everyone remain safe! If you can, raise your volunteer dues. If not, don't worry about it but it does help your Local union retiree funds.

Solidarity in being united...

CHAPTER 227 REPORT



Chair – ELMER DUFF

Get Your Shots!

Brothers and Sisters of the UAW Local 227 Retiree Chapter,

Praying all is well with each of you and that you are enjoying your summer. You should, because there are not too many more days left until fall and we all will be crying for summer.

This is the second summer we have been plagued by COVID-19. Many of us have taken our shots and some of you are in denial, and think things will get better with prayer and not getting around too many people. Now, the CDC is asking us to take a booster shot to increase our immunization to the virus. We owe it to ourselves and family, as well as our union members, church members and other groups we are part of to do the right thing – *Get Your Shots!*

The UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust was supposed to be at our meeting November 17, 2021. I received notice by email and by phone that all their meetings are cancelled for the year. If any member has any questions about their current health care or claims issues, call the number on the back of your Medical ID card.

Retiree Chapter 227 was scheduled to resume our meetings in September 2021. I feel if the Trust has cancelled their meetings that we should be as wise and cancel our meetings until we get word that it is safe again to meet.

Congratulations to our newly elected President of the UAW, Ray Curry, and our newly elected Director of Region 1A, Ms. Laura Dickerson.

We, the officers and members of Local 227 Retiree Chapter, offer our condolences to the families of: John C. Dombrowski, the son of Rose Marie Dombrowski, Tom Subczak, Paul Valentine, and our late sister Darlene Mackie McCoy's daughter Adrian Mackie. May they rest in peace.

We are praying for our 227 family, our new President, and Region 1A's Director. As soon as we get word, we will let you know when we can get back to our meetings, hold hands, and sing “Solidarity Forever.” Stay safe.

Yours in Solidarity...

CHAPTER 372 REPORT



Chair – JAMES BARCZYK

Our last election was a “defund the police” election. Without that misunderstood slogan, Democrats probably would have picked up seats in the House and a few more in the Senate.

This election cycle will be Critical Race Theory (CRT). Because the word “race” is in the academic exercise, the chance for abuse of its purpose can easily be distorted. Critical Race Theory began at the Harvard Law School. After the successes of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, culminating with the passage of the 1965 Civil Rights Act, students pressed law professors for classes that explored how racism is embedded in the law.

National civil rights leaders thought the war was won. Jesse Jackson and Reverend Al Sharpton were regulated to relax, we have won status. They fought on, and for good reason. Color blindness is not possible to cure unless we, as a country, admit that we are a racist country.

CRT is nothing more than the research into how our laws codified racism. If it is in the law, it must be right! That enables color blindness. Common sense is prevalent in the law. We, as a nation, want to have law and order, and if Critical Race Theory attacks our perceived common sense law and order, it is time to attack the research.

Republicans are doing just that. First, that research is only being done and taught in law

See **CHAPTER 372** on Page 6

Events Start In September

Well, the year is almost up and we won't be meeting at the Region, according to my last communication, until 2022. So, I'll start out by saying to all our retirees... “hello, stay safe, and protect your families and friends until we meet again.”

Here we go... On September 9th, we will be meeting for our first Retiree Meeting since March of 2020. At this meeting, we will be offering flu shots sponsored by

Colorblind In America

If you, as a white American, have ever said “I am colorblind, I don't see race” that is because you are in denial. This is like an alcoholic who cannot admit alcohol abuse. I have always believed and said, “I am colorblind.”

White supremacists since the end of the Civil War have used the Democratic process to their advantage. By defining the insurrection post Civil War as a “states rights” issue is one example. Anyone can look up the documents of the traitors Jefferson Davis, Alexander Stephens, or Robert E. Lee, and read that the war was fought over slavery.

Since the United States of America has always been a white majority, narratives excusing our ancestors of racism was readily accepted, and yet this story only begins with states rights.

Why do I believe I am colorblind? Because it makes common sense. I believe in law and order, and I also believe every American should be treated equally. I'm colorblind because the law is not colorblind. Without going into the myriad of ways laws discriminate for argument's sake, let's just assume that it does. If laws discriminate, and lawmakers don't change the laws of discrimination, it continues.

Since the Willie Horton political ad run by H.W. Bush, the Republican Party has divided a colorblind nation of voters with racial issues.



CHAPTER 600 REPORT



President – PEACHES ANDERSON

Congrats To Our New Leaders

Sisters and Brothers,

There is so much to be said at this time. Let's begin with wishing our past UAW President, Rory L. Gamble, a well-deserved, blessed and safe retirement. Now you will be able to enjoy your family and 34 grandchildren! Thanks for all your strong support for our retirees.

We would also like to welcome our new UAW President Ray Curry with a special welcome from Local 600. We are all looking forward to working with you. And, to Chuck Browning, congratulations on becoming our new Vice President of the Ford Department. Enjoy the success that you have worked so hard for.

We have made history at UAW Region 1A by the election of Laura Dickerson. Congratulations and welcome to our first female Director. We are thrilled to be working with you and for you! I know you won't forget the retirees. You go, Sister, from Local 600.

Director Dickerson has appointed Dave Pagac as Region 1A Assistant Director.

Information From VEBA Trust

Highlights for 2022 will be mailed at the end of August, with members receiving them the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd week of September. There will be some cost savings for 2022. There will also be a postcard mailed for a teleconference appointment with a date and time to call. You must register for an appointment to get information and have all your questions answered.

Please take the time to read the information you receive in the mail. If you have any questions, remember what I always say... "A question is never dumb unless it is not asked."

Important Contact Numbers:

- VEBA Medical Benefits Trust 866-637-7555
UAWtrust.org
- Express Scripts Rx..... 866-662-0274
- Delta Dental 800-524-0149

- Ford-UAW Retirement Board 800-829-8833
- NESC..... 800-248-4444
myfordbenefits.com
- AXZ Plans 800-348-7709
axz.ford.com
- UAW Legal Services 800-482-7700
- MetLife Insurance..... 833-552-3673
- Midwest Vision..... 313-582-8080
- HAP HEARING..... 877-514-0086
- TRU Hearing..... 844-394-5420

Please call and check on your benefits now that our Life Insurance Company is MetLife to make sure they are accurate.

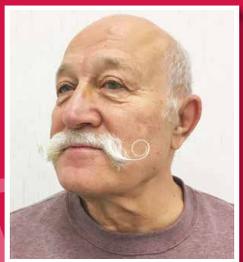
Remember to vote in your community Elections in November. Never forget, we do not want our Medicare or Social Security to be cut.

Welcome to all of our new retirees from 2020/2021. I know we have lost so many of our members. I must say, my prayers are always with you.

Our daily lives are based on C.O.D, choices, options, and decisions, but it's the A-B-C that keeps us afloat – "Always Being Cautious." We are still here, please stay safe.

Have a blessed and safe holiday! And I am looking forward to seeing everyone in 2022.

CHAPTER 723 REPORT



Chair – ROBERT CEBINA

Help Keep The UAW Strong

Greetings Fellow Retired Brothers and Sisters of UAW Local 723,

I trust that all of the retirees are doing well, in spite of what all of us have been through this past year and more.

At this time, let us all take a moment out of our busy lives and pause with what we are doing and offer a prayer of remembrance to those

sisters and brothers who have passed on since our last newspaper. Our prayers and thoughts go out to the families who have lost a family member. Since our last retiree newspaper, we have lost far too many of our members from Local 723's Retiree Chapter. If anyone knows of a member who has passed away, please call the Local and let Mike Keck know.

I am sure you are wondering, as well as I do, when the UAW Local 723 Retiree Meetings and the luncheon will take place. I have been contacting the UAW Region Retiree Rep. and the Local President as to when any word will be forthcoming as to when we will be able to come together once again and hold our meetings.

UAW Region 1A has asked all Locals to hold off for now for scheduling any Retiree Meetings. This is due to the increase of the COVID-19 virus and because the retirees may be more apt to catch the new variant of the virus. The UAW

is looking after the welfare of the retirees, as they should.

I have been keeping in contact with the Local as to what has been going on within the Local so that I can keep all of you informed. I have attended some of the Executive Board Meetings and the General Membership Meetings. As a retiree, you are entitled to attend, and you have a voice and a vote at the General Membership Meetings.

If you have an issue or something is concerning you about the Local or the UAW, come to the meeting and voice your opinion. We would like to see our Retirees still be an active part of the Union. Also, by attending the meetings as a retiree, you will be helping strengthen our Local and keep yourself abreast of what is going on in the Local and the UAW.

For those retirees who are not voluntarily paying Retiree Union Dues, please consider signing a check-off dues card to pay Retiree dues. The dues are only \$3.00 a month. Contact Mike Keck, the Financial Secretary at the Local, to sign up for the Retiree Union Dues Check-off Card.

Let's take a moment to remember those members of the UAW who stood fast against anti-Union companies in their quest to form a Union. Remember our brothers and sisters who are serving around the globe protecting our freedoms that so many take for granted. Also, let us not forget those who work in health care for their tireless work ethics, who have been caring for us and others, during this current healthcare crisis.

Remember, brothers and sisters, you are the strength of the UAW or you can be the weakest link. The choice is yours, choose wisely.
God bless all of you...

CHAPTER 372 from Page 5

school; not in elementary, middle, or high schools. Local school boards are being besieged with colorblind parents accusing them of teaching Critical Race Theory. Most of those complaining have never heard of Critical Race Theory, until they have seen it on TV and showed up at local school board meetings.

I ask, who are these citizens? How did this go national? There's much we don't know, but I do know that the Republican Party is out to divide us again by using race. If you are one of those recently outraged by Critical Race Theory, and have only recently heard about it, and have no clue as to what it means, change the channel.

Local 372 Retiree Meetings have been cancelled until at least the first of the year, which of course means no Christmas Party.

Benefit Express will be sending a postcard to everyone so members can tune into a podcast, or can phone in to listen to the 2022 Health Care Changes. You will also be receiving a letter with 14 pages of changes to our 2022 Healthcare.

Members please note, the new email address for Local 372 is: retiree@local372uaw.com
An injury to one is an injury to all.

CHAPTER 735 REPORT



Chair – **STERLING MULLINS**

August Retiree Meeting Held

I hope all Local 735 retirees are doing well. We finally were able to have our first Retiree Meeting on August 11th, and it was like going home and seeing your family again. We asked all who attended to be aware of each other's space, we wore our masks, and had a good meeting.

We also had a couple of guest speakers, including Ralph Morris, President of Local 163, who spoke on new renovations at his Local and their plans for future improvements. We are so thankful to Local 163 for their continual

hospitality.

Our other speaker was Region 1A Assistant Director Laura Dickerson. Laura spoke about being honored to represent all retirees in Region 1A, and is looking forward to assisting us in the future. She asked all of us to be vigilant in retiree affairs and only support candidates who support retirees and unions. We gave her an open invitation to return and speak to us.

The Executive Board gave reports and we discussed finances, events, trips, meetings, and our elections. One of our members made a motion, and it was supported, that we postpone our elections until May of 2022. We had a discussion on the pros and cons of this motion, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved with only one "nay" vote. So, this means that you are stuck with me and the Board until May of next year.

We will be looking to plan a casino trip this fall and work on a Christmas party. We need to be aware of COVID-19 changes and all health guidelines that could change our plans.

Local 735 Retiree Chapter is in good standing

with the International and Region 1A, and financially doing well, considering we are a closed Plant Chapter and not capable of adding to our Retiree numbers. We do accept associate members and welcome our old members, and those who transferred to other plants and are now retiring.

I would like to welcome our newest associate member, Valerie Robinson, who also volunteered to be our new Media Chairperson. Thank you, Valerie. Let me also welcome back our newest transferee, Tim Micallef. Glad to have you back, my friend. We also had an old friend show up to our last meeting with a smiling face, Charlie Robinson. We are glad Charlie is a Michigander again and look forward to seeing him at our meetings.

The Executive Board is here to help and assist you in any way we can – benefit questions, transfers, voluntary dues, associate membership, or Retiree cards. Contact us through Local 163, 450 S. Merriman Road, Westland MI.

May God bless each and everyone of you.

CHAPTER 845 REPORT



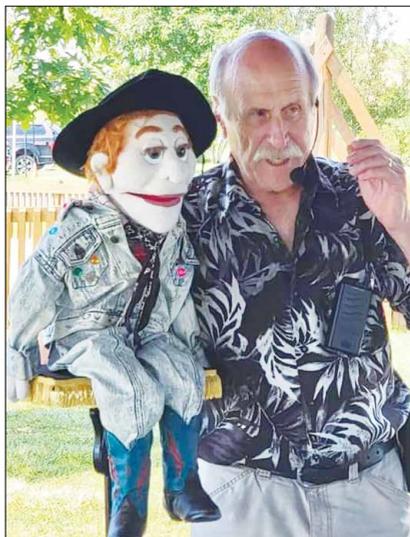
Chair – **MIKE LAMBERT**

Survivors Reunion 2021

We just had our Sheldon Road Survivors Reunion. We started the Survival Reunion a few years ago, so that we could continue the friendships that we shared during the working years. The Reunion grew in numbers each year until the pandemic put us on hold for a year. I hope that things continue to improve, so that we may have these fun times each year.

Many retirees and a few old friends who had to transfer to other Ford facilities, came to enjoy an afternoon full of laughter and food. Virgil Norgrove was brought by one of his ventriloquist partners. Everyone enjoyed the show. We have plenty of talent that has retired from Sheldon Road.

We missed many of you who were not able to attend. I heard conversations that asked about so and so, or remember...? Sure wish he would have been able to be here.



We lost so many of our retirees through the years, and will lose more as time passes. The reason we have these reunions is to see our friends and our extended family that we have spent so many hours, days, weeks, months, and years with. It isn't often that we can grab a couple hours just to be there for an old friend. Just saying, it was great seeing all those that were able to visit yesterday. We will plan another reunion for next year.

As everyone from Local 845 knows we also failed to have our annual Christmas Party last year. I am happy to say that the Region has reached out to us again this year with welcoming arms. We will once again have our Christmas Party at Region 1A on December 9th. That is, of course, if we stay healthy. As in the past, we will be sending RSVP notices to everyone who has their correct address on file with our Local.

We have been trying to update the Retiree Address Information for a few years. Each year, we have 10% to 20% of our RSVP cards returned as "undeliverable." If you do not receive a card, please contact the Local.

Yesterday, with all the problems that we have shared together, the negotiations that have

been a struggle to achieve, the bad feelings that we have had throughout these government findings about our Union, it is past time that we once again become united. As a Union, we are one, we are strong. As a Union, we too must support the whole Union. We are not a split Union fighting for rights at each employer's bargaining table. We are a Union that bargains for equal rights at separate bargaining tables. We are a Union that demands equal rights for *all members*.

The companies are making record profits with fewer UAW members. It is time that the UAW stood in support of each other. Our members should be purchasing UAW-built cars and trucks assembled in the United States. We also need to bring equality back to our Union. I look across the parking lots of our assembly plants. There are way too many foreign cars and trucks. We must once again stand as one and support our Union products or we will fall.

Z Plan Pins: 800-348-7709 or axz.ford.com

Legal Services: 800-482-7700

Vision care is now **Davis Vision:** 800-999-5431 or davisvision.com

Wishing you all good health and prosperity.



CHAPTER 849 REPORT



Chair – **BOB BOWEN**

member, look at your Ford retirement check stub. If you are paying, it will show a deduction for Union dues. The dues are only \$3 a month.

Celebrating Election of Chapter Officers

Even though our old workplace has been closed and Local 849 is no longer an active Local, our Retired Workers Chapter thrives. The Chapter's membership looks forward to meeting the challenges of the future as we enjoy the fruits of our labor. A key part of meeting the challenges we face is having an organized structure in place where issues can be discussed, plans put together, and being able to communicate with people inside and outside the UAW who can lend us a hand.

Assisting the membership in meeting this challenge are officers chosen from the Chapter body. After a COVID-19 imposed delay, the Chapter elected officers to fill 3-year terms that will run from September 16, 2021, until September 19, 2024.

Offices and officers:

- ChairpersonBob Bowen
- First Vice Chair Carole Galante
- Second Vice Chair Bennie Griggs
- Recording Secretary Beverly Dare
- Financial Secretary Shirley Green
- Sergeant-at-Arms Helen Wylie,
- Alt. Regional Delegate Betty Hickman

Celebrating Willow Run High School "All-Years" Class Reunion; 1957-2014

UAW members from many Locals in the area attended Willow Run High School and may be interested in attending an "all-years" reunion that will be held September 24 from 5:00-10:00 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2935 Holmes Rd., Ypsilanti, MI.

To attend, send \$15 per attendee to Larry Avery, 14905 Hanover, Allen Park, MI 48101. Please include attendees' names and phone numbers.

CHAPTER 898 REPORT



Chair – **RICK ROE**

Retiree Meeting Held In July

by *Pat Greca*

I just attended the August, Region 1A Retiree Executive Board meeting via Zoom. UAW President Ray Curry has recommended, due to the rise in COVID-19 numbers again, that all meetings be limited to small numbers with adequate distancing until further notice.

We did have one Local 898 Retiree meeting in July. I believe 40+ people attended before the current recommendation went into effect. It was good to see all the familiar faces. Although many have passed in the last year, we will hold them in our hearts.

Our Region 1A Christmas Party has been delayed until 2022.

We congratulate all the newly elected officials at International and Region 1A. I welcome them all, and look forward to working with them.

I pray all our membership is doing well. I also pray for all who may be struggling. If you are in need of assistance, please contact the Local for finding the help you need.

Yours in Solidarity...

"We congratulate all the newly elected officials at International and Region 1A. I welcome them all, and look forward to working with them."

Celebrating and Mourning

Celebrating Our 55th Anniversary

COVID-19 has raised havoc with our plans for over a year, but its reign of fear is coming to an end, because we are rolling up our sleeves and welcoming God-sent vaccinations. With that knowledge in mind, Local 849's membership fully endorses celebrating our Chapter's 55th anniversary on Thursday, October 21, 2021.

At our June 17th meeting, the membership approved holding an anniversary celebration this year, and thoroughly reexamined that decision at our August 19 meeting. The Chapter membership is confident that Local 849 retirees will continue to exercise caution so they, their families and friends can safely go about their daily activities, resume public worship services, and gather to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the founding of our Retired Worker's Chapter on October 21.

Retired Workers Chapter members have been sent a letter inviting them to attend the 55th Anniversary Celebration that will be held at UAW Local 898's hall. The letter contains a form that needs to be filled out and return mailed to Local 898. The cost is only \$5 per person attending.

If you are interested in attending but are not a Chapter member, email bowen59@gmail.com and request a registration form and an application to join 849's Retired Workers Chapter. If you do not know if you are a

IN MEMORIAM

Mourning the Loss of Local 849 Members

Deaths reported since last edition of Region 1A RETIREE NEWS...

- Joel Darby 10/21/40 - 04/12/2021
- James M. Nicks 01/28/34 - 04/13/2021
- Thomas W. Ensign 04/08/50 - 05/03/2021
- Larry Greca 08/06/44 - 05/05/2021
- Chester A. Preston 07/28/39 - 05/12/2021
- Glen E. Stringer 07/07/45 - 05/19/2021
- Jessie B. Peavy 06/24/36 - 05/21/2021
- William H. Davis 11/03/42 - 05/28/2021
- Thomas Albrice, Jr. 07/17/33 - 06/02/2021
- William L. Gotts 08/16/43 - 06/18/2021
- Clark E. Williams 04/21/40 - 07/02/2021
- Duane L. Kartje 06/12/35 - 07/09/2021
- Donald J. Addington 02/29/44 - 07/23/2021
- John P. Stegall 02/12/41 - 07/31/2021

To report a Local 849 member's death, email bowen59@gmail.com

Buy #UnionMade ON LABOR DAY



FOR THE GRILL

- Ball Park franks
- Butterball turkey
- Dearborn Brand
- Empire Kosher chicken and turkey
- Farmer John
- Foster Farms poultry
- Hormel beef, pork and chicken franks
- Omaha Steaks



BEVERAGES

- Bass Pale Ale
- Bud and Bud Light
- Coors Light
- Killian's Irish Red
- Landshark Lager
- Mad River Brewing Jamaican Red Ale
- Miller Genuine Draft
- Sam Adams
- Barq's Root Beer
- Coca-Cola
- Dr Pepper
- Pepsi

CHAPTER 900 REPORT



Chair – KATIE MARTIN

By getting the flu shot, it also protects you from spreading the flu to others.

COVID-19

Still here, but now there are two new variants, Delta and Delta+. Please get your shot. Whatever you do, wear your mask, wash your hands, and pray every chance you get.

Medicare Covers

The COVID-19 vaccine is at *no cost to you*. You will need your Medicare card, so that your healthcare provider or pharmacy can bill Medicare. If you want to learn more, go to *Medicare.gov* or contact your Local Health Department for information on the vaccine.

Life Insurance for Retirees is now
MetLife Insurance: 833-552-3673

Retiree Health Care Connect: 866-637-7555
Hope to see you soon.

CHAPTER 931 REPORT



Chair – SYLVIA GRIFFIN

Visit Us: Facebook/Website

Hello Retirees,

I hope this article reaches you in both good health and in good spirits! I know that it's been a while since we last talked, but I want to assure you that the energy and commitment to our Local retirees has remained.

It's been said that time flies when you're having fun, but time also flies even when no one's having fun, and I don't think that anyone could say that we're living in fun times. Instead, we find ourselves at over a year since we all had our lives changed in ways unimaginable. Many of us have witnessed and personally experienced the effects of COVID-19, and I extend prayers to you all.

Many have asked about our next upcoming meeting. I want you to know that it is being determined and will be communicated through the social media platform of *Facebook* and the Local 931 website, so please check those spaces periodically for the most up-to-date meeting information.

Hope to see you soon.

When I first met Chuck, 35 years ago, when we started with Mazda, I knew there was something special about him. As time went by, it was obvious to a lot of us that Chuck would be moving up. His dedication, knowledge of contractual issues and his great personality has taken him far.

Our first Retirees Meeting since COVID-19 will be a BBQ luncheon. The entrée will be provided. The meeting will be outside under the pavilion. Please bring a dish to pass, such as a veggie or dessert. The meeting will start at 12:00 noon.

It definitely has been a long year and a half. We all are so anxious to get back to our Union business. *Welcome back!*

insurance is the most common type of coverage, applying to 55.1% of the U.S. population.

While these numbers of insured are seen as encouraging, there are out-of-pocket costs for these Americans. The nation's legislators and policymakers are largely to blame for this system breakdown. The U.S. government has policies in effect that does not provide the ability to negotiate Medicare drug prices. The pharmaceutical companies have all the pricing power.

Quoting the CEO of Patients for Affordable Drugs, a Mr. David Mitchell... "The U.S. government negotiates prices for nearly everything from aircraft carriers to copy paper. Why not for the cost of lifesaving drugs for millions of Americans?"

HR 1976 – 117th Congress: Medicare for All Act of 2021 establishes a national health insurance program is pending legislation. The program that would be administrated by the Department of Health and Human Service would cover all items and services that are medically necessary to maintain health, including hospital, prescription drugs, mental health, substance abuse treatment, dental, vision and long-term care. The bill prohibits cost-sharing. The government-run health care would eliminate deductibles, coinsurance, copayments,



and other charges for covered services.

So what should be done to fix the health care system? One must take small steps.

- Get in touch with your representative and request a vote on HR 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Cost Now Act. HR 3 would allow Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices.
- Join grass root organizations that are interested in Health care reform.
- Support HR1976 Medicare for All.
- Back the proposed Medicare Expansion proposal, which would provide healthcare coverage at 60 rather than 65 and add services for hearing, vision and dental.

These legislations are a start for fixing health care in the United States of America.

Statistics from GovTrack.US, Pro Con.org

CHAPTER 3000 REPORT



Chair – SHARON HARDING

Congratulations, Chuck Browning

Congratulations, Chuck Browning, on your promotion as Vice President of the Ford Dept. All of us at Local 3000 wish you all the best. Always know that we will support and love you.

CHAPTER 6000 REPORT



Vice Chair – BERNARD NOWAKOWSKI

America's Healthcare System Needs a Fix

The United States is the only nation among the 37 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations that does not have universal health care either in practice or by constitutional right.

In fact, the United States of America has not accepted Article 25 of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights that states the right to health care is a human right.

In the United States, 27.5 million people (8.5% of the U.S. population) do not have health insurance. Among the 91.5% who do have health insurance, 67.3% have private insurance, while 34.4% have government-provided coverage through programs such as Medicaid or Medicare. Employer-based health

BOB SISLER *from Cover Page*

So those institutions of family, economy, government, judicial system, education and medicine all create structural equality only if there is income equity. Where the income gap between the top and bottom are great, so is the inequality of institutions.

We think you save money by keeping the minimum wage at a poverty wage, but you create huge wealth gaps and the structural class system has a greater financial burden to society.

Detroit spends money on policing and judicial systems, and not enough money for education,

recreational centers, health care, and there is more income inequality. Countries where the income gap is less, also spend less and have less need for policing and the judicial system. Huge gaps related to income result in more inequality and more social problems.

The structural inequality considers social class and portions are relative to your place in the society. Dean Matthews showed a picture of the US Airlines flight 1549, January 15, 2009 in the Hudson River, New York. The plane in the freezing Hudson River had 150 people on board. As you look at the picture, what stands out is that your class in society makes

a difference. There is no equal treatment and Americans accept inequality. The first class passengers are on a life raft, many with lifejackets and some with refreshments in hand. The coach riders are on the wing of the plane and at any moment could fall and succumb to the freezing water – *Place Matters*. Why don't we demand safety for all.

Same day, a few hours later, April 7, 2021, on *NBC Nightly News*: "The Great Divide American Report," on Jamal Brown, who cleans the ER Department at HCA Midwest Health in Kansas City, Missouri. He makes \$13.77 an hour, lives

(continued on next page)



UAW REGION 1A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Congratulates Our 2021 Scholarship Winners

Winners of the **\$2,000** REGION 1A DIRECTOR'S AWARD honoring Benny Napoleon

This year's essay topic:

"How has the pandemic affected you and what have you learned?"

These awards are made possible by the generous donations of UAW Locals, the Retired Workers Chapters of UAW Region 1A, those of the Director, and of caring individuals. Each year these awards are presented in the memory of an individual who made significant contributions to the UAW, and to our community.

The Retired Workers Council Scholarship Committee would like to thank all the high school seniors who entered the UAW Region 1A Union Pioneer Scholarship essay contest this year. We enjoyed reading your essays and wish you success in all you do.

JENNA LAZARSKI

Eastern Michigan University

Father:
John Lazarski
UAW Local 6000



LOGAN MARTIN

Central Michigan University

Grandfather:
Richard Raupp
UAW Local 900



Winners of the **\$1,000** RETIRED WORKERS AWARD honoring Richard Clayton

JULIAN MICHAEL JONES

Eastern Michigan University

Father:
Benjamin Jones
UAW Local 600



JAMES LINDENBERG

(NO PHOTO AVAILABLE)

Michigan State University

Grandfather:
James R. Lindenberg
UAW Local 36



EMMA ANDERSON

University of Toledo

Father:
Thomas Anderson
UAW Local 900



BRENDAN ZALESKI

Michigan State University

Grandfather:
Edward Gerak
UAW Local 163



KAYLA JONES

Central Michigan University

Mother:
Tracy Peterson-Jones
UAW Local 6000



LASHEZ HAWKINS

Central Michigan University

Mother:
Trunita Hawkins
UAW Local 900

(continued from previous page)

with his sister, and can't afford his own place. He has worked with no bonus or hazard pay. It was difficult when fellow workers didn't come to work. He worked long hours until he caught COVID-19 and was off work. When he returned, he was given a certificate for *Environmental Services: Employee of the Month*; August 2020, and a \$6 voucher for the cafeteria. His union has been asking for \$15 an hour.

The CEO of HCA that operate over 200 facilities, Samuel Hayesen received a 13% pay increase and is now making \$30 million. Hayesen makes over 500 times more than the average worker and 1,000 times more than Jamal, who risks his life daily for HCA. After the news story, HCA gave workers at the Kansas City Facility only \$15 an hour. The raise did not affect the other 200 HCA facilities.

The report listed CEOs of GE, Starbuck, and Acuity Brands making 1,000 times what their average worker earned, and Walgreens CEO making 500 times the average worker. The report noted that since 1978 the CEO salaries are up 1,167% while the average worker pay is only 14% higher since then. This income gap creates a definite class society and the acceptance of inequality. Is that "equal justice" for all?

What kind of message does this send to the community? Who wants to work for these companies? Or, are they forced to take such a job, due to economics? "Free will employee" means you are freely disposable.

Are you not angry when you hear Jamal's story? There are thousands of similar stories. Anger misdirected is violent. Making connections with social problems and income are very relative. Government must stop these injustices or they will not stop the violence in other social settings.

So later, as I explained to someone about Dean Mattew's presentation, they said those countries with positive social outcomes must be Socialist countries. I went back to FDR's 8 bill of rights and noted the countries that incorporated those rights were successful with less violence, robbery, assaults, mass shootings, home terrorists, and not living in fear of the police. So, we have the debate of Socialism and Capitalism, but the result is that we experience an economic divide and keep people poor with social problems.

Why did the United States of America fail or purposely neglect to pass the FDR bill of rights also called "Economic Bill of Rights?"

From Lapham's Quarterly, June 11, 2018, "Elite American political culture traditionally has favored a form of Adam Smith individualism in which the pursuit of self-interest, the sanctity of private property, and the right to be left alone are paramount. The state existed to protect these rights, not to create new ones – a delineation between negative and positive liberties that Isaih Berlin explored in 'Two Concepts of Liberty,' a 1958 lecture

he delivered at the University of Oxford and published in a pamphlet."

Adam Smith was a philosopher of his time who declared that wealth is created through productive labor. He sees nature, including human nature, as a vast machine supervised by and designed to maximize human happiness (*journals.sagepub.com*). One of his famous quotes was "For one very rich man, there must be at least 500 poor."

We are experiencing that cruel concept in this country. It translates into "Runaway Inequality." Leopold's book points out a design by the wealthy to stop an equal distribution of wealth while making a small percent of the population filthy rich and while creating struggling "others." *Yes, us!* What would the United States look like if we blended the concepts as FDR tried?

FDR noted, "Necessitous men are not free men." If the two ideas are true, to keep this elite American political culture and have 500 poor for every rich man, then you have 500 people who are necessitous, but are not free and therefore enslaved by economics. In America, we have managed to highlight those 500 to one people in certain groups – Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans – while downplaying 14.2 million Whites who lived below the poverty line in 2019. (*Talk Poverty basic statistics*)

We have media that blames them for our social problems, when in fact it's the inequity in the system that creates the problems. We see people exploding on both sides – the people who experience the inequality first hand, and another group who are some of that 14% average increase in wages compared to CEO's 1,167%. Some are convinced that the CEOs deserve that 1,167%, and those who have the greatest social inequality will steal from each other in the 14% group.

The problem is the 500 to one person, the system that promotes wealth inequality and social problems. The social problems keep us busy blaming one another while the few percent of this country has tricked us into accepting their wealth. To begin to solve the problem is income. Biden has it right. It is time to demand equal taxation.

Let us look at the eight Bill of Rights that countries with more income equity, which result in less social problems, seemed to have adopted. Compare what it is to what it could be.

1. The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation. By law, everyone has a financially rewarding "job" – *Income Matters*.
2. The right to earn enough to provide adequate food, clothing, and recreation. By law, there is built-in recreation, relief of economic stress, and the ability to be involved in the government that controls your life.
3. The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living. How many farmers have sold out to corporations?

4. The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home and abroad. Deregulations lead to predatory lending and venture capitalists that ruin companies and lead to the need for the bailouts of banks, etc.
5. The right of every family to a decent home – *end homelessness*. A room with water can be a home.
6. The right to adequate medical care, and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health. The United Nations has affirmed that health care is a human right.
7. The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident and unemployment. This is the one bill of right that exists in Social Security and Unemployment Benefits.
8. The right to a good education. This one wipes out student debt.

If in place, imagine no homeless, the mentally ill receiving care, getting medical care and prescriptions without fear the of the cost or denial. Voting without fear of losing your home, having enough food, or being enslaved by economics. All schools being equal, a healthy society. Farmers and miners not having to fear begging Washington for supplements.

An example of these issues is two college students working fast-food jobs for the summer, and on scholarships stating that their jobs should not be jobs to make a living wage but only stepping stones to a better future. They viewed those who have those jobs in a class not worthy of a decent living. They refuse to accept that if a corporation makes billions, the worker should also share in the wealth. Whether the line worker is putting auto parts together, or a Whopper, or Big Mac, the worker should have equity in the profits.

Because of their present state, they do not understand that their parents, grandparents, or someone else worked jobs that supplied them with a living wage, so that they could provide money and opportunity for them to go to higher education without fear of huge debt or poverty. This elite attitude is what divides Main Street from the 1%, whose plan has included no equality.

It is sad to see young people who attend a Christian Church believe that they are not equal to their fellow citizens. To believe they are better, and don't recognize the blessings that were provided for them creates a very dangerous attitude.

The choice is ours to make. Every American should be treated equally, but to do so we must destroy this class system in the United States which we continuously deny as we preach *Liberty, Freedom, and Justice for All*.

Ask yourself if you would be in a raft on the Hudson, or on the wing balancing while trying not to fall off. America has a history of verbalizing equality but in reality is of class, servitude, and acceptance of inequality.



REGION 1A UAW
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RETIREE NEWS

VOLUME 33 – NO. 2



FALL 2021

RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL CHAIR

BOB SISLER



It is interesting how an injustice is forgotten, after living with it for years.

When Governor Snyder taxed our pensions, by removing the total and partial tax exemptions from public and private pensions, and eliminated benefits for other seniors, he said Michiganders would get good jobs. There was a political fight for years, but now there is blended acceptance.

I was willing to make that sacrifice, and I was jubilant that we could break some of the poverty around us. None of that happened from 2011 to 2019. Did Snyder use the money for the common good, or for an agenda that killed people (Flint), or robbed cities (Emergency Managers) of their independence and dignity creating a greater economic divide and more social problems?

Equality and equity, it can be the difference between nurturing or caging children and adults. When there is less crime in the neighborhood, is it because of the police or the more equitable income of your neighbor?

I was so mad to hear that the minimum wage increase \$15 was left out of the stimulus package this year. How dare men and women who make \$250,000 to \$500,000 in Washington, D.C. believe that someone can live on \$7.25 hour. Minimum wage has lost its meaning. We need to have a living wage. We have accepted for

too long the multiple jobs required to put food on the table in many homes.

Why does American history support poverty/slavery wages? First, we have to believe there exists a problem. This system of disparity of income supports other social disparities.

On April 7, 2021, Wayne State School of Pharmacy sponsored:

A Lawyer's Prescription for Achieving Health Equity:

*Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew,
George Washington University*

She noted we have structural inequality and racism in our country. She pointed out the role of Pharmacy as we look at inequality. If the whole system is without equity, then you can't have equality. She said the evidence is in the "income."

She looked at two studies: *The Gini Report* has earnings of various countries and the gap between the top income

earners and the bottom income earners. The United States has the largest gap.

The next report was from an article by Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson,



"*Greater Equality.*" Their chart showed that health and social problems are closely related to the inequality within rich countries. Looking at these charts, those who make most of the money of course have better outcome for their health. But in countries where there is not a huge gap between the wealthiest and the bottom earnings, there are better outcomes in health and social problems.

She noted structural inequality means having social classes and your position in the society means better social outcomes.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...

Let us all cherish family and friends during these challenging times. Take care of yourselves and stay safe, until we are able to meet again.

– RETIRED WORKERS E-BOARD