

# FIRST LOCAL NEWS

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

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Local 249 members Robin Taylor and Shauncei Gray, kneeling, and Kim Rowland, left to right Sadie Bass, Jacque Childs and Stephanie Shines participated in the Habitat for Humanity Women Build project June 8. Photo by Don Lehman.

International Union United Auto,  
Aerospace and Agricultural Workers Local 249  
8040 NE 69 Highway  
Pleasant Valley, MO 64068



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Jimmy Ziegler and Jason Westfphal, left to right, won the UAW Local 249 Bass Tournament at Truman Lake on June 6. Second place and Big Bass went to Fred Jobe and Mike Spence.



Stephan Brown and Robert Rhoads were the lucky winners of the shotgun raffle to raise funds to support the work of Local 249 standing committees. Photo by Don Lehman.



Education Committee Chair Gary Thomas, left, presents Sam Wilson with the James "Frog" Moran Solidarity Award for her support of the Kansas City Homeless Union in April. Photo by Don Lehman.

## First Local News

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## UAW Local 249

8040 NE 69 Highway  
Pleasant Valley, Mo. 64068  
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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

Kelly Loveall and Jeff Wright 816-459-1232

### Dealer Rep. Danny Mata

### Job Sourcing and Production Standards

Jim Ryan and Todd Wyse 816-459-1466

## 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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# The Picket Line

## UAW on Ford battery joint venture

**“UAW members believe that Ford has a moral obligation, regardless of any joint venture arrangement, to ensure that the battery jobs that replace gas engine and transmission jobs are the same good paying union jobs that have fueled this American economy for generations.**

UAW members deserve for these jobs of the future to be the good paying union jobs that President Biden has called for repeatedly. And in fact, the President reminded us again this week of that charge to corporate America at his Ford Rouge facility visit. Like the President, we believe that any government incentives to help companies create these jobs of the future should be tied directly to jobs in the United States that give free and fair access to join a union. Technological changes have always been an integral part of the auto industry but those changes, which seek to improve all of our lives, should not diminish the lives of hard working American men and women.

We look forward to working with Ford and their joint venture partner in creating the good paying union jobs of the future that taxpayers are being asked to invest in.” — **UAW**

## UAW members vote down tentative Volvo deal

**Hundreds walked out of Volvo Trucks June 8 marking the beginning of a second strike. The walkout comes after members of the United Auto Workers union voted down a recent tentative agreement with the company.**

A leader within the United Auto Workers union is speaking out saying members believe there’s a lot more work to be done until a new deal is made.

“And they made it clear that there was still things that needed to be addressed,” said Matt Blondino, president of UAW’s Local 2069 in Dublin, VA.

Blondino says union members did not agree on several items in the agreement.

“It ranges anywhere from wage progression to interviews for movement within the plant for different positions and salary,” said Blondino. “This contract affects a lot - with 3,000 people that it effects inside that plant. It also affects 3,000 families out there, too, along with the community. I mean they are stakeholders in this as well, not just the company.” — **WBDJ**

## Gary Jones sentenced to 28 months in prison

**The immediate past president of the United Auto Workers was sentenced Thursday to 28 months in prison for his part in a scheme with other leaders to steal as much as \$1.5 million in union funds for lavish trips, golfing, alcohol and other luxuries.**

Gary Jones is the second UAW president to be sentenced as part of a multi-year corruption probe into the prominent American labor union. He is one of 15 people to have been charged, including three Fiat Chrysler (now Stellantis) executives and his predecessor, Dennis Williams, who was sentenced last month to 21 months in prison.

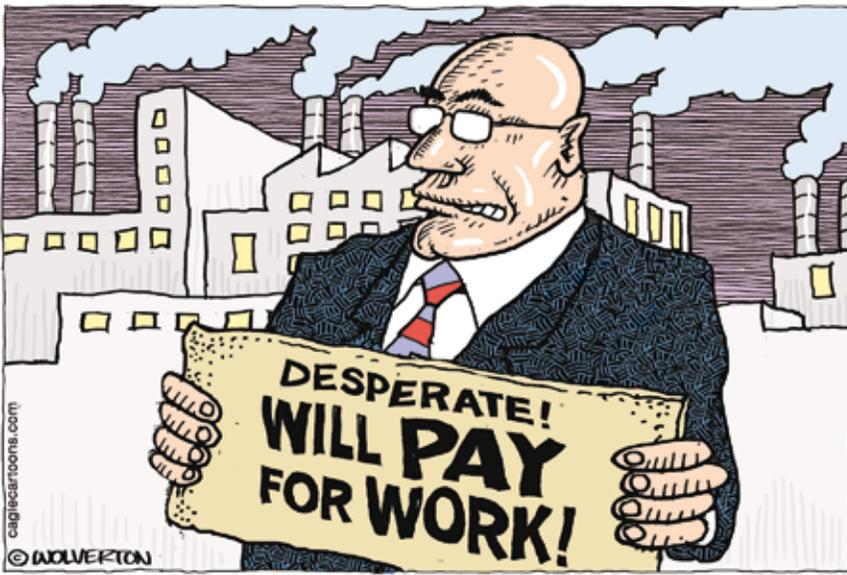
His sentencing is among the last in the investigation, which has tarnished the union’s reputation, created mistrust among its members and led to federal oversight of the UAW.

Jones also must pay restitution or forfeit more than \$750,000, including \$550,000 in restitution to the UAW and \$42,000 to the IRS. — **CNBC**

## UAW announces LGBTQ caucus

**In a move UAW President Rory L. Gamble said was long overdue, the UAW announced as part of Pride Month the formation of a UAW LGBTQ Caucus that will operate under the UAW Constitution’s standing committees on Civil and Human Rights.**

“The UAW has a unique and proud history of early advocacy of LGBTQ issues in its history,” said Gamble. — **UAW**



## Once-in-a-generation infrastructure investment needed

By Rich Trumka

**As President Joe Biden addressed a joint session of Congress recently, he highlighted a fundamental truth about his American Jobs Plan. For once, our leaders aren’t pushing another tax break for the elite, bailing out the ultra-wealthy or preaching the false gospel of trickle-down economics. As the president put it, this is “a once-in-a-generation investment in America itself.”**

It couldn’t come at a more critical moment. Working people are facing a crisis beyond anything we’ve weathered since the Great Depression. The burdens of this pandemic have fallen squarely on our shoulders, while our communities continue paying the price for decades of failed, corporate-first government.

Now, we find ourselves at a crossroads. We can take corrective action that measures up to the systemic economic and governing failures of the past generation. Or, we can allow the suffering of the past year — and the wage-killing, austerity and anti-worker practices of the last four decades — to continue getting worse.

Overcoming this challenge is going to require unprecedented federal investment in working people and in our communities. Now is the time to take big, aggressive action to ensure we can make our voices heard on the job and take home a fair share of the enormous value we create every day.

That means creating a new generation of good-paying union jobs that guarantee America’s workers family-sustaining wages, quality health care and retirement security that we’ve earned. And it means tackling the climate injustice, racial injustice and economic injustice that disproportionately hurt working people while benefiting the elite few.

The American Jobs Plan is poised to do exactly that, creating good union

jobs by rebuilding our country’s capacity to provide for its people — from fixing our roads and modernizing our energy grid to educating our kids and caring for our retirees.

However, investments alone are far from sufficient. In order to shift the balance of power in favor of working people, we need to rewrite the fundamental rules of the economy. That’s why Biden called on Congress to strengthen our freedom to organize on the job by finally passing the PRO Act.

More than any of his recent predecessors, Biden understands that unionism is our single best tool for building a fairer economy and a more just society. With a union card in our pocket, workers enjoy higher pay, better benefits and safer workplaces. We can’t afford to simply bandage up the wounds of this pandemic and expect working families to move on. The veil has been pulled back, and the true depth of injustice in our workplaces has been revealed in brutal ways.

From grocery workers forced to put their health on the line to nurses working another shift with worn-out gloves and masks, working people have been told to give everything and receive nothing.

No more. Now’s the time for us to reclaim the dignity and value that’s been stolen away with every underpaid hour on the job. We can’t afford to wait, and we can’t afford to settle for timid half-measures.

# Paycheck deception ruled unconstitutional

By Missouri AFL-CIO President Jake Hummel

**T**he Missouri Supreme Court's ruling ruled House Bill 1413 unconstitutional in its entirety. The court ruling found, in part, "the exemption of public the exemption of public safety labor organizations in section 105.503.2(1)1 creates a scheme that effectively disfavors non-public safety labor organizations and violates public employees' right to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing."

"The Missouri Supreme Court made the right and legal decision today by striking down Paycheck Deception," stated Missouri AFL-CIO President Jake Hummel. "The court found that the law violated the Missouri Constitution, which guarantees equal protection. It is sad that workers had to take their fight all the way to the Supreme Court due to politicians trying to take away their rights and interfere in their lives."

Missouri's anti-labor Republicans set out to destroy public-sector unions. HB 1413 was another tactic to take

power away from workers and allow the government to dictate workers' decisions. The ruling for the Missouri Supreme Court set in stone what we all knew that the law was unconstitutional. Public sector workers already have to jump through unnecessary hoops to belong to a union that they choose but with this ruling, they are able to continue to get the protections they deserve. Today, the workers of Missouri scored a big win but the Missouri AFL-CIO and our affiliates will continue to fight for all workers of Missouri to ensure that they are protected on the job.



In a 5-2 decision, the Missouri Supreme Court upheld a lower court's ruling striking down a 2018 law that sought to impose new restrictions on collective bargaining for public sector unions.

# Mo. unions call for fair maps in gerrymander fight

Missouri AFL-CIO

**E**very 10 years after the census the legislative lines are redrawn to adjust for population changes. This is actually a pretty straightforward process. The congressional lines are passed in a bill via the General Assembly. Just like any other bill it is passed out of the House, the Senate, and signed by the Governor.

Missouri will not be gaining or losing any Congressional Districts this year, which can greatly simplify the process.

The lines can't be finalized until the official census block data is delivered to the state from the Census Bureau. Normally this would have already happened and the lines would have been drawn during the last session.

Due to the incompetence of the Trump administration, the census (carried out in 2020) was way behind schedule and the data won't be delivered until November or December—far later than usual. This means it is likely that Congressional redistricting will be done in a special session called by Governor Parson late this year.

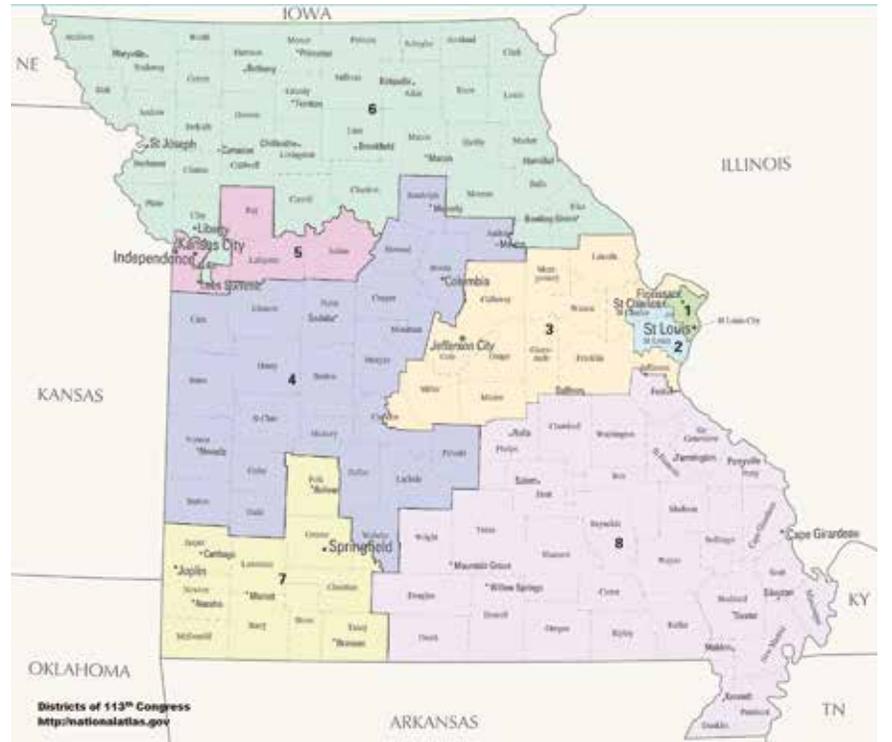
One complicating factor is with the free-for-all for Roy Blunt's Senate seat. There is a strong possibility that current congressional members (Hartzler, Wagner, Smith?) vacate their seats to run for Senate. State legislators that are looking to run for one of those Congressional seats could affect how

the lines would be drawn to benefit themselves or their allies. This could create an incredibly contentious situation.

State lines are drawn via bipartisan commission. There will be a 20 person House Commission (made up of 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans) and a separate 20 person Senate Commission. If 14 out of 20 Commissioners agree on a map the map is adopted. If, after 6 months, 14 members cannot agree on a map the map goes to the Courts where an impaneled Commission of Appellate Judges, working off the maps and evidence supplied by the original commission, draw the lines.

To form the House and Senate commission each political party submits a list of 42 names (21 for the House and 21 for the Senate) to the Governor, and the Governor Picks 20 of the 42 names to serve as Commissioners.

The AFL-CIO decided it is important that Union Members have a seat



at the table when lines are drawn and made it a priority to get union members nominated to the redistricting commission. With work from the AFL-CIO and labor leaders across the State, the Democratic Party's list of 42 names includes 17 union members as well as several union attorneys.

While some assume the lines will be tweaks of the existing map, that is

not necessarily the case. Renumbering of Senate districts can mean there is a Senate race in 2022 in a place where no one expects one, or a place where everyone is lining up to run next year doesn't have a race until 2024. Sitting House members may suddenly find themselves drawn in with another incumbent and face an unexpected primary.



Women volunteers from Local 249's Community Service Committee, Shauncey Gray, left to right, Sadie Bass, Stephanie Shines, Robin Taylor, Kim Rowland and Jacque Childs joined with Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Project to build an affordable home for Tony Waterhouse who is wheelchair bound. Photo by Don Lehman.

# Habitat for Humanity gets a helping hand

By Erica Eckart

**The UAW Community Service Committee has been working with the Habitat for Humanity organization for many years. The program offers low-income housing to families who are in need. The partnership with the UAW allows volunteers from Local 249 as well as community members to go and help build these homes from scratch.**

This program not only builds homes for the families, it also requires them to take classes to learn how to manage their finances and manage their mortgage, as well as 350 hours of hands-on sweat equity participation in building their house unless they are physically unable to do so. They also receive a 0% interest rate on their home loans which allows their mortgage payment to be as low as four to five hundred a month based on income.

The price of affordable housing is more than just money saved for recipient Tony Waterhouse, it provides him with independence as well. For years as the cost of rent has exploded, Tony has been forced to make do in apartments ill-equipped to accommodate his motorized wheelchair—a device he must use to move around his home.

"Everyday tasks like showering and cooking are difficult when your

home is not equipped for people with disabilities" says Tony. "Getting in and out of a bathtub is a painful and tiring process. Some days I do not want to deal with it, so I go to the gym and shower there".

Wanting to live a more independent life, Tony reached out to a program called The Whole Person, a local nonprofit that connects people with disabilities to the resources and services they need to meet the unique challenges they face.

He says The Whole Person became his biggest advocate, and with their help, he was accepted into Habitat KC's homeownership program. Now, with an affordable mortgage, Tony is building a home that is specifically designed to accommodate his needs and will give him the independence he has been searching for.

"I look forward to this every year" says Kim Rowland, Chair of Local 249's

Community Service Committee. "This program not only builds homes, we build communities, it's an awesome program that I really love being a part of. Not only do we get to be a part of something rewarding, but we're also learning new skill sets".

"Habitat generally buys up four or five properties on the same block so those that go through the program have neighbors who have also gone through the program. It gives them a sense of community already knowing their neighbors," says Shavon Monique, Marketing Coordinator for Habitat For Humanity. "We truly appreciate the UAW women and all who volunteer to come out and help our partner families get along with the process".

"I think this program is awesome!" said Stephanie Shines, member of the Community Service Committee. "It's a great opportunity for low-income families who are serious about managing their finances and achieving their goal of owning a home and it's right up my alley! I'm helping people and that's what I love to do."

"I think this is wonderful!" says Robin Taylor, Chair of the Women's Committee.

"We couldn't have had a better home, not to discount the needs of any other program recipient but to be able to help a disabled person who is totally mobile in his wheelchair, to be comfortable in his life is truly something. Me, being a parent of a disabled child, this is a home run for me. I'm super excited to build this house for Tony, and I'm happy that the women of Local 249 and volunteers from all over the city get to come together and have such a big impact on improving someone's life. I also get the opportunity to gain some mechanical attributes and learn some DIY skills for myself and my home. I love this program!"

The women of the Community Service Committee and volunteers, brave the elements once a year to positively impact someone else's life and build equity in our communities

For more information on how you can get involved contact Kim Rowland, Chair of the Community Service Committee and visit [HabitatKC.org](http://HabitatKC.org) for more information.

Thank you to our Local 249 Community Service Committee and all the volunteers for your part in improving lives and building communities.



Heather Findley, right, who suffers from stage 3 kidney cancer, receives a check from Local 249 Motorcycle Committee Chair Josh Curtis. Funds for the donation were raised by the Local 249 Motorcycle Committee Spring Fling event. Photo by Don Lehman.

# Local 249 MC Mud Fest: Fun for a good cause

By Cecelia Davis

**D**uring the unforeseen lay-off, the motorcycle committee have been keeping busy with hosting an amazing Spring Fling celebration. They originally set the date for the event for May 22 but mother-nature had other plans, so they decided to reschedule the event for May 29. Only then, was it fitting to rename the event to “Mud Fest”.

“It was a really good turn-out for being as muddy and drizzly as it was. It was muddy enough to get your truck and trailer stuck.” says Amanda Lawrence, who is part of the recreation committee.

The motorcycle committee invited anyone and everyone that possessed an ATV, side by side, and dirt bikes to venture out to the South Big Creek Ranch, located in Gallatin, Missouri. The intention behind this incredible festival was to provide funds to be donated to Heather Findley, who is only a 6 years old, who currently suffers from stage 3 kidney cancer and Jeff Johnson,

who has stage 3 colon cancer.

Josh Curtis, the motorcycle committee chairman, had the honor to present the proceeds gathered to Heather personally at the Union Hall.

“It never gets old being able to bless an individual, especially a child! That’s our future. If we don’t invest in them and show them some good in the world, how can we expect it to continue or multiply,” Josh said.

The parents of Heather were delighted with the generous donation as the medical bills were increasing as Heather is scheduled for another round of chemotherapy.

“Heather has something a lot of us could learn from. Even on her bad days, she wears a smile and is happy! We, as adults, get so angry over the simplest things. This girl is fighting for her life and continues to be happy and thankful to be alive. She also looks forward to good days where she can play and just be a kid.”

Joshua was also able to donate the other half of the proceeds to Jeff Johnson. At the moment Jeff is courageously battling chemotherapy, so they had to make a special trip to Jeff due to his lack of mobility.

The Mud Fest was loaded with multiple activities for all ages. There were scavenger hunts with a pot of gold for the grand prize, bounce houses, duck derby in the near-by creek and even a silent auction with a chance to win some amazing items. The rec-

reation committee also conducted a cornhole tournament and had some incredible raffle prizes.

The raffle items that the Motorcycle and Veterans committee provided at the festival was two Remington rifles and a ravishing ATV! The two lucky winners that won the rifles were Robert Rhoades and Stephan Brown. The lucky winner of the ATV raffle will be announced in next month’s paper.

If your belly started grumbling after discovering all of the exciting activities, there were a couple of food vendors to soothe those aches, such as, “Lip Smacking BBQ” and delicious “My-Ty’s Snow Cones” and shaved Ice.

After an exhausting yet adventurous day, the UAW family gathered together to listen to some majestic beats performed live by, “Split Decision” as they watched the sun set on the fun filled spring day.

# Kim Rowland: The spirit of service

By Chrissy Kline

**D**r. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" In her 29-year career with the UAW, Kim Rowland has unabashedly been pursuing opportunities to answer that very question.

Rowland was a member of the Teamsters union before coming to work at the Kansas City Assembly Plant. This gave her a good basis on how a union works and how important involvement is, so she dove in almost immediately by attending her first meeting and finding a way to be active. She wanted the opportunity to be a member of a standing committee, so she jumped in, joining the Women's Committee and the CAP committee, helping with any events or projects they had. "I attended protests, helped work on Governor Nixon's campaign and anything else I could get involved with," she stated.

About twenty years ago Rowland got involved with the Local 249 Community Services committee and filled in as needed as an alternate benefit rep. She was eventually asked to take over being chair of the committee when the then chair Dean Freed became a committeeman. The committee was involved in many local charities and helping organizations all around the Kansas City area, some examples are Love Inc., the Clay County Industrial Park and various events around Breast Cancer Awareness.

Rowland was hungry to make a change out in the community, and also to prove herself within the plant. "I hired in with some older guys who showed me the ropes. I was the first woman classified as a metal finisher and the first or second woman classified as a dinger in this plant." She also ran for alternate committeeman and won. Rowland met longtime friend Irene Rivera-Rule when working in body shop and the two became a powerhouse for women working in the plant.

Out of all the roles, positions and projects she worked on, Rowland said that the eight years she spent with the Wheelchair Ramp Crew were her favorite. Tears welled in her eyes as she spoke fondly of the times, she visited with the ramp recipients. "The ability to see the difference you make in real time, to visit and hear the life history of these people, from all walks of life, that you would never have met otherwise and to be able to give them a hug and see the sheer appreciation in their eyes, you can't beat that."

Sadly, the sun has set on that

particular joint project between Ford Motor Company and the UAW here in Missouri, however that has not stopped Rowland from finding ways to make positive change. She has continued her work as the chair of the Community Services Committee and has sat on the board of organizations such as the Veteran's Community Project, Healing Pathways, and Metro Lutheran Ministries. "I have learned that sometimes to make a difference it is important to have a say in where the money we donate goes."

Through these connections with different charities and non-profit organizations Rowland has built relationships that may follow her into her eventual retirement. Rowland shared one major revelation is that strength in numbers not only applies to situations within the union, but also in the community when it comes to making the most effective change. She loves the idea of having many organizations come together to solve an issue that impacts a variety of different communities.

"If we have an event that involves the homeless in Kansas City for example, let's get everyone to work together. Veterans are affected by homelessness let's get VCP in here. Women end up homeless after leaving domestic violence situations. The list goes on but by setting egos aside a bunch of organizations can make a much bigger impact together."

With this in mind, Rowland has applied for and received a nonprofit certification and wants to do something to benefit the homeless.

"I'm still working it all out and I'm not rushing into anything," she says. "It will come together when the time is right. With the UAW behind me I can do whatever I want. Even just having those three letters next to my name got my foot in the door of places I never would have. All the good work I have done is because the UAW allowed me to get there and I'm grateful."

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." I think it is safe to say that somewhere along the way over the last 29 years Kim Rowland has found herself, time and again, in the faces of those she has helped and in



Kim Rowland leads Local 249's Community Service Committee. The Community Services Committee works through public and private organizations to assure that members faced with problems and emergency situations get relief when needed. Photo by Don Lehman.

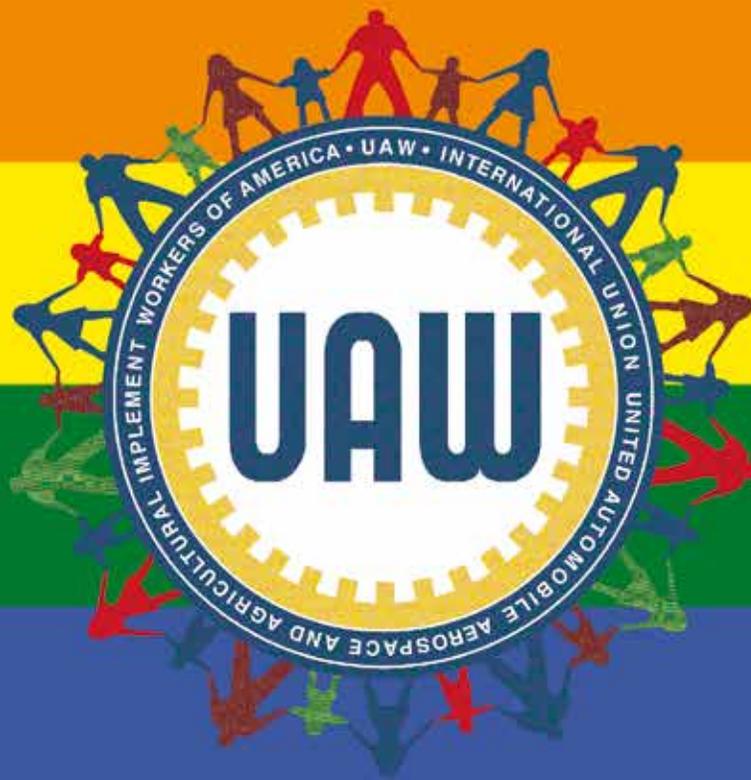
the spirit of service. If you would like to get involved in these incredible acts of love and service to others, call the

Local 249 union hall at 816-454-6333 for details on joining the Community Service Committee.

## Juneteenth

**The observance of Juneteenth is recognition of a profound milestone in our nation's history. And while our struggles for equality in the United States have been long and difficult and sometimes fraught with setbacks and terrible loss, today we reflect on how far we, as Americans, have come in this journey. There is still much more to do my brothers and sisters, but I am heartened by what we have accomplished and the outpouring of support and activism we have seen this past year from coast to coast, from black, brown and white, demanding that our nation finally make good on the promise of real equality across this land.**

**On behalf of the International Executive Board, I would like us all to take some time today to reflect in our own way on what the observance of Juneteenth truly means to all of us and to this nation of ours. We are all Americans and we are much stronger united than divided. I leave you with this thought. — Rory Gamble**



# Civil and human rights belong to us all

*By Rory Gamble*

**L**ook around your world these days. People are celebrating the diversity of who they are; what makes us all unique, wonderful people. For UAW members in the workplace and at home we live in a time when prejudices are no longer being tolerated, whether it is racial, ethnic, or sexual identity. We find ourselves living in a time where equality in the workplace and in our communities is valued more than it ever has.

Right now, in the United States, an estimated 4.5% of the population — 11 million people — identify as LGBTQ and 88% of those individuals are in the daily workforce. Because of this, more employers are now implementing and pushing for LGBTQ-centric initiatives.

And all I can say is, it's about time. It's about time that the type of equal representation, opportunity, and safeguards that the UAW has stood behind for more than eight decades are being demanded for all people, for all walks of life.

A major obstacle LGBTQ workers have faced, and continue to face, is a lack of legislative protection. In the United States, federal legislation does

not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on gender or sexual identity. While some states, such as California, have state laws explicitly prohibiting discrimination, 28 states have no protections for LGBTQ workers, according to Freedom For All Americans statistics.

That's wrong. Because the true freedom that comes from civil and human rights belong to us all.

At the UAW we are stepping up to fight the fight and ensure the work gets done. I am proud of what we are doing, but it is long overdue. As part of Pride Month, we recently announced the formation of a UAW LGBTQ Caucus that will operate under the UAW Constitution's standing committees on Civil and Hu-

man Rights. This member-driven caucus will focus on LGBTQ workplace issues and human rights including protection of members from discrimination. Caucus members will create recommended best practice workplace standards, training and programming as well as advise officers and the IEB on key LGBTQ issues.

The Caucus will consist of union members and will work for union members, but also for everyone in our community. Because we believe and are committed to human rights; to living life as free and equal as possible. We've been integral in the modern history of civil and human rights — whether standing with Dr. Martin Luther King or Nelson Mandela or passing some of the first LGBTQ workplace protections in our contracts. We are all proud to have a permanent structure for our LGBTQ brothers and sisters.

It is part of our history of early advocacy of LGBTQ issues such as contract negotiations that included non-discrimination and insurance

protections prior to the legalization of gay marriage and local union leadership and support for LGBTQ civil rights advocacy. We have tried to be a pioneer for these efforts for the LGBTQ community. And we are proud of what we have accomplished but even more proud of what we will do.

When someone steps into their workplace — or anywhere in their community — the color of their skin, their heritage, their sexual identity, should be something they can feel confident and safe to embrace and share openly.

So, whether you are a union member or not, know that the UAW will continue to champion your rights. We will negotiate for better protections than current law provides.

We will knock on the doors of elected representatives to support these necessary protections. And we will always stand beside you, our brothers and sisters, to improve the working conditions for all American workers.

# KCAP returns to full production

By Jim Fisher

**D**uring the month of June, KCAP began slowly returning production members back to work from the layoffs caused from the global semiconductor shortages. Transit Day shift started back first completing the launch buildout, then Night Shift Transit and B Crew Truck System returned for production. Finally, on Monday June 21st all five production shifts returned to work.

Even though all shifts are currently back to work I want to remind everyone that schedules will continue to be adjusted by Ford as they monitor their inventory with parts.

While we build two very high demand products and the priority is to keep all shifts working, the reality is the parts supply chain remains very fragile and additional down weeks over the next few months will remain a possibility.

We will keep members as informed as possible if more schedule changes occur.

Ford has announced another round of changes to the COVID-19 "Return to Work Playbook". Effective June 21, any member who is showing flu like symptoms or is in close contact with a positive COVID-19 person outside of the work place will no longer receive paid time off from the company.

Ford will continue to pay for COVID-19 time off if you test positive for COVID-19 or become in close contact with someone that test positive for COVID-19 from inside a Ford facility.

In addition, Ford has changed questions on the daily self-check in survey. The new questions refer to if employees have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Over the last couple of years, the local leadership team has centered a lot of attention to the summer months of our plant. Since we completed the 2019 Local Agreement, we have made positive steps to help with summer heat. We now have 2 Wet Bulb Machines for UAW Safety Reps, added refrigerators for storing cold water, added ice machines on the production floor, and added several additional Big Ass Fans across the plant.

However, there are still going to be very hot days inside the plant. Heat Stress is not to be taken lightly. Make sure you're eating right and staying hydrated as much as possible. Also, check on your coworkers. Sometimes a person can be showing signs of heat stress without knowing it. Make sure if you're feeling ill from the heat or notice another member showing issues with

the heat that they are reported immediately. We need to work together to keep all of us safe.

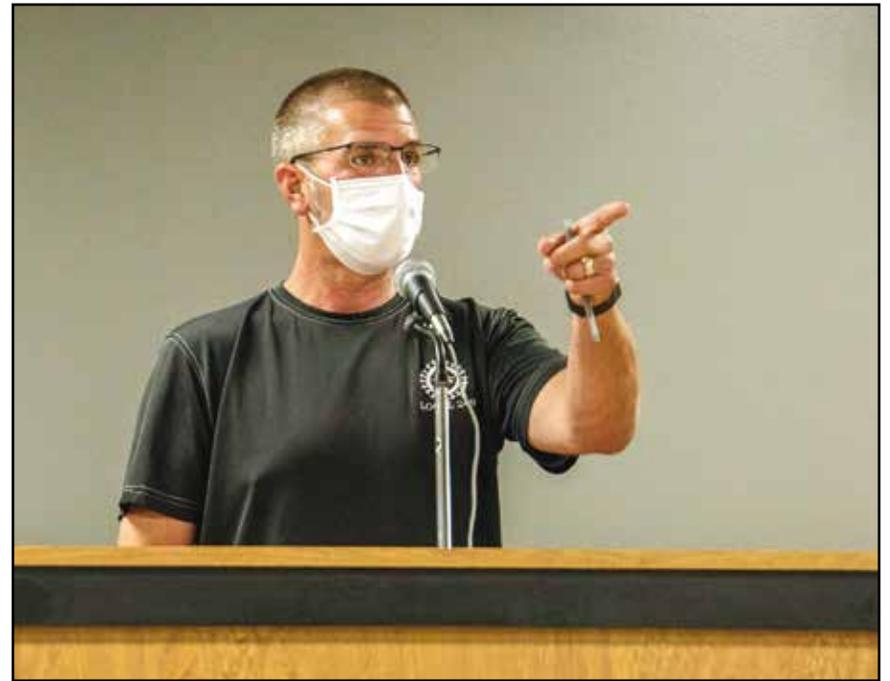
Ford Motor Company is targeting Monday, June 28, to implement the rollback of certain COVID protocols including thermal temperature scans.

While the requirement of completing the daily self-certification remains in place for employees reporting to work, there will be no more attendants validating employees have completed the daily self-certification.

The requirement of Ford to provide enhanced cleanings will be reduced from 72 hours to 24 hours from the time there has been a positive case inside of work.

Those are the three changes that will be effective June 28.

These changes will be consistent across all three auto manufacturers



Local 249 Bargaining Chair Jim Fisher answers questions about the impact of the semiconductor shortage on future operations at KCAP at the monthly membership meeting in June. Photo by Don Lehman.

(Ford, GM and FCA/Stellantis.)

The mask policy is still in place and is currently under review amongst

all three auto manufacturers and the UAW. We will provide further updates on masks as discussions continue.

## UAW Built Vehicle Guide

### UAW CARS

Cadillac CT4  
Cadillac CT5  
Chevrolet Bolt (electric)  
Chevrolet Camaro  
Chevrolet Corvette  
Chevrolet Malibu  
Chevrolet Sonic  
Ford Mustang  
Lincoln Continental

### UAW TRUCKS

Chevrolet Colorado  
Chevrolet Medium-Duty Silverado  
Navistar (regular and crew cab)  
Chevrolet Silverado Light Duty (crew\*\* and double cab only)  
Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty  
Ford F Series  
Ford F-650/750  
Ford Ranger  
Ford Super Duty Chassis Cab  
GMC Canyon  
GMC Sierra Light Duty (crew\*\* and double cab only)  
GMC Sierra Heavy Duty  
Jeep Gladiator

Ram 1500 (classic model — DS)\*  
Ram 1500 (new model — DT)\*

### UAW SUVs/CUVs

Buick Enclave  
Cadillac Escalade  
Cadillac Escalade ESV  
Cadillac Escalade Hybrid  
Cadillac XT4  
Cadillac XT5  
Cadillac XT6  
Chevrolet Suburban  
Chevrolet Tahoe  
Chevrolet Tahoe (police)  
Chevrolet Tahoe (special service)  
Chevrolet Traverse  
Dodge Durango  
Ford Escape  
Ford Expedition  
Ford Explorer  
GMC Acadia  
GMC Yukon  
GMC Yukon Hybrid  
GMC Yukon XL  
Jeep Cherokee  
Jeep Grand Cherokee  
Jeep Wrangler

Lincoln Aviator  
Lincoln Corsair  
Lincoln Navigator

### UAW VANS

Chevrolet Express  
Chevrolet Express (cut-away)  
Ford E-Series (cut-away)  
Ford Transit  
GMC Savana  
GMC Savana (cut-away)

### UNIFOR CARS

Chrysler 300  
Dodge Challenger  
Dodge Charger

### UNIFOR SUVs/CUVs

Chevrolet Equinox\*  
Ford Edge  
Lincoln Nautilus

### UNIFOR VANS

Chrysler Pacifica  
Dodge Grand Caravan

# Democrats: It's time to remember who you are

By Jason Starr

**T**hose who read my column regularly know I have been unsparing in my criticisms of the Republican party and their unrelenting attacks on the working class. When I call out the Republican party, I am not attacking our members – and others – who vote Republican. I am calling out and going after the politicians themselves and the anti-working-class policies that they pursue at the demand of their rich corporate masters.

I do wish our Republican-voting members could see through the shroud of corporate propaganda that manipulates so many of our members into thinking that Republicans care anything at all about us, but I can also understand the frustration and disappointment with the Democratic party, because I am angry too.

The working class, working people like us and the working poor, are treated with benign neglect from too many Democrats in the face of open hostility from most Republican politicians.

On the Republican side of the coin, we get Right to Work and party line opposition to the PRO act, raising the minimum wage, Medicaid expansion and the right to vote. On the Democratic side we often get lip service, but little definitive action that speaks to the interests and economic fears of working people.

It is the supreme irony of our time that many members of the working class have become so disenfranchised by the failures of the Democratic party that they have allowed themselves to be manipulated by the emotionally charged rhetoric of the Republican Party. The truth is the only legislative goals of the Republican party are the destruction of our social safety net programs and tax cuts for the rich, not the interests of working people or the anxieties of the working class.

President Biden started his term well by removing anti-worker officials at the National Labor Relations Board and passage of his American Rescue Plan, that aided millions of American families so the country's economy could get rolling again. But it simply is not enough. The passage of the PRO act, voting rights and the desperately needed infrastructure plan are now stalled in the Senate because Democratic senators Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema are blocking action on the filibuster.

This pattern of Republican obstinacy and Democratic passivity has been going on for decades now. Legislation to address the economic and social crises facing millions of working-class Americans have been blocked at every turn and this is becoming a very real threat to our democracy.

Many of the millions of people who voted for Donald Trump in the last two elections were convinced – wrongly – that democracy no longer had answers for them. What they needed was an authoritarian leader who could break through the logjam of unsolved problems, and at long last, get something done.

The problems that we see on the national level are reflected here in Missouri and Kansas, as well. The Missouri legislature adjourned without funding Medicaid expansion that was approved by Missouri voters, thereby blowing a billion-dollar hole in the state budget. Now a special session has been called to fix the problem, but a solution is being blocked by a handful of hard-right Republicans who want to use birth control for poor women to block legislation that will save lives in our state.

In the face of this, Missouri Democrats — many of whom look to the UAW for support — have been timid and even silent. Many are counting on a lawsuit now in the state court system to solve the problem for them.

Jobs with Justice has called for a July 1 protest outside Gov. Parson's Jeff City mansion to demand funding of Medicaid expansion. Local 249 has organized volunteers to attend. Unfortunately, Democratic politicians have taken a hands-off approach to the protest when they should be leading it.

I get it that there is truly little Democrats can do in the state legislature. They face Republican supermajorities in both houses. Every statewide office — except for State Auditor Nicole Gal-



Local 249 President Jason Starr reports on efforts to protect the rights of working people during the last session of the Missouri legislature. Photo by Don Lehman.

loway — is held by Republicans, as well.

However, this is not a time for excuses and silence. This is a time that calls for bold measures, both inside the halls of congress and in the streets. Democrats have a model in their history of fighting for the working class and poor that lifted the entire Nation into a generation of shared prosperity. It is time for democrats to remember who they are and take on the corporate economic attacks on our democracy.

In the depths of the Great Depression, Republicans and their corporate bosses were in the driver's seat. The KKK and supporters of uniformed Nazis — the predecessors of the Proud Boys, the Three Percenters, and other far-right extremists — were in congress and on the streets stopping union organizing and terrorizing Black citizens.

Then, Franklin Delano Roosevelt broke through. He restored the financial stability of our banking system, stopped evictions, passed the National Labor Relations Act, and put people back to work. The American people were so grateful they re-elected him four times.

Democrats held power in Washington and most state capitols for decades. However, over time Democrats moved away from policy making that focused on social and economic justice for average American families, they embraced corporate interests and working families have paid a heavy price.

We cannot put all the blame on Democratic party. Our labor unions have cozied up to the very politicians that have failed us and have not held them accountable. Organized labor has been short sighted in recent decades and has transitioned into service unionism that no longer works to mobilize their members to fight for social and economic justice. This has resulted in members who view their union as a service they pay for versus an institution that requires their participation and activism to build the strength necessary to secure our way of life.

I am convinced this is a factor in the corruption crisis that shook — and is still shaking — our own beloved UAW. If our members do not believe you can fight back and win, then it easy to understand why most sit back and become complacent.

The fact is nothing will change if working people continue to stand on the sidelines. It will take a mass movement like the union movement of the 1930s to turn our unions and the Democratic Party into organizations capable of winning real change. That will require the active participation of working people to put pressure on their leaders and politicians of all stripes to change.

In the end, there is no substitute activism. If we want to solve problems we face, it is clear that the working class will have to lead the way.

**The working class, working people like us and the working poor are treated with benign neglect from too many Democrats in the face of open hostility from most Republican politicians.**

# Mo. Dems unify to push back Republican attacks

By Mo. State Senator Barbara Anne Washington

If the majority in Jefferson City had their way this year many of the rights we have enjoyed as Missourians would have been eliminated. Just as it was in state majorities across the country there were countless attacks on voting rights, union rights, and the requirements for filing initiative petitions. By standing strong together both Senate and House Democrats were able to fight back against the Republican supermajority and protect the rights of our citizens by killing these bad bills. This article is an attempt to highlight some of the legislation filed by Republicans this year that Democrats worked particularly hard to fight against.

## Voting rights

SB 137 was filed to follow the false narrative that the 2020 election was based upon fraud. This bill would have reduced the length of time required before purging voters off of the voting rolls. Current law will only permit removal after four years IF, after notice is sent the voter does not respond. This bill would eliminate the notice and disenfranchise voters automatically after not voting in two years. We are all aware that many people only vote in Presidential elections. If this bill had passed we would lose many valuable voters.

SB 282 followed the 28 other states who have filed and passed legislation aimed at restricting voting access. Specifically this bill would have:

- stipulates that no electronic voting system would be approved unless the machine produces election results from a paper ballot that can be voter-verified
- repeals a provision of law that expired for mail-in voting;
- grants the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction for all election offenses (generally the role of the Prosecuting Attorneys);
- implements a strict voter ID provision; and
- prohibits public funds by school districts to support candidates or ballot measures.

On the positive side, had SB 282 passed Democrats were able to get no-excuse absentee voting as a part of this bill.

## Initiative petitions

In 2018 like-minded community stakeholders came together to fight the Republicans push to enforce Right to Work. That successful campaign was due to the current requirements of Missouri's initiative petition laws. HJR 20/SJR 2 sought to change the requirements necessary to pass an initiative petition. Right now an initiative petition can be placed on the ballot so long as eight percent of the votes cast for the Governor in six of the eight Congressional Districts are gathered. If HJR20 or SJ 2 passed it would almost

double the signature requirement to 15 percent and require a vote of 60% to be valid.

HB 850 would have allowed the Legislature to overrule the authority of our courts to review ballot summary language for accuracy. If we were to adopt ballot summary language in any resolution changing the constitution, and, put that vote before the people courts would not be able to change that language. If passed this law would allow any language passed by the Legislature to be the law. This bill was filed as a direct response to a 2020 Missouri Supreme Court ruling blocking the sworn affidavit requirement for people lacking a photo ID.

## Union rights

SB 11/HB500 attempted to create a statewide mechanical license. Led by Senator Doug Beck Democrats were able to defeat this bill which would have made any local mechanical contractor license requirements meaningless and hurt employment opportunities for union journeymen.



Missouri State Sen. Barbara Anne Washington speaks to striking UAW Local 31 members outside the GM Fairfax Plant. Washington represents the 9th Senatorial District located on the East Side of Kansas City, including Raytown and parts of Lee's Summit. Photo by Don Lehman.

SB 244 Despite passing a restrictive "paycheck deception" law in 2018 that was prejudicial to public employee union members and unions as a whole Republicans filed more an even more restrictive law to hurt unions. If this bill had passed each union member would have had to sign a standard form before dues could be deducted from their

paychecks. This bill would have also required evidence that each union member signed the authorization form freely. This bill was just another knife thrown in an attempt to kill unions. Although it didn't pass this year it will surely come back in 2022. Fortunately the Missouri Supreme Court overturned the 2018 law shortly after session ended.

## Parson calls special session of legislature

By Mo. State Rep. Ashley Aune

The legislature was called back for a special session June 23 to negotiate and pass the Federal Reimbursement Allowance or FRA. FRA talks derailed in the Senate the last week of Regular Session over a debate around the use of Medicaid dollars for contraceptives.

The Missouri Supreme Court on June 1 voted to strike down a law meant to weaken labor unions that represent government workers. The law had been on hold since its enactment.

At issue is HB 1413, which sought to impose new legal hurdles for public-sector unions to collect dues from members require unions to recertify every three years prohibit workers from receiving paid time off to conduct union business

The courts determined HB 1413 violates state constitutional provisions providing for equal protection under

the law and guaranteeing the collective bargaining rights of workers. A three-judge panel on June 9 upheld a federal injunction blocking enforcement of a 2019 Missouri law criminalizing most abortions performed after eight weeks of gestation, with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest.

The appellate panel ruled the injunction is appropriate since the law violates U.S. Supreme Court precedent giving women the constitutional right to terminate pregnancy. At eight weeks, women often are unaware they are pregnant.

However, enacting unconstitu-



Mo. State Rep. Ashley Aune

tional abortion restrictions was the point when the Republican-controlled Missouri Legislature passed the law, House Bill 126, two years ago. This was an opportunity to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade, which first recognized the constitutional right to abortion.



UAW Local 249 Veterans Committee Chair Dave Grant salutes veterans on Memorial Day at the Black Veterans Memorial at 12th and Paseo in Kansas City. The committee placed wreaths at a number of veteran sites around the Kansas City Metro. Photo by Don Lehman.

# Local 249 salutes veterans on Memorial Day

By Pat Hayes

**Local 249's Veteran's Committee placed wreaths honoring the service of veterans at a number of sites around the Kansas City Metro on Memorial Day.**

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.

According to historians, some records show that one of the earliest Memorial Day commemorations was organized by a group of formerly enslaved people in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865.

Committee members who took part in the wreath laying ceremonies included Hans Bebe, David Cox, Demetrius Camp, Glen Jackson and Dave Grant.

"COVID-19 put a damper on what we could do," says Grant. "Our committee normally does a stand to help homeless veterans in June and we do visits at the Veteran's Hospital, but, with the pandemic, we have to protect the health of the veterans, many of whom are elderly and more vulnerable."

The committee laid wreaths at the Clay County Veterans Memorial located in Anita B. Gorman Park at North Oak Trafficway and Vivion Road. That memorial is dedicated to veterans of Clay County who were killed in action. It contains names of veterans from Clay County killed in action since the Civil War. The memorial features a bronze eagle statue, "Sovereign Wings."

A wreath was also laid at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Fountain

located at Broadway and W. 42nd St. in Westport. The fountain and park dedicated September 6, 1986 features five rectangular, inter-connected pools of different sizes meant to represent America's growing involvement in the war. A semi-circular memorial wall lists the names of the 451 Kansas Citians who died in the war.

Committee members laid a wreath at the Black Veterans Memorial located at 12th Street and The Paseo. The memorial, a polished granite monument, commemorates the service of black veterans throughout United States history.

Korean War veterans were also honored with a wreath laying ceremony at the Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial located in Washington Square Park at Pershing and Main near Crown Center. Some 37,000 American soldiers and 3,100 United Nations soldiers lost their lives in the Korean War and 8,000 are still listed as missing in action. An additional 103,000

Americans were wounded and many still receive medical care in VA Medical Centers across the country.

Wreaths were also laid at the World War 1 stature honoring veterans of the war at the Ray County Courthouse in Richmond and at the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Higginsville. The cemetery has an approximate capacity of 24,000 gravesites for our veterans and their spouses.

As the COVID-19 pandemic loosens its grip on the nation, the Local 249 Veteran's Committee is making plans to continue its work serving area veterans. The committee raffled off two shotguns in June to raise funds for active members of the military and veterans.

The committee is also sponsoring, with other Local 249 standing committees a fireworks tent located in the parking lot of the union hall to raise funds for the union's charitable and community service work.