



# 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

August 2022

## What Is Labor Day, and Why Do We Celebrate It?

For many, Labor Day is a three-day weekend that helps us celebrate the conclusion of a great summer. However, there's so much more to Labor Day than a three-day weekend, Labor Day sales (like mattress sales, furniture sales, and appliance sales), and the Labor Day memes we see online. In fact, as its name alludes to, the holiday has historical roots in the labor movement. Pretty interesting, right? Here's more about what Labor Day is, when it is, and why we celebrate it each year.

Labor Day is a national holiday in the U.S. On Labor Day, we remember the work of those in the labor movement who fought hard for workers' rights. We also celebrate the essential role workers play in America's growth and development—recognition some fought tirelessly for and that these Labor Day quotes honor.

Labor Day always takes place on the first Monday in September. Labor Day 2022 is on Monday, September 5.

Why do we celebrate Labor Day? The Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries brought a vast array of jobs and commerce to the United States. What it didn't bring was appropriate pay, safety regulations, or commonsense guidelines for the number of hours people should work each day and each week. To put things in perspective, the average American worked 12-hour days, seven days a week, at the height of the Industrial Revolution. It also wasn't uncommon to see young children doing hard labor in harsh working conditions for minuscule pay.

People noticed these poor conditions, though. Labor unions slowly started to form and fight for American workers' rights to fair pay, fair hours, and safe working conditions. Strikes and rallies were organized, and they sometimes turned violent. During this heady time, the idea for Labor Day was formed. The holiday was designed as a day of well-deserved acknowledgment for the contributions that

American workers have made to our country.

Fun facts about Labor Day

- Canada celebrated Labor Day before the United States. The first Canadian Labor Day—rather, Labour Day—was in 1872, 10 years before the United States caught on.

- Oregon was the first state to recognize the holiday. It made Labor Day a legal holiday on February 21, 1887. That same year, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York also legally adopted the holiday.

- Labor Day unofficially marks the end of peak hot dog season. Americans typically eat 7 billion hot dogs between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

- Labor Day is tied with Memorial Day as the second most popular holiday for grilling.

- It's estimated that more than 164 million people make up the U.S. civilian labor force.

- 14 million American wage and salary workers belonged to unions in 2021.

- At the time of this writing, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. In 1938, when the federal minimum wage was established, it was 25 cents per hour.

- As of January 2022, the District of Columbia has the highest state minimum wage in the U.S. at \$15.20 per hour. California is second, at \$15 per hour.

- While many people consider Labor Day to be the unofficial end of summer, there's still plenty to celebrate in the month of September. National Hispanic Heritage Month starts September 15, and the first day of fall is Thursday, September 22.

- Professional football in the United States historically kicks off after Labor Day weekend. The first NFL game of the 2022 season is slated for Thursday, September 8, as Super Bowl champs the Los Angeles Rams take on the Buffalo Bills.

Now, you can celebrate Labor Day knowing there were people fighting for your right to earn a livable wage and work in a safe environment. Interested in going out to eat and doing some shopping during the long weekend? Check out which restaurants and stores are open on Labor Day. By Corey Whelan, Kelly Kuehn



## President's Report

By Keith Boecker

July 1st Retirements; GM had four retirements, Ronnie Ellis, Aaron Langhorne, Steven Mendez and Brenda Hall. August 1st retirements for GM unit; Jeffrey Schulenberg, Rodney Kesler and Michelle Dearth. Teijin has one retirement in August, Mike Roop and two from Powers and Sons Unit; Calvin Stambaugh and Regina Faunce. I would like to thank you for all your years of service and I hope you have a happy and healthy retirement. I would like to give Regina Faunce a special thanks for being the Local 211 Election Committee chairperson for several elections, Regina always done a super job.

I want to thank the membership for allowing me to attend the Constitutional Convention in Detroit held on July 25-28. Nominations were taken for President, Vice Presidents, Financial Secretary, Trustees and Regional Directors. The delegates elected two trustees during the convention; Emileo Ramirez and Dana Davidson. All active and retired members will be receiving a ballot in the mail this fall to elect the members of the International Executive Board and Regional Directors. Please update your address if changed so you will receive your ballot. Please check our website at [uawlocal211.com](http://uawlocal211.com) for updated items and list of candidates for the upcoming elections of the IEB.

In the past, only 14% of all UAW members cast their ballots in the referendum vote. I hope that there are more ballots returned for these important upcoming elections on who will be our leaders for the next four years.

At the Convention the elected delegates also voted to use one person one vote that most people are accustomed to over the proposals which were presented. Look into other articles in this newsletter from your elected delegates on other changes in the constitution.

Region 2B Annual Entertainment Outing is on September 24th. We have purchased 10 tickets on a first come first serve basis; please contact Lisa at the UAW Hall if interested.

I would like to announce that Lisa Brown has been appointed as the new Alternate Benefit representative. Congratulations to Lisa.

On September 18, 2022 the Recreation Committee is putting on their annual Fishing Derby for our members' children and grandchildren ages 12 years of age and younger. Please keep an eye out for further information on this event. You can visit the local 211 website for additional information

regarding recreation events.

Richard T. Gosser Scholarships are available. For an application and rules visit the Regions website at <http://region2b.uaw.org>, you can go to the UAW hall or your unit chairperson for an application. The applicant must be a senior of a high school class graduating between January 2023 and July 2023. Applications must be mailed out no later than October 15, 2022.

Local 211 had one winner for the Region 2B VCAP drawing, retiree Allen Hatter won \$100. Congratulations.

The Local 211 UAW Hall is now closed on Monday's. Tuesday through Friday will still be open at our regular hours.

Over the past months I have heard of facebook conversations ( I am not on Facebook) about the condition of our largest park shelter house. We have just finished our membership meetings to address the concrete in the shelter house and hopefully this fall or next spring this work is complete.

I know most active and retired members remember when we had over 4000 active members alone at our GM unit. We now have less than 500 active members. We have eight total units that make up Local 211 and total membership is less than 1000 active members. Like all our households or our businesses you address issues which need attention and our park is always a concern for safety from myself and the entire executive board. But money does not grow on trees for picking like my dad always said. I would like to remind people over the last several years that the executive board and active membership have approved repairing one roof at the Main Hall over \$82,000, new roof at Memorial Hall which was \$26,000, replacement of a water line to the park at \$7,500, several new AC and heating units at the Main Hall \$12,500. We still have several heating units on the roof from the 60s and 70s that need replaced. We have replaced a portion of the main parking lot at a cost of over \$100,000. We have replaced the entrance and exit drives at a cost of over \$27,000. As everyone is aware property taxes, electric, and natural gas are not getting any cheaper. I am not complaining. I knew these challenges when I first ran for the Executive Board many years ago. We, as an Executive Board, have rules to follow when spending dues dollars and I am proud of the board members whom I have worked with now and in the past. We have been cautious on spending the active members' dues money. Rest assured we work FOR our members.

A few things that need addressed in the future are eight doors needing replaced in the park and at

Memorial Hall, updating the bathrooms at Memorial Hall which is rented to the public and our members. We also need to reseal and line our newest parking lot; soon we will need to address the rest of our main parking lot for repairs or replacement. So as you can see we have many areas that we need to focus on in the future along with day to day upkeep of our buildings and grounds. I put this part of my article together to point out several items done in the past few years, letting everyone know what items are going to be looked at in the future months and years.

As always, we need to continue to keep our elected leadership trained for any situations that arise at any of our locations and to protect Local 211 property which we all help to build and maintain. Our Local is financially stable at this time but we need to be responsible to keep Local 211 around for many generations to follow. Next year is our elections for Executive Board members. If you want to make a difference or see any changes, please run for an office. With membership being down from years ago we need to get more and more of our Local members involved. Being on the Executive Board is a great way to make a difference.

In closing, if anyone has concerns on any issues with the UAW hall or property, please contact myself or a member of your executive board. We always listen to our members that have issues, concerns or questions.



## Chairman's Report

By Rob Egnor

It's getting that time of the year when the school buses start making their rounds. We need to make sure we are taking a little extra time just in case we get caught behind one during the morning or afternoon commute. I know this can get a little frustrating but please be patient and use caution when you see a school bus.

We are still seeing part shortages throughout the industry and it has started to impact our site here locally. The shortage isn't just the semiconductors, its valves for the heads, plastics etc. We recently had a few week temporary layoffs for the GEN and LGE areas. The GEN area was due to the parts shortage and the LGE was due to the product lifecycle ending. I would like to thank everyone here that worked on the LGE block. Our people once again did an excellent job making shipments and providing our customers a quality product. I know our members will continue to provide our customers with the highest quality products with

the remaining and future parts that we make here in Defiance.

The new 625T area has just added a few more team members and we are looking forward to hopefully add a few more needed resources to the area. I want to thank all of the members who have been in the launch area and acknowledge the incredible job they are doing with the limited resources they have had. This is going to be a very important part of our future here in Defiance. The vehicles our 625T are slated to go into are high volume vehicles such as the Traverse, Acadia and Enclave. Along with that our members should be very proud of the work that they have done in the 675T area also. If you have seen any of the updates on the 2023 Colorado and Canyon, then you have seen the engine that will be going in the '23 Colorado and Canyon is our very own 675T (head). This is another example of the work that is being performed here at our facility. Thank you for what you do.

Here at the plant we currently have 433 members on the rolls. We recently had 7 brothers and sisters retire between July and August so if you know any of them, please extend a thank you to them for the years spent here in Defiance.

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

Greetings! I would like to thank the membership for sending me along with the Local 211 delegates; Sheri Baker (GM), Angel Manley (Powers & Sons) and Ricky Johns (Retiree) to the 38th Constitutional Convention. The theme was "Building Our Tomorrow TODAY" The excitement was definitely in the room. There were very good discussions amongst the delegates during the convention. The delegates were from all over different regions across the entire UAW.

One thing that was very obvious was that the IEB (International Executive Board) was very



transparent throughout the entire convention. Many of the delegates did seem to agree. The IEB was very explanative to any and all questions that were brought up. All of the debates, questions and comments were very well spoken and communicated very well and informative to all in attendance. The days were long and very good discussions and arguments but the people were passionate about the changes they wanted that were presented by the membership. There will also be more publications with the Solidarity Magazine coming out in the future.

During the 38th Convention there were two past UAW Presidents that got the title of Emeritus. Emeritus status is defined as (of the former holder of an office, especially a college professor having retired but allowed to retain their title as an honor)

Ron Gettlefinger and Rory L. Gamble got this title from all their hard work and dedication to the UAW; many years of labor negotiations and fighting for workers rights. They were presented with a plaque for this honorable achievement. You may also go to [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org) for more information.

Go to [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org) and sign the petition to honor Walter Reuther commeriative stamp. The website as many helpful things that can be looked up that are helpful within the UAW. Ethics hotline number is available, along with articles, important information on media, organization, news and UAW made products.



## Retirees Report

By Ivan Burgei, Recording Sec

What a wonderful day it was for the Annual Grand Parents/Grand Kids Day at the park. The weather was just perfect. The events for the children was none stop. We had Folly Face Painting, Lininger Pony Rides, Party Expression bouncy rides, Lilly Creek Farms horse drawn carriage, Divine Living snow cones, and Defiance Fire Department, who gave out plastic fire hats to the kids and showed them how the fire truck works. We also had Sheriff Douglas Engel and the dept comfort dog to show us the dogs purpose for the victims in need

The hot dogs were cooked by Denny Harr and Ralph Fleming. Serving hot dogs and chips were Peggy Sponsler, Cindy Suffel, Lydia Fleming, Sara Bennett and Sherry Fleming, Doing the set up and tear down preporations were Bob Suffel, Mike Bennett, Eddie Collazo, Ted Fleming and myself. All the kids received a coupon for McDonald's Happy meal and a coupon for a small ice cream cone from Dairy Queen. Lisa Burgei was here to pass these out.

There is nothing more enjoyable then to watch the youngsters having a blast. Some of the kids said they couldn't wait until next year.

We also had Vern Martin and Wally Budzinski and their band members, singing and playing music the whole time and they were great. Thank you guys for the wonderful entertainment.

We have 18 new picnic tables under the shelter house. These tables can be purchased by retirees and active members or anybody for that matter, as a donation to the Local 211 Park for only \$310. The table will have a plaque with the donors choice of the words on it. Like "in memory of" and "donated by". If you are interested in purchasing one, contact Ted or me and we will fix you up.

The retirees are working together with the active members to restore the park back to its original beauty. Let us all work together as a Union and make this project something we all can be proud of.

"Solidarity forever, For the union makes us strong"

Be careful, be safe and see you next time.

Additional Grandparent's Day Photos on the website...



## ATTENTION:

**Maumee Valley has contacted us about issues with their Avanti market vending. They are having many items being taken without being paid for. Make sure when purchasing items it is scanned properly and you have funds to purchase the items, or you should return them. Remember, if you are taking items improperly without paying, you are on video and can and will be prosecuted. Is your job worth a candy bar, pop or sandwich? If this continues, these videos and pictures will be turned over to management and it will not end well.**



### ***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:***

Sharon Brown – Active at Johns Manville

Clark Michael – Retired 8/04

Serapio Casarez – Retired 3/88

Hager Ousley – Retired 4/94

Ronald Foltz – Retired 7/95

Donna Breece – Retired 8/2000

Leslie Fulbright – Retired 1/06

Pedro Herrera – Retired 7/06

Anthony Walraven – Retired 1/04

Duane Bean – Retired 2/93

Kenneth Barham – Retired 4/93

Beatrice Jenkins – Retired 9/98

Richard Zedaker – Retired 11/90



### **UAW Constitutional Convention** By Sheri Baker Constitutional Convention Delegate

The 38th UAW Constitutional Convention took place in Detroit, MI on July 25-28, 2022. There were over 1000 UAW delegates present.

The delegates listened to several speakers on the importance of unions and the good work they do.

The resolution committee presented resolutions to the delegates with some of them having debates. The first resolution presented was the rank choice voting system. This resolution was brought to the committee from the moderator that the government has assigned to oversee the union. After debate of the confusing nature of rank choice voting, the delegates voted against the resolution. Therefore, this fall you will be sent a ballot in the mail with all of the IEB offices and the candidates for those offices. In order for the candidates to win on the first ballot, the candidate who receives 50% plus 1 vote of the ballots cast will be declared the winner. If no candidate achieves this, there will be a runoff election. Those ballots will also be mailed to each UAW member at the address on file with the local.

The rank choice voting resolution came about from the one member one vote referendum last year. Please be on the lookout for your ballot in the mail this fall. Also please make sure the local has your correct address on file. If you have moved and changed your address with your employer, they will NOT reach out to the local to update it. We want to make sure the entire membership receives their ballot. Only 14% of the entire UAW membership voted in the referendum election.

In June the IEB raised the weekly strike pay to \$400. They also eliminated the clause that striking members cannot receive strike pay if they are receiving unemployment benefits. There was a resolution submitted to raise the pay to \$500 weekly, with that pay starting on day one of the strike. The resolution did pass but was brought back up the next day for reconsideration. After much more debate it was voted to keep the strike pay at \$400 a week beginning on day one of the strike and members receiving unemployment benefits will still receive their strike pay. During debate on the reconsideration, the delegates were informed of how much the GM strike of 2019 cost. Just the strike pay alone was \$79 million. Keep in mind this is when the strike pay was \$200 and \$250 a week. With that being said, GM strike pay out for 40 days could have

*Continued - page 6*

### **ATTENTION RETIREES:**

The Retiree Insurance Carriers will be at the **Septemeber 1st** meeting.

The VEBA Trust representatives will be at the **October 6th** meeting.

### **TO ALL RETIRED OR ACTIVE LOCAL 211 MEMBERS:**

If you would like to submit an article for the Local 211 newsletter, please send an email to [tonyahuss22@gmail.com](mailto:tonyahuss22@gmail.com) or [local211@defnet.com](mailto:local211@defnet.com)





been \$150 million with the \$500 a week. This does not include the COBRA insurance for our healthcare. Nominations were taken for the entire UAW International Executive Board. In line with the new changes to the UAW Constitution, nominates and roll call voting took place for the two trustee positions on the IEB. Emilio Ramirez and Dana Davidson were elected to the Trustee positions. They will participate two times yearly in their roles.

The resolution committee did get to read out the Women's issue resolution and the body did vote to accept it. The remaining resolutions were voted on as a block vote because of the democracy shown and the debate process. The remaining resolutions were adopted. The last motion brought to the floor was to make the former UAW members that stole from the UAW pay back the \$1.1 million they stole. It also included the \$13 million that we have paid the moderator for the former member's theft.

Thank you to the membership for electing me as delegate and thank you to Wayne Blanchard, Director UAW Region 2B for placing me on resolution committee.



## **A Look Back at Actions taken at the UAW Constitutional Conventions**

**Information Provided at the 2022 Constitutional Convention**

The 38th UAW Constitutional Convention is upon us and it is worth a look back to see how the decisions of the past can light the way in the future and continue "Building Our Tomorrow Today."

"It's here that the future direction of the union is decided, and union democracy is on full display," said UAW President Ray Curry.

Here are a few of the noteworthy moments at UAW Constitutional Conventions:

The American Federation of Labor installed Francis Dillon as the UAW's first president in 1935; but the Union became independent of the AFL's direct control at its first UAW Constitutional Convention, a year later in South Bend, Indiana. Homer Martin was elected president and delegates adopted resolutions supporting farm-labor parties and not Democrats in the 1936 election. The resolution was rescinded after the Congress of Industrial Organizations threatened

to withhold organizing funds.

Walter P. Reuther was elected president in 1946. A resolution was introduced to establish a Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination Department and make its director a member of the IEB. But weaker version passed. It took another 16 years before Nelson Jack Edwards would become the first African American IEB member.

Resolutions at the 1953 convention pressed companies to pay a guaranteed wage as a hedge against unemployment. Nine years later, President Kennedy told delegates; "We need a permanent unemployment insurance program so that those who want to work and cannot find a job will not be shifted and living on a marginal income without hope."

Reuther became a trusted advisor to President Lyndon Johnson, especially on civil rights and social issues. Johnson addressed the 1964 convention:

"I want to read just one sentence from your President's wire that gave me great strength and encouragement: On behalf of the officers and 1 ½ million members of the UAW, I am please to advise you that in answer to your call, we enlist with you for the duration in the war against poverty."

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter addressed delegates: "Your union was born in struggle, and you've won many victories. But you've never retreated into complacency or narrow selfishness," he said.

In 1985, delegates passed a resolution on unfair trade that called on the government to support domestic content, recognize unfair trade practices, and provide trade adjustment assistance. Delegates passed a resolution prohibiting investment in companies doing business in South Africa to force an end to apartheid.

At the 1989 convention, delegates passed a resolution calling for drastic changes in federal labor law that would prohibit lockouts and hiring replacement workers.

Resolutions in following years, like in the years before, would deal with a variety of public policy, societal, and global issues. Delegates at the upcoming convention will, like their forebears, wrestle with issues facing working people and act. For the first time, direct elections of UAW officers are expected after this convention. But delegates have plenty on their plates as the future path of the union is decided through debate and votes on resolutions.

"Their attention and study of the issues, debate and conclusions they reach help us build a better tomorrow today," said UAW Secretary-Treasurer Frank Stuglin.



## 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

The Local 211 UAW Office  
is closed on Mondays.  
Tuesday - Friday we will still be  
open at our regular hours.

## Walter Reuther Stamp

Show your support for a postage stamp in honor of Walter Reuther's life. Sign our petition today!

[bit.ly/ReutherStamp](https://bit.ly/ReutherStamp)

“You've got to make up your mind whether you're willing to accept things as they are, or whether you're willing to try and change them.”

- Walter Reuther



Some members of our Veteran's Committee attended a BBQ at the Veteran's Home in Sandusky, Ohio... *Pictures Provided by Danny Green*



Thank  
You  
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Veterans!



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

**General Motors**

Active, Wednesday, October 5 (UAW Hall)

Retiree, Thursday, September 1 (UAW Hall)

**Herbert E. Orr**

Tuesday, September 6 (Paulding Fire House)

**Midwest Community FCU**

Wednesday, October 5 (UAW Hall)

**Sims Metal Management**

Tuesday, September 6 (UAW Hall)

**Johns Manville**

Tuesday, September 6 (UAW Hall)

**Powers & Sons** Wednesday, October 12 (Drop Time Winery & Tap House)

**DFM** Monday, September 12 (UAW Hall)

**Teijin Automotive Technologies** Monday, October 10 (USW Hall, Van Wert)

**Defiance Area UAW CAP Council** Tuesday, September 13

## *Local 211 News*

Official Publication of  
United Auto Workers,  
Amalgamated Local 211



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

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### **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.



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