



# 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 February 2018

## EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS ELECTION FOR RECORDING SECRETARY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, TRUSTEE AND GUIDE

By: Keith Boecker, President UAW Local 211/Larry Cooper, Vice President

The following positions on the Executive Board are up for elections: Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary- Treasurer, one Trustee, and Guide; all Local 211 members in continuous good standing in the local union are eligible to nominate a candidate. You must be a member in good standing for one (1) year to run for office.

**Local 211 Retirees, Midwest Community Federal Credit Union, Sims Metal Management, Aramark, Herbert E. Orr, Johns Manville and Powers and Sons unit members who wish to nominate a candidate for a position on the Executive board must contact Lisa Beardsley at Local 211, UAW Hall, 419-784-5399 or 866-786-5399 before 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.**

Nominations for the Local 211 Executive Board will be held at the regular GM unit union meeting on **Wednesday March 7, 2018. Deadline to accept or decline nominations as well as name verification will be at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday March 14, 2018. Members who wish to accept the nomination must go to the Local 211 union hall during regular hours or at the time of nomination, present proper I.D, write accept or decline next to their nomination and sign their name next to it. Your name will automatically be dropped from the list if you fail to accept by this deadline.**

Members from GM, Aramark, Midwest Community Federal Credit Union, Sims Metal Management, Johns Manville units and local

211 retirees may vote at the Local 211 hall from **4:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday March 22, 2018.**

Powers and Sons unit members may vote at their facilities from **5:45 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.** Herbert E. Orr unit members may vote at their facility from 5:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on Thursday March 22, 2018.

**Any run-off election needed will be held on Thursday March 29, 2018 at the same locations and times listed above. If further run-off election is necessary they will be held on Thursday April 4, 2018 at the same locations and times listed above. Proper I.D. will be required to vote.**

Notice: Section 504 of the LMRDA prohibits persons convicted of certain crimes from holding union office under severe penalty of law. If you are uncertain of your status please seek legal council.





# 2018 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATE NOMINAIONS & ELECTION

By Keith Boecker, President UAW Local 211/Larry Cooper, Vice President

Nominations for the Local 211, UAW 37th Constitutional Convention Delegates will be held at the March 7, 2018 G.M. membership meeting.

Eligibility requirements are established in

Article 8 of the UAW Constitution.

**The GM unit will be taking nominations for delegates at the regular membership meetings on Wednesday March 7, 2018 at 7:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.**

**Aramark, Midwest Community Federal Credit Union, Johns Manville, Herbert E. Orr, Sims Metal Management and Powers & Sons unit who wish to nominate a candidate please contact the UAW hall at 419-784-5399 no later than Wednesday March 7, 2018 by 3:00 p.m.**

Deadline to accept or decline nominations as well as name verification will be at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 2018. You must do so by signing at the time of nomination or at the local 211, UAW hall and present proper i.d. Your name will be automatically dropped from the candidates list if you fail to accept by this deadline.

**Members from the GM unit, Aramark, Midwest Community Federal Credit Union, Sim Metal Management of Ohio, Johns Manville and Local 211, UAW Retirees can vote at the local 211, UAW hall from 4:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday March 22, 2018.**

Powers and Sons unit will vote in their plant from 5:45 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.; Herbert Orr unit will vote in their plant from 5:00 a.m. until noon on Thursday March 22, 2018

Any run-off needed will be held Thursday, March 29, 2018 at the same locations and times.

**PROPER I.D IS REQUIRED TO VOTE.**

**Buy Union, There's an App for That**

By Label Letter

**T**he Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO has introduced an app to help conscientious consumers buy union-made products and services.

Union Label is available for both Apple and Android devices and is a handy app for searching products, keeping tabs on boycotts, and finding union news and information. You can also view past editions of our Label Letter newsletter, and contact us from within the app.

The Union Label app database of products is an ever-evolving directory, and we invite all union members to download the app and add your union-made product using the included form. All submissions will be vetted with the identified union before any submissions will be activated.

We will be updating the app continually and encourage all users to let us know what you'd like to see in the next update. You can download the app by visiting your device's app store and searching "Union Label".



## President's Report

By Keith Boecker

The GM unit had 14 retirements, Joseph Chlebek, Vincent Eickholt, Billy Ferrell, Ronald Gutman, Patricia Hitchcock, William Horner, Betty Kochel, Doug Layne, Richard Niese, Donald Pester, James Potter, David Tonjes, Dino Volpe and Gary Huss. The Powers and Sons unit had two retirements Brad Nofziger as of February 2nd and Fred Gambler will be retiring on February 23rd. Johns Manville had one retirement, Dan Sprow as of January 1st. I want to wish you all a very happy and healthy retirement. Thank you for your years of service to the UAW.

As most of you are aware of we had many of our Defiance UAW members transfer to the Fort Wayne Plant. I want to take this opportunity to wish them the best and hopefully we will see them return to our Defiance Facility in the near future.

Our Financial Secretary, Gert Hahn was offered a position as International Auditor; she accepted this position. Gert has done an excellent job as the Local 211, UAW Financial Secretary and she will truly be missed. I wish her the best and I know she will be a huge asset to our Regional Office.

Sherri Dalton, "Recording Secretary", Sheri Baker "Trustee and CAP Chairperson", Jeremy Zedaker "Guide" and Daniel Perez "Alternate Benefit Rep" also were some of the UAW members who transferred to the Fort Wayne Plant. I would like to thank them all for their years of service and I am grateful to have been able to work with such great Union members. It is always a hard situation to see so many people that have worked so many years at the Defiance Plant have to transfer. I am very happy that they had the opportunity to transfer and will be able to continue their GM employment.

We will be taking nominations for these open positions on the board at the March 7th Union meetings for the GM Unit. Nominations from our Satellite Units will be taken at their meetings or you can nominate a member in good standing

from your unit by contacting Lisa no later than 3:00 P.M. on Wednesday March 7, 2018. The opened positions for our Executive Board are, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, one Trustee and Guide.

At the March 7th GM membership meetings we will also be taking nominations for the Constitutional Convention Delegates. The Satellite Units can take nominations at their membership meeting or by contacting Lisa no later than 3:00 P.M. on Wednesday March 7, 2018. You must be a member in good standing to run for a delegate. We will be electing two delegates from the GM unit and two delegates from our Satellite Units.

On Saturday February 24th there will be a Right to Work March/Rally in Columbus. There will be a bus leaving the UAW hall at 6:45 A.M. on that day, and arriving back in Defiance between 4:00 and 6:00 P.M. Please join us as we stand together against Right to Work, it is wrong for working Families, wrong for the State of Ohio, it is wrong for all of us. If you are interested in attending this rally, please call Lisa at the Hall 419-784-5399 and she will add you to the list. This is on a first come, first serve basis for 56 union members and their families. For more information on this Rally you can visit the webpage at [WEAREOHIO.COM/RALLY](http://WEAREOHIO.COM/RALLY)

Our retiree benefit Representative, Darla Rickenberg will be available to our retirees at the UAW Hall on Wednesday's, Thursday's and Friday's at 8:00 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. on those days. The times have changed but we are still very lucky to be able to have one of our Representatives available to help our Retiree's with their benefit questions and concerns. You can also contact her by phone during those hours at 419-784-5399. The GM Benefit Office is open Monday thru Friday at the GM Plant from 4:00 A.M until 3:30 P.M. You can contact the office by phone at 419-784-7750 or 419-784-7285.

The Defiance Sr. Center along with Twin Rivers Care Facility and Great Lakes Homecare are planning their 6th annual Health Fair. This will



## Chairmans Report

By Rob Egnor

**W**e currently have 562 UAW brothers and sisters on the rolls here in Defiance. We have 34 of the 562 out on sick leave and 2 that are out on a temporary layoff. The reason the 2 are on temporary layoff is due to returning to work from leave and not having enough seniority to remain in the plant. I am hoping they will have the opportunity to become gainfully employed in our area hire (Toledo, Fort Wayne) soon. This will have all who have been displaced from Defiance back to work.

On January 1 we had 13 production employees retire: Joseph Chlebek, Billy Ferrell, Ronald Gutman, Patricia Hitchcock, William Horner, Gary Huss, Betty Kochel, Doug Layne, Richard Niese, Donald Pester, David Tonjes and Dino Volpe. We also had 1 skilled tradesman retire who was Vincent "Doc" Eickholt. I would like to say thank you for their years of service and wish them the very best on the new chapter in their lives. I hope to join them in the future.

On January 2, 118 people from Defiance started new jobs in Ft. Wayne and on January 22, 54 more of our brothers and sisters from Defiance went to Ft. Wayne. It is a great thing that our brothers and sisters had a home to go to. I hope it is a temporary home for them and they have an opportunity to return back to Defiance if they so choose. It was very difficult to watch people you worked with for up to 22 years leave and I know some made very difficult choices to go for good reasons of their own. I also know if the company would have delivered on work that these brothers and sisters would have rather stayed home. We need to keep making the best product we can, as safe as we can.

People have told me that I have done nothing for this place. I have continued to try and prove them wrong by keeping us in the best light possible, but the number one thing I keep hearing is that we have no new work. I know it is hard to see but we are full now in P-sand. Part is due to successfully negotiating more LGE volume from our foreign competitor Nematik.

Our quality in LGE has also given us the opportunity to supply China with our product. If it was not for the additional LGE volume, we would only be running a possible 2 shifts. We are currently running 6. I was the only one in the corporation who was successful at negotiating a targeted special attrition program for skilled trades. This kept 34 millwrights on their tools and possibly 34 more production employees here in Defiance. There were many other plants that applied for an SAP and were not successful. I challenge those who forgot or simply did not realize to think of a few positives that have occurred here in Defiance.

The company has done just what they want. They have driven more separation between us. We need to stay focused and remember that we are one UNION and stick together. Do not let the corporation drive a wedge between us. We need to be our brothers and sisters keepers and watch out for one another.

Please be safe at what you do here at work and at home. Remember to lock out your equipment when necessary. The plant pays you to lock out, so please do not take the risk. You are a valuable asset to our plant and not one injury is worth a casting.

**Walter & May Reuther Family Education Center**  
**2000 Maxon Rd.**  
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**Pitch a Tent, kick back and relax with new pricing for camp sites in Black Lake's finest untouched wilderness.**

**UAW members: Camp sites now available for \$28 per day.**

**Pets allowed for a fee of \$5 per day.**

**Open May 5, 2018 through late fall**

**Check in time on the day of arrival shall be 2:00 P.M.**

**Check out time on the day of departure shall be 11:00 A.M.**

**Call 989-733-8521 for your reservation today!**



## Retirees Report

By Ivan Burgei, Recording Sec

The Retiree's February meeting was very informative, but first let me thank the kitchen helpers. Rick Thompson, Bob Freehling, Ralph Hahn, Steve Kreider, Bob Seman, Arlie Free and Wally Budzinski.

Thank you again for serving our lunch and volunteering your time for the UAW Retirees. I would also like to thank the Nurses that come in every month to check blood pressures.

Chairman, Ted Fleming had seven health care Representatives attend our meeting, Delta Dental, Express Scripts, Audionet, Davis Vision, Aetna, Blue Cross and the UAW Trust to offer any answers to the questions our retirees had.

The meeting started at 12:27 P.M. with 140 members and guests present. Orville Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance, Tom Farley offered the invocation and there was a moment of silence to honor our deceased members.

President, Keith Boecker informed us that since our retiree benefit representative, Dan Perez was transferred to the Fort Wayne plant, Darla Rickenberg will be assisting the retirees. The hours have changed and they will be Wed-Fri beginning at 8:00 A.M. until 2:30 P.M.

On Saturday, February 24th, there will be a March/Rally in Columbus Ohio to stand against "Right To Work". There will be a bus leaving the UAW Hall at 6:45 A.M. and should return back to Defiance around 4:00 P.M. This is first come first serve to the first 56 members who wish to attend. Please contact Lisa Beardsley at the UAW Hall if interested and she will put your name on the bus list. You can contact her at 419-784-5399.

Chairman Ted Fleming reported there are two openings for CAP Council, Vice President and Trustee.

Our right for unions to negotiate for fair benefits, wages and working conditions are in jeopardy again by State Representatives John Becker and our very own Craig Reidel. Remember at work that "Failure to communicate" is the biggest

mistake you can make. It does not cost a dime to talk to people and voice your opinions. So if we don't try to help prevent this disaster from happening, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Please come to the next CAP meeting on Tuesday March 13th at 5:30 P.M. You will find more ways to help, because "RIGHT TO WORK" IS WRONG!!!!

Our next meeting will be Thursday March 1st. Lunch will be served at 10:30 A.M. and the meeting begins at 12:00 noon.



Thank you all who attend our monthly meetings.

### ***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:***

- Lonnie Budd – Retired 7/06
- Charles Bostelman – Retired 8/04
- Gary Lipp – Retired 7/98
- Larry Sheaks – Retired 10/99
- Dixie Davis – Retired 1/88
- Stephen Strauer – Retired 7/06
- Leslie Weidenhamer – Retired 6/06
- Richard Hitchcock – Retired 6/06
- Guillermo Rodriguez Jr. Retired 11/76
- Robert Retcher – Retired 8/94
- Russell Wichman – Retired 8/98
- James Upshaw – Retired 5/91
- Juan Medina Jr. – Retired 8/98
- Joy Meeks – Retired 1/79
- Frank Gudakunst – Retired 12/89
- Irwin Puckett – Retired 8/98
- David Pilmore – Retired 2/94
- Ike Taylor – Retired 5/91
- Irineo Eureste – Retired 1/80



## WE ARE Under Attack!

By Sheri Baker/CAP

**W**e are under attack!! Every union in Ohio is. You have heard us tell you before of these attacks. This year, there will be a call to arms from all unions. We have among us, in the Ohio House of Representatives, someone who wishes to do union members harm. What this member is trying to do has already been tried once and was sent back as a big fat NO! Remember issue 2 and Senate Bill 5?

Representative Craig Riedel, from the 82nd District of Ohio (Defiance, Paulding and Van Wert), along with Rep. John Becker (Union Township) have signed onto six Right-To-Work is WRONG proposals for Ohio voter approval. Nine additional Ohio House members have signed onto this proposal as well. Riedel and Becker, having 11 members sponsoring one or more proposals have asked the Ohio General Assembly to put the proposals on the ballot for the people to vote individually.

Riedel believes in "individual freedom, and the right to choose whether they want to belong to a union." There is only one problem with this way of thinking. Unions are bound by a law known as the Taft- Hartley Act, to represent workers whether they pay dues or not. Workers that do not pay dues receive the same benefits and pay as dues paying members. They also have the same protections as a dues paying members and get the same representation from the union as dues paying members.

Riedel says the reason why he would like Ohio to become a Right To Work is WRONG state is to make Ohio more competitive. He says that union benefits drive the cost of wages and benefits so high that businesses will not come to Ohio to produce their products. That's the same argument that was used in other Right To Work Is Wrong states.

Let me ask you this. If workers in Ohio do not receive fair and just compensation for their labor, who is going to be able to afford to buy these products being produced? Think about it!

***The list of these Right To Wrong Bills are as follows:***

**HJR8-** Private sector right to work- No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.

**HJR 7-** Public sector right to work- This legislation is about freedom of association. Like private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.

**HJR 9-** Public-sector prevailing wage- Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages rather than those that are market-based.

***This will basically do away with prevailing wage jobs. I.E. union jobs.***

**HJR 12-** Public sector paycheck protection- This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent. This will allow employers to not withhold dues from members checks.

So therefore, unions will collect the dues themselves. If Mr., Riedel knew his laws, the Taft-Hartley Act already prohibits unions from using dues money for political donations. Therefore, the UAW has the VCAP program.

**HJR 10-** Public sector project labor agreements- Legislation is the Michigan model okayed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and Local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered.

This is another anti-prevailing wage law. This is another let's think about it. Higher wages, means higher taxes going to the state and schools. More money going into the economy. So therefore, you could say, the workers are paying themselves!!

If you are a member of any other organization (i.e. chamber of commerce, Eagles, ELKS, etc.) you must pay dues to belong and receive any benefits that the organization provides for you. So why are they singling out unions?



## Vice President's Report

By Larry Cooper



**H**ello to the new year, we can wish that we all have a healthy and happy new year! With the winter being half over we can look forward for the spring season to come soon.

On January 2 and the 22nd we had over 100 people get laid off and go to Ft. Wayne. I would like to wish them all good luck and be safe in their travels.

The new year will be off to an interesting start for the Local 211. With all the people that have been displaced or transferred many more will learn a new job along with a new area and shifts as well. It is a challenge for sure but I do believe that the people will do a good job.

The Local 211 executive board did lose 4 members, 3 due to the layoff and 1 due to a promotion. Sheri Baker (Trustee), Sherry Dalton (Recording Secretary), Jeremy Zedaker (Guide), and Gert Hahn (Financial Secretary), to Financial Auditor of Region 2-B. I would like to wish them all good luck and thank them for their outstanding service to the UAW Local 211 and serving on the executive board and especially their volunteerism with many functions and standing committees. Thank You. With that being said we will be holding an election for those positions, see front page for details. Until then the rest of us will be helping out more until the positions are filled.

If you are interested in any of the positions please see anyone on the executive board to answer any questions. You can also look in the UAW Constitution to find out duties of those offices

The Aramark unit did hold an election for their officers, Congratulations to: Caleb Witchey Chairman, Tony Rodriguez 2nd shift committeeman, James Henderson 3rd shift Committeeman, Congratulations to them all. if you see them, congratulate them!

## Presidents Report from pg. 1

be held here at the UAW Hall on Tuesday May 8th from 10:00 A.M until 1:00 P.M. Senior adults can attend and receive valuable information from a variety of local agencies, businesses and organizations. They will be having a soup cook-off as well as food samplings and door prizes. For more information you can contact the Defiance County Senior Services at 419-782-3233.

The next CAP meeting will be on Tuesday March 13, 2018; Dinner is served at 5:00 pm and the meeting begins at 5:30.

Aramark Unit held their bargaining committee election, Caleb Witchey is the Chairperson, Tony Rodriguez is the 2nd shift committeeperson and James Henderson is the 3rd shift committeeperson. Congratulations to you all.

Retiree's and all Local 211 members may use the Company Store which is located in the GM plant. The store hours are 5:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Their telephone number is 419-784-7364 if you would like to call ahead. You must enter the plant at the circle drive.

We will be collecting resolutions and amendments to the Constitution Convention starting next week, please check the boards for locations for drop off. They must be turned in no later than Friday March 23, 2018 by 3:00 P.M. The resolutions will be discussed and voted on at the April membership meeting.

Remember when purchasing a new vehicle look for the VIN numbers for American Made 1, 4, 5 and 2 is Canada.



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



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Facsimile: 419.784.5838  
Email: local211@defnet.com

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

**General Motors**

Active, March 7 (UAW Hall)

Retirees, March 1 (UAW Hall)

**Herbert E. Orr**

Tuesday, March 6 (Paulding Fire House)

**Midwest Community FCU**

Wednesday, April 7 (UAW Hall)

**Sims Metal Management**

Tuesday, March 6 (UAW Hall)

**Johns Manville**

Tuesday, March 6 (UAW Hall)

**Powers & Sons**

Wednesday, April 11 (Quality Inn)

**Aramark**

Monday, March 12 (UAW Hall)

## Local 211 News

Official Publication of  
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Amalgamated Local 211

Visit [uawlocal211.com](http://uawlocal211.com).

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

**Web Editor:** Mitch Chandler  
**News Editors:** Larry Cooper, Amanda Rethmel

### 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](mailto: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.



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is proudly printed  
by Keystone Press,  
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