



LOCAL 31 NEWSLINE

June 2011

Kansas City, Kansas

Volume 14, Issue 6

UAW Local 31 Executive Board

President

Jeff Manning

Vice President

George Ruiz

Recording Secretary

Dedire Hawkins

Financial Secretary

Donna Birks

Trustees

Kathy Belshe

Norma Raya

Keith Shelton

Sgt. At Arms

Charles Hall

Guide

Cindy Crable

Shop Chairman

John Melton

Retiree Rep.

Jack Yunghans

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UAW LOCAL 31 ELECTION RESULTS

MAY 20, 2011

OF BALLOTS CAST 2649

OF SPOILED BALLOTS 43

OF CHALLENGED BALLOTS 15

ELECTION RUNOFF WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 2, 2011 beginning at 5:00 am and ending at 8:00 am on JUNE 3, AT UAW LOCAL 31 UNION HALL.

PRESIDENT

George R. Ruiz	<u>879*Runoff</u>
John Change Anderton	<u>105</u>
Mark E. Wilkerson	<u>801</u>
Jeff Peanut Manning	<u>864*Runoff</u>

VICE PRESIDENT

Larry M. Davis	<u>746*Runoff</u>
Michael R. Green	<u>558</u>
AJ Shumate	<u>666*Runoff</u>
Charles Hall	<u>621</u>

RECORDING SECRETARY

Dedire Hawkins	<u>1626</u>
Sean James	<u>904</u>

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Donna Birks	<u>1619</u>
Kathy Belshe	<u>984</u>

TRUSTEES

3 ELECTED

Geneva Anderson	<u>733</u>
Debbie Dising	<u>838*Runoff</u>
Clarence E. Brown, C.B.	<u>1294 Elected</u>
Dolores Dec Chester	<u>500</u>
Lamar Wright	<u>619</u>
Norma A. Raya	<u>1056*Runoff</u>
Pamela Mason	<u>1001*Runoff</u>
Brian Woffangel	<u>816*Runoff</u>

GUIDE

Veronica Boyd	<u>1321</u>
Francine Williams	<u>1183</u>

SGT. AT ARMS

Keith Crowell	<u>1336</u>
D C David Clark	<u>1135</u>

SHOP CHAIRMAN

John Melton	<u>1411</u>
Charles White	<u>1104</u>

1st SH. ZONE COMMITTEEMAN

Greg Sexton XMAN	<u>71</u>
Jorge Rodriguez	<u>480</u>
Steve Call	<u>57</u>
Joe Z Zibrowski	<u>295</u>

2nd SH. ZONE COMMITTEEMAN

Chris Schmohl	<u>375</u>
Walt Wedow	<u>467</u>

3rd SH. ZONE COMMITTEEMAN

Kevin Wunderlin	<u>141</u>
Joe Griffin	<u>110</u>
Johnny Mac M ^e Entire	<u>500</u>

RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

Jack Yunghans (by acclamation)

Jm/opelu320
5-20-2011



BLACK LAKE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now available for this summer's [2011 Family Scholarship Program](#) at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center in Onaway, MI

The long-running program allows UAW members to rediscover their labor activism while providing a fun learning experience for the family.

Children ages 3-7 and 8-11 go to age-appropriate day camps where they participate in creative arts, music, games, athletics and swimming. Youngsters ages 12-15 get their feet wet in labor activism with specially designed workshops, plus activities such as golf, swimming and gym games. And teens ages 16-18 participate in a program to prepare them for the working world.

Your union pays for all lodging, food and program costs. Participants may choose to pay for other things such as group photographs, gift shop items, golf or activities in nearby communities.

To be eligible for a family scholarship, you must be a UAW member in good standing for at least a year and never have attended the scholarship program. This summer's three sessions are July 10-15, July 17-22 (which also offers a session in Spanish) and July 24-29.

President's Report

Brothers and Sisters

The first thing I must say is thank you for turning out to vote. Over 2700 members came out to vote.

THANK YOU!

Local 31 members are strong, and can be stronger when we are all UNITED. I wish I could say the results are all final, but as you know we must have a run-off election on June 2-3, 2011, for President, Vice-President and the remaining 2 Trustee's. Please come out and VOTE.

CONGRATULATIONS to all who were elected. Local 31 can only be as strong as its membership. Thanks to ALL who ran for positions in this diverse, but UNITED Local 31. Thank you to the election committee for a job well done.

The month of May has

been disastrous with Tornadoes and flooding. Local 31 and GM had a gate collection for the Red Cross disaster relief fund on May 12th to help out the six states in the south raising \$4,970 dollars. Now only 2 weeks later we will again have a gate collection for the Red Cross with the storm in Joplin Mo. which has taken over 100 lives. I am proud to say UAW Local 31-General Motors has always answered the bell when people are in need.

THANK YOU!

The Memorial Day holiday is the official kick-off of summer, please be safe. Always be mindful of motorcycles by keeping a keen eye out for them. Please keep in mind the children will be out playing everywhere and to look out for their safety.

The women's committee

had their first garage sale. Thanks to all those who came out. Please attend the events that the committee's sponsor-these are the ways we get involved and our unity grows.

Keep the date for the following:

Juneteenth Celebration will be on June 14 and 15. See the Civil and Human Rights article, also Chaplaincy is scheduled to host another "Blessing of the Bikes" (tba) and fellowship meeting on June 19th.

The next E-Board meeting will be June 18, 2011 beginning at 1 p.m., and followed by the Regular Membership Meeting at 2 p.m. Retirees will meet on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 11 a.m. As always spouses are welcome and bring a covered dish to share.

May God Bless and Keep You Always

Jeff D. M...

Vice President

HELLO BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF LOCAL 31!

Congratulations to all the elected officers! We had a great turnout for our election; it was good to see our membership come out and let their votes make a difference. There will be a run-off on June 2nd from 5:00 am till June 3rd at 8:00 am. Please come out again and let your vote be counted.

I would like to thank all the candidates for the outstanding

job they did in our democratic process. This should truly bring us together in our solidarity.

Thanks to the Civil and Human Rights Committee for the Cinco de Mayo Celebration. The next celebration will be the Juneteenth on June 14 & 15.

Our next Union meeting is June 18th at 2:00, please plan to come out for that. The retirees meeting is June 21 at 11:00 am.

Plan ahead for the annual Local 31 picnic on August 6 from noon until 4:00. Please call the Union Hall at (913) 342-7330 if you'd like to put your name on the list to volunteer.

If I can be of service to you, please call and leave me a message at the hall (913) 342-7330 or send me an e-mail at george.ruiz@gm.com.

In solidarity,

George R. Ruiz

Women's Committee

Hello Sisters and Brothers, GARAGE SALE EXTRA- GANZA-



The Women's Committee would like to thank all members and vendors

who purchased booths to sell their items, and all who came out to support this event whether to browse or shop. Our original **PLAN A** was to have booths indoors and outdoors, but the cool and windy weather did not permit this plan. Our **PLAN B** worked out just fine where we had all booths inside the hall. It also became a swap and shop among the vendors, where they purchased from each other. The most common questions/comments by shoppers were: "Will we do this again, and when?" "Do we have lawn mowers/tools?" "This is different" and "This is very nice and organized," so next time we will encourage brothers to check their

garages for more "MAN" stuff, old tools, etc. There was a total of 34 booths, and we're happy everyone enjoyed being a part of this. We do plan to do this again, but no date is set at this time. Thank you.

ANNUAL WHITE LINEN PARTY – It's that time of year again for our annual White Linen Party. As a fundraiser, we are sponsoring our annual "**White Linen Party**" on June 4, 2011 at the Union Hall from 8:30 pm till 1:30



pm. Union **BROTHERS**, you're invited to this casual dress event, so come stroll in your white short set, jeans, out-fit, suit, slacks, etc. And **SISTERS**, we know you want to sashay in – in your white sun dress, short set, pant suit, skirt, jeans, capris, etc. We plan to have food, set-ups, and a cool DJ to play

a variety of music for the line dancers, 2 steppers, jammers, ball room dancers, and even the slow dancers. As this is a fundraiser, a \$7 donation per person will greatly appreciated. **BYOB**, adults only.

SOLIDARITY MAGAZINE – If there are any members who are not receiving this magazine, please call our Financial Secretary, Donna Birks to be added to this list for re-activation of magazine subscription. **The SOLIDARITY** magazine is published bimonthly by the International Union-UAW. It consists of articles and information from various locals around the world. The magazine subscription is for all UAW members at no cost. We encourage everyone to please call to start receiving the magazine. The sooner you call, the sooner you will start receiving your magazine.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY – to all of our Brothers in the plant.

Local 31

Women's Committee

Robin Harris Charlotte Dickey

Teena Taylor Summer Small

Shop Chairperson's Report

Sisters & Brothers of Local 31:

We currently have 157 grievances in the procedure. Saturday, June 25, 2011 has been Cancelled and rescheduled for 24, 2011 8 hours for all 3 shifts.

Management has hired an additional 60 temporary employees – 30 for vacation relief. The others are to fill vacancies while awaiting permanent transfers from other locations.

The "annual automatic exemption period" for this model year will begin May 26, 2011 and will end June 30, 2011. During this time, the 9-hour daily hour and Saturday and Sunday overtime is waived per the National Agreement.

Resolutions for the upcoming local agreement should be submitted beginning on May 30, 2011 through July 1, 2011. Drop off your completed forms at the Work Center or the Union Hall.

Congratulations to all the candidates on the past election and on a personal note I would like to thank the membership for their continuous support.

The next union meeting will be June 18, 2011 at 2:00 at the Hall, plan on attending.

If you need to contact your chair – contact me at (913) 573-7776 or call the Union Hall and leave a message at (913) 342-7330 between the hours of

6:30 am and 4:30 pm. If you need to reach your zone committee person, call the Work Center at (913) 573-7420 or (913) 573-7790.

Enjoy your UAW negotiated holiday on May 30, 2011. Our future auto-workers are out of school – watch out for them!

Buckle up and be safe as you begin your summer travels.

Your Shop Chair,



SCAB LIST

CYNTHIA COZAD
DEPT. 47
HERIBERTO
ESCOBAR
DEPT 25
MICHAEL HILL
DEPT 17
BRET LAFLE
DEPT. 50
JEFFEREY B
MAXWELL JR
DEPT. 11
ALLEN W. MCBETH
DEPT. 15
CARLOS MCCAIN
DEPT. 18
MICHAEL M.
PRUETT
DEPT. 17
JOYCE RANEY
DEPT. 17
TODD SPAVALE
DEPT. 11
JAMES YOUTSEY
DEPT. 25



Veteran's Committee

Brothers and Sisters:

I would like to take the time to thank the entire membership for giving me the honor to serve you all on the Veterans Committee, as Chair of the committee. As many of you know, I will be returning to Flint, MI to be closer to my family. I will miss Local 31 as I have made many friends here. My last day at Local 31 is June 3rd. With the help of many, too many to name here, we have expanded on what the Veterans Committee had done in the past. I feel confident that those that are still on the committee will continue to do an outstanding job for all of you.

If you are a Veteran, and you have not applied to the Veterans Administration (VA) for your earned benefits, I ask you; please apply to gain what is rightfully yours. I know a lot of us Veterans feel we are undeserving of those benefits, that there are Veterans in more need than us. I try to stress this to all Veterans – You all deserve whatever benefits you can receive from the VA – you have served this great nation and were there – ready to defend us. I can never stress this enough!

I would also like to thank everyone who helped with the June Stand Down. Serving our homeless Veterans is a great

thing to do. We can never do too much to help those Veterans who have fallen on hard times. Over the past few years, as we take the gift of bags to the VA Domiciliary in Leavenworth KS, the average age of the homeless Veterans has steadily gone down. This is a problem we all need to be aware of, and we strive to help make it better.

In solidarity,
Gerald Provost,
Semper Fi!
Veterans Committee
Bob Dyche
Todd Dix
Reggie Threat

Credit Union News

The purpose of the UAW-MO-KAN Federal Credit Union putting information in the *Newsline* is to keep members, friends and family updated on events, promotions and changes at the Credit Union. Our Coin Club has a coloring contest going on at this time. The Credit Union will match

any interest rate on a secured loan during the next few months.

It is always a good time to think about saving, responsibly spending and borrowing money. We want to provide information so the task of saving, spending and borrowing can be accomplished.

The journey toward financial freedom begins with you. We want you to know that you have a Credit Union that can help you with that journey. Call us at (913) 342-0293



Arbor Day



On April 29, 2011 the recreation committee and local president Jeff Manning celebrated Arbor Day by planting four fruit trees on north side of the union hall. They also planted a rose at the

entry way of the union hall in memory of Local 31's former



maintenance worker, Dave Ross, who lost his battle with cancer on April 26, 2009. He

had worked with the Local since 2003. Members of the Recreation Committee are Libby Dantzler, Kristine Shumate, Boo Harris, D. A. Thomas and Larry Davis. The Committee thanks the members of the Local who stopped by to help out with planting the trees.

CAP Committee Report

Brothers and Sisters of UAW Local 31:

Webster's Dictionary defines a labor union as, "An organization of workers formed for the purpose of advancing its members' interests in respect to wages, benefits, and working conditions." It goes without saying, but should be noted that without businesses to employ workers, labor unions would not exist. And throughout the history of labor unions in the United States, the larger the business, invariably the larger the need for a labor union. Employer and employee have traditionally gone hand-in-hand due to a natural reliance upon each other for the success of the business itself. That is, until recently.

All types of big businesses have been buying political influence in Washington D.C., and in the capitals of every state in our country for many years. Not any more. Now they are simply buying the politicians. Case in point: David and Charles Koch of Koch Industries, the second largest privately held company in the country. These good ol' boys from Wichita, KS were born with silver spoons in their mouths, and became multi-millionaires when they inherited their father's oil business profits without ever doing an honest day of work in their lives. In 1980, David Koch was the Vice Presidential candidate on the Libertarian Party ticket. After a split with the Libertarians in 1984, David formed and was the first chairman of the organization, "Citizens for a Sound Economy" which was simply a platform to push the Koch brother's political agendas, until it split into "Americans for Prosperity" and "FreedomWorks" in 2004. David is the Chairman of the Board of "Americans for Pros-

perity", an organization that has been recognized as the largest single influence behind the rise of the Tea Party. The Koch brothers alone are responsible for millions of dollars of campaign donations to Tea Party candidates, and that number will grow in the 2012 election.

The mid-term elections of 2010 were a huge victory for big business-backed Tea Party candidates, who have shown that the only concern they have is to protect the profit margins of the men who paid for them to be there. Unfortunately, ultra-conservative politicians who are directly attacking average middle-class workers, and threatening their way of life are now protecting those profit margins. The chronicle of Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin is well known, but a telling moment in Walker's short career came on April 14th of this year when addressing the Congressional House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Walker admitted under oath that eliminating collective bargaining rights for Wisconsin state employees did not save the state any money and that prohibiting union members from paying dues from their paychecks didn't save the state a single penny. Walker did sum up his actions by saying, "Sometimes, bipartisanship is not so good." That makes sense coming from a politician whom has been bought by business interests that care nothing for the voice of the people. Only their own power base matters to men like this.

The Koch brothers are not alone. Gregg Steinhafel, the CEO of Target, Inc., alone gave \$150,000 to a radically conservative gubernatorial candidate in the 2010 Minnesota election. The list goes on from all

fields of big business. Interests representing the oil industry, insurance industries, banking and finance, major retailers and even the auto industry all have politicians on their payrolls in some way, shape or form. How else can you explain the outrageous idea of killing Medicare and replacing it with vouchers from insurance companies that was presented and debated by a Representative on the floor of the House? Insurance companies want pro-business politicians to protect the billions of dollars in their industries. The insurance companies don't care about the people who are forced to rely upon them for vital and sometimes life-saving services. Nor does any big business, for that matter. We are just numbers to Corporate America.

A popular trend since President George W. Bush took a budget surplus when he took office and turned it into a record deficit and a major recession is to give tax breaks to corporations and the rich. But the promised job creation that should have helped the economy hasn't happened. In fact, corporations have been eliminating jobs to produce more profits, which are sheltered from taxes by the laws created by politicians who protect their corporate masters. A vicious cycle is created when big businesses and the rich pay less in taxes and more to political campaigns and lobbying, which results in even more ways for corporations and the rich to avoid taxes. In several cases around the country, the answer to city, state and federal budget crises is to dump the responsibility on the middle/working class, and even the poor, in the form of cuts in vital services like the education of our children, so that the burden for the honest per-

UNION MEETING NOTICE

The next monthly Regular Executive Board and Membership Meetings will be held Saturday, June 18, 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 JUNE 21, 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 potluck lunch. Please bring a large covered side dish. Spouses are welcome.

Caring in the Workplace

Caring in the Workplace
"HAPPY FATHER'S DAY"

By: Herb Taylor / Senior Chaplain

When Ralph Chaplin wrote the words to the song "Solidarity", he must have had this day and time in mind. We are truly living in a time where we know it today is facing changes and difficult times. Our UAW brothers and sisters must learn how to embrace change instead of resisting change. Everything will be alright as long as we remember the 'forever' in "Solidarity".

Webster's Dictionary defines solidarity as: unanimity of attitude or purpose as between members of a group or class. 'Forever in Solidarity' is an attitude of unity, it is an attitude of unity, realizing that as long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that tear us apart, all will be well.

*When the union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run,
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun;
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one,
But the union makes us strong.*

The Bible tells us that we should walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit even as we are

called in one hope of our calling. The Bible also teaches us that there are many members but one body. The Bible exhorts us to be likeminded, having the same love, being on one accord, of no mind. Letting nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. And to look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. By doing this we will always keep the 'forever in solidarity'. Article 41 Section 2 of our UAW Constitution states that it shall be the duty of each member to render aid and assistance to our brother or sister member in cases of illness, death or distress, and in every way acquit her/himself as a loyal and devoted member of the International Union. This is truly what we mean when we say 'solidarity forever'. *In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold. Greater than the might of armies magnified a thousandfold. We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old. For the Union makes us strong.*

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worked for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are

temporal, and the things which are not seen eternal. Truly this is the 'forever in solidarity'. It is we who plowed the prairies; built the cities where they trade; Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid; Now we stand outcast and starving midst the wonders we have made; But the union makes us strong. Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever, IF GOD BE FOR US THAN WHO CAN BE AGAINST US.

LOCAL 31 CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

Mike Flores

Tracy Payne

Joetta Thompson

Mary Green, Retiree Chap.

Herb Taylor, Sr. Chaplain

GET READY GET READY The Chaplaincy committee

Annual Prayer Dinner will be held Sunday August 14, 2011 at our very own UAW Local 31

This event will feature singing, praise dancing, a powerful inspirational message and a dinner fit for a king. We will start serving dinner at 1pm and everyone is welcome to attend. Committee members and volunteers will have tickets for sale in the near future. Please help support us with a ten dollar donation, and we thank you in advance for your support. For additional information contact the union hall at 913) 342-7330 or call Herb Taylor at 816) 289-5124

Cont. CAP

son increases and those actually responsible are off the hook and enjoying yet another new tax shelter. Corporate America has truly corrupted the political process in their favor.

Another popular political/business trend is the push for Right to Work legislation on the state level across the country, including Missouri. Now, we all know that Right to Work is a misnomer and that those behind such legislation would dearly love to break unions. Data from Right to Works states tell the true story of the economic impact: lower wages, higher unemployment, less state funds, higher infant mortality rates and a lower general health rating, for example. However, these initiatives are being driven by pro-business political forces that seemingly only care about how they can make more cuts in thread-bare budgets to pay for the new corporate tax breaks.

Everyone knows that the middle class is shrinking rapidly. This is the plan and aim of big business in this country. Corporate America would much rather give our jobs to people in 3rd world countries, who make a fraction of what the average American worker does, so that they can maximize their profits. They also want us poor for control. This par-

ticular aspect is called the “Wal-Mart Mentality.” The business model of Wal-Mart throughout the last 20+ years is to move into an area (not unlike a swarm of locusts), offering prices so low that it forces small stores in that area out of business. Wal-Mart then pits prospective employees against existing employees, telling the current staff that they’re lucky to have the jobs they do for less money and less benefits, all the time quietly reminding them that they can be replaced at any time and without reason. And it’s all perfectly legal because they have politicians in their pockets that make sure that they are protected.

Corporate America has adopted the Wal-Mart Mentality. They now act as benevolent benefactors, who put on the façade of caring, all the while wanting the workers to fight over the few crumbs that are offered. And once the fighting between workers begins, it’s easy for Corporate America to throw the yoke of blame off of themselves and place it on the workers through misinformation and propaganda. And unfortunately, the workers do blame each other and not the cause of the original problem – Corporate America.

There is only one thing that prevents our employer from also adopting the

Wal-Mart Mentality: The UAW. Without the legal right to collectively bargain, we wouldn’t have the jobs we have right now. We cannot fight individually. We must stand as a union.

If more Tea Party gains are made in 2012 that allows them to take control of both the House and the Senate in Congress, and the White House as well, be prepared to lose everything. If there is something that is good for the workers in this country, it will come under attack. Unions, Medicare, Social Security – nothing will be safe. Corporate America does not want unions. They do not want a unified voice against the abuse of workers. They want pre-1935 sweat shops where the workers have no say about any aspect of their job.

It’s a simple fact - businesses need workers and workers need businesses. It is the right of every business to make a profit, and a healthy profit for the business can also benefit the workers who labor hard to help the company. However, profits that come off the backs of the workers will never be tolerated as long as there are unions and the UAW.

In solidarity,
Your UAW Local 31 CAP
Committee,
Don Marshall Richie Martins
Veronica Boyd
A.J. Shumate Dave Barnhart

LABOR RADIO IN KANSAS CITY JUNE SCHEDULE

Listen Thursdays
6pm – 7 pm
Fridays
5am – 6am

KKFI 90.1 F.M

Or to live streaming at www.kkfi.org
June 9 – Women Pioneers (in their field)

and How Do You Know If It’s Discrimination? Underwritten by: IBEW Local 153 and Sheetmetal Workers Local 2
June 16 – Berger Marks Foundation Dedicated to Helping Women Organize into Unions and When Immigrants Raise Citizens underwritten by UAW CAP Council and Teamsters Local 838
June 23 – The Right Wing Agenda: Who is Behind the Curtin? Underwrit-

ten by Missouri AFL-CIO and AFGE Local 1336
June 30 – Blue Collar/White Collar/No Collar - Underwritten by Boilermakers Local 83 and Steelworkers Local 307.



Retiree Recreation Report

Once again, we had an enjoyable time on our recent day trip to Jamesport. With everyone talking, laughing, and enjoying the scenery; the bus rides are half the fun! Even though the day was blustery, we all had a nice time shopping and having lunch – an afternoon well worth the few dollars it cost.

We have only a few seats left for the free day trip to Warsaw on Thursday, September 22. This annual event is informative and fun, and gives us a chance to see UAW retirees living at the lake and surrounding areas. They put on an auction of baked and donated items, which benefits their chapter, so if you plan to go and have anything you'd like to donate, feel free to bring it along. Their chapter also hosts a terrific lunch, plenty of fish and chicken, with sides and desserts brought in by members, like we do at our monthly meetings. It's a great time, as we said before; the bus ride itself is so enjoya-

ble.

A few seats have opened up for our Branson trip October 4th – 7th – 4 days, 3 nights. This is always a wonderful trip; we have a fantastic itinerary of shows and meals planned. Plus it's nice to sit back and leave the driving to someone else! We obtain the best group rates, which makes for a really good deal. For the bus ride, 3 nights hotel, shows, all meals, 5 shows, all meals except for a couple of lunches, it's only \$500 per person for a single (1 in a room), \$360 pp for a double (2 in a room), \$320 pp for a triple (3 in a room) \$300 pp for a quad (4 in room). If you're interested or have questions, call Clint Simmons at (816) 505-7111. If you're already scheduled to go, your trip balance is due by August 5th.

A few seats are still available for the New Theatre on November 4th. We'll see the show "Move Over Mrs. Markum" with M*A*S*H's Loretta Swit. Tickets are just \$32 each for a

delicious lunch and the play. Call Clint Simmons to put your name on the list. Payment is due by August 15th.

Horseshoes are played every week at the Hall; retirees are welcome to join the friendly competition. Just show up at the Union Hall on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. Bring a partner or draw one.

The only way for the retiree Recreation Committee to get the best possible group rates is participation. The more people we can get to take part in an event the better the deal. We welcome any suggestions you might have for future events, just speak with Clint Simmons or one of the Executive Board members. We work hard to provide a variety of things for our retired members to do, and your involvement makes it all worth it. You might be surprised at how much fun you might have!

Clint & Susan Simmons

Heart of America Stand Down



Brothers and Sisters:

During war, Stand Down means a brief break from the fighting; troops get much needed rest, warm meals, showers, relief of battle fatigue, piece of mind and fellowship. These men and women, who wore a uniform in honor and fought for our freedoms, need our help. On any given night, there are 2,800 homeless veterans in the Greater Kansas City Metro Area. The objective of Stand Down is to provide homeless veterans with access to short and long-term resources needed

to being rebuilding their lives.

JUNE 3rd and 4th, 2011

Scottish Rite Temple

1330 Linwood (N corner Paseo & Linwood)

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64109

If you are a Veteran, and you have not applied to the Veterans Administration (VA) for your earned benefits, I ask you; please apply to gain what is rightfully yours. I know a lot of us Veterans feel we are undeserving of those benefits, that there are Veterans in more need than us. I try to stress this to all Veterans – You all deserve whatever benefits you can receive from the VA – you have served this great nation and were there – ready to defend us. I

can never stress this enough!

Local 31 has been asked once again, to help with security at this year's Stand Down for homeless veterans. Anyone interested in volunteering should call the Union Hall (913) 342-7330; and leave Name, Phone number and Time they would like to volunteer so the Veterans Committee can contact you. Times volunteers are needed for both days are: 6:15 am - 5:30 pm.

In Solidarity,
Veterans Committee
Bob Dyche
Todd Dix
Reggie Threat



UAW local 31 veteran's Committee presented a special United State flag to Travis Jones for the lost of his brother in the middle east war on terrorism.



**BASS CLUB
RESULTS
MAY 15, 2011
POMME de TERRE
TOURNAMENT**

1ST Place

Terry Corum &
Matt DeWeese

2nd Place

Chris George &
Cody George

3rd Place

Bill Haas &
Lynn Lawhon

Big Bass

Terry Corum
4.67 lbs.

**NEXT TOURNA-
MENT**

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
TRUMAN STATE PARK

6:00 am – 3:00 pm

Check-in @ 5:30 am

\$55 Entry fee

\$10.00 Big Bass

Pick up forms at the Un-
ion Hall.

For more information,
call Jack Walton (913)
299-8623, (816) 835-
9638 or (660) 438-2945.

Civil & Human Rights Committee

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION JUNE 14 & 15 PLEASE CELEBRATE WITH US IN THE PLANT

On June 19, 1865, the Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, TX, to inform inhabitants of the Civil War's end two months earlier. Two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Granger's General Order Number 3 finally freed the last 250,000 slaves whose bondage, due to the minimal Union presence in the region had been essentially unaffected by Lincoln's efforts. June 19th – which was quickly shortened to "Juneteenth"

among celebrants – has become the African-American addendum to our national Independence Day, for, as Juneteenth jubilees remind us, the Emancipation Proclamation did not bring about emancipation, and the prevailing portrayal of Independence Day ignores the disgraceful incidence of slavery entirely.

The observances of Juneteenth have traditionally tended towards church-centered celebrations featuring food, fun, and a focus on self-improvement and education by guest speakers. Although initially associated with Texas and other Southern states, the Civil Rights Era and the Poor People's March to Washington in 1968, in partic-

ular, helped spread the tradition all across America – to the extent that Milwaukee and Minneapolis now host two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations in the nation.

Supporters of Juneteenth continue to grow in number and in diversity. Today, Juneteenth is promoted, not only as a commemoration of African-American freedom, but as an example and encouragement of self-development and respect for all cultures.

Infoplease.com

Local 31 Civil & Human Rights Committee

Bruce Drew

Patricia Trevino

Steve Call

Retiree News

By W. J. McNeal
"Life is like a coin, you can spend it anyway you wish, but you can only spend it once."

Unknown

On April 28, the bus loaded up with 50 of our retirees and headed to the Prairie Band Casino near Topeka, KS for a day of fun. Everyone had a great time.

On May 10 at the Greater KC Retiree Area Council meeting, several of our Local 31 officers were also elected as officers to the Area Council. Jack Yunghans was elected as the Chairman; Bobbie Bennett, W.J. McNeal, Bill Bledsoe and Mary Green were also elected to positions on the

board.

Our regular executive board meeting was held on May 17, 2011 and Jack read a letter honoring our late Local 31 maintenance man, David Ross, who passed away on April 26. Clint Simmons joined the group and spoke on the upcoming trips. Our chapter will be 44 years old this year.

At the regular membership meeting, the trips were discussed and Jack spoke on Kansas and Missouri political affairs. Glenn Woods, our new 1st Vice President, advised us about the AFL-CIO website being a good place to get positive union information, as well as the UAW.org website.

Cheryl Millican gave an update on the benefits (be sure to read the benefits section). She also said that we could utilize the information available on the dedicated website www.uawtrust.org.

Our last meeting before the summer break will be on

**TUESDAY
JUNE 21, 2011**

11:00 am

Bring a large

Covered dish.

There will be no regular dinners in July or August.
**Plan to come to the Picnic
on August 6, 2011.**

See you there.

GET INVOLVED!

W. J. McNeal

About Your Benefits

(913)573-7421

Retiree & Surviving Spouses URMBT 2011 COPAYS

In Network Pharmacy vs.
Medco Mail Order

Type InNetwork Medco

	30-day	90-day
Tier 1	\$10	\$20
Tier 2	\$30	\$60
Tier 3	\$80	\$160

Medco Health Store

Available on the Internet
Over the Counter OTC
Broad range of Products
Competitive Pricing
Mail Order Convenience
Coordinate Medications

www.medco.com

Tier 1:Generic
Tier 2:Multi Source Brand Drugs
Tier 3:Single Source Brand Drugs or
Non Preferred

Check w/Carrier for List

Allergy Serums and Non-Self Administered Injections

Allergy Serums are covered under the medical benefit
All plan covered medications that are non-self-administered injections are covered under the pharmacy benefit (Exception: Applicable non-specialty Chemotherapy IV injections-covered by medical benefit)
Paying for Mail-Order
\$100 Floor Limit-If member's account accrues charges of \$100 or greater, the member is required to make a payment in order for their prescriptions to be released. Payment can be by check, e-check-money order or credit card.
Credit Card Automatic Pay by calling 1-800-948-8779.
Register@www.medco.com or call 1-

866-662-0274.

If I Marry or Remarry After Retirement, May I Elect Survivor Coverage for My New Spouse?

If you retired on or after January 1, 1962, and did not reject surviving spouse coverage at any time it was made available to you, you may be eligible to elect, or re-elect, such coverage with respect to your new spouse. In all cases, surviving spouse coverage would provide benefits under the terms and conditions of the plan that was in effect at the time you retired. The coverage would become effective on the on-year anniversary of the marriage **provided the election form is received by GM within 18 months of the date of the marriage.**
GET READY FOR DEPENDENT

AUDIT!

Timeline for audit scope for
GM-19-26 year-old Dependents
Alert Post Card-Mid June
Verification letter-Late June
Deadline to Return-July 30
Reminder Letter-Mid July
Termination Notice will be sent Early September
HIPAA Notice
Early September
COBRA Notice
Mid September
Vendor Appeal Process Ends in November

You will need proof of Residency, federal tax return, and birth certificate.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU RESPOND TO AUDIT NOTIFICATION WHEN CONTACTED

If you are Disabled

Examinations to Verify Disability

You may be asked to be examined by an impartial doctor, clinic, or other medical authority for the purpose of verifying disability at any time you may be eligible

to receive Sickness and Accident or Extended Disability Benefits. Generally, if you are found able to work your benefits will be discontinued. Failure to report for the examination may affect any eligibility you may have for benefits. Upon request, you will be reimbursed the greater of 48.5 cents per mile or the rate allowable by the IRS, for travel to and from the examination, if your residence is more than 40 miles (one-way) from the examiner's office.

Reduction of Sickness and Accident Benefits

are reduced by (1)primary SSDIB or unreduced Social Security Benefits (including retroactive amounts paid for the same period of disability, (2) certain Workers' Compensation payments, and (3) any Unemployment Compensation payments to which you are entitled for the same period you receive **Sickness and Accident Benefits**. You may be required to apply for SSDIB if your disability is expected to continue for 52 weeks or longer.

Application for Benefits

You and your Dr. must complete a claim form provided by the GM Benefits and Service Center. You should contact the GM Benefits and Services Center toll free at 1-800-489-4646 or TDD 1-877-347-5225 (for hearing/speech impaired) as soon as possible if you become Disabled.

Enjoy your Father's Day!!

UBR (913) 573-7421 OR 7422
1st Shift
Craig Dumortier
Cheryl Millican
2nd Shift
J.D. Hogan
Bobbie Dunnell
(913) 573-7480 3rd Shift
Sandy Martinez
Delphi and Leeds Caretaker
Bob Fiscus (816) 455-0200

*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*

DEATHS**RAYMOND PARR**

Joined: June 1949
Retired: December 1979
Department 15
Died: April 28, 2011

BOBBY DAY

Joined: October 1986
On Sick Leave from
Department 44 – 2nd shift
Died: April 30, 2011

GARY CLARK

Joined: March 1975
Retired: August 2009
Department 47
Died: April 30, 2011

EARL F. KNUTH

Joined: November 1948
Retired: October 1978
Department 11
Died: May 5, 2011

JOSEPH J. MILFORD

Joined: July 1976
Retired: August 2006
Department 25
Died: May 10, 2011

MELVIN PEARSON

Joined: September 1994
from Leeds
Department 11
Retired: May 2011
Died: May 10, 2011



Medicaid Increasingly Targeted by Republicans

According to The New York Times, “The changes to Medicaid proposed by Rep. Ryan, the House budget chairman, could actually have a more direct impact on older Americans than the Medicare part of his plan.” The House plan would turn Medicaid, which provides health coverage for the poor through federal and state money, into a block grant program for states. Beginning in 2013, these grants would increase annually at the rate of inflation, with adjustments for population growth, a rate far below that of inflation for health care costs. As a result, state leaders, who have said that they cannot afford to keep up with the program’s costs, are likely to scale back coverage. Such a reduction could have a

disproportionate effect on Medicaid spending for nursing home care.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 7 of 10 nursing home residents are on Medicaid. On Tuesday, the foundation released a report, together with the Urban Institute, stating that by 2010, under the Ryan plan there could be 44 million fewer projected Medicaid enrollees nationally than what is forecast under current law. That is because existing projections include new additions to the program from the health care overhaul. While the House passed the Ryan 2010 budget, including changes to Medicare and Medicaid, the plan is dead on arrival in the Senate. Democrats have voiced strong opposition to block

grants, arguing that they would shift too many Medicaid costs to states that are already slashing their budgets. Go to <http://bit.ly/iUTSIG> to view the Kaiser report.

Alliance for Retired Americans

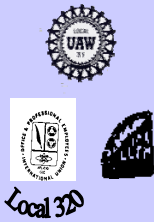
FYI – For Active and Retires Members – Please go to UAW.org to sign up for pre-completed form letters to go to your congressional representatives and senators. You can also go to afl-cio.org to do the same thing. There are many issues that you can make comments on at those sites.

Glenn Woods,
Retiree Vice Chairman

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

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Kansas City, Kansas 66115
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Financial Secretary

Brothers and Sisters

I hope that everyone and your families had a safe and blessed negotiated Memorial Day holiday. To the members who families were affected by the tornadoes in Alabama, GA, Joplin, MO, and Redding, KS, my prayers go out to you.

There are members who have notified the hall that they are not receiving their monthly UAW Solidarity magazine or the quarterly Region 5 Newspaper publications. If you are not receiving this magazine or newsletter to your address on record, please call the hall at (913) 342-7330 so we can contact the International UAW. These union publications have a lot of information that all members should be aware of.

I would like to thank our UAW Local membership who came out

to vote in the Executive Board elections on May 19th and 20th. The number of votes cast was amazing and brought back memories of days when the membership showed up in record numbers. The run-off elections (June 2nd and 3rd) are just as important and I hope the enthusiasm and interest in the Administrative branch of the local shows during the run-off.

I want to thank the membership for your continued support for me as Financial Secretary. I will continue to show responsibility while representing the financial aspects of this local. Politics are what they are. There has not been any misrepresentation of local funds under my watch as your Financial Secretary. The financial books are all transparent and I welcome all members to inspect or question any and

all financial records of this local at any time. Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. Integrity is doing the right thing when all eyes are upon you. At every union meeting there is a detailed monthly financial report that is distributed for all membership to see and question. As I said, 'politics are what they are'.

I just hope that we can all come together as one UAW Local #31 and become the union that was built on a strong base. 'None of us are as strong as all of us'. Attend your union meeting; it is less than 2 hours per month out of your life. As I said on the campaign trail, 3500 members let 200 members make all the decisions.

Solidarity to All

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dawn Burks'.