



## UAW NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

INTERNATIONAL AREA COUNCIL Mountain  
Home, Arkansas 72653

Tim Smith, Region 8, Director

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024**

**SPRING IS HERE**

Please note:

Council meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month. At the VFW Post located at 214 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Mountain Home, AR 72635. Executive Board meets at 11:00 a.m. and the regular monthly council meeting begins at 11:30 a.m.

**April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will have special importance in that Medical Benefits Trust and all medical insurance providers will be in attendance to answer your questions.**

At the writing of this Newsletter and as I look at the calendar, I see that we have much on our plates to attend to that is of utmost importance.

First there is for many of us the primary election for those that want to be in charge of running our country.

Next our Federal Taxes we must settle.

Of course, we cannot overlook planting the seeds and young plants in our gardens that bring us such a good feeling of having a great harvest to come. Not overlooking the flowers that puts a warm feeling in our hearts as well.

The months of this 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (April, May and June) offer us many opportunities to show our Solidarity by attending the Council meeting and lifting up our brothers and Sisters of our UAW Family on the second Friday of each month. Hope to see you there.

The UAW is involved in political action because our ability to make progress for workers and retirees at the collective bargaining table is intertwined with our ability to elect pro-labor candidates to office. Federal, state, and local governments make countless decisions that have a major impact on the well-being and quality of life for all working Americans. We must remain actively involved in the political process to advance the interests of workers and retirees on issues like workplace health and safety, trade policy, the right to organize, the right to a fair collective bargaining process, pensions, Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid, and Civil & Human Rights. Voluntary Community Action Plan (V-CAP) The easiest way for us to do that is to support V-CAP through V-CAP checkoff. V-CAP is the UAW's political action program, which includes the Union's Political Action Committee (PAC). The PAC fund is made up of voluntary contributions from UAW members, both active and retired. The money is used to support pro-worker political candidates who have earned the endorsement of the UAW Community Action Program (UAW CAP). This voluntary contribution is usually made through automatic payroll deduction, called V-CAP checkoff, by law, union dues cannot be used to support any federal candidate. V-CAP will give not only UAW sisters and brothers, but all men, women, and children, young and old a voice and hopes of leveling the playing field.

Voluntary Retiree Dues Retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses are encouraged to participate in Retiree Dues Checkoff. Please know that these monthly voluntary dues (\$3. or more) are vital to the survival of the Retired Workers Program and our Council. If you are NOT currently participating, please consider doing so.

Retiree dues checkoff cards will be available at our monthly meetings. Associate

Member Dues We encourage spouses of UAW retirees to participate and join retiree chapters and councils as Associate Members. Associate dues of \$3 per month, or \$36 per year can be paid via check to the UAW Retired Workers Department, or can be added as a deduction to the retiree monthly pension check. If you have any questions, please call the Retired Workers Department at: (313) 926-5231.

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### INFORMATION RESOURCES

- UAW-GM TALKS ..... Facebook.com/uawgmtalks/
- UAW International .....Facebook.com/union/
- UAW International.....@UAW
- UAW APP.....Text “APP” to 99796\* to download or  
To get more information on uaw.org
- UAW.org .....Go to [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org) to find news,  
Press releases, and educational resources



The following has been taken from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, printed on Friday, February 16, 2024. A letter to the Editor

“Oval Office functional”

We have to face the facts: Both of the candidates for the presidential race are old men. I am 76 years old so I have an idea of what a 77 and 81 year old man's capabilities are. Bill Clinton, elected president 32 years ago, and George W. Bush, elected president 24 years ago, are both 77 years old, the same age as Trump.

It is obvious that both Donald Trump and Joe Biden are past their prime and their memories and intelligence are not what is expected of an American president. They both confuse names and facts. The difference is that the MAGA base does not care that Trump makes mistakes and embarrasses himself daily; they just want Donald J. Trump no matter if he makes mistakes or even is convicted of crimes. Biden supporters, on the other hand, are worried that Joe makes too many gaffes and would like a younger person in the mold of Barack Obama. But we are stuck with what we have. A 77-year-old cult leader who may be convicted on 91 charges, or an 81-year-old man with a vast amount of political experience.

The reason that I still support Joe Biden is that I know that he will surround himself with the best people he can get to make sure that the government runs well even if he isn't running well. I believe that Trump used up all the good people he could get to support him in his first administration. I doubt any military general would consider working in a Trump administration after the way he treated Generals John Kelly and Jim Mattis. He will instead get election deniers and as many "yes" men and women as he can find to make sure that he is able to retaliate against his political enemies to settle all the grudges he has accumulated over the past seven years. A Biden administration will continue to be a functional administration.

If Trump loses and is done with politics, maybe the Republican House and Senate will regain their moral compass and go back to legislating instead of investigating a president's son. Ken Day, Springdale

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

Retiree Health Care Connect (RHCC) – 866-637-7555 [www.benefitsweb.com/rhcc.html](http://www.benefitsweb.com/rhcc.html)

UAW Trust – 866-637-7555 [www.uawtrust.org](http://www.uawtrust.org)

Ford — General Motors – STELLANTIS (formerly FCA/Chrysler)

Blue Cross/Blue Shield – 877-832-2829 [www.bcbsm.com](http://www.bcbsm.com)

Davis Vision 888-234-5164 [www.davisvision.com](http://www.davisvision.com)

Delta Dental – 800-524-0149 [www.deltadental.com](http://www.deltadental.com)

Legal Services Plan – 800-482-7700 [www.uawlegalservices.com](http://www.uawlegalservices.com)

Silver Sneakers – (BC/BS Members) [www.silversneakers.com](http://www.silversneakers.com)

“New” Silver Sneakers – 855-604-1588 (UnitedHealth Care Members)  
[www.uhcrenewactive.com](http://www.uhcrenewactive.com)

TruHearing – 844-394-5420 [www.truhearing.com/uawtrust](http://www.truhearing.com/uawtrust)

United Auto Workers – [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org)

“NEW” UnitedHealth Care Medicare Advantage Plan (Medical Benefits)

844-320- 5021 [www.retiree.uhc.com/uawtrust](http://www.retiree.uhc.com/uawtrust)

“NEW” UnitedHealth Care Medicare Rx (Optum Rx - Prescription Drug Benefits)

855-409-0219 [www.uawtrustpdp.com](http://www.uawtrustpdp.com)

LIFE INSURANCE CONTACT NUMBERS

FORD MetLife – 833-552-FORD (3673)

STELLANTIS (formerly FCA/CHRYSLER) – 888-409-3300

GM MetLife – 888-543-3461

Social Security Administration – 800-772-1213 [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov)

Medicare – 800-Medicare (800-633-4227) [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**PENSION ADMINISTRATION FOR FORD: 800-248-4444; GM: 800-489-4646 and STELLANTIS:  
888-409-3300**



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If moving is on your agenda please remember it's the UAW's policy that the local where you retired from be notified in order to record the change of address.

If the local you retired from no longer is an open local then please call the Retired Workers Department at 313-926-5640

In solidarity,

*Larry Kitson*

Larry Kitson, Chairman

870-321-8064