



# 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!

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uawlocal211.com

June 2022



## REGION 2B UPDATE

### THE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

UAW Family,

Last month, we hosted our largest gathering of members in more than two years! Our location was beautiful downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana and we started the week with our annual **Retired Workers' Meeting**. I can't tell you how much I admire the continued dedication that these retirees show for our union. They are an inspiration to me and we are blessed that they continue to support us.

Next, we held our semi-annual **Leadership Meeting**. Nearly 350 members of local union leadership attended in order to receive the latest information about what is happening in Region 2B. We were so proud to have UAW President Ray Curry and UAW Secretary-Treasurer Frank Stuglin in attendance to address our delegates, as well.

Finally, our Region 2B **Advisory Councils** met in order to gain education and to discuss the needs of the membership. The work of our Advisory Councils is very important. Local union leadership, the Region 2B staff and I...we cannot do the work of our union alone. It is vital that our membership become involved and invested in the workings of the UAW. Participation means a greater understanding of the things that we do as a union, how we do it, and why it is so important to the daily lives of all of our members.



The Advisory Councils, their respective local union standing committees and the members that participate in them do much of the work that keeps our members active in and connected to their union. A well-rounded organization will work to **engage** its members and their involvement makes us stronger as a whole.



## President's Report

By Keith Boecker

May 1st Retirements; GM had nine retirements, John Behrns, Kathryn Clark, Michael Dobbelaere, Joe Eureste, Leta Kesselmayer, Ronda Phillips, Mark Roehrig, Douglas Shields Jr. and Kevin Sigler. Johns Manville unit had one retirement; Denise Schwab. Powers and Sons unit had four retirements, Doug Custar, Lucinda Williams, Ron Morrison and Randy Morrison.

I would like to thank you for all your years of service and I hope you have a happy and healthy retirement.

Local 211 received information concerning the 2022 International Officers Elections. There is information on our local website, [uawlocal211.com](http://uawlocal211.com). You can view information regarding the rules and regulations of the nominations and elections. The time and date of these elections will be determined at the July Convention. Please call the UAW hall with any change of address. The International Union has mailings including a ballot to vote for your International Officers; we want to make sure everyone receives the information that is needed.

Call 419-784-5399 and talk to Lisa, she will get your change of address updated. if needed.

The Local 211 delegates elected for the Constitutional Convention in July. are Ricky Johns retired member from Herbert Orr and Angel Manley active member from Powers and Sons. GM unit delegates are Larry Cooper and Sheri Baker. Congratulations and thank you for running for this very important position for our local union.

On May 11, 2022 Rob Egnor and I attended the 61st Annual Award Luncheon for the Richard T. Gosser Scholarship Program. Twelve outstanding high school seniors from Region 2B UAW families have been awarded \$10,000 college scholarships through this program. Local 211 is proud to announce that we had two winners; Chelsie Nicole Porter from Defiance, her father Wayne Porter works at the GM facility and Gavin Charles Askins from Tinora, his father Charles Askins also works at the GM facility. These two participants are the 29th and 30th Scholarship Winners for Local 211 since 1987.

Including the 2021-2022 winners, 392 students have received Gosser scholarships. An additional 151 students have received runner-up scholarships. GM Powertrain alone has received \$231,000.00 since 1989; that is something to be extremely proud

of with our members' children. In all, \$3,118,000 in scholarships has been awarded since the program began in 1962.

Again, congratulations to Chelsie and Gavin, and I wish you years of success in all that you do.

We have been lucky enough to get more transfers back to Defiance, we are happy to have the following return from the Fort Wayne plant; Steven Layne, Sherri Dalton, Stanley Mansfield II, Anthony Weirauch and Reyes Ramirez. We also got two of our temps converted to new hire status, they are Christopher Pier and Ryan Okuley.

On May 23, 2022 we got five employees returning back to our plant; Brian Niese, Ricky Porter from Toledo. William Jackson, Johnathan Sparks from Fort Wayne and Janice Carpenter (Millwright) from Bowling Green Kentucky. We are happy to have you join our membership.

On June 25th the Recreation committee has purchased 50 tickets on a first come first serve basis for Toledo Mud Hens Baseball game vs. Scranton Wilkes Barre Railroaders at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 each. If anyone is interested contact Lisa at the UAW hall to reserve your tickets; 419-784-5399. Keep an eye out for upcoming Recreational events.

On May 15, 2022 an Amalgamated Union meeting was to be held to vote on resolutions/demands that were turned in for any changes to the UAW Constitution; no meeting was held due to lack of quorum.

If you are planning on using UAW Legal Services, please call 1-800-782-7700 to set up an appointment. They have limited hours and do not take walk-ins at their Defiance office.

July 10th is the Veterans Picnic at Sandusky Veterans Home. See Bob Gill or Danny Green if interested in helping with this event. Donation of \$250 from the General Fund and \$250 from the Veterans Committee fund was donated to this event.

Please make sure to update any changes needed with our Benefit Rep such as, beneficiaries, marital status, death, new dependents, 401k and life insurance.

**The Local 211 UAW Office will  
be closed on Monday's,  
beginning June 13, 2022  
Tuesday through Friday will still be  
open at our regular hours.**

## Chairman's Report

By Rob Egnor



The warmer weather is finally here. Along with the warm weather comes maintenance to prepare for it. Pulling the glass out of the screen doors and putting the screens back in, air conditioners in windows and the boat ready for the water. Just make sure to take the necessary precautions while doing your pre-summer chores and get a hand when needed to help prevent any unnecessary injuries so you can enjoy the summer.

Although COVID-19 is still around, we have had a light number of cases here at the plant and have been out of masks for a few months now. As long as Defiance County stays low in COVID-19 cases and we do not have a major outbreak in the plant, we will not have to go back to wearing masks. Please continue to use caution when you are out in public and at family gatherings to stay healthy.

Here at the plant we currently have 426 members on the rolls. We recently had 8 production members transfer to Defiance through the Appendix A process while also converting 2 temporary employees to permanent status. These are not the only new faces that we have encountered here in Defiance. We have also added 3 new Pattern Makers, 1 new Electrician Journeyman and on June 6, 2 Electrician Apprentices. We should be seeing more new members coming to the plant in the near future, the plant is currently conducting interviews for the remaining skilled trades openings so please take a minute to make these new team members feel welcome if you see them.

Week ending June 12, 2022 there will be a \$1000 bonus payment for all eligible team members. This is another benefit that was negotiated by our International UAW, so look for this on your check and let us know if you did not receive it and we will see what happened.

I recently announced that we were notified by the Regional UAW office that the next International Executive Board meeting will be at the end of June. This is where the next step in the review process of our proposed 2019 local agreement should occur. As soon as we hear something back on the IEB's findings, it will be communicated to the membership. This is and has been the hot button item for the last few months. I want to thank you for your patience once again during this process.

Thank you once again for being the hard working brothers and sister you have always been. Please

be safe at what you do and remember to lock out your equipment. We are very proud workers here and make a point to get our work done so we can provide quality products to our customers. Take your time to make sure of your surroundings and do not let frustration allow you to make any mistakes. The vehicle parts that we make are in no way, shape or form more important than your safety. Please make it home the same way that you came in.

## Vice President's Report

By Larry Cooper



I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to go to the Financial Officers' Conference. The conference opened up with a quote from Esther 4:14...saying "you were born for such a time as this..."

That was a good way to kick off the conference. All of the IEB (International Executive Board) was in attendance along with the Regional Reps. During the opening of the conference it was highly recommended to get out there and vote; along with that it was also communicated that the referendum had a poor turn out with only 14% that voted in the entire UAW.

Vice President, Cindy Estrada, said the automotive industry is changing but we are fighting to get the battery plants unionized. It was also mentioned about getting the postal mail trucks switched to all electric.

Vice President, Terry Dittes, announced his retirement on August 1st. He said that he has been honored and privileged to represent the UAW and said that it is the greatest membership. Leaders need to listen to the members because the members have the final say. He had five pieces of advice.

- A.) Follow the Constitution
- B.) Follow the Contract
- C.) Follow your heart...conscience is your guide
- D.) Never forget where you came from
- E.) Be Humble.

They were all out and very interactive with the officers and the members who attended the conference. Most of them stopped in and talked to us as we attended the different classes on financial responsibilities, strike assistance, strengthening

*Continued on page 5*



## Retirees Report

By Ivan Burgei, Recording Sec

Welcome fellow union brothers and sisters. July is just around the corner and we have a couple of activities on our calendar. On July 7th is the Grandparent/Grandchildren Day in the UAW Park. There will be bouncy rides, snow cones, face paintings, pony rides, carriage rides also hot dogs and chips for refreshments. If you retirees do not have grandchildren to bring, come anyway and enjoy the fun and laughter with the rest of us. This is for our UAW members only. Please come, our memory will be restored from days gone by. In case of rain our rain date is July 14th. The event will be from 11:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

July 16th at the UAW Park the Democratic Party will have a seven county annual picnic. The cost of the meal is \$15.00 a ticket. It is preferred to purchase for the event early so if interested you can contact Charlie Bakle or Ed Singer. The meeting is from 1-4 P.M.

At our June retiree meeting, Fat Pig served us brisket and pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, cole slaw and variety of cookies. We also served lemonade, water and coffee. For those who missed this meeting you also missed a great meal.

Below is something you all will enjoy. We received a letter from one of our passed foundry workers:

*Dear Brothers and Sisters, my name is Donald Keene.*

*I retired from central Foundry in 1993. I worked on the sand system from Line 1, 3 and 5 in my 22.5 years. They were enjoyable years but a lot of hard work. A lot of my co-workers have passed on and I remember them fondly. Being a retiree of the UAW has allowed my wife and I to live a life of dignity. Our benefits have kept us from being bankrupt and allowed us to live in comfort. So if you are the ones complaining about paying union dues I say this; it is the least you can do for yourself and your family. This is wishing all of you good health and God's Blessings*

*Donald Keene, Bristol Virginia.*

When you read this, it makes you proud to know people like us have it much better than most. It is good to know our active members have a lot to be thankful for as well.

May all of us enjoy the wonderful retirement we have, and pray for the ones less fortunate.

Remember: There will be no July meeting, but come to the Grandparent/Grandchildren Day at the UAW Park July 7th.



## Herbert Orr Chairman Report

By Ronald Phillip Bendele Jr.

UAW IPS Conference in Las Vegas, NV 2022

On behalf of fellow Chairmen Victor Maag from Powers and Sons unit and Josh Brock, from Johns Manville unit we would like to thank the membership for allowing us to represent you at the UAW 2022 National IPS Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

While trying to dodge a sandstorm and outrageous prices on products and places to eat, here are a few things learned.

Director Ron McNroy reminded us that we need to represent our people and it is not a "I" thing, it is a "WE" thing. He told us that the current board took out all the corrupt members, not the government; and the current board stopped the bleeding of 5.3 million dollars a year.

Vice President Terry Dittes talked about President Joe Biden possibly being the most Union friendly President we have ever had and that he is fighting for Unions.

We heard an electric vehicle presentation from Jason Wade, IPS research department. He said in the next 10 years half of the vehicles manufactured will probably be electric or hybrid. He also said studies have shown that the transition to BEV's could have a significant negative impact on Auto Workers. He thinks that maybe a million jobs could be affected., and that the shift will have a substantial impact on the parts sector.

We kept hearing the term "There's a movement going on in this Country right now"

Vice President Cindy Estrada reminded us that Starbucks and Amazon workers are organizing. Vice President Chuck Browning asked how many work for companies that have recently asked to open their contract up early and raise their wages. Which means...they could have given you that in your last contract and did not. He talked about how they got a deal for John Deere and they are still making record profit.

Some wow facts:

\*China is leading in the Battery Supply Chain and by 2024 it is projected that they will have 70% of the worlds battery market.

\* American billionaires got 1.7 trillion dollars



richer during the Pandemic and all of it was tax free!

\* Coca Cola's profits went up to 64% even though sales were down and had layoffs and the Executives got bonuses.

All in all, it's been a tough last couple of years! It feels like it's going to get a little tougher, so we just need to get a little stronger!

*VP report continued from page 3*

our local through organizing, duties of fair representation and most important, lessons from labor history.

Our four UAW Core Values of the union are:

1. Build, maintain and protect high standards in contracts.
2. All are equal
3. We fight for all
4. The ballot box is connected to the bread box

Article 27, Section 1 of the UAW Constitution states:

"Education shall be a Mandatory part of the business of the International Union and of each local union, particularly education in labor history, labor problems, the objectives of the International Union and the problems of the International Union, it's members and their families."

## Recreation Committee Upcoming Events:

**July 8 – 9, 2022** – The UAW will host its first Annual Catfish Tournament. At least one member on your team needs to be a member in good standing of UAW Local 211. All age groups are welcome. There is a \$10 entry fee per person. Prizes will be determined by number of entries.

**July 8** - Check-in at 5:00pm at the UAW Hall  
Start fishing at 7:00pm @ your favorite spot

**July 9** - Final weigh in 5:00pm at the UAW Hall

**August 20, 2022** - Fair Day at the Defiance County Fair – Full adult admission.

Please watch the UAW Local 211 website for further details.

***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:***

Leonard Cereghin – Retired 3/94

Kenneth Frederick – Retired 12/03

Bobby Ramey – Retired 1/97

Willie Parker – Retired 4/09

Robert Hoffman – Retired 9/91

Harold Hulbert – Retired 3/93

Lester Wilhelm – Retired 1/2000

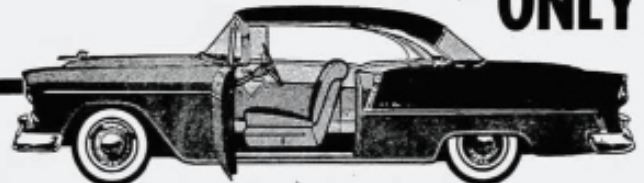
Jessie Rodriguez – Retired 7/02

Okie Fitch – Retired 8/94

Sonya Cameron – Retired 9/01

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## 2022 Richard T. Gasser Local 211 Scholarship Recipients



Chelsie Porter, daughter of Wayne Porter pictured above with Keith Boecker, Rob Egnor and her parents

*A Special THANK YOU to Local 211 and Retirees for their participation and support of the Richard T. Gosser Scholarship. Thank you for investing in our futures.*

*I will be attending the Ohio State University in the fall majoring in Microbiology on the pre-veterinary track. It was such an honor to receive this award. Thank you, UAW Family!*

*Chelsie Porter, Daughter of Wayne and Denise Porter*



Gavin Charles Askins, son of Charles Askins pictured above with Keith Boecker, Rob Egnor and his parents

*Recently my son Gavin Askins was one of the 12 students selected as a recipient of the Richard T. Gosser Scholarships. We are grateful for the Local 211 membership and Retirees for all their contributions and support from the past to the present.*

*The Scholarship will assist my son in college to better himself and to succeed in his life career.*

*Thank you,*

*In Solidarity,*

*Charlie Askins*

*UAW Local 211*

### UAW Local 211 Women's Committee Fundraiser – Rada Cutlery



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#### Who We Are

Rada Mfg. Co. has been manufacturing cutlery in the Midwest since 1948, selling more than 170 million knives since that time. Every product is 100% made in the USA, from raw materials all the way through construction.

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Through the years, Rada has remained strong, and we're proud to be providing customers with outstanding knives at an exceptional value that everyone can afford. Because sharp knives shouldn't be a luxury.

#### How to Order:

1. Go to the following website: <https://radafundraising.com?rfan=6497359.95boc2>
2. Upon entering the website, you will be asked: Do you want your order to support UAW Local 211 Women's Committee? Please select Yes.
3. Shop, pay for your items through the website. (Current catalog is good through July 31, 2022 as a new catalog will start on August 1, 2022)
4. Items ship directly to you! (Combine orders with family or friends to save on shipping!)



Quality, 100% American Made Products



## Pack the Purse

### UAW Local 211

### Women's Committee

The UAW Local 211 Women's Committee has collected over 80 purses to be donated to Sarah's House or House of Ruth. Each purse will contain a variety of the following items. Items needed are below and can be dropped off at the UAW Hall. Thank you for your support!

Travel size Shampoo, Travel size Conditioner, Travel size bar soap or shower wash, Travel size lotion, Dental Floss, Nail Clippers, Hair brush, Comb, Pick, Pony Tail holders, Hairspray, Toothbrush / Toothpaste, Socks, Tissues, Pepper Spray, Small first aid kits, Safety pins, Notebook and pens, Chap stick, Makeup Wipes, Qtips / Cotton balls, Disposable Razors, Sanitary napkins/tampons, Gas Gift Card, Grocery Gift Card (Meijer/Kroger/Chiefs), Travel size Deodorant



## Union-Made in America Barbecue AFL-CIO

Whether it's Memorial Day, July 4 or Labor Day, make sure your barbecue is stocked with union-made in America products.

Our lists are courtesy of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's website Labor 411; Union Plus; the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM); and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

Beer - Budweiser, Coors, Miller, Pabst, Sam Adams  
Coolers - Rubbermaid,

Flags - Artflag

Games - Battleship, Candy Land, Clue, Connect Four, Monopoly, Twister, Yahtzee

Grills - Weber (Genesis, Summit, Q Series)

Hot Dogs - Ball Park, Butterball, Hebrew National, Hormel, Oscar Mayer

Ice Cream - Breyers, Good Humor, Prairie Farms, Tillamook

Snacks - Flipz pretzels, Frito-Lay chips

Sunscreen - Bain de Soleil, Coppertone

## 23 Surprising 4th of July Facts

By [parade.com](http://parade.com)

1. The Declaration of Independence was not signed on July 4, 1776. That's actually the day it was formally adopted by the Continental Congress, but it wasn't signed by most signatories until August.

2. American typically eat 150 million hot dogs on Independence Day, "enough to stretch from D.C. to L.A. more than five times," according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council.

3. Three presidents have died on July 4: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe.

4. John Adams believed that American independence should be celebrated on July 2, as that's the actual day the Continental Congress voted for independence in 1776.

5. Annoyed that Independence Day wasn't celebrated on July 2, Adams reportedly turned down invitations to July 4 celebrations throughout his life.

6. Massachusetts became the first state to make the 4th of July an official state holiday in 1781.

7. President Zachary Taylor died in 1850 after eating spoiled fruit at a July 4 celebration.

8. The famed Macy's fireworks show in New York City uses more than 75,000 fireworks shells and costs about \$6 million.

9. Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest is held annually on July 4. In 2018, champion Joey Chestnut ate 74 hot dogs with buns in just 10 minutes.

10. Independence Day became a federal holiday in 1870.

11. As of 2016, July 4 was the number one holiday for beer sales in the U.S., according to the National Beer Wholesalers Association.

12. In 1778, George Washington gave his soldiers a double ration of rum to celebrate the July 4 holiday.

13. Every July 4, descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Independence tap the Liberty Bell 13 times in honor of the original 13 colonies.

14. Eating salmon is a July 4 tradition in parts of New England.

15. Small towns in the U.S. typically spend between \$8,000 and \$15,000 on their fireworks displays.

16. President Calvin Coolidge was born on July 4, 1872.

17. About 16,000 July 4 fireworks displays happen around the country each year, according to the American Pyrotechnics Association.

18. With many fireworks shows canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19, the American Pyrotechnics Association is asking for financial help from Congress to keep family-run fireworks businesses afloat.

19. Starting in 1818, new stars and stripes were added to the American flag each July 4 to make the creation of new states.

20. The U.S. Flag Code offers guidelines for flying the flag on July 4, and every day.

21. John Hancock has the largest signature on the Declaration of Independence.

22. The first July 4 celebrations took place at the White House on 1801, hosted by Thomas Jefferson.

23. One World Trade Center in New York is 1,776 feet tall to mark the year the U.S. declared its independence from Britain.

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

**General Motors**

Active, Wednesday, August 3 (UAW Hall)

Retiree, Canceled for July (UAW Hall)

**Herbert E. Orr**

Tuesday, July 5 (Paulding Fire House)

**Midwest Community FCU**

Wednesday, August 3 (UAW Hall)

**Sims Metal Management**

Canceled for July (UAW Hall)

**Johns Manville**

Tuesday, July 5 (UAW Hall)

**Powers & Sons** Wednesday, August 10 (Drop Time Winery & Tap House)

**DFM** Monday, July 11 (UAW Hall)

**Teijin Automotive Technologies** Monday, August 8 (USW Hall, Van Wert)

## *Local 211 News*

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

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**Web Editor:** 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](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  
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