

ONLINE

HEADLIGHT



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



LABOR DAY 2025

WHAT A FANTASTIC DISPLAY OF SOLIDARITY

AS LABOR UNIONS CAME TOGETHER ON LABOR DAY, LABOR UNIONS FROM ALL SECTORS WERE ON HAND TO CELEBRATE LABOR'S GREAT DAY.

Region 1D Director Steve Dawes and Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt put together a spectacular Labor Day celebration at UAW Region 1D Sitdowners Memorial Park.

The day started out with lining up for a parade at Bristol Road Church of Christ and proceeded west on Bristol Road to Van Slyke, then north to Sitdowners Memorial Park.

Labor unions from all sectors for the first time in many years came together and were well represented with their members as they marched in the parade with many terrific floats and banners.

Arriving at Sitdowners Park, many speakers, including Region 1D Director Steve Dawes, Senator John Cherry and many other Union leaders, spoke on the importance of labor unions and what they mean to our economy and workers' rights. AFSCME/AFL-CIO served hot dogs and hamburgers, with chips to everyone. What a terrific day for labor!



(SEE MORE LABOR DAY PARADE PHOTOS ON PAGES 4-5)



RETIREE CHAIRMAN

by Jessie Collins

DOGE Attacks Continue

Hello My Sisters & Brothers,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

Numidian File Risks Identity Theft/Exploitation

Again, at the risk of sounding redundant, I will continue to report on the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and their attack on our private information SSA. In June, DOGE operatives uploaded a copy of a Social Security Administration (SSA) database to a cloud server without proper security, exposing Americans' highly sensitive SSA data to potential identity theft and exploitation; according to a whistleblower complaint filed by SSA Chief Data Officer Charles Borges.

The database, often referred to as the "Numidian file," houses records that include full names, addresses, dates of birth, and many other private details for everyone who has ever held a Social Security number, living and deceased. The file likely contains hundreds of millions of records, as the agency has issued more than 500 million numbers since 1935.

DOGE leaders worked to copy the information to the server despite multiple warnings that Americans' personal information could be exposed in the process. The complaint also alleges that DOGE bypassed security protocols when it tried to access SSA data in March and ignored a temporary restraining order issued in a lawsuit filed by the Alliance (the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) earlier this year.

Judge Ellen Lipton Hollander issued the TRO on March 20, but DOGE staffers continued accessing data before being locked out on March 24th. So, you see the blatant disregard for data security policies and the law.

Older Americans should not have to worry about whether the benefits they have earned will actually be paid and whether their private data is handled properly. *Stay tuned.*

Labor Day at UAW Region 1D Sitdowners Park

You missed a treat. My hat goes off to UAW Region 1D Director Steve Dawes and Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt. This was one of the better Labor Day parades/programs in quite a while. To be able to put together a coalition of labor organizations and community leaders of that magnitude is quite a feat.

It started at the staging area, at the Bristol Road Church of Christ on West Bristol Rd. It kicked off at 11:00 a.m., proceeded west on Bristol Rd. to Van Slyke Rd., then headed north, and ended at UAW Region 1D Sitdowners Park. Hundreds of Labor families, women, men and children participated.

Parade participants also included...

- Genesee County Sheriff Christopher Swanson and the Sheriff Department of Labor Unions of Genesee County Sheriff's Deputies, Police Deputies, Correction Deputies, Genesee County Deputy Sheriffs Association, affiliated with Police Officers of Michigan (POA)
- Local Registered Nurses Union Local # 875
- Nurses and Case Workers represented by Teamsters Local #332 President Dan Glass. Local #332 went out on strike on September 1st, 2025... LABOR DAY... how appropriate.
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #370 of Genesee County,
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local #948 of Flint
- The Construction Industry in Genesee County, Lapeer, Shiawassee, Sanilac and St. Claire counties (LIUNA) Local #1075
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council (IUPAT)
- Painters of the Flint Area and surrounding Regions including Genesee County (IUPAT) Local #1052
- Brick Layers and Allied Craft Workers (BAC) Local #2 for the State of Michigan, including the Flint area
- UAW Region 1D Retiree Council Genesee County Locals #581, #598, #599, #651, #659 #1292
- Our future UAW Brothers/Sisters – UAW children – riding on huge Union flatbed trucks tossed candy to the crowds
- AFSCME/AFL-CIO members grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, and passed out chips, water and pop

Job well done!

UAW LOCAL 599 RETIREE CHAPTER

HEADLIGHT

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

RETIREE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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

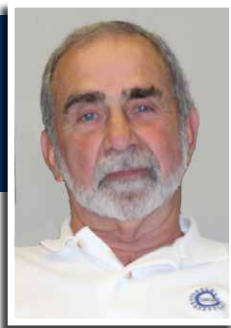
The HEADLIGHT is the voice of the Retirees Chapter of UAW Local 599. The purpose of this paper is to inform and educate the membership of issues of our Chapter and the community in which we live. Articles from members and stories about members are welcome. While your contributions are welcome, they should 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



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RECORDING SECRETARY

by GENE RIDLEY

Labor Day

Well, if you were like me and couldn't attend this year's Labor Day celebration at the Region 1D Sitdowners Memorial Park, you missed out on a great day with labor unions from all over coming together for the first time in a long time to show their solidarity. I wish I was able to attend, but had family matters and couldn't get away.

Politics

Politics is dangerous, which was again proven as one of the President's MAGA supporters, Charlie Kirk, was assassinated this past week. My prayers go out to his family. With that event, Republicans are trying to throw all the blame on the Democrats. They are calling this a terrible act, which I also believe it was, and making a big deal about it.

However, when a person goes to the home of Democratic Representative Melissa Hortman of Minnesota and kills her and also shoots Minnesota Senator John Hoffman and his wife, the President's response was totally different for his "MAGA man" than it is was for the elected Democrats of Minnesota. No flags were flown half-mast, not even a call to the Governor with condolences. It seems okay to murder an elected Democrat, but not *any* Republican. I guess his standards are different on murder depending on what political party you belong to.

It is time to stop throwing out hate for anyone who does not agree with you, or if their politics are different than yours. This is what is happening in our country, thanks to our president and his MAGA followers. *This is not what Americans are.* I believe we are above all of this.

I would like to say to all good Christians, this is not what Christ taught while on earth. He said, "Love thy neighbor as thy self." Not one time in scripture did he preach to hate anyone, not even your enemies.

Closer and Closer to Dictatorship

Well, once again, our government isn't working for us. It is becoming closer and closer to a dictatorship. When the president sends troops to cities to take over the duties of our police

officers in the name of law and order, which means *his* law and order, this is not good for the American people.

I keep saying this time and time again to everyone. It is time for the citizens of this great country of ours to stand up against those who are running our democracy into the ground for their own gain. We must speak out to everyone we meet concerning the need to elect people who will put the country first. We need to preach this over and over. That is what the Republicans do. They spread their lies over and over until they convince everyone that it is true. Like they say, if you throw enough mud on the wall, sooner or later some will start to stick.

Condolences

I want to send my prayers and condolences to the family of Harold "Jack" McDowell. Jack was a very good friend of mine and I will miss him. He was the best Union person I have known, and he loved his Local Union 599.

Jack was an Alternate Committeeman in the old final assembly and attended the UAW Fellowship program at Black Lake, which he was so proud of. He also became a member of Local 599 Education Committee and, in 1989, put together the 50th anniversary of Local 599 special edition of the *Headlight*.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jack for over 40 years and when I became Education Director and editor of the *Headlight* Jack became Chairman of the Education Committee and worked as co-editor of the *Headlight*, which he was so proud of. He always felt our publication was the best.

Even after his retirement, Jack continued to help with the paper up until a few years ago.

Rest in Peace, brother McDowell.

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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.

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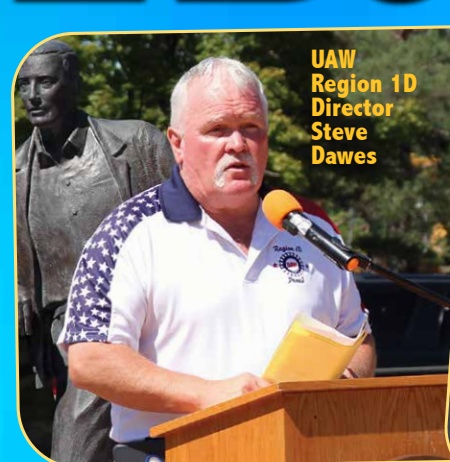
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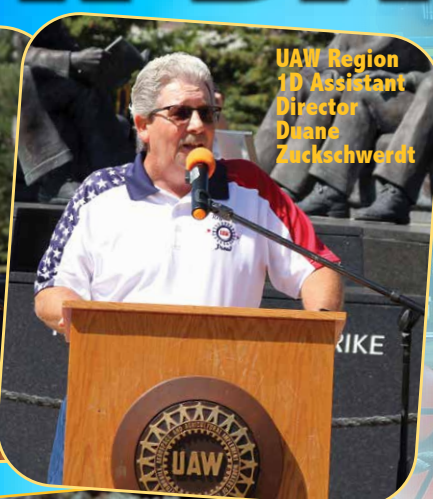
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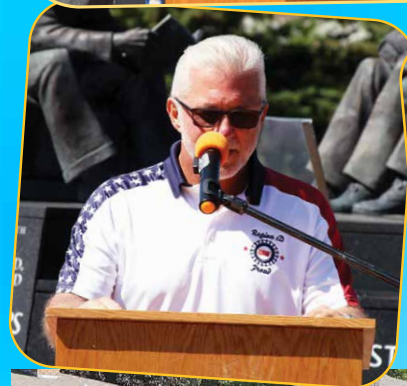
LABOR DAY



UAW
Region 1D
Director
Steve
Dawes



UAW Region
1D Assistant
Director
Duane
Zuckschwerdt



State
Senator
John
Cherry, Jr.

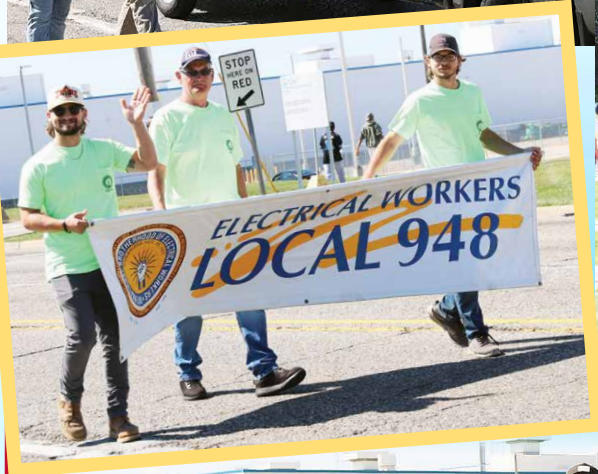


Photos courtesy of
UAW Retiree Chuck Inman



Gubernatorial candidate/Genesee County Sheriff
Chris Swanson showing his support of unions.





NEXT CHAPTER MEETINGS

will be held at the
UAW LOCAL 651 UNION HALL
 at 10:00 a.m. on
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025
& WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025

— If you need assistance —

call **Chairman Jessie Collins** at **810-287-6612**
 or **Recording Secretary Gene Ridley** at **810-516-1773**

— If you have Benefits questions —

call **UAW Local 659 Benefit Rep.** at **810-232-4130**, ext. 213

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In Memoriam



*Our thoughts and prayers are
 extended to the friends and
 families of all our recently
 departed Local 599 retirees.*

Harold "Jack" McDowell (pictured)
 Herbert Kern

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