

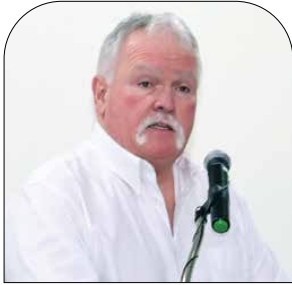
ONLINE HEADLIGHT



The Light of Freedom, Family, Fellowship, Solidarity, Leadership & Education



MIKE BOOTH
UAW-GM Int'l Vice President



STEVE DAWES
UAW Region 1D Director

White Shirt Day

On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, we, as UAW members, came together at Local 659 to celebrate the anniversary of the end of the 1936-37 Sit-Down Strike and the birth of our great Union...*the UAW!*

This is the one day of the year we all wear white shirts to honor those who came before us; those with the courage to stand together so we can enjoy the benefits that we enjoy today.

Not only do we, as proud UAW members, reap the rewards of those brave workers, but our communities and nation are all better off because of those who came before us.

The Local 659 Union Hall was full of white shirts, as many dignitaries and guest speakers were on hand to help in the celebration of the anniversary of this great Union.

The traditional luncheon of bean soup, Balkan bread and apples was served to all those in attendance.



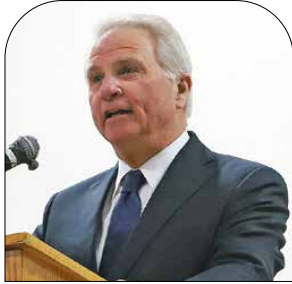
LaSHAWN ENGLISH
UAW Region 1 Director



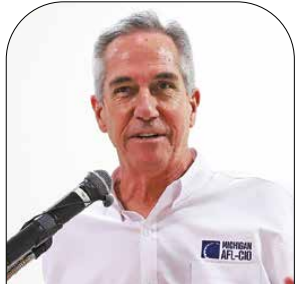
LAURA DICKERSON
UAW Region 1A Director



CHRIS SWANSON
Genesee County Sheriff



DAVID LEYTON
Genesee County Prosecutor



RON BIBER
Michigan AFL-CIO President

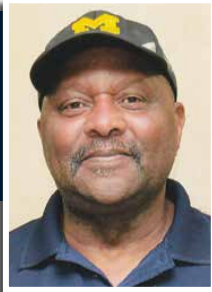


SHELDON NEELEY
Flint Mayor



Photos courtesy of Chuck Inman, Local 659

Black History Month | Human Trafficking Awareness



by Jessie Collins

Hello My Sisters & Brothers,

People often ask why is February Black History Month. This observance began in February of 1926 as Negro History Week, because it coincided with the birthdays of two important figures who loomed large in the Abolitionist movement in the United States. President Abraham Lincoln (author of the Emancipation Proclamation) was born in February, as was Abolitionist, author and orator Frederick Douglass, born February 14, 1818.

In addition to Lincoln and Douglass, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born January 15, 1929. Dr. King was best known as a brilliant powerful, speaker and non-violent activist who led America's Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and '60s. He was assassinated on April 14, 1968. Dr. King was inspired and inspired by his Christian beliefs and teaching of Mahatma Gandhi King, who died at the young age of 39.

In my last article, I wrote about issues impacting us as seniors. I shared with you a list of senior centers and contact information. Please take advantage of it.

The information I'm sharing with you this month is on

the flip side of that coin, and it is going to be shocking. It is very hard for me to write this, but it is information we need to know, because it impacts people that we love dearly – our grandchildren/our great-grandchildren. Human trafficking is the modern-day slavery; humans being taken against their will.

Human Trafficking Awareness

(Taken from Warninglights.org, provided by the organization's founder, author and public speaker, Jenn Amo)

Jenn Amo offers a variety of presentations that include, but are not limited to, Human Trafficking and Technology App safety. She serves as a bold voice for those who have been silenced. Across streets, state lines and the nation, she speaks about the risks that men, women and children face every day. Jenn also is taking action abroad. When she first heard the United States statistics, a fire was ignited within her, which led her to develop a program for young adults and youth.

How Do We Fix It? More Education!

(Taken from Officer Gomez and his wife's experiences)

Most people don't understand sex trafficking outside of the extreme scenes on TV, where young girls are kidnapped in another country and sold to wealthy people as slaves. So, let's discuss a side of sex trafficking most people don't know about.

Trafficking happens in lots of towns with kids you might know. This can happen in any town that has internet and WI-FI available to kids. Officer Gomez said he knows their names.

See **RETIREE CHAIRMAN** on Page 3

Human Trafficking Awareness



Kids - Teens - College Students - Adults - Professionals



A Preventative Approach By Raising Awareness About Human Trafficking

HERE'S TO INSPIRING MORE!

- KINDNESS
- AWARENESS
- SELF-CONFIDENCE
- PROTECTION

www.warninglights.org

Get Involved

Learn more here!



Newsletter

Never miss an update.



DONATE



Prevention, Protection & Community Participation



Human Trafficking Awareness for Students

Prevention & Protection



- The statistics are alarming! Human trafficking is happening here!
- About 50% of those lured into human trafficking are minors!
- Human Trafficking is one of the fastest-growing organized crimes today.
- Protection & prevention come from education. Awareness saves lives.

Be Aware OR Beware!



High School & College

Warning Lights gives insight into how human trafficking is often a relationship-based crime. It reveals the lures, signs, and ways to respond to human trafficking. This program will give your audience of youth and young adults a stronger sense of how to protect themselves and others. The awareness gained by your audience can save a life.

This program encourages open communication about everyday social struggles and concerns (including peer pressure, oral sex, and pornography) that are faced daily. This program also shares ways to help others avoid becoming victims by explaining how your actions, words, and choices affect others.

Middle School

Warning Lights for middle school students brings the truth about the crime of human trafficking in an age-appropriate way. The topics discussed are edited to meet these students where they are. There are specific lures that are often used for this age. This program offers insight into these various lures while making online, technology, and app safety a focus. This session is a great way to start the conversation about staying safe in today's technology focused world.

Jenn Amo
Founder, Author & Speaker

Warning Lights is all about prevention & protection



These sessions dive into life-saving conversations about the crime of human trafficking. The interactive discussion equips each student with the knowledge needed to recognize the "Warning Lights" of this crime. It is through awareness & education that safety becomes a reality. Understanding the lures also offers ways to protect our bodies and guard our hearts.

BOOK NOW!

- @warninglights
- @warninglightsorg
- info@warninglights.org

Contact Us Today!



Prevention is our passion & because budgets vary, we do our best to work with ANY budget. Honorariums are put right back into furthering our mission and protecting more youth.

Warning Lights is a 501c3 nonprofit organization funded only by donors like you.



RETIREE CHAIRMAN from Page 2

How does he know sex trafficking exists in Boise? Through his job as a school resource officer, he acquires fake social media accounts of every kind and uses the accounts to track down predators and lots of runaway kids. In the process of watching what happens on social media between kids, Officer Gomez has learned a great many things about sex trafficking and other things. He and his wife have taken some very tough teens into their home over the last 15 years.

When you have tough-case kids in your home, you also have their friends in your homes. It was through those friends that he and his wife learned the names of teen girls who are already part of sex trafficking right in their local area.

It starts young. *Snapchat* is full of people waiting to sex traffic young children. Step one is to desensitize them to sex trafficking. Drug dealers (15-25 years of age) are often giving multiple prices to young females seeking drugs. This is sex trafficking. Again, it begins with young 7th and 8th grade girls who are trading sex for drugs, cell phones, alcohol, car rides, clothes and much more.

There are also many young female runaways (15-18 years of age) who will trade sex for a place to stay. These young girls usually don't get along with their parents and will start couch surfing at different locations. A lot of times, these young girls stay at low-level drug dealers houses. There are endless 18-30-year-old men who will gladly house a young girl for a short time.

There are also many people who will offer up to \$4,000 plus expenses for 18-year-old girls to make a pornography video for sale online. They usually pay them for their first job in cash, and then a mix of drugs and/or services are offered after that. The girls will make a couple of movies before they get into worse activities for money. This is sex trafficking, and it happens quite a bit.

Young girls to be sex trafficked are offered money from strangers to send pictures and videos... feet pictures, \$15; bra and panty pics, \$25; boob shots, \$50-\$75; full nude photos, \$100; masturbation videos, \$200; sex video with under-age boyfriend, \$500-\$1,000.

There is also a social media application which is helping groom young girls and boys to be in the pornography industry the minute they turn 18.

“
QUOTE OF THE DAY
True Peace is not merely the absence of tension, it is the presence of justice
 ”

What about the Boys? Boys are also being sex trafficked in ways parents don't understand. Usually, this happens with predators sending nude photos of a pretty girl to the boy and asking for photos in return. Once the boy returns a nude photo to the girl, the sex trafficking is on.

The boy is usually contacted by a third party who shows them they have nude photos of said boy and starts making demands. Some boys are locked into demands for years before they tell someone that they are being sextorted.

Some boys are groomed to be a sex trafficker. Many of the boys have collected nude photos of their female classmates. Those photos are used as bargaining chips for dates, drugs, money and other things. Most parents don't know that their child is being groomed for sex trafficking right under their own nose.

How do we fight this? The main solution is *education*. Parents and students need to be educated on many aspects that would help. For starters, having a two-way conversation with your loved ones.

The statistics are absolutely alarming. Over 800,000 people are lured into human trafficking yearly (*U.S. Dept. State*). The number of victims forced into the human trafficking industry is growing rapidly. As it is one of the fastest-growing organized crimes today, this issue must be brought out of the dark and into the light. Trafficking crime is in our country and our cities. This is a public health issue that impacts individuals, families and communities. (www.warninglights.org)

In Memoriam

My sincere condolences go out to Grover Douglas and his family and friends. You are in our prayers.

UAW LOCAL 599 RETIREE CHAPTER
HEADLIGHT 

The Light of Freedom, Family, Fellowship, Solidarity, Leadership & Education

RETIREE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Chairman..... Jessie Collins
- 2nd Vice Chair Mary Simmons
- Recording Secretary Gene Ridley
- Financial Secretary Liz Melchor
- Guide Barb Young
- Sergeant-at-Arms..... Billy Henderson
- Delegate-at-Large..... Gene Ridley

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HEADLIGHT is the voice of the Retirees Chapter of UAW Local 599. The purpose of this paper is to inform and educate the membership of issues of our Chapter and the community in which we live. Articles from members and stories about members are welcome. While your contributions are welcome, they should be constructive. At no time shall the Editor tolerate any defamatory remarks regarding policies of our Chapter, International Union, or UAW person or persons. The Editor reserves the right to edit any article for clarity and/or length. Opinions reflected in signed articles do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of the Chapter.



HEADLIGHT Editor Gene Ridley

BRIAN L. WALKER ATTORNEY AT LAW

is at the **UAW LOCAL 651 UNION HALL**
 TUESDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

and the **LOCAL 659 UNION HALL**
 TUESDAYS: 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION SPECIALIZING IN:
 Divorce • Medical/Dental Malpractice • Slip & Fall • Social Security
 Bankruptcy • Drunk Driving • License Restoration • Wills • Trusts
 Probate • Workers' Comp • Custody • Criminal Defense

Paskel, Tashman & Walker, PC
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW **800.826.0101**



Celebrating **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February is Black History Month in the United States. It's a time for remembrance and reflection, as the country is reminded of the discrimination African Americans have endured and the continuous struggle against the remnants of slavery, segregation and racial legacy. Black History is the perfect way to begin to understand the question of race in American society today.

Did you know?

Here are a few from the multitude of African American notables

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

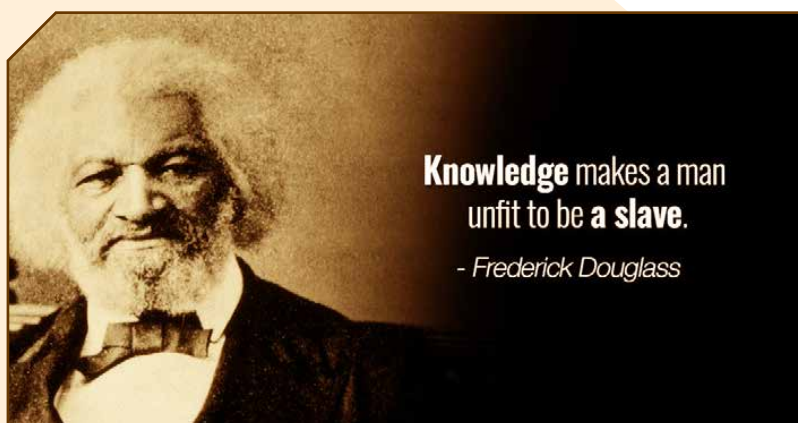
In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing "Negro History Week." By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month, calling upon the country to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across the U.S. history and society, from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, and our communities.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

No single African American in history is perhaps as famous as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., otherwise known as MLK. There is a federal holiday on the third Monday each January celebrated in his honor, and whole sections of textbooks are devoted to his civil rights activism in the 1950s and 1960s. A Baptist minister in the city of Montgomery, AL by trade and a prominent civil rights activist, Dr. King made his mark by preaching nonviolent means of protesting the segregation of whites and blacks in the United States. His assassination at the hands of a white man in 1968 sparked riots and mourning across the world.



Knowledge makes a man
unfit to be a slave.
- Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass lived during the Civil War in the middle of the 19th century, which was fought over slavery and its role in American society. Douglass, a prominent Abolitionist (somebody who was against slavery) and former slave himself, is best known for his seminal autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. In it, Douglass outlines his life as a slave and his subsequent escape, which proved instrumental to the Abolitionist movement and the ultimate goal of ending slavery.

See more **AFRICAN AMERICAN NOTABLES** on page 5



Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks is best known for refusing to move to the back of a bus after the driver demanded she give her seat to a white passenger. While not the first person to refuse to obey the segregation laws in the United States, Rosa Parks was labeled as the "Mother of the Freedom Movement" following her bold disobedience and subsequent arrest. Like MLK, Rosa Parks was from Montgomery, AL and she and Dr. King together made great strides in procuring basic human rights for African Americans across the country.

Celebrating **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

(continued from page 4)



Harriet Tubman

Born into slavery in 1822, Harriet Tubman was famous for her Abolitionist and humanitarian efforts to help escaped slaves after escaping slavery herself in 1849. She served an important part of the so-called "Underground Railroad," a secret path through slave-holding states for runaway slaves to escape to the north. Tubman was also known as "Moses," in part due to her devotion to Christianity, and she helped scores of slaves find their freedom in the states north of the Mason-Dixon Line (the border between the Northern, non-slaveholding states and the Southern, or slaveholding states).



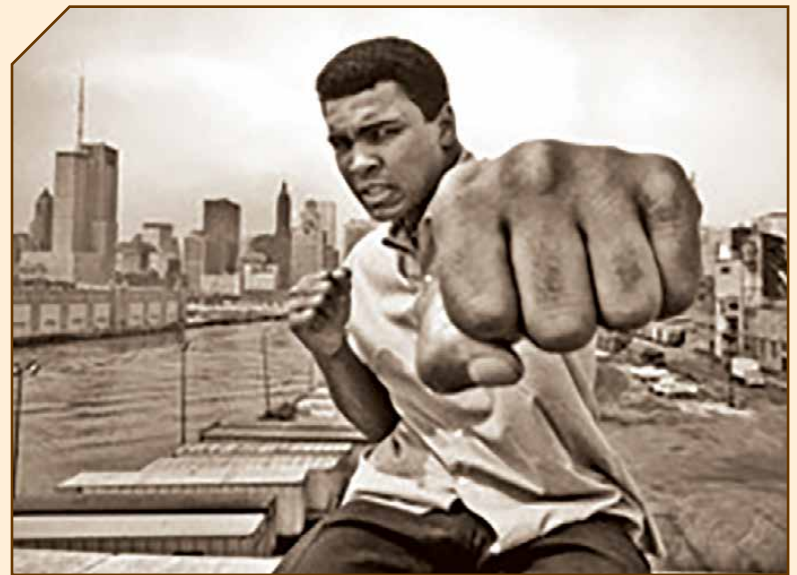
Shirley Chisholm (1924 - 2005)

Congress is more diverse now than it has ever been. However, when Chisholm was attempting to shatter the glass ceiling, the same couldn't be said. During the racially contentious period in the late '60s, she became the first Black woman elected to Congress. She represented New York's 12th District from 1969 to 1983, and in 1972, she became the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Her campaign slogan: "*Unbought and unbossed*" rings even louder today. Senator Kamala Harris paid tribute to Chisholm in her 2020 presidential campaign announcement by using a similar logo to Chisholm's.



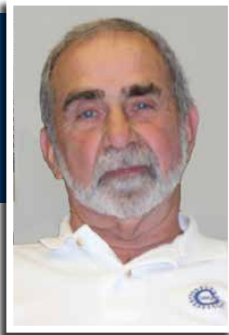
Sojourner Truth

Like Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth was born into slavery, but later escaped and became a prominent abolitionist and activist for women's rights. And, like many such abolitionists, religion was a focal point of Truth's efforts. During the Civil War, she played a major role in recruiting African American soldiers to fight for the Union (northern states), which was pitted against the Confederacy (southern states).



Muhammad Ali

Born Cassius Clay in 1942, Muhammad Ali made his name in the sport of boxing, where he was one of the greatest heavyweight champions of all time. Ali's best years were in the early 1960s, during which time he changed his name from "Cassius Clay," which he associated with slavery, and adopted a new one, adopted from the Islamic tradition that symbolized a new black separatist movement in the United States, the Nation of Islam. Ali also gained status as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, which moved him further into the realm of left-wing activism and intersected race with the larger counterculture movement in the United States.



by GENE RIDLEY

The HEADLIGHT

Effective immediately, the HEADLIGHT will no longer be mailed to members, due to the cost of mailing and the loss of advertisers. We will now be placing it on our Facebook page and hope that all who view it will share on their social media page. I know not everyone is on Facebook, so if you can please share the information with others, that would be great.

Also, I would like for you to support our advertisers and when you do business with them, please let them know you viewed their ad in the HEADLIGHT.

We are continuing to look for more advertisers to fill the loss of those we once had. This would enable us to go back to printing and mailing a paper. However, until we get additional paid advertising, the HEADLIGHT will be ONLINE ONLY. The cost of mailing is more than the actual cost of printing.

Politics

Well, Project 2025 is alive and well, and being put in full force to dismantle our government and give unrestrained power to the president. So many have said this wouldn't happen, as Trump was campaigning. He stated he knew

nothing about Project 2025, but from day one he signed executive orders in line with Project 2025, and all his executive orders since have been in line with Project 2025.

The cost of inflation is on the rise and prices continue to go higher and the president stated that from day one, if elected, inflation would go down. Well, I don't know about you, but I am paying more for gas, groceries, and just about everything else I buy. I have not seen one thing that the price has come down on.

As Trump dismantles our government, thousands of people are losing their livelihoods, and Americans are losing many services as he places his puppets in charge. He continues to attack our allies and tries to bully his way through everything.

I am asked what can we do to stop this. I will say there are several different ways. The first tactic is to flood the congress and senate with letters demanding accountability. Second, flood the U.S. House Speaker with phone calls to 202-225-2777.

To call your U.S. Representative, you can call 202-225-3121 and state your Representative's name. Also, you should call the Senate at 202-224-3221. After the phone calls, we must be willing to get out and march in the streets. Our voices must be heard! I think our leaders need to stand tall against President Musk... I mean Trump.

Condolences

I want to send my prayers and condolences to the family of Grover Douglas. Grover was a good friend to so many, including me, and a true Union brother. I am sure he will be missed greatly. I know we will miss him here at our Local Retiree Chapter meetings. Rest in Peace, Brother.

Free Listings For
Local 599 Chapter Members

Classifieds

SERVICES

H & B Stump Grinding Tree & Stump Removal
Call 810-814-3152 or 810-653-0992

Janks Pheasant Farm

Pheasant Hunting, Licensed Hunting Preserve in Mayville
Call 989-843-6576

Motivated by Faith

Providing education and workshops on Human Trafficking.
Call 810-449-8887

Crosman, Benjamin and Sheridan Air Rifle Repair

Call 810-631-2415

FOR SALE

Big Tex Trailer

Single tire, 1200-2400 lbs., GVWR 5x10.
Call 810-767-7527

Members may submit one ad, fifteen words or less, by 10:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of every other month.

Email to: riddler07@comcast.net
or mail GENE RIDLEY: 4034 W. Dodge Rd., Clio, MI 48420

ATTENTION: All Retiring UAW EMPLOYEES

Are You Planning Your Retirement?

We are your UAW Rollover specialists.

Michelle Gravelle, CFP
Investment Professional

Serving UAW Members and their Families for over 22 Years!

Securities offered through LPL Financial
Member FINRA/SIPC

- ▶ Retirement Planning
- ▶ IRAs
- ▶ Rollovers
- ▶ Early Buyouts

Whatever your financial needs, we can help. There is no cost or obligation for UAW members!

CALL MICHELLE TODAY
TO SCHEDULE YOUR PERSONAL APPOINTMENT

1.800.668.7135

In Memory



Grover Douglas
(1943-2025)

Grover was a skilled tradesman at Buick and a UAW Local 599 member. After he retired, he became active in the Local Union Retirees Chapter. Grover held various positions in the Retiree Chapter, most notably as the 1st Vice Chairman and Events Committee Chairman.

He was always active politically, working to advance those in office who would do the most for union members and working families.

Grover was a vocal member on the Local 599 Retiree Chapter Executive Board, ensuring that the Chapter was looking out for the membership.

~ Rest in Peace, Grover Douglas ~

Please support **Our Advertisers**

Please try to frequent our advertisers, and let them know you see their ad in our *HEADLIGHT* publication. This shows their advertising dollars are being well spent and our Local 599 Retired Workers Chapter appreciates their support.



*Big enough to serve all your needs.
Small enough to care.*

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

to all
UAW MEMBERS
and their
IMMEDIATE FAMILY

also available with the
Pink Lady's Slipper Florist
in downtown Swartz Creek

6063 Fenton Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48507

Jennifer Sharp Scully, Manager

810.694.4900

sharpfuneralhomes.com

— ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS —

Fenton Chapel 810.629.9321

Linden Chapel 810.735.7833

Miller Rd. Chapel 810.635.4411



Mid Michigan Dental Group

Ask about our
FREE WHITENING FOR LIFE
Program!

FULL-SERVICE DENTISTRY...

- ✓ Bonding & Sealants
- ✓ Implant Restorations
- ✓ Cosmetic Contouring
- ✓ Crowns and Bridges
- ✓ Veneers
- ✓ Whitening
- ✓ Braces
- ✓ Root Canal Therapy
- ✓ Extractions
- ✓ Dentures
- ✓ Scaling & Root Planing
- ✓ Cosmetic Dentistry
- ✓ Fillings



DR. TERRY A. POTTER & STAFF

dentistry with a personal touch

810.232.0300

NEW PATIENT SPECIALS

Comprehensive Exam, X-Rays and Cleaning

\$129

\$100

SAVINGS
on ANY SERVICE over \$500

GM Insurance Accepted OFFER EXPIRES 03-31-25

OFFER EXPIRES 03-31-25



Region 1D Retired Workers CONFERENCE

Greetings,

We are pleased to announce this year's Retired Workers Conference will be held at the UAW Family Education Center at Black Lake from May 27 to May 30, 2025.

Please read this notice carefully. There have been some changes made since the previous conference.

All retirees will be roomed with their spouse or double-housed this year. If an attendee uses oxygen, it is their responsibility to notify their oxygen company to deliver to Black Lake. Attendees need to list on their registration form if they have any handicap needs. There are only a few handicapped-accessible rooms available at the center. Those in wheelchairs, walkers, or Amigos will be considered first. We ask that each retiree who has been selected by their Chapter or IAC to fill out this registration form and mail it back to the Flint office **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025.**

We encourage anyone who has never attended a Retired Workers Conference at Black Lake to do so. There is a 3-year No Repeat Policy, excluding Region 1D Council Executive Board Members, Chapter Chairs and the Region 1D Council Recreation Committee.

At right is a registration form to be filled out by the retiree, and/or their spouse, selected to attend. Allotment is based on delegate allocations per Chapter or Council. This allotment total includes spouses. Housing is based on double occupancy, this could be couples, or two delegates who would be sharing a room.

You must be a dues-paying retiree, dues-paying spouse, dues-paying surviving spouse, or associate member to be eligible to attend this conference. There will be NO CHARGE for retirees, their spouses, surviving spouses, or associate members if they are dues-paying members.

Retiree delegates who show up to the conference unregistered and unannounced will be turned away.

Please return forms as soon as possible to assure your members rooms, as we are short on housing. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact Scott Zuckschwerdt at 810-787-0910.

In Solidarity,

STEVE DAWES
Director

SCOTT ZUCKSCHWERDT
Assistant Director

MIKE BIEBER
Retired Worker Chair

UAW REGION 1D RETIRED WORKERS CONFERENCE Tuesday, May 27 thru Friday, May 30, 2025

- ✓ Please return to the Regional Office no later than Friday, April 18, 2025
- ✓ NO EXCEPTIONS – AFTER DUE DATE, THEY WILL BE SENT BACK

Local Number: _____

First-Time Attendee

Your Name: _____

Male Female (circle one)

Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Spouse's name (if attending): _____

Please list any medical needs, such as dietary restrictions: _____

Please list special housing requests or use of walker, wheelchair, or mobile device: _____

There will be no charge for dues-paying retirees, dues-paying surviving spouses or associate members. However, if you are registered and cannot attend, you must call Region 1D UAW and cancel prior to May 16, 2025, or your Local Retiree Chapter will be charged for your stay.



UAW LOCAL 599 RETIREES CHAPTER MEMBERS ONLY, please return this application form to be authorized by **APRIL 18, 2025** to:

UAW LOCAL 651
Attention: JESSIE COLLINS
3518 Robert T Longway Blvd., Flint, MI 48506