

HORIZONS

NEWS

Message From Nate Gooden: *Driving Sales*



It's a brand new year. And for all of us in the auto world, that means we get a chance to help promote sales of a great line-up of new Chrysler Group vehicles that hit the road in 2003.

While the past year has been difficult, it has also been quite promising. The work of the UAW has helped to get the company on the road to profitability and ahead of the competition. DaimlerChrysler has unveiled some of its best products this year. And in the midst of an extremely competitive marketplace, that's a challenge met.

Now it's time for retirees to step up to the challenge.

You can help put pride back into our products by not only remaining loyal to the DaimlerChrysler brand, but also by sponsoring the sale or lease of at least two Chrysler Group vehicles this year. And the company's Friends Program is ready to help you do just that.

A discount of one percent below factory invoice price is available to friends and family members of UAW-represented and non-bargaining unit DaimlerChrysler employees. They may sponsor the sale or lease of up to four 2002, 2003 or 2004 model-year Chrysler Group vehicles.

Being proud about brandishing the DaimlerChrysler name should be second nature. We should be able to stand behind everything we build like it was a walking advertisement because UAW members build some of the best cars and trucks on the road.

I am proud to say that there are very few cars that ever pull into my driveway bearing any name beyond Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep. And that's because I am a strong believer that buying DaimlerChrysler cars is a sign of support for workers and retirees as well as a great benefit to family and friends. If we don't remain loyal to our products, we sure can't expect others to be devoted to them either.

When I was young, my friends and I used to play a game where we'd sit on the curb and every car that passed, we claimed. Especially the cool ones. We'd scream, "My car!" before the others had a chance.

I want to see as many UAW-built DaimlerChrysler vehicles on the road as possible. As workers and retirees of this company, we also should feel proud when we see one pass. We all should be saying, with conviction—"That's my car."

So sponsor a friend or relative and help put DaimlerChrysler further down the road to success!

For more information, contact the Employee Advantage Hot Line at 800.756.2886.

Giving Credit Where 'Credit' is Due

By Tanisha Perez

Tax time is slightly similar to opening the mail—we only smile when we don't have to pull out our checkbooks. But tax season can actually be a positive, "cha-ching" experience.

If you've already filed your federal return for 2002, it's not too early to discover ways to save on taxes for this year.

Filing taxes can be a trying time for seniors.



Finding hidden paperwork and lost documents can be overwhelming. The key is to unravel the red tape, dig up all the tax breaks and learn some key tips to help protect you from overpaying in taxes. Here are some pointers to keep in mind for your 2003 tax return:

- When itemizing deductions for medical and dental expenses, you may include transportation expenses incurred for necessary care, and you may generally

Check out our latest feature on back page--Word Mania--a puzzle that puts the mind to "work."

Created by Tanisha Perez and husband, Patrick Perez, UAW Local 961 member

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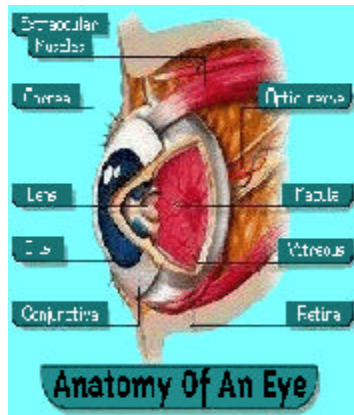
The Eyes Have It

By Tanisha Perez

Wearing glasses hasn't always been very fashionable. That is, unless you're one to spend hundreds of dollars on designer frames. But even still, neither glasses nor contacts are "corrective" approaches to poor vision.

If you're like most people who need them, corrective lenses usually start early in life and you wear them for many years. But a new wonder is sweeping through ophthalmologists' offices across the nation that could mean away with the glasses and the contact lenses, and hello to new vision.

Laser eye surgery has become the newest surgical craze for many Americans. It is commonly used to correct three vision problems—myopia (near-sightedness), hyperopia (far-sightedness) and astigmatism (distorted vision



when looking at objects at any distance).

Although several surgical techniques are being performed today, laser refractive correction is becoming the most widely used and technologically advanced method available. The surgery is a one-day procedure and complications are rare. But as with all surgical procedures, there are advantages and disadvantages that should be weighed before considering laser eye surgery as a viable option.

Photo-Refractive Keratectomy is performed with local anesthetic eye drops and reshapes the cornea by removing tissue from the surface with UV light. The beam of light is so precise it can cut notches in a strand of human hair without breaking it. The procedure removes just enough tissue to reshape the cornea to correct vision. The procedure takes minutes and patients are typically back to daily routines in about a week.

LASIK surgery involves cutting a flap in the cornea, lifting it up and moving small amounts of tissue from the inside layers of the cornea. The flap is then closed and the eye heals by itself. Healing is usually faster and painless than Photo-Refractive Keratectomy.

After wearing corrective lenses for so long, it may be hard to experience being free of glasses or contacts. In selecting either surgery, border on the side of caution. Here are some important points to consider before deciding to do away with your glasses.

- Choose your eye surgeon carefully. Only 20 percent of ophthalmologists in the U.S. are trained in laser eye operations.
- Discuss the risks, benefits and your expectations with your surgeon to make sure you are a suitable candidate.
- Commit yourself to fully participate in follow-up care.
- Assess affordability. The average prices of eye surgery range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and most insurance companies don't cover it because it is considered a cosmetic procedure.
- The possibility exists that you still may have to wear reading glasses after surgery, and as you grow older and your vision adjusts even more, a second surgery may be necessary.

Tax Time

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include payments for qualified long-term care contracts.

- If you have an elderly dependent who spends eight hours or more a day in your home, the amount you spend on non-institutional "daycare" may qualify as credit for dependent care expenses.
- You may deduct a portion of casualty losses, such as those that result from a flood, storm or automobile accidents not covered by insurance. You can also deduct losses due to theft.
- Remember, if you are currently paying a mortgage, you can deduct mortgage home interest.
- A tax credit is available—Credit for the Elderly or Disabled if you are either 65 years or older, or under age 65 and retired and/or disabled (*certain qualifications apply*).

For additional tax help, contact the IRS at 1.800.829.1040

Local 1435 on the Move

Visitation Program is volunteerism at its best

By Tanisha Perez

UAW Local 1435's Retiree Chapter finds great comfort in a smile. Which is why members don't miss a chance to volunteer for the chapter's Visitation Program.

While the program is not short of volunteers, its two coordinators, Leroy Smith and Jack Bartram, are the heartbeat of the initiative. Their dedication and commitment to retirees has driven the program's success.

"People don't realize how a couple of words can change a person's whole outlook on life," says Smith. "Seeing that smile on a person's face, when they're not expecting that visit, it's worth the whole effort right there."

The Local 1435 retirees from the Toledo Machining Plant started the Visitation Program for sick and shut-in members in April 2002, in response to a call to action from UAW Region 2B to generate a program centered on retirees. Bartram, who was Local 1435's benefits representative for 18 years, and Smith, chairman of the chaplaincy committee, became perfect candidates to spearhead the project.

"We saw a great need. No one was taking care of our retirees and that disturbed me," says Smith. "I told myself that when I retired, I didn't want

that to happen to me."

Volunteers are paired up for visitations after friends or family requesting visits have made contact



Jack Bartram, Jim Bennett (Chapter Chairperson) and Leroy Smith

with the chapter. A one-day training course, sponsored by the UAW, prepares volunteers for conducting visitations.

"Most people are eager to have visitors," explains Bartram. "But the program is only as good as the information we receive. If we don't hear of those sick or who've passed away, we can't help. But if we hear about it, we make sure we're there."

"Respecting the person's wishes is key," adds Smith. "You always

should ask what they want you to do. Especially in prayer."

For Smith, an ordained minister who worked at Toledo Machining for 32 years, the program was a dream in the making.

"I used to visit hospitals and see people I knew and I'd stop in," he said. "I'd visit anyone who wanted a visit. It always puzzled me how someone could work 30 years at the plant and they'd be out sick and no one bothered to come see how they were doing."

The chapter's charitable work has also opened the door for more volunteer efforts. Chapter members attend funeral services of retirees and their spouses where they present a Bible to the family on behalf of the UAW, as well as transport members to doctor visits and send out get-well cards.

Bartram and Smith, who worked together at Toledo Machining for over 30 years, are gratified by the dedication of all the volunteers and only regret that they can't do more.

"I didn't realize the time it would take, but that's okay," says Bartram. "I think our retirees are better off with this program."

"Some people ask me, 'Isn't it awful depressing?' But I say no," he adds. "All you have to do is do it once. Seeing the satisfaction on that member's face or the satisfaction on the face of a bereaved family makes it all worthwhile."

Health Corner

Does cholesterol really play a role in ensuring healthy living?

As a matter of fact, it does. Cholesterol is a fatty substance found in the blood that is produced naturally by the body. While some cholesterol comes from food, the body actually makes all that it needs. Too much cholesterol is one of the major risk factors in heart and blood vessel disease.

High cholesterol causes fat deposits to build up in blood



vessels, making blood flow hard to get through. The gradual blocking of blood vessels in the heart may lead to a heart attack. Consider that:

- The proportion of men and women with high blood cholesterol levels increase with age.
- 47 percent of men (3 million) and 39 percent of women (2.6 million) aged 20 or over have high blood cholesterol levels.
- More men than women are treated to lower their blood fat level.

WORD MANIA

Across

1. Opposite of heads
2. Vehicle frame
13. An imaginary picture
14. Badgers
15. Opposites of outs
16. To the rear of a vessel
18. For example (*abbr.*)
19. There's no "I" in it
22. NFL's all-time leading rusher
27. Parent-teacher group
28. Initials of rapper who had hit song with Mariah Carey
29. Take to the picket lines
32. Kind of radio
33. Dodge truck minus the Du
37. How the NBA's Ming introduces himself
41. Dodge "muscle" car
42. Bank clerk
44. _____ good
46. End of production
49. "_____ you didn't!"
51. TV detective (*first name*)
52. Digit
53. Follow the rules
54. Greeting
55. Let it be known

Down

1. An old can
2. Automobiles are made here
3. _____ Sir

4. Mauna _____; largest volcano on earth
5. Skilled Nursing Facility (*abbr.*)
6. Chicago (*first two letters*)
7. The ultimate engine
8. Keeps you cool (*abbr.*)
9. A brief production
10. Retirees look forward to this (*two words*)
11. Industrial Engineer (*abbr.*)
12. It's an Impala
13. Movie on tape
17. Michigan (*abbr.*)
20. Preposition
21. Slang for mother
23. A doctor
24. Author, _____ Eliot
25. State-of-the-art training facility (*abbr.*)
26. Uncle Sam's bill
30. Type of music
31. A pitcher's stat
34. Arkansas (*abbr.*)
35. They bring good things to light
36. Either/_____
37. A pronoun
38. I am
39. Mixed metals
40. Office of Economic Opportunity (*abbr.*)
41. West Coast state
43. Type of IRA
45. Three letters in a backward series
46. Longest serving American president
47. Retirees take a permanent one
48. A shocking fish
49. Ozzy's initials
50. Halle's initials

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If you have story ideas or suggestions on New Horizons, contact Tanisha Perez at 313-567-3300 or e-mail tdavis@ucntc.org

Answers to Word Mania available online at: www.uaw-daimlerchryslerntc.org and next issue

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