

Retirees' Corner
Bill Bowers, Chairman
Retirees' Chapter – UAW Local 1112

March is fast approaching. Our monthly membership meetings will begin on March 6, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at Antone's.

We reached agreement with Antone's to continue our meetings at their facility. The cost increased by 75 cents per plate and we will pay more for the shuttle service. When we take our summer break, we plan on shopping for another location with cheaper costs. Our revenue is not increasing, but their costs have risen over the last few years.



UAW GM Legal Services Plan: The Legal Services Plan went into effect on January 25th. Eligible participants in the Plan will include active and retired UAW-represented employees at FCA, Ford and General Motors and their surviving spouses. The Plan will offer an “office work” benefit, which will provide services for the following types of legal matters: wills and trusts, powers of attorney, deeds, credit reporting, residential leases, name changes, birth or marriage certificates, contracts for goods or services, uncontested family matters, purchase or sale and other uncontested issues regarding residential real property. No representation will be provided by the Plan in court or in any litigation situation. A new case can be opened by calling this toll-free number: 800-482-7700.

DO NOT call the local office. You must use the **1-800-482-7700 phone number to schedule** an appointment. Due to this program just starting, it might take a while to get an appointment.

NOTE: Attorney Dick Schwartz will be a guest speaker at our Retirees' meeting in March to explain the plan and answer any questions you may have.

The plan will also represent us for attendance at hearings for Social Security disability application, suspension or termination of Social Security benefits.

Funding Notice of GM Pension Plan: You should have received the funding notice about our pension plan. I will summarize this for you.

We have 430,776 participants in the pension plan. 35,764 members are eligible to draw benefits, but are still working. 371,640 are retired and receiving benefits. 23,372 are vested in the plan, but no longer work for GM.

GM's minimum required contribution was \$283,360,569 which brought our plan to 100% funded, from a previous year funding level of 93.76%. Our total plan assets are \$57,481,633,454 with plan liabilities at \$51,898,933,707.

Our pension plan is strong and getting stronger, but remember GM and the UAW agreed in 2007 (GM Bankruptcy) to change from a defined benefit (our current pension plan) to a defined contribution plan (401k) which anyone hired after 2007 will have the 401k.

Call your Senators and Congressmen: The Republicans were able to get a majority in both the Senate and House in the last election. They plan a very aggressive agenda for this year. All programs could be at stake. They are looking at Social Security (put the money into the stock market), Medicare (institute a voucher system), filling the Supreme Court seat that they held open for over a year! so they could seat a conservative, and many more items that directly affect us.

If you disagree with what is being put to a vote, **CALL 202-224-3121**. Give them your zip code and they will connect you with your Senators and Congressmen. Let them know how you feel and ask them to **vote “NO”** on these issues that affect us. This is our only way to be heard. Our numbers still carry weight.

The Senator from Alaska withdrew her support of the Education Secretary appointee due to thousands of calls and e-mails sent voicing opposition to President Trump’s appointee. It works if you use it.

The Union will inform you on these votes through iunion emails. **BE HEARD**. Voice your concern. **CALL!!**

Health Care Trust: At our March 6, 2017, meeting all the providers will be in attendance: Blue Cross, Aetna, Davis Vision, Express Scripts and the Health Care Trust.

If you have questions, show up and ask them. The providers have direct access to your accounts and can make adjustments on site.

See you then.

Fraternally,

Bill Bowers, Chairman
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