



# Region 9A Weekly News

Friday, April 1, 2022

Thanks for reading this week's newsletter! We hope you find the information contained herein valuable. If so, please feel free to share our [subscription link!](#)

We love to highlight local unions and members! If you have something you want announced, have a member you want to suggest we highlight, tell us about a great new contract, or announce a new group of workers joining our union email it to [Cathie!](#)

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## **PATRICK MULHOLLAND UAW LOCAL 664 AND RETIRED UAW VETERANS COUNCIL CHAIR**



Pat Mulholland arrived in America from Canada in 1959 and was drafted two years later. He spent most of his military career at Fort Hood in Texas, brushing up against some of the most famous events of the early '60s. Pat was deployed on a Navy ship during the blockade of Cuba in 1962 that began the Cuban Missile Crisis. Returning to Fort Hood, he finished his tour in 1963. While en route to Fort Dix, NJ to be discharged, he landed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, the day John F. Kennedy was shot.

In 1967, Pat became an American citizen, a day he cites as being among the proudest of his life. He worked for 22 years at General Motors in Westchester NY, all the while devoting as much spare time as he could to helping veterans.

In 1982, he co-founded the UAW Local 664 Veterans Committee. From 1992 until 2019 Pat served as chairperson for the Region 9A Veterans Council.

Pat spends much of his time helping wounded veterans, visiting them at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington DC where he presented them

with backpacks containing toiletries. He's also a 35-year volunteer at the Montrose VA Hospital.

Pat has also organized rallies in the Hudson Valley in order to protest the cut of services and to bring attention to the conditions of the VA hospitals. Pat is also very active in his church, the Church of the Good Shepherd in Granite Springs—where every year he participates in a winter coat drive for the VA. The drive is just one of many events Pat has organized on behalf of veterans. "When you see these veterans and how they struggle," Pat said, "it makes it easy to do this sort of thing. I wish everyone was more involved and more in tune with what's happening to our veterans."

In addition to his tireless efforts on behalf of veterans, Pat has earned the affectionate nickname "The Flag Man" due to the fact that, wherever he is, he ensures that a flag is flying and takes strong measures to ensure that the flag is protected. "It really bothers me when the flag is damaged or when people are flying it and it's all ripped," he said. "I can see if it's on a battlefield, but on the front lawn it should be in decent shape!"

Pat has devoted his life to helping veterans, and yet remains a humble man who is often seen with his wife and Veterans Advocate Vilma Torres Mulholland, President of UAW Local 2179.


## COLUMBIA POSTDOCTORAL WORKERS-UAW 4100 DEMAND REFUND OF LOST RETIREMENT FUNDS



"During the pandemic I was writing grants, supervising virtual kindergarten and working with volunteers to facilitate childcare for essential workers in the NYC area. I love what I do and I love my family. I save for retirement because every cent I save now is an investment in my future and my daughter's future. By freezing retirement contributions, Columbia borrowed against our family's future to save for a rainy day that didn't come. Columbia needs to do right by us essential workers!"

Melissa M Campbell, PhD  
Associate Research Scientist  
Department of Systems Biology


#CUretirement



As an essential worker, during the first wave I had to take care of my regular research projects, and I also pivoted towards COVID-research in our lab. It was exceptionally hard for parents (I had to take care of my 6-month-old son). But somehow our will to keep doing science and helping in any way we could was strong, and many volunteers like me found the time to assist in building Columbia's COVID-19 biobank. With the current inflation, it's important that Columbia refunds these benefits!"

Alberto Bartolomé, PhD  
Associate Research Scientist  
Department of Medicine

#CUretirement



**CPW-UAW**  
A UNION FOR POSTDOCTORAL  
RESEARCHERS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



**AAUP@CU**

To: ALL OFFICERS @ Columbia  
Re: LOST RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS


If you were an officer (**admin, research or instruction**) during FY2021, your retirement benefits were "moderated" for 8 months in anticipation of a financial cataclysm. Since this never happened and was replaced instead by unexpected economic growth, we are asking Columbia to **retroactively refund lost retirement contributions** to all officers of the university.

Please read our petition and sign:  
<https://qr.page/g/4ChgHAQJ3IT>



powered by  
Columbia's chapter of the American Association of University Professors  
Columbia Postdoctoral Workers - UAW 4100



[www.aaupcu.org](http://www.aaupcu.org) [www.columbiapostdocunion.org](http://www.columbiapostdocunion.org)



"I've been at Columbia since 1988. If you count a stint at Barnard as a visiting Assistant Professor, 1986. As a computational biologist, I, thankfully, have been able to work at home and continue publishing. I also helped write a grant supplement pertaining to COVID-19. The suspension of retirement benefits over COVID-19 by the university constitutes a breach of faith!"

Richard Friedman, PhD  
Associate Research Scientist  
Department of Systems Biology


#CUretirement



"The pandemic has been incredibly difficult on everyone. This is especially true for parents like me trying to balance taking care of my two toddlers with research work. Two years into the pandemic, we are seeing record increases in the prices of everyday products. These increases and their ripple effects are likely to linger for a long time. I believe it's important for Columbia to refund our benefits!"

Balaji Santhanam, PhD  
Associate Research Scientist  
Department of Biological Sciences

#CUretirement



In the early days of the pandemic, our members were on the frontlines of the fight against Covid – some refocused their work on coronavirus research, and many volunteered to biobank tens of thousands of COVID19 patient samples, develop serological assays, support critical IT infrastructure, organize a COVID19

symposium and even support Presbyterian Hospital during the vaccination campaign. But in December of 2020 we were informed that, in anticipation of a revenue cataclysm, the University would institute a one-year “moderation of retirement benefits”. However, those anticipated losses never materialized, and instead Columbia University accumulated a profit of \$150 million and an endowment growth of 32.3% in FY2021. Columbia Postdoctoral Workers-UAW 4100 have launched a petition in partnership with Columbia’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors, demanding the University to return our retirement funds. [Sign and share to support us!](#)

### **Quote(s) from some members:**

Victoria Hewitt, a postdoctoral research scientist from Zuckerman Institute, said: “The effort of postdocs to go above and beyond during the pandemic together with university growth continuing would make restoring this minimal financial contribution at least a symbolic acknowledgement that the university values our contributions”.

In the words of Martin Escamilla del Arenal, an associate research scientist in the department of Neuroscience: "As a father of 3 kids, the pandemic has compounded its effects on top of the hiring and salary freezes, aside from the current inflation. We worked hard for our pension benefits and we are going to need this money, which is a part of our salary."

“It is time for Columbia to do the right thing and restore the funds they took under the guise of Covid-related austerity measures,” said Álvaro Cuesta-Domínguez, an associate research scientist from Columbia University Irving Medical Center. “We stood up and answered the call to fight the pandemic – and our retirement contributions should be fully refunded.”

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## **PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART SETTLES WITH FORMER WORKERS WHO ALLEGED UNFAIRNESS**



More than a dozen former employees of the Portland Museum of Art are expected to receive financial settlements between \$2,000 and \$30,000 in a settlement of their claims that the museum committed unfair labor practices.

The former employees were gallery ambassadors, responsible for providing customer service, education, and exhibit interpretation at the museum, and were fired last year while the results of a vote to unionize were pending, the National Labor Relations Board found.

Employees voted 16-10 to unionize in April 2021 and join New York-based [United Auto Workers Local 2110, the Technical, Office and Professional Union](#). The 14 gallery ambassadors were not among those eligible to vote.

## **UAW STELLANTIS COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

UAW Stellantis Council members gather in Detroit with Director Brakeman and UAW Local 422 Stellantis Chrysler MoPar Shop Chair Justin Blanchard. Members heard from Vice President Estrada and President Curry as we prepare for 2023 bargaining. Also on the agenda was the latest research on Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) and Electric Vehicle (EV) production and its impact



on the Big 3. VP Estrada also had her National Organizing Director Ken Lang give a presentation on organizing in auto beyond the Big 3 including battery plants and the importance of building our power in the auto sector as it grows and changes.

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## **REGION 9A RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL TRIENNIAL 2022 CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022**

The Retired Workers Council of Region 9A – Triennial 2022 Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at the Regional Office. The meeting will take place at our office located at 111 Founders Plaza, East Hartford, CT on the 5th floor. There is plenty of visitor parking and the office is conveniently located off Interstate 84. This is an especially important conference, so please make every effort to attend.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the conference to convene at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon will be served at approximately 12:00 noon. The first order of business will be the modification and adoption of the Retired Workers Council of Region 9A Council Bylaws. The second order of business will be the nomination and election of the Retired Workers Council of Region 9A for the following positions:

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Chairperson         | 6. MA Area Chair     |
| 2. Vice-Chairperson    | 7. CT Area Chair     |
| 3. Financial Secretary | 8. NY Chair          |
| 4. Recording Secretary | 9. NYC Chair         |
| 5. Advisory Board      | 10. Sergeant at Arms |

Currently, these positions are filled by:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Chairperson (Acting) - Sharon Russo    | 5. Advisory Board - Phil Wheeler |
| 2. Vice-Chairperson - Vacant              | 6. MA Area Chair - John Sweeney  |
| 3. Financial Secretary - Elias Tsekerides | 7. CT Area Chair - Bob Madore    |
| 4. Recording Secretary - Vacant           | 8. NY Chair - George Albro       |
|   | 9. NYC Chair - June Benjamin     |

10. Sergeant at Arms - Roger Levesque

In compliance with the bylaws, the delegate allotment for each Chapter and Local Union is as follows:

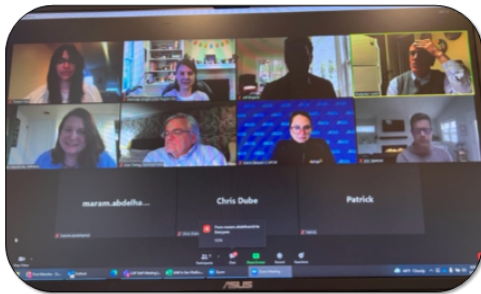
**Retired Workers Council of Region 9A Bylaws  
Section II – Membership**

- (a) Retired member delegates shall be elected from the Retiree Chapters and Area Councils pursuant to Article 55, Section 3(b), Subsections 1, 2, and 3.
- (b) Additionally, each local union in which there is a Retiree Chapter, shall be entitled to one delegate (not retired) to be designated by the President of the Local Union, as provided for in Article 55, Section 3(b), Subsection 4.

Please notify James Taylor as to who will be attending no later than Friday, April 8th. James can be reached at (212) 529-2580 or [jhtaylor@uaw.net](mailto:jhtaylor@uaw.net).

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**UAW REGION 9A MEETS WITH CONGRESSMAN PETER WELCH**



On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, Deborah Wright, UAW Region 9A Political Director, attended a virtual fundraiser for Congressman Peter Welch (Vermont). This fundraiser in support of Congressman Welch's run to replace Patrick Leahy in the U.S. Senate, who is not running for re-election this year. Congressman Welch was first elected to Congress in 2006.

Whenever Debbie meets with the Congressman, they always enjoy speaking about their shared history of being public defenders. This fundraiser also gave Debbie the chance to thank the Congressman once again for his support of the Build Back Better Act in the House of Representatives, and why the UAW is still pushing the U.S. Senate to bring the BBBA to floor for a vote.

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**A NOTE: SISTERHOOD DISCUSSION AND EDUCATION REP KAVIN WYATT**

We want to thank all of the amazing women who participated in taping our Sisterhood Discussion. We promise to have this out soon because our Education Representative Kevin Wyatt has been sick. Kevin is on the mend, however please keep him in your thoughts and prayers and feel free to send him good wishes at [kwyatt@uaw.net](mailto:kwyatt@uaw.net). Should you need anything related to Education and Training, please contact Catherine at [cgraugard@uaw.net](mailto:cgraugard@uaw.net).

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## ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATION OF RAMADAN

UAW Region 9A Equity and Justice Council is hoping to hold a roundtable discussion in April to celebrate Arab-American Heritage Month and Ramadan. This will be pre-recorded and supplemented by an educational segment. The final roundtable video will be shared with locals and on Region 9A social media.

We are seeking Arab-American members and members who practice Islam to speak on a short roundtable about their personal experiences and what Ramadan means to them.

If you have members to suggest or would like to participate in the roundtable, please reach out to Mikayla Robinson, Servicing Rep, at [marobinson@uaw.net](mailto:marobinson@uaw.net).

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## AAPI HERITAGE MONTH MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SUBMISSIONS OPEN

UAW Region 9A wants to highlight Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander UAW members for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May! [Please fill out this form for yourself or to suggest another member.](#) Deadline to submit is Wednesday April 13th.

If you cannot fill out the form, please send the following information to Mikayla Robinson, Servicing Rep, at [marobinson@uaw.net](mailto:marobinson@uaw.net):

- Name
  - Contact info
  - Local Union and Unit (if applicable)
  - Job Title
  - Any role you hold in the Union
  - Photo
  - 1-2 sentence short description of yourself
- 

### UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

- 4/5** Region 9A MA CAP Meeting
- 4/6** Region 9A CT CAP Triennial Elections
- 4/13** Region 9A Retiree Council Triennial
- 4/14** Region 9A NY CAP Meeting

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## LABOR LINKS OF INTEREST

1. [Amazon workers in Staten Island vote to unionize](#)
2. [Official Call to the UAW Chaplaincy Conference May 1 - 6, 2022](#)
3. [Official Call to the UAW National CAP Conference May 15 - 18, 2022](#)
4. [Official Call to the UAW Health & Safety Institute May 22 - 27, 2022](#)
5. [51st International Convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists \(CBTU\) May 25-30, 2022](#)
6. [UAW Family Scholarship Program Application June 19 - 24, 2022](#)
7. [Official Call to the UAW 2022 Constitutional Convention July 25 - 28, 2022](#)
8. [A. Philip Randolph Institute's 51st National Education Conference July 27-31, 2022](#)

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**Sincerely and In Solidarity,  
Bev and the Region 9A Staff**

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