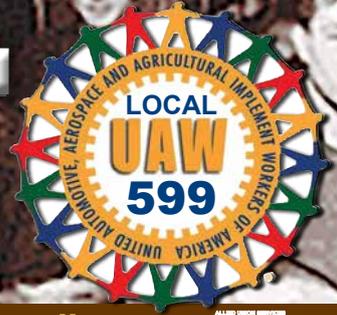


# HEADLIGHT



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

## WHITE SHIRT DAY CELEBRATION



On Wednesday, February 11, 2026, we, as UAW members, will come together at Local 651 to celebrate the 90th anniversary 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 traditional luncheon of bean soup, Balkan bread and apples will be served to all those in attendance.

### Looking Back at Our 2005 White Shirt Day

at UAW Local 599

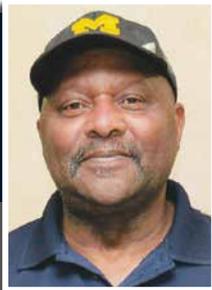


PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING THE 1936-1937 SITDOWN STRIKERS AT



FEBRUARY 11, 2026, AT 11 A.M.  
UAW LOCAL 651  
3518 ROBERT T. LONGWAY BLVD.  
FLINT, MI 48506





by Jessie L. Collins

# Welcoming 2026

Welcome back from the holidays. Hopefully, all is well with you and your family.

## Update Your Contact Information

Before I get into the politics, we are going to have a very busy year in 2026. In the UAW, we will be holding the UAW International Union Executive Board Officers Elections this year. It is going to be imperative that we make sure that Solidarity House has all our members' correct contact information.

Solidarity House will be sending out a magazine this year with a QR code in it. Take a picture of it and submit your contact information back to the International Union in Detroit. This is to make sure that they have your correct contact information for you to receive an election ballot. This information is *very* important. During the first historical *one member/one vote* election, it was discovered that we had incorrect contact information for well over one hundred thousand of our retirees.

## Upcoming Events

The National CAP and Retiree Advisory Council meetings will be held in Washington, DC on February 6-11, 2026.

White Shirt Day will be held at Local 651, 3518 Robert T. Longway Blvd., Flint, MI 48506 on February 11th, 2026. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m.

The UAW International Convention will be held from June 15-18, 2026.

Your Chapter voted at the January meeting on three trips.

The trips that were voted on were Geovani (13), Turkey Ville (15), Shipshewana (14), Gun Lake Casino (16), Lumberjack Monument (4) and a Tiger baseball game (24).

The Firekeepers Casino Trip was carried over from last year, because the trip was cancelled.

So, the three trips are Firekeepers Casino, Tiger Baseball Game and Gun Lake Casino.

## In The World of Politics

In the world of politics, yes, "in the world," what else can you call it when the President of the USA goes around the world threatening (*bullying*) our NATO allies. I don't know about you, but my biggest concern is here at home – inflation, price of gas, etc.

Please pay attention to what Trump is doing. He is a master of distractions. In the last month or longer, I have not heard any mention of any problems here at home (distractions). I don't give a damn about what is going on in other countries, as long as they are not bombing us (yet).

My concern is when United States citizens are being shot down by goons. You get my drift. When an ICE official is shown running away from an altercation with a person's gun and then you hear gun shots being fired, Trump makes the individual who was shot the villain. A person can't bring a gun to a rally? *Come on man.*

This Administration makes up the rules to fit them. I'm licensed to carry, and I know the law rules for when, where and conditions I can't have my firearm in my possession; such as courthouse, post offices, schools, churches, casinos, etc. If I'm encountered, I know my rights. I'm going to speak up for my rights. Am I going to lose my life because this Administration changes the rules on the fly.

## Black History Month – Denmark Vesey (1822)

The *Denmark Vesey* conspiracy played out in Charleston, South Carolina. It is claimed that some 5,000 blacks were prepared to rise in rebellion in July of 1822.

Denmark Vesey was a free black man and community leader in Charleston. He was accused and convicted of planning a major revolt. The plot was discovered before it took place. Its potential stoked fears of the Antebellum Planter Class (elite, wealthy, white land owners) in the southern states. They only represented 3% of slave holders, the upper social class. They controlled state and local government shaping laws to protect slavery and economic interests.

Vesey won a lottery and purchased his freedom at age 32. A good businessman and carpenter, he helped found an independent African Methodist Episcopal (AME) congregation. Vesey and his group of enslaved people and free blacks were to execute their owners, then were to sail to Haiti. Two men opposed to the plot exposed the plot – 131 men were charged with conspiracy, 67 men were convicted, and 41, were hung, including Denmark Vesey.

This part of my article was to draw a comparison of how the 1822 era, where the wealthy and elite 3% controlled their state and local government, shaped laws to protect their economic interest and the upper class. This sounds very similar to today's 1% running our government, economics, courts (lower) systems, and especially our Supreme Court.

### UAW LOCAL 599 RETIREE CHAPTER

# HEADLIGHT



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

## RETIREE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Chairman ..... Jessie L. Collins
- 1st Vice Chair ..... Jessie W. Perry
- 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



by MARY SIMMONS

## 'Orange Man' Atrocities

*Hello Brothers and Sisters,*

Wow! Let's start off talking about this weather. This has been the winter from hell, and it is still going strong. I think Trump has made Mother Nature mad. I'm just saying.

So, is everyone finally getting the hang of our WEX card? I really think they didn't have all the bugs out of the working of it. Everyone should by now have received a letter stating that if you have not used up all the funds on your card you still have until April to apply for your remaining funds for 2025.

OK, now we can talk about the "orange man" in the room. Atrocities include his hiring the worst cabinet in known history to trying to change the names of things already named, hiring the modern-day Gestapo to terrorize our citizens (which includes children, to signing off on killing people he believes are drug smugglers), along with kidnapping heads of countries, stealing their oil and pocketing the funds from the selling of that oil and putting those proceeds into an offshore account.

Oh, did I mention the threatening to take over Greenland for their own good, when there is a law giving Greenland to Denmark forever, and cannot be sold or taken away unless by act of war. After going to a summit in Denmark and basically telling our Allies they are crap and that they better let him have his way so Putin will be proud of him. He even went so far as to threaten to pull out of NATO. In turn, this made our allies band together to protect Greenland from Trump. So, after the summit, he came home singing a new tune. We probably won't hear anything about Greenland anymore.

*Can We All Say Jeffery Epstein?  
WHAT!!!*

Now, a federal judge just told him he cannot build or remodel the White House without Congressional approval (not happening), while standing by as his Gestapo kill two more American citizens in occupied Minnesota.

Now that we are starting to see more cracks in his foundation, along with the upcoming midterm elections, we might be seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. We just have to see what will happen in the upcoming government shut down.

*People, welcome to 2026.*

*There's a brighter day ahead. Peace and Love*

## FACT CHECK

websites and  
SOCIAL MEDIA



- **ALL SIDES** – <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>
- **AP FACT CHECK** – <https://apnews.com/ap-fact-check>
- **CHECK YOUR FACT** – <https://checkyourfact.com/> (Right-Center Bias)
- **EXPOSING TRUTH** – <http://www.exposingtruth.com/> (Left-Center Bias)
- **FACT CHECK** – <https://www.factcheck.org>
- **FACT MYTH** – <https://factmyth.com> (Left-Center Bias)
- **LEAD STORIES** – <https://leadstories.com>
- **MEDIA BIAS FACT CHECK** – <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com>
- **POLITIFACT** – <https://www.politifact.com> (Left-Center Bias)
- **THE POYNTER INSTITUTE** – <https://www.poynter.org/media-news/fact-checking/>
- **REUTERS FACT CHECK** – <https://www.reuters.com/fact-check/>
- **SNOPE** – <https://www.snopes.com> (Left-Center Bias)
- **TRUTH OR FICTION** – <https://www.truthorfiction.com>
- **WASHINGTON POST** – <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/fact-checker/>
- **ZEBRA FACT CHECK** – <https://www.zebrafactcheck.com>



## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC)	...866-637-7555	..... <a href="http://www.benefitsweb.com/rhcc.html">www.benefitsweb.com/rhcc.html</a>
UAW Trust	.....866-637-7555	..... <a href="http://www.uawtrust.org">www.uawtrust.org</a>
Ford / General Motors / Stellantis (formerly FCA/Chrysler)		
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	.....877-832-2829	..... <a href="http://www.bcbsm.com">www.bcbsm.com</a>
Davis Vision	.....888-234-5164	..... <a href="http://www.davisvision.com">www.davisvision.com</a>
Delta Dental	.....800-524-0149	..... <a href="http://www.deltadental.com">www.deltadental.com</a>
Legal Services Plan	.....800-482-7700	..... <a href="http://www.uawlegalservices.com">www.uawlegalservices.com</a>
Silver Sneakers		..... <a href="http://www.silversneakers.com">www.silversneakers.com</a>
TruHearing	.....844-394-5420	..... <a href="http://www.truhearing.com/uawtrust">www.truhearing.com/uawtrust</a>
United Auto Workers		..... <a href="http://www.uaw.org">www.uaw.org</a>
"NEW" UnitedHealth Care Medicare Advantage Plan (Medical Benefits)	....844-320- 5021	..... <a href="http://www.retiree.uhc.com/uawtrust">www.retiree.uhc.com/uawtrust</a>
"NEW" UnitedHealth Care Medicare Rx (Optum Rx – Prescription Drug Benefits)	.....855-409-0219	..... <a href="http://www.uawtrustpdp.com">www.uawtrustpdp.com</a>

### LIFE INSURANCE CONTACT NUMBERS

FORD MetLife	.....833-552-FORD (3673)
Stellantis (formerly FCA/Chrysler)	.....888-409-3300
GM MetLife	.....888-543-3461
Social Security Administration	.....800-772-1213 ..... <a href="http://www.SSA.gov">www.SSA.gov</a>
Medicare	.....800-Medicare (800-633-4227) ..... <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a>

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# RETIRES CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 10, 2025, Local 599 Chapter Retirees held their annual Christmas Party at the UAW Local 651 Union Hall on Robert T Longway Blvd., in Flint. We had a very good turnout, with over one hundred members attending.

Once again, Genesee County Prosecuting Attorney David Leyton and Assistant Prosecutor John Potbury were on hand to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Sheriff Chris Swanson was unable to attend, but he sent Lt. Jason Murphy to extend his season's greetings to all.



**MANY PRIZES WERE GIVEN AWAY AT THIS YEAR'S EVENT, INCLUDING THREE CHRISTMAS HAMS.**

## Winners

from (L-R)  
Chris Webb,  
Deborah Funches  
and Oye Suffel

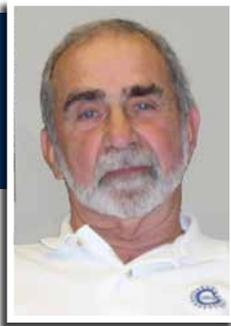




# It was a great time,

as members reconnected with some old friends while catching up on the latest and enjoying a great meal catered by Roma's Pizzeria.





by GENE RIDLEY

### The New Year

Well, like all of you, I am hoping this new year will be much better than last year, but it sure doesn't look like it.

First, winter has come with some of the coldest weather and most snow we have had in years. I really don't mind. I like winter, and the snow is beautiful. I have used my snow blower more so far this year than in the last two years.

Next, the Trump Administration is causing a world crisis by attacking our Allies with tariffs if they don't give them what they want, while killing our citizens who exercise their rights to have their voices heard and the right to assemble in protest. Not starting out so good.

### White Shirt Day

This year marks 90 years since the beginning of the UAW Sit-Down Strike of 1936-1937, and we will be celebrating White Shirt Day on February 11th at UAW Local 651. I hope that all of you who are able will join us for the celebration, so we can have a great showing of Local 599 Retirees there.

White Shirt Day is when we pay tribute to those brave men and women who took on General Motors for the dignity and respect of their workers. Because of the strikers' efforts, we can enjoy the many benefits we have, which include our great retirement with health care that the UAW had won for us. See you at this year's White Shirt event.

### Politics and Social Media

Remember this, unless you are Native American, you are here because of immigration and, as a citizen of this great state of Michigan and of the United States, we have a responsibility to our country, our state, our family, and friends to ensure that everyone, regardless of color, race, religion or place of origin, has the same rights as all of us. This means we must have a government that reflects those rights. In doing so, we must elect leaders who represent who we are, not who they are.

Our world is in a crisis, our country is in a crisis, and we are the only ones who can fix it. We must talk to as many people as we can. It is our duty to make sure correct information is given to those we know, and that they pass that information on to others.

Also, I encourage you to talk to your children and grandchildren and have them post information on social media sites for you. These generations are on their phones and those sites a whole lot, and can navigate through them. Personally, I realize that I wouldn't know where to begin, so I don't access those sites because I would be lost.

This is a mid-term election year, and we need to elect leaders who will best represent all people, not just a few. I encourage everyone to do their research on the candidates. Don't just listen to or watch one news station. Checkout several of them, even ones you have never listened to or watched before. Then, sort out who is best to lead our country and state.

The primaries will occur this upcoming August. Please take the time to vote in them. This is where you can help decide who is best to run for a particular office.

I will be putting as much information as I have out to everyone as I receive it. I do fact check everything I write to ensure I am not giving out bad information.

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or mail GENE RIDLEY: 4034 W. Dodge Rd., Clio, MI 48420

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETINGS**

will be held at the

**UAW LOCAL 651 UNION HALL**

at 10:00 a.m. on

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026**

– 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

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Melody Sherman

Ken Tingley  
Thomas McMillan

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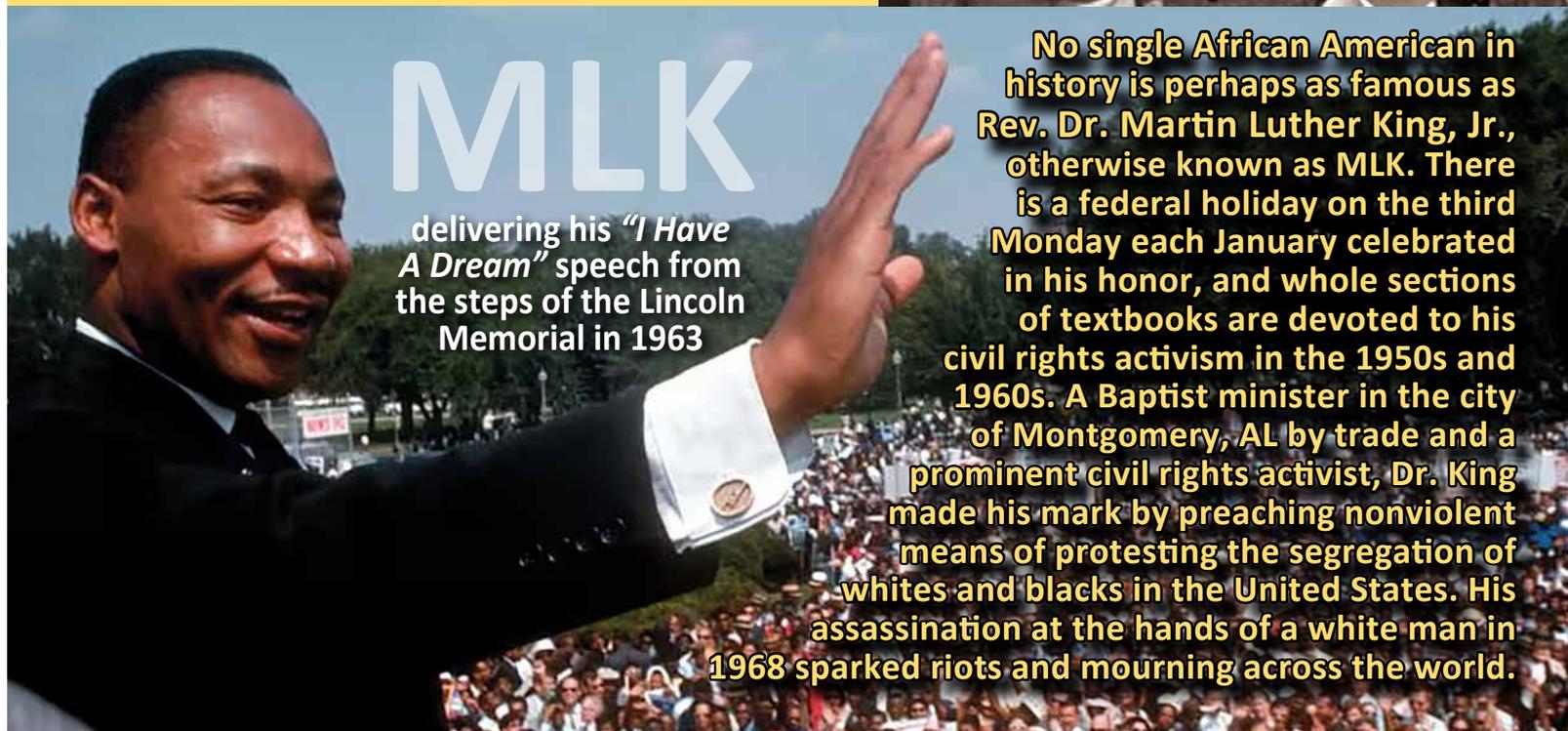
# celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## *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?*

- ◆ 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.



# MLK

delivering his "I Have A Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963

No single African American in history is perhaps as famous as Rev. 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.



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<sup>^</sup>APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to approval based on creditworthiness. Rates may vary based on each individual's credit history and underwriting factors. The Credit Union will reduce the rate of your existing non-Financial Plus loan by 1% (subject to a minimum rate of 3.99% APR for auto, 4.99% APR for boat, 5.49% APR for RV, and 5.99% APR for motorcycle and powersport loans). Proof of the current rate and terms of the loan to be refinanced is required. Promotion only applicable to secured auto, boat, RV, motorcycle, and powersport loans. Promotion does not apply to existing loans with the Credit Union, purchases or lease buyouts. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. Cannot be combined with Loyalty Rate Discounts. The Credit Union reserves the right to modify or discontinue this offer at any time without notice. Some restrictions apply. See Credit Union for details.