UAW LOCAL 571
MARINE DRAFTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
AMALGAMATED LOCAL 571

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MDA-UAW Local 571
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026

September 16, 2026

President William E. Louis called the meeting to order. Our Chaplain George Earley asked to keep in our thoughts, recently deceased member Michael Rushton, past members, retirees, family members and our Veterans past and present then led us in an invocation. Our MDA Veteran's Committee presented Colors, followed by the National Anthem.

President William E. Louis asked for a motion to accept the August 3, 2026 Executive Board Meeting Minutes as circulated and posted. Motion made (Glen Pothier), seconded (Patrick Fitzgerald).

Treasurers Report:
Treasurer Robert Faraci read the Treasurers Report. A motion was made (Eric Straub), seconded (Aaron Hayes) and passed to accept the report.

Correspondance
From the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, the 2026 COPE Convention Call, Tuesday, October 6, 2026, Bally's Twin River Casino, Lincoln, RI.

From the UAW Region 9A, the 26th Annual Veteran's Dinner Dance, Saturday, November 7, 2026, Holiday Inn, New London, CT.

From the South Eastern CT United Way, an invitation to the United for Gemma Benefit Gala, Thursday, October 8, 2026, Mashantucket Pequot Museum, Mashantucket, CT.

From the Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health (ConnectiCOSH) the 2026 Ray Elling, Jeff Janusonis Annual Health and Safety Convention, Friday, October 23, 2026, Casa Mia at Hawthorne, Berlin, CT.

From the South Eastern Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency (SCADD), the 60th Gala, September 18, 2026, Mystic Marriott, Groton, CT.

Officer Reports:
1st Vice President Gregory Maynard reported filed Grievance U-0015-26, Unjust termination for violation of rules and regulations.

2nd Vice President Jeffrey Carver reported filed U-0016-26, resolved step 3, member made whole for "R" qualification pay and back pay. A member received a written warning for poor work performance and work output. A member discharged for violation of rules and regulations. And a member received a 7-day suspension for violation of rules and regulations.

Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher reported no new Step 3 grievances filed. A member received 5-day suspension for 1st offence dozing. A member was discharged for violation of rules and regulation for violation of EB Compliance and Ethics. A member was discharged for 2nd offence dozing.

Treasurer Robert Faraci reported no new Step 3 grievances filed.

Standing Committee Reports:
Administrative Aid Committee Chair Sharon Ellis reported The Administrative Aides (AAs)_Project Coordinator Technical Aides (PCTAs) Committee has met during the past year to bring the outdated AA Guidelines dated August 2014 up to date with today's technology and to prevent challenges where salaried workers are doing our jobs. It was a major rewrite to include PCTA members and to have clarity between the roles and responsibilities between the AAs vs PCTAs. Upon getting a rough draft together, the management team was invited for all to go over the entire write-up. After multiple editorial changes, the memo was approved and signed off on September 3, 2026.
The new guidelines will be posted on the homepage soon:
Business and Employee Support >
Human Resources >
Labor Relations and Union Information >
Resources >
Administrative Aide Documents
https://gdeb.sharepoint.us/sites/HR-LaborRelations/Labor%20Relations%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FHR%2DLaborRelations%2FLabor%20Relations%20Documents%2FAdministrative%20Aide%20Documents

Recreation Committee Chair Anne Wurzbacher reported the Solidarity Picnic was a smashing success! We had roughly 700 people in attendance. We would like to thank the following volunteers for helping to make things run smoothly: Bob Canova, Carol Canova, Tom Clancy, Martha Fletcher, Kristin Kvist-Morrow, Paula Losacano-Smith, Bill Louis, JoAnna McClenathan, Thomas Morrow, Herb Pray, Eniyah Pray, Missy Pray, Cristin Rezendes, Robert Rossi, Fania Rukundo, T Ryan, Jeff Smith, Evan Sperry, Michelle Sutton, Cindy Wheeler and Anne Wurzbacher.

This past weekend we also held our annual golf outing at Cedar Ridge. 20 teams played and enjoyed catering by Chester's BBQ. The following Teams won: 1st place- Team 11 Stephen, Richard, Jerry and Riley Greider, 2nd place- Team 3 Matt and Michael Morgera and Dennis Ouelette, and tied for 3rd place- Team 2 Warren Gohacki, Joe Bacon and Mary Pine & Team 8 Ryan Kahl, Alan Phaneuf, Lamar Turner and Santos Serrano. Raffle winners were as follows:

Orlando Rossi, Greg Allard, Vincent Ceasar, Conrad Guthrie, John Orlomoski, Saige Louis, Jacob Basillica, Mary Pine, Louis Manfredi, Tiffany Rossi, Kevin Fontaine and John Waddington. If you left before prizes were announced, contact the union hall to make arrangements. Thank you to our volunteers: Martha Fletcher, Bill Louis, Greg Maynard, Cristin Rezendes and Anne Wurzbacher.

Upcoming events include the MDA Camping and Pig Roast at Natures Campsites 10/9-11 (camping is not required to participate in any of the activities), Great Wolf Lodge 10/23-24 and the MDA Dinner Dance. Please see flyers circulated by your councillors for the pig roast and great wolf lodge and contact the union hall with any questions or to make reservations.

Election Committee Chair Anne Wurzbacher reported that nominations for one Councillor position in New London Building 800 C Tower will open 09/23/26 at 6am and close 09/30/2026 at 4pm. Notices will be sent shortly.

As a reminder to all coucillors, please CC the election committee on your distribution emails MDAElectionCommittee@gmail.com so we can ensure full coverage of all areas. Please also ensure all Election notices are posted on all union boards in your respective locations.

Women's Committee Co-Chair JoAnna McClenathan reported The Women's committee would like to invite all members, family and friends to join us at our first coffee and craft event on September 26th at 10AM. Please note: the time has been updated from the original flier. We will be making fleece tie blankets that will be donated to the Safe Futures Hope Shop. No experience needed, we will teach you how to make them. Coffee and snacks provided, come for conversation and to make a difference in our community.

The UAW Women's and TOP conference was held Aug 9th to the 14th. Members from 571 in attendance were Martha Fletcher, Pam Gonski, JoAnna McClenathan, Janet Morse, Cristin Rezendes and Anne Wurzbacher. There were workshops on leadership, women's empowerment and bargaining. This was a great opportunity to engage with and learn from members from other locals.

If you are interested in joining the women's committee, please reach out to JoAnna McClenathan or Pam Gonski to get added to our email list.

Community Service Co-Chair James Newman reported:
Day of Caring Events:
Tuesday August 18th after the C&S Food Show at the Mohegan Sun, with 75 volunteers in 2 hours we packed up 60,569 pounds of food and nonperishable items to be 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 2026: (Celebrating 75 Years of Community Service)
We are ready to kick off this year's campaign with a **live broadcast** with WCTY this Thursday September 17th 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. Invitations to the October presentations will be sent to your email. We encourage everyone to attend a session with your groups at your work location. Shop orders are provided for everyone who attends. You will be able to review your department's schedule for your work location on our EB Website: https://www.ebnet.gdeb.com/homepages/organizations/EBECSA/. We encourage everyone to attend a session and pick up your token of appreciation on your way out of the meeting when you turn in your pledge card. Together we can make a real difference.

Tuesday September 22nd we will have the spinnaker presentation for our spinnaker level givers. If are a spinnaker level giver and have not received your invitation, please let us know. We have 2 sessions. New London, Terrace B at 08:00 and Groton, 88-3 Conference room at 13:00. Any 2nd or 3rd shift spinnakers please contact us also.

Every year with our campaign we have our annual Day of Caring at the local Stop & Shops. Please save the date of October 17th with a rain date of October 24th.
Please contact Peter Crizer, (860) 433-2706, Kim Deschamps, (860) 433-7552 JoAnna McClenathan, via Teams or (860) 867-4587, or Jim Newman (860) 433-2558 if you have any questions or would like to sign up for any volunteer opportunities or notifications.

Trustee James Newman reported August 17th to August 25th we conducted the semi-annual trustees' audit for the period of January 1st to June 30th, 2026. The starting balance of all accounts on January 1st was $2,515,762.62. The end balance of all accounts, June 30th was $2,755,305.89 with a net positive balance of $239,543.27 for the 6-month period. We reviewed all expenses, income, deposits and CDs. The books are balanced. Taxes, dues and insurance policies have been paid as required. The inventory list has been updated with new items purchased. 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, made 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. 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.

I**nsurance Benefits Edward Nevins** reported:

Open Enrollment 2027:

The Annual enrollment period will be **November 18 to December 4, 2026.** During this time, you will be asked to make benefits selections for 2027. Enrollment packages will be mailed to your home regarding medical, dental, vision, life insurance, voluntary benefits, etc. Make sure mailing addresses are current.

Meeting Schedule:

Day	Date	Time	Room
Wed	11/4/26	6:45am	Terrace A
Thurs	11/5/26	6:45am	MS Teams
Fri	11/6/26	7:00am	88 Tech Center
Tues	11/10/26	2:30pm	Terrace A
Tues	11/17/26	5:30pm	MDA Union Hall

Enrollment Verification Audit:

The dependent Audit Verification continues with new hires, Dependents of those employees who failed to satisfy the audit requirements will lose coverage. Coverage can be retained but employee needs to go through the appeal process, that may take up to 30 days.

UHC Onsite Advocate:

UHC onsite representative is still in the process and I hope is announced shortly. The new representative would require training to learn the UHC system. I will keep you posted.

New Hires:

1. The benefits committee continues to support new hire orientation classes with the Union and EB when invited.
2. **New hires are eligible for Group Insurance and Health Benefits thirty (30) days from date of hire. Make sure you complete the process early to allow time to load your benefit selections.** If you do nothing and not enroll in your benefits during this period, you will be placed in the default plan, and can elect coverage during the next enrollment period.

   To enroll in your benefits, you need to log onto the General Dynamics Service Center (GDSC) website at **www.gdbenefits.com**. You may call the GDSC at **1-888-432-3633** Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to midnight, and a customer service Representative will assist you. When you first contact GDSC, you will be asked to Establish a user ID and password. This information is used for security purposes and will be asked for with every future contact with the GDSC. **If enrolling on – line, please be sure to print out a copy of your elections. If you call the GDSC to enroll, you will be mailed a confirmation statement of your elections. Please review this document to ensure your elections have been properly recorded.**

   If you have medical coverage from another source and wish to decline coverage you must "opt out" or else you will be enrolled in the default plan. You will automatically default to the Standard Plan for you only with no dependentents and not have dental coverage.

HSA Accounts: We continue to work with our new hires who select the enhanced plan option and did not open an activate an HSA account to receive the company seed and match. The Benefits Office provides a list of employees who have not completed that process and we contact them and explain why it's necessary.

Summer Employees:

The benefits committee met with the summer interns and did a presentation on our Union and benefits for them to have a better understanding.

Over 65 Healthcare for Retirees:

On August 26 the MDA, MTC, Carpenters and Salary representatives met with Beacon Financial Group to review the 2027 insurance renewal rates and past utilization for medical and Rx. Discussions on different providers options, keeping current provider, looking at locking in multiple year options and rates having them sharpen the pencil. Each year factors of increasing Rx and medical prices continue to increase, but this year Federal Plan subsidy was also a challenging factor adding costs. Once finalized retirees will continue to enjoy the benefits.

Committee Members:

If you have insurance questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to any member of the committee:

- Tony Giordano 860-867-2458, NL, Tower C, 3rd Floor.
- Jim Newman 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 Members were absent from the Executive Board meeting held August 3, 2026, at the MDA-UAW Local 571 Union Office, 394 Toll Gate Road, Groton CT 06340.

Ron Arner (3/0), and Jeff Carver (4/0).

(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, according to the UAW Constitution, it does not reflect whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

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 Work: (860) 867-2691 / Cell: (860) 857-6426, Anthony (Tony) Giordano Jr.: AGIORDAN@GDEB.COM (860) 867-2458, Eric Straub ESTRAUB@GDEB.COM: Work: (860) 867-2284 / Cell: (860) 501-2230. The Officer of the Absentee Committee is Martha Fletcher RECORDSEC571@GMAIL.COM, (860) 448-0552 / Cell: (860) 608-1301.

Veteran's Committee Aaron Hayes reported he would like to thank the Membership on behave of those you sent up to Black Lake for the veterans Conference, Peter Dickson, Jason Anderson, Wayne burgess & myself the theme of this year's conference was Protection of freedom at home and abroad. We had some new classes that we could attend of labor relations history , as well as different Methods of being able to tell one's story to help with healing one's wounds that cannot be seen. We also talked on the 22 a day that we lose of our veterans to suicide and how we must continue to help fight this number down to a much lower number. There were many great speakers at this event and they are planning to continue to expand on classes and resources made available at this conference for our veterans and veteran supporters to continue to be able to help our veterans here at home and across our nation, and I hope we can continue to send delegates to this conference in the coming year to continue to learn the new and evolving ways to help our veterans.

Civil and Human Rights Committee Co-Chair Fania Rukundo reported the committee held our 2nd monthly meeting, August 18th . We are newly revived so we have been building momentum slowly but would request everyone's assistance by getting involved and reaching out. We have a holiday Craft and Care event scheduled for December and we are working out the details. Members will come for hot cocoa and snack-bar and make crafts and cards as well as donations for the homeless shelter and Safe Futures domestic abuse center. Please remember our goal is to be a resource so, please reach out.

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.

Friday, September 18th is the Veteran's Rocky Hill Stand Down. Last January we approved up to 8 members to help hand out supplies to Veterans in need that we receive from the Gemma E. Moran Labor Food Center. We will be at 2-locations, the Norwich Rally Point and Rocky

Hill, CT. A motion was made to send 2 more members (Patrick Fitzgerald, seconded (Paul Smith) and passed to accept.

An email approval was made and accepted by the Ex-Council to purchase a table for $1,750 for the SCADD Gala, Friday, September 18th at the Mystic Marriott.

October 8th is the Gemma Gala for the United Way of South Eastern CT at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum. Last January we approved to purchase the Gold Sponsorship for $10,000.00 which included a table of 10. We have interest in attending by more than that 10. A motion was made to purchase a table for 10 at $1,500.00 (Robert Canova), seconded (George Earley) and passed to accept.

The UAW General Dynamics Local Unions Council Meeting is October 12th through the 15th in Clearwater, Florida. We are sending 6 members the meeting.

New Business

The 2026 Rhode Island AFL-CIO COPE Convention, October 6, 2026, Bally's Twin River Casino, Lincoln, RI. A motion was made to send up to 4 members(Aaron Hayes), seconded (George Earley) and passed to accept.

The Region 9A 18th Annual Veteran's Dinner Dance, November 7, 2026, Holiday Inn, New London, CT. A motion was made to purchase a table of 10 for $650.00 (George Earley, seconded (Edward Nevins) and passed to accept.

The ConnectiCOSH Annual Health and Safety Convention, October 23, 2026, Casa Mia at the Hawthorne, Berlin, CT. A motion was made to send up to 5 members (Patrick Fitzgarald), seconded (Aaron Hayes) and passed to accept.

For the Good of the Union

We are planning on having a Meet and Greet for our newly hired members. Councillors are asked to give us names of interested new members in your area who would like to attend. This would take place at the Mystic Marriott for a full day and all attendees will be paid lost wages for that day by the union.

The Groton Sportsmen's Club will be conducting its annual Veterans Pheasant Hunt on December 12, 2026. The hunt takes place at their Voluntown Property off Tom Wheller Road. You can take part in the morning hunt, afternoon hunt or both hunts. This is open to any Veteran. All you need to supply is an orange hat and a garment that contains at least 400 square inches of orange, Walmart Vests work.

Firearms, ammunition, dogs and guides are all provided. Breakfast and lunch are also provided.

The cost of this event is zero. Everything is free for Veterans. You take any birds harvested. Several members took advantage of this event in 2024 and 2025.

If interested contact Wayne Carbone, 860-867-2691 or wcarbone@gdeb.com

GSC holds open places for MDA Members as a way of saying thank you for the yearly donation we receive by way of the annual Cornhole Tournament.

Application for Membership to the MDA-UAW Local 571:

BADGE	NAME	DEPT.
179729	CARLO GIORNO	447
180054	CLAUDIA DAVIS	404
179015	CHRISTOPHER ALBRITTON	408
173611	ETHAN APICELLI *	459
179029	ALEKSANDR VYATKIN	459
179568	SAMANTHA LEE	403
180030	ASHLEY McKINNEY	445

*Reinstated

A motion was made to accept the application for membership for new and reinstatements (George Earley), seconded (Aaron Hayes) and passed to accept.

A motion was made to adjourn (Robert Canova), seconded (Aaron Hayes) 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.