



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 100 • APRIL 2024



UAW Local 974 has Raffle Tickets

for a

Cardinals – Cubs Baseball Game

Game Date:

Sunday, July 14th



This game is at the

Cardinal's Stadium

1 for \$20.00 & 2 for \$30.00

(2 Tickets for Each Game)

***Drawing to be held at General Council Meeting
Sunday, June 9th***



For tickets contact Gary Hall @ 369-3676 or UAW Local 974 Hall @ 694-3151

All proceeds go to the Veterans' Fund

(Need not be present to win)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - APRIL 2024

RANDY DIEHL, President _____

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

I am happy that Spring is finally here even though we had an easy winter. I hope that all of our members have some nice vacations and down time planned.

Caterpillar continues to hire new members but unfortunately, they also continue to fire our members. I am concerned about how many workplace violence and "Code of Conduct" separations that we have had recently. Please be aware that this is happening and be very careful what you say to other employees and around other employees. Think about if what you're saying could be taken as threatening, as sexual harassment or racist, even if you don't mean it that way. We have lost too many members due to these issues. Action and words that were accepted in the past are often not accepted now. Please be careful. Even if your words don't offend the person that you are talking to, they might offend someone else that overhears them.

In Solidarity,

Randy Diehl



"UNION MEETINGS"

Apr. 14th & May 12th (Cancelled)

Executive Board Meeting – 12:00 P.M.

General Council Meeting – 1:00 P.M.

Apr. 18th & May 16th

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

Apr. 25th & May 23rd

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

Matthew Diebel

Second Vice-President

Tony Newton

Chair. of Insurance & Benefits

John Arnold

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Matthew Butler

Recording Secretary

Douglas Byrne

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

Steven Kovach

M-A-L Mapleton Seals

Thomas Johnson

Morton GDC Member-At-Large

Angie Speer

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 2024

JOHN ARNOLD _____

As I write this article, Spring is just a couple of weeks away, but the weather has been terrific.

Many of you know that there was an issue with the February pension amount. Bswift, the new company Caterpillar hired to run the insurance administration, accidentally sent out the second Medicare reimbursement payment five months early. All those that received this overpayment should have gotten a letter telling you that you can keep this overpayment. That they will just skip July's payment. Those that only got January's Medicare reimbursement will still get the regular July reimbursement. If you do not get that July's payment you will need to call Bswift at 1-833-735-2127.

A reminder to all of those that are on Long Term Disability (LTD) or receive a pension and don't have your premium come out of your monthly check to make sure you are paying your monthly bill that Bswift sends you. If you haven't received a bill for your premium, please call Bswift immediately. This does not concern those that are on Short Term Disability (STD) or have their premium come out of their pension check before you receive the monthly payment.

In closing, I want to say that in all my years being involved with the Benefits office I have gotten to know a lot of great people and have gained a lot of friends over those years. Many of these people I care deeply about and feel that they truly are my Brothers and Sisters. I know it is a part of life that we all die, but it hits hard when you love someone like a brother or a grandpa that passes away. The Union lost two unbelievable guys in January and February. John Shallenberger passed away on January 22nd and was a great friend, mentor, and a true Brother. On February 24th Bill Corum passed away. He was like an adoptive grandpa to me. Bill was one of the warmest and friendliest people you could ever meet. Love and prayers to their families. John, Bill, thank you for everything you have done for me in my career with Caterpillar/UAW and my personal life. I can never repay you for what you guys did. May you both Rest in Heaven!

If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 309-694-3151.

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.**

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309-247-1905

We do not offer every plan available in your area.
Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area.
Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

MATTHEW BUTLER _____

FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2024

JANUARY 2024	
Income	237,635.89
Expenditures	230,518.56
Excess of Income over Expense	7,117.33
Regular Dues received on:	3,268
Initiation Fees received on:	42
PER CAPITA TAXES:	
International Union UAW	123,988.96
CAP Council	6,637.44
CAT Council	4,916.27
Retirees Dues PCT	103.35
Labor Council of West Central IL	184.00
Ag Imp Council	127.04
IPS Council Pooled Arb Fund	10.30
TOTAL:	135,967.36

FEBRUARY 2024	
Income	233,308.71
Expenditures	239,206.26
Excess of Expense over Income	(5,897.55)
Regular Dues received on:	3,225
Initiation Fees received on:	38
PER CAPITA TAXES:	
International Union UAW	126,869.11
CAP Council	6,795.74
CAT Council	4,946.03
Retirees Dues PCT	267.15
Labor Council of West Central IL	184.00
Ag Imp Council	128.32
IPS Council Pooled Arb Fund	12.63
TOTAL:	139,202.98

Greetings Brothers and Sisters, I hope everyone had a good holiday season! We are turning the corner with the finances being on the positive sign again the last two months. It's never comfortable to spend money but the repairs the Executive Board and General Council approved were much needed and will last for years to come. Total replacements over the last couple of years include new furnaces, new air conditioners, a new roof and new sump pumps. We are currently in the process of fixing the sound system in the auditorium.

We switched telephone and internet providers, and the transition went smoothly. We will see savings of around 300 a month for the life of the 3-year agreement.

Randy Diehl and I discussed ordering ahead on our shirts while we are with our current supplier to take advantage of the better pricing and stock up while the time is right.

Scott Kindilien spoke with me about doing a new Veteran's shirt, and after discussing it with the Executive Board we hope to have it available soon.

In Solidarity,

Matthew Butler, UAW Local 974, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

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

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PEKIN, IL
309.346.0866

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

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COMING TOGETHER

Loren Meyers, Plantwide Safety Chairman

Sunday, April 28th, 2024 at 3:00PM - Workers Memorial Monument Site, Peoria City Hall

Please join us for a brief memorial service to honor our fallen Brothers & Sisters who have died or have been seriously injured because of workplace accidents since we last met one year ago.

In 2017, federal agents raided three Caterpillar offices in Illinois seeking documents related to the company's taxes. The following year, Caterpillar revealed in an SEC filing that the IRS was seeking \$2.3 billion in taxes and penalties. Soon after William Barr, who had represented Caterpillar, was appointed U.S. Attorney General in 2018, the investigation "stalled," according to a Reuters report. (Caterpillar settles IRS tax dispute with no penalties | Equipment World) The IRS's interest in Caterpillar's taxes stemmed from a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by a former Cat accounting executive in 2009. Daniel Schlicksup accused the company of shifting U.S. profits offshore to shell companies in Switzerland and Bermuda. Schlicksup alleged he had alerted Caterpillar executives of illegal tax treatments in 2007 but was ignored and later retaliated against. The company insists that everything it did was aboveboard and that it investigated all of Schlicksup's complaints over the years about the Swiss setup. **Schlicksup maintains that supervisors hushed up his complaints and retaliated against him by eliminating his position and transferring him to the IT department. "The message to me was clear," once he testified. "We're going to hurt you a little, and if you don't keep quiet, we're going to hurt you a lot."** He left the company in 2012, and the case is pending. It's unclear whether the Justice Department will go after Caterpillar on criminal charges, but that wouldn't affect the IRS' attempt to recoup \$2 billion. The 55-year-old is a former accounting executive at the world's biggest maker of bulldozers, and as a long feature at **Bloomberg** explains, he just might become the highest-paid corporate whistleblower in history. As in, up to \$600 million if what he says is true and the IRS is able to collect. The IRS, which raided the company headquarters in Peoria, Ill., in 2017 thinks Caterpillar owes about \$2 billion. Under the agency's own formula, whistleblowers are entitled to up to 30% of whatever it collects. **(Former Caterpillar Accountant Daniel Schlicksup May Become the Best-Paid Corporate Whistleblower of All Time) (newser.com)**

"We're going to hurt you a little, and if you don't keep quiet, we're going to hurt you a lot." This statement from Mr. Schlicksup was very surreal to me because I have been in this situation and other UAW members have had the same experience. Recently, a UAW member was accused of hitting another employee's car in the parking lot, but because it was a UAW member who supposedly hit a manager's car the company got involved. If it had been two UAW members, they would have handed it over to East Peoria Police and forgot about it. The employee said he did not hit the vehicle and management indefinitely suspended the UAW member. **This is management's number 1 way of punishing the employees, by putting them out of work and hurting them financially to starve them into submission.** I believe Management chose the wrong UAW employee to make an example of because this UAW employee would not submit to management's so-called "values in inaction". This UAW employee, with the help of our local grievance committee, made a great case in arbitration because the truth was on the UAW member's side.

It takes courage to fight for the right reasons. A lot of our UAW members have less than 5 years of service and are not seasoned to this type of environment, but if we come together and do the right thing together in Solidarity, we can fight for the right reasons together. I have been at Caterpillar for over 20 years

now and I have been a steward or safety representative for 16 of those years. Unfortunately (for the last 10), I have seen a decrease in members that file safety complaints. I have members come to me all the time with legitimate concerns and have had no help taking it to their supervisor. I advise them to tell their supervisor that they want to request a UAW Safety Representative, and the response I get back is “I don’t want a target on my back”.

We must stand together when there is an issue, especially a health and safety issue, that needs to be addressed. Action against those who truly seek to make improvement for all cannot be tolerated. We have to choose our battles wisely but act decisively when necessary. Call your UAW Health and Safety Representative if problems you bring to management’s attention and are not corrected to your satisfaction. Our Safety Complaint Process is effective if we would just use it instead of the silly CI cards. If you choose not to say anything, not to address a problem, you’re just burying your head in the sand. I’ve got news for you, when your head is in the sand, there’s still a lot of you still exposed.

Loren Meyers
Plantwide Safety Chairman



APRIL 2024 – CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH	EXECUTIVE BOARD MTNG – 12:00 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH	GENERAL COUNCIL MTNG – 1:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH	RETIREE DINNER – 11:30 AM
THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH	SAFETY MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 12:00 PM; 4:00 PM
TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD	ISLE OF CAPRI BUS TRIP – 8:00 AM
THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH	STEWARDS MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 3:00 PM; 4:00 PM

MAY 2024 – CALENDAR OF EVENTS

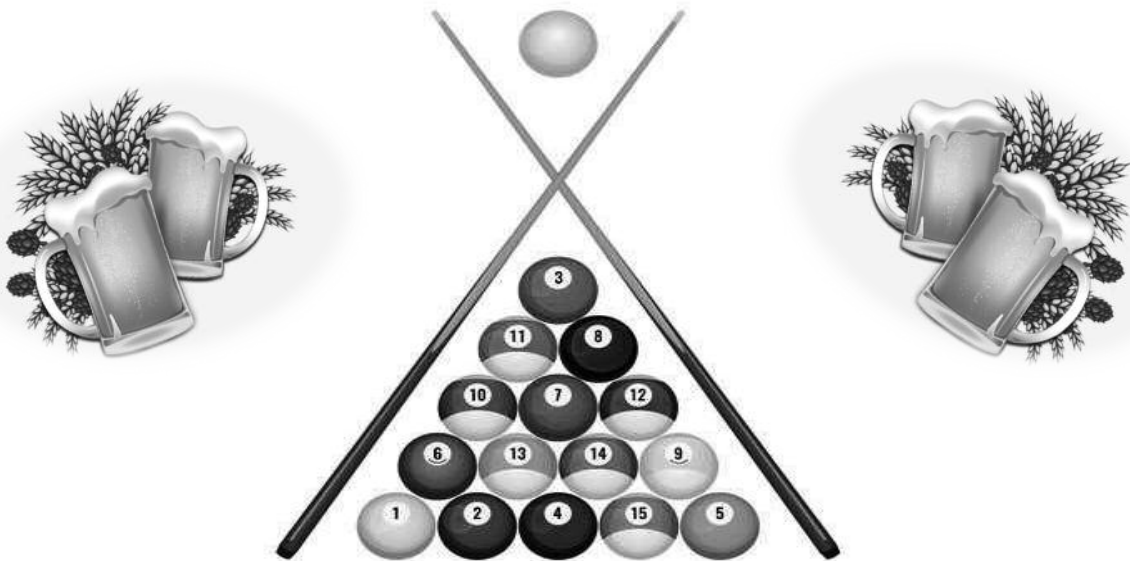
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – (JUNE PAPER)
SUNDAY, MAY 12TH	MOTHER’S DAY - (ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED)
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH	RETIREE DINNER – 11:30 AM
THURSDAY, MAY 16TH	SAFETY MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 12:00 PM; 4:00 PM
THURSDAY, MAY 23RD	STEWARDS MTNGS – 8:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 3:00 PM; 4:00 PM
MONDAY, MAY 27TH	MEMORIAL DAY – (UNION HALL CLOSED)
TUESDAY, MAY 28TH	BALLY’S QUAD CITIES BUS TRIP – 8:00 AM



UAW RETIREE REUNION



Saturday, June 29, 2024



Cathy's Cue & Brew

13301 N. State Rte. 29

Chillicothe, IL

from 2 p.m. - until

In Memory of a Special Brother



John R. Shallenberger

July 20, 1954 - January 22, 2024

*John, we hold onto our memories
The ones that are so dear
To try to keep you always close
Now you are not here*

*John you were called, it was your time
But it is so true*

*John, you have left a legacy
There was no one else like you*

*John you were very special
And we want to say*

We feel lost in many ways

John you are not here today

But we will never forget you

And we know we have been blessed

To have you for our Brother

Because you were the best...

UAW Local 974 Officers & Staff

In Memory of a Special Brother



Shirley

Wilfred "Bill" D. Corum

January 13, 1932 - February 24, 2024

...Until We Meet Again

We will think about you always,

We will talk about you still,

You have never been forgotten,

And you never will,

We will hold you close within our hearts.

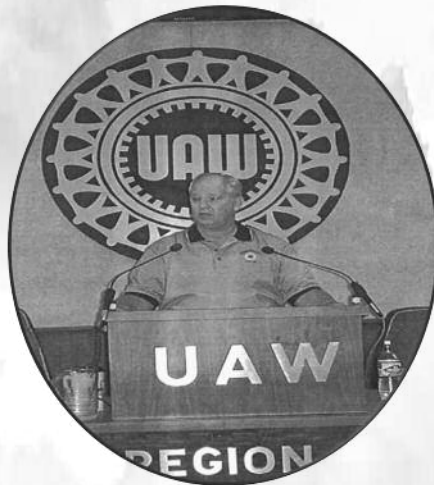
And there you will remain,

To walk and guide us through our lives,

Until We Meet Again...

UAW Local 974 Officers & Staff

In Memory of a Special Brother



Jerome "Jerry" F. Brown

February 12, 1947 - January 25, 2024

...In Our Hearts

Jerry, we thought of you today.

But that is nothing now.

Jerry, we thought about you yesterday.

and days before that too.

Jerry, we think of you in silence.

We often speak your name,

Your memory is our keepsake.

With which we'll never part.

God has you in his keeping and we have you in our hearts.

UAW Local 974 Officers & Staff

BARGAINING CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – APRIL 2024

BOBBY KOLLER _____

Greetings Brother and Sisters,

Docket numbers – Issue grievances are 3 and just cause grievances are 9.

There has been a steady flow of grievances coming from the committees since the first of the year. A lot of times these signals things slowing down. Some business units may be a little slower but reports coming from others are still going good.

We continue to have quarterly docket meetings with the company to resolve grievances and I believe that process is going well. The next docket meeting is for East Peoria on March 14, 2024, we have 6 grievances to argue there. Four (4) out of TBU, 1 in Prime Products and 1 in Undercarriage. We also have docketing coming up for Morton soon.

We received the arbitration ruling on Wednesday, March 6th for the TBU Business Unit. I have talked about this case recently in Steward meetings and talked about back pay. Generally, you won’t hear me talk about back pay a lot because to get back pay you must find that the Company really didn’t have any reason to discharge the person. The Company is careful not to show complete negligence when suspending someone, but we felt strongly in this case. The arbitrator awarded partial back pay.

On March 8th there was 3% form wages earned in 2023 put into the 401K.

On March 29th there will be a 4% payout for all active members employed as of December 31, 2023. I have been getting asked a lot of questions on what’s included. This will be hours worked from January 1st to December 31st of 2023. Overtime hours are included at straight time hourly rate, times current base rate of pay, times 4%. This will be paid out on March 29th.

If anyone has any questions, don’t hesitate to call me at (309)694-3151.

In Solidarity, Bobby Koller, Bargaining Chairman

Bard Optical

For All UAW 974 Members

Union Discounts ~ Bill Your Insurance Directly

Our Vision Benefits at Bard Optical

VSP Choice Plan (former Executive Plan)		VSP Access Indemnity Plan (former Union \$150 Allowance Plan - Benefits every 2 years)	
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!		Line Bifocal	\$65.00 \$90.00
\$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)		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!

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Knoxville	309.713.3664	Canton	309.647.0366
Grand Prairie	309.691.1320	Galesburg	309.343.7799

Our other 12 offices may be near kids in college.

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Remembering Our Brothers and Sisters

January

Richard P. Woodard	TTTD	R	01/01/24
Donald L. Risinger	Morton	R	01/01/24
Kenneth C. Alley	TBU	R	01/01/24
Jimmy R. Sharp	TTTD	R	01/02/24
James L. Counterman	TTTD	R	01/03/24
Donald L. Holmes	TTTD	R	01/06/24
Randy L. Beecham	Moss	R	01/07/24
Robert W. Walker	Moss	R	01/07/24
William R. Flanagan	TBU	R	01/09/24
Renthem E. McAdams	TTTD	R	01/09/24
Forest J. Jaques	TTTD	R	01/10/24
Donald E. Fry	TTTD	R	01/14/24
Lloyd A. Varble	TBU	R	01/18/24
Darrel D. Green	Mapltn	R	01/18/24
Donald B. Phillips	Mapltn	R	01/18/24
Larry D. Ferguson	TBU	R	01/19/24
John R. Shallenberger	TTTD	R	01/22/24
Harold R. Shannon	TBU	R	01/22/24
Gordon C. Crossman	TTTD	R	01/22/24
Rex O. McMorris Jr.	TBU	R	01/23/24
Jerry F. Brown	TTTD	R	01/25/24
James S. Davis	TTTD	R	01/26/24
William T. Patton	Moss	R	01/26/24
Paul A. Wolfe	TTTD	R	01/29/24

February

Dale W. Lacey	Mapltn	R	02/02/24
James E. Anderson	Morton	R	02/03/24
Albert D. Cochran	GO	R	02/05/24
Gladys Ivory	Moss	R	02/06/24
Donald L. Barnett	Mapltn	R	02/11/24
Thomas L. Lovell	TTTD	R	02/12/24
Freddie D. Ferris	Mapltn	R	02/13/24
Kenneth L. Bundren	TBU	R	02/15/24
Charles A. Head	TTTD	R	02/17/24
James K. Tutt	Mapltn	R	02/17/24
William M. Molendi	TBU	R	02/17/24
Joe T. Ford	Moss	R	02/20/24
Wilfred D. Corum	TTTD	R	02/24/24
Michael D. Saeger	TSD	R	02/24/24
Frank Cipri	TBU	R	02/24/24
Edward W. Lambrich	TTTD	R	02/26/24
Donald E. Wallace	TTTD	R	02/27/24
Alan L. Griffin	TBU	R	02/28/24

Forever
Remembered



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.



RETIREES CHAPTER UAW LOCAL 974

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

APRIL 17TH & MAY 15TH

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 23 – Isle of Capri Bus Trip



Tuesday, May 28 – Bally's Quad Cities Bus Trip

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

Velma Walton, President • James W. Tabor, First Vice President • (Open), Second Vice President
Sandra Haasis, Recording Secretary • Gary E. Hall, Sergeant-At-Arms • Thomas J. Bencher, Financial Secretary
Raymond "Dale" Cassel, Guide • Mark Haasis, Trustee • Steven C. Adams, Trustee • Garry Rendleman, Trustee

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

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Drivers' License Reinstatement



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

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AMALGAMATED
LOCAL 974**

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**MONDAY
THROUGH
FRIDAY**

**7:30 A.M.
TO
4:30 P.M.**

(Closed Holidays)

MISCELLANEOUS

Jigsaw puzzles, excellent condition. No pieces missing. Mostly 1000 piece. 309-685-6765

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

NAME: _____ BADGE # _____

NEW ADDRESS: _____

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,
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Ads will be accepted ONLY when they are submitted on this form.

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