



UNITED AUTOMOBILE • AEROSPACE • AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS
of AMERICA (UAW)

LOCAL NO. 652

426 CLARE STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917

TELEPHONE: (517) 372-7581

uawlocal652@uawlocal652.org

BENJAMIN FRANTZ, PRESIDENT

LENA WYETH, VICE PRESIDENT

MATTHEW SCHNEIDER, FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREAS.

SCOTT R. LOUNDS, RECORDING SECRETARY

May 2021

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to you to let you all know that moving forward, I will try to provide a monthly update for our Local. In this edition, I will provide updates from all of our Units and anything in the community that pertains to our Local. I receive calls daily from our active and retired members who have questions, opinions, concerns and some who just want to talk. Through speaking with our Membership, it is clear that we have an opportunity to improve.

The month of April seemed to fly by here at the Local. We still can't host any retiree, active member, or community events per the Ingham County Health Departments Covid-19 limitations. Still, due to the semi-conductor shortage, we had plenty of Benefit walk-ins. It is essential to give a big thank you to all of our benefit representatives. They have no training or responsibility to work on unemployment issues, yet they always dive in and help our Members with this never-ending problem. For all units, it is important to know that the Capital Area CAP Council employs a Workers Compensation and Unemployment Representative specifically to assist the Lansing area UAW Members with these issues.

During this layoff for the GM and LOC units, we moved forward with the expansion plan for the WMS project in the LOC. Vice President Lena Wyeth and I accompanied Chairwoman Annie Rankin on the plant planning walk-thru that laid out the next level of insourcing material to the LOC. Many improvements are being made to bring more work into the LOC.

The GM unit has been down for the month, but we will be getting our coats distributed in the plant and at the Union Hall as we come back online.

This month we spent time honoring all of our fallen workers with Workers Memorial day on April 28th. Ryder Unit Chairman Mike Luna and his entire safety team did a great job creating a visual memorial display.

Ryder and Avancez are hiring! if you know someone interested, please visit our website at uawlocal652.com

Even though it is not specific to April, I feel It is important to update the Membership that I have been blessed to be selected to the board of local area Organizations during these first four months of the year. These positions are not for me to boast about, but instead, they are jobs I feel are integral to fully representing the interests of our Membership. I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Capital Area United Way, where I was previously seated on their Funding Committee as your Vice President. This position provides me an opportunity to convey the needs and status of our various membership demographics and give the United Way feedback on how vital their programs are to our population.


I have also been seated on the Supervisory Committee of our own Lansing Automakers Financial Credit Union (LAFCU). For those who may not know, members of UAW Local 652 founded LAFCU. In this position, I can voice concerns and advocate for our Members when problems are brought to me or when complaints are received through the channels of the Credit Union. We review these issues and work to provide the proper treatment and protection of all Members.

With all that has happened in the upper echelon of our great Union, I feel it is also essential to make it clear that all of these positions are unpaid volunteer positions. You must still be selected to be on these boards, and it is understood that the reward is community stewardship.

Hopefully, this update provides more depth into the workings of the Local. I hope to be able to utilize this as a Community communication tool to our Membership.

Until next month!

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Frantz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and "F".

Ben Frantz, President

UAW Local 652