



LOCAL 31 NEWSLINE

February 2011

Kansas City, Kansas

Volume 14, Issue 1

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Dedire Hawkins

Financial Secretary

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Kathy Belshe

Norma Raya

Keith Shelton

Sgt. At Arms

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Guide

Cindy Crable

Shop Chairman

John Melton

Retiree Rep.

Jack Yunghans

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President's Report



Pres. Jeff Manning

Happy New Year! It was great to spend time with friends and family. I hope everyone was able to do the same.

I would like to thank the Recreation Committee for a great Christmas party. I would also like to thank the membership for submitting contract resolutions. Local resolution will be coming out very soon.

The UAW CAP committee spent the week of Jan. 16th in Washington D.C. at the National CAP Conference. After two days of discussing issues important to us as a union, we went on to Capitol Hill to meet with congress persons and senators. UAW President Bob King made it clear that we must focus on ORGANIZING. He made it clear that we will be working to organize the Trans-national plants. President King pointed out that we are a social justice movement and I could not agree more. WE MUST COMMIT to this way of thinking we, the UAW, are about PEOPLE and JOBS, when most of Washington

seems to be about corporations and profits. Toyota, BMW, KIA and Mercedes corporations are all organized in their home countries so in essence they come to the United States to exploit cheap labor. President of CWA, Larry Cohen spoke on behalf of organizing and building coalitions to motivate working class people to talk to each other praised the "Gimmefive" program as a tool to this. President Cohen understands that there is power in numbers. All of organized labor must bond together to fight corporate greed. Issues that the working men and women have do not seem to be a big concern to many members in Washington. As you may be aware of, the House of Representatives voted to repeal the National Health Care Bill that was passed last year. They voted right down party lines. I find it hard to believe that not one republican voted- not ONE, to keep health care. This bill may not be perfect, and may need some amendments-it does not need to be repealed. This bill will not pass in the Senate, and may never even be brought up in the Senate. It may be January 2011, but we must commit to the 2012 elections. We, the middle

class working men and women, have got to get the message out that it is not about republicans, democrats, independents or the Tea party. It is about working people, families, children, jobs, good paying jobs, retiree benefits healthcare and the list goes on. Please pay attention as this 112th Congress votes on issues that are important to the middle class. President King said it best, "We are a SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT", and we all need to do our part with each and every one of us working together in solidarity. The middle-class will again rise up.

Please plan on attending the next Local 31 Union Meeting on February 19th beginning at 2:00 p.m. followed by the E-Board meeting that begins at 1:00 p.m.

May God Bless
and Keep you Always

IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE SOLUTION,
YOU'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM



GET ACTIVE IN YOUR UNION!

UNION MEETING NOTICE

The next monthly Regular Executive Board and Membership Meetings will be held Saturday February 19, 2011 (always the 3rd Saturday). The E-Board meets at 1:00 pm followed by the Regular Membership at 2:00 pm. IF PRODUCTION IS SCHEDULED FOR THAT SATURDAY, MEETING TIMES WILL BE POSTED IN THE PLANT THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING TIME. (Retirees may call the Union Hall for meeting times.)

RETIREE MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2011

11:00 am

The regular retiree meetings are held on the third Tuesdays of each month except for July and August. The meeting begins at 11:00 am followed by a pot-luck lunch. Please bring a large covered side dish. Spouses are welcome.

Shop Chairman's Report

Sisters and Brothers of Local 31,

There are currently 57 grievances in the procedure with 5 of them being discharge or termination cases. Everyone returned to work on Tuesday, January 18 after the Martin Luther King negotiated holiday.

The temps came back in after the down time (118) and we still have 58 flex employees.

All Paragraph 63 transfers were voided on January 1, 2011. Anyone desirous of transferring pursuant to Paragraph 63(a) or 63(b) of the National Agreement must apply at Labor Relations.

I want to thank everyone for their assistance in submitting resolutions. We had over 300 of them turned in for changes to the National Agreement. They have been sent to the appropriate sub-councils to be combined with

those from the other locals. The Sub-Council meeting will be from February 7 – 10 in Detroit.

We have been notified that the payout of unused vacation time will be on your check the week of January 30, 2011.

The next regular union meeting will be on February 19, 2011 at 2:00 pm.

Women's Committee

Happy New Year to All, The Women's Committee hopes everyone had a wonderful, joyful and safe holiday and enjoyed their additional time off. Welcome back!

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS—We are proud to announce the total amount collected for American Cancer Society from GM-UAW Fairfax Assembly was **\$5,862.25**, bringing our plant to second place within the top five fundraising companies. We thank everyone for all their support and participation in the Breast Cancer Awareness events and activities.

2011 REGION 5 CONFERENCE—We like to thank our Executive Board for allowing Teena Taylor and Robin Harris to attend the 2011 Region 5 Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, CA this month. The theme was: "Educate, Organize & Rebuild for Jobs & Social Justice". This year, elections

were held there for the UAW Region 5 Women's Council and we like to congratulate our Local 31 Financial Secretary, Donna Birks for being elected as President of UAW Region 5 Women's Council, as well as Teena Taylor and Robin Harris being elected on UAW Region 5 Women's Council Board.

Topics discussed were:

- UAW Region 5 Union Organizing Information
- Principles of Organizing is simply the 1st Amendment Right
- What role we played in 2010 Election

- 2011 Legislative Agenda/Women's related issues
- Union workers get more benefits/higher wages than non-union workers

- The purpose of Gimme Five 5
- Paycheck Fairness Act...It's Long Overdue
- Effective Worker-to-Worker and Woman-to-Woman Pro-

gram

- 8 steps to powerful planning
- Women's Committee agenda for incoming Congress

- CLUW Applications

WHITE SHIRT DAY—February 11th. Let's please remember the sacrifices and victories of the workers during the 1936-1937 sit down strike in Flint, Michigan. We're asking everyone to wear their white shirts on February 11th in showing respect and support for those who made those sacrifices, as well honoring the Women's Emergency Brigade.

WOMEN HISTORY MONTH—March is Women's History month and we are in the midst of plans for this year's event, and will be announced at a later date.

Together We Stand, Divided We Fall!

Women's Committee

Robin Harris, Charlotte Dickey
Teena Taylor, Summer Small

Community Services Report

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters:
Happy New Year and welcome back from your holiday break. We hope everyone was safe and had an enjoyable time with family and friends.

The Community Service Committee would like to thank all of you that participated in the Adopt-A-Family program this year. Because of the generosity of all of you, it was a wonderful success. We had 32 families that were helped this year between all three shifts. We had

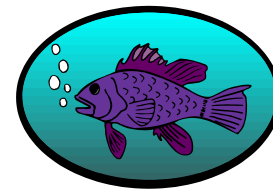
close to 100 children that had a Christmas that they will never forget. These children did not just receive one present, they received many gifts.

This program would never be possible without the hard work and dedication from the coordinators and all of you in each group. This is a major undertaking and we know that it takes a lot of time, at the busiest time of the year. We can never express how much we appreciate all of you that give of yourselves so tirelessly in an effort to help another family.

Watch for more information about the resumption of the towel drive for the City Union Mission – these folks need our help, too.

In closing, we must say thanks, again, for all of your hard work that you did for the families this year. Stay warm and please contact us if there is any way we can be of service to you.

Solidarity forever,
Your Community Services
Committee
Misty Coghlan
Denise Garner



BASS CLUB SCHEDULE 2011

The Local 31 Bass Club has set their schedule for the 2011 season:

March 20 – Lake Ozark
April 17 – Truman State Park
May 15 – Pomme de

Terre
June 12 – Truman State Park

July 17 – Pomme de Terre

August 21 – Truman St. Park

Sept. 25 – Pomme de Terre

Oct. 29 & 30 – Truman &

Lake Ozark
Tournament # 1 is a \$105 entry fee - # 2 – 7 are \$55.00 entry fees. # 8 (Fish-off) is \$100 entry fee.

Eligibility – two persons per boat make a team – one member of the team must be a UAW member, retiree or immediate family member of the UAW member or retiree.

For more information contact the Union Hall or Jack Walton at (913) 299-8623.

Recording Secretary

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,
Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your holidays and time off. I did! Welcome back to work, and remember now that we're back to think "SAFETY." Also as you've realized, here in the heart of Kansas City in the winter – dress warm, winterize, buckle up and drive safe.

From January 9 – 12 I attended a leadership conference. The class was basic on prepar-

ing Region 5 leadership for the collective bargaining negotiations. The main issues were negotiation strategies, anti-union employer tactics, pressure tactics, health & safety, critical problems in the workplace, writing a resolution, and the Worker to Worker program. Overall, the conference was very informative.

"Lesson on Teamwork from Geese"

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for

the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quickly and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Solidarity forever!
Dedire Hawkins,
Recording Secretary

PRESTO Chang-O

A mother and son from Antarctica are visiting a mall. They're amazed by almost everything but especially by two shiny silver walls that can move apart and back together again.

The boy asks, "What's that, Mom?"

Never having seen an elevator, the mother responds, "Son,

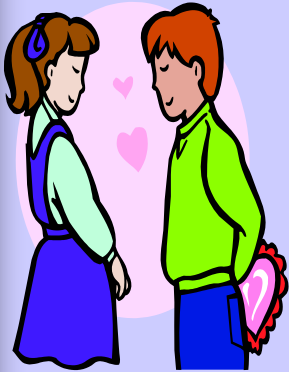
I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is."

While the two watch wide-eyed, an elderly man in a wheelchair rolls up to the moving walls and presses a button. The walls open and the man rolls between them into a small room.

The walls close and the boy and his mother watch small circles of lights with numbers light up above the walls. Then the circles light up in the reverse direction.

The walls open again and a muscular young man steps out.

The mother says to the son, "Go and get your father."



She walks in beauty,
like the night
Of cloudless climes
and starry skies,
And all that's best of
dark and bright,
Meet in the aspect
and her eyes;
Thus mellow'd to
that tender light
Which heaven and

Lord Bryon



Black History Month

February marks the beginning of Black History Month, a federally recognized nation-wide celebration that provides the opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the significant roles that African Americans have played in the shaping of U.S. history. But how did this celebration come to be—and why does it take place in February?

We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875 – 1950) is considered to be a pioneer in the study of African American history and is given much of the credit for Black History Month. The son of former slaves, Woodson spent his childhood working in coalmines and quarries. He received his education during the four-month term that was

customary for black schools at the time. Eventually he received a Masters degree in history and a PhD from Harvard University.

In 1926 Woodson developed Negro History week which was eventually expanded in 1976 into Black History



Month. It is sometimes referred to as African American Heritage Month.

A Lesson from Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement:

(by Drew Dellinger)

If you want to change the world, change the worldview. To get to the root of our current ecological and social crises, we have to look at the structures of

consciousness – the stories, myths, narratives, and paradigms – that shape the modern world and inhabit our minds. Racism, patriarchy, oppression and ecological destruction can be seen as dysfunctional “stories” made tragically real. To heal the culture, we need to heal our cosmology, our worldview or cultural story. As, Thomas Berry often said, (drawing on Jung), “The dream drives the action.” The dream of a society drives and guides the actions. Tapping into the electric currents of our national psyche, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement transformed the country by dreaming and embodying a new cultural narrative.

More information about in-plant activities to recognize Black History Month will be in the Fairfax Report.

Human & Civil
Rights Committee
Bruce Drew
Patricia Trevino
Bruce Call

Vice President's Report

Happy New Year

to all Brothers and Sisters of Local 31.

I'm currently out on sick leave but looking forward to returning really soon.

I want to thank the Community Service Committee for another job well done with the Adopt-A-Family Program in the plant, as well as all of the members who participated. Also, a big thanks goes to the Recreation committee for the Breakfast with Santa and the Adult Parties – everyone had a great time.

Be sure to come to the Valentine's Party and to the next regular Union Meeting. See you in March.

George R. Ruiz

**LOCAL 31 ANNUAL
VALENTINE'S PARTY
SATURDAY, FEB. 12
8:00 PM – 2:00 AM**

At the Union Hall
Refreshments served 9-11

BYOB

Dancing

Come join the fun,
Date or no date!

Sponsored by the
Recreation
Committee

Libby Dantzler

D. A. Thomas, Kristine Shumate
Boo Harris

C A P Committee

Happy New Year to All! Every new year brings new hopes, new dreams and new desires for ourselves and the new world around us. And like every year, we are challenged to make New Year's resolutions that will improve our hearts, our minds and our bodies to transform us into the individuals we strive to be.

But have we considered making a New Year's resolution for the UAW and organized labor? Our UAW-negotiated jobs are an integral part of our lives. All that we have in the workplace is due solely because of the skills and sacrifices of the people who make up the proudest union in America: the UAW.

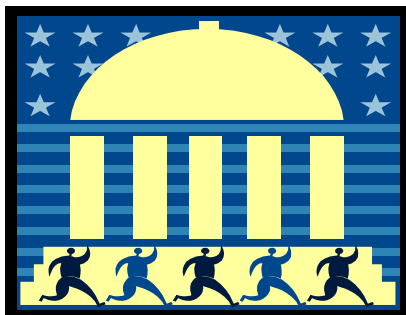
So, why do our resolutions only center on ourselves? Can each of us, as proud UAW members, resolve to do more for our union in 2011 than we did in 2010? It doesn't have to be much – pledging to attend union meetings is an easy start. Volunteering a few hours of your time to help at the Local's functions is another easy task.

How about signing up for the UAW's newest information-sharing tool, GimmeFIVE (www.GimmeFIVEuaw.org)? All of these are great ways to get more involved with your union.

However, new UAW President Bob King has issued the grandest challenge to each and every one of us – join him in the fight for workers' rights to organize. President King cited the basis of his challenge when he said "Both the free press and free unions depend upon the right of free speech and freedom of association, which in this country are enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution. The right to organize unions is the First Amendment for workers." Through a seemingly daunting task, the most basic way to begin is to talk to

family, friends and neighbors, and promote to them union-made products. Each of you know UAW workers make the finest vehicles in America – now is the time to share that enthusiasm with everyone you know, particularly those who drive foreign vehicles!

As King pointed out, our fundamental rights as workers are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, but those are constantly under fire by those who wish to deprive us of those rights. Luckily we have the UAW and organized labor to protect us from the abuses of power that threaten the security of all we have fought for in the past. President King drives this home when



he pointed out that past generations of UAW workers fought until the US auto industry was 100% unionized. But over the past few decades, political changes brought by those opposed to organized labor has dropped the amount of organized auto workers to less than 50% in this country, based upon the alarming number of non-union Japanese, Korean and German auto plants now in the US. The National Labor Relations Board is responsible for acting impartially in corporate/labor disputes, including overseeing fair organizing practices, but since the NLRB is politically appointed, fighting for change over the last 30 years has been an uphill battle as the NLRB's "impartiality" has been on the side of big business.

The political climate in Washington D.C. took a nasty turn for unions in the

2010 mid-term election, as many labor-friendly candidates in the House of Representatives lost their seats to those who oppose our very existence. The new Speaker of the House, John Boehner (R-Ohio) is no friend of labor, and he has made President Obama's National Health Care Program (which was universally supported by all of organized labor) his first target to repeal. This is typical Boehner behavior as he has received over \$4 million from the health insurance industry lobbyists. He has shown his support for big business over his entire career and has taken millions in their PAC monies as a result. Shouldn't we all make a resolution to promote candidates who are willing to fight for good American Union jobs instead of the John Boehners of the world?

Finally, your UAW Local 31 CAP Committee asks that each of you resolve to increase your amount of political activity in 2011. This can be as easy as contacting your local, state and/or national representatives and let them know how their legislative actions affect you as a proud union worker. You can also increase your monthly donation to the UAW-VCAP, which helps fund the candidates who will support us. It's not just your job on the line – it's our livelihood.

In solidarity,
Your Local 31 CAP
Committee

Don Marshall Richie Martins
Veronica McLaughlin-Boyd
A.J. Shumate Dave Barnhart

About Your Benefits

Retirees Only These Changes will actually increase the weekly take-home pay of a retiree.

This bulletin is to advise you of a number of tax form changes and 2011 tax withholding changes for Defined Contribution (DC) and Defined Benefit (DB) plan participants who will be receiving a 1099 Series Tax Form. 1099 Series Tax Forms are applicable only to retirees or deferred vested participants, surviving spouses, and beneficiaries who are receiving pension benefits.

1099 Series Tax Form:

IRS's intent is to remove full SSN and use only last four from the 1099. Fidelity is in process of adopting this change. All other forms will continue to use full SSN#. Beginning January 12 Fidelity will begin emailing participants with valid e-mail addresses as to when tax forms are available for printing via NetBenefits.

Hardcopy tax forms will continue to be mailed by applicable due date.

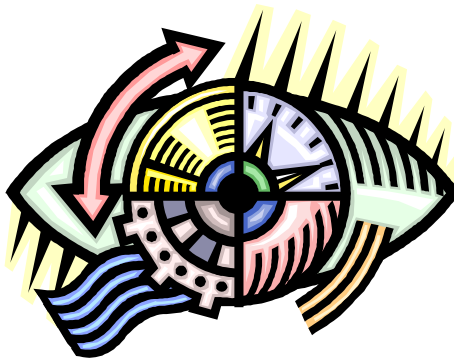
Tax Withholding Change

As of Jan.1, 2011, the optional Making Work Pay Credit withholding adjustment will no longer be part of the Federal withholding tables. The impact to many people receiving qualified recurring payments will be that their Federal withholding will be reduced by a maximum of \$33.40 for single and \$50.00 for married status.

In addition to the Making Work Pay Credit change, there are also Federal tax changes that will impact withholding. The expectation is that these changes will show up in the 2/1/ or 3/1/11 pension payment. Some state withholding amounts are linked to Federal withholding. Since Federal withholding will be changing for some people, their state withholding might change slightly.

Based on a preliminary analysis of the 2011 Federal tax tables, some people,

their state withholding might change slightly. Based on a preliminary analysis of the 2011 Federal tax tables, some people who never had withholding will see it for the first time because the starting point for withholding is lower in 2011 than it was in 2010. Other people will see slight increases or decreases which is similar to what happens every year. Participants are responsible for withholding enough money from their payments to meet their tax obligation. If participants have concerns with the change to their withholding, they can



request changes to their elections to meet their individual tax needs by contacting 1-800-489-4646.

Active Members

Notice of Dependent Losing Coverage from General Motors Health Care Program

There are still 700 members who did respond to the audit verbally but never completed the verification process by providing the proper supporting documentation. A final letter is being sent out to the 700 giving them a last chance to provide documentation. If they fail to send supporting documentation in a timely manner, the dependent (s) will be cancelled again. All affected members should receive a notice from General Motors.

All employees who are currently covering dependents age 19 to age 26 for

medical coverage will have dental and vision coverage automatically added to their account retroactive to January 1, 2011. Additional information will be mailed to eligible active hourly participants homes in early February. Please do not contact GM Benefits and Services, Dental or Vision Carriers as they have no additional information at this time.

“Quit the Nic” Smoking Cessation Program as condition of continued and new prescription coverage of Chantix and Zyban begins 1/11. Join the telephone-based tobacco cessation and relapse prevention program by calling 800-775-2583. Overall goal of Quit the Nic is to reduce health burden costs associated with all forms of tobacco addiction. Over a 12-month period, registered nurse health coaches are available Mon-Fri, 9-9pm to assist you with your goal to quit smoking. Voluntary participation by the member is used to grant pharmacy coverage for smoking cessation aides and the future authorization of Chantix/Zyban. Subscriptions will be rescinded if the member does not continue to actively participate in Quit the Nic. Program. BCBS will make 2 calls to the member before considering them as “not participating”. BCBS will notify Medco when determination is made that member is no longer participating and thereby no longer eligible for either medication. In an effort to not disrupt those currently taking Chantix/Zyban will be grandfathered for a maximum of 12 weeks and will expire at the end of March 2011. Please visit BCBS website “Quit the Nic”, or call 800-755-2583.

UBR Benefit Rep
913-573-7421

1st UBR Craig Dumortier
UBR Cheryl Millican
2nd UBR Bobbie Dunnell
UBR J.D. Hogan

*The Executive Board and Membership of UAW Local 31
would like to extend their deepest sympathies
to the families and friends of the following members who passed away recently*

STANLEY HOHMAN
Joined: June 1962
Retired: May 1991
Dept. 40
Died: November 11, 2010

FRED E. STEWART
Joined: April 1967
Retired: June 1991
Department 11
Died: December 2010

JAMES A. RICHARDSON
Joined: April 1949
Retired: January 1982
Department 73
Died: January 9, 2011

CHARLES E. ROBERTS
Joined: Feb. 1950
Retired: Feb. 1980
Dept. 50
Died: December 2, 2010

LARRY J. CRAVEN
Joined: December 1961
Retired: March 1993
Department 50
Died: December 19, 2010

THEODORE ELROD
Joined: November 1946
Retired: May 1987
Department 11
Died: January 10, 2011

ELDIN T. GOLUBSKI
Joined: June 1949
Retired: July 1979
Dept. 41
Died: December 5, 2010

JOHN W. SOPCICH
Joined: November 1971
Retired: July 1981
Department 40
Died: December 26, 2010

EARL DUNCAN
Joined: January 1953
Retired: May 1983
Department 27
Died: January 10, 2011

LEO HILL
Joined: June 1953
Retired: Sept. 1981
Dept. 19
Died: December 5, 2010

SPENCER LAWRENCE
Joined: August 1968
Retired: January 2000
Department 41
Died: December 30, 2010

ROBERT MORROW
Joined: November 1974
Retired: January 2007
Department 50
Died: January 11, 2011

LESTER OSBORN
Joined: Jan. 1963
Retired: March 1993
Dept. 41
Died: December 6, 2010

LESLIE J. KINGSLEY
Joined: April 1976
Retired: October 2005
Department 50
Died: January 2, 2011

STEVE O'KEEFE
Joined: January 1964
Retired: January 2007
Department 25
Died: January 12, 2011

DARRELL MORGAN
Joined: June 1979
Retired: August 1994
Department 15
Died: December 9, 2010

LOUIS H. NELSON
Joined: June 1952
Retired: March 1982
Department 17
Died: January 7, 2011

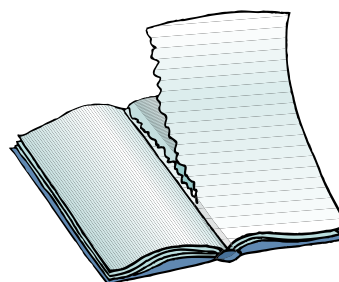
HAROLD STARK
Joined: September 1950
Retired: June 1980
Department 50
Died: January 13, 2011

WILLIE D. HOWELL
Joined: November 1964
Retired: November 1991
Department 50
Died: December 13, 2010

IRWIN J. HOLLAND, JR.
Joined: September 1946
Retired: October 1976
Department 11
Died: January 7, 2011

JOHN F. HELM, SR
Joined: June 1953
Retired: 1982
Department 30
Died: December 14, 2010

BILLY KILLBRETH
Joined: August, 1979
Retired: June 2003
Department 70
Died: January 8, 2011



**United Automobile-Aerospace
-Agricultural Implement
Workers of America**

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2010 Victor Armstrong Winning Essay

by Sadie Deckman
"How Unions have Effectuated My Life"

My name is Sadie Deckman, daughter of Russel Deckman. The union has effectuated my life in numerous ways, but not only has it played a major role in my life, but for my father's life before having me as well. My father has been an active member of the union since he was eighteen years old. He has been an employee for the construction union local 264 prior to getting a job at General Motors, and has also been a part of the pipefitters union when he was laid off from General Motors in 1981 and 1982. My father has altogether been a faithful mem-

ber of the union for 31 years working on the body shop and recently moving to material. Thus being said, the UAW has always found a way to keep my father a job, and to make sure the job was local so that he could have me and raise me. The union has effectuated me sufficiently because if it weren't for my father working for the union, I may not have had the opportunities that I do today. There are people all over the world jobless, or thirsting for education and I can proudly say that my family succeeded in helping my father keep his job. With my Father being a member of the union, I have always had quality health care whenever

I was sick or injured. As you can see, the union has helped tremendously in ways that could never be thanked enough. I am now 18 years old and will be graduating May 23rd, 2010 and going to college to earn my Bachelors degree in nursing. My ambition is to become an Intensive Neonatal Nurse, which in all will take me about six to eight years of college. The UAW would further help my family and if I were to win this scholarship money and be able to use it towards school tuition, books, labs, and all other essentials needed in fulfilling my dreams.



Local 320