



Voice of 2069

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Local 2069 Hall Hours: Mon. - Thurs. - 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
P: (540) 674-5130 ~ F: (540) 674-2531 ~ region8.uaw.org/uaw-local-2069 ~ voiceof2069@yahoo.com
THE MAGAZINE FOR UAW LOCAL 2069 MEMBERS ~ Vol.02212025

UAW Local 2069 President

Billy Ogle



Greetings All,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! It was nice being with family and friends during the break. A lot has gone on since the first of December, first, the \$250 incentive. The Union was asked about doing this and after several discussions with the Union not agreeing to any recommendation from the Company, and the Company moving forward with it, the Union presented the Company with a Policy Grievance.

Unfortunately, we are facing a lay-off come sometime in March. Tony, Bill, and I met with the Company on Tuesday, February 18 and was notified. I have seen a lot of fake news articles stating numbers but as of the time of this article, February 20, no number has been announced. If you read Article 17 it will explain how a reduction in our workforce works, and to summarize it, it is all about seniority. Speaking with friends from Daimler Trucks, They are currently working 4 days a week, 7 hours a day. This is because of the lack of language for short work and sub pay. Also their waiting week resets every time they go back to work. No news on how long this will last for them. Hopefully, this downturn won't last long for any of us.

Also, unfortunately, we have had several members pass away, one being former President Lester Hancock. He was President of this Local for 1 1/2 terms and was President when we were on strike in '08. We have also lost several members since Christmas and our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families who have lost loved ones. Thanks to our Chaplaincy Committee for sending condolence cards to members families in their time of need.

If you are having trouble with unemployment Delegate Morgan Griffith has been some assistance. His Christiansburg office number is 1-540-381-5671.

We still have wintry weather to endure so dress warm and stay safe!

In Solidarity,

Billy Ogle



Salary Bargaining Chair

Billy Richardson



Greetings All,

We are already rolling into 2025, and we had several things that happened at the end of the year of 2024. We met the Project 6322 goal the Company had set. It was a lot of hard work from everyone to get that goal completed.

Something else happened at the end of last year as well. We finally got all the job descriptions signed. It took management almost 2 years to get them corrected and signed. That is pathetic! I find it hard to believe they could not do better, but I guess that wasn't anything that really affected them, so there you go. From here we will sit down with the Company to discuss the parameters of what the 3rd party will be looking at to try to find matches to our jobs and what the market value is for that job at their facilities. From what I have been told that portion will take 3 to 4 months to complete. This is the only shot we have to make any gains before contract time in 2027.

Continuing our introduction of Salary members, this is Will Tibbs. Will began his Volvo journey on May 15th, 2023. Will came to us from the shipyards at Newport News. Will was a designer there for almost 3 years. Will currently is a Senior Designer here at Volvo, but is enrolled at Bluefield State University, taking classes to become an Electrical Engineer. That is a tough thing to do, but I know he will get through it! When Will is not at work or school, he likes to lift weights and is involved in Fantasy football. He was a champion in one of his leagues this year. He was a champion in the league I am involved with. Will enjoys both college and pro football. In college football he loves Ohio State, which they just won the National Championship. He has been crowing about that for a bit. In pro football he likes the Carolina Panthers. They have been down for a little bit, but there was a little spark from them this year. Will also enjoys playing cornhole some too. Will is a very personable guy that is also very even keel. So, if you see him out and about, pat him on the back, say hello, and wish him luck on his school adventure.



I have been working with Brett Westerfield, our Labor Manager, to try to resolve some older grievances. They were remanded back to Step III for resolution. We have reviewed them before, but hopefully we can get some traction to get them resolved. Some involve manpower, so the Company is reluctant to add heads when we are in basically a freeze. Hopefully we can come to some decisions that will satisfy the demands of the grievances and both sides could be happy.

I just have heard that our Labor Director, Rex Johnson will be leaving us. I am not sure who will take his place, but we will start over if they don't hire from within. It would make more sense for them to hire within also. That person would know some of the issues that we have daily and know how to fix problems. If we get someone new, we basically always must start over again, and they always have some new ideas how to do things. Let us hope they keep the continuity we currently have.

Remember red shirt Wednesdays, and your monthly Union Meetings!

In Solidarity,

Billy Richardson





Greetings All,

I hope you are having a great start to your year. I know that many welcome the warmer weather that comes with the start of Spring. With this being the first issue of our newsletter being primarily published online and not mass distributed in print, I hope that many of you will spread the word for members to visit the UAW Local 2069 website. With the implementation of our pulse articles, and soon to come mass texts, we are making many efforts to try and relay important information to our membership.

Layoff

The announcement of lay off was told to Billy Ogle and Myself on 2/18/2025 by Marcus Minkinen only minutes before it was told to you. The same info that was relayed to you, was what we received. The number of employees that will be laid off is still being evaluated by the company. By Week 6 of this year, 67 employees were hired, only to be told they are going to be laid off on week 8. Many left good jobs to only work here for less than 2 months. Many members that will be affected by this layoff have less than 1 year of seniority. With the economic slowdown we are seeing across the US and Europe, it does not look like this downturn will be a short one.

APPENDIX C ARTICLE I

Regular Weekly Benefits SECTION 1. Eligibility for a Regular Weekly Benefit An employee shall be eligible for a Regular Weekly Benefit if he: a) was on a qualifying layoff, as described in Article III, Section 2, for all or part of a week; b) had at least one (1) Year of Seniority as of his last day worked prior to qualifying layoff; c) was not eligible for a Short Work Week Benefit;

SECTION 2. Amount and Duration of Regular Weekly Benefits

<u>Seniority As of January 1st</u>	<u>Weekly Benefit Amount</u>	<u>Maximum Duration During Life of Agreement (Weeks)</u>
<u>Less than 1 year</u>	<u>Ineligible</u>	<u>Ineligible</u>
<u>1 year but less than 3</u>	<u>\$190</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>3 years but less than 5</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>5 years but less than 7</u>	<u>\$275</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>7 years or more</u>	<u>\$275</u>	<u>52</u>

Article 45

Severe Weather: In certain situations, management may decide not to assess attendance points for all employees due to extenuating circumstances on a particular day and/or shift. Instances where this may occur could include, but are not limited to, inclement weather or other situations as deemed by management and these will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In cases where a decision is made not to assess points, a communication will be issued to all employees informing them of the period of time that this waiver covers.

Hourly Bargaining Chair

Tony Burnette

We have a "No Fault Attendance Policy" is what the Union was told when we asked the company to not issue points to those of you that could not make it here on several days this winter where we experienced severe weather. The Company would not take into consideration, the declared state of emergency issued by Governor Youngkin ensuring that people were heeding warnings for hazardous weather and travel to keep everyone safe. Since we work for a private company a state of emergency does not apply. Many of you live in rural areas and could not make it to work; you were charged attendance points. Many of you were late because of accidents or even in one yourself; you were charged attendance points. Several of you will remember years ago when almost half the plant called out due to snow and everyone was still charged attendance points. So, what does it take for the company to base their decision on not applying attendance points? With a No-Fault Attendance policy, we would have to have clear unambiguous language put in our contract, otherwise its always going to be Managements rights according to the company.

Caps Test

The apprenticeship test (CAPS) will be coming up in the following Month. There will be notifications posted by the company on when the study books and the testing will be held. This test is only given every 2 years so don't miss out on a chance to take it. If you are interested in advancing your career in Skilled Trades this is an opportunity that you don't want to miss. If you have any questions regarding the apprenticeship program, please reach out to me by txt at 540-320-8518. Leave your name, number, and what shift you work, and I will put you on the information call back list. You can also contact me by email at tony.burnette@volvo.com. The Skilled Trades Chairman is Jason Montgomery an Electrician on First shift in Assembly. Anyone that wants to contact him for information about the program you can do so at jason.montgomery@volvo.com.

Know your Rights

The following are a list of numbers for quick reference:

Wage Hour Division 1-866-4-USWAGE (1-866-487-9243) Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time. Hours vary by region.
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla>

An employer cannot retaliate against a worker for exercising their rights, filing a complaint or cooperating with an investigation.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) at (800) 669-4000.

American Disabilities Association (ADA) can be reached at (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (833) 610-1264 (TTY).
ADA website, www.ada.gov.

As we all go into the uncertainty of what the future holds, I hope everyone will take Lester Holt's catchphrase to heart...
"Let's be sure to take care of ourselves, and each other".

In Solidarity,

Tony Burnette



UAW Benefits Representative

Kenny Shepherd



Greetings All,

I have been asked by the health center to remind all active employees and their families that it is not too late to get your flu shot. You have until the end of March to get the shot if desired and it is free of charge. I also want to remind all active members that the health risk assessment (HRA) has begun and will run until July 31st.

For our retirees that are on Medicare and are on the Medicare advantage plan there has been a change to the Specialty Pharmacy prescription plan. If you are taking a specialty Medication you will get a letter explaining the migration to BioPlus from CVS specialty pharmacy. If you are taking a specialty Medication this migration is voluntary. If you want to remain with CVS, which currently dispenses our specialty medications, you can do so. You also have the right to move to another specialty pharmacy if available. You are going to have to make the decision to stay with CVS, go to BioPlus, or choose another specialty pharmacy that may be available.

Letters will be sent soon to all members currently on a specialty Medication explaining the change, 29 members in total. Anthem must obtain consent for each member if they choose to switch to BioPlus per the Center for Medicare services. This change is happening due to CVS no longer doing business as a DBA for Carillon, so, if you choose to stay with CVS you will switch to CVS brand and you will have to use CVS specialty pharmacy's web-based tools to view your scripts. Anthem is telling me this is not a system change/migration so it should be a seamless delivery for anyone choosing to transition to BioPlus. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Anthem customer service or if you cannot get help, you can always contact me at 540-674-7173.

We had a few issues with the non-Medicare reimbursements at the start of the new year, but I hope all of those have been addressed. If you have a reimbursement from 2024 you can still get reimbursed through Via benefits. There was an issue with their system not allowing any 2024 reimbursements after 1/2/31, but I believe that has been corrected.

As always, if you have any issues or questions, please contact me at (540)-674-7173.

In Solidarity,

Kenny Shepherd





Community Services Committee Chair

Nick Ferra



Greetings All,

I hope all is well with everyone. I have a few things to update everyone about our committee that has happened over the past couple of months including a change in our lineup.

We are excited to welcome Lora Reeves as the new Co-Chair of our UAW Community Services Committee. Lora brings a wealth of passion, experience, and dedication to our community, and we are confident that she will be an excellent leader in furthering the mission of our committee. Lora's deep commitment to service and her vision for building stronger community connections will be instrumental as we continue to make a positive impact together. Please join us in welcoming her!

In December of 2024, you might have noticed our committee holding a bucket drive to take up monetary donations for Hurricane Helene relief to help out our local area. It was during an unexpected down week at the plant, so I apologize we were not able to reach everybody in the plant that day. We also received a very generous donation to help with local families affected by the storm from the local Good News church. Thank you so much!

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, our committee is proud to announce that we have donated the proceeds from our Hurricane Relief Bucket Drive and our generous donation to The New Hope Church in Pulaski. The church has graciously distributed the funds to several families who tragically lost everything in the flooding. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this cause, demonstrating the strength and solidarity of our community in times of need. Together, we make a difference.

We also have a few events coming up so keep an eye out for more information on them.

April 12th, 2025, our Community Services Committee will be hosting an appreciation dinner for Veterans, MERT, fire brigade and first responders at the union hall. Stay tuned for more information and info on how you can help.

April 26th, 2025, will be our annual roadside cleanup day from 9am to 12pm. We will be cleaning up Cougar Trail Road and lunch will be provided to the volunteers from 12pm to 1pm at the union hall.

We have plenty more events coming up including a roadside cleanup part 2 in October, and the annual Vendor event in November. We have many more that are being worked on as well so stay tuned. 2025 is going to be an eventful year!

In closing, Brothers and Sisters, this is the year to get involved with your local 2069 union if you have not done so already. We need you! Participating in our committees is a great way to start. No experience necessary. There are a lot of caring individuals out there and we are looking for you!

If you're unsure how to get involved or would like more information then please get in contact with me at NickFerra2069@gmail.com

Don't forget to attend your union meetings every month. It is the best way to get accurate information to combat the dreaded rumor mill. Also don't forget to wear red every Wednesday. Visit our local's website for more info to learn about Red Shirt Wednesday. <https://region8.uaw.org/uaw-local-2069>

In Solidarity,

Nick Ferra





Greetings All,

Happy New Year! As we go into this new year, I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you for supporting the Veterans Committee in 2024 and ask that you continue to be a part of our mission to Serve those, who Served us!

We are currently planning our annual Ride for Freedom/Run to the Wall Flag Raising Ceremony and trip to Washington DC. The ceremony will be on May 24th on the Union Hall lawn at 8:00 am.

This Flag Raising Ceremony has become a very special event for our union members and the community. It is hosted by the UAW Local 2069 Veterans Committee. This event honors the bravery and sacrifice of our fallen Veterans, providing an opportunity for us to come together as a community in remembrance and support of our fallen Veterans and those MIA. Together we celebrate our heroes and ensure their legacies live on.

In addition to the Flag Raising Ceremony, there will be a motorcycle poker run to Washington D.C. to join with AmVets in the Rolling to Remember motorcycle demonstration ride in our nation's capital to raise awareness of the critical issues facing our nation's Veterans and demand action for the 82,000 service members missing, as well as raise awareness of the 22 Veterans who die by suicide each day. Rooms for the Washington trip are now available to reserve.

A new Ride for Freedom t-shirt will be available soon. This year there will be a limited quantity so plan on getting yours early.

On March 29, 2024, we honor Vietnam Veterans Day, a significant occasion to recognize the bravery, sacrifice, and resilience of those who served during the Vietnam War. This day serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by Veterans returning home, often met with indifference rather than gratitude. It's an opportunity to support and acknowledge the men and women who fought valiantly in a conflict that shaped a generation.

As always, I'd like to encourage you to get involved in our Local's committees. There are plenty of opportunities to serve our union brothers and sisters as well as the community. Thank you for your unwavering support.

In Solidarity,

William Price

HAPPY
St. Patrick's

Veteran's Committee Chair

William Price



UAW Local 2069 Veterans
Committee



<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/BD34L2>





Recreation and Conservation Committee Co-Chair

Eliya Harvey-Brown



Greetings All,

My UAW brothers and sisters today is a good day for our local to celebrate our accomplishments. Last year the Recreation and Conservation Committee were able to donate to Dublin's very own Randolph Park. Randolph Park has provided a safe, family-friendly environment for our local union for years. We are glad to give back in any way we can. Recreation would also like to give thanks to all other standing committees and their chairs.

The support of the other committees was a dynamic help in the success of our events. Thank you, UAW, for consistently showing your solidarity. Recreation and Conservation is here to support the social and environmental well-being of our local members. We are most excited to host, plan, and execute the family events we put on for our members. Our Union is strong here in 2069, but an effective way to increase solidarity will be to see the face of our Union, (YOU) standing together.

The Recreation Committee cannot wait to see your faces at our upcoming events. As part of conversation, Earth Day just passed! Our local loves to celebrate the earth as the UAW was a major player in the start of earth day in 1970. Walter Ruther and many other UAW members came together to provide money, publicity, and service to earth days coordinators. Thank you again local 2069 for everything you do.

In Solidarity,

Eliya Harvey-Brown

**Earth
Day**

2025



Our Power, Our Planet



Retiree Chaplaincy Committee Chair

Benzena Eaves



Greetings All,

This is a new year and a new day. Good News. God said from 3 John Verse 2. Beloved I pray that in all you will prosper and be in good health. We are to watch and pray and take care of our bodies.

If you can, use your benefits and join Silver Sneakers at the YMCA or the Gym. I go to American Family Fitness in Richmond at no cost, they have classes for seniors. Some of the classes are water aerobics, strengthening the muscles, chair yoga for weight loss, exercises for the heart, (also to work on the brain and anxiety), bicycle riding to help your knees, and hot tubs to relax in. It is worth going and you will also make new friends and laugh. We all need to laugh to be happy, with so many people who are sad, sick, depressed, lonely. Remember, Jesus said cast all our cares on him because he cares for you.

The Alzheimer Association sent out a letter to help us keep 10 healthy habits for our brain, challenge your mind and be curious, stay in school, take a class at the library or online, get moving with regular exercise, protect your head to prevent injury, quit smoking, control your blood pressure, manage diabetes, eat healthier and maintain a healthy weight, physical activity, eat right, sleep well, quality sleep is good for your brain health and if you have a sleep problem talk to your health provider.

We as retirees should have Love, Joy, Peace, Faith, and temperance with each other and help each other, if at all possible, come to the union meeting where we have good information, fellowship and lunch try it you will see you will like it. Thank You for all that you do and God Bless.

In Solidarity,

Benzena Eaves

LOCAL 2069 CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE



"To help our fellow workers in times of need when hearts are broken, opportunity is open".

Email: uaw2069chaplaincy@yahoo.com
Facebook Group: Local 2069 Chaplains

faith

In Memory Of Recent Deceased Retirees

Johnny Gibson	January 25th, 2025
Virginia Hamblin	January 22nd, 2025
Shirley Redd	January 19th, 2025
Donnie Minnick	January 17th, 2025
Lester Hancock	January 16th, 2025
Barbara Freeman	January 14th, 2025
Margaret Shabazz	January 5th, 2025
Ronnie Gravley	December 29th, 2024



Women's Committee Chair

Tena Simpkins



Greetings All,

Hope everyone had a great Christmas break. As of writing this article, the Women's committee have been working very hard on selling candy bars throughout the plant as a fundraiser. We had our first ever dance sponsored by the Women's committee on February the 8th. Thanks for everyone who came out and supported us. I believe everyone who came out had a great time!

Don't forget we celebrate Women's History Month in March. Every year, March is designated Women's History Month by presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. We will be holding a special costume contest March 21st to celebrate Rosie the Riveter Day. Dress as your best hard working Rosie!

We will be working soon on getting prepared for our annual yard sale June the 28th. Without the support of this local and your charitable donations none of our events would be possible. And for that we are very thankful.

In closing, I'd like to thank all the members of my committee for all their hard work and all the members of this local union who have helped or supported the Women's committee. With all this hard work and support we have been very successful as a committee.

In Solidarity,

Tena Simpkins





Cap Committee Chair

Chris Via



Greetings All,

On January 26 and 27, The cap committee attended the Virginia AFL-CIO legislative conference in Richmond. Those attending were retirees Doris Akers, Earleen Miller, and Carroll Thacker. Vicky Meadows and I also attended. We lobbied for senate bill 1112, making repetitive motion compensable under workman’s compensation laws. Currently Virginia is still the last state to not recognize this.

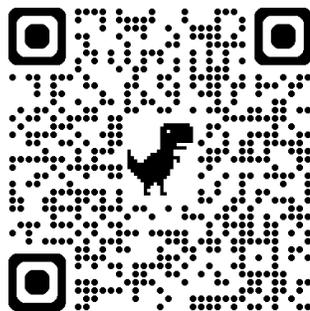
Also, Senate bill 917. Collective Bargaining for public employees. This is a big step setting the standard and helping to raise wages and conditions across the commonwealth. More Union activity has shown to equal a stronger middle class. We will keep the members informed on how elected officials voted.

In solidarity,

Chris Via

VA SB917 | 2025 | LegiScan

VA SB1112 | 2025 | LegiScan





2025 UAW UNION-BUILT Vehicle Guide

BUY USA • BUY UNION • BUY USA • BUY UNION • BUY USA • BUY UNION • BUY USA • BUY UNION

UAW CARS 🇺🇸

- Cadillac Celestiq
- Cadillac CT4
- Cadillac CT4-V
- Cadillac CT4-V Blackwing
- Cadillac CT5
- Cadillac CT5-V
- Cadillac CT5-V Black Wing
- Chevrolet Bolt (Electric)
- Chevrolet Corvette
- Chevrolet Malibu
- Ford Mustang Coupe
- Ford Mustang Convertible
- Ford Mustang Shelby

UAW TRUCKS 🇺🇸

- Chevrolet Colorado
- Chevrolet Silverado Medium-Duty
- Chevrolet Silverado EV
- Chevrolet Silverado Light Duty*
- Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty
- Ford F 150
- Ford F-150 (Electric)
- Ford F-150 (Hybrid)
- Ford F-650/750
- Ford Ranger
- Ford Super Duty 250/350/450/550
- GMC Canyon
- GMC Sierra Light Duty*
- GMC Sierra Heavy Duty
- GMC Hummer Pick-up (Electric)
- Jeep Gladiator
- Navistar (Regular and Crew Cab)
- Ram 1500*
- Ram 1500 Classic
- Ram 1500 Hybrid

UAW SUVs/CUVS 🇺🇸

- Acura ZDX (Electric)
- Buick Enclave
- Cadillac Escalade
- Cadillac Escalade ESV
- Cadillac Escalade IQ (Electric)
- Cadillac Lyriq (Electric)
- Cadillac XT4
- Cadillac XT5
- Cadillac XT6
- Cadillac Vistiq (Electric)
- Chevrolet Suburban
- Chevrolet Tahoe
- Chevrolet Tahoe (Police)
- Chevrolet Tahoe (Special Service)
- Chevrolet Traverse
- Dodge Durango
- Ford Bronco
- Ford Escape
- Ford Escape (Hybrid)
- Ford Expedition
- Ford Explorer
- Ford Explorer (Hybrid)
- Ford Explorer (Police Interceptor)
- GMC Acadia
- GMC Hummer SUV (Electric)
- GMC Yukon
- GMC Yukon XL
- Jeep Grand Cherokee
- Jeep Grand Cherokee (Hybrid)
- Jeep Wagoner
- Jeep Grand Wagoner (Hybrid)
- Grand Wagoneer
- Jeep Wrangler
- Jeep Wrangler (Hybrid)
- Lincoln Aviator

- Lincoln Aviator (Hybrid)
- Lincoln Corsair
- Lincoln Navigator/L
- Volkswagen Atlas
- Volkswagen ID.4 (Electric)

UAW VANS 🇺🇸

- Chevrolet Express
- Chevrolet Express (Cut-Away)
- Ford Transit
- Ford Transit (Electric)
- GMC Savana
- GMC Savana (Cut-Away)

UNIFOR CARS 🇨🇦

- Dodge Challenger
- Dodge Charger

UNIFOR SUVs/CUVS 🇨🇦

- Ford Edge

UNIFOR VANS 🇨🇦

- Chrysler Pacifica
- Chrysler Pacifica (Hybrid)
- Chrysler Voyager
- BrightDrop ZEVO 400 (Electric)

UNIFOR TRUCKS 🇨🇦

- Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab Light Duty*
- Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab Heavy Duty*

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canada's Unifor union, formerly the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of vehicle production in both countries, all of the vehicles listed as made in Canada include significant UAW made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

Vehicles marked with a single asterisk (*) are also produced in Mexico.

When purchasing a vehicle marked with a single asterisk, it's important to check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1" or "4" or "5" identifies a U.S. made vehicle; a "2" identifies a Canadian made vehicle; a "3" identifies a vehicle made in Mexico. Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.





Local 2069

Wishing Everyone A



UAW Local 2069

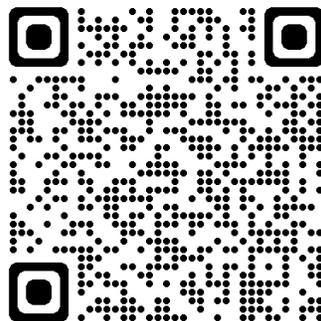
Still has

Apparel for Sale

Red T-Shirts—\$15

Grey T-Shirts—\$16

Lanyards—\$4



*Visit the
Local 2069
website
with the
QR provided*

UAW Local 2069
P.O. Box 306
Dublin Va 24084



Return Service Requested

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	 5	6	7	8
9	10	11	 12	13	14	15
16	17 2nd shift & Salary Meetings	18 1st, 3rd & 2nd shift Maintenance Meetings	 19	20	21	22
23	24	25	 26	27	28	29
30	31					

These views and the opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the UAW Local 2069 and/or International UAW.