



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

© 62

VOL 112 • APRIL 2026



UAW LOCAL 974

BINGO NIGHT

Come Join Us for a Night of Bingo fun, prizes and a chance to win money!

UAW Local 974

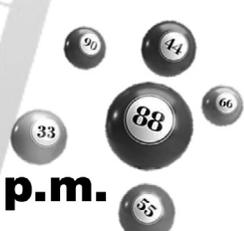
**3025 Springfield Road
East Peoria IL**

Saturday, April 18th

Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.

Cards Sales: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bingo Begins: 5:30 p.m.



For more information contact: Doug Byrne (309) 258-9281 or Matthew Butler @ (309) 694-3151

“All proceeds go to the Heather Henninger Scholarship”.



“UPCOMING UAW LOCAL 974 ELECTION DETAILS INSIDE”

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - APRIL 2026

RANDY DIEHL, *President* _____

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

Hopefully, you all survived another Illinois winter without too many inconveniences. It won't be long until we are complaining about the heat.

Our elected 974 trustees just completed an audit for 2025, and the numbers all matched up. The next audit will be in July.

We are halfway through our 6-year contract with Caterpillar, and I would advise our members to consider saving whatever they can in the event we don't reach an acceptable agreement with Caterpillar in February 2029. We need to be prepared to go on strike as long as necessary to get a contract that we can live with.

We had our annual bowling tournament at Sunset Lanes in Pekin on February 21st. We had 23 teams compete and ended up with a profit of \$5100.00 which will provide 10 scholarships to our members children and grandchildren. Special thanks to Matt Butler, Doug Byrne, and Steve Kovach for organizing and running this event and to the businesses that donated to it. Our next event will be Bingo Night at the hall on April 18th.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call my office.

In Solidarity, Randy Diehl



“UNION MEETINGS”

Apr. 12th & May (Cancelled)

Executive Board Meeting – 12:00 P.M.
General Council Meeting – 1:00 P.M.

Apr. 16th & May 21st

Safety Meetings – 8:00 A.M.; 12:00 P.M.; 4:00 P.M.

Apr. 23rd & May 28th

Steward Meetings – 8:00 A.M.; 1:00 P.M.; 3:00 P.M.; 4:00 P.M.

UAW LOCAL 974 EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President**
Randy Diehl
- Executive Vice-President**
Douglas Byrne
- Second Vice-President**
Tony Newton
- Chair. of Insurance & Benefits**
John Arnold
- Financial Secretary-Treasurer**
Matthew Butler
- Recording Secretary**
Steven Kovach
- Sergeant-At-Arms**
Kim Baker
- Guide**
Robert LiGrise III
- Trustee**
Mike Rohde
- 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**
Rob Hawkins
- Mapleton CMO Member-At-Large**
Jeff Zilch
- M-A-L Mapleton Seals**
Thomas Johnson
- Morton GDC Member-At-Large**
(Open)
- TSD Member-At-Large**
(Open)
- Skilled Trades Member-At-Large**
Tony Reed
- SPBU Member-At-Large**
(Open)
- Plantwide Safety Chairman**
Loren Meyers
- Retiree's Chapter President**
Velma Walton
- C.A.P. Chairman**
Stan Valentine
- Bargaining Chair. – Unit 1 Caterpillar**
Bobby Koller
- Bargaining Chair. – Unit 4 TMW**
Justin Hall
- Bargaining Chair. – City of Delavan**
Michael Evans
- Bargain. Chair. – Mason City PW**
Ben McCormick
- Bargain. Chair. – Mason City PD**
James D. Otey
- Bargain. Chair. – Unit 12 South Pekin**
Andrea Cantrall

INSURANCE & BENEFITS REPORT – APRIL 2026

JOHN ARNOLD _____

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

Happy Spring everyone. Hard to believe we are already a quarter of the way through this year. My office has been very busy the last few months due to the increase in premiums and a lot of the retirees getting the 1095-C tax form. By the time this newsletter comes out most of us will have already filed our taxes. But I wanted to discuss the 1095-C tax form and what you should do with it.

That tax form started in 2015 when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) became law. The form is meant to track whether large employers are meeting their obligation of offering health insurance to full-time employees. It was a requirement from 2015-2019 for employees and retirees to file this form with our taxes. But after 2019 the IRS no longer requires proof of coverage, which means we don't have to file our taxes with this form. So, in the future if you do get a 1095-C form just put it with your tax papers and don't worry about needing it to file your taxes.

As I discussed in the last newsletter, please verify you are paying the correct premium. There have been several retirees that were being charged the incorrect amount for the start of the year. Also, if you are reporting the death of a retiree or spouse please be sure to call the enrollment center at 1-833-735-2127 (option 7 then option 1) and make sure they have processed that individuals passing. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me and I will do my best to get you answers.

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 B-Swift at 1-833-735-2127 to enroll for the reimbursement. Once you're signed up, you won't have to sign-up again.**

Not receiving the text messages or emails?
Moved or got a new phone?

Call us at 309-694-3151 to make sure we have
your correct information on file.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

MATTHEW BUTLER _____

FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2026

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

We had another great year for our bowling tournament! We raised \$5,100.00 for the Heather Henniger Scholarship Fund and raffled off some great prizes! We had more donations come in the week after totaling \$1,200.00 so our final tally for this year's event is \$6,300.00! We appreciate everyone that came to participate and thank Grant Winter-Helms, Ethan Meyer & Zerbonia Byrne for their help in running the event. Without all of you, none of this would be possible! Dave Henniger was in attendance and it's always an honor and a pleasure to see you, Dave!

Our next events are CAP Councils Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th and Bingo Night at our local on April 18th. Both are great family events, so I hope I see you hunting for some Easter eggs with your children and grandchildren and winning some cash at bingo!

I along with Stan Valentine, Doug Byrne, Bill Scott, and others attended Dick Durbin's retirement dinner on February 16th at the Civic Center. Towards the end of Durbin's speech, he took time to thank organized labor for their support and specifically thanked the UAW and stated that without our support, he could not have accomplished as much as he did. I thought that was very cool and served as a reminder about the all-important connection between the ballot box and the bread box.

Spring is knocking on our doors and before you know it summertime will have arrived. I am very much looking forward to warm breezes, bright sunny days, and lots of hours in the pool with family and friends. Old man winter you can't leave soon enough!

In Solidarity, Matthew Butler
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

January 2026	
Income	210,716.87
Expenditures	240,674.42
Expense of Income	29957.55
Regular Dues received on:	2984
Initiation Fees received on:	54
PER CAPITA TAXES:	
International Union UAW	124,454.32
CAP Council	6,665.72
CAT Council	4,843.59
Retirees Dues PCT	15.60
Labor Council of West Central IL	368
Ag Imp Council	119.16
IPS Council Pooled Arb Fund	32.44
TOTAL:	136,498.83

February 2026	
Income	263,884.36
Expenditures	241644.35
Income over Expense	22,240.01
Regular Dues received on:	3105
Initiation Fees received on:	49
PER CAPITA TAXES:	
International Union UAW	120,966.17
CAP Council	6478.67
CAT Council	4,844.42
Retirees Dues PCT	226.85
Labor Council of West Central IL	184.00
Ag Imp Council	118.88
IPS Council Pooled Arb Fund	5.00
TOTAL:	132,823.99



Remembering Our Brothers and Sisters

January

Robert G. Shanks	TBU	R	01/01/26
Nelson W. Hilst	TTTD	R	01/04/06
Paul J. Jackson	Mapltn	R	01/05/26
Dennis R. Meredith	Moss	R	01/05/26
Manual Wright Jr.	Mapltn	R	01/06/26
Ronnie A. McGee	Moss	R	01/11/26
Larry G. James	Moss	R	01/14/26
Alan H. Astle	TTTD	R	01/16/26
William R. Powell	TTTD	R	01/16/26
Harold L. Bush Jr.	TSD	R	01/18/26
Roger A. Routt	Morton	R	01/20/26
James F. Mistic	Mapltn	R	01/21/26
Elzie C. Jenkins	TSD	R	01/22/26
George A. Lacy Sr.	Moss	R	01/24/26
Leslie B. Carter	TTTD	R	01/27/26
John M. Minton	Moss	R	01/28/26
Thomas J. Clark	TBU	R	01/28/26
Larry D. Van Dyke	Morton	R	01/30/26
Bernerd G. Miller	TTTD	R	01/31/26
Frederick J. Teffner	TTTD	R	01/31/26

February

Kenneth A. Eckhart	Moss	R	02/02/26
Larry A. Schupp	Moss	R	02/03/26
Riggs M. Corbin	TSD	R	02/04/26
Stanley P. Mohn	TSD	R	02/04/26
Clarence P. Jacobs	Mapltn	R	02/04/26
Edward E. Bartholomew Jr.	TSD	R	02/07/26
Jimmy A. Perry	Moss	R	02/09/26
William E. Lee	TTTD	R	02/11/26
William E. Kriehauser	TTTD	R	02/12/26
Marion Lampkin III	TTTD	R	02/12/26
Larry J. Wright	Moss	R	02/16/26
Clifton H. Summers	Morton	R	02/22/26
Everett E. Olds	TTTD	R	02/23/26
David T. Shute	TBU	R	02/25/26
Harry E. Reed	Moss	R	02/25/26
James E. Trone Jr.	Mapltn	R	02/25/26
John H. Segler Jr.	Moss	R	02/27/26

*Forever Remembered
Forever Missed*

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.

Bard Optical

For All UAW 974 Members

Union Discounts ~ Bill Your Insurance Directly

Our Vision Benefits at Bard Optical

VSP Choice Plan <small>(former Executive Plan)</small>		VSP Access Indemnity Plan <small>(former Union \$150 Allowance Plan - Benefits every 2 years)</small>		
SERVICE	COST	EXAM/FRAMES:	Members	Retail
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	LENSES:		
Lenses	\$20.00 Co-Pay for standard lenses (once per year)	Single Vision	\$40.00	\$60.00
Additional 25% discount on frames over \$160.00 and lens add-ons! <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 Bifocal	\$65.00	\$90.00
		Line Trifocal	\$85.00	\$190.00
		PROGRESSIVE LENSES:		
		Basic	\$110.00	\$190.00
		Premium	\$170.00	\$240.00
Additional 25% discount on other progressives and lens add-ons!				
VSP Insurance covers routine optometric visits only. Medical visits are covered under the member's health insurance and/or Medicare.				
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!				
BARD OPTICAL -- UAW 974's OPTICAL PROVIDER				
Call Bard Optical or go to bardoptical.com to schedule an appointment and verify your eligibility.				
Peoria		Pekin	309.353.9313	
Metro Centre	309.692.8222	Washington	309.444.2277	<small>Our other 12 offices may be near kids in college.</small>
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	

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



UAW RETIREE REUNION



Saturday, June 27, 2026



Cathy's Cue & Brew

13301 N. State Rte. 29

Chillicothe, IL

from 2 p.m. - until

For more information call Mary Gregory @ (309) 453-7471

*If you wish to
bring a covered
dish. It will be
greatly
appreciated.*



Teresa Hagen

309.202.6969

teresa@hagenbenefitservices.com

Hagen Benefit Services, LLC

An independent broker works for the customer, *not the insurance company.*

At Hagen Benefit Services LLC, we specialize in individual health insurance, Medicare, and Employer Sponsored plans.

LET ME KNOW IF WE CAN HELP!

Dedicated agency phone line for secure Medicare calls
309.247.1905

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently, we represent 8 organizations which offer 34 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all of your options. Exact carrier and plan counts are determined by your zip code and county.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



WILLIAMS LAW CENTER ATTORNEYS AT LAW

139 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, Illinois 61611 • 309-694-3196



Dick L. Williams has concentrated his practice in Probate, Wills, Trusts and Powers of Attorney for over 50 years.

Auto Claims
Wills & Probate
Real Estate
Elder Law
Injury Claims
Workers Compensation



**REPRESENTING
WORKING MEN AND
WOMEN FOR OVER
50 YEARS.**



Andrew Williams has concentrated his practice in Divorce Law for 7+ years.

Family Law
Traffic Criminal/DUI
License Reinstatement
Eviction



Dick B. (Rich) Williams has concentrated his practice in Bankruptcy Law and Driver's License Reinstatement for 17+ years.

Bankruptcy
Social Security Disability
Drivers' License Reinstatement



Joe Bembenek has concentrated his practice in Criminal Law for 30+ years.

Criminal & Felony
Misdemeanor
DUI & Traffic Civil Litigation
Personal Injury

dick@williamslawcenter.com
richard@williamslawcenter.com

309-694-3196

WWW.WILLIAMSLAWEASTPEORIA.COM

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

BeltoneTM Hearing Care Centers

Beltone Envision: The World's Best Hearing Aid for Hearing in Noise



Peoria - 4704 N. Sheridan

(309) 688-4327

Pekin - 2508 Court St.

(309) 346-5323

Bloomington - 211 S.

Prospect, Ste. 14

(309) 451-4312

Canton - 511 N. Main St.

(309) 647-0920

Beltone Envision



**Don't let BCBS and UNHC dictate your healthcare! We are an in-network provider with UHC Hearing, request to see us!
Your best care starts with an appointment! Call Today!**

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



“I come as one, but I stand as 10,000”

Loren Meyers, Plantwide Safety Chairman

Welcome to 2026! I wish everyone a safe and happy new year, but it has been less than safe. National Guard being deployed against its own citizens, American citizens being fatally shot by ICE agents, US Southern Command attacking suspected drug boats without proof or due process resulting in over 150 reported deaths, 16 of the deaths in 2026. Brave American soldiers losing their lives due to Multiple U.S. Military operations in the Middle East without credible reason and Congressional approval. All this from an out-of-control administration drowning in corruption from enriching itself and a pedophile human trafficking network that spans across the Presidency, supreme court judges, legislators and the super-rich all the way to Buckingham Palace. Every time more files are released from the DOJ with shocking evidence a crisis or national emergency is created. WAG THE DOG.

Empathy: is the ability to understand and share the feelings, perspectives and experiences of another person, often described as “walking in someone else’s shoes”

I have been watching different corporate executives and legislators for some time making statements on TV and podcasts that **empathy is overrated or toxic**. Elon Musk stated on Joe Rogans podcast in 2025 that **“the fundamental weakness of Western civilization is empathy”**. Elon Musk is expected to become the first trillionaire in the next few years and empathy is standing in his way to get there faster. Recently at an all-employee meeting, management was informing employees about yearly projections and expectations. It started having a doom and gloom finger pointing from the manager speaking when a young lady raised her hand and reminded management that Caterpillar posted the best revenue earnings it has had in 100 years of business. It got quiet and little awkward. I want to give this young UAW member a high five.

Repetitive motion injuries have been a focus of corporations’ way of increasing profit by denying claims as non-occupational. I have seen multiple members that have reported injuries and denied. One member had a shoulder injury he reported a few years ago from years of repetitive motion. The company accepted the claim but a few years later the opposite shoulder was diagnosed with the same issue and he was denied. The smallest injuries and accidents are automatic one sided to push blame against the employee. Management has done extensive practice of pushing new members to accept all their processes and rules and then giving them no choice but to break them to meet production. When the member makes the decision to work unsafe and out of process it’s due to management bullying and stress. A supervisor at a resent employee startup meeting told his employees that after their morning meetings they were to go “straight to work”. No bathroom breaks, or water breaks. Some workers have 45 minute to an hour and half commute to work or some employees take medication that makes them take bathroom breaks and they can’t wait. Working in an un-airconditioned shop environment, especially in the summertime, restricting workers not to hydrate is not only irresponsible but can be



dangerous and unsafe. It is illegal for employers to forbid access to water or impose unreasonable restrictions on bathroom use. OSHA regulations require employers to provide prompt, unrestricted access to toilet facilities and potable water. If an employer prohibits water or restroom access, they can be in violation of OSHA standards.

Management has shifted to a very aggressive push against our members due to their inexperience and lack of knowledge of contract language and labor law. The best way for our members to protect themselves is to get involved.

1. **Attend Union meetings and events:** Google UAW Local 974, 3025 Springfield Rd. Go to our website, click on the menu and choose upcoming events. Plan to come to a general council meeting to get credible updated information and answers. Many rumors and misinformation are flooding social media through unauthorized websites that hide behind the UAW logo. There are also family-friendly events so our members can meet and get to know each other.
2. **Open your contract book and educate yourself:** if you have trouble navigating the contract, go to your Union Representatives in your shop. Ask them questions or better yet, come out to the Hall and sit in on a steward meeting that's held once a month. There you are with your brothers/sisters and can ask any of the elected Representatives questions that you may have. That's what they are there for.
3. **Get involved with your local elections and elected positions:** The meaning behind "We our Union" is just that. We are better in solidarity than apart. Any member can become a steward, a safety representative or run for an elected position.

Employers who purposefully depress the number of injuries reported or who put policies in place to discourage reporting are putting workers at risk. If you have been discouraged from reporting an injury, been told your injury was not work-related or disciplined for reporting an injury or hazard, tell your UAW Safety representatives, and they will take appropriate action on your behalf. It takes all of our members to be in solidarity to keep each other safe.

I've titled this newsletter a line from a poem by Maya Angelou... I come as one, but I stand as 10,000. It highlights that an individual's strength is derived from the sacrifices, struggles and triumphs of their predecessors. It is a reminder that even when one feels alone, they are backed by a community or lineage. It is often used to emphasize that personal success or advocacy is a continuation of a collective fight for justice, equality and progress. Lastly, it represents overcoming hardships by drawing on the "ten thousand" who paved the way.

Loren Meyers
Plant Wide Safety Chairman





UAW Local 974



Sponsored by Local 974 Heather Henninger Scholarship Committee

2nd Annual Doubles Disc Golf Tournament



Saturday, May 16, 2026

**Laura Bradley Park
1314 N. Park Road, Peoria IL**

**Tournament starts at 10:30 a.m.
Sign-in starts at 9:30 a.m.**

Entry fee: \$50.00 for 2-person team

**Party after disc golf at Crusen's
2117 W. Farmington Rd.
West Peoria, IL 61604**

50/50 & Raffle Items



**Purchase new & used discs at Underdog Sports & Fanfare
4650 N. Brandywine Dr., Peoria IL.
(309) 306-8886**





UAW LOCAL 974 2nd Annual



Doubles Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 16, 2026

REGISTRATION FORM

1 Laura Bradley Park
1314 N. Park Rd.
Peoria, IL

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Disc-off 10:30 a.m.

Union Sponsors	Price	Amount
Two (2) Person Team:	\$50.00	
Hole Sponsor: (Name on the Course Sign.)	\$100.00	
*One (1) Person Team:	\$25.00	
Food @ Crusen's: \$10.00 per person (Pizza & Pulled Pork)	\$10.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		

*Individuals will be paired with other individuals.

Disc Golfer Information

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email/Cell: _____

LETTERING REQUESTED ON HOLE SPONSOR SIGN: _____

Golfer #1 _____ Golfer #2 _____

Please make check payable to: UAW Local 974 and mail this form to: UAW Local 974
3025 Springfield Road
East Peoria, IL 61611



For more information contact: Doug Byrne (309) 258-9281 or Matthew Butler (309) 840-6319



AMALGAMATED UAW LOCAL 974
TRIENNIAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

LISTED BELOW ARE THE CANDIDATES FOR THE MAY 5, 2026 TRIENNIAL ELECTION:

<u>2nd VICE PRESIDENT</u>	<u>GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES:</u>
1. Anthonie (Tony) Newton	
2. Frank Coates	<u>East Peoria Prime Products</u>
	Matthew R. Harrison (1 st shift)
<u>FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER</u>	Anthonie (Tony) Newton (1 ST shift)
1. Matthew Butler	
2. John Williamson	<u>Morton – Vote for 3</u>
	1. Matthew Butler (1 st shift)
<u>BARGAINING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN</u>	2. Terri L. Brooks (1 st shift)
1. Bobby Koller	3. Teresa Schmitt (2 nd shift)
2. Matthew R. Harrison	4. Randy Bowers (3 rd shift)
<u>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</u>	<u>RECORDING SECRETARY</u>
1. Kim Baker	1. Steven Kovach
2. Tyler Church	2. Kelly Arrington

THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026, FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AT THE LOCAL 974 UNION HALL, 3025 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, EAST PEORIA, IL

THE RUNOFF ELECTION, IF NEEDED, AND ELECTION FOR GRIEVANCE DIVISION CHAIRMEN WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026, FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AT LOCAL 974 UNION HALL

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION AND THEREFORE WILL NOT BE ON THE MAY 5, 2026 BALLOT:

EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION:

PRESIDENT

Randy Diehl

GUIDE

Robert William LiGrisse III

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Byrne

TRUSTEES

Mike Rohde

Bruce M. Bartlett

Scott "Redbeard" Kindilien

CHAIRMAN OF INSURANCE & BENEFITS

John Arnold

SAFETY CHAIRMAN

Loren Meyers

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – EP UNDERCARRIAGE

Rob Hawkins

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – MAPLETON CMO/SEALS

Thomas J. Johnson - Seals

Stacy Robertson - CMO

MEMBER-AT-LARGE - MORTON

Teresa Schmitt

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – EAST PEORIA PRIME

Caleb Kelly

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – EP TRANSMISSIONS

Ken (Radar) Gregory



EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION (continued):

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – SKILLED TRADES

Jeffrey Zilch -Mapleton CMO

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION:

EAST PEORIA PRIME PRODUCTS

Frank Coates (1st shift, SS)
Tom Wood (2nd shift, LL)

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Kurt Fiedler (1st shift)
David M King (1st shift)

EAST PEORIA UNDERCARRIAGE

Doug Byrne (1st shift)
Kim Baker (2nd shift)

MAPLETON CMO/SEALS

David Kelly (1st shift, CMO)
Steven Kovach (2nd shift, CMO)
Stacy Robertson (3rd shift, CMO)
Thomas Johnson (1st shift, Seals)
Kimberly K. Erickson (2nd shift, Seals)

EAST PEORIA TRANSMISSIONS

Mike Rohde (1st shift)
Scott "Redbeard" Kindilien (2nd shift)
Ken (Radar) Gregory (3rd shift)

C.A.P. COUNCIL DELEGATES ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

Stanley J. Valentine
Marcia McCann
Velma E. Walton
Dale Cassel
Harry H. Thompson Jr.
Shannon Ruetz
Roberto G. Avina
David J. Lahood
James W. Tabor
William Scott
Rick C. Doty
Dave Chapman
John Bainbridge
Gary E. Hall
Steven "Bubba" C. Adams
Jean E Curtis

NO NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

MEMBER AT LARGE – SPECIALTY PRODUCTS
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – SPECIALTY PRODUCTS
UNIT 4 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – TAZEVELL MACHINE WORKS
UNIT 6 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – CITY OF DELAVAN
UNIT 9 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – MASON CITY PUBLIC WORKS
UNIT 10 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – MASON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
UNIT 12 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – VILLAGE OF SOUTH PEKIN

AMALGAMATED UAW LOCAL 974 ELECTION COMMITTEE

Jim Gard Jr., CHAIRMAN
Nancy Adams, CO-CHAIRMAN
Shirley Harris, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Courtney Sims, RECORDING SECRETARY

Cusack & Gilfillan, LLC

Attorneys At Law

240 S.W. Jefferson Ave. • SUITE 100
Peoria, IL 61602 • 309/637-5282

CONCENTRATING IN

Personal Injury and Workmen's Compensation

Reduced Fees for

✓Members ✓Spouses ✓Dependents ✓Retirees

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~ APRIL 2026

Friday, April 3rd	GOOD FRIDAY – UNION HALL CLOSED
Sunday, April 5th	EASTER
Sunday, April 12th	EXECUTIVE BOARD MTNG – 12:00 PM
Sunday, April 12th	GENERAL COUNCIL MTNG – 1:00 PM
Wednesday, April 15th	RETIREE DINNER – 11:30 AM (CANCELLED)
Thursday, April 16th	SAFETY MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 12:00 PM; 4:00 PM
Saturday, April 18th	UAW BINGO NIGHT – 4:00 PM
Thursday, April 23rd	STEWARD MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 3:00 PM; 4:00 PM
Tuesday, April 28th	BALLY'S QUAD CITIES BUS TRIP – 8:00 AM

MAY 2026

Friday, May 1st	LOCAL 974 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE (June Issue)
Sunday, May 10th	MOTHER'S DAY – (ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED)
Saturday, May 16th	2 ND ANNUAL DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT – 10:30 AM
Wednesday, May 20th	RETIREE DINNER – 11:30 AM
Thursday, May 21st	SAFETY MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 12:00 PM; 4:00 PM
Monday, May 25th	MEMORIAL DAY – UNION HALL CLOSED
Tuesday, May 26th	BALLY'S QUAD CITIES BUS TRIP – 8:00 AM
Thursday, May 28th	STEWARD MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 3:00 PM; 4:00 PM





Local 974 would like to thank and acknowledge the following businesses and people for their donations to our 2026 9-Pin Bowling Tournament.



UNDERDOG SPORTS

Monical's Pizza (Morton) - 1067 W. Jackson, Morton IL

Elevate Trampoline 105 N. Main St., East Peoria IL

Underdog Sports - 4650 N. Brandywine Dr., Peoria IL

VFW Post 2078 - 1507 Meadow Ave., East Peoria IL

Louie's Unique Pub, 310 Meadow Ave., East Peoria IL

Bremer's Jewelry, 4707 N. University St., Peoria IL

Pizza Ranch, 903 W. Jackson St., Morton IL

Kep's Sports Bar & Grill, 313 Muller Rd, Washington IL

Morton VIP Cinemas, 2115 S. Main St., Morton IL

Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino, 21 Blackjack Blvd., East Peoria IL

Bernardi's Restaurant, 2137 Washington Rd., Washington IL

The Putt Club East Peoria, 1001 Bass Pro Dr., East Peoria IL

Tangled Roots, 140 Washington Square, Washington IL

Texas Roadhouse, 600 Riverside Dr., East Peoria IL

Holland's Caramel Corn, 127 Washington Square, Washington

Linn Lanes, 635 E. Lynn St., Canton IL

Peoria Chiefs, 730 SW Jefferson Ave., Peoria IL



"Thank you to our Sponsors"

UAW Local 974 Retirees *** UAW IL State CAP Council

New Twist *** Pickett Pop

Stephens, Fiddes, Mc Gill & Associates

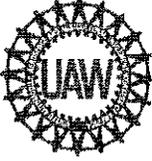
Tazewell County Democrats

Labor Council of West Central Illinois

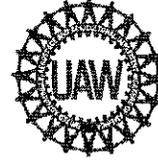


TANGLED ROOTS
CRAFT BEER & KITCHEN





UAW AMALGAMATED LOCAL 974



ELECTION NOTICE

Nominations will open April 6, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and close April 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. with drawing for position on the ballot on April 19, 2026 at 12p.m..

UNIT 4 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – TAZEVELL MACHINE WORKS
UNIT 6 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – CITY OF DELAVAN
UNIT 9 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – MASON CITY PUBLIC WORKS
UNIT 10 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – MASON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
UNIT 12 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – VILLAGE OF SOUTH PEKIN

All nomination forms must be notarized unless personally handed to an Election Committee Officer. Printed names on the form should reflect how the candidates wish their names to appear on the ballot.

Last withdrawal date will be April 15, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Nominations and withdrawals will be accepted during the Local 974 normal business hours **ONLY**.

ELECTION WILL BE HELD:

May 5, 2026, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

RUN-OFF ELECTION (if necessary) WILL BE HELD:

May 19, 2026 FROM 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Election will be held at Amalgamated Local 974 UAW Union Hall,
3025 Springfield Road, East Peoria, IL 61611**

UPDATE: 3/4/26

DOWNDATE: 4/13/26

LOCAL 974 ELECTION COMMITTEE

Jim Gard Jr., Chairperson
Nancy Adams, CO-Chairperson
Shirley Harris, Sergeant-At-Arms
Courtney Sims, Recording Secretary



UAW AMALGAMATED LOCAL 974



ELECTION NOTICE

Nominations will open April 6, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and close April 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. with drawing for position on the ballot on April 19, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

39th CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

(4 positions available)

All nomination forms must be notarized unless personally handed to an Election Committee Officer. Printed names on the form should reflect how the candidates wish their names to appear on the ballot.

Last withdrawal date will be April 15, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Nominations and withdrawals will be accepted during the Local 974 normal business hours **ONLY**.

ELECTION WILL BE HELD:

May 5, 2026, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

RUN-OFF ELECTION (if necessary) WILL BE HELD:

May 19, 2026 FROM 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Election will be held at Amalgamated Local 974 UAW Union Hall,
3025 Springfield Road, East Peoria, IL 61611**

UPDATE: 3/10/26

DOWNDATE: 4/13/26

sdl/opelu#9/aff-cio-clc

LOCAL 974 ELECTION COMMITTEE

Jim Gard Jr., Chairperson
Nancy Adams, CO-Chairperson
Shirley Harris, Sergeant-At-Arms
Courtney Sims, Recording Secretary

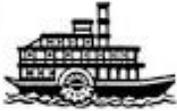
RETIRES CHAPTER UAW LOCAL 974

WEDNESDAY POTLUCKS (Dinner begins at 11:30 a.m.)

APRIL 15TH & MAY 20TH

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 leave at 8:00 a.m.)
Tuesday, April 28 – Bally’s Quad Cities Bus Trip
Tuesday, May 26 – Bally’s Quad Cities Bus Trip



For questions concerning the trip call Velma Walton at (309)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

Velma Walton, Chairperson • James W. Tabor, First Vice Chair • Thomas J. Bencher, Treasurer
David LaHood, Recording Secretary • Raymond “Dale” Cassel, Guide • Gary E. Hall, Sergeant-At-Arms • Steven C. Adams, Trustee
Velma Walton, Delegate • Dale Cassel, Delegate • James Tabor, Delegate • Gary Hall, Delegate • Steve Adams, Delegate
Retirees Election Committee Mike Hoke, Chairman



**UAW AMALGAMATED
LOCAL 974**



RETIREE’S CHAPTER OFFICERS

Retiree’s Chapter Officers

Chairperson – Velma Walton
First Vice-Chair – James Tabor
Treasurer – Thomas J. Bencher
Rec. Sec. – Mike Shoop
Guide – Dale Cassel
Sergeant-At-Arms – Gary Hall
Trustee – Steve Adams
Trustee – Carol Cassel

BARGAINING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – APRIL 2026

BOBBY KOLLER

Greetings Brother and Sisters,

The current docket numbers are 5 issue grievances and 7 just cause grievances.

Steward meetings are going well. Currently covering the local language of the Contract and Article 4 is the big one with overtime and the 20 ground rules. I believe this Article will greatly help out new union stewards.

The 4% lump sum will be paid out to our members on March 27, 2026. This is all hours worked from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, times the rate of pay. The qualifying day is December 31, 2025. The December 19, 2025, check stub will have total hours worked. This number should put you very close to the year's total hours.

We have docketing with the company on March 12, 2026, for East Peoria just cause grievances, 2 discharges and one 3-day suspension.

There is an AG-IMP Conference that will take place on March 30, 2026, through April 2, 2026, in Milwaukee, WI. Event dates coming up are April 18, 2026, for Bingo Night and May 16, 2026, for 2nd Annual Frisbee Golf Tournament.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at (309) 694-3151.

In Solidarity,
Bobby Koller, Bargaining Chairman

UAW MEMBERS

SAVE HUNDREDS ON CEMETERY MONUMENTS

CURRENT AND RETIRED UAW MEMBERS SHOW US YOUR UAW MEMBERSHIP CARD AND RECEIVE A 5% TO 10% DISCOUNT ON THE PURCHASE OF A MONUMENT

VISIT EITHER LOCATION

PEORIA MONUMENT CO. 3701-A N. SHERIDAN + PEORIA, IL 309.682.9858 (CORNER OF SHERIDAN & WAR MEMORIAL)	MCAVOY MONUMENT CO. 3302 COURT STREET PEKIN, IL 309.346.0866
--	---

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

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



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
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/uawlocal974/>

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
to Local 974, UAW, 3025 Springfield Rd., East Peoria, Illinois
61611



FROM LOCAL UNION MEMBERS TO LEADING LAWYERS

The attorneys at Stephens Fiddes McGill & Associates were all union members prior to becoming attorneys.



G. DOUGLAS STEPHENS

Former Member of
LABORERS LOCAL 165



NORMAN MCGILL

Former Member of
LOCAL PRESS UNION



HEATHER CALVERT

Former Member of
UFCW | US ARMY VETERAN

Leading
Lawyers



ILLINOIS TRIAL LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

FREE CONSULTATION

PERSONAL INJURY & WORKER'S COMPENSATION,
ASBESTOS EXPOSURE & MESOTHELIOMA

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
FAMILY LAW, TRUSTS, WILLS & ESTATES

Serving UAW Members and Families for over 45 years

CALL (309) 637-LAWS

WWW.STEPHENSFIDDESMCGILL.COM

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

