

## The Power of Becoming Active

There is power in becoming an active member of our Local. The power is in the ability to use resource available to us such as the freedom of speech, power of the pen, the right to gather publicly and present opposing views without being jailed. Recently, members of Local 6000 have utilized all those powers in writing our legislators in regards to stopping legislation that would be harmful to issues concerning retirement and benefits. Members have also used their power to speak by making appointments with their legislator and to testify at House and Senate Hearings. We have also gathered and held rallies in response to attacks on our retirement benefits, health care, public safety issues, and Wall Street's attack on Main Street. In the past few months public employees have demonstrated we will no longer sit idly by while corporate America or politicians take what we have worked long and hard to obtain. We will gather where we need to apply pressure, speak up when we are attacked, and oppose legislation that threatens to unravel our futures.

The power we have been given will be used not only to protect collective bargaining but to preserve what we need to sustain the communities we live and work in. 17,000 members strong in UAW Local 6000 do have the power to make a difference and bring about change. All it takes is to become active, write a letter, speak to a legislator, attend a rally, or support a community effort and we can get there. The proof is in the pudding is an old saying. Well the proof is in the result of additional workers being added to the DHS budget as a result of testimony of our members before the House of Representatives. The proof is in the DOC budget where after testimony before the House and Senate members the department is required to partner with other state agencies such as DELEG, DHS, and MSHDA to provide services that were previously provided by private contractors. There is proof in the Michigan State Police budget where members testified before the Senate and the proposal to close the Detroit Center was canceled and funding was made available. So you see there is power available to all of us, it's just a choice of becoming active and making the commitment to make a difference.

- Miya Williamson, Local 6000 Financial Secretary Treasurer