



# SOUNDINGS

January - April 2017

## CELEBRATING 37 CLASSES for MDA New Hire Union Education

ON THE COVER

The MDA-UAW Local 571 celebrated their 37th MDA New Hire Union Education Class in April.



# FROM THE OFFICERS



MDA-UAW Local 571

## Soundings Newsletter

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of April, August and  
December.



*Left to Right: Treasurer Robert Faraci, 2nd Vice President David M. Reagan, President William E. Louis, 1st Vice President Kenneth Rowland, Recording Secretary Patricia A. Clay and Financial Secretary Bill May*

## MDA NEW HIRE UNION EDUCATION CLASSES

I would like to take the time to recognize our Education Committee for their efforts in the program we have instituted for newly hired MDA-UAW Local 571 members: Kim Deschamps, Velma Williams, Richard Gianfrocco, Aaron Pearson, Ed Nevins, James Newman, Mark Ciliano and our education representative from our Region 9A, Donna Becotte.

We have been bringing new hires into our Union office for a 4 hour orientation, paid for by the Union - since the middle of 2014 and have had an estimated 450 new members attend and have celebrated our 37th Class in May!

The purpose of this class was to educate our members specifically on our Union and share the history of the UAW. It is mostly common to see that 70% or more of the new members are working for a Union for the first time. We also look for this opportunity for members to see our office, meet the Officers and find out some of the do's and don'ts within our work place. Most of all, they are able to share with us how everything is going at work and ask any questions.

One message we like to stress to our new members is that we must work together to get our jobs done within schedule, with the best quality, and hopefully under budget. The mind set should not be "us against them". When we work together and get our jobs done with a quality product and under budget, the Company can show our customer, the Navy, that we are capable of performing the work given to us and show them why we are "the best Submarine Designers in the world".

More importantly, this shows the pride and commitment we have in our work;

something we all benefit from when the Company goes out and gets us more work. Working with the Company to get our jobs done does not mean we are looking for our work to be done by non-represented employees. Engineers have their jobs, Designers have their responsibilities, Management, Operations, Planning, Material, Writing, Testing and everyone else has their own jobs. We don't think it's an accident that we produce the most Technologically advanced piece of equipment in the world. It's no accident - it's training, experience and expertise - and we are sure we have many very proud members who put everything into their jobs each day.

So, what does a half day at the office look like for new members? They are off the clock for 11:30 and arrive at the Union office where lunch and soft drinks are provided. They start off with a welcome from the Committee and the Union President. We hear a little about each new member and they share one personal fact which really shows off the diversity we have.

A few short videos are played showing "strength in numbers". We then speak about our history as the MDA that was founded in December 18, 1939 and our history of joining the UAW during the strike (June 9, 1983-August 24, 1984) where the company was out to break the Union and many members were laid off.

As an added note: I'm not sure how many folks know what the UAW spent on our Union during the 14 month strike which provided strike fund money and health insurance for all members on strike. The amount for this along with travel and lawyer fees to fight the scabs in court trying to sue the union, exceeded \$39 million dollars. Even though it's not required to be paid back, to date, we have not paid the 30 years worth of dues back to the international in total PCT (Per Capita Tax) fees. These dues provide us the support we would get from the UAW if and when needed. Fortunately, everything is going well for the Union and General Dynamics, Electric Boat.

We then talk about who we are and what we represent. It's not just lecture: there are a couple of games provided like "Win as Much as You Can", a video on the "Shirtwaist Factory Fire" and the most recent incident in Bangladesha which

shows "The Race to the Bottom" and how all the progress that was made in safety requiring sprinkler systems and keeping exit doors unlocked, are actually going back 100 years, because all this is tragically again, happening now.

New members also learn about Walter Reuther, who he was and the history he left behind. One of his dreams was to have every UAW member go through the Education center at Black Lake and learn about the UAW.

Conversations include the benefits gained by being Union and the differences from non-Union jobs, the structure of the Union and who is the 'highest authority in the UAW', which is currently Dennis Williams, our UAW President. A video shares his thoughts and we go over the map of the Country and show all the UAW Regions and what they do.

Discussion also includes where our dues go and what for. We break down the different locations of your Councillors and make sure the members know who they are. We talk in length on the various Committees we have and how to get involved and also the importance of attending our General Membership Meetings, going over the many ways we communicate with the membership and the things not to do during working hours ...such as bringing a pillow and blanket into work and go to sleep under your desk.....and Yes - it has happened. Or even better for all you gamers, do not bring your gaming systems into work and hook them up to your computers; the company frowns on this.

After talking about all of these things I just listed, the looks on the new member's faces are priceless. We normally finish up with the benefits committee doing a presentation and then the "Millionaire Game" followed by a photo of the class.

If anyone has missed this class and is interested in attending, please call the Union office or contact Kim Deschamps, Committee chair.

In Solidarity,  
President William E. Louis





## CONFERENCES YOUR LOCAL ATTENDED

JANUARY REGION 9A CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS DINNER,  
HARTFORD HILTON, HARTFORD, CT  
MARCH UAW FINANCIAL CONFERENCE,  
LAKE BUENA VISTA, ORLANDO FL

## 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

JUN 24 LAKE COMPOUNCE  
AUG 05 MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 SOLIDARITY DAY PICNIC  
SEP 09 23RD MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT, CEDAR RIDGE  
EAST LIME, CT  
OCT 06 MDA CAMP OUTING, NATURES CAMPSITES  
VOLUNTOWN, CT

- FOR ANY EVENT -

Please call the Union Office to confirm within the deadlines!

**CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ACCEPTED. NO CASH**

We will strive to make sure we can properly accommodate everyone.

## SIGNING OF APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS

On January 19, 2017, President William E. Louis and Vice President Ken Rowland met with Company and State Representatives to sign the new Apprenticeship Standards. Read more on Page 6.

## CONTRACT SIGNING DINNER

On February 16, 2017 both parties from the Union and Company met at the Mystic Marriott to sign the final contract and enjoy a dinner. Pictured below are MDA President William E. Louis and EB Chief Operating Officer Kurt Hesch



## JOHN F. SAFFOMILLA AND E. ROY COLVILLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

On February 16, 2017 a notice for scholarship awards was given to the membership. Thirteen applications were received, with one denial due to missing the postmarked deadline of April 28th, 2017.

Eligibility is limited to graduating high school seniors whose parent or legal guardian is a Local 571 member in good standing, or a retiree. The scholarship will consist of 8 awards with each winner receiving \$2500.00 each.

Each student applicant's high school academic and social achievements are important considerations in choosing the winners. Students must also complete a essay on the importance of a union and why we need them. Impartial judging will be done by Dr. Sullivan, former labor professor at UCONN. The results of the scholarship awards will be announced sometime in June. Look for more information in the May-August Issue of your newsletter.

## MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Executive Board	May 01	3:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Council	May 01	4:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Board	Jun 05	3:30PM	Ocean Beach
General Membership	Jun 05	4:30PM	Ocean Beach
Executive Board	Jul 10	3:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Council	Jul 10	4:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Board	Aug 07	3:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Council	Aug 07	4:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Board	Sep 04	3:30PM	Ocean Beach
General Membership	Sep 04	4:30PM	Ocean Beach
Executive Board	Oct 02	3:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Council	Oct 02	4:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Board	Nov 06	3:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Council	Nov 06	4:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Board	Dec 04	3:30PM	Ocean Beach
General Membership	Dec 04	4:30PM	Ocean Beach

## AUDIT

From February 20 - 23, 2017 Trustees Paul Smith, Wayne Burgess and Eric Straub performed the required 6-month audit of the Union Hall to ensure our books are balanced and all financial requirements are met. Everything was in order with no discrepancies.

## UAW FINANCIAL CONFERENCE

March 5-10, 2017 President William E. Louis, 2nd Vice President David M. Reagan, Treasurer Robert Faraci, and Trustee Wayne Burgess attended the Financial Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Each year, all local Unions get together to jointly work on filing the LM2 and 990 financial documents required by the IRS. Discussions also included an update on the Strike and Defense Fund dues increase we had back in 2014, which is moving in a positive way. These funds make UAW a strong ally to fight against companies when needed. Discussions also included Software changes and updates along with Bylaw and Constitutional changes.



## NEW HIRE CLASSES

From January through April, 12 New Hire Classes were held at the Union Hall. If you are a new hire and haven't attended these classes, contact your Councillor or Grievance Rep.

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# FROM YOUR COMMITTEES



## SAFETY COMMITTEE

Officer Bill May

### USE THESE TIPS TO STAY ACTIVE IN THE OFFICE

If you spend the majority of the day behind a desk, it's more than likely that you're not as active as you would like to be. Even if you do frequent the gym, those eight hours can set you back as you spend them in a sedentary position. It's even worse for those who don't exercise, as the health risks of being inactive range from heart disease and diabetes to back problems and much more. The thing is, you can stay active while in the office, and here are a few tips you can use while filling out some paper work.

#### Set a walking path

Walking is essential in your day. Not only does it get you from point A to B, but it does so while helping you lose a lot of calories. You also get a boost of energy, as your heart rate increases.

Create a map of where you would like to walk to before, during or after your lunch where you can get fresh air and much needed natural light.

#### Drink coffee then tea

Coffee is great for waking you up, but can prove troublesome when you have had too much of it and you're trying to concentrate. If it packs a punch of caffeine, it can also mess with your sleep cycles.

As much as you may want to drink three cups of coffee, rather stick to one each day. If you need more caffeine switch to tea after your first cup, as it also contains caffeine, but has a more calming effect. The result is that you still have energy, but it's less powerful than before. If you still need a cup, drink sparingly so that you don't have too much caffeine in your system.

#### Stretch

Sitting for long periods of time can slow circulation and lead to cramps and stiffness. This will deal a blow to your productivity, and you're more than aware of this.

Just before you sit, perform a few stretch routines to help alleviate any tension and loosen up your muscles.

#### Keep a glass of water handy

There should be water by your bedside, in your car's cup holder and – most importantly – office desk. Always have a glass of water handy, regardless of whether you're in a meeting or trying to meet deadlines in your cubicle.



## INSURANCE & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Officer Bill May

### REPORTING SHORT TERM DISABILITY CLAIMS

If you are unable to work due to illness or non-work related injury you must report your absence to Sedgwick CMS immediately (Notify your supervisor and call Sedgwick at 1-800-416-1808.

If you are experiencing claims or processing problems, contact one of the benefits representatives: Ed Nevins 867-2563, Jim Newman 433-2558 or Mark Ciliano 867-1831.



## CITIZENSHIP & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Officer Ken Rowland

### UAW REGION 9A LOBBY DAY

April 20, 2017 Officer Ken Rowland along with members Carol Mauro, Joe Husereau, Jim Newman and Aaron Pearson attended the Annual Region 9A Lobby Day at the Hartford Capital.



*The Connecticut General Assembly in session on April 20, 2017.*

During session breaks, House, Senate and Legislative members came to the Old Legislative Office for an ice-cream social. The MDA and other Locals from CT set up tables and had the opportunity to meet with and discuss with their Representatives issues of importance for our Union.

These topics included Raising the minimum wage, equalizing access to student-generated, institutional aid, Care 4 Kids, Support for building the new casino in CT, closing the carried interest loophole on tax hedge fund billionaires and paid family and medical leave.



*Jim Newman discussing Care 4 Kids with Doug Dubitsky from the 47th District*



*Left to Right: 1st Vice President Ken Rowland, Jim Newman and Aaron Pearson welcome 51st District Daniel S. Rovero to our table discussing what we do.*



## ELECTION COMMITTEE

Officer Ken Rowland

### COUNCILLOR ELECTIONS

Elections were held on March 21st for New London Tower C. Larry Maskell, Jr. won that area for Councillor.

Elections were held on April 28th for Kings Highway. Larry Avery won that area for Councillor.





## REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS

*"When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in a manner so that when you die the world cries and you rejoice."*

~Native American Proverb

Doue Lavoie, Retiree  
06/26/37 – 01/7/17

Frederick Suprenant  
05/24/65 – 01/29/17

Sally Haddad, Retiree  
08/14/51 – 20/12/17

Will Runde, Retiree  
02/6/29 – 03/1/17

John Burbine, Retiree  
11/22/12 - 3/14/17

Debra Pearce, Retiree  
12/9/55 - 03/20/17

Jane Egan  
12/9/55 - 03/19/17

Robert Williams, Retiree  
5/31/17 - 3/28/17

Matthew Manavas  
11/24/94 – 4/1/17

## 2016 RETIREE LUNCHEONS

MAY 12	Richmond Country Club, Richmond RI
JUN 09	Ocean Beach, New London CT
JUL 14	Tony D's Restaurant, New London CT
AUG 11	Groton Inn & Suites, Groton CT
SEP 08	Venice Restaurant, Westerly RI
OCT 13	Richmond Country Club, Richmond RI
NOV 10	Great Neck Country Club, Waterford CT
DEC 08	Ocean Beach, New London CT

### 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.

## IN MEMORIAM

*We are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our Union brothers.  
Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.*

### MATTHEW MANAVAS



Matthew, a lifelong Montville resident, graduated from Norwich Technical High School in 2013. He was a member of the football team and participated in multiple sports. He went on to become an electrical draftsman at Electric Boat. Matthew was a diehard Giants and Red Sox fan. Rest in Peace Matt, you will be missed.

*Please contact the Union Hall to have someone you know remembered or pay a special tribute to.*



### FRED SUPRENANT

A celebration of life was held for Fred on Feb 17th at the Pawcatuck VFW. Many family and friends shared their thoughts and reflections on a very special person, he quietly touched us all and his memory and spirit will remain with us always. Rest in Peace Fred, you will be missed.

## RETIRES

11/29/2016	Reed, Thomas	1/28/2017	Ruggiero, Joseph L.
12/1/2016	Dewolf, Marylin	1/28/2017	Smith, Richard Michael
12/1/2016	Lundgren, Lauri David	2/4/2017	Lew, Sonny L.
12/1/2016	Malhotra, Devinder K.	2/11/2017	Kennedy, Michael B.
12/1/2016	McColley, Harlan Wayne	2/25/2017	Tripp, Diana L.
12/9/2016	Sherman, Rebecca Winifred	3/1/2017	Andreli, Anita Kay
12/30/2016	Gallo, David G	3/1/2017	Brucker III, Gustave P.
12/30/2016	Reavis, Willard F	3/1/2017	Bucacci, William F.
1/3/2017	Cardoso, Mario J	3/1/2017	Donato, Vincent Francis
1/3/2017	Roy Jr., Burt H	3/3/2017	Benoit, Ellen
1/3/2017	Stadnicki, Ronald	3/8/2017	McCue, David L.
1/6/2017	Clark, Mark C	3/10/2017	Saporita, John E.
1/7/2017	Blazin, Jay Wade	3/16/2017	Tierney, Kevin William
1/7/2017	Clemence, Austin B	3/17/2017	Mac, Susan
1/7/2017	Mansour, Cathy Lee	3/18/2017	Novak, Edward A.
1/7/2017	Whittaker, Christopher Jay	4/25/2017	Leroux, Armand
1/14/2017	Cody Jr., Edward S	4/26/2017	Desantis, Tom
1/14/2017	Sullivan, John Lawrence	4/27/2017	Flanagan, Paul
1/21/2017	Manzi, Donald P.	4/27/2017	Schiessle, James

### CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR ALL:

NOTICES - UPDATES - PICTURES - ARTICLES - COPY OF NEWSLETTERS  
The MDA-UAW Website can be accessed through EB's Home Page. As always, use care and responsibility during working hours when on the web.





# APPRENTICE PROGRAM

## MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 SIGNS NEW APPRENTICE STANDARDS

By 1st Vice President Ken Rowland

The Design Apprenticeship Program has a long history of success at Electric Boat, starting in 1947 with the first class of apprentices. MDA-UAW Local 571 is pleased to announce the start of another Apprenticeship class, after developing a new curriculum and associated training program together with EB Training Department and Design Management, under the auspices of the Connecticut Registered Apprentice Office.

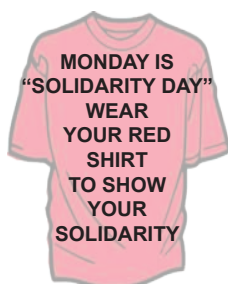
When the last Apprentice Classes of 2013 and 2014 were graduated in June of 2014, the Union started working with EB to plan for a new class, to help Draftsmen interested in developing and refining their design and communication skills across all disciplines. We got feedback from Apprentice class graduates of the 2009, 2013 and 2014 classes, and working together we refined the curriculum and especially the rotation processes, both internal to the Apprentice's discipline, and external rotations into the other Design disciplines. What resulted, in our opinion, is a much more focused and useful program for the apprentices. The graduate apprentice will get more structure in the rotations and an education geared toward success in the design workforce.

This hard work culminated in the signing of the Design Apprentice Standards for the MDA-UAW Local 571 Apprenticeship program on January 19, 2017.

All 29 of the apprentices were present along with State Apprenticeship Representative Paul Femia to receive a briefing on the program, receive a copy of the Standards, and to sign their Apprenticeship cards. The Standards spell out rules of conduct and attendance, as well as academic achievement standards the students must fulfill in order to graduate. Each student was introduced to the MDA Apprentice representatives, Velma Williams and Joe Marmaud, who as graduate apprentices themselves are available to help sort out any issues the apprentices encounter, and help guide the students to resources they may need to get through the challenging curriculum. Additionally, over a dozen EB employees, salary as well as hourly, have volunteered their time to help apprentice students with the challenging coursework.

Each prospective Apprentice was required to pass a placement exam in math to qualify for the program, to receive two recommendations from their management or MDA member who is in a position of authority in their department, and to answer an essay question on the topic of why they are interested in being an apprentice. Those who successfully completed the applications and were among the top applicants in their departments were selected for the program.

The MDA would like to recognize those selected, and wish them the best in their pursuit of the Certificate of Completion from the program. Graduates of the program have historically achieved success in moving to positions of leadership within Design departments. The Union as a whole benefits when its members achieve the title of Graduate Apprentice, and we support this and hopefully many more classes in the future. Congratulations, MDA Apprentices!



Pat Clay, former Recording Secretary  
for the MDA-UAW Local 571

**After 44 years** with the MDA-UAW Local 571 and Electric Boat, Pat retired on May 15, 2017. In talking with Pat, I asked her where she worked and what was the most rewarding or interesting work for her over the years, she had this response:

"It's all good" she said with a smile! I am so thankful for everything the union and the company has done for me and my family over the years. And, I am blessed with so many good, good friends from here, she says she doesn't get on Facebook as much she should, but encourages those who would like to connect with her to do so on Facebook as she will be on it more to stay in touch.

Pat has worked all around Electric Boat, with locations from Building 88 to 221, Administrative Building, Building 197, Robinson Building, Cloud 9, Mold Loft and Machine Shop to name a few. In her latest Officer position at the Union Hall, she traveled to New London, Kings Highway and Long Hill Road as well.

When asked what her most rewarding or interesting position was, Pat said her position as Recording Secretary and Officer for the last 5 years, 1 and 3/4 terms was "THE most rewarding and interesting".

She says she has been very

## SAYING GOODBYE TO ONE OF OUR OFFICERS

thorough in her job, whether it is getting information to the membership or the devotion she has to assist our members - no matter what the situation may have been.

She has had a very good working relationship with her fellow Officers and says she will miss it at the Union office and EB. So many faces have become family and she assured me that she will keep active and attend all meetings and functions as much as she can. Plus, she is sure the fellow officers are going to miss her singing!

Prior to becoming an Officer, Pat worked for many years as the union's secretary on Toll Gate Road, which was also rewarding and interesting work. For Pat, it's all about helping people and this was the beginning of her union representation. With the help of the officers then, she worked hard and gained the experience she felt she needed to push herself further and become an Officer - and that she did!

She fondly recalled the many, many years in Department 459 with Manager, Paul Risseeuw and Rich Pesapane, all the chiefs, supervisors and employees; they all were also at the top of her list. She referred to them as her "roots" at EB and misses them.

"Way back in the day, being moved into Design was the best thing that happened to me and it was the beginning of a beautiful EB story. And that's not to forget the other good and memorable work in the early days around the plant when things were much different" she said.

She recalled that along with all the good years came some tough times as well, like the MDA strikes. Pat said "They were very rough times to get through, and I call them tough times. As a result, we became a thriving MDA and what it is today".

PAT continued on page 11





## HEALTHY BREAKFAST RECIPES

From [cookstr.com](http://cookstr.com)

Rise and shine with these easy, healthy breakfast recipe! Packed with the nutrients your body needs to give you energy and keep you full all the way until lunchtime. You'll eliminate that mid-morning slump by waking up with these healthy recipe.

### SWEET POTATO, THYME AND APPLE HASH WITH EGG BASKETS

(Serves 4)



Sweet potatoes are fried up into crispy cubes and paired with thyme-scented apples. Just before the hash is done, little "baskets" are made in the pan, and eggs are dropped in to cook alongside the vegetables. It is a perfect morning dish to get the day going—a well-balanced meal that is as healthy as it is delicious.

**Suggested Varieties:** Select firm apples that retain their shape when sautéed. Try Pippin, Cortland, or Granny Smith.

**Total Time:** under 1 hour

**Kid Friendly**

**Dietary Consideration:** Gluten-free, Halal, Kosher, Peanut Free, Soy Free, Tree Nut Free, Vegetarian

**Taste and Texture:** Herby, Savory

#### Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ½ medium yellow onion, finely diced
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 medium sweet potato (about ½ pound), peeled and cut into medium dice
- 1 large apple, cored and cut into medium dice
- 4 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme (from about 10 sprigs)
- 4 large eggs

#### Instructions

In a large sauté pan, heat the olive oil and butter over medium-high heat. When the butter is melted and beginning to fizz, add the onion, salt, and pepper and cook until it's just beginning to soften, 3 to 4 minutes.

Add the diced sweet potato to the pan. Without stirring, cook the sweet potato until the first side is just browned, about 4 minutes. Toss and stir well, redistributing, and cook for another 2 minutes without stirring.

Add the apple to the pan and cook, stirring often, until it's just softening and is warmed through. By adding ingredients to the pan slowly, you'll get sweet and nicely caramelized onion, crispy sweet potato, and just-cooked apple that will still maintain its shape and texture.

Reduce the heat to medium-low and make four 2-inch-wide wells in the sauté pan. To do this, push the vegetables aside with a spoon.

Make sure the pan still has a bit of grease (add some butter to each well, if needed), crack 1 egg into each well, and cover the sauté pan.

After 2 minutes, remove the lid and stir the sweet potato and apple without disturbing the eggs.

Replace the lid and cook until the eggs are done to your liking; another 2 minutes (for an "easy" yolk), or up to 6 minutes (for a "hard" yolk).

Serve immediately alongside toast.



Local 571 Archives. Cartoon by the Workers Communication Press, Marion Indiana. September 1999

## THE 4 SURPRISING PET POISONS LURKING IN YOUR HOME

The Common Household Items That Could be Fatal to Your Pet Published on [AmericanHumane.org](http://AmericanHumane.org), March 22, 2017.

Most pet owners already know that exposure to things like chocolate, bleach, and pesticide can be dangerous for our animal companions. But what about other lesser-known toxins?

These common households items are probably already in your home, but you might not know that they could be harmful—or even deadly—to your beloved four-legged friend. In observation of as National Animal Poison Prevention Week (March 19 – 25), American Humane is warning pet owners about these five surprising pet poisons hiding in plain sight. Over-the-Counter Medications.

You could probably guess that human medications and pets are often a bad combination, but it might surprise pet owners to know that even common, over-the-counter pain relievers—such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen—can be toxic to animals. These pills often have sweet outer coatings that make them appealing to pets—think of an "M&M," except a potentially deadly one. Even one or two pills can cause serious harm to a pet, such as kidney failure, so keep these medicines away from your four-legged friends!

### FABRIC SOFTENER SHEETS

Dryer sheets help to disperse static cling by coating fabrics with chemicals. Unfortunately, these chemicals can harm your pet if they chew on or ingest a sheet, even a used one. Plus, the fragrant smell that we like so much in our laundry is also appealing to our furry friends, which means pets can be especially susceptible to poisoning from dryer sheets.

### BATTERIES

Most common household batteries contain chemicals that pose serious health risks to animals if ingested. Even if your pet doesn't swallow an entire battery whole, they can still puncture the battery casing allowing toxic fluid to leak out. Although it may seem harmless—or even humorous—when your dog chews on the remote or steals your kid's favorite toy, but biting any battery-operated devices can be very dangerous.

### SUGAR-FREE GUM AND BREATH MINTS

Sugar-free gum and breath mints often contain a substance called Xylitol that can be deadly to dogs. Dogs process Xylitol differently than humans: They absorb it quickly and it can spike their insulin levels, causing dangerously low blood sugar levels that can be life-threatening if left untreated. Xylitol can be found in common products such as toothpaste, candy, chewable vitamins, and mouthwash. This safety tip is something we all need to remember the next time you accidentally spill a packet of Tic Tacs in the backseat of your car, or your toddler squirts toothpaste on the bathroom floor.

### GRAPES AND RAISINS

Grapes and their dried counterparts, raisins, may seem harmless, but not to dogs. Even small amounts of grapes or raisins can prove fatally toxic for a dog.

### SIGNS OF PET POISONING:

The symptoms of a poisoned pet can differ vastly depending on the type of toxin and how much they ingested. While the signs vary from case to case,

*PETS Continued on Page 7*





# CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## 24TH ANNUAL CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD RECOGNITION DINNER

Friday, Jan 13, 2017



*Pre-empting the Dinner, Region 9A Director Julie Kushner praises Senator Richard Blumenthal for all his efforts in working with the Unions.*

Apprentice Program Committee Member Velma Williams, Veterans Committee Member Carol Eisodore and LUCA Chair Carol Mauro.

Other attendees included Union Representatives from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, State and Local politicians including Senator Blumenthal and Governor Malloy and honored guests.

Before the program and dinner begins, the union wait staff are always acknowledged for their hard work. The UAW Region 9A Community Activism Award was given to CT Students for a Dream (C4D). Founded in 2010 by undocumented youth to advocate for the 2010 Federal Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. C4D believes that immigration status should never be a barrier to achievements in life and work.

The Benny Thornton Labor-Civil Rights Award was given to UAW Local 1508, the locked out Honeywell Workers. The 40 members from Green Island NY and 340 workers in the sister plant in South Bend Indiana, entered into contract negotiations last year.

**THE STORY:** Prior to the Lock Out, Honeywell brought scabs into the plant to observe members at work and when negotiations began, they came in with guns a-blazing; presenting the union with redlined copies of the contract designed to strip the members of hard earned workplace rights and benefits that included a large increase in the cost of health care and a freeze in the pension plan, while eliminating cost of living increases.

Despite the efforts of the Local 1508 leadership and members to move the company off its regressive and hostile proposals in advance of the contracts expiration, Honeywell would not relent. After overwhelmingly rejecting the last, best and final offer of the company, on Monday May 9th, with nine minutes notice to the union, Honeywell locked out the workers in Green Island and South Bend. The scabs from Strom Engineering were marched in and our members were marched out.

Every year, the MDA-UAW Local 571 purchases a table at the Annual Region 9A UAW Civil & Human Rights Awards Recognition Dinner held at the Hartford Hilton in Hartford CT.

Representing Local 571 were President William E. Louis (2nd year as an MC), 1st Vice President Ken Rowland, 2nd Vice President David Reagan, Financial Secretary Bill May, Trustee Wayne Burgess, Member at Large Mark Sperry, Womens Committee Chair Pam Gonski,



*Officer Bill May, 2nd from front, parades down the aisle presenting the American, POW MIA and Puerto Rican Flags in ceremonial fashion.*

After more than 10 months of being shut out of the factory where they make steel airplane brakes, workers at the Honeywell Aerospace factory in Green Island are set to return to work.

On February 22, 2017 UAW Local 1508 Vice President Tim Waters, an employee of Honeywell Aerospace Green Island (New York) manufacturing stated: "After almost 10 months of being locked out by Honeywell, we are pleased that the company has finally made an offer that we can recommend to our members. This lockout was not necessary, and the company could have avoided all the pain they caused our members and their families had they not engaged in a strategy of corporate greed. We are grateful for all the support we had from the UAW, the labor community at large and our community allies. We are looking forward to taking our plant back from the scabs and making the high-quality, union-made aviation brake pads we are known for."

He went on to say "It has been a long 10 months of negotiations and we feel that Honeywell has finally moved on key issues with our members. The bargaining committee has voted to recommend the company's most recent



*UAW Region 9A Assistant Director Ted Feng presents the Benny Thornton Labor-Civil Rights Award to some of the Honeywell workers at the Civil and Human Rights Dinner..*

offer. Honeywell has moved far enough for the members to consider ratifying the mediated offer. We want to thank our members and their families for their sacrifice and solidarity during a difficult year, and for all of the support our local communities and brothers and sisters from the UAW and labor across the country have given us."

The lockout by the company was one of the longest in recent memory. Workers lost not only their paychecks but also health insurance coverage. Finally, after months on on-again-off-again talks, on February 25, 2017 UAW Members at Honeywell ratified a new contract, ending a lockout that began on the morning of May 9, 2016.

*DINNER continued on page 10*



## STEPPING BACK IN TIME TO NOV. 6, 1977

The following article excerpts were taken from the NY Times archives "Groton sends out a Distress Signal"

When news of mass layoffs at the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics was announced two weeks ago, one of the many people who were alarmed was William E. Lockwood, executive director of the Southeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

Citing figures from the United States Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Lockwood predicted that with 3,000 submarine workers being laid off, the region would lose 30 retail stores, \$18 million a year in retail sales and \$15 million a year in bank deposits.

The state's Congressional delegation was angered because just a week before the layoffs, the departing general manager, Mr. MacDonald, had allegedly told Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. that no cutbacks were being considered.

Senator Weicker subsequently sent a letter to the General Dynamics chairman, David S. Lewis, accusing the company of lying, and questioning its future as a defense contractor.

The layoffs and financial troubles have also caused widespread distrust of E.B.'s management and fear for the company's future.

"We've never had one like this," said Joseph P. Dyer, executive director of the State Labor Department, "Generally we get notice from a company when it plans to cut back this many workers," he said. "We go into the plant and we interview employees while they're still working so we can line up new jobs. But we had no warning this time."

Mr. Dyer said Electric Boat was laying off employees so fast that it was not providing them with the documentation needed to receive state unemployment compensation. The Labor Department had no time to strengthen its job-referral services and it says

## Aiming for same goals

# Gordie Howe on the stick for EB

By Peggie Ford  
Day Staff Writer

GROTON — A roar goes up from the crowd, and the announcer screams that Gordie Howe has scored another goal. Then the voice of the hockey great comes over the air with an unexpected message — a recruiting pitch for General Dynamics-Electric Boat.

"Whatever you do for a living, you want to be part of a winning team of professionals," Howe says, adding that EB in Groton has openings on its "winning team" in all engineering categories. In another 30-second radio ad being broadcast locally, Howe says the shipyard has long-term contracts and jobs to fill.

The ad campaign by the New England Whaler hockey star has been aired locally for about a week.

### Recruiting follows layoffs

Although EB laid off 3,000 workers last fall, it is recruiting hard now. Last year's layoffs hit white-collar workers and draftsmen, and labor officials say the company's search for more skilled trades people has not been interrupted.

The company did lay off more than 300 engineers last year, but it now wants to hire engineers. Sources say the company has new positions for engineers in the shipyard to expedite work there.

EB listed job openings for civil, electrical and marine engineers a year ago in December with the New London office of the state's Employment Service. Those listings have remained active, and the company added listings for nuclear and electronics engineers five months ago.

EB also is looking out of state for skilled blue-collar workers who do the actual building of the submarines.

### Demand is high

But EB may have a slightly more difficult time recruiting engineers now than five years ago. Engineering professionals say the demand for engineers is at a new high, and the job market has never looked brighter for them.

Douglas Braddock, an economist for the Labor Department in Washington,

said it's difficult to tell at this point if there's a shortage of engineers. But he said that in terms of help-wanted ads, the demand for engineers is the highest ever.

Patrick J. Sheridan, manager of manpower activities for the Engineers Joint Council in New York, said only three percent of college students graduating with engineering degrees don't have a job, graduate school or military service lined up before graduation.

Sheridan said there was a dip in the job market for engineers in 1972, but the market has picked up ever since.

### Trend away from defense?

College job-placement centers have varying opinions about whether there is a trend away from defense contractors on the part of job-seeking college graduates.

Robert K. Weatherall, director of career planning and placement at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said college students are aware of the boom-or-bust cycle of defense contracts, and some seek employment with non-defense firms for this reason.

"In the '60s, students were very enthusiastic about big defense firms," Weatherall said in a telephone interview. "Then there were the great layoffs of 1969, '70 and '71."

Today, students think highly of such areas as computers and calculators, and offshore oil explorations, he said.

"The thing that's very difficult for defense contracting firms, is that since 1970, the defense budget has not been growing in constant dollars. The Navy and the other services have been tight-fisted, and General Dynamics, Lockheed, and Litton have had some very hard bargaining with the services," Weatherall said. "Being a big defense contractor is attractive in some ways, but it's a big headache in other ways."

Laurence A. Minck, career planning and placement director at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J., said EB employs about two dozen of his school's engineering graduates



(AP Laserphoto)

### Gordie Howe and wife: Business partners

New England Whaler hockey star Gordie Howe and his wife, Coleen, are shown last year as he announced he was signing with the Hartford-based team. Howe recently has done

radio ads recruiting workers for General Dynamics-Electric Boat in Groton. His wife helps manage the endorsements aspect of his career.

ranging from the class of 1950 to the class of 1977.

"In general there has been somewhat of a lessening of interest in defense industries... since the late '60s," Minck said. "But I certainly don't see an extreme situation, that the students would be avoiding these companies like lepers."

But officials at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts reported EB had a full recruiting schedule last week at the school, and they saw no trend away from defense industries.

Both Bath Iron Works in Maine and the Lockheed shipyard in Seattle, Wash., report no difficulty in filling engineering jobs.

The article pictured above, appeared in the day December 12 1978, almost one year after the 3000 workers that were laid off the previous year.

it still cannot find out from the company what kinds of employees are being let go and where they are from.

"They're still in confusion over there," said Mr. Dyer. "The confusion began Oct. 4, when without any official notice General Dynamics brought in P. Takis Veliotis from its Quincy shipyard to take over for Gordon E. MacDonald as general manager of Electric Boat. Mr. Veliotis, still without public comment, immediately shifted most of the top management personnel and started laying off the first of the 3,000 employees.

A State Representative from a district just north of the Electric Boat plant said he would propose legislation in the 1978 General Assembly requiring companies with 2,500 or more workers to inform the state's Labor and Commerce Departments 30 days in advance if job cuts exceeded 5 percent of

the work force. There would be fine of at least \$25,000 for failure to comply.

"There's no question E.B. knew 30 days ahead of time," said the Representative, Thomas Sweeney, Democrat from the 46th District.

One immediate cause of concern to local businessmen was the fact that Electric Boat canceled a few of its local purchasing contracts last week. The company refused to comment on the move, but indications were that the cancellations were actually temporary postponements. The businessmen hope so, because the company spent more than \$18 million in New London County last year.

Electric Boat, with a \$3 billion backlog of submarine construction orders, is asking the Navy for \$544 million more to cover cost overruns in construction of the new 688-Class submarines.



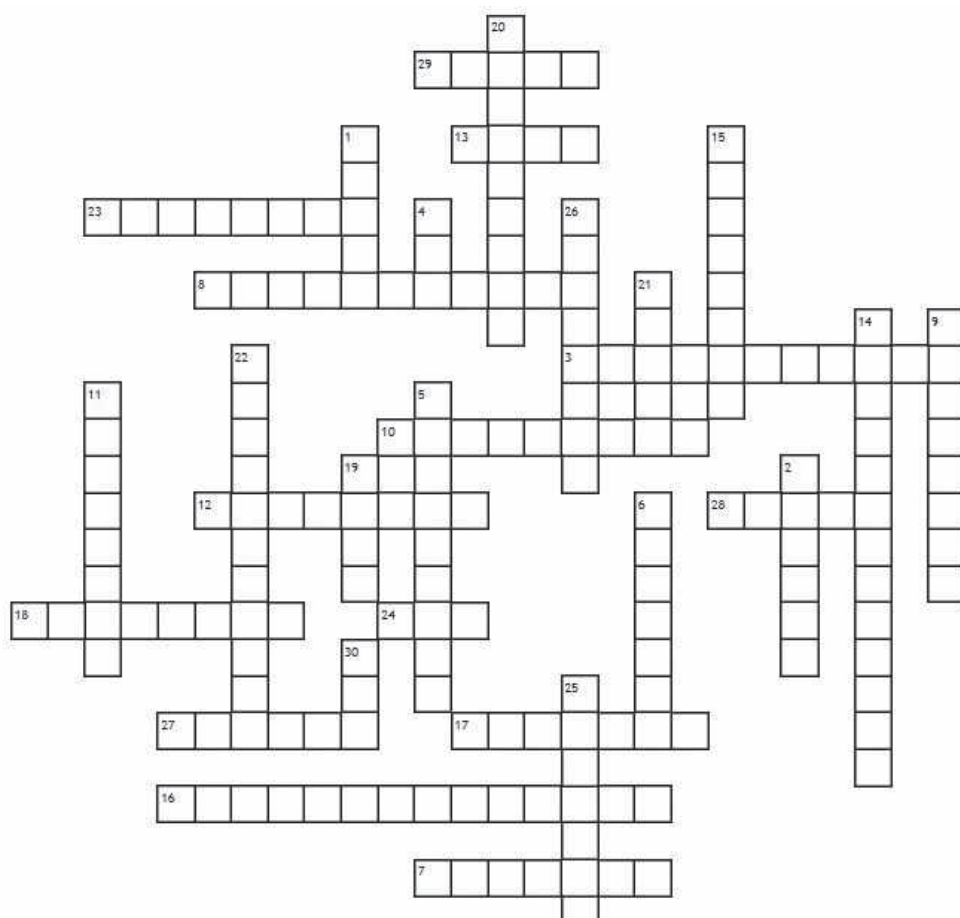
DINNER continued from page 8

Wrapping up the night, the UAW Region 9A Social Justice Award was given to Phil Wheeler, retired Region 9A Director who was honored for his incredible work on social justice and labor rights.



Region 9A Director Julie Kushner presented the Region 9A Social Justice Award to retired Region 9A UAW Director Phil Wheeler, who proudly displays Award proudly for everyone to see. Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut Nancy Wyman presented an award as well.

## HOW WELL DID YOU READ YOUR NEWSLETTER?



### Across

3. What "Old Office" held the ice-cream social?
7. Region 9A Assistant Director
8. Ingredient in the Healthy Breakfast Recipe
10. The Service you call for Community Services
12. One of the signs of Pet Poisoning
13. They only accept this for events
16. In January, the MDA re-started this program.
17. The Apprenticeship program was re-started in \_\_\_\_\_
18. As a whole, who benefits from the Apprenticeship Program?
23. Where was the Civil and Human Rights Dinner held?
24. Number of months Honeywell workers locked out
27. What day do you wear your Red Shirt?
28. Ingredient in the Healthy Breakfast Recipe
29. We are all in a \_\_\_\_\_

### Down

1. Three Trustees conducted this in February
2. What town was the Contract Signing held?
4. The amount of new councillors were elected
5. What workers got locked out?
6. Last name of retired Region 9A Director
9. One of the signs of Pet Poisoning
11. Keep it \_\_\_\_ (Number 5 in "safety")
14. What was installed in homes for free?
15. You call them for a free fire detector
19. The month scholarship award recipients be announced
20. The conference the Union attended in March
21. How many tips are there to keep your family safe?
22. Where food gets donated
25. Last name of current Region 9A Director
26. One of the signs of Pet Poisoning
30. The month did Honeywell lock out their employees

Answers to the puzzle is in the online version only, found on the last page in the Soundings Newsletter.

Click link to follow: <http://region9a.uaw.org/local571>.





## EMPLOYEES COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION



Rodney Butler from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation presents awards to MDA-UAW President William E. Louis, MTC President Ken DeLaCruz and Carpenters Chief Steward/Business Agent Bob Tardiff for EB participation in the United Way.

In 2016, 71 percent of employees pledged a total of \$2.1 million dollars to the United Way. The company contributed another \$350,000 for a grand total of \$2.45 million dollars.

This money will be allocated to United Way and other charitable organizations where EB employees live.

The leaders of this year's Groton Community Services Drive were MDA-UAW President William E. Louis, MTC President Ken DeLaCruz, UBC Chief Steward/Business Agent Robert Tardiff and EB VP of Human Resources and Administration Maura Dunn. In addition, Electric Boat's membership in United Way's Spinnaker Club increased again this year by 115, bringing the total to 626 employees who contribute \$1000 or more annually.

We also have a number of opportunities coming up throughout this year for those who want to get out and help in the community. Please contact the Community Services Chairman, Joe Wessell at 433-6274.

### FIRE DETECTION INSTALLATION

On March 20, 2017, EB Employees Community Services Association members Brendan McLaughlin (MDA Structural Design) and James Newman (MDA Welding Engineering) as well as 2 dedicated Red Cross Volunteers and

Retirees Tom Scott and Fred Bolen, teamed up with up with 9 Red Cross Volunteers from FEMA CORE from CT and RI in the installation of Fire Detectors across New London as part of a nationwide campaign.

Taking an average of 20 minutes for each home, they also educated residents on fire safety, helped them develop an evacuation action plan and general preparedness while installing the smoke detectors in their home.

This service is completely free of charge as the goal is to reduce the lives lost in fires by 25%. There were 177 smoke detectors installed in approximately 59 homes.

To date this nationwide programs has been credited with saving 197 lives in the past 2 years.

If you would like to have FREE fire detectors installed in your home, please call 1-877-287-3327 or go to [www.redcross.org/ct](http://www.redcross.org/ct) to schedule a visit or register on line.

If you would like to assist the Red Cross with the installation of fire detectors, you must be registered as a Red Cross Volunteer for the day. Preregistration is required. Contact Jim Newman to sign up at 433-2558.

### FOOD COLLECTION

On March 28, 2017 over 50 volunteers came out to the EB Employees Community Service Associations C&S Food Show Collection.

We were able to collect 51,428 pounds of food that would otherwise have been thrown away. All of the donations went to the Gemma

E. Moran United Way/Labor Food center that will be distributed to 85 other food sites including churches, homeless shelters and mobile food pantries.

In perspective, that enough food to give a lunch to every Groton elementary school student for a month. A sincere thanks to all the volunteers!

**Do you want to bring thousands of pounds of food to those that are food insecure in the community?**  
**We invite you to join us!**

*PAT continued from page 11*

Groton is "home" for Pat. She has lived in the City of Groton for 45 years. She has two children, 3 grandchildren (all grown) and now busy with her great granddaughter. "I Babysit whenever they can get me!" She said with a twinkle in her eye!

She also has 3 brothers and 2 sisters, saying that her life has always been full and she says it's all about family. "Even now with grown kids and grandkids, they know they can always come to me and I will lend a helping hand" added Pat.

Outside of the union and EB, Pat enjoys traveling and looks forward to spending more time in Florida with family in later years. She also enjoys photography, walking and a variety of other things.

Pat says though this is the end of a career at EB, this isn't the end, by any means, for her. She plans on a month or so off then wants to stay active in the community, and also stay active with our Union. She already has her sights on volunteering her time to those in need, and plans on helping out in rehabilitation centers.

We wish her all the best with a healthy, happy and prosperous retirement. Pat, you will be missed. Send lots of pictures of your adventures Pat!

*PETS Continued from Page 11*

some of the most common signs of pet poisoning include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea and upset stomach
- Seizures
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Drooling
- Abnormal behavior
- Excessive thirst or urination
- Weakness

### HOW TO HANDLE AN EMERGENCY:

If you know or suspect your pet may have ingested something poisonous, immediately contact the National Poison Control Help Line at 1-800-222-1222. Text "POISON" to 797979 to save the contact information for Poison Control in your smartphone.

Finally, remember that it's always better to be safe than sorry. If you have any reason at all to believe your pet might be poisoned, seek immediate veterinary assistance—the life of your animal companion could depend on it.





## MDA-UAW LOCAL 571

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	
William E. Louis .....	860-448-0552
First Vice-President	
Kenneth Rowland .....	860-448-0552
Second Vice-President	
David M. Reagan .....	860-448-0552
Recording Secretary	
Patricia A. Clay .....	860-448-0552
Financial Secretary	
Bill May .....	860-448-0552
Treasurer	
Robert J. Faraci .....	860-448-0552
Trustees	
Paul Smith .....	860-867-3057
Wayne Burgess .....	860-501-7736
Eric Straub .....	860-867-4607
Sergeant At Arms	
Mark Ciliano .....	860-867-1831
Guide	
Pamela Gonski .....	860-433-3688
Retiree Chapter Representative	
Dan Hall .....	860-448-0552
Secretary	
Karen Heroux .....	860-448-0552

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Mike Garduno .....	860-867-4564
Mark Sperry .....	860-867-2431
Beau St. Hilaire .....	860-867-1779

### GRIEVANCE REPRESENTATIVES

Jack Bond .....	Second Shift .....	860-433-3021
David Evans .....	Bldg 800, Shaws Cove .....	860-867-1754
Bill Stamp .....	Bldg 800, Shaws Cove .....	860-867-1999
Wayne Carbone .....	Bldg 801 .....	860-867-2691
Paul Ryan .....	Bldg 801 .....	860-867-2898
Paul Smith .....	Bldg 801 .....	860-867-3057
Mike Garduno .....	Bldg 802 .....	860-867-4564
Joe Husereau .....	Bldg 1, 1A, 1B, 7,8N .....	860-433-4098
	8S, 30, 38, 113, 128	
	129, 130, 184, 260	
	Coates, Hospital, Machine	
	Shop, Robinson, Cloud 9	
Martha Fletcher .....	Bldg 221, 793, Blackhole .....	860-433-5086
Rich Gianfrocco .....	Bldg 88, 128, 129, 189 .....	860-433-3951
Joe Wessell .....	Kings Highway .....	860-433-6274
Dan Ogden .....	CSC .....	860-823-2458

FOR ANY ISSUES CONTACT YOUR GRIEVANCE REP OR YOUR NEAREST COUNCILLOR.  
FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF COUNCILLORS, PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 WEBSITE:  
[WWW.REGION9A.UAW.ORG/LOCAL571](http://WWW.REGION9A.UAW.ORG/LOCAL571). ALSO "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK: MDA-UAW LOCAL 571.

