



AUTOMOBILE • AEROSPACE • AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS of AMERICA (UAW)

# LOCAL 974 NEWS

REPRESENTING WORKERS AT – CATERPILLAR, TAZEWEILL MACHINE, CITY OF DELAVAN, MASON CITY  
PUBLIC WORKERS & POLICE DEPARTMENT & VILLAGE OF SOUTH PEKIN PUBLIC WORKS



VOL 83 • FEBRUARY 2021



*Happy New Year from UAW Local 974*



*Just a reminder there will be no meetings until April 2021.*



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RANDY DIEHL, *President* \_\_\_\_\_

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

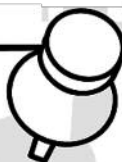
Happy New Year! Let us hope that 2021 turns out to be better than 2020.

We have cancelled the annual scholarship bowling tournament that is always held in February with hopes of being able to hold it later in the year if/when we get this damn virus under control.

All of our laid off members have been recalled and the company has begun hiring new employees in a few business units, which is wonderful. Currently, we have 2,710 UAW members. Which is around 300 more members than our low point around 5 years ago, but around 22,000 less members than we had 40 years ago. Let us hope business gets better and more members are hired, and our 89 current supplemental members all get converted to fulltime.

We are around 2 years away from contract negotiations, so save your money when you can and be prepared. Let us hope that we can reach a fair agreement with Caterpillar, but it's good to be prepared if we can't.

In Solidarity,  
Randy Diehl



## "UNION MEETINGS"

**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> & Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>**

Executive Board Meeting - Cancelled  
General Council Meeting – Cancelled

**Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> & Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>**

No Safety Meetings

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup> & Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>**

No Steward Meetings

## UAW LOCAL 974 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Randy Diehl

### Executive Vice-President

Matthew Diebel

### Second Vice-President

Tony Newton

### Chair. of Insurance & Benefits

John Arnold

### Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Judy Poulsen

### Recording Secretary

Matthew Butler

### Sergeant-At-Arms

Doug Byrne

### Guide

Robert LiGrisse III

### Trustee

Tim Stear

### Trustee

Bruce Bartlett

### Trustee

Scott Kindilien

### M-A-L EP Prime Products

Caleb Kelly

### M-A-L EP Transmissions

Ken Gregory

### M-A-L EP Undercarriage

Cain Thomas

### Mapleton CMO Member-At-Large

Amy Gale

### M-A-L Mapleton Seals

Cody Carter

### Morton GDC Member-At-Large

Angie Speer

### TSD Member-At-Large

Rodney N. Arms

### Skilled Trades Member-At-Large

Tony Reed

### SPBU Member-At-Large

(Open)

### Plantwide Safety Chairman

Loren Meyers

### Retiree's Chapter President

Jane Evans

### C.A.P. Chairman

James W. Tabor

### Bargaining Chair. – Unit 1 Caterpillar

Bobby Koller

### Bargaining Chair. – Unit 4 TMW

Mike Brown

### Bargaining Chair. – City of Delavan

Michael Evans

### Bargain. Chair. – Mason City PW

(Open)

### Bargain. Chair. – Mason City PD

(Open)

### Bargain. Chair. – Unit 12 South Pekin

Andrea Cantrall

# INSURANCE & BENEFITS REPORT

JOHN ARNOLD \_\_\_\_\_

Happy New Year to you all. I hope everybody had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. I want to discuss an issue that I've talked about before but has seem to come up again recently. The issue is when you get remarried. No matter if you are retired or active you will need to call the Caterpillar Benefits Centers within 30 days of your new marriage. Doing this will put your new spouse on your insurance from day one. If you go past the 30 days, you will need to wait until the next annual enrollment.

For the members that are retired there is one extra step that you will need to do. This is a BIG issue and has caused great heartache when this step isn't done. You **MUST** contact the Benefits Center one (1) year after your new marriage to put your spouse on as a beneficiary to your pension. If you do not do this, if you die before your spouse, they will **NOT** get any part of your pension as a surviving spouse. They would remain on the insurance but have no monthly income. A lot of members forget to do this or think that since they put the spouse on the insurance it takes care of everything else. You need to complete this second step.

So, my recommendation is, if you have gotten married since you retired call to verify your spouse is listed as a beneficiary to your pension. If you have gotten divorced you should call to verify your ex has been removed from the survivor's part of your pension.

Lastly, I can not stress enough that **EVERYONE** should call MetLife and verify who is listed as beneficiary/beneficiaries on your life insurance. I get a few cases a year of surviving spouses swearing they were listed as the beneficiary. Only to find out that either no one was listed, or the ex-spouse gets everything because the employee/retiree did not update the beneficiary.

So please take these extra steps and verify the beneficiary on your pension and life insurance. You may save your loved one extra heartache after your passing. The phone number to the Caterpillar Benefits Center is 1-877-228-4010 and MetLife's phone number is 1-888-228-1811.

In Solidarity

John Arnold  
Insurance & Benefits Chairman

## RETIREES - Medicare Reimbursement

From time to time, I remind our retirees about the Medicare Part B reimbursement portion of our plan. If you or your spouse are Medicare age, 65, and enrolled in Medicare Part A & B, you are eligible for reimbursement of the Part B Premium. **The Plan will reimburse your Medicare premium up to \$99.50 per month every January and July.** This only pertains to members and spouses that opted out of the management/executive plan and retired prior to March 26, 2017. **You must contact Alight Solutions (Hewitt) at 1-877-228-4010 to enroll for the reimbursement. Once you're signed up, you won't have to sign-up again.**

# FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

JUDY POULSEN \_\_\_\_\_ FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2021

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all had a great holiday and got to see the people you love. Here is to a New Year! Anything will be better than 2020 was.

The International sent auditor Teresa Niehaus to audit the local's books. The audit went well. They are still working on the high-rise books. I will have a full report on the audit once they complete the high-rise portion.

Stop by and check out the t-shirt room. We have added some new shirts last month. I am currently trying to put together an order for embroidered coats. If you are interested call my office and leave a message at (309) 694-1321.

Judy Poulsen  
 UAW Local 974  
 Financial Secretary/Treasurer

<h2>Bard Optical</h2>			
<b>For All UAW 974 Members</b>			
<b>Union Discounts ~ Bill Your Insurance Directly</b>			
<b>Our Vision Benefits at Bard Optical</b>			
VSP Choice Plan <small>(former Executive Plan)</small>		VSP Access Indemnity Plan <small>(former Union \$150 Allowance Plan - Benefits every 2 years)</small>	
<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>EXAM/FRAMES:</b>	<b>Members      Retail</b>
Comprehensive Eye Health Exam	\$20.00 Co Pay (per year)	Comprehensive Eye Health Exam	\$40.00      \$59.00
Contact Lens Exam	\$60.00 Co-Pay (per year)	Frame	\$34.00      up to \$79.00
Frame Benefit	\$160.00 allowance (per 2 yrs)	Designer Frames	30% OFF RETAIL      FULL RETAIL
Contact Lenses	\$140.00 allowance (per year) instead of glasses	<b>LENSES:</b>	
Lenses	\$20.00 Co-Pay for standard lenses (once per year)	Single Vision	\$40.00      \$60.00
<b>Additional 25% discount on frames over \$160.00 and lens add-ons!</b>		Line Bifocal	\$65.00      \$90.00
<small>\$20 Co-Pay for "medically necessary" contact lenses (designated by a doctor in cases where a patient's vision cannot be corrected through the use of glasses)</small>		Line Trifocal	\$85.00      \$190.00
		<b>PROGRESSIVE LENSES:</b>	
		Basic	\$110.00      \$190.00
		Premium	\$170.00      \$240.00
		<b>Additional 25% discount on other progressives and lens add-ons!</b>	
<b>VSP Insurance covers routine optometric visits only. Medical visits are covered under the member's health insurance and/or Medicare.</b>			
<b>Bard Optical is a medically modeled practice which allows its doctors to diagnose, treat and follow eye diseases with extended testing equipment other practices simply do not offer. This allows members to avoid unnecessary referrals. Also, every member, retiree or family member who purchases a complete pair of glasses will receive a FREE pair of single vision prescription sunglasses!</b>			
<b>BARD OPTICAL -- UAW 974's OPTICAL PROVIDER</b>			
Call Bard Optical or go to <a href="http://bardoptical.com">bardoptical.com</a> to schedule an appointment and verify your eligibility.			
Peoria		Pekin	309.353.9313
Metro Centre	309.692.8222	Washington	309.444.2277
Campustown	309.672.2273	East Peoria	309.694.2273
Knoxville	309.713.3664	Canton	309.647.0366
Grand Prairie	309.691.1320	Galesburg	309.343.7799
		<small>Our other 12 offices may be near kids in college.</small>	

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# UAW LOCAL 974 VETERANS COMMITTEE SPEC. 5

*By Gary E. Hall*

Hello, I'm Gary Hall, I am the UAW Local 974 Veteran's Chairman. I am here to inform you of some current Veteran's benefits. The post still has burial plots for Veterans available. You will need your DD214 to apply for benefits. What you need to know about the Veterans Burial Benefits. As of July 7, 2014, the Department of Veteran Affairs changed its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible survivors faster and more efficiently. The new burial regulations permitted Veteran Affairs to pay at a flat, burial and plot or interment allowances thereby enabling Veterans Assistance to automate payment of burial benefits to most eligible surviving spouses and more efficiently process other burial benefit claims. The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300.00 and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

To find out more information about burial benefits contact the Peoria County Veterans Assistance Commission at (309) 681-2554.

I would like to ask everyone for calendars and puzzles for the veterans in nursing homes. Please bring the puzzles to the American Legion Post at 110 E. Mc Clure Avenue, Peoria IL. They are opened Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Thank you and never give up and never surrender.*

UAW Local 974 Veterans Committee Spec. 5

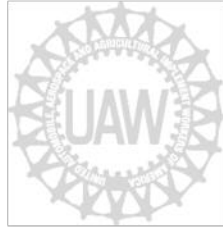
Gary E. Hall

Veterans Chairman



*The Veteran's Day Parade was held downtown Peoria, IL on November 11, 2020.  
UAW Local 974 Retiree and Veteran Tom Bencher (right) was the Marshal assistant.  
Jim Spencer (center) was this year's Parade Marshal pictured with his daughter Jacqueline Spencer.*





## ***FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

*Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>*

***SUPER BOWL***

*Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>*

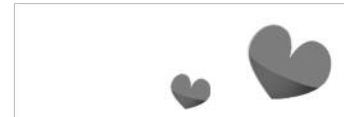
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MTNG – CANCELLED**

*Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>*

**GENERAL COUNCIL MTNG – CANCELLED**

*Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>*

***VALENTINE'S DAY***



## **MARCH 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

***Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>***

***Newsletter Deadline – (April Paper)***

*Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MTNG – CANCELLED**

*Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>*

**GENERAL COUNCIL MTNG – CANCELLED**

***Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>***

***St. Patrick's Day – (Don't forget your Green)***

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## Remembering Our Brothers and Sisters

### November

James E. Modglin	R	11/01/20
Patrick D. Regan	R	11/01/20
Charles R. Stamper	R	11/03/20
Valdas Petty	R	11/03/20
Carl W. Rowland	R	11/05/20
Arley E. Cooper	R	11/06/20
Vernon E. Garretts	R	11/06/20
Douglas J. Schaidle	R	11/06/20
Gary L. Maier	R	11/07/20
Carroll D. Berardi	R	11/08/20
William L. James	R	11/10/20
Robert K. Orren	R	11/10/20
Joseph S. Prowell	R	11/10/20
Joseph J. Moss	R	11/11/20
Wilma J. Scott	R	11/12/20
Francis E. Gullette Jr.	R	11/14/20
Albert R. Buxton	R	11/16/20
Ronald D. Roberts	R	11/16/20
Robert H. Terrill	R	11/18/20
Earl N. Spangler	R	11/19/20
Arthur A. Kunz Jr.	R	11/19/20
Wayne M. Davis	R	11/20/20
Michael F. Adkins	R	11/23/20
Eugene N. Wilson	R	11/23/20
Pete J. Blasko	R	11/23/20
Wilburn D. Smith	R	11/26/20
Richard D. Pappas	R	11/26/20
Elliott E. Plumber	R	11/27/20
Roland L. Gurnsey	R	11/29/20

Patrick L. Bentley	R	12/08/20
Katie M. Jackson	R	12/08/20
Wesley L. Oliver	R	12/09/20
William R. Cox	R	12/10/20
George E. Fidler	R	12/10/20
Charles E. Johnson	R	12/11/20
Ronald P. Pratt	R	12/11/20
James L. Lowe	R	12/12/20
John M. Bonner	R	12/15/20
Donald G. Cooper	R	12/15/20
Douglas W. Wilcoxon	R	12/16/20
David L. Stout	R	12/17/20
Steven R. Little	A	12/18/20
Tony A. Harris	R	12/18/20
Carlton L. Taylor	R	12/18/20
David M. Webb	R	12/18/20
Richard N. Thome	R	12/19/20
Donald L. Canevit	R	12/19/20
Charles W. Newell	R	12/20/20
Richard L. Brecklin	R	12/23/20
Novis W. Franklin	R	12/24/20
John D. Gilles	R	12/24/20
Michael D. Horr	R	12/24/20
Robert W. Wolschlag	R	12/25/20
Millard H. Wade	R	12/25/20
Howard W. Vamum	R	12/25/20
John G. Fidler	R	12/28/20
Vernon L. Elson Jr.	R	12/28/20
Steven M. Zaayenga	R	12/29/20
Roger A. Webb	R	12/31/20
Richard R. Ferdig	A	12/31/20
Robert A. Wolf Sr.	R	12/31/20

### December

Frederick L. Wys	R	12/01/20
Lewis N. Lowery	R	12/02/20
Jerald R. Smith	R	12/03/20
Michael E. Smith	A	12/04/20
Richard M. Rebholz Jr.	R	12/04/20
James D. Harlan	R	12/04/20
Terry L. Adkins	R	12/06/20
Ronald E. Smith	R	12/06/20
Nelson L. Sellers	R	12/06/20
David L. Breese	R	12/07/20
Kenneth D. Guilliams Jr.	A	12/07/20
Billie G. Pierson	R	12/07/20



*Please notify us when one of our active or retired members passes away.  
We do not receive this information from the company.*

*On behalf of the Officers, Members and Retirees of Local 974, may we offer our deepest condolences to the families of our brothers and sisters who have recently passed away. May God comfort all of you in your loss.*



## RETIRES CHAPTER UAW LOCAL 974

### ALL POTLUCKS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

We invite and encourage all the new Retirees to join us for dinner and bingo after the meeting.  
(Please bring your own table service.)

We also encourage the spouses of deceased members of Local 974 to join us. Surviving spouses are Associate Members of our Retiree Chapter and we invite you to participate in our activities.

### BUS TRIPS

Bus Trips have been CANCELLED until further notice.  
For questions concerning the trip call Velma Walton at 694-3151.

### HOW CAN I JOIN THE RETIREE CLUB?

Upon retirement Local 974 members in good standing are encouraged to register at the Dues Office to become Chapter members. Retirees and their spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend the Retiree Chapter Meetings and activities.

We have a Potluck the third Wednesday of every month – meat, coffee and doughnuts are furnished. A variety of other activities are planned at various times throughout the year.

To assist in financing these activities a \$3.00 per month voluntary membership dues can be established at the Dues Office. The largest portion of the dues dollars goes to the International Retired Workers Advisory Council which is concerned with retired-workers programs and policies and other matters that affect the welfare of retired workers.

#### *Contact Retirees' Officers at 309/694-3151*

Jane R. Evans, President • Velma Walton, First Vice President • James W. Tabor, Second Vice President  
Pam Newman, (Acting) Recording Secretary • Gary E. Hall, Sergeant-At-Arms • Thomas J. Bencher, Financial Secretary  
Raymond "Dale" Cassel, Guide • David Blumenstock, Trustee • Steven C. Adams, Trustee • Garry Rendleman, Trustee

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# BARGAINING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BOBBY KOLLER \_\_\_\_\_

Greetings Brother and Sisters,

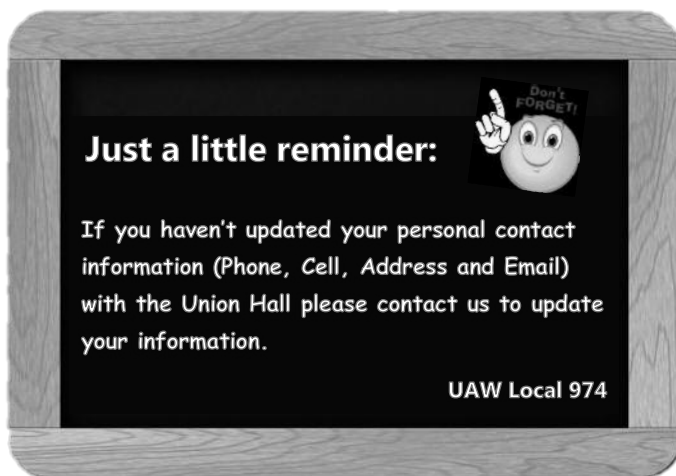
I truly hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year; we can only hope that 2021 will be better than 2020.

With the New Year the company has rolled out their new COVID-19 benefits. As most of you already know the company did not include childcare and the extra pandemic sick leave, we saw in 2020. This definitely puts a big strain on our members. As of now the company claims they will work with our members that have circumstance with children and home school learning on granting them basic childcare leaves but without pay. As you may or may not know this benefit is not something that the Union can negotiate though we along with the International have loudly voiced that we need relief for our members with childcare needs. If you currently have a childcare issue, please speak with your Business Units Human Resource Managers about your specific needs for a leave or days of leave.

I will continue to keep in touch with International on this issue and I will also hope that newly elected Congress will implement new legislation to correct leaves for childcare.

Please if you have any questions or concerns call (309) 694-3151.

In Solidarity, Bobby Koller / Bargaining Chairman



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MON. - FRI. 9:00A.M. - 5:00P.M. & SAT, 9:00A.M. - 12:00 NOON

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\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check: Active \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Disability – Laid off (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check: Supplemental \_\_\_\_\_ Competitive Wage \_\_\_\_\_ Full Time \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO LOCAL 974, UAW, 3025 SPRINGFIELD RD., EAST PEORIA, IL 61611

**Local 974 News – Classified Ads**

**LIMIT 16 WORDS PER AD – ONE (1) AD PER ISSUE – DEADLINE: 1ST OF THE MONTH**

Ads should be submitted to UAW Local 974,  
3025 Springfield Road, East Peoria, IL 61611-4801. No ads will be accepted on the telephone.  
Ads will be accepted ONLY when they are submitted on this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number with Area Code ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF AD:

Automotive      Clothing      Household Goods      Lost and Found      Miscellaneous      Pets  
Opportunity      Real Estate      Rentals      Services      Sporting Goods      Wanted

**ONE WORD PER SPACE ONLY!!**




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**\$17.00 for Veterans' Shirts**



**AUTOMOBILE • AEROSPACE • AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS**  
*of AMERICA (UAW), LOCAL UNION 974*

## **LOCAL 974 NEWS**

**REPRESENTING WORKERS AT  
CATERPILLAR, TAZEWELL MACHINE,  
CITY OF DELAVAN, MASON CITY PUBLIC WORKERS & POLICE DEPT. &  
VILLAGE OF SOUTH PEKIN PUBLIC WORKS**

3025 Springfield Road, East Peoria, Illinois 61611

(309) 694-3151 [www.uawlocal974.org](http://www.uawlocal974.org)

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION LOCAL 974 NEWS (USPS 443170)**

Local 974 News is published bi-monthly by United Auto Workers,  
Local 974, 3025 Springfield Road, East Peoria, Illinois 61611.

Postage paid at Peoria, IL.

**POSTMASTER:** Send change of address notices on Form 3579  
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