



SOUNDINGS

JUNE 2024



*Newly appointed MDA-UAW Local 571 Union Officers
(Pictured Left to Right) Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher, 2nd Vice President Robert Canova, Treasurer Robert Faraci, President William E. Louis, 1st Vice President Amy Stephenson and Financial Secretary Dave Evans*



UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MDA-UAW
LOCAL 571**

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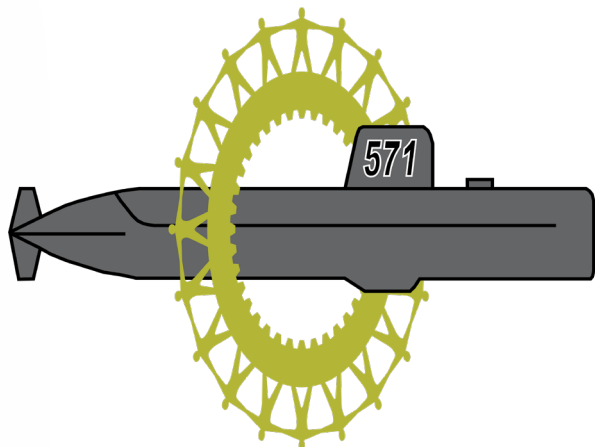
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MDA-UAW, LOCAL 571

Mission Statement of the MDA-UAW Local 571

The mission of MDA-UAW Local 571 is to serve and represent all members and their families to the best of our ability by providing work place representation, financial/job security, seniority and respect.

We will achieve these goals by educating the union leadership and the membership about their roles and responsibilities in this process. We also understand that teamwork is the ability to evaluate ideas on their merit, focusing on the issue and not the person. Our teamwork starts with the membership's voice being heard which will help create an environment necessary for success.

Local 571's priority is to improve the quality of life of our members and their families by maintaining the highest level of integrity in operating the union.

"Pride, Ownership and Accountability"

MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 2024 RETIREE LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

JUNE 13	<i>Holiday Inn Norwich, CT</i>
JUL 11	<i>Tony D's Restaurant New London, CT</i>
AUG 8	<i>The Port & Starboard New London, CT</i>
SEP 12	<i>Great Neck Country Club Waterford, CT</i>
OCT 10	<i>Prime 82 Restaurant Norwich, CT</i>
NOV 14	<i>The Port & Starboard New London, CT</i>
DEC 12	<i>Great Neck Country Club Waterford, CT</i>

MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 2024 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Executive Board	Jun 3	3:00PM	Mystic Marriott
General Membership	Jun 3	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Board	Jul 1	3:30PM	Union Hall
Executive Board	Aug 5	3:30PM	Union Hall
Executive Board	Sep 9	3:00PM	Mystic Marriott
General Membership	Sep 9	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Board	Oct 9	3:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Council	Oct 9	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Board	Nov 4	3:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Council	Nov 4	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Board	Dec 2	3:00PM	Mystic Marriott
General Membership	Dec 2	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott



MDA-UAW Local 571 Union Hall, 394 Toll Gate Rd,
Groton, CT 06340 (860)448-0552

This newsletter will also be available on the MDA-UAW Web Page. We appreciate your feedback and any comments you have to make us better at how we communicate MDA-UAW news.

GET INVOLVED
If you would like to volunteer or get involved in any of our committees, events or volunteer efforts contact, the Union Hall at 860-448-0552.



Local Union Communication Association



Electric Boat Employees' Community Services Association

UNFI Food Show Collection

Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by their parent/guardian at all times.

Volunteer & Community Service Certificates available

Thursday, June 6th
From 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Sign in begins at 2:00

Mohegan Sun Casino
Earth Expo Center

We expect to collect around 12,000 Lbs.

RSVP (Please, but not required)

Wear comfortable shoes and your *Live United* t-shirt if you have one.

Volunteers needed to help pack up food after the show to be sent back to the Gemma E Moran United Way Labor Food Center

For Questions or RSVP Contact

Peter Crizer 3-2706
Sarah Buehler 3-7818
Angel MacDougall 3-2574
Adam Jarry in the Groton NTO Shop
Rebecca Reutlinger 860-464-3318

Tom Erick 3-2574
Jim Newman 3-2558
JoAnna McClenathan
7-4587 or Skype



On March 12, 2024, the latest C&S food show collection event was held at Mohegan Sun Casino.

Volunteers help collect new food items left behind by food vendors at the show that otherwise would be discarded once the food show is completed.

We had a great turnout of volunteers and were able to collect, box, and wrap 40,553 lbs of food!

All the food collected is delivered to Gemma E Moran's Labor Food Bank, to be sorted and distributed to many food kitchens and those in need. Thank you to all who came out!

Please come out to the next food show collection. See flyer on this page for more information.





WOMENS COMMITTEE

SOLIDARITY IN PINK



The U.S. Office of the War produced materials to convince women to enter into war production jobs as part of their patriotic duty. Rosie the Riveter was part of this propaganda campaign.

Rosie is a symbol of female empowerment, liberation and patriotism. Rosie the Riveter has always been associated with female defense workers since the 1940s.



Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in US since 1987.



COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN EXECUTIVE MEETING

The MDA sent three of it's members, Paula Brown, Martha Fletcher (Recording Secretary), and Pam Gonski to the Coalition of Labor Union Women



(CLUW) National Executive Board meeting and the 50th Anniversary Gala held May 8-11, 2024 in Niagara Falls, NY.

The CLUW is America's only national organization for union women. Formed in 1974, CLUW is a nonpartisan organization within the union movement. The primary purpose of (CLUW) is to unify all union women in a strong organization to determine and seek remedies to our common problems and concerns and to develop action programs within the framework of the labor movement to effectively promote our objectives.



IN MEMORIAM

DEAN HASTINGS (RETIREE)



Dean Lawrence Hastings, 65 passed away on February 13, 2024 in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. He retired after 37 years as a senior piping designer in 2020. He was always a bundle of fire and full of life and took great pride working at EB.

RONALD OSBOURNE (RETIREE)



Ronald R."Ron" Osborne, 88, of Westerly, passed away on Feb. 16, 2024. Ronald worked as an electrical designer. Ron was a longtime member of the Westerly BPOE #678. He enjoyed traveling and was known as the ultimate handyman.

NELSON QUINONES (MEMBER)



Nelson E. Quinones Sr., 60, passed away on March 12, 2024. Nelson recently worked as a technical writer for Electric Boat, but also served in the U.S. Navy for 10 years, as well as a Pastor to the New London County community for many years.

DONALD E. ROSS (RETIREE)



Donald E Ross, 85, of New London, CT passed away on February 15, 2024. He will be missed by all who knew him.



A LITTLE BIT OF MDA HISTORY

MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER HISTORY PAGE

The MDA Soundings Newsletter was initially published in the Fall of 1952. For over 71 years it has taken on many shapes and formats, but one thing remains; it continues to inform its members of important new's topics regarding the union and its members.

Attached are a couple news articles published in Soundings Newsletter Volume 1; No. 5; March 1953. The articles deal with topics including adequate area housing and parking snarls.

As you can see, somethings never change at the "Boat"!



VOL 1 NO. 5 GROTON, CONN. MARCH 1953

PARKING LOT SNAFUS STIR BID FOR ACTION

Widespread dissatisfaction with both morning and evening snarls in the company's parking lots culminated in a concerted bid for action by MDA members late last month.

Approximately half of the union's nearly 600 members signed a petition addressed to Ray Starbuck, MDA head, asking him to call a special meeting so that members can discuss the problem with EB representatives.

Starbuck said last week that because of the press of both personal and MDA business he had had no real chance to talk about the matter with other union officers and that as his resignation is imminent he would have to turn the petition over to incoming president, H. H. Bradford.

Tentative plans now call for development of a program by an MDA member whereby the kinks can be eliminated from the parking lots. This program, it is understood, would be presented to company representatives whenever a meeting date with them can be arranged.

Although details of the proposed parking program were not available at SOUNDINGS' press time, it was reported that a key element in the program calls for some sort of system in which every car operator will be assigned a particular space for his car each day.

Adequate Supply of Apartments Reported in Area; Houses Scarce

Housing for EB employees is a continuing problem but one which personnel department workers feel they have under control.

Both supply and demand vary for particular kinds of housing, they point out, but generally speaking they claim a good record for securing the kind of quarters a majority of EB employees seek.

Personnel department housing files contain a comprehensive list of available houses and apartments within a 30-mile radius of the plant but the emphasis apparently is on the greater New London-Groton area. Many new employees, though, especially those who come here from cities, are anxious to get farm or rural property.

By far the heaviest demand is for three and four-room unfurnished apartments. These, personnel reports, are in the biggest supply. Rents for such abodes run from \$25 (wow!!) to \$100 a month for three-roomers and from the same minimum to about \$125 for four-room arrangements.

The housing staff says it has been able to place about 90 per cent of those seeking three and four-room units.

A Dim View Of Kids

Children aren't welcome, though, in approximately 75 per cent of the available rentals, either apartments or houses.

Most apartments, furnished or unfurnished, come with utilities included in the rent, i.e. heat, water and electricity, although there are exceptions to this general rule.

In short supply, at least in this area, are unfurnished houses to rent. The average tab for these when available, is \$80 a month without utilities. The personnel department reports a very heavy demand for rentals in this category, especially by families with children.

Rents Run High

Nor is there much of a supply of furnished houses to rent. When they are to be had, rents run up to \$150 a month which puts them out of reach of many EB employees.

In the sales field, personnel reports, there are plenty of houses on the market in the \$13 to \$18-thousand bracket. Most banks in the area will underwrite about \$10,000 via the mortgage route on a \$15,000 house although the higher the sales price the greater the percentage of the total the buyer will have to supply as a down payment.

Banks are reported to be reluctant to touch a house that is more than 25 years old unless it is in tip-top shape.

Many EB employees are reported to be buying new houses in the developments which have sprung up throughout southeastern Connecticut in the past few years.

Competition Rugged

Personnel says it is doing all it can in the unfurnished house field, but apparently the competition from non-EB people for the same kind of housing makes the problem difficult.

They cite the case of the EB man from Pitts-burgh with five kids who gave them a month's notice about his housing needs. It took personnel department staffers exactly 27 days to come up with something he could use.

There have been a few reports of rent gouging, but the attitude of the personnel staff is that there is a minimum of that sort of hanky-panky around here.

"We have found property owners in the New London-Groton area are very co-operative so far as EB goes," the housing expert said, "and many of them will hold apart-ments and houses for our needs without ad-vertising in the local press.

"We, for the most part, try to get from land-lords an accurate inventory of conditions in their rentals and we try to examine every dwelling we possibly can so that we can tell employees here exactly what to expect at a given location. Most of them seem to be satisfied," he continued.

Leases Frowned On

There are apparently few rentals in the area where a lease is required and the per-sonnel department people recommend that EB workers sign no lease.

Some people have left EB jobs claiming that they were dissatisfied with housing con-ditions here but there is reason to believe that in most such cases there were other factors involved.

Dwellings for EB people are spread all over the lot.

A rundown shows that 25 per cent of us live in New London, 16½ per cent in Groton, 4 per cent in Waterford, 8½ per cent in the greater Norwich area, less than 3 per cent west of Waterford and the remaining 37-plus per cent scattered farther afield in Connecti-cut and Rhode Island.

The Gripe Column . . .

I wish some one would tell me why it is there are only three public phones available for design department employees. In recent weeks I have had occasion to make several emergency calls while at work and invariably have lost valuable time waiting for a booth to be free or padding around the two build-ings in the hope that I'd catch a vacant one.

It's apparent to me that a number of people who use the booths now are being hoggish about it and using up time making small-talk with gal friends or boy friends while those of us who really need a phone are forced to stand around shifting from one foot to the other and jingling our coins.

EB, it seems to me, should show some horse sense and have the phone company put in at least three more booths. Lost time for emer-gency calls would be reduced nearly to a min-imum, probably. While they're at it, maybe the company ought to give free lessons, too, in telephone manners.

Terry

RECENT RETIREES



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST MDA RETIREES

DAVID CASWELL	41	STRCT SR DES SPEC
ALBERT LaFLAMME	42	DESIGN TECH-STRUCT
DAVID WALLANDER	23	ENG SUPPT-ELEC
PETER TURCO	40	ENG SUPPT-ELEC
MARY WRIGHT	4	A/A ADMIN AIDE
ERNEST WIGHTMAN	43	DESIGN TECH-MECH
ROBERT DAVISON	41	VENT SR DES SR SPEC
MARK CAMERON	46	STRCT S/DES SR SPEC
TERRY KENNEY	40	PIPE S/DES SR SPEC
RICHARD CUTLER	15	LOGIST TECH AIDE

JEFFREY WHITE	17	STRUCT SR DESIGNER
KEVIN McKINZIE	40	DESIGN TECH-PIPING
WILLIAM MAHN	41	ELECT S/DES SR SPEC
RICHARD VIDOT	35	MECH SR DESIGNER
ADRIENNE WILLETTS	35	PIPE S/DES SR SPEC
THOMAS NISBET	35	DESIGN TECH-PIPING
ALICE SMITH	28	ARRGT SR DESIGNER
LEANN RIDER	36	ADMIN SPECIALIST
THOMAS LOWELL	41	MECH S/DES SR SPEC
DAVID REAGAN	39	PIPE S/DES SR SPEC

Lori Merlo
6 years
P/C TECHAID



Steve Muntimuri
30 years
STRUCT SR DES/ SR SPEC



Raymond Goyette
46 years
T/A METROLOGY SPEC



Steve Smith
32 years
PIPE S/DES SR SPEC



Tom Bassett
45 years
STRUCT SR DES/ SR SPEC



Happy Retirement



MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



DAY OF CARING EVENT MAY 4, 2024

A Day of Caring event was held at the Craig Floyd Giving Garden on May 4, 2024, formerly Coogan Farm in Mystic. The EB community stepped up to help clean up garden beds, mulch walkways, plant fresh vegetables and clean up the facilities.

Thirty volunteers showed up to help at the giving garden. Among the thirty were the following MDA members and family guets: Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher, Brad Lamphere, Peter Crizer, Kim and Jaelyn Deschamps, Peter and Charlotte Duval, JoAnna McClenathan with Zenon, Don Miller, Robert and Melissa Neill, Jim Newman and retirees' Katrina and Ted Spanos.



Great job to all those who attended this Day of Caring Event. Your generous donation of time and effort will help provide over 1000 families with fresh vegetables through the Gemma E. Moran United Way Labor Food Center.

JUNE HEALTH FAIR DATES

New London Monday	6/10/24	8am - 2pm
Groton Shipyard Tuesday	6/11/24	5am - 5pm
Kings Highway Thursday	6/13/24	8am - 1pm
Groton Bldg 88 Friday	6/14/24	8am - 12pm





JOHN F SAFFOMILLA & E. ROY COLVILLE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Class of 2024



Abby Lanoue



Savvina Arsenis



Emily Peckham



Ella Stephenson



Hannah Henry



Gabriella Souder



Andrew Longolucco



Mason Hemstock

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!!



VETERANS COMMITTEE



The Veterans Committee held the 2nd annual free steak dinner for veterans on March 23, 2024. This was one of the fifteen veteran organizations that benefitted from our MDA-UAW Local 571 Veterans Committee Cornhole fundraiser, raising more than \$23,000 in November of 2023!

Thank you to the Moosup American Legion, Post 91 for hosting the dinner, we had a great turnout!





COMEDY FUNDRAISER

Featuring Top Local Comedians to Benefit

MDA
SUPPORTING VETERANS TODAY & EVERYDAY

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Port N Starboard Banquet Center - Ocean Beach
Ocean Beach Park | 1225 Ocean Avenue | New London, CT 06320

Doors open at 12:00pm | Show starts at 1:00pm

Pasta Lunch for \$12 per person • Cash Bar
Raffles, Silent Auctions, 50/50 Drawing • Adult Show 18+
*Mention The MDA Comedy Show to Avoid Paying Parking Fee

Tickets \$23.00

For tickets, to donate, or sponsor, please visit
funny4funds.com/events

For more information, please contact
Bill Louis: 860-303-0633



POWERED BY FUNNY 4FUNDS® | COMEDY NIGHT FUNDRAISERS



NEW MEMBER MEET & GREET

We held our most recent new member meet & greet on March 19, 2024 at the Mystic Marriott, Groton. We spend the day with new members providing information on our history, benefits and more. It is a great way to know who we are and learn about what the union has to offer you and your families. We also invite company leadership to come in and welcome new members also. Thank you to Shawn Hathaway, Steve Hayes and Shawn Coyne for accepting the invitation.

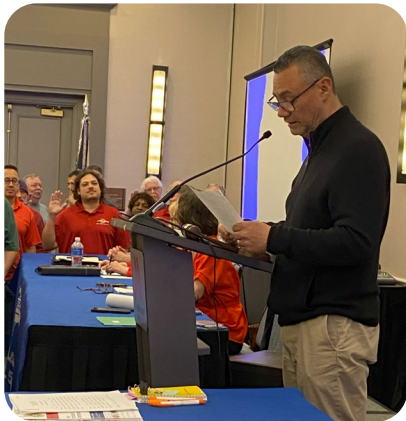


SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

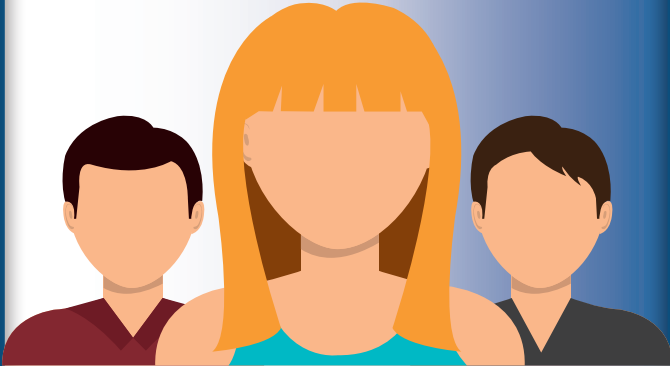


We had another great turnout for our latest meeting. We have averaged around 200 or more attendees since December of 2022. Thanks to our leadership for the help pushing the attendance. It has been a great showing of Solidarity!

This special general membership meeting was also for the purpose of officer nominations for the next 3-year term. In Addition, new councillors were sworn in for the a 3-year term. Thank you to Jose Melara, our Region 9A servicing Representative, for swearing the new councillors at the meeting.



OUR UNION IS AS STRONG AS
THE MEMBER'S MAKE IT!



YOU ARE THE DECISION MAKER

**PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING
THE NEXT MDA GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MEETING DATES





RETIREMENT INFORMATION

Celebrating our 25th year
supporting Electric Boat
Retirees!!



Beacon

Retiree Benefits Group LLC
AN ALERA GROUP COMPANY



Call our office today
for more information
at 1.888.484.0414 or
email us at
info@beaconmedicare.com

SPECIAL INVITATION

Beacon Retiree Benefits Group invites
Electric Boat Retirees to participate in a
special Medicare Medical & Prescription
Drug Plan...



PROGRAM DETAILS

- This special group program is **ONLY** available to **Medicare eligible Electric Boat retirees and spouses.**
- This program was created in 1999 by your friends at the MTC, the MDA, Carpenters Union and the RSEA.
- Over 2,500 retirees & spouses participate!
- All plans, rates & benefits are the same in all 50 states!
- There are no individual plans comparable to these unique group options.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Morning sessions start at 10AM
The Hilton Mystic Hotel, Mystic CT
Wednesday, June 5, 2024
Wednesday, July 3, 2024
Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Late afternoon sessions start at 4PM
Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT
Wednesday, June 19, 2024
Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Refreshments will be served!

**To reserve your seat, call us at 1.888.484.0414
or email us at RSVP@BeaconMedicare.com**

Beacon Retiree Benefits Group, An Alera Group Company, 710 Main Street, Suite 10, Plantsville, CT 06479