



LOCAL 211 NEWS

Union Proud from Defiance, Ohio



Our success is attributed to the rank and file—the working men and women—of our local union!

Chartered 1948

uawlocal211.com

June 2024

GRANT MUNCY MEMORIAL CAR SHOW

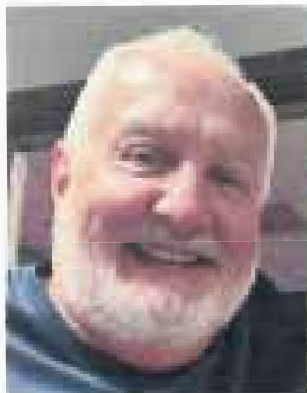
SUNDAY JUNE 23, 2024 AT THE UAW PARK
RAIN DATE WILL BE JUNE 30, 2024
AT THE SAME LOCATION AND TIME.

TIME: 12:00 NOON – 3:00 P.M.

THERE WILL BE A \$5.00 ENTRY FEE.
ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE FAMILY CHARITY OF CHOICE.

HOTDOGS, CHIPS AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT.





President's Report

By Larry Cooper

GM Unit had 7 retirements on June 1st, Abel Fuentes with 45.5 years of service, Alan Gerschutz with 33.5 years of service, Arturo Gonzales Jr. with 51.9 years of service, Eric Heilshorn with 34.2 years of service, Kenny Thieme with 33.6 years of service, Carl Vennekotter with 34.3 years of service and William Weber with 34.6 years of service. Powers and Sons unit had 3 retirements Get Athy, John Whitman and Dale Mock. I would like to thank you all for your dedication and wish you all a very happy and healthy retirement.

The Local 211 Recreation Committee is hosting the "Grant Muncy Memorial Car Show" on Sunday June 23, 2024 in the UAW Park from 12:00 noon until 3:00 P.M. there is a \$5.00 entry fee. Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be available. All proceeds will go to the family charity of choice.

I would like to thank the Women's Committee for their success at this year's Quarter Auction, it was a wonderful event and the money that was raised is going to be donated to Zonta.

I would like to thank the Trustees for all their hard work, they have gotten a lot of things accomplished that needed done.

I got the opportunity to attend the National GM SubCouncil Meetings in Philadelphia. I did get a chance to see Mike Booth, Vice President and Nicole Current who is the top administrative assistant of General Motors and Gaming. A lot of questions and concerns were asked about the SAP.

Margaret Mock did give a presentation, she would like to add more auditors at International.

There were a couple of meetings that only allowed the Chairmen and Presidents to attend.

Laura Dickerson, Director of Region 1A, she spoke on many common issues that we all have which are Safety Issues, hearing protection, contractors in most facilities and SAP being the biggest issue that affects most everybody.

Please make sure that your beneficiaries are all updated, you can contact Rob Searfoss with any questions. As of now there are 275,000 retired UAW members, the oldest being 110 years old, and still paying dues and CAP dues.

Shaun Fain spoke about Volkswagon getting organized and congratulated them all.

Altima Cells are getting closer to an agreement.

I would like to invite more of our retired and active members to attend a CAP meeting, which are held the second Tuesday of every month. Doors open at 5:00 with a meal served, 5:30 is the meeting. With this being an election year; attending CAP meetings will keep you informed and educated on the candidates and issues in the local and state government.



Chairman's Report

By Rob Egnor

Summer is approaching fast and the chore list is piling up. Not sure if you all are in the same position as I am or not, but I need to set some time aside and just get it done. Too often things get put on the back burner and the time comes that it becomes more of a priority. When this happens I tend to get in a rush to complete the tasks. One big thing I have learned over the years is that the results of rushing to complete these tasks results in being sore for the next week. With that being said, take the time to set aside so you are not rushing and get yourself injured. The number one priority should always be to keep as healthy as possible. When we are healthy, it makes taking care of everything else a lot easier.

At the plant, our business is very steady with the schedules remaining heavy for the foreseeable future. With the portfolio Defiance has for product, we are in a great position now and in the future. We provide the heart of a lot of vehicles that are put in the top selling vehicles in the corporate line-up.

We have recently seen the results of the 1st phase of the 2023 National Agreements Special Attrition Program. When the stipulations were originally released, the membership nationwide was loud and clear about their displeasure. During the week of May 13, 2024 the UAW-GM department held national council and the council made sure to express the members concerns on the SAP. The results were positive but not what we were after. We were told from our UAW leadership that another offer for the SAP will be in the 4th Quarter of this year. We need the communication to be a whole lot better on how the program is going to flow for the remaining offers in accordance with the SAP. Our UAW-GM Vice President has committed to make this happen. We will make sure to communicate the information as it comes in.

As we continue our journey here at the Defiance



plant, more and more of our members reach the time to enter the next chapter of their life as a retiree. There is not a whole lot more I like to see as team members reach that next chapter, but with this comes the need to replace them. We are in need and will continue to need people to fill those slots. If anyone has interest of applying or knows of someone who does, please have them go to gm.careers.com and look for openings. If they have a special interest in being a skilled trade's team member please inquire about the STARC program to get started. Our apprentice committee will be more than happy to assist.

To obtain accurate information, please ask anyone on the shop committee or the alternates for contractual issues, we will also be more than happy to make sure you receive accurate information. Communication can always improve but I do not want to put things out like what could be or what is rumored to be. There may be times we do not have certain answers for the questions asked, but I will definitely say that we will not hide information.

We recently had an event in the plant that saved a team members life. I will not get into great detail but I do want to express a huge amount of gratitude to the members involved in saving our team member.

We have some of the best team members in the UAW-GM department, included in this team is our PERT members. The appreciation goes well beyond what I can express, but I want to say THANK YOU for what you do!!

To everyone, stay safe and enjoy your summer. When you are at work I want to remind you to take the time to do your duties as safe as possible. There is not one single task in our facility that is worth risking an injury or worse. We all need to go home as we came in to work. Thank you for helping our plant in delivering the best quality castings to our customers in a safe manner.



Retiree Chairman's Report By Ted Fleming

April 15th and 16th, Local 211 retiree board members attended the UAW Region 2B Retired Workers Council meeting in South Bend, Indiana. The council delegates are the top four officers of all the local retiree chapters all across the state of Ohio and Indiana. I chair the council meetings.

Our Region 2B Director, David Green, opened the meeting and spoke about the organizing of plants going on throughout the South and with the transplants. He also talked about the upcoming election and the candidates our union is supporting. Director Green said we have two old white guys running for president and that our International Union is supporting the candidate who stood with our members on the picket lines - and has stood with us from day one. Green went on to say that the other candidate came to his plant in Lordstown, Ohio and told the membership not to take the transfers offered to other GM facilities or sell their homes because he was going to make GM keep the plant open. That was what members wanted to hear. They cheered and likely voted for him. But we know what happened. After elected, President Trump never returned to Lordstown. Instead he went on his twitter page and blamed Lordstown union leadership for the plant closing. Green said that Trump attacked him and the bargaining committees, saying the workers' wages were too high. And during the Stand Up UAW strike, Trump put together a fake union picket line and stood with non-union workers in an attempt to win the UAW's support. That was an insult to our members' intelligence. Director Green then answered several questions from our union council members on many issues facing our union's future.

Lisa Rinke, the Director and Administrative Assistant to the UAW Retiree Workers Department, and Becky Bridgewater, the servicing rep, gave a powerpoint presentation on the services and contact numbers for information on programs available to our retirees.

Donna Pavese did a presentation on hackers, security risk and artificial intelligence. The presentation was created for UAW retirees by Best Practice Consulting. She covered a long list of information, saying today's retirees are the most trusting generation and that makes us the most targeted and open to scams.

Continued on page 4



Retiree Chairman Report- Continued from page 3

She said NEVER give your personal information or money to an urgent request.

Raye Ohl, Region 2B Ohio retiree rep and CAP coordinator, spoke about our endorsed candidates and future meetings.

Mike Palmer, the council secretary/treasurer from Local 1005, Parma, OH and Jim King, the Indiana chair from Local 663 Anderson, IN, gave reports on financial status and concerns facing our Indiana Council members.

It was a very informative meeting and the Council members voiced their appreciation for all the work that went into putting it together. Our next meeting will be held at Black Lake, MI, in July.

THANK YOU IVAN & LISA



UAW Local 211 retiree chairman Ted Fleming presented Ivan and Lisa Burgei with a recognition and appreciation award at the June retiree meeting for their dedicated volunteer work in helping to restore the UAW park.



Retirees Report

By Ivan Burgei, Recording Sec

I hope everyone had a trouble free and pleasant winter. Spring is finally arrived and we are looking forward to a wonderful summer. Talking about summer, this year we have to change the Grandparents/Grandkids Day because the 4th of July falls on Retiree Day. So please mark this date on your calendar. Tuesday July 2nd is the date set for Grandparents/Grandchildren's Day in the Park. There is nothing that makes me happier than watching our grandchildren having fun outside doing great things we did when were kids. It makes me feel young again. There will be pony rides, bouncy rides, face painting, snow cones, carriage rides and lots of food to eat; so please, bring your grandchildren to this event and experience the feeling of youth again.

Now, let's get down to business. At the Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans meeting, one of our guest speakers was Tim Burga, President of Ohio AFL-CIO. He reported that in last November Congress tried to stop Health Care and alter our voting rights. This November ARA is doing everything possible to keep our Health Care solvent and to stop Gerrymandering by keeping politics out of it. Redistricting our voting boundaries need to be designated independently, that is why we need your signatures on this petition.

Another speaker was Jennifer Miller, Executive Director of Ohio League of Women Voters. She covered the history from Women's Rights to Vote, to the present. Her number one priority are Women's Rights, the Public Education Programs and Democracy.

Last but not least was Norm Wernet, Ohio ARA President. He spoke about Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Did you know that not one penny adds to the national deficit? Social Security can not borrow money or lend money to the Government but that does not stop them from borrowing our money. Social Security is an entitlement, not to be messed with. If you or someone you know is on Medicaid, they have to lose all their assets before they are qualified. This includes property and money.

At closing, I would like to thank you for sending Bill Thomas, Dennis Harr and myself to this conference and we will continue to post this important information to you. Until next time, be safe and stay healthy.





Herbert Orr
By Ronald Phillip Bendele Jr.

“Don’t know what you got till it’s gone” is a song made famous by the group Cinderella!

Sadly, sometimes we don’t know what we had until we’ve lost it! It’s gone! And we realize that it wasn’t as bad as we thought it was.

Now, if we were talking about losing a significant other as I’m sure the song was alluding too, yes that can be tough. But having to replace a love interest, as difficult as it may be may never be as difficult as replacing a good leader. Loosing a good leader can be detrimental not only to our Union, but to our way of life as citizens of this great Country that we proudly call the United States of America!

Whether it is our elected officials in our Local Government representing our towns, cities and Country’s or our leaders representing us at the State level like our friend to the Union, Senator Sherrod Brown; or our friend to the Union that supports us from the White House “President Joe Biden! Good leaders that represent us is not just a need by our Union, it is a necessity! Good leadership fighting for us by pushing for policies and bills that help protect workers and our retired workers is an absolute must! When we don’t support our leaders and they got replaced by people that don’t support our values as UAW members, then all the hard work we put in to protect our working rights to fair representation, working conditions, protecting our retiree’s, etc. etc. goes by the waste side.

In my time as Vice Chairman and the short time that I was Chairman, I always tried to be the type of leader that I would want to be represented by. Always having time to represent someone with a problem or a question or whatever they needed. They might not always get the answer that they wanted but I am always going to give them an honest answer that does not violate our contract. If I don’t know the answer, then I will work hard to find the answer for them; why? Because I am for my people! I didn’t do the job to better me, I did it to help the people that I represented. What makes a good leader is the selflessness in which they perform his or her job for the people that they represent. A good leader doesn’t take their office for what they believe are perks like Conferences to Black Lake or the Leadership Conference that we go to talk about problems and solutions to the problems that we all face in the places where we work by

sharing our experiences on the job and where we work sometimes, we can hear something or by sharing something we can help each other. That is the purpose of these conferences. After returning from conferences, we bring that information home to the people we represent and our membership is better and stronger for it. These conferences are not a vacation! We are there to share information, learn what we can learn and bring that back to our people. That is the way I have always looked at it. I did not do the job for perks or for trips, it was always about my people and representing their interests.

Which brings me to the real message that I am driving at; that is how our politicians should be representing us, putting us first not special interests or to take care of their own agenda.



**Grandparents
Grandchildrens Day**

Tuesday, July 2nd
From 11 am - 3 pm

@ UAW Park
2120 Baltimore, Defiance, OH

***Please refer to Retiree Report
for more details.**
(Rain Date July 9th)



Our sympathy for your loss... To our bereaved members and their families, we offer our condolences for the loss of their loved ones. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of:

Mike Imler – Active at Teijin Automotive
 Therman Ratliff – Retired 8/95
 R.T. Bowser – Retired 12/96
 John Yates – Retired 2/81
 Isaiah Vance – Retired 10/03
 Larry Cameron – Retired 2/93
 James Wagner – Retired 8/06
 Howard Case – Retired 6/06
 William Spillers – Retired 9/95
 Ronald Schroeder – Retired 8/94
 Benjamin Huner – Retired 7/04
 Francis Pessefall – Retired 8/94
 Ernest Castellon – Retired 10/2000
 Donald Adkins – Retired 4/90
 John Rieman – Retired 7/08
 Merlin Busch – Retired 10/89
 Margaret Urdiales – Retired 7/97
 Vernon Schwartz – Retired 1/99
 Leon Bevins – Retired 3/2000
 Frank Ordway – Retired 3/08

Doug Layne – Retired 5/01
 Larry Fritch – Retired 5/01
 William Straka – Retired 10/78
 Norma Sloan – Retired 8/97
 William Erickson – Retired 3/02
 Gregory Wells – Retired 8/98
 Earlie Gaffney Jr. – Retired 4/86
 Abraham Flores Jr. – Retired 11/89
 Eloy Garza – Retired 4/94
 Kevin Decker – Retired 4/01
 Charles Petty – Retired 3/99
 George Belcher – Retired 5/2000
 John Andrist – Retired 9/91
 Vincent Romanelli – Retired 6/93
 Sandra Sanders – Retired 4/02
 Charles Petty – Retired 3/99
 George Belcher – Retired 5/2000
 John Andrist – Retired 9/91
 Vincent Romanelli – Retired 6/93
 Sandra Snaders – Retired 4/02

The Story behind Juneteenth and How it Became a Federal Holiday

Many Americans are celebrating Juneteenth, marking the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in the United States learned they were free.

For generations, Black Americans have recognized the end of one of the darkest chapters in U.S. history with joy, in the form of parades, street festivals, musical performances or cookouts.

The U.S. government was slow to embrace the occasion — it was only in 2021 that President Joe Biden signed a bill passed by Congress to set aside Juneteenth, or June 19th, as a federal holiday.

And just as many people learn what Juneteenth is all about, the holiday’s traditions are facing new pressures — political rhetoric condemning efforts to teach Americans about the nation’s racial history, companies using the holiday as a marketing event, people partying without understanding why.

Here is a look at the origins of Juneteenth, how it

became a federal holiday and more about its history.

HOW DID JUNETEENTH START?

The celebrations began with enslaved people in Galveston, Texas. Although President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves in 1863, it could not be enforced in many places in the South until the Civil War ended in 1865. Even then, some white people who had profited from their unpaid labor were reluctant to share the news.

Laura Smalley, freed from a plantation near Bellville, Texas, remembered in a 1941 interview that the man she referred to as “old master” came home from fighting in the Civil War and didn’t tell the people he enslaved what had happened.

“Old master didn’t tell, you know, they was free,” Smalley said. “I think now they say they worked them, six months after that. Six months. And turn them loose on the 19th of June. That’s why, you know, we celebrate that day.”

News that the war had ended and they were free finally reached Galveston when Union Major Gen.

Gordon Granger and his troops arrived in the Gulf Coast city on June 19, 1865, more than two months after Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia.

Granger delivered General Order No. 3, which said: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor."

Slavery was permanently abolished six months later, when Georgia ratified the 13th Amendment. And the next year, the now-free people of Galveston started celebrating Juneteenth, an observance that has continued and spread around the world. Events include concerts, parades and readings of the Emancipation Proclamation.



The More You Know

By Sheri Baker
Financial Secretary

Do you know the UAW has a constitution? The most current constitution is from July 2022. The changes to the UAW Constitution were approved by the elected delegates at the 38th Constitution Convention. There is a process that is lined out in the Constitution on how the membership makes changes to the Constitution. You will find this information in Article 8, Section 15.

The UAW constitution is broken into Articles. Article 2 is titled Objectives. Each objective is in a section of its own. The first objective of the UAW is much what you would expect it to be. Article 2, Section 1 states "To improve working conditions, create a uniform system of shorter hours, higher wages, health care and pensions, to maintain and protect the interest of workers under the jurisdiction of this International Union."

Let's look at Article 2, Section 2 "To unite in one organization, regardless of religion, race, creed,

color, sex, political affiliation or nationality, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression all employees under the jurisdiction of this International Union. This Constitution shall use gender neutral language and pronouns throughout whenever feasible."

Each local union is required to have bylaws that pertain to that local. Bylaws are also set up like the Constitution. If you are an amalgamated local, like we are, each unit will have its own set of bylaws. These bylaws will be approved by the membership of that unit with the GM bylaws approved by the entire membership. The GM bylaws need to be approved by the entire membership because GM is the original unit. Think of it as an umbrella, the units fall under the GM bylaws except those that are specific to that unit.

Article 2, Objectives of Local 211 bylaws state:

To serve its members with the end view of making our community one of the finest in our country.

To become a real community institution, using its power as an institution for the ultimate good of the people employed in the workshops of Defiance, Ohio and vicinity.

There are also Administrative Letters that the International Union will put in place with the advisement of the legal department. Administrative Letter Volume No. 51 Letter No. 1 dated February 14, 2003. In this issue it educates the members of Ethical Conduct in Dealing with Vendors (anyone whom we would write a check to), Suppliers and Other Providers of Service. It states, "All UAW representatives are reminded that, in these dealings with outside businesses, it is imperative to uphold the UAW's well-deserved reputation for integrity and continue our faithful adherence to the highest principles of trade unionism. In these dealings, the UAW representative's duty is to put the best interests of the Union and its members first and to strictly avoid conduct which might result in, or even suggest, personal benefit to you as a union official or bring ill repute upon the organization. Any action that even suggests impropriety should be avoided."

This Administrative Letters also refers to the Ethical Practices Code that is in the Constitution. "There shall be no contracts of purchase or sale or rendering services which will result in the personal profit or advantage of any officer or representative of the Union." To add more, "No officer or representative shall have a personal financial interest which conflicts with her/his Union duties."

United Auto Workers
Amalgamated Local 211
2120 Baltimore Road
Defiance, Ohio 43512



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Defiance, Ohio
Permit NO. 342

United Auto Workers,
Amalgamated Local 211
2120 Baltimore Road
Defiance, Ohio 43512

Telephone: 419.784.5399
Facsimile: 419.784.5838
Email: local211@defnet.com

UAW Local 211 Unit Meetings
Please confirm exact dates and times.

General Motors

Active, Wednesday, August 7 (UAW Hall)

Retiree, Thursday, July 2 (UAW Hall)

Herbert E. Orr

Tuesday, July 2 (Paulding Fire House)

Midwest Community FCU

Wednesday, August 7 (UAW Hall)

Sims Metal Management

Tuesday, July 2 (UAW Hall)

Johns Manville

Tuesday, July 2 CANCELED (UAW Hall)

Powers & Sons Wednesday, August 14 (Drop Tine Winery & Tap House)

DFM Monday, July 8 (UAW Hall)

Teijin Automotive Technologies Monday, August 12 (USW Hall, Van Wert)

Defiance Area UAW CAP Council Tuesday, July 9

Local 211 News

Official Publication of
United Auto Workers,
Amalgamated Local 211



Visit uawlocal211.com.

News Editors: Tonya Huss, Cody Pittman
& Sheri Baker

Web Editors: Mitch Chandler & Tina Cattell

POLICY OF THE LOCAL 211 NEWSLETTER

The views or opinions expressed by the individual writers in *Local 211 News* are not necessarily those of the editors or of the Local 211 administration. The editors reserve the right to edit all material submitted. Any submissions for *Local 211 News* may be e-mailed to: local211@defnet.com or dropped off at the UAW hall. Articles must be received by the Friday following the GM Unit membership meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Here's a reminder! If you find a mistake in *Local 211 News*, please realize that we have not included it on purpose. But, if you feel inclined, bring it to our attention and every attempt will be made to correct it.



Local 211 News
is proudly printed
by Keystone Press,
Toledo, Ohio.