



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

October 2023

UAW LOCAL 211 RETIREE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON THURSDAY - DECEMBER 7TH, 2023

Come and enjoy a good meal and fellowship with past co workers, friends and our union families. There will be a cash 50/50 DRAWING, DOORPRIZES, SEVERAL GIFT CARDS AND FUN GIFT DRAWINGS

ONE GUEST PER RETIREE. SEATING IS LIMITED TO FIRST 225 REGISTRATIONS

will be accepted beginning Thursday, November 2, 2023

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: 3 PM. THURSDAY. NOVEMBER 17, 2023

COST of MEALS:

Retirees who pay \$1 Monthly Union Dues ... \$15.00 per meal
Retirees who pay \$2 Monthly Union Dues \$10.00 per meal
Retirees who pay \$3/4 Monthly Union Dues... \$5.00 per meal
Retirees who pay \$5 or more Monthly Union Dues ... no charge
Non dues paying members ... \$30.00 per meal

DETACH AND RETURN FORM BELOW

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: UAW LOCAL 211

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF MEALS _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

MAIL OR BRING FORM TO:

UAW LOCAL 211

2120 BALTIMORE STREET DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512

PHONE: 419-784-5399

DOORS OPEN AT 10 AM - SERVE AT 12 NOON

SURVIVING SPOUSES WELCOME

Questions should be directed to retiree board members
or call Lisa Rankin at 419-784-5399.

No tickets will be available at the door on December 7, 2023



President's Report

By Larry Cooper

Greetings Retirees and all members of Local 211. GM unit had one retirement as of September 1st, Mike Mueller with 30.4 years of service. GM unit had two retirements as of October 1st, Walter Iliff with 34.7 years of service and Robert Rogers with 33.3 years of service. Our Herbert E. Orr unit had one retire in September, Tanya "Kay" Brown. Congratulations, Kay was the Vice Chairperson for Herbert E. Orr and I want to thank you for your years of service to our Local. We also had our Chairman from Sims Metal Management retire, Steve Smith. Thank you for all your years of service and congratulations on your retirement. I hope you all have a very happy and healthy retirement.

Herbert E. Orr held an election for their Bargaining Committee, Melissa Richmond is the new Chairperson, Shane Carroll is the new Vice Chairperson and Robert Daugherty is the recording secretary. Congratulations and I am look forward to working with you all.

I would also like to thank Herbert E. Orr's past Chairperson, Ron Bendele, for all his years with the committee. Ron went above and beyond for his unit and all the volunteer work he has given the local will never be forgotten. Thank you Ron and I hope you enjoy this new chapter.

I would also like to congratulate Dianna Willett and Linda Bostic for running for the Election Committee for DFM. Thank you for running for this office. The Election Committees we have for our units have a very important job and I appreciate the hard work that they all do for our Local Union elections.

We have a couple of conferences that have been cancelled due to the "Stand Up" Strike, we will continue to keep our members informed about future conference's.

As all of you are aware, the UAW Strike is different than our past strikes, the International President will continue to give updates weekly. Please continue to support those who are on strike and each other as we take direction from International.

On December 10th the Local 211 Recreation Committee will hold their annual Kid's Christmas Cruise Thru Party here at the UAW Hall from 11:00 A.M until 2:00 P.M.

We had a wonderful turn out for the 75th Anniversary Open House, there were a lot of

active and retired members and their families that attended, 52 cars that were in the car show, they received many donations from businesses, active and retiree members. The band played great music and everyone enjoyed the day. Thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work on this wonderful event.



Chairman's Report

By Rob Egnor

I would like to start out by thanking all the members at Local 211 for everything you do.

We are walking through unprecedented National negotiations at this time and it is requiring a lot of patience from everyone of you. This patience is very important to us all, please keep all our members who are walking the picket lines in your thoughts. Those members who are out on strike need all of our support to get through this. If we stick together, we will be stronger in the end.

At Defiance we currently have 462 members on the rolls and we have a posting for 18 more positions that will help with the 625t production. We are still looking for skilled trades members so if anyone knows somebody in need of employment, please tell them to get ahold of our plant.

With the onset of the cooler weather brings additional chores to most of us. Please continue to use caution while doing said chores. There are often times that I have to remind myself that I am not as young as I use to be. Whether it's hanging a new tree stand or changing the screens out for the glass, it is something we do not do at frequent intervals so take your time and be careful.

Once again, I appreciate everyone and the work you do to continue to place Defiance out in front of our competitors. You continue to make the best quality products and do it safely.

Keep up the hard work, stay safe and lock out your equipment when you are working on it.

There is not a single casting worth getting injured or worse.





Retirees Report

By Ivan Burgei, Recording Sec

The Local 211's 75th Anniversary was a huge success. We had over 500 people that attended for this once in a lifetime event. There were 52 antique classic and show cars on display. Food was prepared by Fat Pig of Hicksville and the hot dogs were donated and cooked by the retirees. Let's give a big thanks to all the people who volunteered that day.

Now let's get a little more serious. UAW is now on strike, but not all plants are shut down. Our plant in Defiance and the Fort Wayne Assembly is still in operation as of yet. We have a lot of friends and relatives at these two plants, so please try to show your support by wearing red shirts when you are out and about. Just my opinion but I feel the number one issue is to eliminate the Tier II pay scale.

Even though we are on strike with GM, we still have health insurance because it is covered by the UAW since 2009 when GM filed for bankruptcy.

The Retiree Christmas Party will be held on December 7th. Registration begins at our November 2nd retiree meeting, not before. Deadline to register will be at 3:00 P.M. Thursday November 17, 2023. The first 225 people will be accepted and given tickets for the party. No tickets will be available at the door on December 7th. Doors open at 10:00 A.M. and dinner will be served at 12:00 noon.

Hope to see you there and a Merry Christmas to you



John Wiseman

Retiree/Trustee

I ran for trustee to give back to the union that has taken care of me for the last 60 years. While working, I had a decent wage, representation and good health insurance for my family; now that I am retired, I receive a retirement

check the first of every month and excellent health insurance for my wife and I.

In 2009 General Motors was going to declare bankruptcy; if this would have happened, I would have lost all benefits; my retirement check and health insurance. Walter Ruether once said, "The ballot box is connected to the breadbox." This was so true then. If it wasn't for President Barack Obama and Senator Sherrod Brown and others like them that saved the UAW, I would have lost it all. By

saving the auto industry, thousands of employees were not laid off and receiving unemployment checks. Instead, they were working and paying taxes. General Motors paid back all of the bailout money. It was a win-win for the government and the employees. Recently, Sherrod Brown passed legislation to save retirement benefits for workers at Spangler's Candy Company in Bryan Ohio.

Our CAP council supports those who support workers. If you disagree with my analogies, I would like to hear your concerns. You are more than welcome to come to the CAP Council meetings which meet the second Tuesday of each month held at the UAW Local 211 hall starting at 5:00 P.M.

***Our sympathy for your loss...
To our bereaved members and their
families, we offer our condolences for
the loss of their loved ones. We extend
our sincere sympathy to the families of:***

Richard Warren – Retired 3/93

Robert McNeely – Retired 1/92

Steve Fisher – Retired 4/98

Maurice Garner – Active GM



Celebrating 75 Years!

On September 10, 2023, UAW Local 211 took a day to celebrate our 75th anniversary! Members from several of our units came to the hall to reminisce, celebrate, look at the displays, see members they have not seen in a while or even years, and most of all to show **SOLIDARITY!**

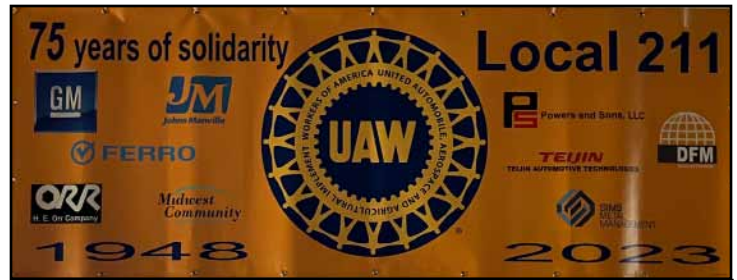
Over 50 classic cars were on display for everyone to enjoy. The owners should be very proud of their vehicles and dedication. The cars ranged from the 1930's to a brand-new Hummer EV. There were sports cars, muscle cars, trucks, station wagons, convertibles and even a conversion van. Every owner received a plaque to remember the day.

Outside at the car show, a band made up of active and retired members, The Rocking Chairmen, entertained with some classic music. This is the same band that has volunteered for the last couple of Grandparents Days in the park. The band was loved by all!

When members first came in to the hall that day, they were asked to sign in on a registration book which was designed specifically for our 75th celebration. It will be kept in our history with all the members who participated. As mementos of the celebration, members received a red bandana and red pen with the wheel, Local 211 and years on it. Every member and family member were fed sandwiches from Fat Pig, cupcakes from The Cupcake Walk and we also had a red bandana cake baked by Simply from Scratch, everything was delicious. Justin the clown also made an appearance with his balloon sculptures. Door prizes that were donated by 39 sponsors were raffled off at the end of the day. We do have a complete list of them at the hall.

Inside the hall, displays were set up from several committees and units. There were hundreds of photos for members to look at. I heard several say, "Oh those were the days" and "Do you remember this person?" It was truly great to see everyone remembering the days gone by.

The steering committee, Ted Fleming, Lisa Crossland and Sheri Baker would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that day. We would love to list them but are afraid we will miss someone. We would also like to thank the membership for allowing us to hold this event. This was an event that needed to be celebrated. Not all union locals can say they made it to 75 years and are still going strong.







Transparency and Commitment

Let's talk about the elephant in the room. We all know as UAW members, the atrocity that happened at the international level, with our elected officials. We all also know how the membership responded. For the first time in the UAW history, we had direct elections for the international officers. We had a turnover of these officers.

Now let us talk about the changes that the membership submitted to the UAW Constitution. Every member had the opportunity to submit resolutions to the locals for said changes. Your local approved or denied the resolutions. Once this process was completed, the approved resolutions were submitted to the international for the resolution committee to go over.

The resolution and constitution committees consisted of elected delegates of each region. The regional directors submitted delegates to the international board and these delegates were then selected.

The resolution committee went over each resolution to make sure it was a policy resolution and not a constitutional change. If it was proven to be a constitutional change, that resolution was then sent to the constitutional committee. Once it was determined which resolution went to which committee, they were then put into the policies and changes that were put before your elected delegates at the Constitutional Convention for motions, debate and vote.

Some of the debates were lengthy and some were not. Some resolutions were a yea or neigh vote, some were roll-call. Either way, what is in bold lettering in the 2022 UAW Constitution are the changes.

The very first change to the Constitution is on page 4. **"The UAW's elected leaders must demonstrate a commitment to transparency, participation and communication, to ensure the voice of rank-and-file UAW members are heard at all levels of our unions' governance."**

There is a section at the end of the Constitution called "UAW Ethical Practices and Codes."

These practices were approved by the delegates at the 38th Constitutional Convention in July of 2022. These codes came about due to the corruption that happened within our own union. When our elected officials take that oath of office through the installation ceremony, Article 39, they promise

to perform their duties with honor and conduct themselves and becomes a member of the union.

ALL members are encouraged to read the UAW Constitution and please ask questions.

Master Lock to Close Last U.S. Plant

With record revenues reported in 2022 workers were surprised when the more than 100-year-old Master Lock announced it would close its last remaining U.S. Plant, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The more than 400 employees, including 330 workers represented by United Auto Workers Local 469 were told that the phased shutdown will begin in October 2023, with final operations halting by March 2024. The jobs will be sent abroad to Mexico and China, where Master Lock has manufacturing plants.

"This must have been in the works for several years at a minimum because you cannot pick up the operation we have, where we make literally millions of parts a day and just plop it somewhere else without a lot of work," former UAW Local 469 President Mike Bink told The Guardian. "We're in the poorest area of Milwaukee, the vast majority of our people running that equipment are from Milwaukee. There aren't a lot of jobs that they can go to that will come close to replacing that income and benefit level and we're dealing with a corporation where that is just not a consideration."

The unionized workforce and local elected officials have criticized the company. UAW Region 4 director Brandon Campbell said the Union is "disgusted, yet again as another profitable corporation has decided to close the doors of a manufacturing icon in corporate America's never-ending quest for profit, without any regard for the people amassing their wealth."

Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson said he is "enormously disappointed by the impending closure of the Master Lock facility. It is a slap in the face to the hard-working Milwaukee employees."

Master Lock was founded in 1921. Its employees have been unionized since 1939. In the mid-1980's, the company employed about 1,300 workers in Milwaukee. By the 1990's the company began outsourcing production to China and Mexico. In 2021 the company cut 61 jobs at the Milwaukee facility.



UAW LOCAL 211 75TH CELEBRATION WHY RED BANDANAS?

The bandanas have a special meaning, going back to the 1920s, when tens of thousands of coal miners went on strike, wearing red bandanas around their necks to identify themselves as pro-union, and thus popularizing the term redneck.

Bandanas became an even more important symbol in the fight for worker's rights. The West Virginia Coal Miners March of 1921 was one of the largest armed uprisings in labor history and, at the march, over ten thousand United Mine Workers wore red bandanas to demand unions, an event many equate to the popularization of the derogatory term "redneck."

The red bandanas became the sign of unity and support for unions-today red shirt day on Wednesday is to show continued support and Solidarity among unions.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

1948-2023



*Saturday, October 28 Local 211 members are invited to walk in the Halloween Parade to pass out candy.

*Beginning October 24 Discounted Lights Before Christmas tickets will be available at the Local 211 Union Hall. The event begins November 17- December 31 at the Toledo Zoo.



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

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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, December 6 (UAW Hall)

Retiree, Thursday, November 2 (UAW Hall)

Herbert E. Orr

Tuesday, November 7 (Paulding Fire House)

Midwest Community FCU

Wednesday, December 6 (UAW Hall)

Sims Metal Management

Tuesday, November 7 (UAW Hall)

Johns Manville

Tuesday, November 7 (UAW Hall)

Powers & Sons Wednesday, December 13 (Drop Time Winery & Tap House)

DFM Monday, November 13 (UAW Hall)

Teijin Automotive Technologies Monday, December 11 (USW Hall, Van Wert)

Defiance Area UAW CAP Council Tuesday, November 14

Local 211 News

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Visit uawlocal211.com.



News Editors: Tonya Huss, Cody Pittman
& Sheri Baker

Web Editors: Mitch Chandler & Tina Cattell

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Here's a reminder! If you find a mistake in *Local 211 News*, please realize that we have not included it on purpose. But, if you feel inclined, bring it to our attention and every attempt will be made to correct it.



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is proudly printed
by Keystone Press,
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