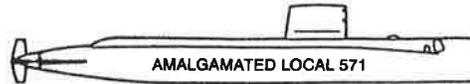




UAW LOCAL 571
MARINE DRAFTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 7275
GROTON, CT 06340
(860) 448-0552
FAX: (860) 448-3721
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region9a.uaw.org/local571



MDA-UAW Local 571
General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2026

March 3, 2026

President William E. Louis called the meeting to order. Our Chaplain George Earley led us in an invocation and moment of silence, asking that we keep in our thoughts, recently deceased members, past members, retirees, family members and our Veterans past and present. The MDA Color Guard consisting of members Joseph Scott, Valerie Beasley and Peter Dixon presented Colors, followed by the National Anthem.

President William E. Louis asked for a motion to accept the February 2, 2026 Executive Council Meeting Minutes as circulated and posted (Joseph Marmaud), seconded (Patrick Fitzgerald) and passed to accept.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Robert Faraci read the Treasurers Report. A motion was made (Jeremy Deschamps), seconded (Robert Canova) and passed to accept the report.

Correspondance

An Official Call to the 2026 UAW Constitutional Convention, June 15-18, 2026, Huntington Place, Detroit, MI.

An Audit Report from our Local's Trustees from the audit conducted the week of February 16, 2026.

Officer Reports:

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

2nd Vice President Gregory Maynard reported no new Step 3 grievances filed.

Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher reported no new Step 3 grievances filed.

Financial Secretary Dave Evans reported no new Step 3 grievances filed.

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.

We have added 2 additional Scholarship Applications links to our website for the AFL-CIO Workers Memorial Day and the Region 9A Dik Days Scholarship Applications.

You can find these links at <https://region9A.uaw.org/local571> under committees-scholarship.

Citizenship and Legislation Committee T Ryan reported February 8th through the 11th the UAW held our 2026 National CAP Conference in Washington DC.

We met with 9 Congressional Representatives, Senators, and staff from Connecticut and Rhode Island. We presented the four main topics that we, as the general UAW body, are pushing for nationally and at the state level. We also pushed for Unemployment for Striking Workers. The lever that will help balance the table in our next negotiation. We were joined by Ben Wilcox, President of UAW Local 405. Ben was an excellent partner in DC. We owe him much appreciation and respect.

The four main drives are: Wages. Health Care. Retirement Security. Time off the Job. A detailed breakdown can be found in the UAW 2026 Guide of Our Issues. Our Time to Lead: Building Working Class Power. Available on UAW.org.

Shawn Fain gave a key note speech that lays out the importance of these four, basic, worker and human rights. I urge every member of the MDA to watch his speech and listen closely to his words. At least a few times.

His speech and the conference were about how to unite our members for the battle that we find ourselves in the middle of now. The fight for our jobs, our futures, our children's futures, our retirements, our democracy.

I will read some of his spoken words now.

"We are not Republicans. We are not Democrats. We are Trade Unionists."

"Income inequality is at the highest it has been in human history."

"Twelve Billionaires own as much wealth as the bottom half of society."

"Our Democracy is dying at the hands of an Authoritarian Billionaire class."

“How do we rise to the occasion?”

“This is our defining moment.”

If you do not hear another word I say, please listen to his speech.

You can follow the official link to his keynote from the UAW website to where it is hosted on YouTube.

In that keynote speech he mentions Mouseland. A Canadian political fable that rings with truth as much now for us here in the USA as it did in 1944 in Canada when it was first told. Tommy Douglas made it famous.

There is an animated version, for those who get bored easily by people standing up and speaking..... Like I am now.

You can find the official, and most entertaining version, at douglascoldwelllayton.ca. There you'll find a link that will direct you to the best YouTube animated short.

CAP stands for “Community Action Program”. The operative word there is “Action”. And that is what I am here to talk about.

To talk about what we in the MDA can do to help ourselves, our brothers and sisters across the UAW and AFL-CIO, and every working man and woman and their families in the USA.

I would ask that anyone who understands the importance of what is at stake right now, those that understand that the heat is turning up and we are the frogs in the pot. To ask those that are brave enough to take “action” in a time when so many seem intent at staring at their phones, complaining, and then letting others take action against them. I would ask those individuals to stand. The fight is now, not later.

The company has effectively driven wedges between our MDA membership and between our sibling Unions- MTC, Carpenters, Teamsters for decades. We need to remove those wedges and work closely together for each other's future.

Please join the Citizenship and Legislation Committee. Sign up to receive email updates of vetted information and coordinated actions that will help our families, our unions, our community, and our country. Please do not use a company email. The company owns and monitors every email on their server and AI is now amplifying that surveillance of our work place.

If you need help creating a personal, secure email, please reach out to me. Proton email is a Swiss owned company with free accounts and end to end encryption that is highly recommended.

The world is led by those who show up. I'm asking this membership, this fellowship, to show up.

Coming actions and ways to get involved:

1. March 5th: EQUAL has organized a Gemma E. Moran food intake. (Donated food needs to be sorted). 4-6PM 374 Broad St, New London.
2. March 7th: Bath MDA Support Trip. Support those in their negotiations that supported us in ours.
3. March 10th: Public testimony for Unemployment for Striking Workers- in person or via zoom. Looking for 5 or 10 to testify. A call to Strike Captains.
4. Kevin Ziolkovski [zool-KOFF-skee] (VP of South East CT AFL-CIO) invites you to join the CT Construction Hike for Hope.

This hike will benefit and raise awareness for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and it will be held on April 25, 2026 at 10am at Bluff Point in Groton.

If you are interested in signing up, his team is Hope's Lyons and Kevin is the Team Captain. You can go to this site to sign up: <https://supporting.afsp.org/CTConstructionHike>

5. ASOTRECOL [ASO-TRE-COL] The Association of Injured Workers and Ex-Workers from General Motors, in Bogotá Columbia needs support. For fourteen years since General Motors walked away from mediation they have been fighting for fair compensation for injuries and access to company medical records so their injured can access disability pensions. Please support. WWW.asotrecol.org.

6. The AFL-CIO is presenting continuing zoom workshops on how to organize safely and protect each other. There is a Union Peacekeeper & Observer Training to prepare members for safely monitoring and de-escalating tense situations during labor actions coming up Wednesday afternoons at 4PM EST March 11th and March 25th.

Shout out: Scott Cyr [seer] Dept 343. He showed up to dig out the shipyard transformers on Tues. To keep our jobs going. One of two MDA members who volunteered to come in when the call for help went out.

The more they see us getting involved. The less they can ignore our voices.

Trustee Chair James Newman reported the Trustees conducted the semi-annual trustees' audit the week of February 16th to February 20th. We reviewed all of the expenses, income, deposits and CD's. The books are balanced. Taxes, dues and insurance policies have been paid as required. The inventory list has been updated with new items purchased and we recommend disposing of a few items which are no longer in usable condition. We also recommend cleaning up outstanding checks and remind our members to please cash your check when received. They do have an expiration date. We would like to thank the officers for helping answer questions which came up during the audit and their continued transparency and integrity, and Kristen Kvist-Morrow for her assistance. The record keeping and organizational skills of our treasurer, Robert Faraci, making our job easier. We would like to remind our members when completing your voucher for reimbursement

you are required to make sure your voucher is complete and accurate. The Union Office will assist with any questions you may have to complete your voucher. Your signature is required for reimbursement.

February 22nd to the 28th Dave Belanger and James Newman attended the 2026 UAW - Financial Officers Conference in New Orleans. We were able to interact and meet other Leaders, Financial Officers, Trustees, Auditors and learn from the Auditors and get updates to the Department of Labor requirements and get updates to the Financial Report from the international. We are getting much closer to the \$850 million balance in the Strike Defense Fund, which is when the dues will revert to the 2 hour per month rate.

We also learned GD Land Systems Lima, OH are sending Welders, Carpenters and Installers (Electrical) to Groton to assist the trades. Do not be surprised if they see your UAW logo and ask questions.

Thank you to Mark Ciliano Sr. for dedicating your time as a retiree completing the Audit.

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

Community Service JoAnna McClenathan reported this time last year, our membership was going into negotiations and preparing for a possible strike. A lot of our members were caught off guard at the thought of the loss of income. The time to make sure we are prepared for the next negotiation, or any other personal hardship that may come up, is now, before any of these situations arise.

Part of the preparation for any type of family emergency or a disaster is to understand your financial obligations and options. It is easy to get overwhelmed just thinking about it. With the new wage increases in the contract, we suggest our members save for a rainy day when possible.

Emergency plans and kits normally start with plan of what is most critical like emergency supplies, emergency contacts, medical records, medication list, Insurance Information, a basic "To Go Kit" etc. If anyone would like more information on resources for emergency preparedness feel free to let us know and we will assist. A few resources are the *American Red Cross Disaster Services, UCAN Training, Financial Counseling, and FEMA just to name a few.*

Our committee would like to remind the membership that we are constantly working with partner programs to ensure we are addressing the needs of the families in the area and are prepared for emergency response in case of local emergencies and disasters. We have built a strong relationship with the United Way of SECT and the local community. If anyone in our membership or their families are experiencing a hardship, please do not hesitate to reach out to a UCAN counselor or a member of the committee to get connected to help.

DOC Event Volunteers Needed:

We need volunteers next Tuesday March 10th from 4:00 to 6:30 to help collect and pack up food after the C&S Food Show at Mohegan Sun. Registration will open at 3:30. Feel free to bring your family and friends to lend a hand. Please wear your United Way T-shirt if you have one, or we will have United Way T-shirts with the New Logo available at registration. 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. If you would like to pre-register for this event, you can do so online at:

https://uwsect.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=1215595

This is one of the biggest food show events in the area and many hands make light work. We are invited to come in after the show to collect the leftover food and household items that would otherwise be thrown away. We put everything that can be saved onto pallets that the Teamsters then load onto the trucks and take it back to the Gemma E Moran United Way/Labor Food Center. Once there, it will be sorted and distributed back into our community to help our friends and neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity.

Flyers and the link to pre-register are available on our EBECSA website:

<https://www.ebnet.gdeb.com/homepages/organizations/EBECSA/> and circulated with the meeting minutes.

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.

Insurance Benefits Chair Ed Nevins reported:

Enrollment Verification Audit:

The dependent Audit Verification **Deadline was 2/14/26**. We have seven members who are still in the process to complete. Dependents of those employees who failed to satisfy the audit requirements lost coverage. They have 90 days to submit verification documents in order to re-gain coverage.

VSP Light Care:

Members who enrolled with VSP have access to a new benefit called LightCare. Your frame allowance can be used on nonprescription sunglasses or blue light filter glasses, extra savings on VSP preferred brands. Shop VSP's in-network eyewear store Eyeconic, visit www.gd.vspforme.com

OPTUM:

Optum has a new registered dietitian Jennifer Fine, RDN. Nutrition Counseling, Chronic disease prevention, Healthy Eating, Personalized plans tailored to lifestyle and goals. **Contact Jennifer:** Jennifer.Fine@plusone.com 401-465-1097

EB & MDA Insurance committee monthly meeting:

This past month we did not hold our monthly benefits meeting with the company due to snowstorm cancellation.

Alicia Kelley:

Our benefits representative Alicia will be moving to New London, setting up an office. If you wish to talk to her please reach out, by IM.

Short Term Disability Claims:

If you are unable to work due to illness or non-work-related injury you should report your absence to Sedgwick CMS immediately. To initiate a claim call Sedgwick at 1-800-416-1808. Remember to refer to disability claim, so there is no confusion with an unpaid FMLA claim. If you are having trouble with a Sedgwick claim or was told to apply with CT paid leave let us know.

EB Family Pharmacy:

Is almost always going to be the most cost-effective choice when filling your prescription medications. In addition to cost savings, the EB Pharmacy provides personalized medication advice and guidance.

- Free home shipping on medications & diabetes medications.
- Significantly discounted over the counter items.
- Specialty medications refills
- On-site pick up at EB-Groton.

Call 888-578-3457 (Groton) & 800-891-4235 (QP)

Fidelity 1:1 Virtual Retirement Planning:

They will be holding 1:1 on Monday 3/9 & Tuesday 3/10 from 9am to 5pm. Register on-line with Fidelity login.

Social Security Virtual Presentations:

Rob Rodriguez from the Social Security Administration will be hosting a virtual presentation to discuss Social Security and Medicare Benefits through Microsoft Teams.

During the presentation, you will learn:

- How your age at the time you elect benefits affects the amount you'll receive
- How to use the online retirement estimator tool to determine the amount of benefits you'll receive
- The four parts of Medicare (A,B,C,& D): What are they? What do they mean & how to get help
- How to apply for benefits
- Learn how to access additional Social Security information

When: Tuesday, March 10th from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Meeting Link

Meeting ID: 271 895 633 802 13 **Passcode:** 2D6GX72B

You can also email benefits@gdeb.com for the meeting link. Your other option is to join by audio only by dialing

1-433-840-7262 – Phone Conference ID: 363 124 171#

Committee Members:

If you have insurance questions or concerns, feel free to reach out:

- Tony Giordano 860-867-2458, NL, Tower C, 3rd Floor.

- Jim Newman 860-433-2558, Groton, Shipyard, Bldg. 130.
- Mark Ciliano, 860-303-2952, Retired member
- Chairman Ed Nevins 867-2563, Kings Highway

Absentee Committee Chair Wayne Carbone reported that the following Executive Board or Executive Council Members were absent from the Executive Board/Executive Council meeting held February 1, 2026, at the Mystic Marriott Hotel, 625 North Road, Groton CT 06340.

Pamela Gonski (4/0), Joseph Marmaud (1/1), Michael Alice (7/0), Jeffery Carver (2/0), Michael Edem (3/0), David Humiston (3/0), Craig Kelley (1/0) Brad Lamphere (8/0), Holly Montbriand (2/0), Nicole Reagan (6/0) and Justin Winans (1/0).

(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 email was sent out to the Executive Council to provide transportation to Bath ME, March 7, 2026, in support of our BMDA union sisters and brothers, leading into their negotiations. The request passed 37-0 in support of transportation. We have 30 members joining us. Thank you all for your support.

As a reminder, there are open councillor positions in Building 802 (Tower A), Poheganut, King's Highway, and Eagle Park. Nominations must be made in writing, signed, and received by any member of the Election committee by 4pm Wednesday March 4, 2026.

New Business

The 39th Annual International UAW Chaplaincy Conference will be held May 17 through 22 at the Walter and May Reuther Family Education Center, Black Lake, (Onaway) MI. A motion was made (Robert Canova), seconded, (Patrick Fitzgerald) and passed to send our MDA Chaplin, George Earley, to the Conference.

A motion was made (Nichole Wilcox), seconded (Patrick Fitzgerald) and passed to provide lunch to those traveling to Bath, ME, Saturday, March 7, 2026 in support of our BMDA union sisters and brothers.

The 2026 39th UAW Constitutional Convention will be held June 14 through 18 and convene in Huntington Place, Detroit MI. A motion was made (Austin Perkett), seconded (Steven Trujillo) and passed to support the Convention.

Election Committee Chair Anne Wurzbacher and Kimberly Deschamps held nominations for the 2nd Vice President vacancy. The members nominated were: Santos Serrano, Casey Francis Alger, Greg Maynard and Justin Winans. An election will be held March 24, 2026 at the times and locations that will be circulated in the Election Committee memo. Nominations were also opened for 39th Constitutional Convention Delegates. The following members were nominated (in random order): Pam Gonski, Dave Belanger, Amy Stephenson, Evan Sperry, Valerie Beasley, Patrick Breen, Rob Gaudiano, Greg Maynard and JoAnna McClenathan. An election will be held March 24, 2026 at the times and locations that will be circulated in the Election Committee memo. Nominations and voting were held for the open Election Committee position. The following members were nominated: Aimee Belhumeur, Dave Harris and Cristin Rezendes. 40 votes were cast with Aimee receiving 10, Dave 12 and Cristin 17. 1 vote was voided per election committee procedures. Congratulations Cristin!

Thank you to all members who added their name to the list to help the election committee with upcoming elections and ballot counting. Please reach out to any members of the committee to add your name if you would like to assist as well.

For the Good of the Union

William Louis, Wayne Carbone, Rob Gaudiano and Steve Trujillo this past Saturday, February 28, 2026, held a Merit Badge drafting training for 8 Troop 80 scouts. The scouts all created 2 widget drawings on the boards, 3 views, title block, dimensions and callouts. The scouts also each created 1 AUTOCAD drawing, learned about the difference between the boards and the benefits that computers have brought. Thank you for spending the day working with these scouts. They have all earned their Merit Badge in Drafting.

Our electronic contract has been posted. We welcome all and any comments. Thank you to those who have provided feedback.

We have nominations for Councillors in a few areas. We look forward to the support of new members stepping up as Councillors. Thank you for your interest.

As part of our yearly Veteran Cornhole fundraiser, we provided money to the American Legion Post 91 in Moosup CT, March 14, 2026, to provide a FREE steak dinner for Veterans. If you are interested in joining us for this, please reach out to the union hall.

I would like to thank our union brothers and sisters in NNS, Virginia for joining our general membership meeting through zoom.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO MDA-UAW LOCAL 571

BADGE	NAME	DEPT.
167135	JESSE DAVIDSON	448
175870	LACY YOUNG	447
167064	ALYSSA HERR	469
162250	BENJAMIN TOMES	506

A motion was made to accept the application for membership for new and reinstatements (Robert Canova), seconded (Joseph Marmaud) and passed to accept.

A motion was made to adjourn (Karen Hensley) , seconded (Jason Anderson) 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.

Electric Boat Employees' Community Services Association

C&S Food Show Collection

Day of Caring Event - Volunteers Needed

Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by their parent/guardian at all times.
Volunteer & Community Service Certificates available

**Tuesday, March 10th
Starts at 4:00pm**

Sign in begins at 3:45

**Mohegan Sun Casino
Earth Expo Center**

*We expect to collect around 36,000-40,000 Lbs.
RSVP (Please, but not required)*

Wear comfortable shoes and the NEW United Way t-shirt. New shirts with the new logo will be available.

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

Adam Jarry - NTO Shop, Groton

Rebecca Reutlinger 860-464-3318

JoAnna McClenathan via Teams

Tom Erick 3-2574

Jim Newman 3-2558

Maggie Marley 860-464-3325

Carmen Beato - 260 Blocks

Sascia Hayden 3-9995

Online Registration: https://uwsect.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=1215595



