



# 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 May 2017

## Presidents Report with Election Results

By Keith Boecker, UAW Local 211 President

**A**ll workplace fatalities are avoidable. Through the collective bargaining process, we seek to make our workplaces safer and often negotiate stronger protections for our members than is required by federal, state and local laws and guidelines. We do this because all workers should leave their workplace in the same health as when they arrived for work. These deaths serve as a reminder of the dangers of working alone. The team leaders' duties and lean manufacturing objectives must be coupled with proper regard to safety; that malfunctioning or poorly designed machine guarding and presence-sensing devices must be reported to management and be promptly addressed. We must also do more to ensure that new safe working procedures are in place when maintenance tasks create new hazards.

We mourn the loss of the following members and send our condolences to their loved ones and coworkers.

*LeRoy Hunt – September 2, 1951, Furl Stallard – August 16, 1967, Doyle Price – August 5, 1968, Jerry Edwards – March 31, 1969, Bernard Meyer – July 23, 1970 – Robert Vogelsong – October 22, 1971, Joseph Konrad – December 13, 1972, Jimmie Liles – January 14, 1977, Carlos Overa – December 22, 1980, Benjamin Warnement – June 1, 1981, Clarence Webster – January 20, 1983, James Kent – September 16, 1985, Franklin Dixon – September 9, 1986, Eugene Childs – September 13, 1988, David McCreery – June 16, 1990, Jimmy Jones – September 11, 1993 and Terry Bodenbender – February 2, 2016*

### Election Results

Executive Board		General Motors	
<b>President:</b>	<b>Keith Boecker</b>	<b>Shop Chairperson:</b>	<b>Rob Egnor</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Larry Cooper</b>	<b>1-A Committeeperson:</b>	<b>Dan Maynard</b>
<b>Financial Secy.:</b>	<b>Gert Hahn</b>	<b>1-A Alternate:</b>	<b>Ken Karl</b>
<b>Recording Secy.:</b>	<b>Sherri Dalton</b>	<b>1-B Committeeperson:</b>	<b>Fred Hammersmith</b>
<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Steve Pryor</b>	<b>1-B Alternate:</b>	<b>Rene Gill</b>
	<b>Bob Gill</b>		
	<b>Sheri Baker</b>	<b>2-A Committeeperson:</b>	<b>Tom Garza</b>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms:</b>	<b>Danny Green</b>	<b>2-A Alternate:</b>	<b>Ben Sabins</b>
<b>Guide:</b>	<b>Jeremy Zedaker</b>	<b>3-A Committeeperson:</b>	<b>Rick Busch</b>
		<b>3-A Alternate:</b>	<b>Victor Lopez</b>
<b>Aramark Chairperson: Caleb Withey</b>			

## How Mexico's Unions Sell Out Autoworkers

Wage contracts are inked years before plants open and workers never get a say.

by David Welch and Nacha Cattan, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, May 5, 2017

**S**o-called protection contracts—agreements negotiated between a company and a union that doesn't legitimately represent workers—are illegal in the U.S. and Germany. But Lance Compa, a senior lecturer at Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, says they're standard operating procedure in Mexico, where deals are cut factory by factory rather than collectively across a company or industry. Experts say this is a primary reason that wages in the auto sector have stagnated in recent years, despite a fresh wave of investments by foreign carmakers, most recently by German and Japanese manufacturers. Mexico's union bosses and politicians are more interested in keeping corporations happy than in raising the living standards of workers, Covarrubias argues. "Protection contracts are a way to keep wages artificially low," he says.

Since 2010, automakers have announced \$24 billion in investments through 2019, while parts makers have committed another \$3 billion, according to the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Mich. Companies often cite the trade agreements Mexico has signed with 45 countries as a key reason they want to locate their plants there. Auto executives will rarely say they chose Mexico because its workers are among the cheapest in the world.

Mexican assembly-line workers earn about one-tenth of what their U.S. counterparts make. Adjusted for productivity, base wages for workers in plants that make transportation equipment rose 20 percent in Mexico between 2006 and 2016, according to calculations by Boston Consulting Group Inc.; in China, they climbed 157 percent over the same period.



Alejandra makes about \$1.45 an hour working at a factory in Guanajuato state owned by Hirschmann Automotive GmbH, an Austrian parts maker. The machine operator, who asked that her last name not be used for fear of retaliation, says she has no idea if she and her co-workers are represented by a union. A public records search revealed that a CTM affiliate registered a contract in July 2015, almost two years before the factory was formally inaugurated. Perhaps Alejandra is in the dark because the union collects dues from Hirschmann, rather than employees—a common practice in Mexico.

Alejandra's wage is about double the minimum in her state, but she says it's not enough to support her and her young son. She can't afford to buy shoes or fish and rarely eats out. "As long as the authorities are lining their own pockets, the rest of us can all drown," she says. Hirschmann did not comment.

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump vowed to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, to keep American carmakers and other manufacturers from shifting production to Mexico. Yet tweaking tariffs and rejiggering local-content rules may not do much to stop the sucking sounds of auto jobs moving to Mexico. "Protection contracts are at the heart of the pressure on factory wages in the U.S. and beyond," says Harley Shaiken, a labor professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

The contracts trace their roots to the 1930s, when labor laws allowed unions to initiate a strike at a factory whether it had employee membership at the plant or not, says Héctor Barba, a labor lawyer for the National Workers Union, a CTM rival. This allowed unions to extort money from companies looking to prevent crippling work stoppages, he says. To protect investors, Mexico introduced laws in the 1980s allowing employers to register with one union, thus barring other syndicates from organizing strikes at their plants. That established a pattern that continues in which a company signs a contract with a union of its choosing as soon as it announces a new project.





## Vice President's Report

By Larry Cooper

**T**he month of April was a very busy month, but seems to be a normal anymore around the Local 211. We started the month off with our regular union meetings along with the nominations for our Shop

Committee, Alternates and Executive Board. It was a good turn out to see new faces to the meetings and to be nominated for an elected position. Good Luck to all who are running for office. Also, we held the election for the election committee and thanks to all who ran for that office and congratulations to all. The new election committee got some good training with holding the election on our local contract. The election committee should be ready for the general election coming on May 11. Speaking of elections, the Local 211 CAP held its nominations on April 11 for its officers. All those who were nominated accepted. Congratulations go to all. The CAP council will continue to keep the membership informed on upcoming political activities and information.

Workers Memorial Day was held at the GM plant. In attendance were members of the shop committee and GM salary, and a special guest by the name of Jerry Bodenbender. Names of the deceased were read along with the ringing of the bell. Flags were put in place in front of the plant with remembrance of those who lost their lives. Jerry put the flag up for his brother Terry. It was a somber morning remembering those who died.



**Jerry Bodenbender**

If anyone wants to get involved, apply in the near future to become a member of a standing committee. Committees consist of the following: By-Laws, Scholarship, Civil and Human Rights, Community Service, Education, Legislative, Recreation, Veterans and Womens.

Stay informed about our union and various activities by looking at our main communication boards located in the main hallways in both GM plants. Another way to stay informed and ask questions is to attend the Local 211 union meetings.

A lot of activities start happening with the arrival of May, including opening the Local 211's park. The ground keepers are busy trying to keep up with the lawn and other items that need their attention.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Local 211, UAW Election Committee and the individuals who stepped up to help at our polls. It is a lot of work and many hours are put into the General Election and your support and hard work is truly appreciated.

In Solidarity, Keith Boecker

President, Local 211, UAW



## Just Trust

By Tim Burke, Local Chaplain

**I**n these days of trying times, worry is all around us. We are worrying about our job loss, losing family members and if we will make it one more day. The one thing we need and can depend on is the comfort of

God's presence. Isaiah 43:2 says: When thou passes through the water, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee. When thou walkest threw the fire, though shall not be burned neither shall the flame kindle upon thee,.

So in all circumstances God has your back and won't allow more to come on you than you can bear. Always remember He loves you and will carry you through life's storms and set you free.

## National Right-to-Work Act

H.R. 785 Rep. King (R-IA) / S. 545 Sen. Paul (R-KY)

The bill would allow employees who work in a unionized workplace, but decline to become union members, to refuse to pay a fair share fee to the union that represents all employees in the workplace, union members and nonmembers alike. The term "right-to-work" does not mean everyone is guaranteed a job, but instead means employees can work at a unionized workplace without paying any contribution to the union that negotiates for their benefits. Currently, the National Labor Relations Act permits each state to choose whether it wants to allow these so-called "right to work" arrangements, and many states have passed "right-to-work" laws prohibiting fair share payments in the state. This bill seeks to prohibit fair share payments nationwide.

The bill would undermine unions' bargaining strength by making it harder for workers' organizations to sustain themselves financially. Since unions are required by law to represent both members and non-members, unions must spend their resources to represent non-members when they file grievances against the employer. This creates a free-rider problem for unions, who must expend resources to assist workers who do not pay their fair share in union dues. It is also unfair to union members who do pay their fair share in dues.





## GM Retirees Report

By Dorothy "Dot" Engelhaupt,  
Retirees Secretary

The drenching rain did not deter the 175 members and guests who braved the weather to attend our May retiree meeting; always great fun to visit and lunch with all. Ted arranged to have his "guys" fire up the Bar-B-Q and grill the brats, sausage, and hot dogs. Sherry Fleming made great pots of beans, and our kitchen help, Harold and Ruth Williams, Bill and Nylice Thomas, and Bob Brown, served up a great lunch. None of this would be possible without the joint efforts of our members.

Chairman Ted Fleming called our meeting to order at 12:00 noon and held a roll call of officers and all were present.

Orville Clark led us in the pledge of Allegiance and Dick Wyse offered an invocation. A moment of silence was observed for our deceased members.

President Keith Boecker mentioned that extensive repairs are being made to one of the roof's at the GM plant; that is a good sign that the GM plant has a future.

We received "Thank You" cards from Darla Rickenberg for the gift our membership sent on the passing of her mother. Peggie Sponsler thanked us for the parting gift presented to her at last month's meeting in recognition of her 16 years of dedicated service to the UAW Retirees Board.

Darla, our retiree benefit representative, spoke concerning new mobile apps for smart phones where, with Blue Cross, one has access to multiple functions relating to deductibles, search for covered services, check claim status, view EOB's, etc. With the Express Scripts app, members have instant access to claims, history, refills, renewals, and can manage meds, and locate participating pharmacies.

The UAW Health Care Trust is focusing on colon cancer prevention. Retiree benefits allow one screening colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy or barium enema once every ten years for members 50 years old or older. In order to be covered by insurance, a participating/in network provider must be used for screening colonoscopies and time limits apply (once every ten years as noted). Members should always ask questions about their benefits before having procedures done.

On a lighter note, Darla gave us some fun facts on UAW/GM retirees. The oldest retiree is 106 years

old as of May 4, 2017. The second oldest was 106 years old as of May 5. The oldest surviving spouse is 110 years young on June 27. The second oldest surviving spouse will be 109 on May 16. There are 15,462 retirees that are 90 years old or older. Finally, the last statistic mentioned was the majority of UAW/GM retirees live in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Florida (in that order).

Ted mentioned he has four billets open for members to enjoy a week at Black Lake, that is, the Walter and May Reuther Family Education Center in Onaway, Michigan. The dates are July 16 through 21. Let Ted know if you are interested in enjoying a week at Black Lake. It is a beautiful place and quite a privilege as a UAW member to be able to avail yourself of this amenity.

The Richard T. Gosser 14th Annual Golf Classic will be held July 30 at the Thunderbird Hills Golf Course in Huron, Ohio. This golf outing is instrumental in providing college tuition assistance. Applications are now being accepted from 2017 graduates.

Nominations were accepted for Peggie Sponsler's position of Sergeant-at-Arms. Accepting their nominations were Bob Breckler and Ivan Burgei. No one was nominated for Recording Secretary. If anyone is interested in nominating someone, himself or herself, we would welcome you. It is a very rewarding position, and I would be more than happy to help anyone wanting to do it.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 1. Lunch is served at 10:30 am, and our meeting beings at 12:00 noon. As a reminder, kitchen volunteers are Ray Burzyck, Dick and Shirley Carr, and Keith Winnie.

### ***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:***

Robert Dietz – Retired 1/ 2000

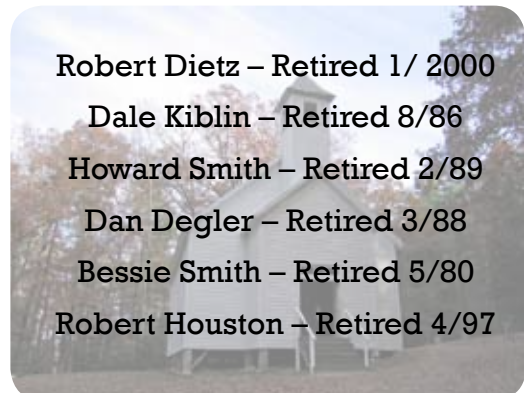
Dale Kiblin – Retired 8/86

Howard Smith – Retired 2/89

Dan Degler – Retired 3/88

Bessie Smith – Retired 5/80

Robert Houston – Retired 4/97





# MEMORIAL DAY

ESTABLISHED AFTER THE CIVIL WAR BY UNION VETERANS AND NAMED

## DECORATION DAY

1st celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery on

# MAY 30<sup>th</sup> 1868



Waterloo, N.Y. is considered to be the birthplace of **MEMORIAL DAY**



**1971** Year that Memorial Day was established as an official holiday

NOW CELEBRATED ON THE LAST MONDAY IN MAY



IN 2010, CONGRESS PASSED AND THE PRESIDENT SIGNED AN ACT CREATING A

## NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

WHICH ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO STOP AT 3 P.M. FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Memorial Day pays tribute to those

### U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES



# 1,196,793

Total war casualties, over 300,000 of which are buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.



An average of **28** burials occur each weekday at Arlington – **6,900** annually



**220,000** FLAGS PLANTED AT ARLINGTON FOR MEMORIAL DAY IN 2012



U.S. ARMY INFANTRY REGIMENT, OR THE "OLD GUARD," HAS PLACED FLAGS ON ARLINGTON GRAVES SINCE 1948



# Region 2B Retiree Conference

By Jim Shock, UAW CAP Trustee

Region 2B Retiree Representative Ted Fleming opened the meeting, presented the agenda, and introduced the people at the podium and guest speakers. Other Region 2B Representatives were Director Ken Lortz, Assistant Director Rich Rankin, and CAP Coordinator Sara Ogdahl-Laws.

Ted pointed out that although President Trump promised to protect Medicare and Social Security, his cabinet members and Republicans in Congress are proposing the opposite. Ted said it is important for retirees and other Americans to fight like hell to make sure that President Trump keeps his promise. Although it is important for retirees, it is also very important to have Medicare and Social Security available for our children and grand children. They should be as protected as past and present retirees are from bankruptcy or poverty due to major illness and inability to work a regular job when they retire.

The first speaker gave the retirees information about the "Move to Amend." He said we still have a democracy, but it is dwindling due to those who want to take it over and control it. Our ability as citizens to govern our nation started to dwindle when the U.S. Supreme Court decided that corporations have the rights of people. This occurred several years before the Court decided the Citizens United case giving corporations the right to spend unlimited amounts of money to control our government. He said he cannot understand how money is considered free speech giving corporations and rich people more speech than others. He said citizens can still change our representatives in Congress, but that isn't enough. We have to change the rules of the game.

We can do that by supporting the "Move to Amend" to change the rights of corporations in the U.S. Constitution. This is necessary to insure that people make the decisions about justice, taxes, safety, environment, etc. Corporations and their supporters are fighting "Move to Amend" and things like Medicare and Social Security by putting forth arguments that try to separate retirees from their children and grandchildren. Move to Amend is a bipartisan and multi-racial movement to get the necessary support for the amendment. We need to encourage people to support Move to Amend to change the constitution otherwise corporations will keep gaining more power and destroy our democracy. In parts of the country where Move to Amend has

support. Half a million people have already signed petitions supporting Move to Amend. The voters in Washington D.C. voted to support it as has ten or eleven state chambers. The constitution was meant for people more than corporations. We are just calling for an amendment to the constitution and not a constitutional convention. An amendment is very specific for its purpose and does not open up the Constitution for other changes. In past years, there have been several other amendments to the Constitution. Corporations are creations of the States. States originally gave corporations the privilege to exist for specific purposes as established by law. The Association of Retired Americans (ARA) supports issues that benefit retirees and has voted to support the Move to Amend movement. A substantial amount of people have shown they support both Social Security and Medicare for all.

After the presentation was concluded a motion was made and seconded for the Region 2B Retirees to support the "Move to Amend" objective. The retirees voted unanimously in support of the motion.

Region 2B Director Ken Lortz introduced UAW Vice President Cindy Estrada. He pointed out that she came up the ranks doing an outstanding job as the Director of organizing, the Independent Parts Department, and now of General Motors.

Estrada reported that the biggest source of jobs growth is the parts plants. She pointed out that 8 people own 51% of the global wealth. The 2016 election was about change so many people voted against Hilary Clinton because she was the establishment candidate. The integrity of a person can be judged by the people that surround them. In Trump's case, he selected a woman to head the Department of Education that is known for transferring funding from public schools to private schools; a person to head the EPA who does not believe in science; a man to head the labor department that cheated his employees out of some of their wages. Some of the hurdles we face in bargaining and organizing is the fact that GM and others have the ability to outsource work and 50% of workers at foreign owned plants are part time. We have 370,000 retirees and we all need to be concerned about the Trump Administration's attempts to divide Americans by age groups, immigration status, and worker versus worker. Trump wanted change. We do need change. We need more workers to become



been on the ballot there is usually 65%

*Retiree Conference, continued on page 7.*



## *Retiree Conference, continued from page 6.*

organized, need to keep joining with other groups, need to get more people to participate, and make more use of facebook and twitter. We need retirees to communicate with active workers, use social media, and participate in our worker to worker program. We have to answer the questions of how we tap into the group of people that care. We need to challenge our locals to put on education classes of how we got here and what is at stake, and to form committees.

Ken Lortz recognized Ted Fleming, the Local 211 Retiree Chapter Executive Board, Region 2B CAP Coordinator Sara Ogdahl and Assistant Director Rich Rankin for all the good work they do. He reported that eleven members of the Region 2B Staff have retired and now have nine new staff members. The Gosser Scholarship fund has given out almost \$2.5 million since 1952 in scholarships. The money is raised with the Regional Golf Outing and the Charity Outing. Presidents of the locals in the region attend the meeting where the decisions are made. He asked the local union presidents and staff to help raise funds for the scholarship program.

Lortz also reported that several meetings have been held on the Right to Work (RTW) issue. We have to oppose RTW efforts at the local, state, and federal levels.

Ken Lortz reported that Local 9 strike was due to some ugly work rules and take aways that Honeywell tried to force on workers. He was proud of the fact that not a single worker crossed the picket line during the months they were on strike. The Region and other locals raised \$90,000 to help Local 9 members at his request. Three million dollars was paid out of the UAW Strike fund to pay for insurance and pay allowance. He said we will not forget Honeywell's attacks on their workers.

Lortz reported on the organizing efforts taking place in the region. Our region lost some members when one of the employers moved to Indianapolis. We are attempting to organize an auto glass company in Dayton with about 2000 employees with horrible working conditions.

There are also proposals in the works that would require big three auto workers to pay a huge tax per year for health care and to raise the age eligibility for Medicare. He said there are plenty of fights ahead to protect workers and we will need VCAP money to be successful.

Ken Lortz said that Ted Fleming has served our union as financial secretary of Local 211 from

1973 through 1084, as a local union president from 1984 through 1999 then on the International union staff and as Local 211 Retiree Chapter Chairman. He said Ted has been a progressive fighter and activist for workers. Ken presented Ted with an award for his service. Region 2B CAP and Retiree Coordinator Sara Ogden-Laws presented flowers to Ted's wife, Sherry, for being a driving force supporting Ted and his work in behalf of workers.



Sara and the CAP Coordinator for Indiana gave a Powerpoint presentation to the retirees at the conference. It showed that during the last 5 years Ohio has been surrounded by RTW states because their legislatures in closed sessions have passed such laws in order to weaken our unions. Workers are now even being attacked by one township in Ohio regarding RTW so there will be plenty of fights for unions ahead that will require funding. Some of the charts showed that although Region 2B has the largest number of members in the UAW, we are only the fourth in raising VCAP funds. Region 5 has fewer members but was still first in member participation and amount raised in VCAP funds. Their participation in VCAP is 50% while participation in 2B is only 9%. Their retiree check off is \$13.15 average per member while it is only \$1.01 in our region.

The Indiana CAP Coordinator reported that CEOs make 276 times the amount made by their typical worker. She reported that Vice President Mike Pence during his first few hours as Governor of Indiana took away state workers benefits. It is an example of what former UAW President Walter P. Reuther's (1946-1970) said, "There's a direct relationship between the ballot box and the bread box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table

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## Apprenticeship Training

By Greg Nartker, UAW/GM Apprentice Chair

**T**he National Skilled Trades Committee on April 26, 2017 updated all UAW/GM Local Apprentice Committees for future apprentice testing and placement. On or before May 23, information will be posted throughout the GM plant on union bulletin boards notifying employees of the eligibility, application period and testing. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming an apprentice, please see Greg Nartker, Skilled Trades Apprentice Chairperson located in the Training Center Room #118 or call 419-784-7630.

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### UAW Local 211 Unit Meetings

Please confirm exact dates and times.

#### General Motors

Active, June 7 (UAW Hall)  
Retirees, June 1 (UAW Hall)

#### Herbert E. Orr

Tuesday, July 4 (Paulding Fire House)

#### Midwest Community FCU

Wednesday, June 7 (UAW Hall)

#### Sims Metal Management

Tuesday, July 4 (UAW Hall)

#### Johns Manville

Tuesday, July 4 (UAW Hall)

#### Powers & Sons

Wednesday, June 14 (Quality Inn)

#### Aramark

Monday, July 10 (UAW Hall)

## Local 211 News

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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.



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is proudly printed  
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