



# 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

December 2016

## Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village in Dearborn

By Kim Kovellev, MetroParent, November 23, 2016

Touted as a “step into a Christmas card from the past” – and named a “top ten family holiday destination by USA Today and Reader’s Digest” – this annual transformation warms up the chilly evenings with a well-measured mix of nostalgia and good cheer, complete with lantern-lit pathways, carolers, decorations and other entertainers in old-fashioned garb – and Kris Kringle, who suitably sets up shop at the Robert Frost House through Friday, Dec. 23.

Ever tried real chestnuts, hot off a roasting fire? Get a real taste of the well-known Christmas tune, or try other tasty options at several food stops. Like to feel the frosty air? Hop aboard a horse-drawn wagon, Model T or rent some skates to take a spin around a bonafide ice rink.

The Rockwellian scene also features holiday vignettes prime for family photo ops, as well as non-stop entertainment happening throughout the village, featuring heaps of carolers and a fife-and-drum corps – and that doesn’t even include the strolling presenters and artisan demos you’ll happen upon. Sneak in a bit of shopping, too, at Liberty Craftworks (if you fancy glass and pottery). Or, find historic toys at the Main Street Emporium – plus an ornament shop down Main Street. It’s all topped off by a spellbinding fireworks display and rousing sing-along.

Times are 6:30-10 p.m. Dec. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 20-23 and 26-30, 2016. Word to the wise: Be sure to get your tickets in advance! This event does wind up with sold-out dates. The cost is \$26/adults, \$23.50/

seniors, \$19.50/ages 3-11, free/kids 2 and under and \$6/parking. There’s a \$2 coupon online, good to use Dec. 4, 11 and 20. Got a membership to The Henry Ford? Costs are a bit less (check out its website for details).

Share a wonderful evening with the family at this annual holiday event! For further details, visit the website for the 2016 Holiday Nights event at Greenfield Village.



*About The Henry Ford:* The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan is an internationally-recognized cultural destination that brings the past forward by immersing visitors in the stories of ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation that helped shape America. A national historic landmark with an unparalleled collection of artifacts from 300 years of American history, The Henry Ford is a force for sparking curiosity and inspiring tomorrow’s innovators. More than 1.6 million visitors annually experience its five attractions: Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, The Ford Rouge Factory Tour, The Benson Ford Research Center and The Henry Ford IMAX Theatre. The Henry Ford is also home to Henry Ford Academy. In 2014, The Henry Ford premiered its first-ever national television series, The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation, showcasing present-day change-makers and The Henry Ford’s artifacts and unique visitor experiences. Hosted by news correspondent and humorist, Mo Rocca, this Emmy®-winning weekly half-hour show airs Saturday mornings on CBS. Visit the website, [thehenryford.org](http://thehenryford.org) for more information.



**This outdoor family tradition, back select dates Dec. 2-30, 2016, has old-fashioned flair with costumed carolers, Santa, food and more.**



# President's Report

By Keith Boecker

Our General Motors unit had two retirements effective December 1 – Ester Jones and Gwen Kohls. Our Powers and Sons unit had one retirement, Diane Cline. Congratulations to “Jonsey,”

Gwen and Diane. We wish the three of you a very long and happy retirement. Thanks also for your years of service and dedication.

Recently, our Herbert E. Orr unit ratified its local agreement (85% voted yes to ratify). Congratulations go to the unit's members. I also want to thank the bargaining committee for its hard work.

The local's scholarship committee pulled the winners for the Charlie Chatham Scholarship. The \$500 winners are Sydney Cramer-Bodenbender, Marissa Vennekotter, Alec Wagner, Keylee Tressler and Eric Warnecke. The \$250 winners are Madison Hermiller and Ryan Kimmet. We wish these students success in their endeavors for higher education and attaining their goals. We thank all our students for showing interest in the scholarship program.

Our local held its annual Christmas Party for Kids this past Sunday. Thanks to the recreation committee and all who volunteered. We have Children and Senior tickets for “Lights Before Christmas” at the Toledo Zoo still available. Contact Lisa at our union for more information.



Toledo Walleye Hockey tickets are available for \$10 each. Again, contact Lisa if you want to purchase tickets. The hockey game is in Toledo at the Huntington Center on January 8. The game starts at 5:15 p.m.

Detroit Auto Show tickets are available on a first come first serve basis. Tickets are \$10 each. Contact Steve Rieger at our GM unit or Lisa at our union hall at 419-784-5399 if interested. The auto show runs from January 14-21 beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and on January 22 from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Thanks go to everyone who volunteered to ring the bell at Chief's Supermarket. All money raised will be donated to the Ravens.

A short time back, our Powers and Sons unit held its bargaining committee election. Charles Fockler is the new Chariperson. The bargaining committee

is Victor Maag, Janice Malone and Anthony Wright. Congratulations go to all.

The next Defiance Area CAP meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 5:30. All are welcomed to attend.

Finally, our veterans committee donated \$200 to “Stockings for Soldiers.” The committee also donated \$250 to the Van Wert County's Service Commission renovation project. Thanks go to the members of our veterans committee for all their helpings hands and continued support to all the veterans in our community.

## Our GM Unit's Suggestion Coordinator

By Tonya Huss



Yep. That is me, Tonya, you see behind the desk! I am the new Suggestions Plan Administrator and Communications Coordinator. I want to thank our union leadership for having the confidence in me to appoint yours truly to this position.

Feel free to stop in whenever time permits. This is completely different than any other job I have ever had. I am very excited about my new position.

Here are a few things about myself. I have worked at GM's Defiance foundry for the last 21 years. Inside the plant, I have worked a short time in plant 2's finishing department and plant 1's core room. However, I have spent the majority of my time there in plant 1's finishing department. I also worked in pre-machining for over a year before taking this job.

As painful as it is to admit, I am a huge Cleveland Browns fan. I love to cook and bake for my family and friends. Some of you may know my husband, Gary Huss. I have three children: my son, Tyler, is 29 years old and lives in New York City, my son, Garrett, is 15 and my daughter, Sophia, is 13.

Please give me some time to better familiarize myself with the responsibilities of my new job. There is a lot to learn! Be patient with me.

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: **The Education Committee wants the** :  
: **membership to know that due to the** :  
: **finances of our local changes are coming** :  
: **in the new year to Local 211 News.** :  
: **We will post more information about the** :  
: **changes in the upcoming months.** :  
.....



## Vice President's Report By Larry Cooper

There has been a lot going on at our local this month. We held an election at the GM unit on November 15 for the District 3-B (3rd shift) committeeperson and alternate committeeperson. The candidates for committeeperson were Chris Weirauch and Jeff Hermiller. Jeff won with a total of 61 votes. The alternate committeeperson candidates were Rick Busch and Dale Ricker. Rick won with a total of 77 votes. Congratulations go to both Jeff and Rick. We wish them all the best!

Remember to be safe whether at home or work. Share safety tips with your family. Let us remember that accidents and injuries do not always happen to strangers. They may unfortunately strike a co-worker or someone you love. Tragedies do strike this time of the year. In Defiance County this winter, there has already been two house fires due to faulty heaters. Last year, someone I know almost fell off his house roof and injured himself putting up Christmas lights. Always be cautious when handling ladders and running extension cords.

As Keith mentioned, our Herbert E. Orr unit recently completed bargaining negotiations and reached agreement on a new contract. It was ratified on November 19. Congratulations go to its bargaining committee consisting of Ricky Johns, Ron Bendele and Randy Cotterman and its Servicing Representative, Aaron Nolan. The entire committee did a great job on behalf of the membership.

At our Powers & Sons unit, elections were just held for its bargaining committee. The previous committee did a very good job over the past years and has represented its members well. The new committee that was elected on November 3. Congratulation to all those who were elected.

With all that has been going on, it has definitely been keeping Keith and myself busy. I was privileged to sit in on just a few meetings with the Herbert Orr unit's bargaining committee during its contract negotiations. It was definitely a learning experience to see them working together to do what is best for its members.

Now that the Thanksgiving holiday has come and gone, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Remember those less fortunate than yourself. Donate to the charity of your choice.



## Christmas Message Tim Burke, Chaplain

A miracle happened over two thousand years ago; the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior.

We have all heard the story of Christ's birth, a miracle in a manger in Bethlehem. His mother who was with Joseph took on the baby as his own because he was prompted by the Holy Spirit to raise and to protect the child and mother. The story for most ends there as a delightful story. However it's true there were also very bad things brewing. Herod told the wise men to follow the star and let him know where the baby Jesus was born so he could come and worship the child. He was telling lies in fact he wanted Jesus dead even as an infant because of the threat of a King being born to our Heavenly Father. Jesus was taken other places to be hid. Then he became all he was to be the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.



*Matthew 1:18 and Matthew 2*

If you seem to be facing troubles in life, things are not going as planned just remember Jesus went through all of your troubles. Turn to Him and enjoy the day of His birth.

Have a Blessed Christmas! Rejoice.

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



- Hubert Hancock – Retired 4/90
- Rufus Goree – Retired 4/91
- Gerald Combs – Retired 5/94
- Howard Wright – Retired 5/95
- Alfredo Sierra – Retired 7/06
- George Jorkos – Retired 3/92



# Labor Freezes Ohio GOP Attack on Unemployment Benefits

By Bruce Rostek, December 5, 2016, People's World

Republicans intent on passing legislation that would cripple Ohio's unemployment compensation system received a major surprise, and setback, last Tuesday, as over 400 unionists packed the statehouse in opposition. They'd planned to quickly pass it, with little notice, in the lame duck session of the legislature. The bill was an attempt to deal with the system's underfunding, a problem actually created by Republicans.

"It was Republicans cutting taxes for businesses that created the crisis in the first place," stated Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio. "Benefit levels aren't the source of the unemployment trust fund's weakness, inadequate taxes are."

The hundreds of union folks rallied first at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Columbus, then marched the few blocks to the statehouse, where they broke into delegations, and met with their representatives. They demanded that no bill be passed that cuts benefits, taxes on employers be raised to support the system, and that real, public hearings take place on any changes, not any backroom quickie in a lame duck session.

"We completely took them by surprise. They were terrified," said Norm Wernet, Ohio president of Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA). "They thought they'd just shove this through, no problem."

"They stumbled and bumbled all over themselves when [Ohio AFL-CIO president] Tim Burga mentioned the possibility of a public referendum. They almost crap themselves anytime we bring up SB 5!"

He was referring to the 2011 bill, SB 5, passed by the Republican majority, that would have wiped out public employee bargaining. It was killed by a massive union-led mobilization that put forward an electoral referendum opposing it, which passed by a huge majority.

"Employers have been shortchanging the system for far too long, creating the solvency problems for the system," stated AFL-CIO president Tim Burga. "Ohio's working people deserve a sensible reform package that preserved the modest benefits, doesn't place undue burden on unemployed workers, and that doesn't diminish this important safety net."

Central Ohio labor fed President Dave Caldwell felt that it was a successful day.

"When we come together like this," he said, "nothing stops us. We're also fighting for local businesses. If benefits to the most vulnerable are cut, nobody will have money to shop, and those little mom-and-pop stores are most likely to go out of business."

After meeting with representatives, the union members all headed for the Statehouse Room, where a hearing on the GOP proposal was to take place. Packed to standing room only, they waited, and waited, and continued to wait for the hearing to open. Scheduled to start at 1 pm, the crowd was still in place after 5 pm, when the bill's sponsors finally called the day.

"They kept trying to wait us out, hoping we'd leave," said a laughing Bill Bowers, UAW representative. "The more they stalled, the more we determined to stay put!"

After a four-hour wait, Cincinnati Republican Lew Blessing, one of the bill's sponsors, came into the room. He stood in front, glaring at individuals in the crowd. Addressing those assembled, he loudly proclaimed, "This is official business, and we'll not tolerate any outbursts!"

Hundreds in the crowd reacted with incongruity, looking around in confused silence. Then, they started laughing. While everyone enjoyed the joke, the pompous "representative" left.

"It's really been a great day. We've felt bad after the elections, but this really helps us all," said Monica Morgan, who works with the pro-labor group Progress Ohio. "I went back to Youngstown to connect with people here, but this day has helped everyone's spirits."

Ohio AFL-CIO legislative director Matt Smith was also happy with the day's work.

"We've forced them to back off, but the fight is by no means over. They're putting HR 620 forward as their new bill. We're urging everyone to contact their reps to urge them to (1) hold real public hearings, (2) tax employers to bring in needed revenue for the comp system, and (3) put no bill forward that cuts benefits for unemployed workers."

CWA leader Theo James said he's glad the mobilization took place.

"This is the first of many, many fights we're going to have. It's great to know we're still in practice!"



## Advisory Council's Report

Keith Boecker, UAW Local 211 President

On Tuesday and Wednesday, this is October 25 and 26, our Local 211 Leadership met in Sawmill Creek Huron, Ohio, for the Region 2-B UAW Advisory Council meetings. Members included: Kathy Reynolds, Chairperson for Midwest Community Credit Union, Ricky Johns, Chairperson for Herbert E. Orr, Roger Sierra, Chairperson for Aramark, Charles Fockler, newly elected Chairperson for Powers & Sons, Jeff Bauman, Chairperson for Johns Manville, Rob Egnor Chairperson for GM and myself. These meetings covered Civil Rights, Technical Office & Professional/TOP, Competitive Shops/IPS, Skilled Trades, Union Label, Veterans, and Womens councils meeting.

## Our Volunteers are Appreciated

Gert Hahn, Financial Secretary

I would like to thank the many volunteers that participated in this year's Ravens Care's "Wishing Well" project. The annual wishing well is one of Ravens Care's biggest fundraisers for the year. Just one hour equates to approximately \$113 which can purchase food for four families, three medicines, or shelter for two nights to a homeless family. Ravens Care assists of Defiance County residents with utility shut-offs, food, clothing, shelter, and gas for out of town medical appointments. It also conducts budget and cooking/ nutrition classes.

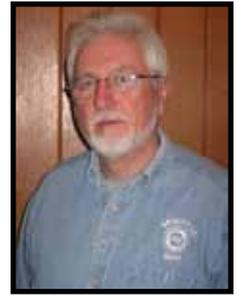
UAW members had to man the "Wishing Well" which consisted of greeting people as they walked by and handing out candy canes. It really was a wonderful opportunity to meet a lot of different people within our community and sometimes even hear how they have been helped by this organization.

Again thank you to all the volunteers – Dan Perez, Lisa Beardsley, Sherri Dalton, Larry Cooper, Jeremy Zedaker, Keith Boecker, Kathy Reynolds, Roger Sierra, Bill Smith, Peggie and Bob Sponsler, and Caleb Witchey, that helped show their support for this worthwhile cause.



## Retirees' Report

By Ted Fleming,  
Retiree Chairman



The Local 211 Retirees wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

On Thursday, December 1, the Local 211 retirees held our annual Christmas luncheon. We had a good turnout and enjoyed a good meal and fellowship. There were several door prize and fun drawings. The 50/50 winner took home \$330. Some members of our Region 2B staff and Retired Workers Council board members traveled to Defiance to join with us to celebrate this special day.

I want to thank everyone who attended and helped make this dinner a success, especially the retiree board members, the retiree recreation committee members, the ticket sellers and our Local 211 secretary. We especially appreciate and thank the Local 211 retirees who pay monthly union dues.

This event would not have been possible without their contributions.

On behalf of the Local 211 retiree officers of Orville Clark, Peggy Sponsler, Dorothy Engelhaupt and myself, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and joyful New Year!



## Veterans Appreciation Dinner

Chris Mendez, Trustee

On November 11, the veterans committee co-hosted a Veterans Appreciation Dinner with Keller Trucking (K.A.V.O.C.). The attendance was overwhelming. It was good to see so many veterans and their families present and to hear all the history they hold. The dinner included eight varieties of soup that were part of a cook off competition, chicken sandwiches and cherry cobbler donated by Jim Howard's boy scout troop. The veterans and their families had opportunities to win door prizes along with many other amazing giveaways. This event raised \$39,400 to assist veterans in crisis. Any veteran that is in need of help should contact Tonya Brunner at the Defiance Veterans Affairs Office (419) 782-6861. Thank you to everyone that participated in this event and made it possible.



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### UAW Local 211 Unit Meetings

Please confirm exact dates and times.

#### **GM**

Active, January 6 (UAW Hall)  
Retirees, January 7 (UAW Hall)

#### **Herbert E. Orr**

Tuesday, January 3 (Paulding Fire House)

#### **Midwest Community FCU**

Wednesday, February 1 (UAW Hall)

#### **Sims Metal Management**

Tuesday, January 3 (UAW Hall)

#### **Johns Manville**

Tuesday, January 3 (UAW Hall)

#### **Powers & Sons**

Wednesday, February 8 (Quality Inn)

#### **Aramark**

Monday, January 9 (UAW Hall)

## Local 211 News

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