



LOCAL 211 NEWS

Union Proud from Defiance, Ohio



Our success is attributed to the rank and file—the working men and women—of our local union!

Chartered 1948

uawlocal211.com

December 2022

Kid's Christmas Cruz Thru 2022





President's Report

By Keith Boecker

The GM Unit had two retirements as of December 1st, Sandra Pumphrey with 30.3 years and William Korte with 33.2 years of service. I would like to thank you for all your years of service and I hope you have a happy and healthy retirement.

On December 4th the Recreation Committee held their Kids Christmas Drive Thru. I want to thank the committee for planning this event for our children and grandchildren.

Herbert Orr and Powers & Sons Units recently ratified their Local contract; I would like to congratulate their Bargaining Committee for working hard and negotiating a good contract for their members.

Powers and Son's Unit also held their election for bargaining committee; I would like to congratulate Victor Maag, Chairman and the bargaining committee, Anthony Wright, Tim Whitney and Josh Nichols.

The GM unit recently took resolutions for our National Agreement. I want to thank the membership for taking the time to not only think of our active members but also think of our retirees in this critical time. Remember General Motors is under no obligation to negotiate for retirees, but hopefully our newly elected officers in Detroit can persuade General Motors to give some gains to our retirees. The National agreement expires next fall and it is important to have good people in place in Detroit to handle these negotiations.

At the time this newsletter was being prepared we still have the International President and one Vice President runoff election to take place. The ballots for these runoffs will be mailed out starting January 12, 2023 and need to be returned by February 28, 2023. These ballots will start to be counted on March 1st 2023. Before the runoffs occur, all the top positions of our International officers (except Regional Directors) are from Stellantis (formally Chrysler) with no Vice Presidents from GM or Ford, this is very concerning to me and maybe you also since we are negotiating next year with the big three. Before placing your ballot, do your homework and then vote for your choice to lead our union. We had a very small percentage of our UAW members vote; it is a shame a small number of voters make decisions for all active and retired members.

I would like to welcome all of our new members that have been hired in all of our represented facilities lately and encourage them to get involved with the activities of the UAW and ask questions and get informed about the benefits of being a UAW member.

We have some very important items coming up locally in the first few months of 2023. We will be taking demands for our 2023 local contract at GM.

Nominations for our local election committee and also the Executive Board positions, President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, three Trustees, Guide and Sergeant at Arms. It is also nominations for GM unit Shop Chairperson, Committeepersons and Alternate Committeepersons; so as you can see we have many opportunities, I encourage all members to get involved with helping with elections or other positions that will be available. If you have any questions about any of these positions please contact me and I will answer your questions.

Reminder to everyone, our business office is now closed on Mondays. Another reminder to everyone, we do not have a GM Benefit Representative at the UAW Hall, if you have any questions please call Rob Searfoss at 419-784-7750, nobody from the UAW Hall can answer any of your benefit questions.

I would like to thank Wayne Blanchard for his years of service to the UAW and supporting Local 211.

I would like to congratulate Dave Green and wish him the best in his new position as our new Region 2B Director.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.



Chairman's Report

By Rob Egnor

Where has the time gone? My dad always told me when you get older the time goes faster and to not let it get away from you. I did not fully understand what he meant by that at the time. I guess when you get older and watch your children grow up and leave the nest, so to speak, you start realizing what that actually meant. To me he was telling me to take the time to enjoy life and the things that it brings you. So, during this holiday period, slow down and enjoy what you can.

Here at the plant we currently have 417

members on the rolls with 21 of our members on a leave. We did get some new folks in the plant either from another location or newly hired from outside of GM. When you see these folks please take the time to welcome them to Local 211. Next year looks promising for us here in Defiance. We are currently in need for skilled trades members so if you are or know someone that would be interested in becoming a skilled team member here in Defiance, please inquire on how to go about it correctly. Also if you know someone at another location that would like to come to Defiance, please let them know to apply through the Appendix A process and keep their eyes open for notifications of openings. We have had several members elect to retire since my last report and I just want to thank them for the hard work and years put in at the Defiance plant. I hope they enjoy their time being retired and take a whole lot of those monthly paychecks that GM will be sending them.

As always, 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. Enjoy your holiday period and once again, stay safe.

donated to some very worthy causes. These include: One Step at a Time (teenage suicide prevention), House of Ruth, Sarah's House (domestic abuse shelters), The Filling Home, Sufficient Grace Ministries, CASA, Hometown Heros, CHP Backpack Program, Caring and Sharing of Paulding, Helping Hands in Williams County, First United Methodist Food Pantry in Van Wert, and Hebron House of Defiance.

At Easter we have a Spring Fling party with the students at Headstart. Christmas time is a special time of year for our committee. We visit Good Samaritan School, bring Santa and pass out goodie bags. We also go to the area nursing homes and visit those that just need time from people, the elderly. Remember those hotel size soaps, shampoos and lotions? This is what we use those for.

These groups are just to name a few. Over the past four years, your women's committee has raised and donated \$18,705 to our communities. We realize that this would not be at all possible without our membership and communities.

We hope that you all have a Happy Holiday Season and an even better New Year!



Women's Committee Chairperson By Sheri Baker

The Local 211 Women's Committee holds a very dear spot in our local's and my heart. The group of women that have been on this committee over the years have proven time and again what we took an oath to do. We serve our union and community as best we can.

Our membership sees when we host fundraisers and activities. The amount of participation from our members sets our hearts at ease. From joining us at the Quarter Auctions that everyone loves, to raffle ticket purchases and donations. We always feel the appreciation from the membership for us. In turn, we hope that the membership knows we can not do what we do without them.

Over the years, the Women's Committee has



*Left: John Brown with Lisa Crossland
Right: Curtis Turner with Lisa Crossland*



*Left: Paul Frank with Lisa Crossland
Right: Melissa Noriega, Sherrie Hammersmith
(One Step at a Time) & Sheri Baker*



HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE RETIREE BOARD

Ivan Burgei, Bill Thomas, Teddy Fleming & Dennis Harr

As another year comes to a close, Local 211 retirees held their annual Christmas dinner. Approximately 220 retirees, spouses and guests attended. Black Angus catered the meals.

We held our pick your gift fundraiser drawing that got some laughs, as gag gifts were opened. Some smiles were also seen as others got some good gifts, including some gift cards totaling \$500 along with a few scratch off lottery tickets.

The biggest smile of the day came from the winner of the 50/50 drawing who took home \$738. (Nice Christmas Present)

Throughout the day we heard many stories, jokes and laughter-lots of fellowship sharing among union families.

Our retiree officers and their spouses wrapped gifts on November 15th and came together November 29th with other volunteers to set up the seating arrangement, cover tables, put up Christmas lights and decorate the hall for our dinner on December 1st.

All these union brothers and sisters came together again at the dinner to help sell tickets, manage the drawings and clean up afterwards.

There is no way we could have accomplished the end result without everyone's commitment to this event.

I want to take this time to recognize and thank them: Bob and Peggy Sponslor, Ralph and Lydia Fleming, Mike and Sara Bennett, Bob and Cindy Suffell, Carol Miller and of course the Retiree board members' wives, Nylice Thomas, Lisa Burgei and Sherry Fleming.

The retiree board members hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year!



Retirees Report By Ivan Burgei, Recording Sec

Sorry I missed the last newsletter but I will try to make up for it now. At our November 3rd retiree meeting we had three more associate members accepted; they were Marilyn Steel, Terri Rosebrock and Nancy Elston. Please welcome our new members.

Our meal was by Subway and served by Delinda Chavez and Lilly Porter

At our Christmas Party we also had two special guests; they were Raye Ohl our CAP Representative and Chad Cattell our Regional Rep. Wayne Blanchard could not make it because of other commitments. We would like to wish Wayne well in his future endeavors.

Other guests were from the Local 211 Executive Board, CAP council officers and nurses who check our blood pressure at every retiree meeting.

On November 29th we decorated the hall for Christmas. It took us three hours to do this. If it wasn't for all who helped I am sure it would have been much longer. The great people who volunteered their services are Peggy and Bob Sponsler, Cindy and Bob Suffel, Sara and Mike Bennett, Lydia and Ralph Fleming, Nylice and Bill Thomas, Carol Miller, Denny Harr, Ted Fleming, Lisa Burgei and myself. We were glad to do this just to see everyone at the party loving it and enjoying the day.

We had a fabulous meal served by Black Angus of Ottoville. On the menu were sirloin tips, chicken breast with gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, dinner roll, salad and dessert. Of course beverages were included.

After dinner it was time for the gift drawings. We had over 150 gifts this year. Some of the gifts had \$10, \$25 and \$50 gift certificates with other prizes in them. There were only a few gag gifts just for laughs. These gifts were wrapped and donated by Sherri and Ted Fleming, Nylice and Bill Thomas, Dennis Harr, Sara Bennett and Lisa and I. By the time the party was over it was close to 2:30. I believe we all had a blast because everyone was laughing and smiling all day long.

Thank you again for all the volunteer help who made this event a wonderful success. Looking forward to seeing you at our January 5th retiree meeting. Doors open up at 9:30 A.M., we eat at 10:30 A.M. and the meeting starts at noon.



All of us wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Retirees Christmas Party



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:

Richard D. Wagner - Retired 6/06

John Engel - Retired 12/96

Ramiro Garza Jr. - Retired 8/09

William Winseman - Retired 10/88

Jose Torres - Retired 2/93

Lawson Willis - Retired 1/98

Eddie Ellison - Retired 3/16

Simon Tijerina - Retired 6/02

Carl Owens - Retired 8/95

Robert Evans - Retired 7/06

John Radabaugh - Retired 7/04



Lights Before
Christmas
@ Toledo Zoo

GOOD FOR THE WEEKS OF NOVEMBER 18TH
THROUGH DECEMBER 31st

Adult Ages 12-59 \$15

Children Ages 2-11 \$10

75 Adult Admission Tickets Available
50 Children and Senior Tickets Available

DECEMBER 2, 2022



REGION 2B

UPDATE

THE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

UAW Family,

Let me begin by thanking each of you for the last two years. Serving as Director for the incredible membership of UAW Region 2B has genuinely been **the honor of my life**. I am so proud of the work that we have done and everything that we have achieved. I want to **thank all of you**, as well as the Region 2B Staff and our Clerical Staff. Their work behind the scenes may not always be visible, but they work hard every day to support Region 2B and its members.



While I was unable to meet each of you during my time as Director, I can tell you it was a pleasure to work for everyone. I appreciate and love this great union of ours.

UAW members are a group of people like no other. They are hard-working, headstrong, caring and dedicated to the things they are passionate about. Their hearts are as big as they come. As I leave the role of Director behind, my **hope** is that all of you will **continue what we started** two years ago. My hope is that more and more of you will commit to taking an active role in your union. I hope you will become engaged and educated about your union. I hope you will find reasons to believe in the UAW again. Lastly, I hope that you all will find a way to work together in solidarity and make the UAW stronger to ensure that it will last for generations to come.

Finally, I **congratulate Dave Green** on his election win under this new process. The responsibility of being UAW Region 2B Director is a great one. It is a role that requires one to be responsible for the lives and livelihoods of more than 190,000 members. It is not a role to be taken lightly and I wish him success in representing all of you well.

As for my future plans, I intend to stay active and engaged in our great union. I look forward to working and connecting with many of you. Until then, I remain humbly and gratefully yours...

In solidarity,

Wayne Blanchard
Director, UAW Region 2B

THANK YOU



The Gold Wrapping Paper

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.


In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

The Local 211 UAW Office
is closed on Mondays.
Tuesday - Friday we will still
be open at our regular hours.
*The Hall will be closed for the
Holidays Beginning December
26, 2022 and will reopen on
Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Local 211 is collecting clean and
acceptable caps for future discount
recycled benches and picnic tables
for the park. They can be dropped off
at the Local 211 Union Hall.

Walter Reuther Stamp


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



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



**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
or local211@defnet.com

ATTENTION:

There is no longer a GM Benefits
Rep at the Local 211 Hall. If you
have any benefits issues or ques-
tions please contact Rob Searfoss,
our current GM Benefits Represent-
ative at the plant. His phone num-
ber is 419-784-7750.

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



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.

We started out in a small facility producing just six products and three gift
sets, several of which are still in production today. We've come a long way
since then and offer 125+ products from knives, utensils, and gift sets to
kitchen tools, food mixers, and recipe and gift books. We're proud knowing
Rada customers consistently give our products the highest ratings.

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=6447350.95&cc=2>
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



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

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Defiance, Ohio
Permit NO. 342

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

Telephone: 419.784.5399
Facsimile: 419.784.5838
Email: local211@defnet.com



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

General Motors

Active, Wednesday, February 1 (UAW Hall)

Retiree, Thursday, January 5 (UAW Hall)

Herbert E. Orr

Tuesday, January 3 (Paulding Fire House)

Midwest Community FCU

Wednesday, February 1 (UAW Hall)

Sims Metal Management

Tuesday, January 3 (UAW Hall)

Johns Manville

Tuesday, January 3 (UAW Hall)

Powers & Sons Wednesday, December 14 (Drop Time Winery & Tap House)

DFM Monday, January 9 (UAW Hall)

Teijin Automotive Technologies Monday, December 12 (USW Hall, Van Wert)

Defiance Area UAW CAP Council Tuesday, January 10 (UAW Hall)

Local 211 News

Official Publication of
United Auto Workers,
Amalgamated Local 211

Visit uawlocal211.com.

News Editors: Tonya Huss, Trisha Ramirez

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 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.