Local 686 UAW Retirees Chapter

This is an open letter to members of the UAW Local 686 Retirees Chapter. This is around the fourth open letter to my union brothers and sisters of the Retirees. I’ve been working on a lot of things so I can keep you informed about what is going on with the union. I received a letter from the International Union dated March 10, 2021 and received it on March 25, 2021. The letter stated the following:

To all Retired Workers International Area Council Chairs

RE: Activity Update – Drop-in centers and meetings:

Greetings:

As the availability of COVID-19 vaccinations increase throughout our Country, the CDC still discourages medium and large gatherings. Therefore, until further notice, we are requesting that all IAC meetings, travel, and events continue to be suspended and drop-in centers remain closed. I will communicate any adjustments or modifications to the above policy if additional encouraging changes occur with the status of the pandemic. I want to thank each of you for your hard work and your dedication in serving the retired membership during these extremely difficult and challenging times.

In Solidarity,

Rory L. Gamble, President

UAW International Union

The decision from our Regional Director, Jeff Binz; Retiree Director, Edward Balukas and myself and the Executive Board of the Retirees is to postpone all meetings until further notice because of COVID-19.

For your safety and the safety of your families, the UAW Hall is only open by appointment only for Retirees and UAW members. Please call (716) 433-6747.

All UAW Region 9 Retirees area meetings are canceled as well.

If you received a letter from the Medical Trust about your dependents, please read the letter and mail it by May 15, 2021. If you have any questions, you can call the Medical Trust at 1-866-637-7555 Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please read and send in because after May 15, 2021, your spouse and dependent will not be covered.

The summer picnic is on hold for now, but I will keep the Retirees informed. I am hoping things will change by August 1, 2021 because we will have to follow the guidelines of the CDC and Erie County.

I also received applications for the UAW Region 9 Tom Fricano Scholarship Fund. They are available through UAW Hall by calling (716) 433-6747 for an appointment or UAW Region 9 website at region9.uaw.org. The deadline for filling out the application is June 30, 2021. The scholarship is open to Active members and Retirees for children who are senior’s this year and grandchildren.

Just a reminder, the benefit office has re-opened. Hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. To call for an appointment call (716) 433-6747.

The International Union and Local 686 UAW apologize for any inconvenience that this has caused for the past year for all the active and retired members of Local 686 UAW. I would also like to personally thank Joyce Miles and John Brando of the Lockport Union Sun & Journal and John Maser along with his staff at WLVL Radio Station. They are great people for this community, helping UAW Local 686 and the Retirees Chapter for getting messages out this past year with the COVID-19 crisis.

For canceled meetings and notifications, please turn to the Lockport Union Sun & Journal, the Niagara Gazette , WLVL-1340 am Radio, 105.3 FM and the UAW Local 686 website as well.

In closing, I would like to say on behalf of myself and the Executive Board of the Retirees Chapter, to you and your families, stay safe and healthy.

In Solidarity,

Sal Pusateri, Jr., Retiree President

(716) 434-0262