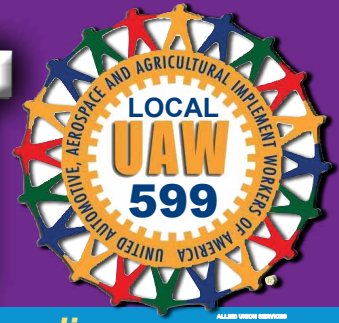


ONLINE HEADLIGHT



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

Celebrating Women's History Month



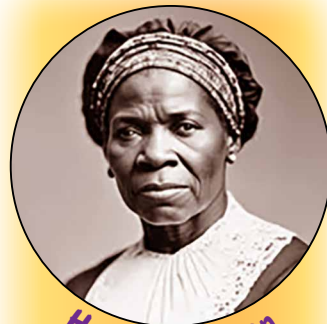
Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future

The National Women's History Alliance designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. The 2026 theme, *"Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future,"* celebrates the contributions of women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational and social justice movements.

The Origins of Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States.

The actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a week-long celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.



Harriet Tubman



Susan B. Anthony



Eleanor Roosevelt

A few years later, the idea caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

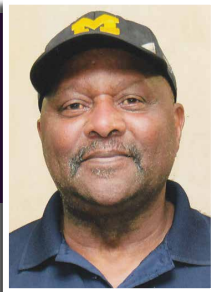
March is not just another month. It's a time to celebrate the remarkable achievements of women throughout history.

Since 1987, Women's History Month has been marked annually, honoring women's contributions often overlooked in history books and putting a spotlight on gender inequality. The observance coincides with International Women's Day, taking place on March 8.

How It Started

Women's History Month was introduced to address the long-standing omission of women's contributions from traditional historical narratives. It grew out of a local Women's History Week started by educators in

Continued on Page 3



by **JESSIE L. COLLINS**

UAW Conferences

Hello, my Brothers/Sisters

Hopefully, all is well with you and your family.

Black Lake Conference

The UAW Retired Workers Conference will be held at the Walter & May Ruether UAW Education Center on May 26-29, 2026. There are Black Lake applications at UAW Local 651, 3518 Robert T. Longway Blvd., Flint, MI. The Dues Office Secretary is available Monday and Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The deadline for submitting applications is April 15th. You must be a dues-paying member (will be verified before applications are turned in).

As you know, we don't have the luxury of our printed and mailed newspaper any longer, so please pass on this information to our sisters and brothers.

2026 UAW Retiree Advisory Council Conference

I have been busy attending meetings working on your behalf. As your elected Delegate, I attended the UAW Retiree Advisory Council Conference in Washington, D.C. held February 6-7th, and followed up with the UAW National CAP Conference held February 7-11th. There were many speakers from the various Departments in the UAW and the Congress/Senate. UAW President Shawn Fain spoke about the upcoming UAW International Executive Board Officers election in October, the midterm elections in the fall and getting our members out to vote.

Presentations were made on what the Retired Workers Department does for retirees. As an example, Angela Bantom the Assistant Director for the Social Security Department made a presentation to our members.

Mission and Purpose

Support the Staff of the UAW in Collective Bargaining/Contract Administration, as they promote and advance

labor-supported policies in the areas of employee and social benefits, assist in pension matters affecting our membership (including pension searches and claims, assisting with health care claims, reviewing cost, assisting with Legal Dept. issues). They also sit on various boards, work with the Legislative office on Medicaid, Medicare and health care issues.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is a self-financing program. In 2025, it covered approximately 185 million workers and provides monthly cash benefits to over 69 million beneficiaries. The SSA is the largest federal government program, composed of the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) – also referred to as OASDI.

UAW National CAP

On Sunday, February 8th, 2026, UAW National CAP opened with speakers Secretary-Treasurer Margret Mock, Vice President Mike Booth (GM Dept.), VP Laura Dickerson (Ford Dept.), and Region 1D Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt. They spoke on the economy, the Research Dept. and Union Density, along with how they rated in the UAW throughout the U.S.

I would of thought Region 1D would of been #1, but no, Region 2B (Ohio/Indiana) was #1 at 22%. Region 1D (covering 73 out of 83 counties in Michigan) and Region 8 (covering 17 states) tied at 18% in density.

Representative Debbie Dingell spoke on Health Care and power in unity.

On Tuesday, February 10th, at the Region 1D breakfast, we were honored to have our own Assistant Director Scott Zuckschwerdt speak on issues concerning retirees, the upcoming mid-term elections, and the importance of getting our members out to vote. We also heard from Michigan U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin, who again stood by her stance on the military not having to obey illegal orders from the President. She was given a standing ovation.

As the 9:00-10:30 a.m. Workshops began, we discussed our Capitol Hill meeting with our elected officials and hearing their positions on current issues. We also met with 8th District, State Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet.

Women History Month

March is Women's History Month, a time to honor the women who have shaped our families, workplaces and communities. From those who fought for equal rights to women leading Michigan today, we celebrate their achievements and the example they set for future generations here in Flint.

One example is our own Olive G. Beasley, Flint's Matriarch of Civil Rights. She pushed this State and other States to adopt the Fair Employment Act, prohibiting employers from discriminating on basis of race, gender and other protected classifications. She also led the 1967 City Hall sleep-in that helped Flint pass the Nations first anti-discrimination open Housing Ordinance. I was at the sleep-in as a 17-year-old student from Flint Northwestern.

BRIAN L. WALKER ATTORNEY AT LAW

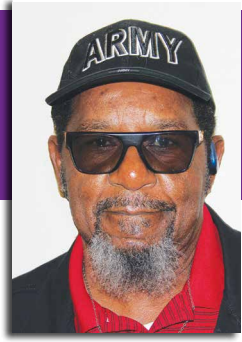
is at the **UAW LOCAL 651 UNION HALL**
TUESDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

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

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1st VICE CHAIR

by JESSIE W. PERRY

Remembering Our Past, Protecting Our Future

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

First, I would like to thank you the membership for electing me Vice Chair and as a Delegate to the Council. I hope that we will continue to work together and be able to accomplish things as a membership.

March is *Women's History Month*. It honors the success and sacrifice of U.S. women and dates back to March 8th, 1857, when hundreds of women from the New York City garment and textile factories rallied to protest harsh working conditions. Today, we still honor our women for the sacrifices they've made, such as going into the factories that helped to win World War II, and the leadership they had shown throughout politics and in the workforce. So, join me as we salute our women and all they do.

I see that because of that convicted felon in the White House, gas prices have risen over \$4 and creeping up to \$5 a gallon, food prices have doubled, and every price in between has gone up considerably in the last few months.

It seems the only way to make some changes is to flip the Senate and the House in the mid-term elections later this year. In the next few months, we're going to be getting a lot of information about candidates running for office. Take a real good look at the ones who are working to support the working people, the middle class, and the underprivileged. As they used to say, let's vote the bread box.

It's time to sign up to go to Black Lake or the Walter and May Reuther Family Educational Center. We would like to see some first-time members go up there, enjoy the center, and learn about the Union that you helped to build.

Celebrating Women's History Month

continued from Front Page

California in 1978, inspired by the lack of women represented in school curricula. Gaining national recognition in the United States in the 1980s, it was officially expanded to a month-long observance in March to coincide with International Women's Day. Since then, Women's History Month has expanded beyond the United States to become a globally recognized awareness month.

Why It Was – And Still Is – Needed

- History education overwhelmingly focused on men, despite women playing crucial roles in every major historical development. Women's History Month was introduced to encourage critical reflection on how history is recorded.
- Advocates wanted students, especially girls to see women as leaders, innovators and change-makers. Women's History Month promotes gender equality by recognizing role models.
- The month provides space to highlight women's achievements across race, class, nationality and fields of work and inspire conversations about representation and inclusion.



Amelia Earhart



Rosa Parks



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor



Sec. of State Madeleine Albright

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2nd VICE CHAIR

by MARY SIMMONS

Women's History Month

Hey There, Brothers and Sisters,

Well, we are still living in a bizarre world. I didn't want us to get used to the way things are now and forget to fight and protest about gas prices, food prices, and our standing in the world.

I know I am looking forward to the mid-term elections this fall, and maybe to seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. The results so far have been promising. Lord, let it be so.

Now on to a better subject – March is Women's History Month. Let's talk about the reason we are all here...*women!* We all know that women are the strongest people on the planet. Now, let's see why, other than being our mothers, aunts, sisters, cousins, and don't forget Grandma!

Here are just a few examples of mighty women:

- 1809 – First patent on a weaving process – **Mary Kies**
- 1812 – Circular saw – **Tabitha Babbitt**
- 1882 – Life raft – **Maria Beasley**
- 1887 – Fire escape – **Anna Connely**
- 1903 – Windshield wipers – **Mary Anderson**

- 1951 – Correction fluid – **Bette Nesbith Graham**
- 1864-1934 – **Maggie Walker** was the first female bank President to a chartered bank in the United States while disabled by paralysis and limited to a wheelchair, later in her life
- 1928-2014 – **Maya Angelou** was an American poet, singer, memoirist and civil rights activist
- **Harriet Tubman** – This legendary leader of the abolitionist movement during the Civil War has been posthumously commissioned a Brigadier General in the Maryland National Guard as recognition for her service to the union as an operational leader and spy. Also, called the American Moses.
- 1910 – **Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and **Matilda Joslyn Gage** retired from organizing for women to get the vote. They turned the movement over to younger women – **Carrie Chadman, Harriet Stanton Blatch** and **Alice Paul**. They started marches and parades all over the country. There were some missteps when black women wanted to be included in the marches and parades, because since the men including black men had the vote. Black women like **Ida B. Wells** and **Mary Church Terrell** wanted to march also, so the march proceeded integrated with no trouble. Well gradually Congress came around and, in May 1919, the 19th Amendment was passed and signed into law on August 26, 1920, thus giving women the right to vote.

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So last, but not least, here is verse that goes for women:

*Use her lips for truth
Her voice for kindness
Her hands for charity
Her heart for love
Her ears for compassion*

For those that don't like her she uses ... Prayer

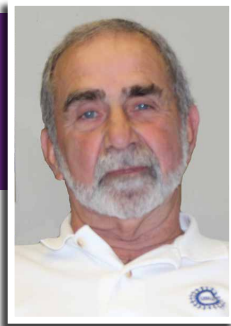
The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart – the place where love lives. So, until next time my dear friends, love and honor the women in your lives, not just in March, but every month, day, year and minutes.

Peace and Love...

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by GENE RIDLEY

Happy Easter

First, as Christians worldwide celebrate the risen Jesus Christ, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter. As you travel to be with family and friends for the holiday, remember to be safe.

Spring has arrived; although, some days it really feels like it and other days not quite so much. I want to remind all of you that we are not as young as we were last year. So, as you are out doing your spring yard work or spring cleaning, be sure to pace yourself and don't over do it. Take your time. What you don't get done today will be still there tomorrow. Your health and well-being come first. That way we can enjoy the spring and summer with friends and family.

Politics

Well, we are going into mid-term elections, and the President is trying stop anyone who isn't a white male from being able to vote with his *SAVE America Act*, which he told the Senate to combine it with the Homeland Security Act, and to not agree with anything the Democrats want. *The following was taken from Fact Check.org...*

This law would preempt state voter registration processes and impose strict voter ID requirements:

KEY PROVISIONS:

- **Proof of Citizenship:** Voters must present documents explicitly showing U.S. citizenship. Acceptable forms include passports, certified birth certificates, naturalization certificates, and certain military or tribal ID.
- **Photo ID Requirement:** All voters must present a government-issued photo ID to vote in federal elections, including driver's license, military ID or Tribal ID.
- **In-Person Registration Only:** Voter registration or updates must be completed in-person with an election official – mail, online, and community registration drive would no longer be allowed.
- **Criminal Penalties:** Election officials could face criminal penalties for registering voters without proper documentation, even if the voter is a U.S. citizen.

- **Alternative Processes:** States must establish procedures for voters who lack standard documentation, including affidavits attesting to citizenship or name changes.

POTENTIAL IMPACT:

Critics argue the bill could disenfranchise millions of eligible voters, particularly:

- **Women** who have changed their name through marriage or divorce
- **Rural residents** with limited access to county election offices.
- **Older Americans** and those in assisted living.
- **People with disabilities** due to vague accommodation requirements.
- **Black and minority voters**, who are less likely to have passports or birth certificates.
- **Young voter and students**, who frequently move and may struggle to register in person.
- **Election officials** would face increased administrative burdens and potential criminal liability, with no federal funding provided for implementation.

It is time to call our Senators and tell them do not pass this bill *SAVE America Act*. Senate Majority Leader John Thune needs to hear from all of us and not hold a vote on the bill.

We, as citizens of this great country, have a responsibility to make sure we share correct information to all those we know as to elect leaders who will uphold the U.S. Constitution and ensure the rights of every citizen.

Condolences

I would like to send out my condolences and prayers to the family of long-time Committeeperson Bob Aidif on his passing. Bob was a friend and a good Union brother. *Rest In Peace.*

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Email to: riddler07@comcast.net

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

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	<i>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.</i>
	HEADLIGHT Editor Gene Ridley

 Find us on Facebook

In Memoriam

Our prayers go out for all our beloved Local 599 retired members and also to their friends and families.

Robert Aidif Connie Wansley

They are already missed.

Attention 599 Retirees



Black Lake Convention Center
2000 Maxon Road, Onaway, MI 49765

Region 1D's RETIREE CONFERENCE

will be held at Black Lake in Onaway, MI
MAY 26 thru MAY 29, 2026

Please Contact Chairman Jessie L. Collins at
810-287-6612 if you are interested in attending.

You can get applications at UAW Local 651 Dues Office
Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Applications must be turned in no later than April 17, 2026.



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Local 599 Retiree Golfers

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Annual Stan Marshall

SIT-DOWNERS



Golf Outing

August 4, 2026

with a Rain Date of
AUGUST 11, 2026

(Must be Retired)

This year's event will be held at the

IMA Brookwood Golf Course

6045 Davison Road, Burton

\$180
per team



Check-in: 8:00 a.m.

Shotgun Start:
9:00 a.m.

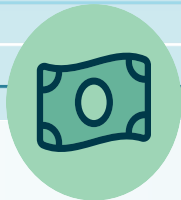
This year, our Local 599 Retiree Chapter will
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If interested, contact Jessie L. Collins at 810-287-6621
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The first four who contact us will receive this sponsorship.



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[^]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.