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



# **LOCAL 974 NEWS**

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

VOL 109 • OCTOBER 2025



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





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".







## PRESIDENT'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2025

RANDY DIEHL, President ————

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

Local 974 proudly marched in the Labor Day Parade in West Peoria on September 1st. The parade ended at Raber's on Farmington Road where there was food, drinks, a live band, bouncy houses, etc. were available for our members to enjoy. Everyone who participated received a free Local 974 shirt.

Our events committee remains busy planning this years "Trunk or Treat" that will be held at the UAW Local 974 hall on October 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We need volunteers to decorate their vehicles and give out candy to the trick or treaters. The hall will furnish candy. Please contact me at (309) 694-3151 if you can participate.

We are also planning a Bingo Night here at the hall that will be held on November 15th. There will be cash prizes given out based on participation with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Heather Henninger Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships to our members, children, and grandchildren.

In Solidarity, Randy Diehl





#### **"UNION MEETINGS"**

Oct. 12th & Nov. 9th

Executive Board Meeting - 12:00 P.M.

General Council Meeting – 1:00 P.M.

Oct. 16th & Nov. 20th

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

Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> & Nov. (Cancelled)

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 LiGrisse 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

itch Oregory

M-A-L EP Undercarriage Rob Hawkins

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

Starr valeritirie

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 – OCTOBER 2025

JOHN ARNOLD -

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

Well October is here, and boy has this year flown by. This is my favorite time of the year with football underway and the cool autumn temperatures.

We are now about one month away from Annual Enrollment. I have no prediction of what next year's premiums will be this time. But, if you have been thinking about making changes to your coverage this would be the time to do so. As always, once I get the premiums I will post them on the Unions website at www.uawlocal974.org and will post them in our Facebook group. You can also call me on the week of October 27th at which point I should have those numbers.

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.



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

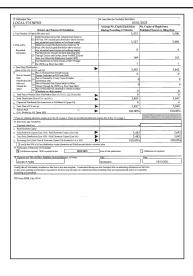
# MATTHEW BUTLER —————

# FINANCIAL REPORT OCTOBER 2025

JULY 2025			
Income	231,209.87		
Expenditures	<u>275,312.65</u>		
Excess of Expense over Income	(44,102.78)		
Regular Dues received on:	2965		
Initiation Fees received on:	73		
PER CAPITA TAXES:			
International Union UAW	118,633.10		
CAP Council	6,354.92		
CAT Council	4,739.58		
Retirees Dues PCT	78.00		
Labor Council of West Central IL	184.00		
Ag Imp Council	116.08		
IPS Council Pooled Arb Fund	<u>5.54</u>		
TOTAL:	130,11.22		

AUGUST 2025	
Income	230,638.43
Expenditures	239,004.82
Excess of Expense over Income	(8,366.39)
Regular Dues received on:	3000
Initiation Fees received on:	58
PER CAPITA TAXES:	
International Union UAW	120,199.22
CAP Council	6,436.73
CAT Council	4,738.20
Retirees Dues PCT	7.80
Labor Council of West Central IL	184.00
Ag Imp Council	118.04
IPS Council Pooled Arb Fund	<u>18.61</u>
TOTAL:	131,702.60

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# LOCAL 974 ELECTION RESULTS



#### RETIREE'S CHAPTER OFFICERS

The following members were elected by acclamation for the following Retirees' Chapter Offices:

# **Retiree's Chapter Officers**

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

## **Retiree Chapter Delegates:**

Velma Walton
Dale Cassel
James Tabor
Gary Hall
Steve Adams

# RETIREES ELECTION COMMITTEE MIKE HOKE, CHAIRMAN



# BARGAINING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2025

**BOBBY KOLLER** 

Greetings Brother and Sisters,

The current docket has 5 issues and 4 just cause grievances.

This year is flying by. Hard to believe we are 3 months away from Christmas and 2026. I continue to work with Committeemen in all the Business Units to get grievances resolved that they refer to my office. Along with International and the Chairmen of the Business Units, we meet for docketing with Company and argue these grievances each quarter. The last docket meeting was held on July 30, 2025, and we were able to resolve several of those grievances.

I received an arbitration decision on August 4, 2025, for the arbitration I mentioned in the last newsletter. Unfortunately, the arbitrator denied the grievance. The arbitrator determined that the members misconduct warranted discharge, and that the Company had just cause.

We will have Committeemen training on November 3rd through 6th this year in Ottawa, IL.

I hope to see everyone at the Trunk or Treat on October 18th.

Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns at (309) 694-3151.

In Solidarity, Bobby Koller, Bargaining Chairman

Remembering Our Brothers and Sisters						
Jui	ly			August		
James J. Bolander	TTTD	R	07/03/25	William P. Poore TBU F	R	08/03/25
Joseph C. Wells	TSD	R	07/07/25	Wendell O. Dixon TTTD I	R	08/09/25
Donald L. Rush	Mapltn	R	07/11/25	Clinton C. Nauman Moss I	R	08/09/25
Donald L. Doss Sr.	TTTD	R	07/17/25	Harry W. White TTTD I	R	08/09/25
Randall L. Stoneking	TTTD	R	07/17/25	Stephen L. Logan TTTD F	R	08/11/25
James D. Porter	Moss	R	07/24/25	Robert L. Martin Moss F	R	08/12/25
Phillip D. Workman	TBU	R	07/26/25	Herbert H. Thomas TBU F	R	08/12/25
Lloyd D. Reece Jr.	TBU	Α	07/28/25	Cleo Dailey Jr. Mapltn H	R	08/15/25
Charles L. Adams	TTTD	R	07/29/25	Richard L. Reiter TBU F	R	08/17/25
Allen G. Kerr	Moss	R	07/31/25	Francisco P. Gama TTTD F	R	08/19/25
1				Kenneth L. Saupe TTTD F	R	08/20/25
1				Vernon E. Crum TTTD F	R	08/24/25
	Thomas		**	Norman D. Buchanan TTTD I	R	08/24/25
<u> </u>	Fores mem	0ei		Charles R. Neville Moss I	R	08/25/25
$\mathbb{R}_{o}$	mon	1/2	nad	Allan D. Pierantoni Morton I	R	08/26/25
				Jay C. Nuckols TBU I	R	08/26/25
Forg	non	M	issed	August S. Gingotti TTTD I	R	08/27/25
0010	UG .	ノVユ	www	Russell G. Beaver Jr. TBU I	R	08/28/25



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.





# PEOPLE WERE SOLD A LIE

Loren Meyers, Plantwide Safety Chairman

If you've watched the documentary Oceangate on Netflix, then you know who David Lochridge is.David is the whistleblower who had been sacked by the firm behind the sub, Oceangate, after warning about safety issues in 2018. In June 2023 the sub imploded killing all five people on board – including Oceangate's own CEO Stockton Rush. Lochridge had joined Oceangate seven years earlier as the company's Director of Marine Operations. Oceangate was building a new submersible to take paying passengers down to the most famous wreck in the world - the Titanic. Lochridge has worked at sea for more than 25 years, first with the Royal Navy and later as a submersible pilot. He also led submarine rescue operations, responding to distress calls from people trapped underwater. He knows about the risks involved in deep dives. His responsibilities included planning dives and, as chief pilot, he would be the one taking the sub and its passengers 3,800m beneath the waves to see the Titanic. Safety was at the heart of his role. "He told BBC News. "I was responsible for the safety of all Oceangate personnel and all of the passengers that were going to be coming in the sub."

He said he was told by Oceangate's CEO Stockton Rush that the craft would undergo a safety assessment by an independent marine organization, known as Certification. Lochridge was adamant that this third-party oversight was essential - especially because Titan was to be made of experimental materials. But by the summer of 2016 he was starting to have doubts about the project. Oceangate stopped working with APL and decided to bring the design and construction of Titan in-house. Lochridge was worried because He didn't have the same confidence in Oceangate's engineers. He told the BBC he didn't think they had experience of building subs able to withstand the immense pressures found at the depth of the Titanic. He stated, "At that point, I started asking questions and was going to keep asking". As the parts for Titan began to arrive, and the craft started to take shape, Lochridge said he was spotting problem after problem. He learned that Titan was not going to be independently certified for safety. Always outspoken on safety issues he wasn't going to stay silent. "I brought up all the issues that I was seeing... but I was just met with resistance all the way," he said. In January 2018, he outlined his concerns again to Stockton Rush. This time Rush asked him to complete an inspection of the vessel. Titan was at a crucial point of its development. Passengers had already paid deposits for dives to the Titanic planned for later that year. Test dives were about to start in the Bahamas before those expeditions got underway. Lochridge wanted Oceangate to delay these plans. "I formulated a report and I sent it out to all the directors in the company." The following day he was summoned to a meeting with Rush and several other Oceangate employees. To Lochridge's surprise, immediately after this meeting he was fired. But he was so concerned about Titan that he got in touch with the US government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration - OSHA. But Lochridge says after OSHA wrote to Oceangate to tell them it was starting an investigation, everything changed. In March, Oceangate asked Lochridge to drop the OSHA complaint - and demanded he pay \$10,000 for legal costs. Lochridge declined. Then in July 2018, Oceangate sued Lochridge and his wife Carole for breach of contract, misappropriation of trade secrets, fraud and theft, amongst other allegations. The following month, Lochridge countersued for unfair dismissal. Lochridge maintains that throughout the process OSHA was slow and failed to protect him from the ongoing retaliation he was receiving from Oceangate."I provided all the documentation to OSHA, I was on the phone to OSHA every few weeks." he said. "OSHA did nothing."

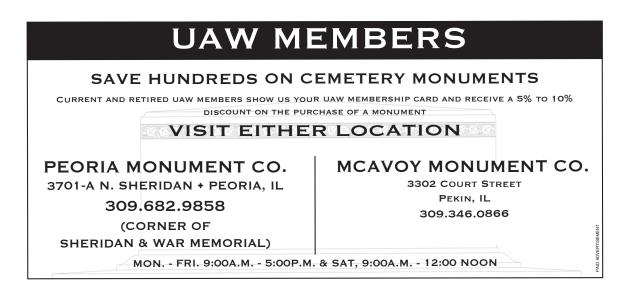


#### 'They beat us down'

In December 2018, under increasing pressure from Oceangate's lawyers, Lochridge and his wife took the decision to drop the case. This meant the legal proceedings were settled, and as part of this agreement Lochridge withdrew his complaint at OSHA. OSHA stopped its investigation and also notified the US Coast guard that the complaint had been suspended. Lochridge also signed a non-disclosure agreement. "Carole and I did everything we physically could, we just got to the point that we were completely burned... We had nothing left to give to it. They beat us down." Oceangate continued at pace with its plans to reach the Titanic. In 2018 and 2019, the prototype sub made its first test dives in the Bahamas - including one, piloted by Stockton Rush, that reached a depth of 3,939 m. A crack was later found in the sub's carbon fiber hull, and in 2020 that damaged hull was swapped out for a new one, in what became the second version of Titan. In 2021, the company started taking passengers to the Titanic, and over the next two summers made 13 dives to the famous wreck. But in June 2023, the sub went missing with five people on board - including Stockton Rush. After days of anxious waiting, the sub's wreckage was found littered across the ocean floor.

Many of our UAW members, including myself, have experienced the same situations where we try to do the right thing and management doesn't take it seriously or they retaliate against you for being persistent. At a time when it seems like "being right" has become more important than what is right, we all need to stand together. If there is a health or safety problem you are aware of and it affects you or your coworkers, report it to your supervisor and your union representative. Your UAW Safety Representative is there to advocate for you, but we must take the first steps together. Our Safety Complaint Procedure was agreed upon in the recent negotiations-use it. Instead of all the substitute methods for reporting hazards like C/I cards and suggestion boxes, call for your UAW Safety representative.

Loren Meyers UAW 974 Plantwide Safety Chairman





# 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

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~ OCTOBER 2025

Sunday, October 12th EXECUTIVE BOARD MTNG – 12:00 PM Sunday, October 12th GENERAL COUNCIL MTNG – 1:00 PM

Wednesday, October 15th RETIREE DINNER - 11:30 AM

Thursday, October 16th SAFETY MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 12:00 PM; 4:00 PM

Saturday, October 18th TRUNK OR TREAT – 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 23rd STEWARD MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 3:00 PM; 4:00 PM

Tuesday, October 28th BALLY'S QUAD CITIES BUS TRIP - 8:00 AM

Friday, October 31st HALLOWEEN

### **NOVEMBER 2025**

Monday, November 3rd LOCAL 974 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE (December Issue)

Sunday, November 9th EXECUTIVE BOARD MTNG – 12:00 PM Sunday, November 9th GENERAL COUNCIL MTNG – 1:00 PM

Saturday, November 15th UAW BINGO NIGHT – 4:00 PM Wednesday, November 19th RETIREE DINNER – 11:30 AM

Thursday, November 20th SAFETY MTNGS - 8:00 AM; 12:00 PM; 4:00 PM

Tuesday, November 25th GOLDEN NUGGET BUS TRIP – 8:00 AM Thursday, November 27th THANKSGIVING – (Union Hall Closed)

Friday, November 28th DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING – (Union Hall Closed)





PEORIA AREA ELECTRICAL JATC

4313 S. Entec Dr. Bartonville IL 61607

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL 309-694-3151





# AMALGAMATED LOCAL 974 ELECTION NOTICE



#### **LOCAL 974 ELECTION COMMITTEE for 2026-2029**

NOMINATIONS WILL BE OPEN ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 AND CLOSE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025 AT 4:30 P.M.

#### 40 ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED

LAST WITHDRAWAL DATE WILL BE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 AT 4:30 P.M.

DRAWING FOR POSITION ON BALLOT WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

THE ELECTION OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 FROM 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. DURING THE GENERAL COUNCIL/MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AT THE UAW LOCAL 974 UNION HALL 3025 SPRINGFIELD ROAD IN EAST PEORIA IL 61611

This election will be conducted by the Special Election Committee

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST CONFORM TO THE INTL CONSTITUTION & LOCAL BYLAWS

Election Committee candidates must (in order to have their names on the ballot) have been a member of the Local Union in continuous good standing for a period of not less than one (1) year immediately prior to being nominated.

PLEASE NOTE: If you will not be present at the drawing, your nomination petition must be notarized. You are personally responsible for turning in your own nomination at the Union Hall where a nomination box is provided.

John Arnold, Chairman, Local 974 Special Election Committee
Bobby Koller, Co-Chairman, Local 974 Special Election Committee



# **RETIREES CHAPTER UAW LOCAL 974**

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

#### OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> & NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

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, October 28 – Bally's Quad Cities Bus Trip
Tuesday, November 25 – Golden Nugget 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

Sandra Haasis, 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

#### **Bard Optical** For All UAW 974 Members Union Discounts ~ Bill Your Insurance Directly **Our Vision Benefits at Bard Optical** VSP Choice Plan VSP Access Indemnity Plan (former Executive Plan) (former Union \$150 Allowance Plan - Benefits every 2 years) SERVICE COST EXAM/FRAMES: Members Retail comprehensive Eye Health Exam \$40.00 \$59.00 \$20.00 Co Pay (per year) omprehensive Eve Health Exam \$34.00 up to \$79.00 Frame Designer Frames 30% OFF RETAIL FULL RETAIL \$60.00 Co-Pay (per year) LENSES: Single Vision \$40.00 \$60.00 Frame Benefit \$160.00 allowance (per 2 yrs) \$65.00 ine Bifocal \$90.00 Contact Lenses \$140.00 allowance (per year) instead of glasses Line Trifocal \$85.00 \$190.00 \$20.00 Co-Pay for standard lenses (once per year) PROGRESSIVE LENSES: Additional 25% discount on frames over \$160.00 and lens add-ons! \$110.00 \$190.00 \$20 Co-Pay for "medically necessary" contact lenses (designated by a doctor in cases where a \$170.00 \$240.00 patient's vision cannot be corrected through the use of glasses) 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. 309.353.9313 Peoria Pekin

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Campustown

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# 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.

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

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

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