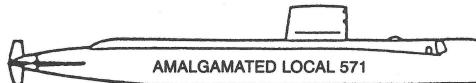




UAW LOCAL 571
MARINE DRAFTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION



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MDA-UAW Local 571
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025

September 10, 2025

President William E. Louis called the meeting to order and asked that we keep in our thoughts, recently deceased member Santos Jones Jr., retiree Donald Noel, past members, retirees, family members, and our veterans past and present. The UAW Region 9A Veterans Committee Color Guard Tom Montgomery (US Army) and Melvin Hicks (USAF), presented colors, followed by the National Anthem. We also recognized all Veterans in the room.

President William E. Louis asked for a motion to accept the August 4, 2025, Executive Board Meeting Minutes as circulated and posted (Greg Maynard), seconded (James Newman) and passed to accept.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Robert Faraci read the Treasurers Reports for July, August and September. A motion was made (Joseph Marmaud), seconded (William Larkin) and passed to accept the reports.

Correspondence:

From the ConnectiCOSH Chair, the 2025 Ray Elling Health and Safety Convention, October 24, 2025 at the IAM Local 1746 Union Hall, East Hartford, CT.

From the Eastern CT Area Labor Federation AFL-CIO, Election Notice from the August 18, 2025 Executive Board meeting.

From the Labor Arbitration Institute, notice of the upcoming Labor Law and Labor Arbitration session, December 8, 2025, New York City, NY.

From the RI AFL-CIO, an official Call Letter to the 2025 Constitutional Convention, October 20, 2025, Bally's Twin River Casino, Lincoln, RI.

From the USO, an acknowledgement for the \$500.00 dollar donation they received from our Local supporting military service members and their families.

From the MDA Local 571 Trustees, the bi-annual Trustee Audit Report.

From the UAW International, an official Call Letter to the UAW Skilled Trades Conference, October 20-24th, 2025, Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan.

William E. Louis, President
Amy Stephenson, 1st Vice President
Bob Canova, 2nd Vice President



Martha Fletcher, Recording Secretary
Dave W. Evans, Financial Secretary
Robert J. Faraci, Treasurer

Officer Reports:

1st Vice President Amy Stephenson reported no new step 3 grievances. A member was terminated for being out of their work area and another member is out suspended pending investigation for being out of their work area.

2nd Vice President Robert Canova reported no new step 3 grievances. A member received a written warning for cell phone abuse. A second member received a recorded verbal warning and a written warning for attendance and a recorded verbal warning and a written warning for unsatisfactory performance - poor quality.

Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher reported no new step 3 grievances. Filed U-0011-25, denying member of shift preference.

Standing Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee Amy Stephenson reported:

-Solidarity Picnic was Aug 16, 2025 and we had about 350 people in attendance and the food trucks were a huge hit.

-MDA Golf Tournament is Sept 13, 2025 and we had a waiting list this year so we have a few teams that will be playing in the afternoon and we are having Chesters BBQ cater it this year.

-Bus Trip to Boston is Sept. 14th leaving Rainville Lot at 8am and returning at 7pm. There are still some seats available on the bus.

-MDA Camping is October 10-13, 2025 and there are still sites available to stay, or you can come on Saturday the 11th for the pig roast around 5pm.

-Movie Night at Mystic Movie Theatre is Oct 25th from 7-9:30 pm and the movie is Rocky Horror Picture Show.

-Great Wolf Lodge, is Nov 7th and 8th, 2025. Saturday night is full, but we still have rooms available for Friday night. We need the names and ages of occupants as well as the check no later than Sept. 19th.

-MDA Dinner Dance is Dec 6, 2025 and ticket sale information will be coming out soon and the link for the rooms is: <https://book.passkey.com/go/MDAUAW571HOLIDAY2025>

Women's Committee Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher reported members Velma Williams, Elizabeth Strader and myself attended the 2025 UAW International Women's Conference on August 17-22, 2025 at the Tradewinds Resort, St. Pete Beach, Florida. The conference theme was "Intentional in our Resilience". The conference was designed to foster connections, education and empowerment among UAW women. We learned how to build and strengthen women's committees, network across regions and focused on the critical work of developing, retaining and uplifting women in the workplace and the labor movement.

Trustee James Newman reported the Trustees conducted their semi-annual trustees' audit the week of August 11 through the 15th. We reviewed all of the expenses, income, deposits and CD's. The books are balanced. Taxes, dues and insurance policies have been filed and paid. The record keeping and organizational skills of our treasurer, Robert Faraci makes our job much easier. Our expenses and vouchers were more than normal due to negotiating our record-breaking contract and our efforts leading up to ratification of the contract. The officers did a great job with the vouchers and record keeping during this stressful and demanding period.

Respectfully, your Trustees: Jim Newman (Chair), Dave Belanger and Mark Ciliano Sr.

Community Service Committee Co-Chair James Newman reported:

DOC Events:

On Tuesday, August 19th, 45 volunteers packed up food after the C & S Food Show at the Mohegan Sun. In about 2-1/2 hours 49,836 pounds of food and nonperishable items were taken back to the Gemma E Moran United Way Labor Food Center to be distributed to local food pantries and partner agencies. That is 10,211 pounds more than the same show last year. Thank you to all our MDA members, retirees, and family members who showed up to help.

EBECSA Campaign 2025:

We are ready to kick off this year's campaign with a live broadcast with WCTY on September 18th from 6:00 to 8:00AM in Building 88-3. We will be providing an overview and schedule for this year's campaign to our volunteers and campaign coordinators. Watch for your invitations to the presentations to come in your email. We encourage everyone to attend a session with your groups at your work location. Shop orders are provided to everyone who attends.

Please contact JoAnna McClenathan, via Teams or (860) 867-4587, Peter Crizer, (860) 433-2706 or Jim Newman (860) 433-2558 if you have any questions or would like to sign up for any volunteer opportunities or notifications.

Absentee Committee Chair Wayne Carbone reported that the following Executive Board Members were absent from the July 7, 2025 Executive Board meeting held at the MDA-UAW Local 571 Union Office, 394 Toll Gate Road, Groton CT 06340.

Amy Stephenson (1), Robert Canova (1), Robert Faraci (1) and Ron Arner (1).

The MDA-UAW Local 571 Absentee Committee Chair also reported that the following Executive Board Members were absent from the August 4, 2025 Executive Board meeting held at the MDA-UAW Local 571 Union Office, 394 Toll Gate Road, Groton CT 06340

Robert Faraci (2).

(X) – Indicates number of Meetings the Member has been absent from.

When a member of the Executive Board is recorded as being absent in the meeting minutes, per the UAW Constitution, it does not reflect whether the absence is excused or un-excused.

Three lateness's in excess of 15 minutes each is considered as one un-excused absence.

If you feel you were reported in error, please submit in writing to the Absentee Committee, the reason you feel the error was made.

The Absentee Committee would like to stress the importance of regular monthly meeting attendance for all E-Board members, E-Council members and Committee Chairs.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact, in advance, any one of the Absentee Committee members: Wayne Carbone (Chair): WCARBONE@GDEB.COM (860) 867-2691 / Cell: 860-857-6426, Anthony (Tony) Giordano Jr.: AGIORDAN@GDEB.COM (860) 867-2458, Eric Straub ESTRAUB@GDEB.COM: Work: (860) 867-4607 / Cell: (860) 501-2230. The Officer of the Absentee Committee is Martha Fletcher RECORDSEC571@GMAIL.COM, (860) 448-0552 / Cell: (860) 608-1301.

Joint Technology Committee Co-Chair Thomas Clancy reported there have been some changes to the members of the salary side of the JTC. Josh Bakoulis has replaced Tom Purcell as the lead salary member of the JTC. Additionally, Rich Gauthier has replaced Josh Olmstead on the salary side. Both Karey Anderson and Jane Nelson continue in their existing roles on the salary side of the team. We look forward to working with Josh and Rich as we continue to review new technology and impacts to roles and responsibilities. On behalf of the MDA side of the committee, we wish Tom Purcell and Josh Olmstead the best in their future endeavors and thank them for their professionalism and commitment to excellence with their contributions to our joint team over the years.

Dave Erardy has stepped down as co-chair of the JTC based on taking on the role of Chair of a new MDA Artificial Intelligence Committee. Dave remains a member of the JTC, and we thank him for his service as co-chair.

Veterans Committee Chair Thomas Montgomery reported the six MDA members that went to the 2025 UAW NATIONAL VETERANS CONFERENCE, August 10-15, 2025. Jeffery Carver, Peter Dickson, Jason Anderson, Aaron Hayes, Joe Scott and myself would like to thank the MDA members for allowing us to go to the Veterans conference. We went to four different workshops that talked about:

1. How to support members dealing with PTSD.
2. Veteran's benefits/VSO's (Veteran Service Officers are a US Congress enacted & Certified assistance. Also, any assistance there are no charges should be free).
3. Resiliency: What it means to you and how it plays out as a Veteran/Union Member especially during crises such as manmade or natural catastrophes & work place sexual harassment
4. How to fundraise for your Veteran Committee or start a sub-committee to spark interest in joining the veterans committee. Like a paranormal sub-committee or a motorcycle sub-committee.

This event is very informative to the UAW Veteran who may not know that there are established services open to the Veteran to assist them from home loans to PTSD to being part of their local's Veteran Committee. In addition, we are looking for Volunteers to join our Veteran Committee. You

do not need to be a Veteran (just an MDA Member in good standing) to be on the Committee. We would like to have female Veterans join the committee to help other women veterans who may not be comfortable talking to men about their PTSD, Sexual Trauma in the military or possible Sexual Harassment in the work place.

We had a lot of good speakers during the week like Shawn Fain who spoke about how supporting a candidate on one issue does not mean you should support all the other issues that are harmful to your self-interest. Also, one of our speakers was Lydia Edwards she is a 1st Lt. in the Massachusetts National Guard JAG office and a Massachusetts State Senator from 2021 – current, 3rd Suffolk district. She talked about her military career, career as state senator and her personal life losing her love of her life to his addiction.

Old Business

If you are interested in purchasing apparel, outside of the 2 free items, the Union covers 50% of the cost. We have a new logo, many styles and colors. There is a new catalog with new apparel and logos. Your 2-free items are still available for members who have not received them. The next order will be placed in approximately 2-weeks. If interested, please contact Erica at the Union Office, 860-448-0552. Orders are slowly coming in and we will contact you and make arrangements to get your order to you.

We still have sites available for the Columbus Day Weekend Camp Outing at Nature's Campsites, Voluntown, CT.

November 1st is our 5th Annual Cornhole Veterans fundraiser at Foxwoods Resort Casino. \$27,000 was raised last year that benefited 16 Veterans organizations.

The AFL-CIO Convention is November 6th & 7th at Foxwoods Resort Casino. We have 6 delegates that will be attending.

The AFL-CIO/ United Way Golf Tournament is today at the Norwich Golf Course. The MDA sponsored the golf cart signs again this year. We also have a \$1500.00 subsidy to be shared amongst members that participate.

The General Dynamics Council Conference is September 14th through the 19th in New Orleans, LA. We have 5-members attending.

The Rocky Hill Stand Down is September 19th. We approved up to 8 members to participate in distributing items such as personal hygiene needs, non-perishable foods and other helpful items for Veterans. The items we distribute are donated through the Gemma E . Morran/United Way Labor Food Center.

New Business

Save the date, November 8, 2025 is the 26th 9A Annual Veterans Dinner Dance. We have 2 tables of 10 for interested members and their guest.

The 3rd Annual United for Gemma Benefit Gala will be October 15th at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum. This yearly event continues to provide ongoing operating support towards the food center

to eliminate food insecurity in New London County. The MDA would like to continue as a Gold Sponsor, \$10,000.00 for this event and a motion was made for this support (Thomas Clancy), seconded (David Belanger) and passed to accept.

The 2025 ConnectiCOSH Health & Safety Convention will be held October 24th at the IAM Local 1746, East Hartford, CT from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. A motion was made to send up to 6 to the convention (Anne Wurzbacher), seconded (Thomas Montgomery) and passed to accept.

The Rhode Island AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention will be held October 20th, at the Bally's Twin River Casino. Lincoln. RI. A motion was made to send up to 4 members to the convention (Jeffrey Carver), seconded (Daniel Champaign) and passed to accept.

The UAW Skilled Trades Conference will be held October 20-24, Detroit, MI. A motion was made to send up to 2 members (Melvin Hicks), seconded (William Larkin) and passed to accept.

For the Good of the Union

We have provided our first proof reading of the new Contract to HR.

We will be having Councillor Training, September 30th at the Mystic Marriott for the full day.

The December General Membership Meeting has been rescheduled to December 15th, 4:30 pm, at the Mystic Marriott.

MDA concerns, post negotiations: So much for making our point. We were informed that the company is **not** looking at an incentive program for 2025. The company is also looking at not providing turkeys this year.

The company put in a security door with a camera on the 10th floor. Nobody informed us of this; we found out after the fact. The company also canceled all Presidents meetings, previously attended by the Unions, indefinitely, this is very discouraging.

What we are hearing from our membership:

- Start times being challenged due to "core hours"? Not in our contract. There should be a business need not to allow our start times to be 5:30 am onward.
- Through lunch continues to be challenged in certain areas.
- OT can not be worked unless in plant in certain areas.
- Company is on the look out for those out of their work areas.
- WFH seems to be reduced as we go forward.
- OPEX Awards: Budget gone for 2025. President Louis is on the signature circuit for approval of these awards. 7-designees from our Union were not approved by him and received the awards regardless.

The Benefits Committee will be holding an Open Enrollment for Benefits info session November 18th, 5:00pm at the Union Hall. Please let us know if you plan on attending.

There is an opening on the Election Committee. Nominations and election will take place at the December 15th General Membership Meeting.

Our Benefits Committee and the Company Benefits Reps. will be meeting September 22 at the Union Hall to proof the new language for Benefit changes.

Our 9A Servicing Representative Jose Melara was in attendance and sent greetings from Shawn Fain and Brandon Mancilla. Jose has been working on contract negotiations with Cummings out of Bloomfield, CT. They are negotiating with a big prophet company and things there are going somewhat like ours had gone. We plan on supporting them by making an inspiration video from our local and however else we can support.

Jose Melara swore in new councillors Christopher Hemmi and David Humiston.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO MDA-UAW LOCAL 571:

BADGE	NAME	DEPT.
164588	BENJAMIN RIZZUTO	477
173656	KODY GREER	403
171582	EMILIO ARMIJO *	456
173836	BLAKE VANDER	403
171579	KANANI BROWN *	452

*Reinstated

A motion was made to accept the new members (Joseph Marmaud), seconded (Jeremy Deschamps) and passed to accept.

A motion was made to adjourn (Karen Hensley), seconded (Austin Perkett) and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Fletcher

Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher

Visit our WEBSITE on the GDEB Intranet Homepage or at region9a.uaw.org/local571

Please "like us" on our Facebook site: "[MDA UAW Local 571](#)".

Also, check for updates of news, pictures of events, etc.

