



LOCAL 163



SPRING 2020



LOCAL 163

SPECIAL "COVID-19" EDITION



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President's Report

Local 163 President, Ralph Morris Jr.

COVID 19 has turned our world upside down. It has taken a significant toll on Southeastern Michigan. We haven't had any reported deaths from any of our membership still actively working, but, we have had many member's that have lost their parents, family members, and close friends. Two recent retirees from Romulus engine have succumbed to the coronavirus. Our prayers go out to their families.

Regardless of any other differences, we all want our spouses, children, and grandchildren safe and healthy. Greedy employers and uncaring politicians have denied us and our loved ones a health care system that keeps us all safe and healthy. Instead these greedy few have given us an employer-based Health Care system that is demonstrating every day that it is woefully inadequate to handle this pandemic. Selfish CEO's of for-profit hospitals put profits before both the health of patients and the safety and health of their courageous nurses, doctors, and other hospital employees. These front-line soldiers fighting COVID-19 have been denied the Personal Protective Equipment they need creating much greater exposure to the virus both for themselves and other patients. These care-only-about-profit employers terminate our health care coverage at the end of the month following the month we are laid off. The short comings shown during this pandemic is frightening. Lack of PPE for Health Care Workers, Hospital Beds, Hospital Closures, lack of testing, layoffs, forcing Hospital staff to return to work without being quarantined for 14 days, the list goes on.

The actions of these care-only-about-themselves wealthy few hit African American families disproportionately hard. Although African Americans make up only 14% of our State's population, they make up 40% of the COVID-19 deaths in our State. This is a reoccurring pattern throughout our country. In Chicago, 67 percent of the deaths are African Americans. In Louisiana, 70 percent of the deaths from COVID-19 are African Americans yet they only make up one-third of the State's population.

Working class families in European countries, Scandinavian countries, and many other countries of the world have banded together and won universal health care for all from birth to death. When white,



black, and brown working families in the US stand together we can win a universal health care system for all just like we won so many huge system changes during the FDR presidency and New Deal legislation like protecting our worker rights to organize and collectively bargain, establishing Social Security, establishing Unemployment Compensation, establishing the Fair Labor Standards Act and so many more pro-worker programs.

We have reduced the hours that the Union Hall is open during this pandemic and limited the number of people allowed in the Hall at any one time. We have taken precautionary measures to ensure the safety of staff, officers, and union reps working at the Hall; utilizing health questionnaires, sneeze guards, social distancing, hand sanitizer, face masks, disinfectant, and gloves. Benefit Reps from Detroit Diesel, Detroit Axles, and Powertrain have worked at the Union Hall since the onset of Governor Whitmer's Stay at Home order. These Benefit Representatives have done a tremendous job assisting members filing and certifying their unemployment claims. I want to recognize these dedicated Benefit Representatives for their hard work during this pandemic: Toni Massey, Ray Herrick, Joy Kersey, Lawrence Smith, Andrew Lewis, and Kristen Robbins. They have really worked hard to make sure that the membership did not have to navigate through the Unemployment process alone.

Keith Jackson and Doug Szyldowski have been working to ensure that only a limited number of members are allowed in the Hall at a time. They make sure that all the members fill out the Health Questionnaire and adhere to the social distancing recommended by the

CDC. Beyond that they are helping with ensuring that the members have their unemployment information ready for the Benefit Reps when they are available to sit down with them. Our Financial Secretary, Denise Wood, has been taking the phone calls at the Hall setting up appointment times and directing our membership phone calls to the appropriate parties. Their work has definitely helped during these difficult times.

Getting through to unemployment has been a very trying process. Some members have been calling unemployment for weeks and are still unable to get in touch with unemployment to correct an issue that they had while filing their claim or certifying it. With over a million workers in Michigan, the system is simply overwhelmed. I want to give special thanks to our Regional Director, Chuck Browning, for setting up a contact person with the unemployment office to create a call back system for our members to have their unemployment issues addressed.

We were forced to move the signup, election, and run-off dates a month back due to this world pandemic. These dates may need to be extended even further if the Governor extends her Stay at Home order. We will need to make sure that we take every measure possible to ensure that the Election is conducted safely. With the Governor's and CDC guidelines frequently changing, any measures that we will need to take to ensure the safety of this membership will be done.

As our National Election approaches in the Fall, I encourage all members to get with their City Clerk

and file for a No Reason Absentee Ballot. We don't know what this pandemic will look like later in the year and this action will help to reduce the spread of COVID -19.

In January's General Membership Meeting our membership approved the replacement of the asphalt in our back parking Lot. This work is being done by the same Union contractor that we had do our Front Parking Lot, Sommerset Paving. This work is expected to be done in late May or early June. The membership, also, approved a Bylaw Amendment to provide a Holy Book to members for the passing of their child, spouse, or parent. A member is only entitled to one (1) Holy Book in their lifetime. It is good to see that we were able to be in the financial shape to have this reinstated at our Local Union. It provides a small gesture of comfort to the grieving member.

In closing, I hope and pray that everyone remains safe during this pandemic and is shielded from this devastating virus. Your Shop Committees have been working tirelessly to ensure that our worksites are being setup to mitigate the spread of this virus. A limited number of our members have been working under these new parameters for a few weeks now: face masks, questionnaire upon plant entry, face shields, 6 foot social distancing, touchless thermometer checks upon plant entry, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, Medical safety tents. These safety precautions may become the norm throughout 2020 and beyond. To really see the widespread nature of COVID-19, testing will need to be more readily available to ensure that our worksites are safe.



Denise Wood Financial Secretary

Brothers and Sisters,

Well, I could have of never guessed that we would be dealing with something of this magnitude, but here we are. The Coronavirus has us living our lives differently, some more than others. I've been working at the union hall through all of this and I can say that it has been a mess! Thank God for our benefits departments from Romulus and Detroit Diesel that were here tirelessly assisting our members. The state unemployment system is so overloaded that getting through to them has become nearly impossible. But as the weeks have gone by the phone calls have slowed down so I feel that things are getting better and members are finally getting payments. I have my fingers crossed that things will start to slowly get

back to normal, because I don't know about you, but I'm tired of being cooped up!

So, obviously, we won't be getting many dues in with almost everyone on lay off for the month of April, but we are in good financial shape and it won't hurt us that bad. We are still planning on repairing the back portion of the parking lot this summer and have started paying towards that. And hopefully we will have it done for our annual picnic in August, provided that we are able to have it. I just feel there are many uncertainties right now.

In closing, I would like to say to everyone stay safe and do what you have to do to keep your family safe. If you need any help with anything please don't hesitate to call the union hall at (734) 713-5010.



Community Service Report

Vice-President Alfreeda Wallace

Brothers and Sisters,

I felt during these uncertain times, we could all use a laugh. This is why I wanted to share this text message I received from a friend:

Here's your laugh for today:

- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- I used to spin the toilet paper like I was on Wheel Of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.
- Still haven't decided where to go for Passover.....The Living Room or the Bedroom.
- PSA: Every few days, try your clothes on to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believing all is well in the kingdom.
- Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job!
- I don't think anyone expected that when we turned the clocks forward, we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone.
- This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came in my house, told the dog...we laughed a lot.
- So, after this quarantine, will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I have to find them?
- Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business!
- My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I use the toilet it cleans the toilet.
- Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
- Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year" I'm offended.



Joe Garrett

Shop Chairman - GM Powertrain

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is one of the most trying times in my lifetime. The last eight months alone have been humbling to see what is happening in our work life and the world. Last fall the six week strike was thrown at us. As a unit we set up our own community. We built housing for the line and then tackled the insurmountable task of feeding Romulus and the two CCA part plants down the street. Then we set up a way of caring for the people in our community. We had other union members from around the country fill our cupboards with what our membership needed to help their families survive. As I observed with pride all the people who gave up to seven days a week to be there for their fellow members. Not since my days in the military have I seen such compassion for our fellow man. Out of chaos comes leadership is the old saying.

As we returned to work the shop committee and myself returned to the bargaining table for continued contract talks. I had to take some personnel time off for a knee replacement in December and returned to the plant early January. Jennifer did me the favor of taking lead while I was out. Once back again, I joined my team at the negotiations table.

Over the next two months we worked our way to about a 90 percent completion rate on the agreement. We had hope that we could get it done and rolled out to the membership before the next election cycle.

But fate would not have it be so simple. This Covid-19 virus has changed our world forever in many unseen ways. A point in time when I would try to spend almost my entire day servicing my membership from home. Much of the time dealing with unemployment concerns, issues that affected once again the very ability of my friends to feed their families. This unknown foe ravished through our neighborhoods and churches, and devastated our nursing homes where the most frail of our families were being taken care of. At this point in time we have lost two recently retired members to the virus. One was a friend of mine for many years. A man who insisted we had our own secret handshake. I had represented him since 2007 in my first term of being a

bargaining representative. There was many a day Winfred Pride would talk to me about our families or just life in general.

He had spoken many times over the last few years about possible retirement. I am sorry my friend you didn't get the chance to enjoy time for yourself and your family. The second member was Booker T. Johnson, a cool person from the first day we met, when he transferred up to us from Toledo transmission. Booker had only been retired a handful of weeks himself. It is so unfair to strip the lives of such good people away in this pandemic. On top of the fatalities we had, there were many positive cases reported. Some of these individuals were on ventilators and still ended up winning their battle. At this point in time the remainder of our membership have recuperated to the best of my knowledge.

During my 15 years of holding an elected position, we've gone from plant being closed to earning 2 new products while making the hard decisions along the way. Decisions that would keep the doors open and secure 2000 jobs for Southeast Michigan. Now I am afraid our industry is about to go through a difficult year or so until we can find a new normal. Over the last few years, we have brought in over 700 new UAW members to this plant, with many of these new members speaking highly of the environment that has been created in our facility. I feel that our work environment far surpasses any I have worked at previously. Nothing is perfect, but we've always tried to do our very best to help our fellow man.

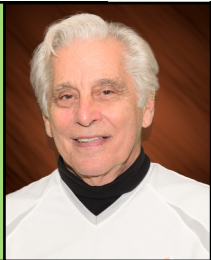
As GM decides to start up the plants, I hope that we can work together to voice our safety concerns. Our health and safety team as well as my entire staff have committed to giving you a voice and creating a safe work environment.

In Solidarity,

Joe Garrett

Shop Chairman

Romulus GPS



Roy Gonzalez

Retired Chapter Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters,

The Grim Reaper, a title fitting for Trump seeing as his actions, inactions, and lies can easily be argued to be the cause of many deaths and hospitalizations related to Covid 19. The Grim Reapers presidency already had gallons of red ink in the ledger, but his lack of effective leadership really cements his legacy as one of the worst leaders the world has ever seen. His deliberate, many lies about COVID-19 should never be forgotten, especially as he falsely makes claims about having absolute power to make decisions affecting every American. Decisions about when to open the economy back up. He's saying by May 1st, regardless of how dangerous the experts say that decision would be. His many lies should never be forgotten.

Incredibly early in this terrible crisis, the Grim Reaper declared that the Nations Governors were on their own, and the federal government was a backup. Sometime later his idiot son-in-law said that the federal governments supplies belong only to the feds and the states should not look to the feds for help.

Both were completely wrong.

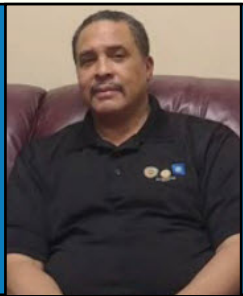
We Ordinary American taxpayers fund FEMA and Health & Human Services. We get little help from the 2/3's of American corporations who don't pay one penny in taxes, or the many greedy billionaires and millionaires who don't pay anywhere near their fair share of taxes. When our nation is struck by many kinds of disasters, FEMA and Health and Human Services help without Question. In this COVID-19 Disaster, the Grim Reaper says they can only help at his discretion.

In November, we have a golden opportunity to stop this Grim Reaper and the rest of the monsters he associates with. VOTE JOE BIDEN for President, Get a larger majority of Democrats in the House, switch Moscow Mitch's Senate to Democrats! The best way to do this is by voting absentee ballot, you can vote easy, early, and make it harder to suppress the voting process. Also, by voting absentee and for Democrats, you are helping yourself and all Americans.

Take Care Be Well, Roy Gonzalez



**UAW LOCAL 163 SALUTES
OUR FIRST RESPONDERS**



Darryl Stephens

JTR / Strike Kitchen Captain

GM Powertrain

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

During these trying times, it is always good to look to the future and not in the rear-view. Going forward, what are goals that I can set for myself? Use this stay at home, stay safe period to reflect on what is truly important: life, health, family and friends, just to name a few. None of us will come through this unscathed. Just remember, "This Too Shall Pass", we are truly "ALL IN THIS TOGETHER". In our "New Normal" we still have to make plans, follow our dreams and aspirations, always reaching for higher heights. Our Union has negotiated the Tuition Assistance Program (T.A.P.) for all seniority employees (1yr. or more) and many of us leave those funds untouched. There is up to \$5000.00/yr. that can be accessed for degreed programs. There is money for job related courses and also for personal enhancement courses. Here is where

you can access your benefits:

<https://ssportal.brighthorizons.com/>

For those interested in applying for the Apprenticeship you can find more info on our UAW 163 L.E.A.D.

Facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/UAW163LEAD/photos/pcb.2605207149756865/2605203943090519/?type=3&theater>

I look forward to seeing everyone when we return to work in our new reality. Stay Home, Stay Safe.

In Solidarity,

Darryl Stephens

734-351-2537



Malisa Donner

Women's Committee Chairperson

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Recent times have been stranger than anything I've ever experienced. I hope none of you, or anyone you know has personally had to deal with this sickness, and that you haven't been negatively affected by what's going on in the world. I try to keep a positive mental attitude and stay in the mindset that there are positives even in tough times. Sometimes it's certainly hard to see it in the moment. For one, I never realized how much I would miss my mom's hugs and I can't wait to suffocate her with all my love when this is over with! (Shout out to all the moms with the best hugs in the world!) We're in a situation that has been anything but the best. It's amazing to see how our community has come together in these tough times.

I'm happy to report that our Women's Committee was able to raise funds through a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser for an organization called The GirlsTown Foundation, before our state went into lockdown. GirlsTown is a foster program that helps prepare young ladies for adulthood. They also offer many different great services to these young ladies to help them succeed in life. Thank you to everyone who sold tickets, who bought them and thank you to Stacey Lynn Brown for the wonderful basket donations and everyone else who helped make this possible!

I am looking forward to seeing you all soon, stay safe!

Malisa Donner



Larry Dietz

EAP Representative

DDC

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of Local 163

Michigan Spring is here, which can be very unpredictable from one minute to the next. This Spring brings a very different issue to our attention, like nothing we could have imagined. In a time of new life finding its way to our outside landscape, this issue comes with no beautiful colors or appealing changes. It comes in the form of a virus, raising nothing but havoc and death in its path.

It's definitely changed the way we are accustomed to starting our spring season. What we consider normal has been replaced with an abnormal way of life. It's very different for us as a society to be told by our Government to stay home, even if it's for our own safety. Not being able to go to work or having to work from home were some of the options presented to working men and women. Then there are the others still having to go to work with the risk of contracting this virus.

We're unable to socialize in the ways we are accustomed to. Sometimes, it seems we are unable to escape seeing the devastation this virus is causing all over the World. It's important that we remember that WE ARE NOT ALONE. We can still reach out to others. We can call on the phone, converse through computers, and the many different platforms of communication that technology puts at our fingertips.

We can reach out to family members, friends, or professional counsel. We can also take a walk, or step outside and get some fresh air and enjoy nature. Watch an uplifting movie, have some popcorn with family. Listen to music, meditate, exercise, or lift weights. We could also take time to give thanks and pray for everyone on the front lines, who are risking their lives to help mankind: Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Firefighters, Police Officers. Not to forget

about our Labor Workforce including: Truck Drivers, Grocery Store workers, Gas station workers, Drive-thru Restaurant workers, Janitorial workers, Transportation Workers and many more. These fine men and women are putting their lives in harm's way doing their jobs so that the rest of the population can still get medical attention and essential supplies needed to survive during this crisis. You are helping to keep life functional, for that we say THANK YOU, and pray for your safety every day.

This leads me to remind all of us to listen to our experts in dealing with this problem. Stay home, Stay safe! When out gathering supplies keep a six foot distance, wear a mask and rubber gloves, wash hands often, and use hand sanitizer when possible. We can pray for help and guidance for our Doctors, Nurses, Scientists and each other. As I see it, this is much bigger than our will, or understanding to solve on our own. For me, what helps to put things into perspective is to turn to my Higher Power, who I choose to call God Almighty. It gives me the peace and serenity I need to help others, to the best of my abilities, when I'm called upon. Remember folks, we are all in this together. We must help one another when we can by following the suggestions of our leaders. Hopefully in doing so, we will defeat this virus and come back to a more recognizable society. In closing, I would like all of you to know that your EAP Office is here to help and assist you when the time may arise. Please do not hesitate to call or drop in for a confidential visit. Remember folks you don't have to go it alone.

In Sincere Solidarity,

Larry Dietz



Doug Szydlowski

DDC Apprenticeship Coordinator

April 2020 Apprenticeship Department Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters,

Hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and safe.

Due to the current crisis with this terrible virus, we have little to report about our apprenticeship program. Our apprentices were sidelined not only at work but at the college as well. The current Winter semester is on hold with no official word when the college can safely reopen. Hopefully at some point our lives will return to normal and we can pick up where we left off.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly through this crisis to ensure our membership is taken care of. Our Shop Chairman Mark "Gibby" Gibson, who keeps us up to date with the latest information and working countless hours trying to address every concern of our membership. Our Benefits Reps., working endless hours at the Hall, the plant and from home to help navigate Unemployment benefits for the membership. The Shop Committee, working to make sure that our

facility is a safe when we slowly return to work. Our Local President Ralph Morris, who has tuned the Hall into a safe place for all members of Local 163 to meet with Benefits Reps. and personally helping members from our smaller units with the UIA system. Ryan Martin, who posts positive information on the Facebook page, even posting coloring pages for our members with kids at home. And, to anyone I have neglected to identify specifically, Thank you for your help! In closing, next time you go to the grocery store, please give these workers a big "Thank you" for putting their own safety in jeopardy to make sure we have supplies.

We will all get through these difficult times together.
Union Strong, Union Pride!

Doug Szydlowski or Dan Palm: Office: 1-313-592-7229,
Cell: 1-313-492-1515

douglas.szydlowski@daimler.com

In Solidarity,

Douglas Szydlowski

THERE'S NO WAY
YOU CAN SAY
THAT THEY DON'T
DESERVE IT NOW!

FIGHT FOR
\$15





Al Byrd

UAW LOCAL 163

Education Chairman

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that you and your families are safe during these historically challenging times. Hoping everyone is staying in and social distancing if you have to go out.

Due to this crisis, the Local Union Discussion Leader (LUDL) program has been postponed to a later date. This gives me mixed emotions because the training was very challenging and informative. The instructors gave us an enormous amount of information about unions, not just the UAW, but also about the labor movement. This included history, our purpose and our core values. All of this instruction was accelerated and extensive. The fact that the training is so extensive and challenging it

has quickly brought us students together as friends and leaders. I am excited to start the next phase of the training and completion. It is a distinct honor personally and professionally, to represent our local as a LUDL, and I take that role very seriously.

Remember everyone that we have elections coming up for our local as well as Congressional and Presidential.

If you haven't signed up for absentee voting I would strongly recommend it. Especially, with the COVID-19 pandemic. Who knows how safe the polls will be.

Please Vote

Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic: Again be safe and remember your health is your wealth!



Arlene Williams

UAW LOCAL 163

Education Committee Co-Chair

My, what a difference a few months makes! Who would have thought we would be in the middle of a pandemic dealing with social distancing? Not in my wildest imagination would I have thought this would be our present situation. However, we may have many more social distancing weeks, if not months in front of us. With that being said, the Education Committee along with President Emeritus Bob King, has been working on a conference about race and class and how it effects our everyday life and the way we vote.

Did you know that in 1944, President Roosevelt proposed to the United States, in his State of the Union Address, the Second Bill of Rights? In this Bill of Rights President Roosevelt proposed:

EVERY AMERICAN HAS THE RIGHT TO:

1. **A JOB**
2. **AN ADEQUATE WAGE AND DECENT LIVING**
3. **A DECENT HOME**
4. **MEDICAL CARE**
5. **ECONOMIC PROTECTION DURING SICKNESS, ACCIDENT, OLD AGE OR UNEMPLOYMENT**

6. A GOOD EDUCATION

The Second Bill of Rights was proposed in 1944, and in 2020 we haven't had this bill enacted into law. The elites, media, and government have led working people to believe that these rights are too radical for Americans to have. But, did you know that European and Japanese governments, with the help of the United States, offer these rights? In the wake of the Coronavirus, medical care and economic protection during sickness should be a right given to all Americans. Instead, we have had a Bill passed that will give TRILLIONS to big corporations to provide them with economic protection during sickness, and that will be passed on to their stockholders, not their employees. Don't working people need protection also?!

This is just a little taste of the kinds of discussion we will have during the conference. The conference will be held on Zoom in June. More details will be provided through the 99795 text.



SECOND BILL OF RIGHTS

EVERY AMERICAN HAS THE RIGHT TO:

1. A JOB
2. AN ADEQUATE WAGE AND DECENT LIVING
3. A DECENT HOME
4. MEDICAL CARE
5. ECONOMIC PROTECTION DURING SICKNESS, ACCIDENT, OLD AGE OR UNEMPLOYMENT
6. A GOOD EDUCATION



Andrea Hamm
Miller-Cohen PLC

The Workers' Disability Compensation Act (WDCA) does not cover diseases of ordinary life which would include the Coronavirus COVID-19. Examples of diseases of ordinary life include but are not limited to the common cold, the Flu, Hepatitis A, B, C, etc. Governor Whitmer issued an Executive Order on March 18, 2019 providing a presumption to health workers, EMTs and police. This Order was necessary for these claims to be paid considering the current language in the WDCA. However, if your job uniquely places you in a position increasing your risk of exposure to COVID-19, or if you are directly exposed to COVID-19 by a co-worker who tests positive for COVID-19, you should apply for workers' compensation. If you are denied workers' compensation for a COVID-19 exposure, please contact our office immediately.

"There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow man. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." – Walter Reuther



Connie Bobbitt

UAW Chaplaincy



How are you , in this time of challenge? I pray you decide to choose peace and not panic. Jesus never panicked.

I'd like to share a few faith building scriptures with you;

And the Lord , he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 31:8 KJV

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Ephesians 6:10 KJV

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:9 KJV

And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].

Philippians 4:7 AMP

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 KJV

But thou, O Lord , art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psalms 3:3 KJV

Our soul waiteth for the Lord : he is our help and our shield.

Psalms 33:20 KJV

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord , He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust:

his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord , which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Psalms 91:1-16 KJV

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 KJV

Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:10 KJV

May God move His presence into your life & divinely protect you.

In Jesus name , Amen.



In Memoriam

DDC RETIREE GLENN WILLIAMS 1/19/20

MRS. MARY KELLER, GRANDMOTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE JAMES KELLER 2/1/20

DDC RETIREE EDDIE ALEXANDER, FATHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE EDDIE ALEXANDER 2/4/20

MRS. SANDY AVERITT, MOTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE ARTHUR BURLEY 2/8/20

MR. JESSIE MURRAY, BROTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE OLIVER BARNES, JR 2/9/20

MS. PAISLEY RIVERA, GRANDDAUGHTER OF DDC EMPLOYEE MATTHEW BYWATER 2/11/20

DDC RETIREE WILLIAM GREEN 2/13/20

DDC RETIREE DONALD SHAFFER 2/14/20

DDC RETIREE ROSE CROSSLEY 2/15/20

DDC RETIREE THOMAS ROSINSKI 2/21/20

MRS. MARIE BEECHAM, GRANDMOTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE JORDAN WELCH 2/25/20

DDC EMPLOYEE GLENN "TONY" REAMER 2/27/20

MRS. KAY GREEN, GRANDMOTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE JACOB MACKENZIE 3/2/20

MR. RANDALL CHARBONEAU, BROTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE MARTIN CHARBONEAU 3/4/20

DDC RETIREE RICHARD BOURASSA 3/9/20

MRS. SANDRA CROSSLEY, SISTER OF DDC EMPLOYEE GREG MACNEIL 3/14/20

MS. FELICIA DOWNEY, DAUGHTER OF DDC EMPLOYEE DARRELL DOWNEY 3/17/20

DDC RETIREE LEO KONCHEL 3/18/20

DDC RETIREE WINFRED "CURT" DAVIS 3/23/20

GM POWERTRAIN-ROMULUS EMPLOYEE LINDA CLARK 3/25/20

MRS. LINDA RITTER, MOTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE DALE RITTER, II 4/4/20

DDC RETIREE CLEVEVERN GOVAN FATHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE BRIAN GOVAN 4/5/20

MRS. GAIL HERRMANN, MOTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE WILLIAM HERRMANN 4/9/20

DDC RETIREE BRYON HAMMER 4/11/20

MRS. WILLENA KNIGHT, MOTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE ROBERT KNIGHT 4/11/20

DDC RETIREE DAVID MORASCO 4/12/20

MRS. BONNY COPE, MOTHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE LADANA COPE 4/13/20

DDC RETIREE ANTONIO PALACIO, FATHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE ANTHONY PALACIO 4/21/20

MR. RONALD GOOSBY, SR., FATHER OF DDC EMPLOYEE RONALD GOOSBY, JR. 4/23/20

MR. REGGIE HOGAN GM POWERTRAIN-ROMULUS EMPLOYEE

MR. BOOKER T. JOHNSON, GM POWERTRAIN-ROMULUS RETIREE

MRS. LINDA CLARK, GM POWERTRAIN-ROMULUS EMPLOYEE

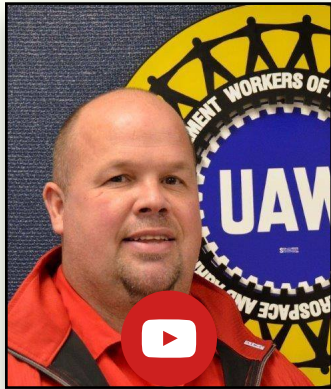
MR. WINFRED PRIDE, GM POWERTRAIN-ROMULUS RETIREE

DDC RETIREE DANNY MARTIN 4/27/20

MR. LARRY REBER, FATHER OF DDC EMPLOYEES TOD REBER AND LEISA PEYTON

**Additional newsletter video content is available for preview at:
www.uawlocal163.org CHECK IT OUT!**

Mark "Gibby" Gibson Plant Readiness Video



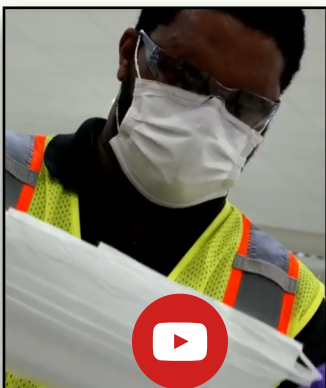
UAW Local 163/Detroit Diesel Corp. Shop Chair Mark "Gibby" Gibson speaks about the safety implementations installed to promote "social distancing" at the Detroit Diesel plant.

DETROIT "Help From My Friends" Video



This video is a "Thank You" video to the employees both hourly and salary who are working to "Keep The World Moving"

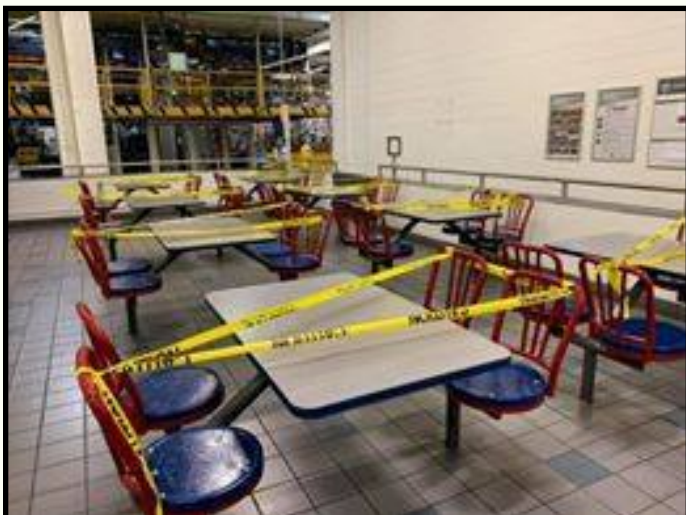
GM Produces Masks in Rapid Response Effort



**As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the country,
it created a critical shortage of face masks.**

**To help protect workers in essential services across the country,
GM launched a rapid-response project to produce masks at scale on
Friday, March 20. Seven days later, the team had produced their first
sample on the new production line.**

Social Distancing Implementations at DETROIT



DDC Benefits Department Report

“Non-Monetary Issues”...Welcome to Michigan’s Broken Unemployment System

Plants are closed....grocery stores are stripped bare...panic and anxiety are the order of the day. Welcome to the Pandemic of 2020, and the knowledge that the state of Michigan is one of the hardest hit in the nation by the COVID-19 virus. Doubling down on the anxiety surrounding our new reality is the broken Michigan unemployment system, the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA). Over 1,000,000 people have attempted to file claims for unemployment benefits, starting the week of March 23rd, 2020.

With the anxiety levels rising exponentially in the plant, due to the continuing dire reports of the spread of this insidious virus, Detroit Diesel Corporation made the decision to suspend operations, starting with the Afternoon shift, on Wednesday, March 18th. This suspension of operations necessitated the opening of unemployment claims for all of our UAW Local 163 membership affected by the closure, both Detroit Diesel and Detroit Axle members on our campus.

In the best of times, the Michigan UIA system is fraught with difficulties, as the system has been, consistently, made more difficult and unwieldy, since the Republican party became the majority party in the Michigan Congress, and the election of Gov. Rick Snyder, in 2011. One of their first priorities upon assuming the majority was to completely bastardize the UIA system. Where once there was 104 weeks of unemployment compensation available with extensions, there was now only 20 weeks available, and no extensions. They also changed the language of the questions during registration, to make them more vague and easily misunderstood, and added requirements to actively search for jobs, even if you had a return-to-work date, and 20 years with the same employer.

This is, obviously, not the best of times! Your UAW Benefits Department at DDC jumped squarely into the quagmire of Michigan’s UIA system, during the first week of unemployment filing, starting Monday, March 23rd. Toni Massey, Lawrence Smith, Ray Herrick, and

their very capable Alternate Reps. Andrew Lewis and Kristen Robbins, moved operations to the UAW Local 163’s Union Hall, to assist our 1,100 hourly members in their attempts to register a claim for unemployment benefits with the state of Michigan. UAW Benefits Representatives April Watson (Detroit Axle), and Joy Kersey (GM-Powertrain-Romulus), and even UAW Local 163 President Ralph Morris, Jr. (Oakwood Metal, and other smaller units) were very busy assisting our membership navigate this cumbersome system. While they originally attempted to meet with members during regular business hours, it became apparent, rather rapidly, that the system was grossly overwhelmed, and that the membership would be better served if the Hall opened at 3 am each work day, as it was much easier to access the system during non-peak hours. This strategy proved effective, as most members were able to access their accounts, and register for unemployment benefits. Those that were unable to access the overburdened system during the initial week of registration, were granted an additional extension week to file, by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Along with this registration extension, Gov. Whitmer also announced an additional \$600/week stimulus to be added to everyone’s unemployment compensation, and extended the amount of eligible weeks from 20, up to 39 weeks, starting with the week of March 29th, 2020. The \$600/week stimulus will expire on Friday, July 31st, 2020.

However, this is where the wheels REALLY started to come off! Almost all of our members, upon opening their first claims for unemployment in several years, received UIA Form 6347 in the mail, requesting that they verify their identity, by faxing or mailing in a copy of their passport, or their driver’s license, and either their Social Security card or birth certificate. Michigan UIA uses this form, for members that haven’t filed a claim in years, or have changed some aspect of their personal identification information since their last claim, to prevent fraudulent claims. This additional step caused many of our members to go weeks without unemployment pay, as the UIA was grossly understaffed, and unprepared for the onslaught of claims, and identity verification paperwork. UIA normally pays claims every 2 weeks, and members must certify their claims for both weeks, or as most

refer to as “calling MARVIN”. When our members tried to call MARVIN, or to certify their claims on line at: www.michigan.gov/UIA, they were met with a variety of responses, none of which led them to a payout at the end of the line! Responses like “open non-monetary issues”, “ineligible weeks” or “more information from your company needed”, took the place of the simple confirmation that would tell members to expect their payment “in the next business day”, and the dollar amount to expect. The phone lines really blew up, as members didn’t receive their expected checks, and the customer service number at UIA: (866) 500-0017 was impossible to reach. Finally, after many hours, and many attempts to assist in the correction of these

issues, most members are FINALLY starting to see the money hit their bank accounts, or debit cards, but many of these issues still persist, nearly a month into the process. UIA has drawn employees from other state departments, and have increased their computer capacity to answer this overwhelming problem, and it seems to be helping, albeit very, very slowly, in getting the claims and necessary paperwork processed. If you are still having issues with your unemployment claim, please call your respective UAW Benefits Reps, or the UAW Local 163 Union Hall for assistance. BE SAFE, and we’ll hopefully see EVERYONE back at work soon!



Lending a Hand

During times of crises, first responders and other front line workers selflessly answer the call and respond to the challenges presented as needed.

While these brave men and women are on the frontlines risking it all, there’s a second line of brave men and women offering to help out anyway they can. While these volunteers

**By: Andrew
Lewis**

come from all walks of life, many are our very own union brothers and sisters, friends and family.

Local 163 has seen members and their families step up in this time of need. Members in the Tool Room at DDC have teamed up with the engineering, safety and environmental departments to help make clips for face masks. Even though securing the material to make the clips has been difficult, their efforts are greatly appreciated. Detroit Axles member Melanie Gallagher has been making masks. Yacoub Boussi from the GM Romulus plant has donated gloves to the cause. Myong Donner, wife of DDC’s Kelly Donner, and her church, the Korean New Life Church, are in the process of donating much needed masks to help fight this disease.

Efforts like these are being made all around the world, with some of the most publicized efforts coming from our union brothers and sisters making ventilators for patients experiencing the worst symptoms associated with the coronavirus. We spoke with Local 292’s Greg Wohlford, Shop Chairman at the GMCH plant in

Kokomo Indiana, to see how the volunteer effort is going for the nearly 1,000 workers who signed up.

“We’re making ventilators for Ventec. The first ones we built went to hospitals in Chicago” Wohlford said when asked about what they are making at the GMHC facility, before commenting on the selfless actions of the volunteers “I think most people, just about everybody whose volunteered understands that what they’re doing, they’re risking their own health to be here to help somebody else.”

The Kokomo plant has seen its share of hardship over the years, with the workforce being reduced from around 755 workers in 2017 to around 250 full time employees today. “We’ve been looking for a long time to bring work to Kokomo and this opportunity came up and we had talked to the Vice President of the company, then next thing we know, it’s in here and we’re doing it” Greg then went on to say “The UAW appreciates GM and Ventec for bringing this to Kokomo and giving us the opportunity to show them that we can do it.” Hopefully GM remembers the volunteers resolve in Kokomo when allocating work in the future.

Hearing these examples of ordinary people stepping up to help during this pandemic is a breath of fresh air in a world we’re all cautious to breathe in. This crises will surely become a defining moment in American history. A moment that can either highlight our nations ability to come together and fight for the common good, or showcase our weaknesses if we continue to let our differences prevent us from doing the right things and protecting as many people as possible. The choice is up to every individual to make, luckily there’s still some time to make it.



Rashida Davis

Newsletter Staff

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope and pray that everyone is doing well, as we adjust to the current new normal. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our society, and throughout the entire world. It is during these trying times, that we not only apply our faith, but also our common sense and knowledge about using safe practices. COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person Coughs, Sneezes, or Speaks. People can also be infected by touching a contaminated surface and then their eyes, mouth, or nose. Be pro-active in the prevention of this virus by protecting yourselves and others around you. Know the facts and take appropriate precautions. Here are just a few prevention tips:

- Clean your hands often by using soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol based hand rub
- Practice social distancing
- Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Stay home if you feel unwell
- If you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing,

seek medical attention. (call in advance)

- Follow the directions of your local health authority.

Tragically, we've lost some of our UAW family due to this awful pandemic. Some of us have even lost our loved ones and closest friends. I send my heartfelt condolences to those that have. Although we have suffered such great loss, the optimist in me continues to look towards the bright side. I always hear about the death toll, but rarely the survival rate. Although Michigan has had a devastating death toll of over 2,000, we've also had a survival rate of over 3,000 and counting. That's worth celebrating to me. Another triumph to celebrate is that the Earth is healing itself. The air and water pollution levels have greatly reduced due to people staying home and driving less. The crime rate has fallen. Families are spending more time together. These are all things to be grateful for. Although we still have a long road ahead, I believe that we can rise from the wake of devastation that COVID-19 has left, as long as we stay diligent in our efforts to combat this virus. I know that better days are coming. Keep hope alive and stand firm with unwavering faith that our great nation will be victorious. Your Sister In Solidarity, Rashida.

STAY SAFE
AND STAY
POSITIVE



Who's that knocking at my door during a pandemic?

By: Andrew Lewis

In the last month or so many events and activities have been canceled due to the coronavirus and the safety issues it presents to people congregating in large groups.

Did you want to catch a Pistons or Wings game? Coronavirus said nope. Do you usually attend the St Patty's Parade? Coronavirus said no Guinness for you. With everything COVID-19 has forced us to miss, I was still able to knock an achievement off of my civic duty bucket list. I filled out a census form for the first time.

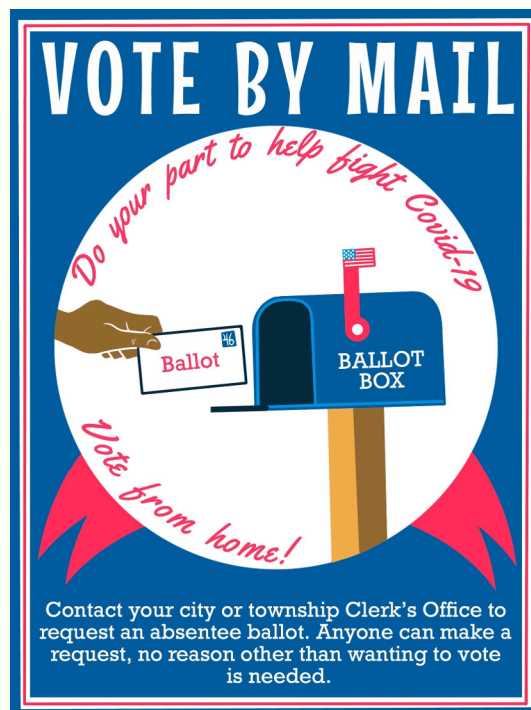
Now, I personally have been pretty civic-minded ever since my Dad dragged me to a city council meeting to address concerns about the fact that my elementary school had been built on top of a landfill in Westland, Michigan. A fact we weren't made aware of until a few weeks before Cooper Elementary was permanently closed. Decisions are made that affect your daily life from the federal to the local level everyday. It's important that you have a voice in these decisions and stay informed on the issues that impact you and your community.

One of the best ways to guarantee you are well represented at the federal level is by filling out the



census. Not only does the census help determine the number of representatives each state gets to send to congress to fight for issues affecting that state, but it also determines how many federal tax dollars get distributed to the states. These federal tax dollars go towards things such as your local hospitals, schools, infrastructure, and small businesses. Programs and institutions that rely on additional funding, especially during times of crises.

It is very important that you fill out the census this year. One of the only good things to come out of this global pandemic is the fact that they extended the census deadline to October, which gives Americans plenty of time to get online and fill it out. It only takes ten minutes and prevents the census folks from knocking on your door. Do your part, your community is counting on you.



MI Absent Voter Ballot Application – May. 5

I am a **United States citizen** and a qualified and registered elector of the County and jurisdiction in the State of Michigan listed below, and I apply for an official ballot, to be voted by me at the election(s) listed below.

Voter's Registration Information:

1
Complete

Last Name			First Name			M.I.			County		
									<input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township		
Street Address						Jurisdiction					
MI											
City			Zip			Year of Birth					
						()					
Email Address						Phone #					

Your e-mail address and phone number will be used only for official election purposes.

2
Check

Other Elections: Complete to join permanent absent voter application list



I want to vote absentee in all elections. Automatically send me an application for an absent voter ballot for all elections, including other elections in 2020.

3
Sign

Voter's Signature (Power of attorney is not acceptable):

X

Signature

/ /

Date

WARNING: You must be a **United States citizen** to vote. If you are not a United States citizen, you will not be issued an absent voter ballot. A person making a false statement in this absent voter ballot application is guilty of a misdemeanor. It is a violation of Michigan election law for a person other than those listed in the instructions to return, offer to return, agree to return, or solicit to return your absent voter ballot application to the clerk. An assistant authorized by the clerk who receives absent voter ballot applications at a location other than the clerk's office must have credentials signed by the clerk. Ask to see his or her credentials before entrusting your application with a person claiming to have the clerk's authorization to return your application.

4
Other

Address to Mail Ballot [Only fill out if different from above]: USPS will not forward your ballot. We can mail it to you where you are. If additional addresses are needed or plans change, contact your city/township clerk.

Address 1		Address 2	
Date leaving for this address:	Street Address	Date leaving for this address:	Street Address
/ /		/ /	
Date of return:	City State Zip	Date of return:	City State Zip
/ /		/ /	

5
Return

Return this application to your city/township clerk. Find your clerk at mi.gov/vote.

Complete only if assisting a voter with return of the application

Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Returning Absent Voter Ballot Application:

I certify that my name is _____, date of birth is _____;
that I am delivering the absent voter ballot application of _____;
at his or her request; that I did not solicit or request to return the application; that I have not made any markings on the application; that I have not altered the application in any way; that I have not influenced the applicant; and that I am aware that a false statement in this certificate is a violation of Michigan election law.

X

Signature of person assisting the voter

Date

Clerk's Use Only	Wd/Pct	Mailed	/ /	Returned	/ /
	Filed	/ /	Ballot No.	Clerk	

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE INSTRUCTIONS

POLITICALLY SPEAKING...



**By: Ray
Herrick**

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CANCELS FUNDING FOR THE PREDICT ACT...THE BRILLIANCE IS BLINDING!

In early 2009, the U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID) created, and received a 10-year funding grant, for the PREDICT Act. Initially, the PREDICT Act was initiated in response to the global pandemic surrounding the arrival of the Bird Flu (H5N1 virus). During

their 10 year existence, PREDICT identified over 1,000 new virus, worldwide, including a new, and very virulent, stream of the Ebola Virus; trained nearly 5,000 scientists and medical professional around the world in the identification and eradication of coronaviruses, before they grow to pandemic proportions; and improved, refurbished or opened newly-developed research laboratories in over 25 countries.

The initial grant funding for this wildly successful program drew to a close, in February of 2020, soon after the PREDICT Act had presented mounds of documentation about the dire circumstances about to devastate the world, due to the looming presence of the Wuhan coronavirus, known and despised worldwide as COVID-19 {a small side note: "19" does not refer to the year it was detected, but that it is the 19th coronavirus detected, since the advent of PREDICT, and numbered by the World Health Organization (WHO)}. Prior to the final nail being driven into the coffin of this program by the Trump Administration, U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts), and Angus King (I-Maine), sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, which the lawmakers wrote, in part, "Addressing and preventing the spread of coronavirus, and other potentially pandemic disease outbreaks is a serious matter, that requires adequate resources for, and cooperation between experts throughout the federal government." (Warren, E. "Senators Warren, King Question USAID on Decision to Shutter Global Infectious Disease Prevention Program.

"www.warren.senate.gov.31 January 2020.)
(<https://www.warren.senate.gov/oversight/letters/>

senators-warren-king-question-usaid-on-decision-to-shutter-global-infectious-disease-prevention-

program". Predictably, neither Secretary Azar, nor anyone else in the Trump Administration, responded to the letter from Sen. Warren and Sen. King, even after the bipartisan support of nearly all of the U.S. Senators. A continuation of this vital project would have surely dampened this current pandemic, and the Trump Administration has rightfully faced intense criticism for its lack of readiness and preparation before the outbreak in the U.S. The Trump Administration further reduced a team working in China, on pandemics, and has repeatedly attempted to cut funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

"It was a genius, visionary program, that USAID took a big risk to fund, and it's a crying shame that it was cancelled." stated Peter Daszak, President of Eco-Health Alliance, a non-profit group dedicated to tackling wildlife-borne diseases that can be transmitted to humans, much like the COVID-19 virus, and was one of the major partners in the PREDICT Act. Daszak further opined that PREDICT was a "...robust, coordinated, and proactive response to emerging pandemics." (Baumgaertner, E. and Rainey, J. "Trump Administration ended pandemic early-warning program to detect coronaviruses." Los Angeles Times. 2 April 2020.)

[https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-04-02/coronavirus-trump-pandemic-program-](https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-04-02/coronavirus-trump-pandemic-program-viruses-detection)

viruses-detection." In the multitude of studies done by the Eco-Health Alliance, they found as many as 1.7 million mystery virus, that could possibly be transmitted from wildlife to human beings!

As early in this pandemic crisis as April 7th, the Strategic National Stockpile, previously a relatively obscure office in the Federal Government, that manages the U.S.'s emergency medical supplies, and exists to respond to a crisis like the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, a disturbing trend is starting to emerge, and one that has grown exponentially worse since that early date. As the U.S. faces nearly 1 Million cases of COVID-19, a widespread shortage of medical supplies is reaching critical mass. Individual states are seriously lacking personal protection equipment (PPE), such as masks and latex gloves; hospitals and

other medical facilities are sorely lacking in ventilators, and all of the states need relief, and resupply, quickly, to meet the rapidly-growing needs of the infected in their states. However, the Trump Administration, and President Trump in particular, have struggled to coordinate a coherent response to this growing crisis. Trump seems much more interested in attacking Governors of states that haven't publicly praised his Administration negligible efforts to contain this insidious virus (read that: "Democratic Party Governors"), and the way they are distributed in their states. He has gone so far as to seize shipment, from private manufacturers, before they could be sent to states that weren't governed by his political allies, before distributing them on a much more politically partisan basis. In early April, presidential advisor, and son-in-law to President Trump, Jared Kushner ridiculously showed the hand of the Administration, in the only time he spoke to the assembled White House Press Corps, when he stumbled through a statement that suggested that, "...the federal stockpile is our stockpile...it's not supposed to be used by the state's stockpile, that they can use."

President Trump continues to take to podium each day, acting as his own press secretary, telling the Americans that he, and his Administration are doing a fantastic job. World historians have compared these press conferences to the pronouncements by the Roman Emperor, Nero, as his empire crumbled around him, famously represented by the anecdote, "Nero fiddled, as Rome burned." While our President continues to spew his ignorance on Twitter, about the high TV ratings of his press conferences, and

"It was a genius, visionary program, that USAID took a big risk to fund, and it's a crying shame that it was cancelled."

offers the most outrageous snake-oil treatments, the U.S. has now lost almost 60,000 people to this virus. Within days, our country will have lost more people to COVID-19 in two months, than we did in the 16 years the U.S. had a military conflict in Vietnam. Supplies continue to dwindle; Doctors and Nurses are working outrageous hours, and are being infected themselves in record numbers; hospitals and emergency rooms are filled to bursting; and most states have started to utilize banquet halls and large conference facilities, such as Cobo Hall in Detroit, and the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, as temporary hospitals with thousands of beds. As COVID-19 persists, and may recur during the fall flu season, the looming shortage of medical professionals to staff these facilities, and the scary possibility that we will soon face shortages of beef, poultry, fruit and vegetables, and dairy products are causing tremendous anxiety and trepidation. To further stoke this anxiety, many companies are in such dire straits after the suspension of manufacturing that they may never recover, causing a tremendous downturn in the economy, and loss of jobs. As he numbingly suggests that people should consider injecting household disinfectants, and UV light into their bodies to kill the virus, President Nero continues to fiddle, as our country burns!

Social Distancing at Oakwood Group





**By: Ray
Herrick**

The Shaffer Chronicles

**While based on actual events, this is part 2 of a 4-part fictional account of the life and times of Brother Leo D. Shaffer, one of the founding members and past Presidents of UAW Northwest Local 163.*

December 1st, 1941..“Goddamn that arrogant bastard Reuther!” Every time I try to get ahold of him about something going on at Ternstedt, all I get is his secretary! I know he’s ridiculously busy organizing and expanding the reach of the UAW, but once we voted in the Union, he kind of disappeared. The jerks in Fisher-Body management are still taking it out on us, after what happened at Flint. They know they can’t touch those guys, but we’re just little fish to them, and it is aggravating trying to settle all of these issues, and we can’t get the Local guys from 174 to jump into the fray. With all of that going on, and the insanity enveloping Europe and the Far East, Brother Reuther is busy advocating for the United States to rapidly increase production of war materials to fight the Nazi scourge in Europe. He made an impassioned speech, about this time last year, calling for the immediate retooling of U.S. auto manufacturing facilities to produce war planes for England, who is being pounded unmercilessly by the German Luftwaffe on a daily basis. Walter believes auto plants can turn out nearly 500 planes a day, with minimal time to retool, as opposed to the 18 months to 2 years it would take to build a new facility. There is a lot of push-back from the isolationists, who just want to keep us out of “Europe’s War”, but it is becoming increasingly evident that that stance may be impossible to maintain...

December 7th, 1941...With the radio playing softly in the background, my wife, Delores and I had just finished our Sunday morning breakfast, in our newly-purchased home in the Olde Redford section of the northwest part of Detroit. I was putting on my “Sunday’s best” to head to mass at St. Gregory’s, when the radio started blaring...“Wait...WHAT DID THEY JUST SAY?! JAPAN IS BOMBING HAWAII? OH, MY GOD!” As I sat stunned on the end of our bed, half-dressed, Delores walked into the room, similarly stunned. Any thoughts I had about Ternstedt, or the little issues there, went right out the window. I was in the Army back in the 20’s, after the last war in Europe, and at 37 now, should I run down to the enlistment station? “Honey, you’re going to have to go to church by yourself today...I have to find out what in the Holy Hell is going on in this crazy world....”

December 8th, 1941...I just left the Army Recruiting

Center downtown. I stood in line for several hours, along with thousands of patriotic Detroiters trying to enlist, after President Roosevelt declared war on the Empire of Japan for their cowardly attack on the Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Ultimately, I was turned away, because of my advanced age, and the critical manufacturing job I held. They may call me later, but for now, I was free to return to work.

December 12th, 1941...It is so hard to concentrate at this work...FDR declare war on Nazi Germany yesterday, and I spoke with Brother Walter, about his vision for the UAW, Local 174, and the outfitting of auto plants to build tanks and planes for the U.S. Military, and he suggested that if I was unhappy at Ternstedt, I should take a look at the new Diesel engine plant that was 2 miles from my house, General Motors-Diesel Division. I had been kicking that move around for several years already, and had spoken to a couple of my old Army buddies, John Bodenick and Charlie Ullom, who had been there since it opened in 1938, and were trying to get support for forming a new Union Local, with the help of the UAW organizers. That sounded like it was right up my alley! I went down to the plant on Telegraph, and after having a quick chat with John and Charlie, the Personnel department ushered me into the plant and offered me a job, starting next week. I called Walter to tell him the good news, and told the folks at Ternstedt I was moving on...on to the next adventure!





UAW ENDORSES JOE BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT



Labor Daze

By: Andrew Lewis

1992

It only took me till I was damn near 40, but hot dog am I excited to finally have a job that provides healthcare!

That wouldn't have been an issue if we had single payer healthcare



2004

I know there's a nail sticking out of my head, but it's a preexisting condition.

That wouldn't be an issue if we had single payer healthcare



2008

If this economic crisis happens, I might lose my insurance if we're laid off.

That wouldn't be an issue if we had single payer healthcare



2020

The trump administration is covering people's Coronavirus health care costs with Medicare. That's a good way for them all to be covered. I like that idea.

Hey man, why are you walking away from me? Does that finger mean you think trumps number one?

