



## *Inter-Office Correspondence*

June 3, 2026

**REVISED**

**TO:** Officers and Regional Directors

**FROM:** Shawn Fain

**SUBJECT:** **2026 UAW Health & Safety Conference**  
**UAW Family Education Center – Onaway, MI**  
**October 11-16, 2026**

This conference was previously scheduled for May 2026, but due to severe flooding in Northern Michigan, it was postponed. The new dates are October 11 - 16, 2026. As we preciously had nearly 200 delegates registered for this conference, we are giving those local unions priority to confirm or cancel their delegates before any new registrants are approved. **Local unions that registered delegates prior to the postponement must confirm or cancel those delegates by following the link to registration outlined in the new call letter by August 31, 2026.** Contained in the new registration portal will be a dropdown menu with the following:

- Previously Registered Attendance Confirmation (Select if the delegate is still attending)
- New Attendee (Select if this is a new delegate)
- No Longer Attending (Select this to cancel the previous registration, even if the local will be sending a different delegate in the previous delegates place)
- No response

We anticipate that we will be able to accommodate additional delegates due to the postponement. All local unions are invited to submit new registrations at this time, following the processes contained in this call letter packet. New registrants will automatically be placed on a waitlist and will be approved after the new registration deadline if space allows.

**Please disregard the previous call letter for this conference and refer to all updated process deadlines contained in this reissued call letter.**

“Defining Health and Safety for Future Generations” begin with workplace safety as a fundamental right and a core part of strong collective bargaining agreements. Effective Contracts create safer job sites, and this conference will equip members with the knowledge and skills to negotiate and enforce strong health and safety protections along with methods to identify and mitigate hazards.

The conference aims to strengthen the bonds of solidarity among UAW members by providing training, motivation, and a call to action to demand safe worksites.

The 2026 Conference will be held at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center (Black Lake) from Sunday, October 11, 2026, through Friday, October 16, 2026. On-site registration/credentialing will occur in the Lecture Hall on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4:45 p.m. All delegates **must attend the opening session** on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

This year’s conference will once again provide helpful training for Health and Safety Representatives, Health and Safety Committee members, and Local Union Representatives on subjects ranging from industrial hygiene to ergonomics and other health and safety topics, including mental health. **Please note that all first-time delegates will be enrolled in a “Core Curriculum” that will include an OSHA 10-hour class, Know Your Role What Every Health and Safety Rep Should Know and a class on Hazard Recognition.** Other classes this year include workshops from the OSHA Training Institute Education Center (OTIEC). Credits earned taking these courses can be applied toward the Health and Safety “Specialist” and “Professional” credentials issued by the Great Lakes OTIEC. This year's courses include Ergonomics, Incident Accident Investigation, Combustible Dust, Hazard Recognition, representatives from ANSI B11, NFPA and much more.

**\*\*We highly suggest that when you go to choose the classes for your delegates that they be included in the decision. We are under Grant funds and Audits and changes to their classes will be very limited.**

**Regional Allocations**

Delegates	Reg. 1	Reg. 1A	Reg. 1D	Reg. 2B	Reg. 4	Reg. 6	Reg. 8	Reg. 9	Reg. 9A
310	40	35	32	46	41	29	43	15	29

**Registration**

Registration will be completed online. Please use an updated browser when registering. Delegates should use the following log-in information:

**Website:** [hs.uaw.org](https://hs.uaw.org)  
**Username:** hs2026  
**Password:** safetyfirst26

The website will open for registration on **July 1, 2026**. All registrations must be completed no later than **August 31, 2026**.

If you have any questions regarding the registration process, please contact Jim Holton at 248-431-4660, email: [jholton@uaw.net](mailto:jholton@uaw.net), or Michelle Best at 313-926-4423, email: [mbest@uaw.net](mailto:mbest@uaw.net).

The conference registration fee is \$725 per delegate based on double occupancy housing. Checks should be payable to the **International Union, UAW; ACH payments can be made through LUIS**. It is suggested that the Local generate a single check to cover the registration

fees for its delegates. **Please send payment to the UAW Health & Safety Department in c/o Michelle Best no later than September 25, 2026.**

If a delegate requests single housing, the delegate must pay an out-of-pocket expense in the amount of \$330.50. This check should be made out to **UBE, INC.** and sent to the **UAW Health and Safety Department in c/o Michelle Best. *Single housing is not guaranteed and is subject to availability.***

The local unions are responsible for all delegates' lost time and registration fees. There are no provisions for lost time reimbursements connected with the Health and Safety Conference.

### **Transportation**

Local unions are responsible for all transportation costs for delegates who live less than 500 miles from the Family Education Center. Delegates whose worksites are over 500 miles from the UAW Family Education Center will have their transportation covered, either flying or driving. All airline tickets will be purchased through the travel agents used by Black Lake. Participants who fly will be required to pay for their tickets in advance.

### **Flying**

Delegates must use the following link to make their flight arrangements: <https://cvent.me/eKbzRD>. After the conference, airline tickets will be processed for reimbursement, less \$75 per delegate.

To assure maximum savings on flight arrangements, delegates must arrive in Detroit on Saturday, October 10, 2026. The enclosed airline registration online process must be completed (including a cell phone number) and submitted to the UAW Family Education Center no later than September 18, 2026. Overnight lodging will be provided based on double occupancy **at the Courtyard Detroit Metro Airport Romulus, 30653 Flynn Dr., Romulus, MI 48174; 734-721-3200**. Delegates will depart the hotel on Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 9 a.m. via charter bus for the trip to Black Lake.

The local union will arrange flights through Travel Solutions International (TSI USA). Due to airline regulations, delegates who fly must provide their legal name as it appears on a driver's license or other government-issued identification recognized by the Transportation Security Administration. Failure to do so could result in up to a \$150 charge to correct an airline ticket. ***The UAW will not reimburse that charge.***

If you pay for airfare with a local union check, you must mail the payment within 24 hours after TSI contacts you. Please make the check payable to **UBE and send it to UBE/Air**, UAW Family Education Center, 2000 Maxon Road, Onaway, MI 49765. You must include a copy of the invoice with the check. For questions, call the UAW Family Education Center at 989-733-6311.

### **Driving**

The Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center is located at 2000 Maxon Road, Onaway, MI 49765. All delegates are expected to arrive at the Family Education Center by 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> (except for those arriving by flight) and remain until the

conference concludes at 9 a.m. on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Arrivals and departures should be arranged accordingly.

For those who live more than 500 miles (one-way) from the Center, delegates may travel by passenger vehicle or air transportation. Passenger Vehicle: After 1,000 miles (round-trip), all drivers will be reimbursed the IRS rate for each mile. Mileage is not reimbursed for the first 1,000 miles of a round-trip (500 miles one-way).

On trips to and returning from the Center, delegates who drive are also entitled each way to one night's lodging for 500 miles or more and two nights' lodging for 1,000 miles or more. Motel rates should not exceed \$65 per night for single occupancy or \$80 per night for double occupancy. Delegates must save motel receipts and submit them to the Center for processing. Upon program completion, delegates will receive mileage and/or motel refunds. Reimbursement is not provided for meals, highway tolls, or other expenses incurred during the trip.

Delegates who elect to drive to the Family Education Center should be aware of the "multiple of three" rule. When a local sends more than one delegate to a session, delegates should travel in multiples of up to three per vehicle. The International Union reimburses mileage only to one driver per local, per multiples of three.

Please be advised of the following Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center policy:

*Vehicles allowed to park in the FEC must be union-made and have a vehicle identification number (VIN) beginning with 1, 2, 4, or 5 (i.e., made in the USA or Canada). VINs are located in the dashboard or door jamb of vehicles. Upon arriving at the FEC, security guards check each vehicle's VIN. If the vehicle's VIN is anything other than 1, 2, 4, or 5, parking accommodations are available in a lot adjacent to the FEC's front gate. An FEC bus will transport those delegates to the hotel registration desk.*

### **Subsidies**

The International Union will subsidize food and lodging for five delegates from each region. You should designate local unions to receive the additional financial support. The FEC delegates pay the lower registration fee of \$150. **Please notify Michelle Best at [mbest@uaw.net](mailto:mbest@uaw.net) or office at 313-926-4423 a list of your members that will attend as a subsidy no later than September 25, 2026.**

### **Deadlines**

Registration is due by noon on August 31, 2026. As we expect a full Health and Safety Conference, ***no late registrations will be accepted.***

### **Eligibility**

Delegate's eligibility is limited to active members of your local union, including members on layoff or strike who have been approved to attend by the local union Executive Board. ***No guests or spouses are eligible to attend.***

### **Lost Time**

The payment of lost time is the sole responsibility of the local union unless the regional director has authorized a subsidy.

### **Cancellations and Refunds**

**Cancellations must be received no later than September 18, 2026.**

Registration fees are non-refundable. Local unions should select alternates to replace delegates no later than September 25, 2026, who cancel and notify their regional office as well as the Health and Safety Department. This conference is an investment in the future of your local union.

### **Theme Days**

Monday – Wear “UAW Local Pride” - wear your local union apparel

Tuesday – “Favorite Sports Team” - jersey or shirt

Wednesday – “Red Shirt”

Thursday – “Hawaiian Shirt”

Once again, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at Black Lake.

SF:MU:JH:mb  
opeiu494afl-cio

cc: Assistant Regional Directors  
Nicole Current  
Scott Eskridge  
Jim Holton  
Brandon Keatts  
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Matt Uptmor  
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