

FIRST LOCAL NEWS

Published by United Auto Workers Local 249—Kansas City, Missouri

February 2018



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International Union United Auto,
Aerospace and Agricultural Workers Local 249
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Members of Local 249's Civil and Human Rights Committee sold T-Shirts in the plant Jan. 8 as part of the union's commemoration of the life and contributions of Martin Luther King. Photo by Don Lehman.



Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the Local 249 Women's Committee, was a big hit with the kids. Retiree Gary Class made a perfect Santa. Photo by Don Lehman.



New KCAP Emergency Response Team members underwent Incipient Fire Fighting training Nov. 30. Photo by Don Lehman.



Local 249 Retirees enjoyed Christmas Dinner Dec. 20 at the monthly retiree meeting. Photo by Don Lehman.

First Local News

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UAW Local 249

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Team Solutions Bargaining Chair David Norris
Retiree Representative Larry Rupp

The Regular Membership Meeting of United Automobile Workers Amalgamated Local Union 249 is held on the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the local union hall, 8040 NE 69 Highway, Pleasant Valley, Mo. The Executive Board Meeting is held at 1:00 p.m. prior to the Regular Membership Meeting.

UAW-Ford Joint Programs

Apprentice Training

Cortez Bradley 816-459-2060

Benefits

Steve Hibbs, Derron Joyner and Jason Hartman 816-454-6333

Employee Involvement

Chad Troncin 816-459-1372
Darroyce Thornton 816-459-1490

Employee Support Services

Kenny Alexander 816-459-1226

Health and Safety

Ed Samborski 816-459-1210
Terry Tharp 816-459-1407
Ulysses Bales 816-459-1605
Joe Camper 816-459-5559
Dave Sambol 816-459-1223

Quality

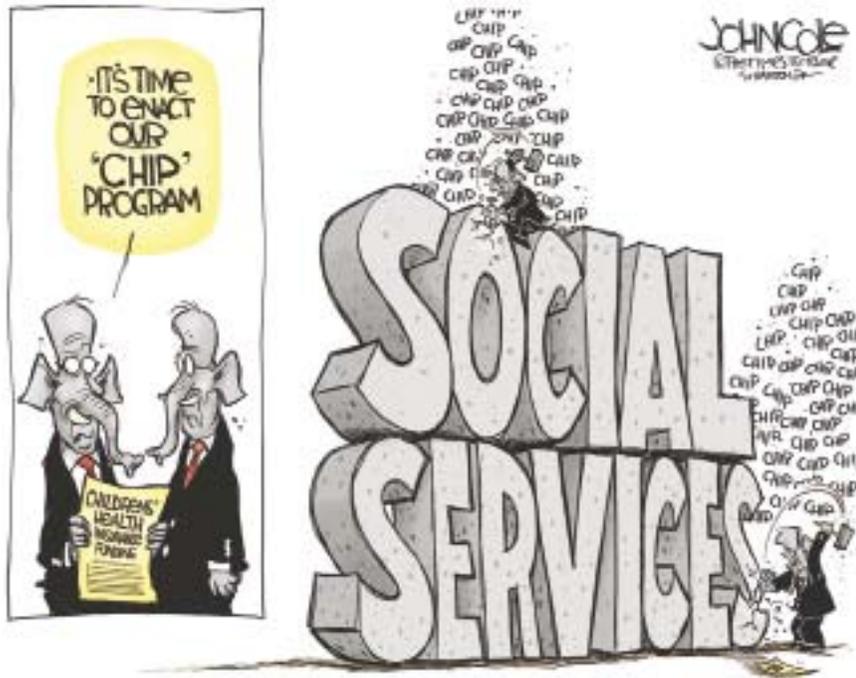
John Lowe and Jeff Wright 816-459-1232
Dealer Rep. Danny Mata

Helpful Numbers

Quality Hotline 1-866-723-3937
Employee Health Services 816-459-1226
National Employee Service Center 1-800-248-4444
Blue Care 816-395-2700
Blue Cross PPO 1-800-482-5146
Preferred Care Blue PPO 816-395-3193
Child Care Referrals 866-327-7952
UNICARE Life Insurance 1-800-843-8184
UNICARE Medical/Disability Leave Claims 1-877-475-9652
Delta Dental (Active) 844-223-8520
Delta Dental (Retired) 800-524-0149
United Concordia Dental Plan 1-800-937-6432
Ford A,X,& Z Plan 1-800-348-7709
www.fordvehicleprograms.com
UAW-Ford Legal Services 800-482-7700
UAW-Ford TESPHE 1-800-248-4444

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Local 249 celebrates Dr. King

By Jackie Cleaves and Jerilyn Griffin

2018 marks the 50th Anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When people remember him it's always referenced to his great "I Have A Dream" speech, but he was much more than that. He wore many hats.

He was a great scholar and a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1964 at the age of 35. A family man, father of four. He fought for equal rights not just for African Americans but for all races. And as of today his dream still lives on.

Diversity is important at UAW Local 249, and our Civil and Human Rights Committee represents diversity for all.

The Life and Legacy party that the Civil and Human Rights Committee hosted on January 13 was just one more way for us to not just celebrate a central figure in the Civil Rights Movement. It was a way to honor our commitment to his dream, and to our own dreams; to see equal and just treatment for all within our workplace and communities. Dr. King was a role model to all of us.

The party was the first of many new things to expect from the Civil and Human Rights Committee as we press forward into 2018. During the party, we had brothers and sisters, friends and family, of all different ages and ethnicities.

It was the embodiment of diversity and inclusion. Everyone had a seat at the table, and with Glenn Bolton of the Civil and Human Rights Committee at the fryer, their plates were full of catfish and chicken wings.

Success was the word of the evening from many of the guests, but it took a lot of time and a lot teamwork to put it all together.

The fight that Dr. King left behind is far from over, but that doesn't mean you can't still have some fun.



Labor News From the World Wide Web

The Picket Line

Actor and activist Danny Glover wins NAACP Image Award

Danny Glover may be best known for his acting, but in January he was honored by the NAACP for his philanthropy and commitment to promoting civil rights around the world. Glover has been a long-time ally of the UAW, serving as a strong advocate for efforts to unionize the workers at Nissan in Canton, Mississippi. When he received the President's Award, Glover spoke of the Nissan organizing efforts, saying, "Civil rights and labor rights have always been one and the same." We congratulate Mr. Glover and thank him for his continued efforts to support workers' rights around the globe. — UAW

Local 12 protests layoffs at Auto Show

300 UAW members and allies protested outside the North American International Auto Show in support of members being laid off by Fiat Chrysler. The workers, members of Local 12 in Toledo, Ohio, are drivers and mechanics who service and deliver parts to Chrysler plants. Their jobs will be replaced by non-union contractors. Bruce Baumhower, President of Local 12 said, "The company has decided to send that work out to a non-union company, without bargaining it with us. We've had two meetings with the company on this. They were not willing to bargain it, not willing to discuss it." — UAW

UAW's Dennis Williams: Zero tolerance policy over sexual harassment

"Let me be very clear about this. The UAW has a policy of no tolerance – zero tolerance – when it comes to sexual harassment. Working men and women have to understand that people ought to be able to go to the workplace without being harassed for any reason whatsoever. Training and education around these issues has been, and continues to be, an important component of the UAW's strategy to provide the Union and its members with the tools needed to combat harassment." — UAW

UAW welcomes FCA announcement of additional production in the United States

"The UAW has had an ongoing dialogue with FCA, dating back prior to the 2015 negotiations about the trucks moving back to U.S. production from Mexico and the additional jobs that come with it.

The UAW is committed to working with FCA to increase domestic production that will increase employment for our members in our communities. We will be conducting further meetings in the coming weeks to discuss the details on the welcome news FCA made on January 11th." — UAW

UAW opposes NLRB decision on Honeywell

NLRB General Counsel Peter Robb, who was appointed by President Trump in November, reversed the July decision of his predecessor, to file a complaint against Honeywell alleging that its ten-month lockout of 350 UAW workers violated federal labor law. The NLRB decision is another favor to big business from the anti-worker, anti-union atmosphere in Washington D.C. This decision denies workers their day in court and highlights the dangerous role politics has taken at the NLRB. Honeywell locked out UAW members after they refused to agree to Honeywell's contract take backs. — UAW



Members of Local 249's Member to Member Committee Kristin Alexander, James Brawley, Paul Brink, Adam Cockrum, William Decoudres, Shenelle Edwin, Anthony Gott, Shauncey Gray, Vincent Higgins, Jeffery Honts, Thomas Low, Yolanda Meneses, Diana Mooney, Raymond Morris I, Sherry Parker, Cameron Pennington, Zachary Russell, Laura Sambol, Cortez Saxton, Gable Stump, Lamar Taylor, and Zachary Williams meet at the union hall Jan. 12 for training. Photo by Don Lehman.

Local 249 launches Member to Member communication committee at KCAP

By Colleen Taylor

Local 249 leadership understands that membership unity starts with a first step; communication. They know that keeping our membership informed of current issues and educated on matters that concern working families is how we will become stronger as a union. We, as members must become more effective in discussing and finding out what we have in common and challenging one another to be part of the change we want. The Member to Member Committee has been newly formed to help achieve this.

The mission of this committee is to educate and build solidarity between our union brothers and sisters. The committee's goal is to have the entire Local 249 membership in the plant and retirees communicating on all things regarding them, their families and communities, and the union and labor movement as a whole.

Currently, there are 22 Local 249 members involved in helping launch member to member communication at KCAP. "This committee is a diverse group of people. All shifts are represented, as well as different races, ages, and seniorities", said Jo Meneses, the

Worker to Worker Committee Chairperson.

"I love the team. I couldn't be happier than to be with this group of people. They can see my vision for this committee", said Meneses.

The member to member committee was formerly known as worker to worker. This committee has been newly structured specifically for Local 249. Instead of it being just worker to worker, it now includes retirees, family members and even neighbors. The frame work of the committee is still the same though. Member to member is another form of communication for

the membership in addition to the others such as Local 249's newsletter, website, app, Facebook, Twitter, to name a few.

Currently the committee is working on getting people to commit to being the lead communicators in their work areas. The team leaders of each area are being targeted as the lead communicators in their areas because they know the people in their work groups and can move around more freely to communicate with others. It also encourages the team leads to become more involved with their local union.

Communicators will be responsible for communicating information they receive from the Local 249 Bargaining Chairman, President, Member to Member Chairperson and committeeman. They will talk one on one with members and distribute and collect information and fliers for their group. From time to time, they will be asked to give their work groups

surveys, specifically at election and contract time. This will help Local 249 leadership receive current membership feedback. Surveys will also be given to monitor the success of the Member to Member Communication in each area.

"Our goal as communicators will be to inform members, build solidarity and bridge the gap between all of us", said Meneses.

Worker to Worker Communication launched October 27 in Truck Trim on C-Crew. The goal of the committee was to have the entire truck system completed by Jan 13. The Transit system launch will then begin. Once both systems have been completed, the committee will begin monitoring the communication process in each areas via work group surveys and will add help where needed.

If you have any questions about Member to Member Communication please contact member2member@gmail.com.

Focus on income inequality

By Cindy Estrada

During the holidays most of us increase charitable giving to make sure shelter, food and gifts are given to economically struggling men, women and children. A third of annual giving occurs in the last quarter of the year and 18 percent of that total is donated in December.

Labor unions and members are among the giving, sharing both time and money generously, year-round.

According to Charity Navigator, last year the American people donated over \$390 billion, up from \$335 billion in 2013. Nearly 72 percent of total giving is done by individuals. The rest is provided by foundations (15 percent), bequests (8 percent) and corporations (5 percent).

This year, as the charitable solicitations began to arrive in the mail, the Michigan League for Public Policy released data showing what our state's economic struggle looks like. Nearly 16 percent of Michiganders — over 1.5 million people — live below the \$24,340 federal income poverty line for a family of four, including nearly 300,000 children. This works out to 1 in 7 Michigan residents and 1 in 5 children living in poverty.

As area volunteers deliver Christmas food boxes and wrapped gifts, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Warren Buffet together own more wealth than the bottom half of the U.S. population —

about 160 million people. The top one-tenth of the top 1 percent of Americans own almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent of the country.

Those multi-millionaires and billionaires have a lot to celebrate this holiday season with Congressional Republicans making federal tax code revisions that include dropping the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent and giving 80 percent of millionaires a tax cut; only about 46 percent of the working poor earning between \$20,000 and \$30,000 are expected to get a break.

While 1.4 million veterans are economically insecure, our public infrastructure is crumbling, our children are drinking dirty water, our right to health care is denied, and future generations face a downward economic future, majority Republicans added another \$1.5 trillion to our current \$20 trillion national debt to give an obscene tax gift to their powerful donors and allies. As we write our charitable giving checks to help those in need, those same legislators are



Local 249 members lead in charitable giving and in social and economic activism. Photo by Don Lehman.

already targeting our country's social safety net programs for severe cuts, including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, food and cash assistance, and education funding.

The tax plan and expected budget cuts to pay for it will hit Michigan hard twice: when millions of Michigan families file their tax forms and see little or no relief, and when the state's federal government appropriations

are reduced in a state budget currently funded by the federal government at 42 percent — the second highest appropriation in the country.

Charitable giving is important, but adding activism to challenge the root cause for why too many are suffering would be the most generous and meaningful contribution of all — and a good resolution to make and keep in 2018.



Local 249 activists and members of the union Education Committee worked with Missouri State Rep. Martin Rucker and the Platte County South YMCA Dec. 19 on the "Raising a Reader" program which helps families with children from birth to age 8 develop, practice and maintain home literacy habits essential for school and life success. Photo by Don Lehman.



MLK's poor people's campaign revived

By Colleen Taylor

On December 4, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called for the creation of the "Poor People's Campaign," a national movement that brought together people with low incomes nationwide to march on Washington and demand an end to poverty. 50 years later, two prominent faith leaders, former North Carolina NAACP Reverend Dr. William Barber II and Reverend Liz Theoharis have announced a revival of MLK's Poor People's Campaign. Tens of thousands of people have begun uniting across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality. This national call will unite coalitions of labor unions, farmworkers, civil rights groups and marginalized communities for the cause.

The original Poor People's Campaign in 1968, spearheaded by King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, sought to bring together people living in poverty across the country in a new March on Washington. The march was intended to pressure Congress and the Johnson administration to pass comprehensive anti-poverty legislation, as well as demand jobs, healthcare and affordable housing. Unlike previous campaigns to fight for the civil rights and voting rights of African Americans, the Poor People's Campaign addressed issues affecting poor people of all races.

Campaign organizers intended the campaign to be a peaceful gathering of poor people from communities across the nation. They would march through the capital and visit various federal

agencies in hopes of getting Congress to pass substantial anti-poverty legislation. They planned to stay until some action was taken. But weeks before the march was to take place, King was assassinated. His widow, Coretta, and a cadre of black ministers, including the Revs. Ralph Abernathy and Jesse Jackson, decided they would pick up where King had left off and that the Poor People's March on Washington would go forward.

Thousands of people participated in the march on May 12, 1968.

A week later, protestors erected a settlement of tents and shacks on the National Mall where they camped out for six weeks. Jackson became mayor of the encampment, which was called Resurrection City. Conditions were miserable. Then Robert Kennedy was

killed." The demonstrators became discouraged and disheartened.

Although as many as 50,000 people ended up marching, the Poor People's Campaign was considered a failure by people who had grown weary of protesting and did not see immediate changes.

For many of America's poor, there hasn't been much progress in the 50 years since the original Poor People's Campaign. In 1968, 25 million people, nearly 13 percent of the population were living below the poverty level, according to the Census Bureau. According to a study by the Institute for Policy Studies, 60 percent more Americans are living below the poverty line now than they were in 1968, and there is an even greater presence of racialized sentencing and criminalization of poverty than existed 50 years ago.

The formal launch of the contemporary Poor People's Campaign was held exactly 50 years after King announced the campaign in 1967 and is gearing up to be the largest nonviolent mobilization in the United States this year. Leaders of the Poor People's Campaign will spend the next five months training, educating and mobilizing communities around the country. Then, on Mother's Day, the campaign

will begin 40 days of widespread civil disobedience, nonviolent direct action and voter education.

One of the major strengths of the revived Poor People's Campaign is its potential to appeal to many Americans. It aims to unite the grievances of the marginalized white working class with marginalized communities of immigrants and people of color throughout the country. Barber says this division has kept poor whites and people of color from coming together in common cause for generations. Organizers of the campaign promote a narrative that reaches out to rural or working class whites, a discourse often employed by politicians on the right, while also emphasizing opposition to sexism, homophobia and racism that are more traditionally territory of the left.

The movement aims to draw in labor unions, farm workers, civil rights groups and marginalized communities from around the country, focusing each week on a specific issue of injustice.

This is not a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of events, says Barber. "Rather", Barber says, "the goal of the new Poor People's Campaign is to consecrate a new movement to transform the political, economic, and moral structures of society".



Ford and the UAW worked to make Christmas a little brighter for area children by raising \$7,000 in the Truck Body Shop to purchase Toys for Tots.

Truck Body collects \$7000 for Toys for Tots

By Gwen Starkey

Imagine what it's like to be a child without a gift at Christmas time and that's what it's like for many kids. Every year during the holidays, members of UAW Local 249 help families in our community with donations of gifts and food, but this year one small department, Commercial Truck Body Shop, got into a friendly little competition that blew the tops off anything that they ever expected to happen.

"We were just sitting in a meeting," Larry Day, A-Crew Truck Body Shop Committeeman said, "When the area manager Joe Gailey came in and asked us to help him with the Toys for Tots drive. You know me, I'm kind of a clown, and we just started joking around, throwing down bets about how much money we could raise and one thing led to another and before I knew it, we had a full-blown competition going."

And competition it was from the beginning. Managers and members alike joined together for this great cause and friendly competition. The prize, bragging rights and a simple wooden plaque engraved with the winning shift, placed in the entryway for all to see. Overall, they raised over

\$7000 dollars for Toys for Tots that took two Ford Transit vans loaded to capacity to deliver.

"They did a phenomenal job," Jason Starr, President of UAW Local 249 said. "Larry came to the union hall and asked because he knew that we traditionally do things for Christmas like the Angel Tree. He wanted to know if it would be okay if they had a friendly competition amongst the shifts in the Truck Body System and I'm like hey man, anything that you guys can do in the name of charity and good will, go for it, and boy did they."

"It really just started out as being friendly banter between us and Joe Gailey in our meeting and then it just took on a life of its own," Larry said. He just threw down the gauntlet. "It's

all about the kids, he said. Let's just do this."

This was a union and management effort. Truck Body Shop area managers along with committeemen from each crew purchased the toys. "Management was a tremendous help in this endeavor," Larry Day said. They were all in helping release members off jobs to collect donations and covering members who went out to purchase toys.

"I think the component that made this so successful is that Larry Day organized all the committeemen and he didn't stop there," Jason Starr said. He also went and worked with the company to bring them in as a sort of friendly competition so that got the competitive juices flowing as to whose shift was going to raise more money. Larry did a really good job. When the committeeman take ownership of their shop, and really work to push something through, it sets an example of what they can do together."

What does it take to bring everyone together? "It's really simple Day says. UAW members really got into it

after they found out other shifts were donating hundreds of dollars and they simply didn't want to be outdone. The membership was proud. The body shop is a pretty tight knit group of people and they came together in a big way. It's an awesome place to work. All the credit goes to our members because they really knocked it out of the park. It just worked out really well and I and I'm sure everyone involved are very proud of what we accomplished."

The winner of the competition was C-Crew headed by Committeeman Gary Conklin and shift manager Mike Kazanowski, raising over \$3000. "C-Crew took the honors in this competition with over \$3000 dollars collected and that's our lower seniority shift," Starr said. We are very proud of the efforts of everyone involved. They received their plaque, engraved "C-Crew, Winner 1st Annual Truck Body Toy Drive 2017. Thanks to the entire body shop team." Congratulations Commercial Truck Body Shop, it's an accomplishment to be proud of. We can't wait to see how it goes next year.

Transit builds 2020 model during down week

By Todd Hillyard

Both sides of the plant were on a temporary layoff the week of Jan. 22. The 2020 launch bought a week of Transit production for the down week to build a few hundred 2020 models thru Body and Paint. They had to do this because the pilot plant in Michigan cannot fit the Transit thru their Body and Paint areas in Detroit. Transit Body and Paint will be working one shift the week of Jan. 22 on dayshift to build the 2020 shells and they will be shipped to Detroit to the Pilot plant for the launch team to finish the first stage of 2020 launch builds.

Effective February 5, the Transit system will return to a 5x8 schedule with up to two hours of overtime per day scheduled. Starting in April currently there are six one-shift Saturdays scheduled.

There are currently no more down weeks showing in the system for either side thru June and there is one super day showing in mid-June for the Truck side. Schedules are subject to change at any time based on demand so if there are any changes for either system we will update everyone as soon as we hear about them.

There will be a representative here at the Union Hall from the state unemployment office on Tuesday January 30 to help members who have issues filing for unemployment. If the need is there they will also be here Wednesday Jan 31.

During the month of January there are three sign ups going on. The paint booth preference for sprayers, supplemental receiving inspection and supplemental overtime or cross system over time sign ups. The cross system overtime and supplemental receiving inspection sign up books will be in labor relations thru the end of this month.

The material handling area preference sign up will begin in February and is handled by the committeeman in the stock department.

The committeeman in Truck and Transit are working on getting their shops settled for rebalance for this model year. Several areas are settled in the Truck System and Transit just ended so they will be working to finish up settling in those areas when returning from the down weeks.

Cortez Bradley is currently working to fill this year's requisition of 22 apprentices. As of today he has 19 of the 22 spots filled and he will continue down the list of candidates in seniority order of those who either passed the last test or completed the courses required in the 2015 master agreement to be placed on the wait list. Cortez contacts all candidates personally and you are required to accept or decline

in writing. Anyone having questions should see Cortez in his office in the tunnel. This information is confidential so questions should be asked in person.

The Transit System just completed the 2019-2020 launch sign-ups for product specialists in Trim, Chassis, MSC and Pre-delivery. We agreed to make both years one sign up this year since product specialists in transit will be traveling to Detroit in two-week periods this year to work on 2020 models. There are not a lot of changes for 2019 so it made since to have the same people working on 2020s this year and when we launch them here next year.

We will be meeting to set dates for the next Truck System product specialist sign up in February or March and will notify the membership once those dates are set. There dates will be posted in Truck as they were in Transit prior to the signup in each area product specialists are needed.

The maintenance department is still working on setting up several sequencing areas in the Truck System to make room for work that was insourced from Ceva Logistics. All of the areas should be completed by the second quarter of this year. New jobs created as a result of this insourcing will be posted for bid in the depart-



Local 249 Bargaining Chair Todd Hillyard reports to the monthly membership meeting on the upcoming work schedule at KCAP. Photo by Don Lehman.

ment they are needed.

Our chairman for Team Solutions lost his sister in a tragic car accident recently and we also lost a C-Crew member in a car accident. I was also

notified of another member in critical condition from a car accident in Colorado. Please keep all of these families and members in your thoughts and prayers.

Lives on the Line

Stories of Survival, Grit, and Determination

Saturday, February 24 at 7 PM - 9 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

11 East 40th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Tickets by Eventbrite

General Admission \$16.78

Sales end on Feb 23 at 6 PM

Hosted by Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom and Stand Up KC

Local 249 V-CAP wins awards

By Jason Starr

We recently returned from the International Leadership Conference and I am very proud to report that UAW Local 249 was awarded with three very significant awards for our work in the UAW Region 5 V-CAP Program.

Local 249 received the Solidarity Award for our work with UAW Local 31 in raising the most Voluntary dollars in a single event. Together our locals raised over \$50,000 at our annual Director Gary Jones golf tournament to fight for and promote workers' rights.

We also won the UAW Region 5 Directors award for the 2017 Cruise/Hunt Raffle, raising more voluntary contributions than any other Local in Region 5. The cruise/hunt drive is an essential part of our V-CAP Program, it helps bring about a better quality of life where UAW members and their families work and live. The dollars we raise help to get our message out. Your contributions to the UAW V-CAP fund drives and check-off program will ensure we can continue to fight and protect our way of life.

The third and most prestigious award that I am very proud to report that our Local received is the UAW Region 5 Directors award for overall voluntary V-CAP contributions. This award signifies the understanding and dedication of our membership to develop, promote and implement policies to improve the quality of our lives. The V-CAP program is dedicated to improving and empowering the democratic heritage we cherish as citizens in a society rooted in democratic

values. Our V-CAP Check-off program asks each UAW member to contribute a small share to our non-partisan political arm to combat the attacks we face as an organization. We should all be very proud of winning these very significant awards that again highlight why UAW Local 249 is the greatest Local in the UAW.

While winning these awards gives us some much to be proud of. It is very important to keep in mind that 2018 will be a defining year for our Union and the Labor movement in the state of Missouri.

The anti-labor Union forces have picked up right where they left off in 2017 and have filed over 50 pieces of legislation in Jefferson City that are aimed in one form or another at taking away the voice of the working class and our Unions that fight to protect us.

Just this month, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that, "A nonprofit group linked to Gov. Eric Greitens has contributed \$750,000 to a campaign committee dedicated to making Missouri a 'right to work' state."

In addition, Republican-leaning groups, "are collecting signatures to place a referendum on the ballot allowing employees in unionized workplaces to opt out of paying unions for the cost of being represented," accord-



Local 249 President Jason Starr reports on V-CAP awards won by the local at the recent leadership conference at the January Membership Meeting. Photo by Don Lehman.

ing to the Post-Dispatch.

Missouri AFL-CIO President Mike Louis calls the push to add right-to-work questions to the ballot what it is, "a deliberate attempt by pro-business groups to sow confusion among voters."

Although union membership increased across the nation in 2017, the relentless attacks in Missouri have had their effect. Union membership fell by 36,000 in Missouri last year according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The attacks we face as a Union such as "Right to Work" will not only

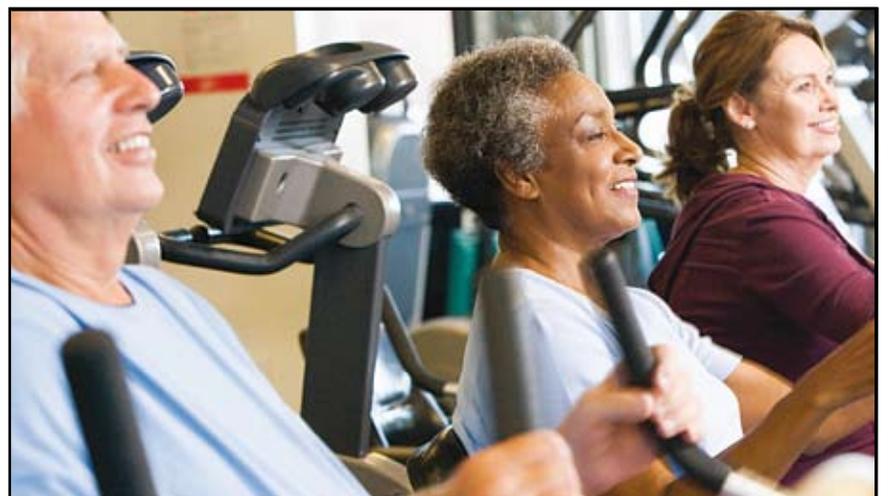
require our voluntary V-CAP contributions, it will require that we all make the commitment to volunteer our time, energy and ideas to our local if we are to be successful in pushing back on the assault on our way of life.

It is time that each of us must decide whether we will allow these attacks on the working class, our way of life, our families and our Union designed to erode the power of collective bargaining to continue or will we send a resounding message to the Billionaire CEO's that we will no longer allow them to buy our political system.

NEED HELP?

Are you worried about money? Do you have problems on the job? Is someone in your family ill? Has a loved one passed away? Have you been physically or mentally abused? Are there drug or alcohol problems in your family? Having thoughts of suicide?

The UAW Chaplaincy Committee is here to listen or to offer spiritual advice. Call the Union Hall at 816-454-6333 and the Local will put you in touch with one of our caring Chaplaincy Committee members.



UAW-Ford Fitness Center

Open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. (22 hrs.)
Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Located in the Education Bldg.

Call 459-1945 for more information.

Local 249 retirees donate to Salvation Army

By Susan Pena

Retirees braved the snow and ice-packed roads and parking lot to attend the January meeting. Clayton Hunter, Salvation Army Donor Relations Director, attended the December meeting to accept a check for \$896.41. He and Major Philip Maxwell, Divisional Commander, sent Thank You notes. Mr. Hunter told us that every 68 seconds someone in the Kansas City area is being helped by The Salvation Army. Thank you all for your generous donations to help make this possible.

Bill Finkle, Legislative Chairman for District 11 from United Steel Workers, Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) and Pat Jones Macklin from American Federation of Teachers, gave a report from the Alliance for Retired Americans Congressional Voting Record. They asked us to sign a petition to increase minimum wages. They spoke about redrawing district area lines, putting limits on campaign contributions and on gifts to state legislators and requiring legislative records and proceedings to be open to the public. You can learn more at www.retiredamericans.org.

Cecil Vaughn, Local 710, spoke about the tax bill taking effect in 2019, the November 2018 election, death taxes, Right to Work, Social Security and Americans for Prosperity. Other guests included Jim Posey from Local 710 and Tom Hutton from Local 1021.

Service Officer Bill Parker announced the New Retirees: Joseph S. Buckman, Mark S. Miller, James

B. Newport, May A. Sandoval. Congratulations to all. Welcome to retirement.

There were six December birthdays and six January birthdays. In December Sandy and Larry Engler celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. Mary and Glen Sanders celebrated 52 years in January. Congratulations to all.

Deaths include: Lonnie Ray Akers, T.C. Baker, Randall L. Bell, James Breece, Randy L. Carder, Hazel L. Hershberger, Larry L. Moles and Thurman O. Scott. Please pray for them and their families. Thurman O. (Charlie) Scott served in the kitchen for years making sure the retirees were well fed and taken care of each month. We really appreciated Charlie and will miss him.

Tracy Corley (Harley), our Kitchen Manager, is having hip surgery after a fall. Dave Grant, Veteran Advocate, is hospitalized. Please keep both of them in your prayers.

Tonya Moore, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas City Representative informed us that we will be receiving



Local 249 Retiree President Melvin Thompson answers questions at the monthly retiree meeting Jan. 17. Photo by Don Lehman.



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new Medicare cards beginning April 2018-2019 removing Social Security numbers from the card. She also encouraged us to get influenza shots Stay healthy.

Bingo is held every third Friday of

the month at 11:00 a.m. Please bring a snack and a white elephant gift.

The next retiree meeting will be February 21, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. Please come. Bring a dessert or a covered dish and discover a new or old friendship.

Poor People's Campaign A National Call for Moral Revival

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has emerged from more than a decade of work by grassroots community and religious leaders, organizations and movements fighting to end systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction & related injustices and to build a just, sustainable and participatory society. The Campaign aims to build a broad and deep national moral movement — rooted in the leadership of poor people and reflecting the great moral teachings — to unite our country from the bottom up.

www.ppcmo.org



Local 249 President Jason Starr and member Darnell Jefferson present the first ever Local 249 Solidarity Award to Dave Berry. Photo by Don Lehman.

Brothers on the line union solidarity award

By Gwen Starkey

He's a great person to work with. Dave, he's a good dude. He's so nice and always there to lend a hand or help out. Dave is a stand-up guy. If you want to know whom everyone is raving about, you don't have to look any further than the C-Crew Truck Trim Box Line Coordinator Dave Berry. These are just a few of the compliments his co-workers have bestowed upon him and the UAW Local 249 membership took that one-step further by awarding him the first UAW Local 249 Union Solidarity Award.

Dave has always been kind and generous to his work family. He coordinates dinners, birthday parties and is the first to donate when the hat is passed for a friend in need. Just before Halloween, a co-worker was going through a tough time because his brother was tragically killed in a car accident and a seven-year-old family member was critically injured.

"My brother was in a bad car accident and died three days after my birthday," UAW Local 249 member Darnell Jefferson said. I got the phone call and they told me that he had passed." Jefferson's brother was only 31 and he didn't have a life insurance policy to take care of his final expenses, Jefferson relates. He sold a few things of value that he had, and received some money from other family members to try to raise the \$1850 dollars that they needed for a proper burial; the alternative was unacceptable he says. "They were going to put him in one of those state plots and I just couldn't do that. I

was kind of stressing out not knowing what to do."

"I work on the line with Dave," Jefferson said, and every day he would call or come check on me asking me to lunch or whatever. He knew something was bothering me and he just asked what was going on. I told him that I needed money so I could get my brother's funeral arrangements in place." Jefferson didn't ask for his help, he just thought he was talking to a friend about what was going on in his life.

Then Jefferson got the call that went above and beyond any friendship he could ever think of. "Dave called me and told me that his wife and him were going to loan me the money to help get my brother taken care of, and not only that, they made arrangements for him to have a beautiful spray of flowers on top of his casket."

"Dave is a stand-up guy," Jefferson says. I've known him since I hired in. He's a true definition of solidarity, not

only at work but in the community too. There are so many people that work at our local that you don't hear about all the good stuff that they do. So I asked our president Jason Starr if we could recognize him in some way, and this is what we came up with, this is something that should be talked about."

"It's something that we want to do on a quarterly basis if possible," UAW Local 249 President Jason Starr said. You're not always going to have people step up to the level that Dave Berry did for Darnell and his situation, but we are just looking to highlight, especially in these times where it seems like we are a little more disconnected outwardly, but inwardly in our own little areas we are all pretty well connected still. We want to highlight when our brothers and sisters are going through difficult times, how our members, without hesitation, just step in and fill the need of the people that they work with."

"Dave was just a perfect example, kind of the first of. Darnell Jefferson's brother unexpectedly passed away and Dave could have chosen to do nothing, but he stepped in and did something above and beyond what the average person would do for someone. I think it just speaks volumes to who we are as an institution, what our values are and how far we will go to help. We are just looking for those examples like this

that we can highlight and share."

What's Dave's take on all the hub-bub? He's really quite modest. "You've got to help when you can, he says. Not everyone has spare money for emergencies and this death was an emergency. It happens; we are never prepared for it. This was just brothers and sisters on the line that helped out. There was no time for a planned collection he needed the money immediately. Our zone eventually had a dinner and we passed the hat at the union meeting and we got some of my money back, not all, but that's fine. He does not owe me anything in return. His mom lost two sons in less than a year and I don't expect repayment in any way. We are good. We're square."

"You know among all the other stuff that goes on in the plant on a daily basis and how we are under attack socially, economically and politically, that when push comes to shove we know we are always there for each other," Starr says.

"Darnell was just blown away for what Dave did for his family. His brother was just hours away from receiving a county burial. Dave gave them something that just transcends anything that you would be expected to do as a UAW member. We really want to highlight our members who step in and do so many amazing things."