



# 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

March 2023

## **WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR FALLEN BROTHERS**

*I write these words of honor, for those who gave their lives;  
And for their families, their husbands and their wives.  
For those whose lives were spent, doing what they must  
Working for a living like every one of us.  
Their time cut short, by things that didn't have to be;  
To make the workplace safer, for people like you and me.  
To make sure their stories will never go untold;  
To always keep their memories from ever growing cold.  
We must remember the price they all had to pay;  
When we honor the men and women on Workers Memorial Day.  
-Mike Baird*

**Worker's Memorial Day will be observed at GM Defiance on Friday, April 28**

**LeRoy Hunt - September 2, 1951**  
**Furl Stallard - August 16, 1967**  
**Doyle Price - August 5, 1968**  
**Jerry Edwards - March 31, 1969**  
**Bernard Meyer - July 23, 1970**  
**Robert Vogelsong - October 22, 1971**  
**Joseph Konrad - December 13, 1972**  
**Jimmie Liles - January 14, 1977**  
**Carlos Overa - December 22, 1980**  
**Benjamin Warnement - June 1, 1981**  
**Clarence Webster - January 20, 1983**  
**James Kent - September 16, 1985**  
**Franklin Dixon - September 9, 1986**  
**Eugene Childs - September 13, 1988**  
**David McCreery - June 16, 1990**  
**Jimmy Jones - September 11, 1993**  
**Terry Bodenbender - February 2, 2016**  
**Kim Cogswell Power & Sons - October 12, 2018**



## NOMINATIONS NOTICE

LOCAL 211, UAW

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SHOP CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT COMMITTEEPERSON ELECTION

NOMINATIONS FOR LOCAL 211 UAW EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS AND THE GM BARGAINING COMMITTEE: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, RECORDING SECRETARY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER, THREE TRUSTEES, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS AND GUIDE, SHOP CHAIRPERSON, DISTRICT COMMITTEEPERSONS, AND ALTERNATE COMMITTEEPERSONS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE GM UNIT UNION MEETINGS ON **WEDNESDAY APRIL 5, 2023.**

**MEETING TIMES: 7:45 A.M., 12:30 NOON  
AND 3:30 P.M.**

ALL LOCAL 211 MEMBERS IN CONTINUOUS GOOD STANDING IN THE LOCAL UNION ARE ELIGIBLE TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE.

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER IN CONTINUOUS GOOD STANDING FOR ONE (1) YEAR AT THE TIME OF NOMINATIONS TO RUN FOR OFFICE.

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT  
COMMITTEEPERSONS AND ALTERNATE  
COMMITTEEPERSONS MUST BE ASSIGNED  
TO A DEFINITELY DEFINED DISTRICT AT THE  
TIME OF NOMINATIONS AND MUST BE  
NOMINATED BY THE MEMBER FROM THEIR  
OWN DISTRICT.

Keith Boecker  
President  
Local 211, UAW

## ATTENTION

LOCAL 211 UAW SATELLITE UNITS AND  
RETIREE NOMINATION NOTICE

NOMINATIONS FOR LOCAL 211 UAW EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, RECORDING SECRETARY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER, THREE TRUSTEES, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS AND GUIDE WILL BE TAKEN AT THE GM UNIT UNION MEETING ON **WEDNESDAY APRIL 5, 2023.**

ALL LOCAL 211 MEMBERS IN CONTINUOUS GOOD STANDING IN THE LOCAL UNION ARE ELIGIBLE TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE.

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER IN CONTINUOUS GOOD STANDING FOR ONE (1) YEAR AT THE TIME OF NOMINATIONS TO RUN FOR OFFICE.

LOCAL 211 RETIREES, MIDWEST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, SIMS METAL MANAGEMENT, HERBERT ORR, DFM, JOHNS MANVILLE, POWERS AND SONS AND TEIJIN AUTOMOTIVE UNIT MEMBERS WHO WISH TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR A POSITION ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MUST CONTACT LISA RANKIN AT THE LOCAL 211 UAW HALL AT 419-784-5399 OR 866-786-5399 BEFORE 3:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 5, 2023

Keith Boecker  
President  
Local 211, UAW



# NOTICE

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU HAVE UNTIL WEDNESDAY APRIL 12, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M. TO ACCEPT OR DECLINE NOMINATIONS** AS WELL AS NAME VERIFICATION. MEMBERS WHO WISH TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATIONS MUST GO TO THE LOCAL 211 UNION HALL DURING REGULAR HOURS, 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.

**THE ELECTION FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD, SHOP CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT COMMITTEEPERSONS AND ALTERNATE COMMITTEEPERSONS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023.**

VOTING BOOTHS FOR THE **GM UNIT** WILL BE LOCATED BY THE TUNNEL GATE IN PLANT 2, AND IN PLANT 1 SKILL CENTER. **POLLS WILL BE OPENED FROM 2:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023 UNTIL 6:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023**

**DFM UNIT** MEMBERS WILL VOTE IN PLANT 1 SKILL CENTER AT THE GM PLANT FROM **2:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023 UNTIL 6:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023.**

MEMBERS FROM THE **MIDWEST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, SIMS METAL MANAGEMENT, JOHNS MANVILLE UNITS AND LOCAL 211 RETIREES AS WELL AS ANYONE WHOSE EMPLOYMENT STATUS PROHIBITS THEM FROM VOTING AT THE GM PLANT** MAY VOTE **AT THE LOCAL 211 HALL FROM 5:00 A.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023.**

THE FOLLOWING SATELLITE UNITS WILL VOTE IN THEIR FACILITIES ON **THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023:**

**POWERS AND SONS** UNIT MEMBERS WILL VOTE FROM 5:30 A.M. UNTIL 3:30 P.M.  
**HERBERT ORR** UNIT MEMBERS WILL VOTE FROM 5:00 A.M. UNTIL 12:00 NOON.  
**TEIJIN AUTOMOTIVE** UNIT MEMBERS WILL VOTE FROM 6:00 A.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

ANY RUN-OFF NEEDED WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY MAY 18, 2023 AT THE SAME LOCATIONS AND TIMES LISTED ABOVE. IF FURTHER RUN-OFF ELECTION IS NECESSARY THEY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY MAY 25, 2023 AT THE SAME LOCATIONS AND TIMES LISTED ABOVE.

**PROPER I.D. WILL BE REQUIRED TO VOTE.**



## President's Report

### By Keith Boecker

The GM Unit had four retirements as of January 1st, Mike Hall, Janice Carpenter, Kevin Rittenhouse and Al Schlosser. Johns Manville unit had one retirement; Michelle Stevens. February 1st GM unit had three retirements, Ray Miller, Jeff Smith and Al Niese, Powers and Sons unit had one retirement, Russ Walters and Herbert Orr unit had one, Steve Leatherman.

The GM unit had two retirements as of March 1st, Scott Harrington and Darrell Myers.

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

The drawing for the Charlie Chatham Scholarship Awards was held on Wednesday February 22nd. I would like to congratulate the following; Alexander Vankham, Callie Seedorf, Alexis Miles, Gavin Askins and Abigail Stucker. I wish you success in your college education and would like to thank you for showing your interest in the scholarship program.

February 2nd was the 7th year since the fatality of Terry Bodenbender at our GM plant. Thoughts are with the family of Terry and to all the families who lost someone at our facilities. Everyone please continue to work safely.

In the last couple of weeks we have had 30 employees return back to the Defiance GM plant. I would like to welcome them back and look forward to more returning in the future with our recent announcement and the start up of our new line this fall.

The International Strike Fund is at \$834,520,000. With several negotiations coming up in the near future we hope not to use the Strike Fund but if necessary it is nice to know that the fund is healthy. It was recently announced that the strike benefit was raised to \$500 from \$400.

The remodeling of the restrooms at the Memorial Hall are now complete.

We have recently increased the cost of the hall rentals. The cost for members for the Main Hall is now \$550 with a \$450 damage deposit which the member will get back if there is no damage to the hall. The cost for our members for the

Memorial Hall is now \$400 with a \$350 damage deposit. These new prices went in effect as of January 1st.

Chad Cattell is now the new Servicing Representative for Powers and Sons unit due to the retirement of Brian Draper.

We are accepting resumes for a position of a groundskeeper at the UAW Hall. There is a posting of duties listed in this newsletter for anyone who is interested. Gary Brown has done this job for many years and has done an amazing job keeping up our grounds at the UAW Halls and park. He will be missed and I would like to thank Gary for all his hard work.

There was a Pre-retirement class held on February 27th, there were 64 employees from GM that signed up to attend this class.

Our Executive Board and Shop Chairman, Committeepersons and Alternate Committeepersons election will be held on May 11th; any run-off if necessary will be held on May 18th and the 25th at the same locations and times. Please look for the posting in this newsletter for dates, times and locations for this election. If anyone would like to know more about the positions for Executive Board, please feel free to ask myself or any of the board members for information.

Standing Committees will be opened for anyone who is interested after the General Election is complete. There are many committees that will be in need of people, information for this will be posted at a later date. If you want information on these committees please call the hall and Lisa will give you that information.

Thanks to the membership for allowing Rob Egnor, Tony Fairchild, Bob Gill and myself to attend the Skilled Trades Conference in Detroit. GM currently has 6400 skilled workers. Active we have 267 apprentices and GM owes us 260 more by the end of contract. We were informed that corporate profit was up 67% over the last two years; over 8 trillion since 2019. Average vehicle prices for GM was \$53,680.00, Ford was \$57,171.00 and Stellantis was \$56,000. EV's sold in the US in 2014 was under 1% of sales, in 2022 over 5% of sales. In Europe for 2022 12.1% of sales and China for 2022 is 22% of sales. The labor cost in making battery production is 4-7%

UAW Region 2B is offering an Online Academy; this is free for anyone that would like to take a class on line. The information has been posted





on the boards. If you have any questions you can contact us at the hall at 419-784-5399. This is a great way to learn about the UAW and to get involved.

Effective February 1, 2023 Mike Booth made the following changes to the GM staff to better serve our members; Nicole Current - Top Administrative Assistant; UAW GM and Gaming Departments. Michael Plater- Administrative Assistance for UAW GM department and Todd McDaniel - Assistant Director for UAW GM Department over Servicing.

Reminder to everyone, our business office is now closed on Monday's. Another reminder to everyone, we do not have a 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. Retiree's are welcome to go the plant to speak to Rob if you need to, please park to the right of the circle drive and go into the Lobby and let them know you need the Benefit representative. The Lobby does close at 3:00 P.M. so you must go there before that time to be able to get in.

other locations they are comparing apples to oranges. We here in Defiance only need to get the tooling and programming to accommodate the changes needed to run the new block. When the business that some say are guaranteed replacement work ends up going to another location, the investment is going to be greatly increased to strip the new location and install all new machinery in that facility. Nothing in this business is a guarantee so I once again thank you, our members for continuing to do what we do best here in Defiance, make the best products for our customers.

To continue on with the commitment from our people, I want to take a minute to say an extra thank you for knocking this most recent GMS assessment out of the park. Three milestones were achieved out of this assessment and they were all credit to what our members do day in and day out. I appreciate what you all do to keep this place going in the right direction.

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. 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.



## **Chairman's Report**

### **By Rob Egnor**

Here at the plant we currently have 440 members on the rolls with 36 of our members on a leave. We did get some new folks in the plant recently, 1 production and 1 electrician from Toledo and 30 production from Ft. Wayne. When you see these folks please take the time to welcome them to Local 211. We are still in need of skilled trades so if you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming an electrician, millwright or pattern maker please let us know. They can apply for openings on [careers.gm.com](https://careers.gm.com) or go through the STARC program to be placed on the apprentice list. Our Apprentice Chair here is Tony Fairchild and he will be more than happy to assist in guiding anyone through the process.

We recently had an announcement of an investment into our facility of 55 million dollars to make the Gen 6 blocks and to break into the EV future. As I have stated in all people meetings, just the Gen block business alone holds a place for approximately 270 team members here in Defiance. When some try to compare investment here to announcements at



## **Women's Committee**

### **Chairperson**

#### **By Sheri Baker**

Thank you to all who have collected bottle caps and brought them to the local. We will be sifting through them this spring, cleaning them and taking them to the collection company, Plastics R Unique in Wadsworth Ohio.

If you have any more do not hesitate to bring them to the hall. The following are all acceptable for the recycling program: Caps on Food Products: Bottles, Milk, Juice, Broth, "Squeezy" Caps, Peanut Butter, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard and other Condiments. Other Caps: Medicine Caps, Lotion, Soap, Tootpaste, Detergent Caps, Spray Paint & Deodorant.



Examples of lids: Food Lids, Butter, Ice Cream, Cool Whip, Dips, Cottage Cheese, Sour Cream, Coffee and Pringles.

Thank you again for all the donations.



## **Retirees Report**

**By Ivan Burgei, Recording Sec**

We had a good turnout at our January and February retiree meetings. The UAW Health Care Trust representative Nancy Trudeau and our local benefit rep, Rob Searfoss were there to address any question on the changes in our insurance coverage.

All the carriers for our dental, vision, hearing, prescription RX, United Health Care and Blue Cross/Blue Shield were at our February meeting. Katie and Katelyn from the Defiance nurses were there giving blood pressure checks.

The retiree board members are making plans for our spring and summer meetings. We are working on having our annual grandparents/grandkids day in the park in July.

We also want all our retirees to be aware of the elections that will be taking place at Local 211 for the active and retiree executive board positions. It is very important to pay close attention to the election notices in this newsletter and posted on Local 211's website.

I want our retirees to know they are eligible to run for any position on the Local 211 executive board. In fact, we already have two retirees who are very interested in running and will most likely throw their hat in the ring.

Nominations for the Local 211 Retiree executive board will be taken at the April retiree meeting.

As I stated earlier, pay close attention to the election notices. It is very important that we participate in helping decide who will best lead our local union the next three years.

If you have any questions, attend our retiree meetings or contact any member of the retiree executive board.

I will close by saying thank you for the support you given to our union and or officers the past three years.

## ***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:***

**Charles Marrs - Retired 8/85**  
**James Cathcart - Retired 3/16**  
**Leonard Fulton - Retired 10/97**  
**Lawrence Vollmar - Retired 4/91**  
**Randal Skiver - Retired 5/91**  
**David Riggensbach - Retired 4/09**  
**Timothy Ward - Retired 7/08**  
**Glen Plotts - Retired 5/92**  
**Sudha Sharma - Retired 2/12**  
**Eugene Davis - Retired 7/77**  
**Ernest Gomez - Retired 7/2000**  
**Bernard Gerdeman - Retired 6/93**  
**James Phillips - Retired 8/88**  
**John Goble - Retired 7/05**  
**Joseph Miles - Retired 4/76**  
**Roger Nash - Retired 10/99**  
**Jan Moore - Retired 10/98**  
**Marvin Zumfelde - Retired 1/92**  
**Dana Puckett - Retired 7/94**  
**Paul Hardman - Retired 9/2000**  
**Donald Roehrig - Retired 1/2000**  
**Wayne Myers Jr. - Retired 9/92**  
**Kenneth Phillips - Retired 2/20**  
**Leroy Slone - Retired 6/80**

**The Local 211 UAW Office  
is closed on Mondays.**

**Tuesday - Friday we will still  
be open at our regular hours.**



# NOTICE

RESUMES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE  
GROUNDSKEEPER POSITION  
AT THE UAW HALL.

## GROUNDKEEPERS DUTIES:

MOW GRASS AT THE MAIN HALL  
AND THE MEMORIAL HALL,  
PARK AND PLAYGROUND AREAS.

TRASH PICKUP AND DEBRIS, TAKE CARE OF  
BALL DIAMOND AND PARK RESTROOMS,  
INFORM THE TRUSTEES OF ANY PROBLEMS  
THAT NEED ATTENTION AND GENERAL  
CLEAN-UP OF TOTAL GROUNDS OWNED  
BY UAW LOCAL 211.

PAY IS \$15.00 AN HOUR

THIS JOB IS 20 HOUR'S A  
WEEK ON AVERAGE.

RESUMES MUST BE TURNED IN  
NO LATER THAN  
FRIDAY APRIL 14, 2023 BY 4:00 P.M.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE  
CONTACT THE UAW HALL AT  
419-784-5399 OR ONE OF THE LOCAL  
211 UAW TRUSTEES.

## 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)

## ATTENTION:

There is no longer a GM Benefits Rep  
at the Local 211 Hall. If you have any  
benefits issues or questions please  
contact Rob Searfoss, our current GM  
Benefits Representative at the plant.  
His phone number is 419-784-7750.

## How to Read a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

1 F A L P 4 2 X 9 T F 1 1 1 1 1 1

Vehicle's brand,  
engine size, and type

Vehicle  
Security  
Code

Serial number  
for the vehicle

### Vehicle Manufacturer:

- B, C or D: Chrysler/Dodge
- FA, FB, FC, FD, FM, FT: Ford
- Starts with G: General Motors
- J4: Jeep
- L: Lincoln USA
- ME: Mercury USA
- NX: NUMMI USA
- P3: Plymouth USA
- YV: Mazda USA (AutoAlliance)
- ZV: Ford (AutoAlliance)

Plant that assembled  
the vehicle

### Vehicle Year

- Model years 1981-2000 used  
Letters B to Y
- Model years 2001-2009 used  
numbers 1 to 9
- Model years 2010-2030 will  
use letters again

### Where the vehicle was built:

- 1, 4, 5 made in United States
- 2 made in Canada
- 3 made in Mexico
- 6 and 7 made in Oceania
- 8 and 9 made in South America
- A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H made in Africa
- J, K, L, M, N, P, and R made in Asia
- S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z made in Europe





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](mailto:local211@defnet.com)



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

**General Motors**

Active, Wednesday, April 5 (UAW Hall)

Retiree, Thursday, April 6 (UAW Hall)

**Herbert E. Orr**

Tuesday, March 7 and May 2 (Paulding Fire House)

**Midwest Community FCU**

Wednesday, April 5 (UAW Hall)

**Sims Metal Management**

Tuesday, March 7 and May 2 (UAW Hall)

**Johns Manville**

Tuesday, March 7 and May 2 (UAW Hall)

**Powers & Sons** Wednesday, April 12 (Drop Tine Winery & Tap House)

**DFM** Monday, March 13 and May 8 (UAW Hall)

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

**Defiance Area UAW CAP Council** Tuesday, March 14 and April 11 (UAW Hall)

## *Local 211 News*

Official Publication of  
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Amalgamated Local 211

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