



UAW Local 31 News

ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION



UAW Local 31, President Dontay M. Wilson at the Community Town Hall on the proposed Flat Tax bill hosted by Kansas Sen. David Haley, February 3, 2024 at The MERC Co-opt

We often think that once we vote that our job as Union members and free citizens is done. To be honest it's actually just the beginning of our obligations. Considering we are a labor union in a Right to Work state, that obligation is actually imperative. President Dontay Wilson takes this duty very seriously. The effort that is needed to make sure that Union standards of living are discussed at the table can be seen in the everyday work that is done. The entire UAW Local 31 Executive Board are very proactive about oversight of the policies in the local and state governments that affect Union members. Staying active in the community and constantly keeping our politicians and government officials on their toes makes us a better Union and a stronger community to work and live in.



Retiree Benefits

Greetings To All Retirees,

We are getting a lot of members, enrolling in other plans.

Sometimes you hear or see other plans on TV, or your family members or friends are saying they have a good deal with United Health Care, Aetna, or some other health care plan offering more savings or better options. They mention a small monthly fee, or not having to pay anything. Then you find out later, those plans cost more than the plan you had previously. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** To participate in the Trust plan, you cannot have any other coverage with anyone other than Medicare. The same for Medicare also. You can be disenrolled from both. Please, if you have a question about your plan contact the Trust or call the Benefit Office.

Optum Rx:

Having issues with your Optum?

For general questions on your plan, call 1-855-409-0219, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. TTY users, call 711. Contact information can be found on the back of your member ID card. BCBS

If your issue is with United Health Care, call that number on the back of your card. You can contact them at 877.524.3784

Report fraud and abuse

If you think you have been a victim of identity theft or fraud, call any of these numbers:

- Call toll-free 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY, call toll-free 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The Fraud Hotline of the HHS Office of Inspector General, toll-free at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477). TTY, call toll-free 1-800-377-4950. You can also email HHSTips@oig.hhs.gov.
- The Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft Hotline toll-free at 1-877-438-4338 to make a report. TTY users, call toll-free 1-866-653-4261.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to continue paying my Medicare Part B monthly premiums?

Yes. You must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to be eligible for their plan and you must continue to pay your Part B premium to the government. This is a requirement for Medicare Advantage or any other non-Medicare plan. If you stop paying your Part B premium, you may be disenrolled from your plan.

How do I change my address?

To change your address, contact Retiree Health Care Connect at 1-866-637-7555 Monday – Friday 8:30a – 4:30p ET. Once RHCC has your updated address they will send us the information. Then we will update your account.

Where can I learn more about the appeals process?

Get a detailed overview of the [Appeals and Grievance process](#) online.

Where do I find out if I have met my Medicare deductible?

This information is accessible within the member portion of the site. Once logged in, click the "Coverage & Benefits" link in the menu at the top of your screen. This page will provide your annual out-of-pocket costs for your prescription drug plan or call Medicare for balance due.

Where can I see my latest claims information?

This information is accessible within the member portion of the site. Once logged in, click the "Claims" link in the menu at the top of your screen. The Claims page will enable you to search for medical and/or drug claims by date range and will provide an overview of each claim searched. Or call Optum for assistance.

What do I do if I have lost my member ID card?

This information is accessible within the member portion of the site. Once logged in, click on the "View and Print Member ID Card" link on the home page, again call Optum for assistance.

If you are unable to find the links noted above, please call customer service at 1-855-409-0219, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. TTY users, call 711.

If you need any help with Optum, Call the Trust!

We are here to help you too—The Benefits office @ 913.573.7421 or 7422

Easter Word Search



Basket
Bonnet
Bunny
Candy
Chicks
Chocolate
Daffodil
Decorate
Ducks



Dye
Easter
Egg Hunt
Eggs
Family
Flowers
Grass
Happy
Jellybeans

Lily
Parade
Peeps
Rabbit
Spring
Sunday
Tradition
Tulips



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Want to write a letter to the editor? Whether you are advocating for something, have an idea, opinion, or recent news worth sharing—send it in!

- ◊ Letters must be sent by certified mail or emailed to Newspaper@uawlocal31.org to be accepted.
- ◊ Any slander or libelous viewpoints, remarks or comments will not be printed. Anything that cites facts that can't be verified will not be printed.
- ◊ Engage other letter writers by sending in a reply.
- ◊ Local 31 News and Communications does maintain editorial control, and has the final say on what's published.

UAW Local 31 in the Community



Following the events that occurred on February 14th, 2024 during the Kansas City Chiefs Superbowl Parade; UAW Local 31 partnered with the United Way to donate to the #KCStrong Fund. These funds will go towards supporting victims and their families, investing in violence prevention and response organizations, mental health support services, first responders and more.

Pictured is President Dontay Wilson with Dustin Wolf of the United Way Greater Kansas City office to present a check in the amount of \$3,100.

Our goal is to continue to positively impact the community and we are grateful for our partnership with the Greater KC United Way.



Members of the Women's Committee volunteering at Habitat for Humanity.



Pictured at a recent CCDCC event are members of UAW Local 31, and Local 249.

The Clay County Democratic Central Committee is a division of the Missouri State Democratic Party. The purpose of the Central Committee is to promote the general welfare of, and provide leadership for, the Democratic Party of Clay County. The CCDCC works to elect or appoint Democrats to public office, provide appropriate services and support to Democratic officials, clubs, and individual members of the Democratic Party.

For more information or volunteer opportunities visit claycountymocrats.org



Financial Officer Conference 2024



This year's Financial Officer Conference was held in Houston, TX where delegates were given the opportunity to attend core classes that offered in-depth training and resources specific to the duties of their elected position. These classes provided extensive training on targeted topics like step-by-step instructions for completing and electronically filing LM and 990 Forms, administrative roles and responsibilities, along with Trustee training.

Speaking at the Conference was Sheila Jackson Lee (born January 12, 1950), an American lawyer and politician who is the U.S. representative for Texas's 18th congressional district, having served since 1995. The district includes most of central Houston. She is a member of the Democratic Party and served as an at-large member of the Houston City Council before being elected to the House. She is also co-dean of Texas's congressional delegation. Also in attendance was UAW International Vice President, Mike Booth and Secretary Treasurer, Margaret Mock.



Members of Local 31 Executive Board pictured with UAW International Vice President Mike Booth

UPCOMING COMMITTEEMEN ELECTIONS

2024 UAW Local 31

COMMITTEE PERSON(S)

Rules for Nomination

1. Any member desiring to be a nominee in the forthcoming election is required to be a member in continuous good standing of Local 31 for one (1) year immediately prior to the nomination of such office.
2. Nominees sign up will be in person at the Union Hall on **Wednesday April 24, 2024, from 6:00 a.m. -4:30 p.m.**
3. Drawing of names will be Thursday April 25, 2024. For the purpose of placing names on the ballot; Names will appear on the ballot in the order that they sign up. Names and Nicknames must be clearly printed to be accepted.
4. Nominees' names will appear on the ballot the same as it appears on the sign-up sheet. **Highlighting of names will not be allowed.**
5. All expenses of the election will be paid by the Local Union
6. Local 31 Election Committee will be printing and tabulating the ballots.
7. All candidates must pick up and sign for acceptance package at the union hall.
8. Campaigning will be allowed in The Plant on candidates **OWN TIME.** Not during their normal scheduled shift.

The Elections will be held the week of June 3, 2024.

The elections will be held at:

UAW LOCAL 31 Union Hall

500 Kindelberger Rd

Kansas City, KS



A Message From S.T.A.R.C.



The **S.T.A.R.C.** program is a great opportunity for all our UAW brothers and sisters and their family members that would like to get into the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship over the next few years. With the recent changes in the 2023 National Agreement, it has opened opportunities for not just our members, but their family members, and friends. With the addition of the 400 apprentices under the last contract, all the lists were cleared corporate wide and 51 non-GM employees were added to the apprenticeship program. The future looks bright for those that get on the list in the next couple of years.

The STARC program is a 4-course program administered by Penn Foster College through the UAW and GM. The 4 classes are all online; you need a computer with a web camera and a microphone to take the finals as they are proctored by the college. The schooling is easy to access, and you can do all of it at your convenience. The classes start every Monday of each week.

Here is a quick breakdown of the changes in the new National Agreement.

With tuition assistance being established for our dependents, you can sign your children, and the classes are paid for with your benefits of Tuition Assistance.

Anyone who takes the classes and pays out of pocket (\$1450 total) will be reimbursed 90 days after they get indentured into the apprenticeship.

The apprenticeship list will be updated 2X a year rather than just once a year.

With the Special Attrition Program (SAP) being offered to all eligible employees under this contract, many of our skilled trades will be retiring over the next 4 years. The largest hiring of skilled trades in GM was 1985 and approximately 65% of skilled trades corporate wide, are eligible for this SAP.

The Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Certificate (STARC) IS A 2-semester program with Semester 1 allotted time of 16 weeks to complete at your pace, online.

Semester 2 allocates 24 weeks of time. That is a total of 10 months, at your pace. You can complete the classes early, if you wish. You must have 75% grade in all classes to be considered for the maintenance trades and an 85% for engineering apprenticeship. If you have completed a College Intermediate Algebra class in your past, you can have your previous college forward your transcript to the National Apprenticeship Parties and if approved, then you don't have to take the final class of the STARC program.

Learn more by visiting your Local Joint Apprenticeship Office located directly across from the Auditorium, in the Union offices hallway, first door to the left. You can also call our office or email us. We can answer all your questions and get you signed up to start classes as soon as next Monday. We can even do this over the phone with you. Don't delay, put yourself in a position to be a skilled trades journeyer-person in your future.

Your UAW representatives for the Apprenticeship Program are:

Charles White, 913-573-3017, Charles.w.white@gm.com normally available 6:30am to 2:30pm.

Benjiman Miller, 913-573-3054, Benjiman.miller@gm.com normally available 6:30am to 3:30pm if Body shop runs 9 hours.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAP COMMITTEE

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the Great UAW Local 31,

Your newly elected VCAP committee has hit the ground running in the last few months. The officers for the committee are Chairperson Ms. Donna Birks, Co-Chair Christian Feuerborn, and Recording Secretary Kevin Wright.

Members of the committee have been making connections and sharing strategies on both sides of the state line by attending "Winter Fest" put on by the Clay County Democrats and will continue this at "Washington Days" sponsored by the democratic party of Kansas, March 15th and 16th.

We would like to give an update to two of the bills in Kansas that we reported out on at last month's union meeting. First the "Flat Tax" bill, House Bill 2284, is now dead and gone. Originally vetoed by Governor Kelly, the Republican led legislature tried to rally and override the Governor's veto. They ultimately failed, and the Governor's veto stands. This is a great win for all working men and women in Kansas as all the bill would really do is pilfer tax dollars out of our Kansas State Budget and deposit the money into the bank accounts of the wealthiest members of the state. It harkens back to the days of the failed Brownback experiment that left the KPERs pension coffers underfunded, and the state highway fund left with a huge deficit. We wish we could report that our Representative for the Fairfax District, Marvin Robinson, stood strong with Governor Kelly and the working families of Kansas but we cannot. Representative Robinson was persuaded into crossing party lines and voting against the best interests of his district.

The second bill we brought to the membership was the bill enhancing Kansas Worker Compensation laws, Senate Bill 430. We are very happy to update you with news that bill has passed through the house on a 40-0 vote as recommended by committee! With not one nay vote from the senate, it moves over to the house where it has been placed on general orders and awaits a much-anticipated vote in the house before it can be taken to the Governor's desk and signed into law. This bill is expected to pass with no amendments or debate. It is a good bill and a leap forward for Kansas workers.

Lastly, The Presidential primaries are on the nightly news, and it is looking as though it will be the same choices that we had last election cycle. We will bring more information forward in the coming months. While you are watching the fiery speeches from candidates on your media of preference, we implore you to remember that only ONE presidential candidate walked our picket lines! He was with us in Michigan in 2023, and with us in Kansas City in 2019.

In Solidarity,

UAW Local 31 VCAP Committee

Donna Birks Christian Feuerborn Kevin Wright Jorge Riesgo Dedire Hawkins
Melvin Prince Annekka Morris A.J. Shumate Tommy Ponds - Executive Board Liaison

A MESSAGE FROM CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE



Greetings UAW Local 31

It's is our privilege and honor to introduce your 2024 Civil and Human Rights Committee. Our mission is to help protect this local membership and community. We are here to make sure every voice is heard and right protected, no matter the race, religion, gender, or creed.

Civil and Human Rights Committee

The civil and human rights committee is the essential guardian of our union's "No Discrimination" policy. Members of this committee fulfill the local union's commitment to assuring members full rights regardless of religion, race, creed, color, sex, political affiliation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The committee informs members of steps and procedures, including filing complaints and hearings, whenever a member or members believe their rights have been violated. The committee works toward the elimination of discrimination in the workplace, the community, and the nation. This committee needs members who feel a moral obligation to speak out on the issues of intolerance, injustice, and bigotry.

MARCH RETIREE MEETING



UAW Local 31 women celebrated Women's History Month by wearing hats at the March Retiree Meeting. The theme was *"Women who advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion."* Congratulations to the newly elected officers: Chairperson—Donna Birks, 1st President—Pat Saucerman, 2nd President—Mary Jo Stumpf, Recording Secretary—Hazel Davis, Financial Secretary—Bobbie Bennett, Trustees—Veronica Boyd, Paul Knight and Donnell Jackson, Sgt. At Arms—Garrett Johnson and Chaplain—Florence Higgins. Retiree Meetings are held on the Third Tuesday of every month at 11am at the Union Hall. 500 Kindelberger Rd. Kansas City, KS 66115.

A Message From Benefits : Active

Disability

You must have a year of seniority to qualify for a payable claim.

When filing for disability you will call 1-800-489-4646. A short interview will be conducted with an agent, please have the doctor's name and phone ready that will certify your paperwork. There be one sheet the member fills out and the doctor will have his portion. A member must be out 8 days or more to be a payable claim. You may serve a waiting. Once Sedgwick has received all documents, they have four days to review all medical paperwork.

Please open and read all letters from GM Benefit Department; there is a time limit to get all medical paperwork in.

If you are denied disability, you have the right to appeal the decision by sending a written request within 180 days of the date you received the letter to: Sedgwick Litigation and Appeals P.O. Box 14539 Lexington, KY 40512

Please make sure that a certified doctor puts you on sick leave. If you do go out on disability, you must see a doctor within seven days of your first absence. New seniority members, if you do not know what your new medical benefits are, please contact the benefit office to set up an appointment and review all the changes.

UAW Local 31 Fairfax Benefits Representatives

• 913-573-7421 • 913-573-7422

1st shift: Bobbie Dunnell

Split/2nd Shift: Norma Raya

Split/2nd Shift: Shannon Roehl-Wickingson

Alt. Zokie Simien Jackson

Alt. Nancy Hicklin

Alt. Dedire Hawkins



In Memoriam: UAW

Forever & Always

Willie Widemon

Joined: 1/7/1985

Retired: 8/1/2009

Dept: 15

Passed: 3/5/2024

Stanley Estep

Joined: 1/29/1976

Retired: 4/1/2016

Dept: 502A

Passed: 3/15/2024

Robert Jarrett Jr.

Joined: 6/3/1982

Retired: 5/1/2016

Dept: 702A

Passed: 1/25/2024

Claude Wright

Joined: 3/21/1965

Retired: 6/1/1991

Dept: 25

Passed:

Jerry McKelvy

Joined: 6/7/1982

Retired: 5/1/2016

Dept: 509B

Passed: 2/27/2024

Marcus McCray

Joined: 11/11/1996

Retired: N/A

Dept: 17

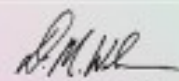
Passed: 3/7/2024

UAW
Local 31
April
Union Meeting



SATURDAY ❁ 20th ❁ 2024

Executive Board Meeting
1pm
Regular Membership Meeting
2pm



Dontay M. Wilson
President UAW Local 31



Mr/opciu277



Victor Armstrong SCHOLARSHIP



Application period opens Monday March 18, 2024 and will close Monday June 28, 2024 at 4:30pm



REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility is limited to children or legal dependents of UAW Local 31 members in good standing (active or retired) that are graduating high school seniors or enrolled in a postsecondary education program and are under 25 years of age



APPLICATIONS
Scan the QR code.
Physical copies can be picked up at NORTH and SOUTH entrances of the plant or at the Union Hall.
**500 Kindelberger Road
Kansas City, Kansas 66115**

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS TO LOCAL 31 UNION HALL.
EMAIL ENTRIES TO
LOCAL31@UAWLOCAL31.ORG**

THREE (3) SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500) EACH WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE 2024 PROGRAM

Drawing will be held at the July 2024 Union Meeting

Mr//opcju277



UAW Local 31 Education Committee

Stacy Ponds (Chair), Luke Godwin (Co-Chair), Michelle Dammen, Jim Montalvo,

Tameika Shannon

A Message From The Retirees

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

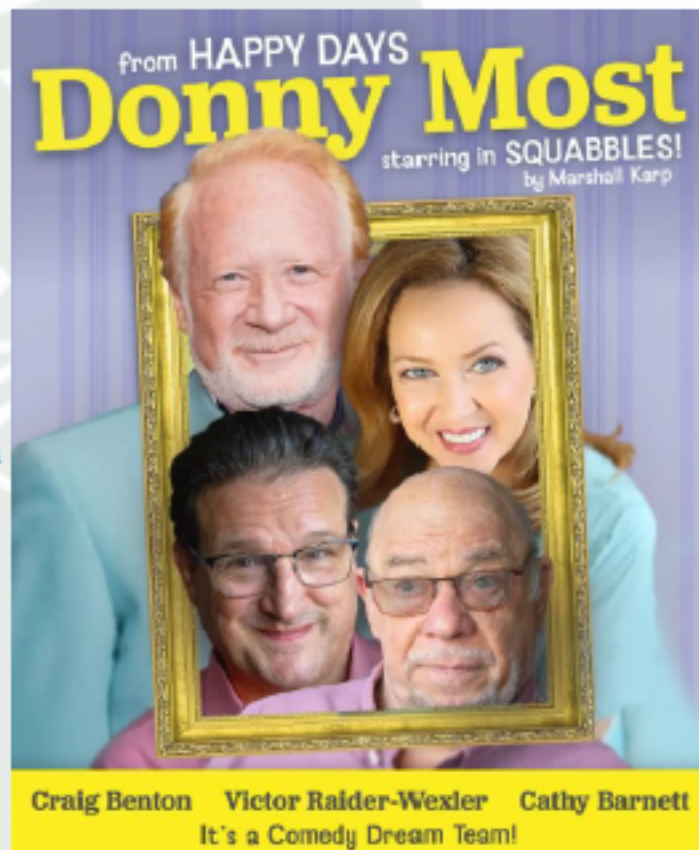
Only in the Midwest are you able to wear summer clothes during the day and need winter clothes that same evening. Mother Nature is sure putting up a fight with the seasons!

Please consider going with us to the next show at the New Theatre - "Squabbles" on Saturday, April 27. It's a comedy about family issues that will have you laughing all afternoon. A couple of changes have come up. For one, the price of each ticket is \$34, not \$35. (oops). Also, due to health reasons, George Wendt will star at a later date in a show yet to be announced.

We will be excited to see **Donny Most**, from HAPPY DAYS, who will be taking over for George. Co-starring with Donny will be Cathy Barnett, Craig Benton and Victor Raider-Wexler...it's a comedy dream team. Reserve your seats soon, they fill up fast. We have excellent seats once again! Call Susan at 816-522-4111 or Kelli 816-200-4953 to sign up. Send in or bring your money to the Union Hall, 500 Kindleberger Rd., KCK 66115. Come join the fun!

Our next retiree dinner meeting is Tuesday, March 19th. All you need to bring is fruit or a dessert, and your appetite. That's when the money is due for the theatre. Hope to see you there!

Retiree Recreation Committee
Libby Dantzler, Kelli Saucerman, Susan Simmons



Retiree Dinner Meeting
Tuesday April 16th, 2024
at 11am



Working Families Friends' Casino Night Fundraiser



Working Families' Friend

WE ARE COMMUNITY SUPPORTED



Working Families' Friend (WFF) is a unique not-for-profit charity supported by the community that provides life-changing assistance to hard working, well-deserving men and women. Often the people we serve become loyal supporters of Working Families' Friend. We are a partner agency with the United Way of Greater Kansas City. Other support comes through donations or sponsorships from individuals, local unions, and corporations, as well as a variety of grants. It is an ongoing goal to widely diversify funding sources in order to serve a broader segment of working people.

As a not-for-profit, Working Families' Friend is eligible to receive tax deductible donations. Thank you for trusting us with your investment in our community.

As a supporter of Working Families' Friend, UAW Local 31 was excited to be invited to their annual "Casino Night" Fundraiser. (from left to right) Union reps, Christian Feuerborn (JAR) and son Cale, Regi Jackson (Head Trustee) and President Dontay Wilson and wife LaTesa were on scene to represent Local 31 and support WFF and the work they do for our local and our community! Go to wffriend.org to find out more.



UAW-GM EAP/Work /Family Program

Employee Assistance Program is a joint program. It is a UAW negotiated benefit to help and support in resolving personal problems affecting employees job performance. It may be difficult for some people to seek and accept help for personal problems. It is much more difficult for some employees to face those problems alone. Trained union EAP/ Work.

Family Representatives are available at the Fairfax facility for private and confidential interviews. EAP/Work Family Reps. are here to listen and refer individuals to the appropriate resources. It is designed to help employees face and resolve a variety of personal problems, including:

- Marital and family problems
- Mental health problems
- Alcohol problems
- Drug problems
- Gambling problems

All participation in the EAP program is strictly confidential and voluntary.



Carol Thompkins 1 st shift Rep.	913-573-7327
Roger Stark 2 nd shift Designee	913-573-7327

UAW LOCAL 31 SCAB LIST

GALEN HOLMES
DEPT. 50

RICHARD ANDERSON
DEPT. 43

BARRY WALDRON
DEPT 43

JOYCE RANEY
DEPT. 17

BRIAN LOWE
DEPT 43

BRENDA BELL
DEPT. 70

TIRAN PACE
DEPT 25

AARON THOMAS
DEPT 51

JEFFEREY B. MAXWELL JR
DEPT. 11

SALOME GITHINJI
DEPT 17

RIVERO M ECHOLS
DEPT 83

BEVERLY THOMAS
DEPT 11

BARRY NATIONS
DEPT 43

SARAH LOPEZ
DEPT. 15

FRANK A KUHLE
DEPT 83

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION



Local 31 News/Media

Communications:

Eric Chappell, Communication Rep.

Robert Pacheco, Newspaper

Mikayla Reves, OPEIU277

Website/Social Media:

Nicholas Livick,

Ed Peaslee,

Milton Henry



Deadlines for Voter Registration:

Kansas

By Mail: Must be post-marked 21 days before Election Day.

In Person: 21 days before Election Day.

Online: 21 Days before Election Day.



Kansas Voter Registration

Missouri

By Mail: Postmarked by the 4th Wednesday

In Person: By the 4th Wednesday before Election Day.

Online: By the 4th Wednesday before Election Day.



Missouri Voter Registration

**Register to Vote www.vote.org
Election Day is November 5, 2024**

UAW Local 31 Newsline
Published Monthly at
500 Kindelberger Road
Kansas City, KS 66115
Phone (913) 342-7330

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 189