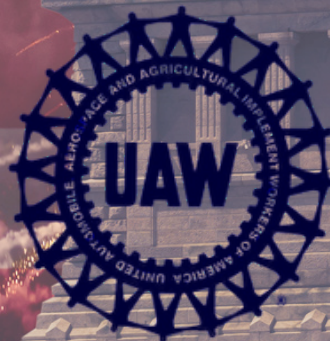


JULY/AUGUST
2022

LOCAL VOICES

INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 4, 2022



UAW CAP
CONFERENCE
REPORT

Local Voices

UAW Local 2209

Chartered 1985



UAW Local 2209 Executive Board

Officers

President
Vice President
Recording Secretary
Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Sergeant-At-Arms
Guide

Holli Murphy
Jim Peters
Amy Houston
Shane B. Davis
David Bartkowiak
Melinda Ladd
Amanda Meier
Manuel Anzaldua
Jamie Teller

At-Large Board Members

Unit 1 Chair (GM)
Unit 1 Zone Shift 1
Unit 1 Zone Shift 2
Unit 1 Zone Shift 3

Rich LeTourneau
Dave Poor
Steve Turner
Christopher Phillips

Amalgamated Unit Chairs

Unit 2 Chair (Nurses)
Unit 3 Chair (Caravan)
Unit 4 Chair (Avancez Tire & Wheel)
Unit 5 Chair (Avancez Maintenance Techs)
Unit 6 Chair (Ruan Trucking)

Mike McClain
Nick Courts
DaVontae Williams
Ricky Hamm
Tony Brandt
Dominic Shraeder
She-Ra Jacobs
Alex Perez
Melvin Lipscomb

Unit 7 - Chair (Avancez VAA)
Unit 8 Chair (MPS)
Unit 9 (Superior Essex)

Retiree Board Member at Large

Retiree Chapter Chair

Diana Bovie-Koomler

Newspaper & Communication Committee

Layout Editor • Copy Editors & Feature Editors

LeMann Dea • Heather Edwards •

Kisha Pulverenti • Twila Robinson • Michael Scott

Editorial Policy

The views or opinions expressed by the individual writers are not necessarily those of the editor, nor the administration of Local 2209. The editorial decisions to publish or edit content are made at the discretion of the editors and are based on factors

including but not limited to: relevance, interest to the readers, timeliness, as well as space limitations within the publication.

* Photos in the Local Voices may be photoshopped or cropped for better presentation.

Deadline for articles is the Friday before the 2nd Saturday in even months. Publications will be in odd months.

Address Change

To ensure delivery of the Local Voices it is important to keep your address updated. Please stop by or call the Union Hall whenever you have a change of address.



UAW Local 2209 Publication

PO Box 579 • Roanoke IN • 46783

Union Hall

Phone: 260-672-2209

Fax: 260-672-9220

Email: info@uaw2209.org

Hours: Monday - Friday 6:30 am - 3:30 pm

Unit 1 Union Work Center

Unit 1 Shop Chair 260-673-2838

GA 260-673-2538 260-673-2197

Body & Paint 260-673-2975

GM UAW Benefit Office

260-673-2339 260-673-2540 260-673-2596

GM Benefits & Services

GM Benefits & Services 800-489-4646

GM UAW Legal Services 800-482-7700

Vehicle Purchase Plan 800-235-4646



2209 Community Pantry

Please take what you need and donate what you can

Recommended Items



- Peanut Butter
- Bread
- Jelly
- Crackers
- Pop top soups & canned goods
- Microwave Meals
- Boxed Meals
- Fruit cups
- Trail Mix
- Granola Bars
- Pouches of flavored tuna
- Canned Meat
- Beef Jerky
- water
- juice boxes
- Rice

- Dry Pasta
- Sauces
- Cereal
- Powdered Milk
- Ramen
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Body Wipes
- Menstrual Products
- Baby Food
- Diapers & Wipes
- Hats & Gloves



Local Voices Deadline Friday, August 19, 2022

To submit articles

email: LocalVoices@uaw2209.org or drop it off at the Union Hall



Holli Murphy
President

Jim Peters
Vice President

General Motors Fort Wayne Assembly and UAW Local 2209 invite GM Fort Wayne employees, retirees, and their immediate families to Family Day on Friday, July 22. There are two timeframes to choose from for tours, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. The last tour will depart 45 minutes before the timeframe ends. Parking will be provided at the UAW Local 2209 Hall, 5820 E 900 N, Roanoke. Shuttle bus transportation will be provided to and from the Plant.

Family Day includes a self-guided tour of General Assembly along with vehicle displays, partner information tables, giveaways, food at the UAW Hall, and more surprises.

All employees and visitors taking the Tour must abide by the following:

- Employees must accompany their family members.
- All visitors must be age 10 or older.
- All employees and visitors must wear flat-soled shoes the entire foot/heel covered and enclosed. (No high-heels, sandals, flip flops, clogs, or Crocs will be permitted.)
- All visitors must watch the Plant Safety Protocol Video prior to entering the tour.
- All employees and visitors **must wear** safety glasses on the production floor. Safety glasses will be provided.
- All employees and visitors going on the tour must be able to walk unassisted for the duration of tour route (approximately 1.2 miles).
- No wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, canes, or other walking assistance devices are allowed on the production floor. No transportation will be provided inside the plant.
- All employees and visitors must stay on designated tour route, in designated walkways, and follow directions of safety ambassadors.
- No Cameras, video equipment, or other devices with photographic capability (i.e. cell phones, tablets, etc.) are permitted
- No smoking or vaping.
- Please be aware restroom locations are limited on the tour route. Restrooms are available before and after the tour.

In Solidarity

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Local 2209! As we head into July, I hope everyone is enjoying the dog days of summer.

Our next Amalgamated Unit Meeting will be July 10th, 10:30AM at the Union Hall. I encourage all members from all Units II-IX to attend. This is another way to build solidarity with our Brothers and Sisters from these units. During this meeting, each of the Unit Chairs give their reports to the membership and answer any questions members may have.

We are currently putting our Resolution Teams together at Avancez. Tire & Wheel, Maintenance Techs and VAA will be negotiating their contracts in April 2023. These teams will be asking the members what they would like to see in their new contracts. The Unit Chairs will be available to assist members with writing their resolutions and/or making sure they get turned in to the Union Hall in order to be submitted properly.

Local Leadership wants to ensure that members of ALL Units understand they are a vital part of this local and we would like to continue to get to know many more of you. We hope when you encounter a member of another Unit, please treat them like your Brother or Sister of Local 2209!

Thank you. In Solidarity

Jim Peters





Rich LeTourneau
Shop Chair Unit 1 (General Motors)

What is the future of this union.

◦ On July 25-28, the UAW Constitutional Convention will take place in Detroit. This will be the first time, in the history of this union, that we will have nominations and the election under a one man one vote foundation.

The desire for this system has been around since I was a Committeeman in 1987. The real question is, will it make a difference and will THIS membership vote to make the difference. Some may believe this will clean up the UAW, and those who have done their jail time for crimes committed will set the standard going forward. I don't believe that will be the case.

As a result of these improprieties, the government has set up an ethics committee as part of the one man one vote process. What does that mean?

What this means is, if you get nominated to run for President, Vice President or any International Executive Board (IEB) position, this doesn't mean you get to run. This ethics committee will decide whether you get to run or not. I am sure there is a lot of hands in this one so they all can regulate who runs and who doesn't. If THIS union doesn't get the opportunity to make some changes, we will continue to have trouble on the horizon.

Over the last 10 years, there has been a lot of work taken from the Truck Division and given to a third party. That work was exited and signed by the International Union at a lower wage and benefits. These are the same guys running for positions at the International level. We cannot afford to sell our jobs at a lower wage especially in this economy. I'm not sure what's a bigger crime, selling our jobs to a third party or embezzling from a third party. Too many of our current reps think it's ok to outsource this work as long as they get a neutrality agreement to organize them once they exit the work. That is 100% wrong and we only go backwards with these agreements.

It is time for new leadership that believes in better wages and benefits for new members or we will not service today's economy. This membership needs to pay real close attention to these upcoming elections because your future depends on it.





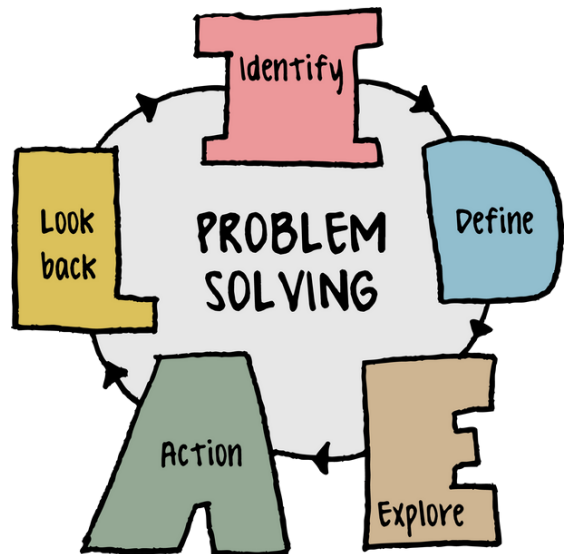
Amy Houston
Recording Secretary

Times have changed. Back in the day, if you had a problem or an issue, at work, at home or with a friend you talked to people, you worked it out and if there was a problem you solved it. Either by yourself or with the help of others. Fast forward to the present. Society is immersed in social media. If someone has a question or a problem, they have the whole world (it seems) literally right at their fingertips. Some people have thousands of Facebook friends, Tiktok and Instagram followers. So, if they are having a problem or an issue, they bring it to them. They immediately have advice, opinions, someone to complain with and a lot of debate along the way. But the question is, was their problem ever solved? Did they take the steps to fix what the problem was? Contact the right people who could actually change anything, or did they just start a big thread on a page somewhere in the cloud? The problem still exists, yet everyone has put their two cents in the ring about it. That is what I would like to talk about here.

I love social media and all the ways it connects us, don't get me wrong. But on the other hand, I feel like we have forgotten how to actually DO something to solve our problems. I know it's nice to know people care about you and want to help you figure things out, and that's fine. But then after you get the insight/advice/ideas from your followers/friends continue with the next step. Do something about it. In real life. Solve the problem.

Here is an example. In maintenance at work, we got new uniforms. The new company came in to fit us for them. As you may know, most Tradesmen in our plant are men. So, when I asked for women's options the representative shrugged and said, we aren't offering them. I asked if they carry women's sizing. They do. But GM didn't authorize it. I could have left there and went directly to social media and made a post about sexism in the workplace and how unfair everything is. But I didn't. Because nobody on social media is going to get me the women's uniform clothes I want. I went to see the Shift Leader and voiced my concern. He was surprised at the lack of diversity in clothing and said he would investigate it. My next step was calling my Committeeman and letting him know what the women in trades wanted. He said he would also investigate it. So, the ball is rolling. I followed up a week or so later, and it had been brought to the Assistant Plant Managers attention. Today, I received an email that the women in trades who would like to switch to women's sizing, there would be samples to try on in the front offices, once we tried them on, we just need to email our sizes to the boss and our uniforms will be replaced ASAP. A couple of inquiries, a follow up and voila! A solution! I know its not always that easy, but I know this wouldn't have happened if I had posted how upset I was on social media and that's it.

Social media is great for sharing information, stories, photos and more. But in my opinion, live in person problem solving is the best route to take with issues you have in your life. Get the advice you need, but then take your issues into your own hands and be accountable for them. Take care of business! You'll be happy that you did. Then make a social media post about what you just made happen!



UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
-CHANGES MADE BY MEMBERSHIP ACTION AT APRIL 2022 MEETING
JULY 16 @ 11AM
-IF PRODUCTION IS SCHEDULED, IT WILL BE JULY 17
AUGUST 20 @11AM
-IF PRODUCTION IS SCHEDULED, IT WILL BE AUGUST 21



Shane B. Davis

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

April 1, 2022-April 30,2022

Beginning Balance	\$1,974,565.20
Income	\$345,259.72
Expenditures	-\$671,931.89
Difference	-\$326,672.17
Balance	\$1,647,893.03

May1- May 31, 2022

Beginning Balance	\$1,647,893.03
Income	\$339,573.51
Expenditures	-\$461,590.87
Difference	-\$122,017.36
Balance	\$1,525,875.67

WE ARE



AVANCEZ



MPS

RUAN



UAW LOCAL 2209 MEMBERS

INTERESTED IN TAKING THE MONEY MATTERS CLASS?

EMAIL YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER, SHIFT AND CLASS NAME TO: SIGNUP@UAW2209.ORG

A Note from your Trustees

As many of you know, Local 2049 (Superior Essex) was merged with Local 2209 at the end of last year. The members under the UAW/Superior Essex contract are now Unit 9 of our Local Union. Their land and building was transferred to our Local and we helped oversee the sale of their union hall in Columbia City. Those funds were then transferred to Local 2209 under the Unit 9 fund. Normally Trustees conduct audits for the Local Union; however, because Local 2049 was merging with our Local, the International Auditing Department performed their final close-out audit. All funds and property were then transferred to Local 2209. Any member who would like to see the audit report or details from the merger can make that request with Financial Secretary Davis during normal business hours at the Union Hall.

In Solidarity,



Melinda Ladd



Amanda Meier



Dave Bartkowiak

Do This, NOT That

- ✓ Keep water nearby in case fireworks start a fire.
- ✗ Don't point fireworks at pets.
- ✓ Wear eye protection if you light a firework.
- ✗ Never try relighting a dud.





Diane Bovie-Koomler
Retiree Chapter Chair

UAW International President Ray Curry said, "We will fight for current members who contribute their skill and experience to the success of their employers. We will advocate for retirees who built the foundation upon which we all stand today. We will not let our active and retired members be whipsawed against one another"

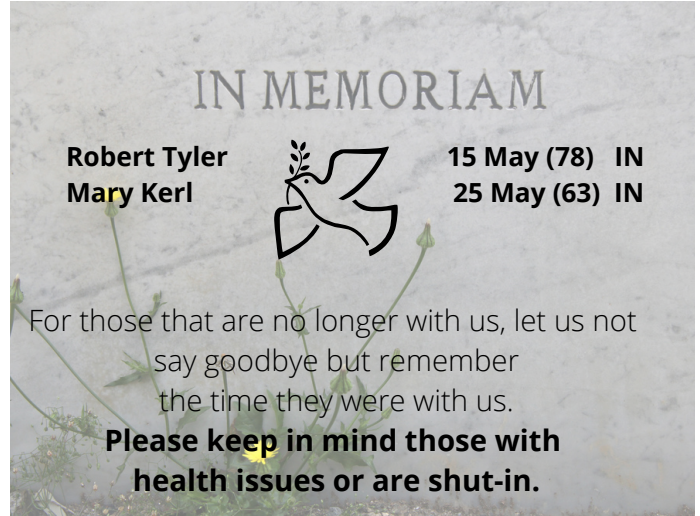
We are our union and we must bridge the gaps that separate us. We all look forward to becoming retirees one day.

In the past, International UAW officers were elected by convention delegates. Due to a Referendum vote conducted by the federal monitor last year, each active and retired member will now vote for the five officers of the International Executive Board (IEB).

They consist of the President, Secretary-Treasurer and three Vice Presidents. Members also elect a Regional Director.

In order to ensure you receive your ballot please notify The Union Hall (260)672-2209 if your address or phone number has changed, needs correction.

Be Well Be Safe

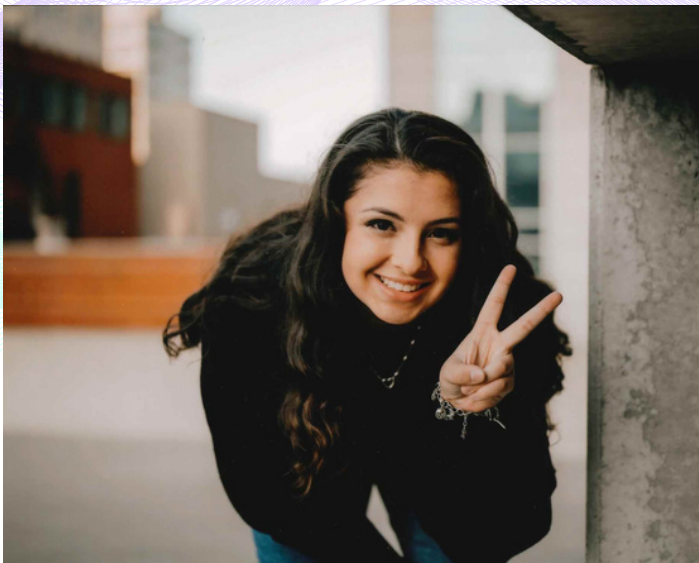


CBTU INTERNATIONAL

By Julia Beck

I attended the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) Convention on May 23-30th, 2022.

This was the first in-person convention in three years due to the COVID Pandemic. Some highlights of the convention consisted of electing our leaders and administration as well as introducing our Youth Committee and the Under Forty Committee



CBTU Convention 2022

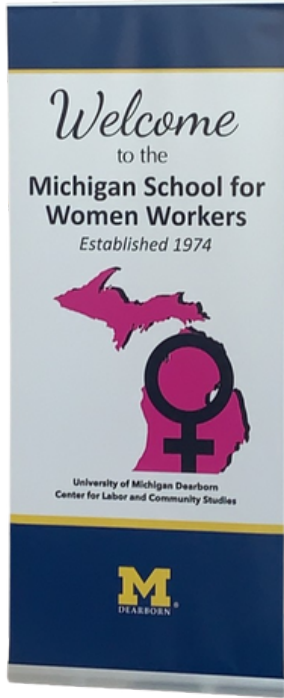
CBTU awards ten Scholarships each year. During the convention, eight winners were announced from the eleven essays submitted. CBTU awarded a scholarship to Reese Lyn Rosario, daughter of our very own Trustee Melinda Ladd and Chris Ladd.

This fall Reese will begin her Sophomore year at Saint Francis University majoring in Graphic Design with a minor in Animation. I sponsored Reese this year. If any Local 2209 member has a child/grandchild, that would like to receive a scholarship application see a CBTU member. Separate scholarships will be awarded to students studying in the Christian Ministry.

The Central Indiana Chapter of CBTU is recruiting(worker) members and especially members under 40 to join the chapter. See me for an application.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

By Alissa Williams



Stephanie Higdon and I attended classes at the Michigan School for Women's Workers on April 22nd and 23rd, 2022. We were able to attend these classes thanks to our Union negotiated Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) benefit. We participated in Print & Social Media (Stephanie) and Worker's Rights, Worker's Actions (Myself) workshops. In these classes we discussed a variety of things with union members from around the country, gaining perspective and knowledge.

I feel we are very fortunate for our strong union representing us here at Local 2209. Through networking, we learned where many other locals struggled where we may sometimes take that for granted here. We also felt many people were able to learn and benefit from our stories and take back to their membership as well.

Stephanie felt that her class was very informative and is excited to bring back the media knowledge she has gained such as making QR code for projects she's working on with her committees at the hall. Her workshop also stressed the importance of how you are always representing your Local whether you are at work, online, or in public. We were both proud to be representatives of Local 2209 at University of Michigan Dearborn Center for Labor and Community Studies. We strongly encourage each of you to utilize your TAP benefit.

Education is the greatest tool we have.



2209



Union Label

By Stephanie Higdon
Union Label Chair

Local 2209 Union Label Committee and other members partnered with the Northeast Indiana AFL-CIO Chapter and other local area unions including Local 305 and Local 20, to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice at the annual Memorial Day Parade. Thank you to all who came out to participate.



TRUCKED UP

By Education Committee Chair
Nelson Rodriguez



To our dedicated followers, we thank and appreciate your commitment to "Trucked Up" podcast and we know that it is because of you that we are still here and have been successful in what we do. Trucked up podcast has over 7000+ downloads within all its platforms and hundreds of followers. We have followers from not only Local 2209 but Region 2B, locals within all our UAW family and within the union movement itself.

New podcasts are usually released on Monday or Friday. Any member that has a story to tell, a business to advertise or content they wish to hear please call the hall or email us at info@2209.org. For those who would like a Sticker with our logo that you can place on your vehicle, desk at work or beer fridge in your garage, feel free to pick one up at the hall. So please go to uaw2209.podbean.com or google search us and listen to the many shows we currently have. Press the follow button and join us on our journey of unity and solidarity through education, compassion and inclusion.

Hey Local 2209! This is Nelson Rodriguez with "Trucked Up" podcast. Myself, along with Michael Scott, Angie Michele, Milinda Raddenbach and Brian Mooneyhan would like to invite you all to sign up to listen to our "Trucked Up" podcast at uaw2209.podbean.com. If you would like to listen on another platform just google search us using UAW Local 2209 podcast.

Trucked Up is dedicated to giving our listeners content that is not only educational and informative, but also personal and compassionate. We pride ourselves on being real with our audience while giving them value added content so that they can better navigate through benefit issues, labor contract issues, or how to get involved and really truly know what their union is about and what its meant to do.

Our journey developing "Trucked Up" hasn't been easy. We've had devastating tech issues and lost a few members, (whom we miss and wish only the best for), but we are still here, with a new name and now act as a part of the education committee. I myself have been with podcast since becoming chairperson to the Education Committee, and, I can say that I am proud of all my brothers and sisters on the both the Education Committee/Podcast. The level of passion and commitment they bring to the table is a testament to who they are and where we are as a local.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN
ABOUT THE UAW ?
Sign Up for UAW 101

Email your
Name, Phone Number, Shift and Class Name to:
signupeaw2209.org



CREATING A PATH FORWARD

By Amanda Meier



Creating a Path Forward, that's what the UAW has always done. Even through the toughest adversity, we always find a way to push forward. Don't get me wrong, we've had our fair share of setbacks, but we always find a way to get back on track. Appropriately, 'Creating a Path Forward' was the theme for the 4-day CAP Conference held in Maryland May 15-18.

The Conference opened with a historical compilation video of our past UAW Presidents. Noticeably missing from that video was 3 disgraced former Presidents who are no longer members of the UAW. UAW International President Ray Curry addressed the nearly 1,000 delegates from across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada by acknowledging our past but focusing on our future. President Ray Curry stated emphatically, "Those who don't want to join us going forward, and want to continue to look in the rearview mirror, that scene doesn't get any better. It only changes as you drive a little bit farther. What I will tell you is that vision from the front looks a whole lot better each and every day as we move forward."



After spending a day hearing from guest speakers on topics that are important to workers, like raising wages, the impact of inflation, the right to organize, the future of electric vehicles, and bringing manufacturing jobs back to the U.S., we had a full day of training to prepare us for lobbying our U.S. Representatives and Senators. The following day, the delegates from Local 2209 journeyed from Maryland to Capitol Hill to share our stories and discuss legislation that would impact the lives of working families. Our members spoke with Representatives Jim Banks, Greg Pence, and Frank Mrvan, as well as Senators Mike Braun and Todd Young.



Even when we don't see eye-to-eye with a legislator, we usually can find common ground on a few topics. Unfortunately when we visited Senator Young (above) and Senator Braun for the "Hoosier Huddle," they were both rude and disrespectful. Senator Young allowed our members to share their stories, but then promptly told us the pro-worker legislation we were speaking on was "garbage."

Senator Braun was less hateful but he had no intention of listening to any of our members or their stories. He spent almost the entirety of the meeting speaking and cut off each member who attempted to share their story. It's unfortunate to see the blatant disrespect from Senators Braun and Young toward their constituents.



However, our members who visited Rep. Frank Mrvan (above) had a great experience, even getting to share some time with him outside on the steps for photos and friendly conversation after their meeting. Rep. Jim Banks only joined our members for a couple minutes in between votes on the floor, but his staff was friendly and gave them a tour of the building before they left. Rep. Greg Pence did not make an appearance but his staff gave our members the time to share their concerns.



All of our members had varying experiences on their lobby visits, but they were all eye-opening in different ways. Even though some visits were not very friendly, it was a great experience for our members and everyone represented our membership admirably. The final day of the conference had an amazing lineup of speakers. Most notably was Speaker Nancy Pelosi.



She spoke about the UAW's impact on workers' rights throughout history saying, "the Middle Class has a Union Label on it." When Speaker Pelosi finished her remarks, President Ray Curry presented her with the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award, given to honor those who have made a positive difference in the advancement of human dignity and justice for all. She proudly accepted the award and reflected on our role within the Civil Rights movement, alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Speaker Pelosi said, "It was an act of bravery then but it was also an indication of the values of the United Auto Workers. So thank you for what you have done beyond the assembly line."

The Conference came to a close with an age-old tradition of joining hands and singing "Solidarity Forever." We have been through a lot in the last 2 years, within our own organization and battling a global pandemic. However, as I looked around the room and watched everyone standing hand-in-hand, I see our path forward -TOGETHER.

2022 LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

Building A Better America Act (BBBA)

- Includes the Kildee Stabenow Electric Vehicle tax credit which would give a \$4,500 incentive to purchase EVs made in the USA by Union workers.
- Lowers prescription drug costs
- Will close tax loopholes for corporations creating a fairer tax system

Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act

- Hold companies accountable for unfair labor practices and give workers the ability to organize without fear
- Prohibit companies from punishing workers for exercising their right to strike, by making it illegal for companies to permanently replace striking workers
- Level the playing field by repealing freeloader RTW legislation nationwide

Striking Workers Health Care Protection Act

- Protects workers and their families and would ensure no worker faces the impacts of what GM did to us during the 2019 strike when they stripped our insurance coverage mid-month

SFC Heath Robinson

Honoring our PACT Act

- Increase healthcare coverage to Veterans exposed to toxic burn pits by adding to the list of VA-covered conditions and a national registry to track these conditions
- Establish a committee to assist the VA in determining a link between service and illness



Representative Greg Pence's aide took time to listen to our members' stories.



Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown and UAW Region 2B Director Wayne Blanchard



Representative Jim Banks meeting with some members between votes on the floor



Some of the 2209 Members that attended the CAP Conference

Work Family - EAP

On behalf of the Work Family/EAP office, we would just like to extend our heartfelt condolences to all those affected by the recent tragedies suffered at the plant, as well as to all the GM/UAW families, hourly and salaried that have had to bear the loss of a loved one. We certainly don't wish to beleaguer the point, but would like to say to the entire Fort Wayne work force, that grief has no title, department, or code. At the end of the day, we all experience joy and pain in a similar fashion. We here at Work Family would like to take this opportunity to offer an open invitation to ALL our work force who may feel the need to utilize the services we offer. The decision is certainly yours, but again, we're available. We have and continue to receive, extensive training along with our own life experience to help in situations such as these.

Remember,

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE.

Never forget

THAT YOU ARE LOVED.

Never doubt

THAT SOMEONE SURELY
CARES FOR YOU.

THOMAS S. MONSON

THESE ARE SOME OF YOUR NEGOTIATED BENEFITS OFFERED THROUGH THE WORK FAMILY PROGRAM:

Employee Assistance Program

- Providing private and confidential interviews, support and suggestions for voluntary counseling or treatment
 - Marital and family problems
 - Financial problems
 - Depression
 - Alcohol and Drug problems
 - Critical Incident Response
 - Grief / Loss
 - Suicide
 - Domestic / Workplace Violence
 - Adolescent Issues
 - Support Groups

1-800-273-TALK

WWW.SUICIDEPREVENTIONLIFELINE.ORG

With Help Comes Hope. There is HOPE.
Contact your Work/Family Representative,

Or if in immediate danger call **911**.

Work Family - EAP

Employee Assistance Program

Available each shift during production hours

(260) 673-2011

(260) 673-2951



By Education Committee Chair
Nelson Rodriguez

Life! What a word it is "LIFE". Something people walk around each day living, but not knowing truly what their life is about. Webster defines life as being "the quality that distinguishes a vital and functional being from a dead body". Kind of a black and white definition, you either have life or you're dead. If you're reading this, guess what? You're Alive!!! But, are there times when you feel dead inside? Are there times when you think to yourself, what the hell am I doing? Is this truly my life? Well you're not alone! The meaning of life is just to be alive. It is so plain so obvious and so simple. And yet, everybody rushes around in a great panic as if it were necessary to achieve something beyond themselves." A quote by - Allen W. Watts- . So simple he stated, but is it? In the end what he says is true but, in the eyes of those who live in that manner. I love this quote and the many I've seen while writing this article but, I could not find one that defines me.

Why I said to myself? Am I that messed up? Well that's another article but, no I'm not, because we are all human, while we all bleed the same we live, believe, behave and think differently. We are not defined by one quote but many.

When I was 25 years of age, I was blessed to hold my first born. Then and there I thought that day was the day I defined my life. Before this day, growing up in a cold cruel world, being forced not to live but to survive, the ability for me to show much emotion or even cry was just not there. Holding my son, this beautiful innocent soul in my hands I began to break down, crying tears held back for 15 years. Wow I found my life, but did I? In that day, what I found was a part of me I lost. In that day I found another purpose in life. In that day I found another piece of me. In that day I held a soul in my hands knowing that I would have to nurture and protect him so that he can grow and have a life of his own. So again, did I find my life in that moment? No I simply found another reason to live! You see, Robert Byrne stated it so clearly in this quote "The purpose of life is a life purpose." Find purpose in your life and show empathy for those trying to figure out theirs.

Empathy, when shown, can change lives and build bridges we thought could never be built. Empathy has the power to lift people up and prevent them from falling into a hole that was dug for them. Life! What a word it is "LIFE". My fellow union brothers and sisters, we've been through so much this past few decades and it has tested us all as members of the UAW. So what do we do? What path in life as UAW members do we now make for ourselves? As Webster defines life do we live or die? Or as Robert Byrne says, do we find purpose? I say we do! But to find purpose we must remember who we were and what made us great at times throughout history and open our eyes to who we are today. We are, as individuals, human and as a movement fallible. We must survive what life has put in front of us by mending the divide among our members and show empathy, love and solidarity toward one another. Always remember that as a union movement, when one falls we all fall and when one rises so do we all. Let us find a new path, and inclusive path with empathy compassion, accountability and the strength of solidarity. Life! Who ever said it was easy?

UAW/GM SKILLED TRADES APPRENTICESHIP READINESS CERTIFICATION



There are four required classes:

- | | | |
|------------|--|---|
| Semester 1 | Class 1 - Basic Arithmetic/Shop Math | Class 2 - Drafting/Machine Tool Blueprint Reading |
| Semester 2 | Class 3 - Skilled Trades Prep/Related Overview | Class 4 - Intermediate Algebra |

Penn Foster College web address is: www.pennfoster.edu/partners/GM-UAW

For TAP eligible employees the TAP web address is: <https://UAWGM.EdAssist.com>
Username: UAWGM Password: benefits4you

For more information about the STARC Program contact GM Apprentice Coordinator Laura Jacoby at laura.jacoby@gm.com or UAW Local 2209 Apprentice Chair Matt Sterk at matthew.sterk@gm.com.

For more information about TAP contact UAW Local 2209 JTR Joe Barker at joe.barker@gm.com or Phillip Ratkos at phillip.ratkos@gm.com.

By Women's Committee
Brittney Williams

What is Angelman Syndrome?





Angelman Syndrome (AS) is a rare neuro-genetic disorder that occurs 1 in 15,000 live births or 500,000 people worldwide. Angelman syndrome shares symptoms and characteristics with other disorders including autism, cyberattack palsy, and Prader-Willi syndrome. Due to the common characteristics, misdiagnosis occurs often. It is believed that there is a high chance of finding a cure for AS, due to the fact that scientists know what causes AS.

Braylon (Rhonda and Retus Thomas' Grandson) is who has inspired us to rally together the past 3 years and raise funds for ASF. We have just successfully finished our 2nd Annual Fish Fry fundraiser for ASF and presented a check totaling \$5,000. A huge thanks goes out to everyone that generously helped and donated to such a worthy cause.




ANGELMAN SYNDROME FACTS


Children with AS are usually smiling and happy, with frequent outbursts of laughter. They are very social and have a good memory for faces and places.

-  First described by English physician Dr. Harry Angelman in **1965**
-  Signs begin to appear between the ages of **6-12 MONTHS**
-  Difficulty with **SPEECH** and **MOVEMENT**
-  Occurs in about **1 IN 15,000** births

Source: Vanderbilt Kennedy Center



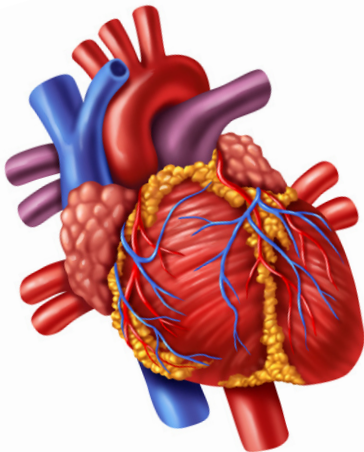
- STRABISMUS**
(where the eyes do not look toward the same object together)
- ABNORMAL FEEDING**
- BALANCE/MOTOR ISSUES**





\$50 Heart Scan

A heart scan, also known as a coronary calcium scan, is a specialized X-ray test that provides pictures of your heart that can help your doctor detect and measure calcium-containing plaque in the arteries.



What's included?

- Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)**
Ultrasound evaluation of the carotid arteries that screens for buildup of fatty plaque — one of the leading causes of strokes.
 - Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)**
Ultrasound is used to screen for the existence of an aneurysm (enlargement) in the abdominal aorta that could lead to a ruptured aortic artery.
 - Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening**
Uses ultrasound and blood pressure measurements to check for peripheral arterial disease (plaque build-up) in the lower extremities.
 - Atrial Fibrillation**
A quick and easy test using a 6-lead EKG designed to identify Atrial Fibrillation. Electrodes are placed on the arms and legs. Atrial fibrillation increases the risk of stroke by 5 times.
 - Osteoporosis Risk**
An ultrasound measurement of the shin bone to determine abnormal bone mass density.
- Scheduling a HeartSmart CT Scan:**
Speak with your physician about obtaining a HeartSmart CT Scan as part of your annual check-up and wellness. Your doctor can write an order for the scan, help you schedule it, and provide follow-up as necessary. A HeartSmart CT Scan is also available without a physician's referral.

To schedule an appointment at any Parkview location, please call (260) 266-7500.

GETTING MILES ATHLETIC CLUB

By Ryan Bultemeier

Spring has finally sprung and the Getting Miles Athletic Club is running, cycling and walking all over the place. We had some busy weekends in the last month.

On Saturday, April 30th, about a dozen Getting Miles runners participated in the Race Against Racism 5k. UAW Local 2209 sponsored the event hosted by the Northeastern Indiana YMCA. The weather was perfect, the course was fast and so were the runners. We also made the front page of the local newspaper!

On that same day, insane cyclist, Randy Bartz rode dirt trails in the Yankee Springs Time Trails located in Yankee Springs, Michigan. This is a super-competitive mountain bike event for high-level cyclists. You can find Randy riding the local park trails and you also find him riding to and from work every day.

On Sunday, May 1st, Getting Miles hosted the second free fun run of the year. Kill Phil 5k walkers and runners chased Phil on the downtown Fort Wayne Trails network. For some reason Kill Phil has become a kid-friendly event.



Kids with foam ninja swords had a blast chasing Phil along the river in downtown Fort Wayne!

About a week later, we joined about 25,000 runners and walkers for the Indy Mini Half Marathon, The Indy Mini is one of the largest races in the country. The course follows a 13.1 mile loop on the Indianapolis streets with live bands at every mile. The course also includes a lap around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the middle of the race. If you're thinking about running or walking a half marathon, the Indy Mini is a great place to start.

The toughest race of the month was definitely the Dances with Dirt Half Marathon in Gnaw Bone, Indiana. Six Getting Miles runners survived more than 13 miles of hills and mud in southern Indiana.



Dances with Dirt is one of the toughest races in Indiana. Forget about running fast if you're going to Gnaw Bone! A half marathon of muddy miles and still looking good!

We have two more fun runs scheduled in September and October. These events are free and open to the public. We will also be hosting the Second Annual Beer Mile at the Union Hall in few months. Look for the Beer Mile date in a future issue of Local Voices! You can find more info about our events or about the Getting Miles Athletic Club and our events on Facebook. You can also find info about our free run runs at gettingmiles.com.

You can join us for a run or walk every Thursday at 3:30 in Swinney Park West, located in downtown Fort Wayne. We also schedule a couple weekend runs/walks a month.

We look forward to seeing you on the trails!

UPCOMING EVENTS



GETTING MILES FREE FUN RUN SERIES!

COMPLETE THREE OF THE EVENTS TO WIN A SERIES FUN FINISHER MEDAL!

You can join Getting Miles for two more fun events this year. Check the QR code for more info!

FRIENDLY FACES - YOUR UAW FAMILY

SHE-RA JACOBS LAWRENCE
CHAIRMAN OF UNIT 7
AVANCEZ VAA

BEN HALSELL
TRIM 4-2ND-SHIFT



She-ra Jacobs Lawrence is the Chairman of UAW Local 2209 Unit 7 Avancez VAA. She has worked there for 2 years. She is married with 2 teenage boys (15 & 16). She was born and raised in Fort Wayne and graduated from South Side High School. She loves to travel, go sightseeing, and try new foods. She also enjoys watching crime shows like First 48 and Law & Order. She loves to just hang out and enjoy peoples company. She is learning new things all the time about being a Chairman and the UAW and loving every minute!

Ben Halsell has been at Fort Wayne Assembly for 7 years, mostly working in general assembly. He has a family of 5, including; His wife and 3 kids aged from 2-7. In his free time he likes to spend time with his family. He watches the Pacers and Colts. He also really enjoys video games and music. He has a been a great addition to the 2209 family.

Our MEMBERS



Mike Armstrong Jr. aka "Mic Strong" is a Fort Wayne native who has been a proud UAW Local 2209 member for 9 years total. He works in Trim 4 on 3rd shift.

Mike is the youngest of 3 and the father of 3 year old Nadia.

He shares his story in hopes of uplifting others and reminding us that its never too late to turn your life around.

As a kid he made decisions that led him in the wrong direction. After losing his Mother in 2009 and a close friend in 2010 he devoted his life to God.

He started a music group in grade school but didn't take a serious look at his music until 2019. His moniker "Mic Strong" represents his name and his personality. His music is eclectic and he calls it conscious/honest. He speaks of his life in his music.

He performed at the Middle Waves Music Festival June 18th.

His music can be found on itunes and YouTube. He has a new single being released July 1st. and new project in the works.

This young man is outgoing and talented and looking forward to getting involved with our union.



If you get a chance check out his music and if you see him in the plant stop him and talk. His story is one he's willing to share to make a difference.

If you would like to share your story or be highlighted on our Friendly Faces page email us at Localvoices@uaw2209.org

GOOD TRUCKIN' NEWS



Savannah and Jessie Murko welcomed Lincoln on March 22, 2022 joining big sis Oakley.



Hollie Hunter welcomes her first grandson William Robert on March 22, 2022 Hollie works 3rd shift door line.



Kelsie Mckibben and daughter Sienna Celeste Mckibben born on April 13, 2022



2022 Indiana Tech Graduate Michelle Reynolds (Doorline 2nd shift) worked full-time with 6 kids and took classes online. She graduated with an Associates Degree in accounting. Congratulations Michelle!



Kyle Tolliver harvested a trophy bird, one of his biggest turkeys ever at 28lbs, with a paint brush beard and spurs over an inch. He finished his season with two birds in Kentucky, one in Indiana.



Retiree Dan Watson Enjoying retirement with another turkey in the books.

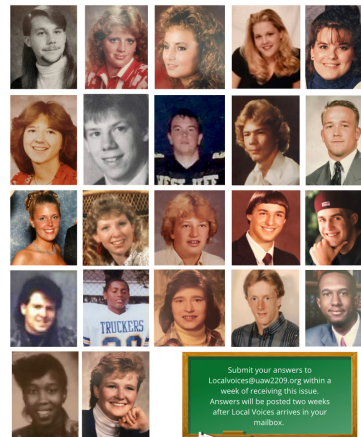
the Good Life



High School Picture Names in Local Voices May/June 2022 Issue

How many UAW 2209 members can you identify?

- 1st Row- Left to Right
Brian Biggerstaff
Kristy Myers
Angelita Stinson
Melinda Ladd
Beth Rumrill
- 2nd Row- Left to Right
Donna Bowker
Gary Waymire
Adam Tinkler
Marc Santos
Chris Phillips
- 3rd Row- Left to Right
Heather Edwards
Tonia Sbragia
Linda Printz
Dave Burden
Shea Stinson
- 4th Row- Left to Right
Paul Velarde
Greg Warner
Cinde Mustaine
Ryan Bultemeier
Marlin Foust
- 5th Row- Left to Right
Michele Buckler
Susan Taylor

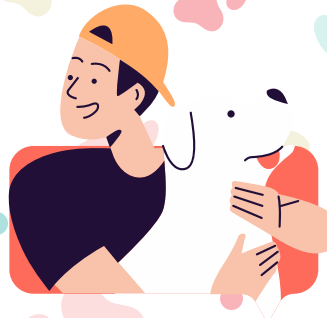


If you would like to submit a highschool photo send photos to LocalVoices@uaw2209.org

Submit your answers to LocalVoices@uaw2209.org within a week of receiving this issue. Answers will be posted two weeks after Local Voices arrives in your mailbox.

If you have Good Truckin' News you'd like to share email us at LocalVoices@uaw2209.org

Peeps & Pets



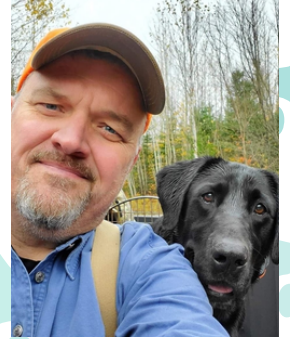
Dale, Kristine, Owen,
Tyler and Gunner



Tim and Unk



Chrissy and Calhoun



Jamie and Fletcher



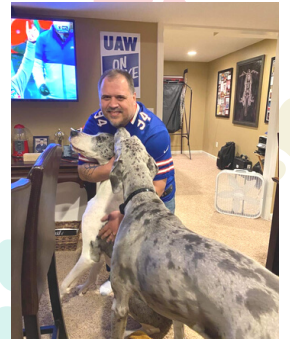
Lorri and Fleasha, Pookie
Corki and Wally



Retiree - Denny Burnett
and Gus



Tara and Buff and Gracie



Nelson and Buff and Gracie



Blake, Kristi and Echo



Kisha and Buddy



Brittany and Cooper



Peggy and Rascal



Please submit your pet pics to
Localvoices@uaw2209.org.

Congratulations!

Class of

2022



Mason Lewis son of
Josh Lewis & Nephew
of Dan & Beth
Rumrill & Anne
Byrne .



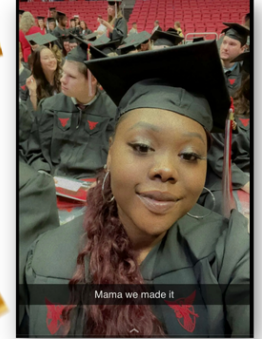
**Lucas Sebastian
Velarde** Son of
Paul Velarde



Jordyn L. Hogue
Northrop High
Daughter of
Katrina Combs



Karli Cannici
Ball State
University
Daughter of Rick
and Valarie



**Princess
Henry** Ball
State
University is
the daughter
of Beverly &
the late
Glenn Henry



Owen McMahon
Homestead HS
Parents Dale
Stutz & Kristine
Dilts



Nakyla Humphrey
Bachelors/Psychology
Daughter of
Regena Woods



Jordan Weatherbe
Parents
Karimah
Weatherbe & Isaac
Manning III
Grandmother
Janice Hodges



**Brayden Edward
Martin**
Woodlan H.S.
Grandson of
Deb Prokop



Sarah Laney
Daughter of
Christina Roby



Isaac Manning IV
Parents
Isaac Manning III &
Karimah
Weatherbe



Gracie Kidd
Daughter of
Nicole Kidd



Gianni Pulverenti
Son of
Kisha Pulverenti



Ashley M Bowes
Daughter of
Christina Bowes

Please share your Local Voices with your family.



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Thank YOU!

To all of the participants (we had over 200!), sponsors & volunteers of the 7th Annual Pedal Poker Run! We were able to raise \$11,068.08 for the Fort Wayne Trails! It was a beautiful day to explore Fort Wayne!! We hope you will join us next

