

# RANK & FILE UAW LOCAL 3047

[HTTPS://REGION8.UAW.ORG/UAW  
-LOCAL-3047](https://region8.uaw.org/uaw-local-3047)



April, 2024

Submitted By: Tyler Mills



## Top News

Local 3047 Sends Delegation to Region 8 2024 Spring CAP Conference

Workers at Volkswagen, Chattanooga File for Election to Join the UAW

## Local 3047 Bargaining Continues

As we march forward to the third month of contract negotiations between Local 3047 and Metalsa Structural Products, talks are set to continue in Bowling Green.

The economic portion of negotiations takes place in tandem with our sister local, Local 3063. Talks between each local and the company take place in separate rooms.



01/14

Solidarity Wins Contracts



## 2024 Spring CAP Conference

Region 8 held their 2024 Spring CAP Conference in Frisco, TX, where Local 3047 was represented by a motivated delegation working hard to promote the Labor Movement within our political system. Hearing from speakers at UAW International about upcoming elections through out the United States, there is a lot of work to do to ensure a better life for ourselves and our families.

## Community Action in Progress

- During the Conference, 100 members of the delegation made their way to the North Texas Food Bank to volunteer their time for the betterment of the community. Preparing food to be delivered across Texas to feed people suffering from food insecurity.
- A majority of the conference was occupied by wonderful talks from people from International CAP discussing how local laws are being used against workers with things such as removal of child labor protections, union busting, and strategy for the upcoming election in November



## Working Together for a Better Future

Below you will find a copy of a message from Region 8 Director Tim Smith. Within the message, Director Smith lays out the stance of the UAW in this upcoming election and why every union member should make a plan to vote. The ballot box and the bread box are always connected.

## WELCOME

### 2024 UAW Region 8 Spring CAP Meeting

Thank you for attending the 2024 Region 8 CAP Conference. CAP is an integral part of our ability to protect worker rights through legislation. Revered UAW President Walter Reuther famously stated, "There's a direct relationship between the ballot box, the bread box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls." Today more than ever, this is true.

We just finished a historic round of contracts for the automotive companies, but without fair labor laws defending these contracts it is impossible. This year we are gearing up for one of the most consequential national elections of our lifetime. We currently have the most labor friendly president in the history of our country. Running against him is probably the most anti-union candidate in our history. During the first Trump presidency, the Department of Labor was made up of anti-union lawyers. Protecting worker rights is impossible when those who are supposed to be protecting workers are against us.

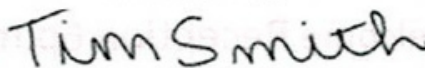
Also, we need to work hard on our state elections. All across the country we are seeing restrictions on child labor being rolled back. The strong economy has resulted in millions of jobs being created, lowering the number of the unemployed, and creating a job market that favors workers rather than employers. These laws attacking restrictions on child labor are designed to flood workplaces with minors resulting in lower wages for everyone. In addition to being an issue for us financially it is morally wrong.

Our work is cut out for us. This conference is designed to provide you with the tools to educate and encourage your members who don't vote to protect our democracy by voting. It will ensure those who do participate in these elections to cast ballots for candidates who will protect our working families.

The laws we rely on to organize and enforce our contracts have become outdated and inadequate. However, the most important legislation for elevating labor priorities our country has seen in decades is now in the Senate.

Along with your support, I know Region 8 will remain strong moving forward. We will take on the employers who wish to refuse working families a voice at work. We will remind the ones that put profit and shareholder interests first that without labor there would be no profit. The politicians that try to diminish our collective bargaining gains through legislation will be held accountable. Together the power of our collective solidarity will not be denied.

In Solidarity,



Tim Smith, Director



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**03/14**



## 2024 Spring Festival

On the 24th of March, Local 3047's Community Service Committee held their annual Spring Festival at the Union Hall on Leitchfield Road.

Members had the opportunity to attend the free event and enjoy a host of activities organized by a hardworking team of local committees.

## Family Spring Fun

- During the event, families from across the plant came out to enjoy some family time to close out their weekends. Coloring stations, easter baskets to take home, and even pictures with the Easter Bunny were a huge hit with our future UAW members!
- Also at the event, three themed gift baskets were raffled off to three lucky winners. Tommy Perez, won a beautiful basket put together by the Chaplaincy Committee. Robert Shockency won a fun basket from the Women's Committee. Finally, Bobbey Mackert won a basket donated by the Community Service Committee.

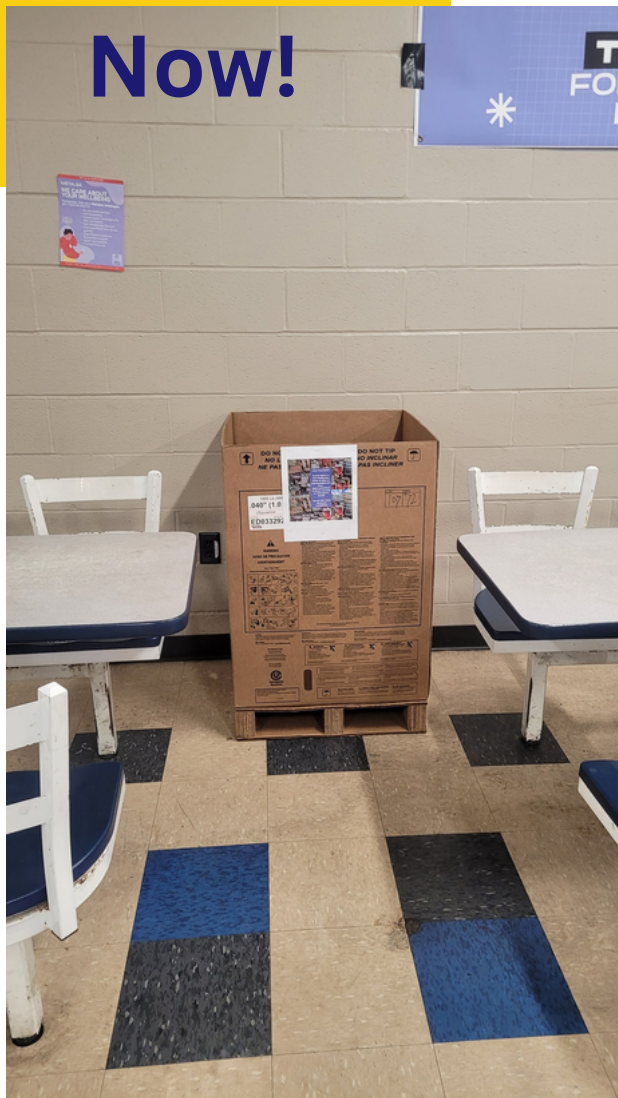
## Look Out For Our Next Event



Committees at Local 3047 have events all throughout the year! Be sure to look out for flyers and other announcements throughout the plant to find out how to participate in Local activities!

04/14

**Local  
3047 Food  
Drive  
Going On  
Now!**



**Check your  
nearest  
breakroom  
for drop off  
locations**

**Donated food  
will be collected  
every Friday.  
Please, help  
support your  
local brothers  
and sisters  
throughout the  
community with  
what you can!**

**05/14**

# APRIL CALENDAR

**Committee  
Meetings  
Community  
Service  
April 7th, 14th,  
21st, and 28th**

# EVENTS

**Denim Day**

**April 24th Wear jeans to support  
survivors of sexual violence**

**Red White and Blue BBQ  
Hosted by your local Veterans  
Committee for dues-paying  
Veterans**

**12pm-5pm April 20th**

**(see flyer below)**



## Union Meetings

In the case of a tentative agreement being reached, a special union meeting will be scheduled with notice to discuss the agreement. There are no local union meetings scheduled at this time. Further information will be disseminated by the bargaining committee as it develops.



UAW LOCAL 3047  
VETERANS COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS:



# RED, WHITE, AND BLUE BBQ

WHO: LOCAL 3047 DUES PAYING VETERANS

WHEN: APRIL, 20, 2024

FROM: 12 PM-5 PM

WHERE: LOCAL 3047 UNION HALL  
1851 LEITCHFIELD RD, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY

\*ANYONE WANTING TO BRING A DISH, PLEASE SPECIFY  
WHAT YOU WANT TO BRING ON THE SURVEY!

Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/3047redwhitebluebbq>

IF YOU WANT AN APPLICATION  
TO REQUEST A UAW VETERAN'S  
CARD, PLEASE BRING YOUR  
DD-214 TO VERIFY YOUR  
VETERAN STATUS. IF YOU  
CANNOT LOCATE YOUR DD-  
214, WE CAN SHOW YOU HOW  
TO OBTAIN IT FROM NPRC

REGISTER HERE BY  
APRIL 10, 2024



SCAN ME



07/14

On Monday, March 26th Six Baltimore construction workers lost their lives during the tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. This is in honor of their memory.



El lunes 26 de marzo, seis trabajadores de la construcción de Baltimore perdieron la vida durante el trágico colapso del puente Francis Scott Key. Esto es en honor a su memoria.



Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval is survived by a wife and two children. Immigrated from Honduras 18 years ago



Jose Mynor Lopez, is survived by his wife and three children. His family has started a [GoFundMe](#) to raise money in support of the families who lost loved ones.



Miguel Luna was a husband and father of three. Immigrated from El Salvador 19 years ago



Carlos Hernández is survived by his girlfriend. He recently immigrated from Mexico.



Dorlian Castillo Cabrera is survived by his loving family. Immigrated from Guatemala



Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes is survived by his uncle. He was native to Veracruz, Mexico.

08/14





## Stand Up 2.0 Strike

Volkswagen workers in Chattanooga have announced their union vote date. On April 17 through the 19th, 4000 workers at the Tennessee auto plant will be able to vote to join the UAW family. After only three months, these workers have done what many told them would be impossible. Fighting for a better life for themselves and each other, they could become the first major automaker to join the UAW rank and file since Stand Up 2.0 Launch.

## Mercedes in Alabama

- With big wins in Tennessee, major non-union automakers have ramped up attacks against workers across the country. In Vance Alabama, workers at the Mercedes-Benz plant are fighting back, filing for a government injunction to stop Mercedes illegal union busting tactics.
- In February two workers were denied legally protected FMLA leave, this required intervention by the U.S. Department of Labor to recover over \$438,000 in lost wages, unpaid bonuses and damages according to Solidarity Magazine.

## Who Will Be the Next to Stand-Up?



# THE TRIANGLE SHIRTTWAIST FIRE

As the sun set on the 25th of March, 1911, the wailing cries of a devastated population could be heard across New York City. One hundred and forty-six women and girls had tragically lost their lives in the worst industrial fire in American history. At 4:45 in the afternoon, as the day was ending, a fire erupted on the 8th floor of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Trapped between locked doors and a ten-story drop, the fire engulfed three factory floors, forcing these women and girls to make a harrowing decision. The firefighter ladders could not reach their location, and with the trampoline breaking shortly into rescue efforts, no help was available. A

New York Tribune reporter witnessed the horror, recounting the dash to the elevators to escape, and the collapse of the only fire escape. People on the ground watched the events on the top floor unfold, as 50 women and girls jumped to their deaths to escape the flames. In half an hour, 146 people were dead.

Court documents from the time outline how working conditions led to the fire: a complete lack of fire suppression systems to cut costs, the stairway doors ordered locked by the owners to prevent workers from being able to leave without permission, and a complete lack of worker protection laws. The thorough reporting and immediate organization of the survivors and other garment workers lead to an uproar concerning workplace safety across America. The anger was further enflamed by the lack of a conviction for the manslaughter charges brought against the factory owners, Isaac Harris and Max Blanck. Workers had been through enough, an average of 100 worker deaths a day, overworked, underpaid, and taken advantage of. The fire drove labor activist engagement unlike anything seen before. Frances Perkins was one of those activists.

Perkins witnessed the carnage of the fire helplessly from the ground. Reflecting on the events, and the many more like it that were far too common at the time, she dedicated her life to fighting for the rights and safety of workers. Her work would eventually land her the position of Labor Secretary under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, becoming the first woman in history to hold a cabinet position in the federal government. She was instrumental in the formation of the economic policies that would lead to the New Deal, the most effective government program for workers quality of life in the United States.



The Triangle Fire quickly mobilized people of all social classes to fight for change in the workplace. Two wealthy suffragettes, Anne Morgan (daughter of JP Morgan) and Alva Belmont (first wife to William Vanderbilt), believed that “every woman, rich or poor, would be better if women had the right to vote,” and saw the rise of the labor movement as an opportunity to advance the broader feminist movement. They used their vast resources to arrange huge rallies where workers could voice their grievances, hosting fund-raising events for local unions, and paying bail for wrongfully jailed strikers. This goes to show that the struggle for workers rights goes beyond social standing, but is instead a struggle for dignity and justice that transcends the individual.

The funeral/memorial service held for the victims of the fire saw more than 350,000 people attend in solidarity with the seamstresses. The lobbying efforts and activism spurred by this moment in history saw a near immediate strengthening of worker safety laws. Three months following the event, the Governor of New York passed a law empowering the Factory Investigating Committee, leading to a host of fire protection and sanitation standard laws the following year. Years of advocacy finally culminated in the creation of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration in 1970, solidifying federal standards for safe working conditions for every worker in America.

Many times in history, we see people act in a reactionary fashion to problems concerning workers. Only when tragedy strikes do those with decision making power act. The drive of supply and demand at the expense of people is an unacceptable reality of not only history, but right now. The American Union is the bulwark against oppression by those in corporate boardrooms. A worker fighting for their brother or sister on the line holds values that see past profits and shareholder value, but instead sees a full life beyond the walls of a factory. Only through activism and organization can we take back what others want to take from us. **Solidarity, brothers and sisters.**





## Union Basics: UAW Constitution

The UAW is an organization at the forefront of the fight for equal rights and treatment. Where people fail, the idea of togetherness and solidarity stands at the heart of what the organization stands for. Only through inclusion, advocacy, and strength through unity can we achieve our goal of a better life for every worker in the world.

## Article 2: Objects

- Article two of the UAW constitutions lays out the overall objectives of the International Union.

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- “To improve working conditions, create a uniform system of shorter hours, higher wages, health care, and pensions...”

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- “To unite in one organization regardless of religion, race, creed, color, sex, political affiliation or nationality, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, all employees under the jurisdiction of this International Union.”

## Section Breakdown

- **Section 1:** To improve working conditions such as pay and hours
- **Section 2:** To unite as one organization
- **Section 3:** To improve sanitary working employment in the workplace
- **Section 4:** To educate members on the history of the Labor Movement
- **Section 5:** To engage in legislative and political activities to improve general economic and social conditions throughout the world
- **Section 6:** To work with organizations like the AFL-CIO and CLC for solidification of the whole Labor Movement

# Sources



**Volkswagen Workers in Chattanooga Will Vote in Their Union Election on April 17-19 - UAW | United Automob...**  
More than 4,000 Volkswagen workers are set to vote in their union election on April 17, 18 and 19.

UAW | Mar 25



**Clara Lemlich and the Uprising of the 20,000 | American Experience**

This 23-year-old Ukrainian immigrant was the voice that helped incite the famous 1909 women's labor strike.

American Experience | Book 54, 2017



**Alabama Workers File Federal Charges Against Mercedes-Benz, Request Government Injunction to End Company'...**  
Workers at Mercedes-Benz's largest U.S. plant have filed multiple federal charges with the National Labor Relations Board in response to the company's aggressive and illegal union-busting.

UAW | Mar 26



**How the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire transformed labor laws and protected workers' health**

The fire and its aftermath is a big reason American factories and offices are now far safer than they once were only a century ago.

PBS | November 4, 2011

<https://ecommons.cornell.edu/item/s/cacb1604-9e77-42bb-af35-05910845d450>



**What is a Shirtwaist? | American Experience**

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the shirtwaist blouse was regarded as the model shirt for the independent, working woman.

American Experience | Aug 16, 2017



**What you may not know about the Triangle shirtwaist factory fire**

One of the most infamous tragedies in American manufacturing history is the Triangle shirtwaist factory fire of 1911. Are the details of the story accurately remembered? And what can we still learn from the incident...

www.history.com | Oct 6, 2015



**An international tragedy: A father of 3 and a budding entrepreneur are among 6 victims of the Baltimore...**

They worked the overnight shift repairing potatoes on a famed bridge that 30,000 Marylanders relied on every day. But early Thursday morning, a 232-million-pound cargo vessel crashed int...

CBN | Mar 20



**New-York tribune. [volume] (New York [N.Y.]) 1866-1924,...**

New-York tribune. [volume] (New York [N.Y.]) 1866-1924, March 26, 1911.

Image 1, brought to you by Library o...

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov



## Triangle Shirtwaist Fire | AFL-CIO

On Saturday, March 25, 1911, a fire broke out on the top floors of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory....

aflcio



## Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Manhattan...

en.wikipedia.org



## Her Life

Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and the first woman to serve as a cabinet secretary, was the driving force behind the...

Frances Perkins Center



## Why the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Makes for a Complicated History

Charged with manslaughter, the owners were acquitted in December 1911. A Smithsonian curator reexamines the labor and business practices of the era

Smithsonian Magazine | Dec 12, 2018

## Editorial Policy

At The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) Local 3047 Newsletter, we wish to present a quality publication to build member solidarity, inform, and educate members of the goings-on within the local union, as well as throughout the world. In order to accomplish this goal, the media team and Local Executive Board reserve the right to edit and publish articles and photographs as we see fit in order to maintain journalistic integrity as well as adhere to the IUAW communication standards found in the UAW Constitution.



## Content, Submissions, and Approval

Within each issue of the Local 3047 Newsletter, we wish to present you with a variety of information that is relevant to you as a Union member. Standing committee updates and meeting times, as well as meeting times for local meetings and elections will be included throughout the publication. A member spotlight, highlighting a current or former member of the local, will bring a sense of solidarity to the membership as we put faces to the membership. Union Basics as well as updates from the International and Region 8 will be included to keep members informed on the larger happenings within our union. Relevant updates on the labor movement as a whole will also be shared to ensure that the membership is aware of situations that will affect our day to day lives at a national scale.

Should you wish to have an article or photograph included in the newsletter, be sure to adhere to IUAW communication standards for publication. All submissions should be factually accurate, abide by the UAW Constitution and are subject to final fact checking and review standards. The publication reserves the right of all submissions, be it written or photographic, to use any and all artwork or article submissions to be used and distributed at the discretion of the media team. Any and all reproduction of material shall receive prior approval, including but not limited to, individual interviews and photographs of individuals in order to protect member privacy. Any home addresses, phone numbers, or emails are not to be published at any time. The media team and Local Executive Board will have full right to edit, and decide on any final submissions included within each issue.

## Frequency and Distribution

The Local 3047 Newsletter will be a monthly, primarily online publication, unless approval from both the Local Executive Board, and Local Membership authorize use of funds to provide a hard copy available within local union facilities