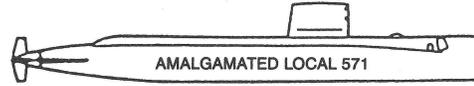




**UAW LOCAL 571
MARINE DRAFTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

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***MDA-UAW Local 571
Executive Council Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2026***

February 5, 2026

President William E. Louis called the meeting to order and asked that we keep in our thoughts recently deceased member Gregory Main, recently deceased retiree Joseph Gladu, past members, retirees, family members, and our veterans past and present. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President William E. Louis asked for a motion to accept the January 5, 2026 Executive Council Meeting Minutes as circulated and posted (Karen Hensley), seconded (David Belanger) and passed to accept.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Robert Faraci read the Treasurers Report. A motion was made (Dayna Spencer), seconded (Patrick Fitzgerald) and passed to accept the report.

Correspondance

The Official Call to the Member Mobilization Institute, April 19-24, 2026 at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center, Onaway, Michigan.

Officer Reports:

1st Vice President Amy Stephenson reported no new Step 3 grievances filed.

2nd Vice President Gregory Maynard reported filed Grievance U-0002-26, member "redlined" for performance.

Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher reported no new Step 3 grievances filed. A member received a 1-day suspension for creating a work place disturbance.

Financial Secretary Dave Evans reported filed Grievance U-0001-26, MTC doing bargaining unit work (dept. 506). A member retired in lieu of discharge for violation of rules and regulations, second offence dosing. A member received a 3-day suspension for improper workplace conduct.

Treasurer Robert Faraci reported no new Step 3 grievances filed.

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

Standing Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher reported the 2026 John F. Saffomilla and E. Roy Colville Scholarship application is available on our web site and through your area Grievance Reps. Eligibility to apply is limited to graduating High School Seniors whose parent, legal guardian or grandparent is a member or retiree in good standing. The Scholarship awards will consist of (10) awards of \$3,000.00 each. The applications must be received by mail only, no later than Friday, April 24, 2026.

Election Committee Chair Anne Wurzbacher reported there is (1) Councillor vacancy in each of the following locations: Eagle Park, King's Highway, New London Tower A and Poheganaut. A Election Committee notice will be published shortly announcing nomination periods and election dates (if needed).

In addition, with the retirement of Robert Canova, the 2nd Vice President position will be open for nomination at the March General Membership Meeting. A notice will follow with election dates (if needed).

As a reminder, there is a vacant seat on the Election Committee. Nominations must be made and accepted in person at the March General Membership Meeting. A vote will also be held at the meeting if necessary to fill the position.

Trustee Chair James Newman reported the week of February 16 the Trustees' will be conducting the semi-annual Trustees' Audit.

The week of February 23rd the Trustees' will be attending the Financial Officers' Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. We look forward to the updated training as Trustees will learn more about the challenges facing other regions and locals and talking with their representatives and the UAW International Executive Board.

Community Service Co-Chair James Newman reported we are currently planning a Day of Caring event for 2026.

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 we will be collecting food after the C&S Food Show at the Mohegan Sun. **We need volunteers to help.** These are the large food shows where we need the most volunteers. Please mark your calendars and watch for the flyer when we post it with the additional details. Our job will be to collect and pack up the food, which will be loaded into trucks for transport to the Gemma E Moran United Way Labor Food Center. Feel free to bring your family and friends, many hands make light work. We will be following safe practices and children are welcome, but must be accompanied by their parent/guardian at all times. We will be providing volunteer certificates to those who need them. RSVP is suggested so we can properly plan on how many people we have coming.

Registration will start at 3:30 pm and we expect to start collecting food after the show ends at 4:00 pm.

The United Way of Southeastern CT is seeking volunteers for the allocations team. These teams have the very important responsibility of researching the partner programs and helping to make the decisions on where our donations will go. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the process and to make sure the donated dollars are making the biggest impact in our community. If you are interested in joining the allocations team at UWSECT, please reach out to Carli Herz (carli.herz@uwsect.org) or a member of the community services committee.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to help with our 2026 campaign and our volunteering events. If you would like to be added to our volunteer email list, please contact us.

The holidays are over, but food donations are still needed all year long. Food collection boxes are located at the entries to our facilities and are picked up for delivery to the Gemma E Moran United Way Labor Food Center bi-weekly. If you notice a box with food in it not being picked up, please give us a call.

Please contact Peter Crizer (433-2706), JoAnna McClenathan (867-4587 or via Teams) or Jim Newman (433-2558) if you have any questions.

Insurance Benefits Chair Ed Nevins reported:

Enrollment Dependent Verification 2026:

If you added a dependent during open enrollment, you may be required to complete the verification process. You must complete this process when requested. Dependents of employees who fail to satisfy the verification requirements will experience loss of coverage. Initial notification was 1/15/26, followed by two other notifications and our committee notified members twice. ***This year's deadline for submission is 2/15/26.*** Dependents of employees who fail to satisfy the audit requirements will both (a) lose coverage without the possibility of COBRA continuation coverage and (b) be ineligible to gain coverage until Annual Enrollment for plan year 2027 (barring a Qualifying Life Event). ***If the employee verifies dependents after the deadline, coverage is reinstated prospectively as of the date all required documents are received and considered in good order.***

MDA Insurance Committee and EB Benefits Office Meeting:

We continue to meet monthly to go over upcoming events to maintain positive communications.

This past month we talked about the Dependent Verification Process and its importance to complete.

UHC ID cards displaying deductibles/max:

EB Pharmacy extending hours (Mon-Thurs 6-7pm, Sat 8-3pm, Sun Closed); Warning on potential phishing scheme advisory-unsolicited calls, emails and text from unknown subjects. Do not rush to respond, check it out first.

American Red Cross Blood Drive was canceled due to the weather. Elen Helme our UHC coordinator has left for retirement and UHC is searching for replacement.

Lump Sum Distribution process available on-line; the importance of updating your home address on-line to receive mailing.

Sedgwick Disability processing of claims needs to be on time payments, GD Corp involvement and EB Benefits meeting with Sedgwick.

Legal Services Plan is a Voluntary Benefit Election:

The legal services plan administered by MetLife offers tax preparation and filing by offering Turbo Tax's on-line tax preparation software for both Federal and State returns. (If you selected the "Legal Plan" at open enrolment you are eligible).

Plan coverage includes items such as: Advise & Consultation, Consumer Protection, Personal Property Protection, Small Claims Court Protection, Wills and Codicils, Living Wills, Living Trusts, Probate, Powers of Attorney, Document Preparation, Elder Law Matters, Primary Residence Sale, Purchases or Refinancing, Vacation Homes, Home Equity Loans, Boundary or Title Disputes, Property Tax Assessments, Zoning Applications, Protection from Domestic Violence, Name Changes, Divorce, Premarital Agreement, Eviction and Tenant Problems, Juvenile Court Matters, Traffic Tickets, Defense of Debt Collection, Personal Bankruptcy, Civil Lawsuits, Adoption, Guardianship, Personal Injury, Tax Audits, Identity Theft & Tips and Immigration. Please refer to the plan details for actual coverage details.

Insurance Committee Members:

If you have insurance questions or concerns, feel free to contact a benefits committee member:

- Tony Giordano 860-867-2458, NL, Tower C, 3rd Floor
- Jim Newman 433-2558, Groton, Shipyard, Building 130
- Mark Ciliano 860-303-2952 (Retired)
- Chairman Ed Nevins 867-2563, Kings highway

Absentee Committee Chair Wayne Carbone reported the following Executive Board or Executive Council Members were absent from the January 5, 2026 Executive Council Meeting held at the Mystic Marriott Hotel, 625 North Road, Groton CT 06340.

Pamela Gonski (4/0), Mark Ciliano (4/0), Michael Alice (9/0), Jason Anderson (1/0), Steven Karavolis (1/1), Brad Lamphere (7/0), and Thomas Montgomery (2/1).

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

When a member of the Executive Board/Executive Council 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 more than 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.

Old Business

If you are interested in purchasing apparel, outside of the two 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. If interested, please contact Kristen 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.

An online motion was made to the E-Council to support President William Louis and Insurance Benefits Committee Chair to go to Bath, Maine to join members of the Bath, Maine Marine Draftsmen's Association-UAW for some guidance with their ongoing contract negotiations. The motion passed 30-0 to accept the motion.

New Business

2nd Vice President Robert Canova has retired and President William made a motion to appoint Grievance Rep. Gregory Maynard to the position in the interim period until nominations take place at the March General Membership Meeting and hold an election (Glen Pothier), seconded (Daniel Champaigne) and passed to accept.

For the Good of the Union

We will be hosting a Boy Scout Drafting Merritt Badge course for a troop out of East Lyme on Saturday, February 28th at the Union Hall. We have members who are volunteering to teach board drafting techniques and AutoCAD software.

Our Contract should be put out electronically very soon. It takes time for the company and us to go through it in its entirety and have discussion if there are any discrepancy between the MDA and Company. At this time, we have moved pass this point in the process and should be going to print very soon.

Congratulations to Steven Carson, Stephen Majcher, Ronald Terenova and Robert Canova for their well-deserved retirement.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO MDA-UAW LOCAL 571

BADGE	NAME	DEPT.
168939	ARCANGEL SANTIAGO *	469
174492	NICOLE LEMAY	403
174879	NICOLE HOVER	448
174267	KRISTINA FONTES	403
174586	E. RUTH ZIOBRON	645
174749	CHARISSA LEWIS	465
170927	ADAM SCHENK	431
174786	TRENT COMOLLI	469

* Reinstated

A motion was made to accept the application for membership for new and reinstatements (Jason Anderson), seconded (Patrick Fitzgerald) and passed to accept.

A motion was made to adjourn (Jeremy Deschamps) , seconded (Steven Karovalis) 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.*