

HEADLIGHT



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and
Happy
New Year

from your
Executive Board
Members

Your Executive Board wants to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, and as you travel to be with family and friends for the holiday remember to be safe. As you are buying those Christmas gifts for those special people in your life, remember to buy union and American-made.

We also want to wish each of you a Happy New Year. With all the turmoil of the past year, it is hard to believe that the new year could get any worse. But, if we sit back and do nothing, it could be an even worse year for all of us. So, let us all make a New Year's resolution to do whatever we can to ensure our government stays a democracy, and elect people who will work to make a better government that works for all of us and the world.

JESSIE L. COLLINS
Chairman

JESSIE W. PERRY
1st Vice
Chair

MARY SIMMONS
2nd Vice
Chair

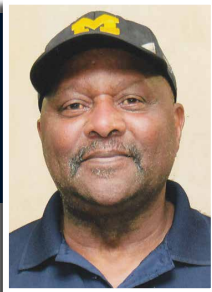
LIZ MELCHOR
Financial
Secretary

GENE RIDLEY
Recording
Secretary

BARB YOUNG
Guide

BILLY HENDERSON
Sergeant-
at-Arms





by Jessie L. Collins

No Kings In America!

Hello My Sisters & Brothers,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

Flint's NO KINGS In America Rally

On October 18th, 2025, I had the opportunity to attend the *NO KINGS* rally held in Flint, MI on Linden Rd., near the Genesee Valley Center. There were over a thousand people at the rally, which included many UAW members and their families. Rally supporters showed up and were very vocal with their feelings and concerns on the way this country is being run by the present Administration.

It was a peaceful rally, except for a few hecklers passing by that screamed ugly insults. You can imagine who they were. As attendees, we were a small group compared to the millions across the United States. It still was an honor to be a part of this national movement on that day.

Rally signs spoke volumes, such as "Trump is Robin

Hood in reverse," and "No Kings since 1776." The slogan that really got my attention was the one that read, "Hitler didn't start with camps. He started with *Make Germany Great Again*, banning books, targeting the press, blaming immigrants, defunding the arts, stoking fear of outsiders, demonizing education, and making neighbors your enemies."

Can you imagine being afraid of diversity, but not of a dictatorship? Under Hitler, millions of people lost their lives when it was all said and done. Before it is all said and not done, how many millions of Americans will have lost their lives or imprisoned under the present Administration?

There were a couple politicians that I talked with, former Congressman from Flint Dan Kildee and United States Representative Kristen McDonald Rivet, in addition to Local UAW Local 599 member Stan Turner, and Local 598's Art Reyes, big brother of Danny Reyes of UAW Local 599 (LOL). There were many other members present who I did not see. This was just a great rally!

2026 UAW International Officers Elections

Make sure the International Union has your correct mailing address on file to ensure you receive your ballot. In the historical 2022 UAW International Officers elections, thousands of UAW retirees did not get a ballot in the first "One Member - One Vote" election.

Local 599 Special Delegate Election

At our October 29th Chapter Meeting, a Special Delegate Election was held to fill the position of 1st Vice Chairperson and to fill 5 open Delegate positions.

Congratulations to newly elected 1st Vice Chair Jesse W. Perry, who was also elected to fill one of the Delegate positions, and to our other newly elected Delegates – Terry Turner, Diane James, Mary Simmons, and Billy Henderson.



Showing their support at the rally was former Congressman from Flint Dan Kildee and U.S. Representative Kristen McDonald Rivet.

Wishing everyone and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



by MARY SIMMONS

What's Up My Friends?

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I want to start out with normal news. We had our first event, and that was to the Gun Lake Casino Resort. I hope someone got lucky. I know it wasn't me (LOL). Although the trip to Lumberman's Monument was not 599's event, many of us went. Other than not having bathrooms open, it wasn't too bad. I really wasn't happy with the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino lack of good "Vibes;" however, the dinner stop at Ponderosa made up for it.

So, how many of you enjoyed Turkeyville? As a theater actress (retired), I admit I wanted to be up on that stage singing and dancing. The gift shop was also interesting.

Coming up next is our Christmas Dinner.

I hate that we didn't have enough time to get the other Casino trip in this year, but that will be first on the list for next year.

Now, on to the heart-breaking news. I am going to share with you all my absolute belief. I think that Putin has something on Trump that is just about worse than what is in the Epstein papers. Why else would Trump let a foreign leader tell him what to do in our country? I mean what could Putin have told Trump for him to systematically dismantle everything in our country that makes us unique, proud, strong, and dare I say unbeatable.

But now, we are seen weak and a joke, because

leaders in other countries are laughing at our so-called President. I have to say more and more every day Trump is showing big signs of mental illness, along with his showing signs of physical illness also.

When the person who is supposed to administer to the concerns and needs of his constituents, instead of stopping all SNAP payments and food stamps for the month of November, I mean that just adds insult to injury... *why?* To cut off food to people at Holiday time is just downright evil.

Don't get me started with ICE raids. This doesn't feel like the America I grew up in. Everyday is more depressing and bizarre. The level of meanness Trump shows every day to me is like having a front row seat in his descent into more and more *madness*.

Now, to put a clear example of what I am talking about, he is taking the very symbol of our Americanism and destroying it. I'm talking about the White House. Is it his to make over? Did you all know that there is a law on the books from the 19th century called the Antideficient Act (ADA) that forbids spending money on government projects that have not been approved by Congress?

What is up with him bailing out Argentina for \$50 million while our people are losing their jobs and going without food? Please make this make sense. It is now past time to start impeachment procedures that will see him out of the White House and into jail.

Now I have a headache, so until next time, we must stay vigilant and pissed off... *peace!*

UAW LOCAL 599 RETIREE CHAPTER

HEADLIGHT

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

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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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IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC) ...	866-637-7555	www.benefitsweb.com/rhcc.html
UAW Trust.....	866-637-7555	www.uawtrust.org
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Friends & Dignitaries Attend Our Thanksgiving Dinner

NOVEMBER 6th

LOCAL 599 RETIREES HELD THEIR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER AT LOCAL 651. We had nearly 100 members attending this terrific dinner featuring lots of conversation with friends.

Region 1D Director Steve Dawes was in attendance and swore in newly elected 1st Vice Chair and Delegate Jessie W. Perry, along with the other Delegates Terry Turner, Diane James, Mary Simmons, and Billy Henderson. Director Dawes also presented the Community Service Award to our own Recording Secretary Gene Ridley.

Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson was also on hand to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and to let everyone know how much he appreciates the support

from the UAW and all its members. Sheriff Swanson talked about the programs he put into place to help build a strong community by educating offenders and finding jobs for them to be productive citizens.

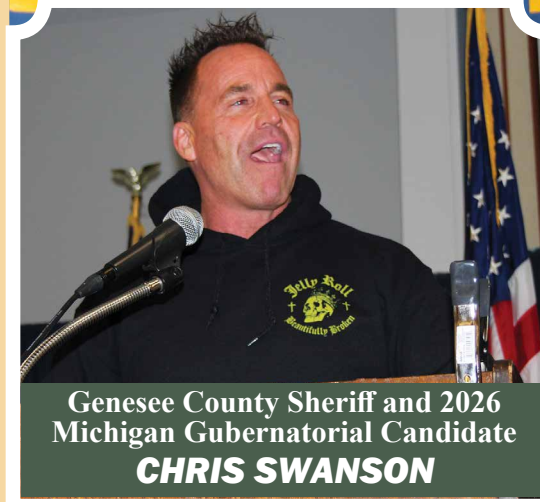
Sheriff Swanson also spoke on why he is running for Governor and that he is looking forward to serving all of Michigan residents.

Also, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton and Assistant Prosecutor John Potbury stopped by to wish everyone a

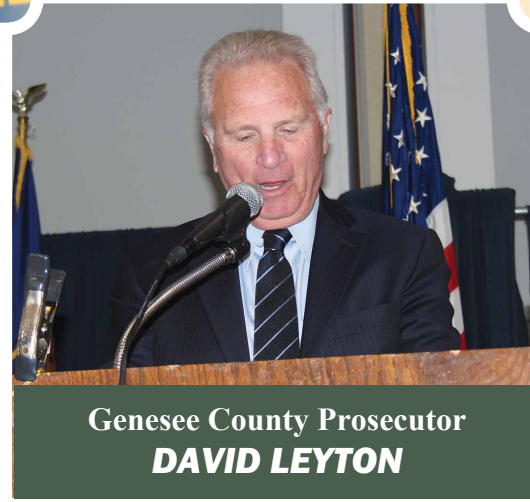
Happy Thanksgiving!



UAW Region 1D Director
STEVE DAWES



Genesee County Sheriff and 2026
Michigan Gubernatorial Candidate
CHRIS SWANSON



Genesee County Prosecutor
DAVID LEYTON



**THANKSGIVING
DINNER TURKEY
WINNERS**



Deborah Funches

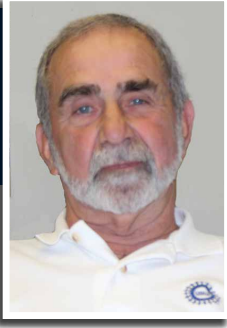


Jerry Bergerson



Kenneth Weston





RECORDING SECRETARY

by GENE RIDLEY

A Thanksgiving Blessing

I would like to say thank you to all those who came to our annual Thanksgiving dinner. It was great to see some familiar faces that I haven't seen in a long time. It was also great to have Region ID Director Steve Dawes, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton, and Assistant Prosecutor John Potbury stopping by to wish our members a happy Thanksgiving.

Director Dawes swore-in our newly elected delegates – Mary Simmons, Diane James, Jesse Perry, Terry Turner and Billy Henderson, along with our new 1st Vice Chair, Jesse Perry, to their new positions. Congratulations to all of them and welcome aboard.

Also, I was honored and surprised when the Director presented me with the Community Service Award. That was a great honor. I have devoted the biggest part of my life to proudly serving UAW Local 599 members, the UAW, and my community to make life better for everyone. Thanks to all of you for your support and allowing me to serve you.



Region 1D Director Steve Dawes presents Gene Ridley with the UAW's Community Service Award.

The Holiday Season Is Upon Us

Fall is here and it's time to get the yard ready for winter by picking up leaves, putting outdoor furniture away, and servicing that snowblower. To all of you who will not be heading for warmer parts of the country, be smart and be safe.

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and hoping our new year is much better than this past year.

Remember that next year is an election year. On February 3rd, we will be voting in the primaries. I urge everyone to go and vote in these primaries, and get your family, friends and neighbors to also vote. This is the opportunity to pick the candidate you would like to have run for office. I know we can do better when we all express our will.

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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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NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

will be held at the

UAW LOCAL 651 UNION HALL

at 10:00 a.m. on

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

(There will be NO MEETING in December 2025)

– If you need assistance –

call **Chairman Jessie L. 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

FIND LOCAL 599 UPDATES AT...

region1d.uaw.org/uaw-local-599/login

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