



the LOCAL 879 UAW AUTOWORKER

"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2009



United in Solidarity

CHAIRPERSON'S



REPORT

Our rolls are currently at 754.

We will be laid off the weeks of August 31st and September 7th, 2009. We will be returning to a 4 10-hour shift on September 14th.

Starting on September 21st, the Company has informed us that we will be going back to a 5 10-hour shift until the end of the year. We will believe that when it happens. Remember last year?

Ronda and I attended the UAW/National Ford Department meeting in Detroit on August 5th. The topic of discussion concerned the unfair advantage of DEBT that GM and Chrysler had over Ford Motor Company.

They were checking to see if we would make more concessions. As a body of 300 delegates, we answered NO!

September is approaching quite fast with the kids returning to school and snowstorms possible. One very large issue will be whether or not we can convince the Company to come up with an alternative for our new hires (TPT's) concerning the Letter of Understanding in the National Agreement, page 386. We have suggested two different plans of attack:

- 1) That the Company talk with each member one-on-one and let the member state whether or not they want to be hired as entry level employees.
- 2) Freeze all TPT's wages and hire them as entry level employees.

Contract language is binding, but the Bargaining Committee feels that there should be room for compromise in any agreement. Obviously if we were to just let the Company follow the contract on this issue, a lot of members would be financially

impacted. More on this during the Union Meeting on September 16th.

We have contacted Dennis Williams, Region 4 Director, who in turn will be contacting Bob King,

Vice President of the UAW/National Ford Department, with an invitation to attend our Union meeting on the 16th. This would also allow them to get a look at our Electric Ranger.

We met with Mike Goldman concerning our chances of applying for TAA benefits. It is not a good idea to apply at this time with all the overtime that is scheduled for the remainder of the year, but we do

have a general consensus in the group that the January-February time frame would be a good time to apply. Please read Mike Goldman's report to the membership in this issue.


On a different note, we must remind everyone that we are one Union with members from many different walks of life and experience. Instead of dealing with person-to-person issues, we feel this membership must come together in order to keep this plant working. Fight for our existence – not each other.

*With respect and in solidarity,
Jim Eagle
Plant Chairman*


The Local 879 UAW

AUTOWORKER

“An Injury to One is an Injury to All”



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This paper is the property of the membership of UAW Local 879 and its pages are open to all members.

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY

To our readers:

This newsletter is the voice of your local and international union. This is our only vehicle for bringing to you, on a regular basis, the views and actions of the leaders you elected, so you may evaluate them. Through the publication, we explain union politics and show how your dues are spent. The publication also is the voice of membership. We welcome articles from UAW members and stories about members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of this union and its members. We will accept no personal attacks on any union leader or member. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letters column. We reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the union and its policies.

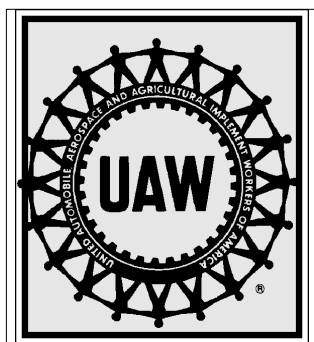
Thanks for your support,
and we look forward to hearing from you.



RECYCLED PAPER
PRINTED WITH SOY INK

PRESIDENT'S

REPORT



Well, fall is upon us. The State Fair has come and gone, and school will be session soon. It didn't even feel like summer to me.

We have 2 more down weeks in September and then it looks like we are into overtime for awhile thanks to 'Cash for Clunkers' and a few huge fleet orders. With all these hours they are talking about, I hope everyone will work safely on their jobs.

In June, a group of us (Jim Hooper, Tammy Seaton, Mitch Frazier, Marsha Anderson-Shearen, Carol Rix, and myself) went to Summer School for a week in Ottawa, IL. It was a wonderful learning experience. We learned about our Union and were able to meet new friends. We took classes on Grievance Handling, Health and Safety, OSHA, our Legal and Union Rights and Collective Bargaining. Also importantly, I got to know my brothers and sisters better and I'm proud to call them friends now.

Mayor Chris Coleman sent me two letters which he mailed to Mr. Bryan Hansel, CEO Smith Electric Vehicles and Joe Hinrichs, Group Vice President, Global Manufacturing and Labor Affairs asking them to reconsider their decision of closing our plant. Following is the letter to Joe Hinrichs, which strongly supports our plant.

On August 24th Gene Neuman and I attended Ray Waldron's Retirement Luncheon at the Prom Center in Woodbury. Ray is retiring as President of the AFL-CIO. Shar Knutson as the first woman President of the AFL-CIO will be replacing Ray. We wish her success in this important position.

In Solidarity,
Ronda Danielson,
President Local 879

August 12, 2009

Joe Hinrichs

Group Vice President – Global Manufacturing and Labor Affairs

Ford Motor Company

Dearborn MI

Dear Mr. Hinrichs:

The City of St. Paul is proud of Ford Motor Company's legacy in our city. Since 1924, when Henry Ford opened the Twin Cities Assembly Plant on the banks of the Mississippi River, the plant and its workers have played an integral role in the community the economy and culture of the area.

In 2006, when Ford Motor Company first announced its plans to close the plant, we immediately requested that the company reconsider its decision and since then, we have worked to find solutions and opportunities to make plant retention attractive and viable.

As Ford Motor Company works diligently to adjust its national and international production capacity to meet the demand for Ford vehicles, we believe there may be a new opportunity for the St. Paul plant to play a key role in Ford's future. We appreciate the multitude of factors that Ford Motor Company must consider when making these decisions, and we believe the plant is well positioned to be a productive and high-quality operation for years to come.

In particular, we urge you and your partners at Smith Electric Vehicles to seriously consider the St. Paul Ford plant as a future assembly location for the Ford Transit Connect. The St. Paul site presents a prime opportunity for a number of reasons:

1. At this time, the planned closure date for the St. Paul plant is mid-2011, when Ranger production ceases. Assuming retrofitting the plant would take approximately one year, the plant could be in full operation in 2012 to retrofit/assemble the Transit Connect.

2. St. Paul and the Twin Cities region have a large, diverse and highly-skilled workforce to compliment the knowledge and skills of UAW Local 879 members and other workers at the plant.

3. The University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies is involved in cutting-edge research on electric vehicle technologies and trends, providing a local resource and a unique education and training opportunity that could be centered in the site's UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center.

4. The Canadian Pacific rail line can continue to serve as a low-cost and fuel-

efficient transportation asset for the plant.

5. There is an opportunity to make the St. Paul plant an international model of Ford's commitment to green technologies and operations, in the proud tradition of the Ford Rouge site. Unique local assets make this possible including:

- the existing rail line providing low carbon transport;
- the adjacent hydro-power facility;
- strong potential and incentives for ground-source heating/cooling and solar in the area;
- opportunity for and existing studies identifying best practice stormwater management ideas for the site; and
- Ford's legacy of operating the St. Paul plant in harmony with and immediately adjacent to one of the Twin Cities' best neighborhoods and the Mississippi River.

St. Paul looks forward to seeing the first Transit Connect vehicles on our streets and hopefully in our fleet operations in the next couple years. We are committed to doing everything in our power to work with you to create a viable opportunity to utilize the St. Paul Ford facility to assemble/retrofit the Transit Connect or produce other vehicle products in the future.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further explore the site's potential and have contacted Bryan Hansel of Smith Electric Vehicles, as well. Our intent is to find an economically viable solution that enables your business, the highly-skilled employees of the Ford plant and their families, and the community as a whole to thrive.

Sincerely,
Christopher B. Coleman
Patrick Harris
Mayor
Ward 3 Councilmember

Cc: Governor Tim Pawlenty
Alan Mulally, President & CEO
Ford Motor Company
Mary Culler, Governmental
Affairs Ford Motor Company
Bryan Hansel, CEO Smith
Electric Vehicles
U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator Al Franken
MN Congresswoman
Betty McCollum
Senator Richard Cohen,
MN District 64

First we want to thank the membership for sending us to Summer School in Ottawa IL last July. It was a conference where we all gained a better understanding of how our union works. It was a very educational experience and a lot of fun too. We learned and had an awesome time, but what we learned most was that we need to stand together to be a union. When this union Local 879 was chartered 68 years ago on June 21st 1941 the workers of this plant had to come together to stand up for one another. Just as we have to come together in these troubled times. One of the motto's of the union is an injury to one is an injury to all. If we all stand up for each other we are stronger than if we are alone. Remember sometimes it is better to agree to disagree than to fight. We need to remember we are all brothers and sisters. That is what the union is all about.

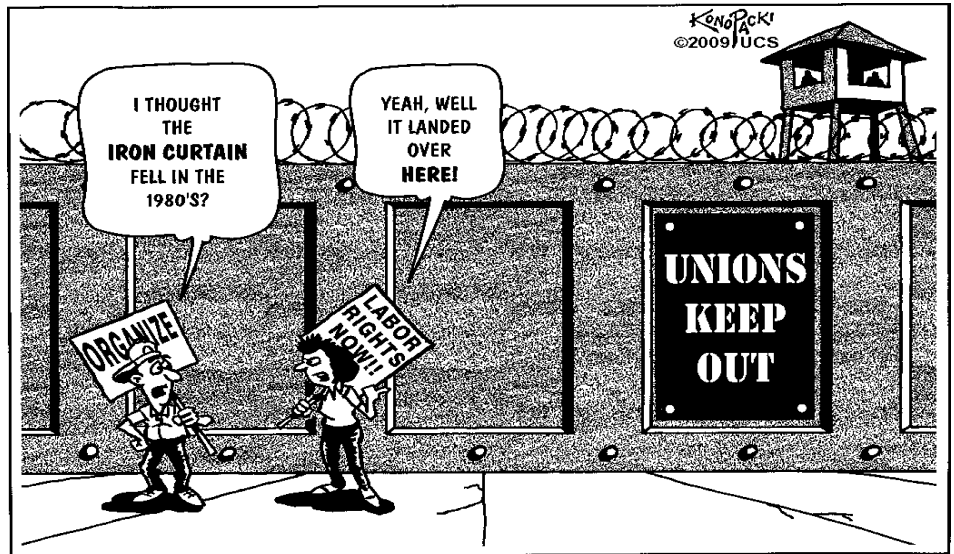
WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

I quote the preamble to the United States Constitution.

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION

These are tough times for unions - companies have developed skills to keep unions out of the workplace. Unions are having a tough time negotiating due to the depressed economy. Also unfair trade laws have shipped way too much work out of the country. Free trade has made it so that it is difficult for a company to stay competitive using American workers. When your competitors are using cheap labor and have little or no tariffs bringing their products into the country companies almost have to ship their work to third world countries and exploit the cheap labor to stay competitive. Remember to stay stronger and we need to stand together as a union. Don't believe all the rumors you hear. Get the facts. We will break apart if we divide. Our strength is in our union. All those people who stood together 68 years ago sacrificed a lot for us we need to make them proud.

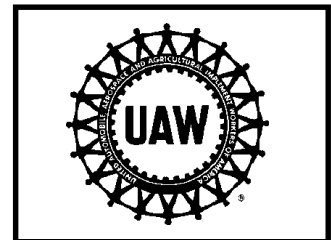
*In Solidarity,
Marsha Anderson-Shearen
Tammy Seaton
Carol Rix*



**FINANCIAL REPORT
UAW Local 879**

JULY, 2009

Marsha Anderson-Shearen, Financial Secretary



BALANCE ALL FUNDS

Balance on hand, July 30, 2009	\$565,312.82
Income, July, 2009	28,583.95
Expenditures, July, 2009	-33,609.30
Balance, July 31, 2009	\$560,287.47

DEATH BENEFIT FUND

Balance on hand, July 31, 2009	\$906,343.88
Income, July 2009	6,884.53
Expenditures, July, 2009	4,000.00
Balance, July 31, 2009.....	\$.909,228.41

Note: If your beneficiary for the Death Benefit Fund has changed since the last time you filled out your beneficiary card, please contact Marsha Anderson - Shearen at the Union Hall for an update. This is your \$1,000.00 life insurance plan through the Union.

INTERNATIONAL STRIKE FUND REPORT -APRIL

The following is a summary of Strike Fund Income and Expenditures for the month of April, 2009.

NET WORTH, MARCH 31, 2009	\$822,732,842.78
INCOME FOR APRIL 2009	
Dues Per Capita Tax	2,927,412.23
TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR	\$825,660,225.01
DISBURSEMENTS FOR APRIL 2009	\$2,460,895.29
NET WORTH, APRIL 30, 2009	\$823,199,359.72

In April there were 9 local unions on strike representing 1158 members.

Many people are asking why union dues were taken out of their check 4 weeks in a row. Because we were off the first two weeks of July, the Company is only taking one-half dues out, so the 3rd and 4th weeks of July were July dues and the next two weeks are August dues. Also the reason for the additional \$1.00 is for the Death Benefit Fund.



If you can eat it, drink it, wear it or ride it...If you can sit on it, play on it, work in it, or stay in it...If you can tell time with it, build with it, cook with it...If you watch it, listen to it, or keep things cold with it...If you use it for work, or just to have fun . . .You can find one made by union workers.

But, did you also know that union members treat you when you're sick and help you stay well? We teach kids and help them stay safe...We make candy and cookies, medicine and machines, rubber tires, bikes and toys...We fight fires, fly airplanes, drive buses and trucks... We build houses and buildings, churches and schools...We make trains, airplanes and boats... and the engines that move them.

We build autos and trucks and the roads that they follow—We run railroads and subways, and ships big and small...We make glasses to wear...and the kind that you drink from... We keep you warm in the winter and cool in the summer...We connect you to family by phone or by mail...We make music and movies and we film tv news...We write newspapers and print them, take pictures and tint them...We harvest your food and staff stores where it's sold. We do thousands of things to make life more secure...So look for the union label, just to be sure.



CONSERVATION NEWS



FROM THE NATURAL WORLD:

A flock of birds, a herd of sheep...a pack of wolves with prey to keep. The Natural World and the animals and insects that inhabit it have always intrigued those who witness their behavior. Collective behavior is present in many living things - birds, mammals, fish and insects. As a result of their coming together, a sense of united decision making actually occurs.

Birds of a feather really do flock together - where they find their strength in numbers. Flying in a mutual formation, they allow their basic instincts and trust in each other to guide them on their way. Fish may act alone in their basic quest for food, but stay connected by forming a social group that swims together - going in the same direction at the same time. Ants join forces as they decide where to build a nest, elephants band together to weigh in on that perfect destination and wolves that hunt and play together, stay together. As an organized assembly by Nature's design - they cooperate, communicate, protect and support. They do this for the benefit of the group itself and ultimately for their own survival.

Within this world of owls and growls, there is a true sense of order - a pecking order, that is. The basic notion of this pecking order is that it is necessary to determine who are "top chicken", "bottom chicken"



and where all the rest fit somewhere in between. Some will challenge and some will attack, but once the social structure is formed - the group learns to live with it and moves forward.

In the animal kingdom, there are leaders and there are followers and somehow each one seems to find its own place. This is accomplished by establishing a system that actually reduces conflicts - for Nature sees conflict as a waste of valuable energy. Energy is vital to hunt, to roam, to feed and to breed.

Unlike the system of our non-human friends who are simply trying to survive, a very different social structure exists within our human species world. Unfortunately, this occurs when competition can lead to selfish and aggressive behavior. Competition for more... wealth, power, or whatever we can get our paws on. All of this at the expense of others... not for the benefit of the pack. This occurs on our streets, our communities, within our union and in our world. Perhaps there is much to be learned from our brothers and sisters in the animal world who understand better than we that "An Injury to One is an Injury to All."

*In Peace and solidarity,
Marilyn Bobick Johnson
Conservation Committee Retiree*

MEMPHIS SOLAR PLANT SERVES HOT NATIONAL MARKET

Every year, IBEW members at the sharp plant in Memphis produce enough solar panels to create about 64 megawatts of electricity, enough power for 14,000 homes.

Sharp Electronics, the second largest manufacturer of photovoltaic solar cells in the world, converted part of its Memphis plant to solar panel production in 2003, its first panel manufacturing facility outside of Japan.

The U.S. is now the fastest growing market in the world for photovoltaic installations though it trails far behind the installed solar capacity of countries like Germany and Japan, which have strong national energy policies directing them towards renewable sources.

One of the few unionized solar producers in the U.S., Sharp employs about 190 members of the International Brotherhood of electrical Workers (IBEW). The plant employed 450 union members making Sharp televisions until 2000 when those jobs were outsourced to Mexico.

Growing consumer and commercial demand for photovoltaic devices makes the U.S. market worth targeting. Memphis' central location along the Mississippi River, and links to other transportation routes, means that Sharp can easily serve both coasts.

Kenneth Ingram, business manager at Memphis IBEW Local 474, and a former chief steward at the plant sees a new manufacturing horizon in new clean energy tech-

nologies. He says green industries can reverse the trend of lost manufacturing in the U.S.

A good example, he says, is the Sharp plant, which is currently considering expanding to keep up with demand. It currently has about half the U.S. market share in photovoltaic panels.

According to Ingram, relations between the IBEW and Sharp's Memphis management are cooperative and cordial. In fact, academics have concluded that the plant's progressive labor relations are a major factor in its success.

For more information about Sharp's solar energy initiatives, go to: <http://solar.sharpeusa.com/solar/home>.

TRUSTEES REPORT

TRUSTEE'S AUDIT REPORT

UAW Local 879

Period: January 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009

On July 20, 21, 22, 23 30, 2009, the undersigned Trustees completed an examination of the books and records. We certify that to the best of our knowledge the information in this report is true and correct.

1. Disbursements were accurately reflected in the Union's records and issued for legitimate purposes.
2. Receipts were accurately reflected in the Union's records and deposited to the Union's bank account.
3. A physical inventory of the Union's fixed assets was done at this time.
4. The Union appears to be complying with the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act's provisions for the financial reporting, record-keeping, bonding and loans.
5. The Union appears to be using good internal financial control with the following exceptions:

We found disbursement vouchers not complete. These are the requirements to complete the form: Name, date, last four only (do not use complete SS #), what the voucher is for, date of the event, how many days gone, hours worked, location (include transportation, airfare, taxis, motel/hotel accommodations). Give full details for "Union Business" as to people, purpose and place. Signature and date: Use ink only. Absolutely no signatures to be completed in pencil. The Recording Secretary and President are both required signatures on the vouchers prior to receiving the check. Keep like items on one voucher at a time. For example: Do not combine paycheck hours and office supplies on the same voucher.

· Both current members and retirees continue to purchase at WalMart/Sam's Club. They are not friendly to labor unions.

· We found that members are using personal charge cards for Union Business i.e. hotel, airfare for themselves and other members, while earning perks/

miles/rewards. We also found members using personal charge cards for buying raffle prizes for Union events i.e. Christmas Party, etc. This is not proper and should be discontinued. This applies to retired members also.

· We found cash in three envelopes that is not accounted for. One envelope contained an overage from the Union Picnic allowance, which has been there for 5 weeks, the other two were not identified. This money should be deposited on a weekly basis into the proper accounts.

· We have found chairs/tables are being borrowed by members and checked out but not returned. An updated revision of the check out process has been put into place. The Financial Secretary is to follow up on the return of the borrowed items and make sure they are returned in a timely manner.

· We have found a continued need to complete a building inventory every 6 months.

· We found two holidays Martin Luther King, January 19, 2009 and Memorial Day, May 25, 2009 were paid by both Ford Motor Company and the Union to the Financial Secretary. Both Holidays overages need to be paid back by the financial secretary. Upon further investigation the trustees found a voided check voucher (#17075) from May 26, 2008 Memorial Day written by the financial secretary stating "I don't get holiday pay." Then as a follow-up to this the next 5 holidays in 2008 were not paid according to the financial secretaries check vouchers.

TRUSTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We do not patronize businesses that are not union/labor friendly i.e. WalMart/Sam's Club.

2. The Trustee's fixed assets audit was reviewed and updated. We did a thorough cleaning of the lower level and took some damaged/broken/obsolete items off

the books.

3. Receipts need to be received in a timely manner for verification of travel and expenses.

4. Expense checks should be cashed in a timely manner.

5. No cash is to be kept at the Hall except for petty cash (\$35.00).

6. Any office equipment purchase requires prior approval by the Executive Board. Disposable items i.e. paper clips, tapes, t.p., cleaning supplies, etc. do not require this approval.

7. Checks which have been approved to be dispersed need to be made out by the Financial Secretary in a timely manner.

8. The Financial Secretary may open ONLY mail that is addressed to the Local Union or to the Financial Secretary.

9. No more money is to be approved for prizes for Union sponsored (adult or children) parties until the prizes found in the Hall's basement are used.

10. Lost time reports from Ford Motor Company need to be completed weekly by the Financial Secretary as inadvertent double pay could occur.

11. We need a list of winners for all prizes and giveaways. This accountability lies with the Committees. The Trustees need this information for their checks and balances.

12. Caretakers must note on the voucher the day and event worked for.

13. For a complete and accurate audit, there must be a paper trail.

14. That the Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Marsha Anderson-Shearen reimburse Ford Motor Company 32 hours of vacation pay for the week ending July 3, 2009. That she also give written authority to the company to allow President Danielson access to verify that information. Per the Local President's recommendation, we also recommend that a complete audit of Local 879's finances is necessary.

*Rori Green
Benjamin Gross
Jody Greer
July 30, 2009*

VETS REPORT

To begin, I would like to say “thank you” to the loyal Brothers and Sisters of this Local. The Veterans Committee, like ALL Committees can only operate at your leisure. Thanks to you I am proud to announce that over the last 20 years UAW Region 4 Vets have been able to raise over ONE MILLION DOLLARS!!

Not one dime has ever been kept – NOBODY makes money at this and for those few who want to see tangible results, well, if Ron Caliri’s smile isn’t enough, then maybe you ought to join us at one of our functions like Vets Day 9 in Illinois on August 19th, Wisconsin Vet Day September 26th at Union Grove Vets Home. If you can’t make it there because of time and/or distance, then how about our own Minnesota Vets Day 9 at the Hastings Veterans Home at 1200 E 18th Street on September 19th. We also bring our heroes from the Vets home near the plant. Do this and you will have more than a Caliri smile, you’ll have the heartfelt knowledge that you did a NOBLE thing.

To my chagrin, there are those who do not support what we do - what we, as Vets have done. I make no excuses because I can’t think of any (especially in time of war). This Local has made a difference. Anyone can send money to a cause (and

there’s nothing wrong with that) but when you send human tools to do a humane task, it just means that much more.

In 1988, Region 9 and Region 4 merged and as legends have it, they all came to meet one another. As what usually happens, the Vets sort of magnetically come together under that big tree in Ottawa, IL. Les Bacskai, Dennis Eternike, Wally Kubicki, Bob Flores, as well as our own Jim Eagle, were among the first. They all seemed to have Vet Committees at their Locals but none regionally. Dennis Williams (USMC) joined them as did a few others. A plan was set in motion and Region 4 Veterans was born! Our brothers and sisters from near and far shared their gifts, ideas, and talents in the years to come. They then took their ideas to their states and did what they could. It helped, but it wasn’t enough. That’s when it was decided to pool all our resources from all 4 states and present our checks to one of the 4 states. These states would take turns and that is when things really started to cook. Now it’s a million dollars later – wow- we did that – YOU did that! Now we are here in the twilight years at TCAP. Some would say “Well done, soldier, now go rest”, but I don’t think so. I think we should get bigger, badder and busier than ever. I say – Let’s give it all we got!! Ron and I are both Veterans. He was in ‘Nam

and I was in Beirut (there’s 2 of us at this plant). You don’t have to be a Vet to be on the Committee. All are welcome. I work on the channel job on the south end of Trim Line 2. If you wish to join, I’ll need your name, number (cell?) and where you work. A couple of you have tried to get hold of me – my apologies, but don’t give up. Although we primarily raise support for those who have served this great country, we also strive to be up to date regarding legislation pertaining to those still serving. We actively strive on behalf of those who answered the call. That toed the line for young and old in exchange of little more than a little well-deserved respect and a small piece of land to be buried in!

Local 879 has historically enabled its representatives to bring dignity to those who served their country. You sent more than money, food, clothing (although you did that too) but you also sent willing hearts and able hands. I am honored that you allowed two of those hands to be mine. Supporting our Vets has been our heritage for a long time now.

I hope and pray we can carry that tradition to the end. Visit www.region4uawvets.com for more info.

*Semper Fidelis,
Thomas Epperson*

TAA UPDATE

State TAA and Rapid Response staff met with Jim Eagle, Ronda Danielson, Tracy Ausen, Anne Marie Zore and John Walker from Quality Career Services on Tuesday, August 18th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the changes in the new Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) law that was passed as part of the federal stimulus package. One of the changes incorporates a recognition of ‘at risk’ workers that are threatened with layoff. The new law allows for training assistance for adversely affected incumbent workers. This describes the status of the current workforce at TCAP.

Prior to the new law, the previous law was governed by a 60-day rule, which said that a petition could not be submitted unless a permanent layoff of 3 or more workers was scheduled to occur within 60 days or

less. The new law has changed that; however the regulations on this have not been finalized yet. After discussing this with the group, it was decided that we would look at the status of the closing sometime in early 2010 and decide if it is appropriate to file a petition at that time. We have had much better success getting TAA petitions certified when the petition is submitted by the State, rather than a group of workers or the employer.

We will keep you informed on this as we get into next year. Anyone seeking training assistance currently should be sure to get enrolled in the dislocated Workers Program for Ford. Training funds are currently available for approved training plans.

*Mike Goldman,
Rapid Response Team*

If Possible we would appreciate a link from your site to our union made site that supplies clothing to Union Members. Union Made Golf Shirts as little as \$10.00.

We have blank ready to wear clothing or is you wish we have most union logos in our library for decorated items. We are licensed to place the UAW logo on our products.

Visit our sale pages for Mens & Womens Discounts on Apparel www.unionlabel.com is our main website. Email me for a free catalog or log on for some great deals on Union Made Products.

*In Solidarity,
Max, Union House
Shop Members of
IUPAT L.U 880
6514627710*

CAP CONNECTION . . .

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

With the one year anniversary of the historic presidential election fast approaching, now is a good time to take inventory of the issues being intensely debated at the federal, state and local levels. It is extremely important that we DO NOT rest on our laurels because of what we accomplished in November. We must build on the momentum from the election and continue to fight for; fair wages, healthcare reform and working class families.

We have a responsibility to be informed on these issues so that we can do our part in gaining support for issues that our vital to our working class lifestyles. The healthcare

reform debate is growing more intense by the day. Right wing conservatives are conjuring up exaggerated horror stories of the chaos a national healthcare plan would produce. We can nullify these scare tactics if we understand the issues ourselves. Just Google *Organizing America* to get the facts on this very important issue.

We also need to continue to push support of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). This legislation has lost some of its visibility. Conservatives want to amend the legislation so that it will in essence defeat the purpose it was written to achieve. If the EFCA legislation is comprised it will put organized labor at the mercy of Wall Street boardroom executives.

We must develop a sense of urgency brothers & sisters; the job is far from done! I urge you to get involved with your local political organizations, attend events and make sure our quality of life is protected, it is our responsibility! There are numerous opportunities to get involved and get informed. We are still looking for more members to be a part of our local 879 CAP committee. You can also research these issues at one of the following websites: <http://www.uaw.org/>; <http://www.barackobama.com/>

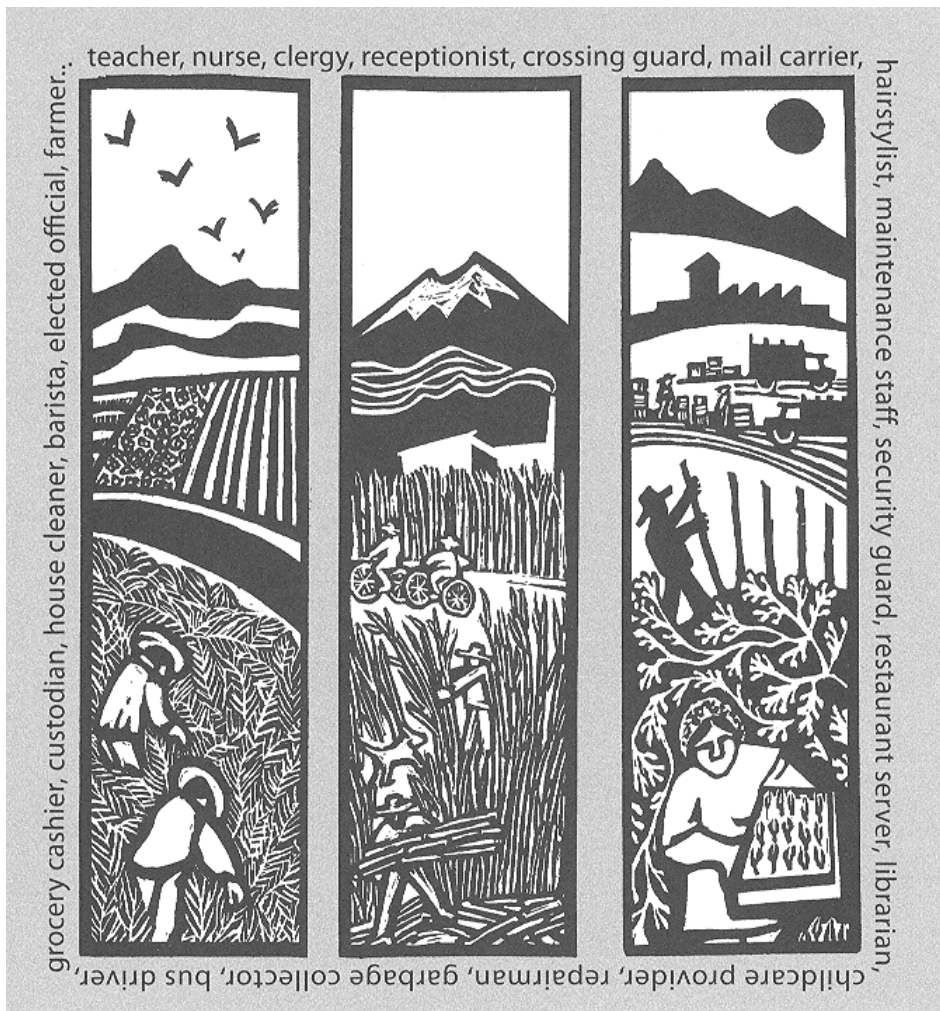
In Solidarity
David Perkins
 CAP Committee Co-chair

Court Oks \$54 Million Wal-Mart Settlement

A Minnesota court has approved a \$54.25 million settlement in which Wal-Mart will compensate about 100,000 current and former employees for pay they were denied during their training.

The court had found earlier that Wal-Mart had violated state laws more than 2 million times by failing to provide and pay for employee breaks, pay for training, and maintain proper records. The violations occurred from 1998 to 2008.

The workers will get a minimum payment of \$100 each if they worked at least 57 days and filled out the short claim forms that made them part of the suit. The state will get \$14 million and the team of 16 attorneys who filed the class action suit will get \$25 million for their time and expenses.



We give thanks - for the work of your hands.

He blazed a path Franken can follow

By Jasaun (Jay) Boone



Al Franken has some huge shoes to fill. Not only does the resolution of Minnesota's longest election give Democrats the coveted filibuster-resistant 60th vote in the U.S. Senate, but more important, Franken will assume the seat formerly held by the revered Senator Paul Wellstone, who died in office almost seven years ago. Political history buffs and everyday Minnesotans alike are aware that, similar to political icons Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale, Wellstone embodied a rich tradition and mystique with respect to embracing progressive public policy and social agenda.

As Franken and his newly minted senior staff members begin to shape policies, they should never lose sight of the significance of Wellstone's tenure nor of the will of the residents of Minnesota. The Franken staff should remain mindful that as much as the 2008 election was a judgment on the failed Bush administration, policies of the previous eight years, it was also a mandate on behalf of Minnesotans who believed the Senate seat belonged in hands more empathetic than Senator Norm Coleman's.

Many Wellstone loyalists worked tirelessly this past electoral cycle under the assumption that electing a progressive, Democratic senator would return a prominent Minnesotan "voice for the voiceless" to Congress. Despite what many critics deemed as a lackluster campaign operation during the DFL primary campaign and portions of the general-election season, Franken successfully crossed the finish line largely due to the grass-roots efforts of his state's progressive community.

I often reflect on one frigid Sunday morning in fall 2002 when I briefed Sen. Wellstone before an appearance at Pilgrim

Baptists Church in St. Paul. I had provided him with extensive talking points and wanted to be certain that he stayed on message. Once he entered the pulpit, in vintage form, Wellstone disregarded the presentation I had prepared and spoke passionately to the congregation about the issues that had an impact on their everyday lives. In retrospect, I have grown to believe that he had truly internalized how the highly contested issues and social injustices of today inevitably affect the lives of tomorrow. Through this realization, Wellstone effortlessly ward off engulfment by the bureaucracy of Washington.

Because of his unwillingness to succumb to the ills that plague life within the Beltway, Wellstone cultivated a loyal following that ultimately ushered in the new Franken era. Undoubtedly, Sen. Franken will offer his own distinct brand of public service as he adjusts to his new role, and rightfully so. But as he begins to develop his own voice on the Senate floor, perhaps he should use the Wellstone template as a gateway to fast-tracked relevance and influence within Congress.

We can surmise from Wellstone's statements and legislative voting record how he would approach many of the issues that face us today – and how he would engage the Obama administration. Because of Wellstone's long fight to pass his mental-health parity bill, which eliminated inequity between those afflicted by mental-health disorders and their insurance providers, certainly he would have been a vocal supporter of the health care reform initiative by Sen. Ted Kennedy, a close friend.

More than likely, Wellstone would applaud the administration's use of a new form of diplomacy in America's efforts to reach reconciliation with nondemocratic members of the global community, and he would support the president's unwillingness to kowtow to Republican scrutiny for not exercising a more hawkish stance on the world stage. However, if we use Wellstone's 2001 autobiography, "The Conscience of a Liberal" as evidence of what his beliefs would be in 2009, he would have been very critical of the administration's recent decision to pull back on attempts to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996. The legislation enables the federal government and states to withstand recognizing same-sex marriages performed throughout the

country. Wellstone, who initially supported the measure, wrote in his autobiography that as his gay supporters educated him on the issue, he came to believe that he may have made a grave mistake.

Most political history buffs would concur that the moment that cemented the political legacy of Paul Wellstone was his 2002 vote against the use of force in Iraq. I distinctly remember having lunch with Wellstone, his wife, Sheila, and campaign staff members on the Sunday before the controversial resolution vote would reach the Senate floor. Aware of his dilemma but emotionally engaged about the prospects of American waging war on foreign soil, a female staff member pleaded for the senator to reveal to the campaign team his intent on the vote. Wellstone admitted to being unable to commit to a decision. However, he assured the staff members that his vote would be one of personal conviction and not one tarred by political pander.

Risky at the time, Wellstone's vote against the war would have propelled him as a powerful voice within the anti-Iraq war movement. As the only senator in a close reelection race to not support the war, he probably would have gone on to lead the charge within the Senate to return troops from Iraq in a timely manner.

Regardless of partisan view or affiliation, freshmen officeholders such as Franken and senior members of Congress alike should find it fascinating that many of our most pressing issues of today were addressed years ago by Senator Wellstone – at politically inopportune times. When politicians truly seek to improve people's lives and lessen human suffering, they often end up well ahead of the curve. The late senator and his legacy provide much groundwork for Franken. With a seasoned legislative team intact, the new senator-elect has been awarded all of the necessary tools to make his own mark within the U.S. Senate.

-Jasaun (Jay) Boone is managing partner at Gateway Strategies LLC and is Democratic strategist for MS-NBC. He was deputy political director and director of African American outreach for Sen. Paul Wellstone's reelection campaign in 2002.

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HONORABLE MENTION

Twin City Ford Local 879 UAW
2191 Ford Parkway
St Paul MN 55116

Dear Friends,

Summer is here! While it is a much better time of year than winter for our guests, it still hold its own struggles. Many have been coming in seeking cool rags and ice water to help beat the heat. Dehydration, heat exhaustion and foot problems are all common. Fortunately, partially because of you we have the resources to help folks with foot soaks, salves, bandages, clean socks, air conditioning, liquids and rest. All are much appreciated!

On behalf of our guests staff and board of directors I offer you my sincere gratitude for your gift of \$100, hygiene and hospital-ity items. It will go toward offering this summertime respite.

Thank you so much for your very generous donation. We so appreciate when people gear it to specifically what we need.

Sincerely,
Julie Borgerding
Program Director
Listening House of St. Paul, Inc.

P.S. We have a former Ford worker and UAW member on our staff now. He got a severance package from Ford for a college full ride. He currently is a full-time student and works part-time for us. He's an excellent addition to our staff.

Picture #1

Amanda Roberts, Rachel Milliron, Matt Pfundstein, Kari Altema
Not Pictured: Ronda Danielson and Marsha Anderson-Shearen

Picture #2

Amanda Roberts, Ronda Danielson, Rachel Milliron
Not Pictured: Kari Altema and Marsha Anderson-Shearen

Picture #3

Listening House of St. Paul



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October, 2009

In Minnesota last year, at least 25 children were left without a mother due to domestic violence murders. At least 21 women were killed in domestic violence situations in 2008. 13 of the 21 women had left or were attempting to leave their partners. Leaving is one of the most dangerous times for a person leaving a relationship involving violence.

If you or someone you know is in a violent relationship, please get help from a shelter or advocacy program. There are safety plans which an advocate can help you create to assist you in your safety. A typical safety plan looks like this:

1. Having important phone numbers nearby for you and your children. Numbers to have are the police, hotlines, friends and the local shelter.

2. Friends or neighbors you could tell about the abuse. Ask them to call the police if they hear angry or violent noises. If you have children, teach them how to dial 911. Make up a code word that you can use when you need help.

3. How to get out of your home safely. Practice ways to get out.

4. Safer places in your home where there are exits and no weapons. If you feel abuse is going to happen try to get your abuser to one of these safer places.

5. Any weapons in the house. Think about ways that you could get them out of the house.

6. Even if you do not plan to leave, think of where you could go. Think of how you might leave. Try doing things that get you out of the house - taking out the trash, walking the pet or going to the store. Put together a bag of things you use everyday (see the checklist below). Hide it where it is easy for you to get.

7. Going over your safety plan often.

If you consider leaving your abuser, think about...

1. Four places you could go if you leave your home.

2. People who might help you if you left. Think about people who will keep a bag for you. Think about people who might lend you money. Make plans for your pets.

3. Keeping change for phone calls or getting a cell phone.

4. Opening a bank account or getting a credit card in your name.

5. How you might leave. Try doing things that get you out of the house - taking out the trash, walking the family pet, or going to the store. Practice how you would leave.

6. How you could take your children with you safely. There are times when taking your children with you may put all of your lives in danger. You need to protect yourself to be able to protect your children.

7. Putting together a bag of things you use everyday. Hide it where it is easy for you to get.

8. Think about reviewing your safety plan often.

ITEMS TO TAKE, IF POSSIBLE

- Children (if it is safe)
- Money
- Keys to car, house, work
- Extra clothes
- Medicine
- Important papers for you and your children
- Birth certificates
- Social security cards
- School and medical records
- Bankbooks, credit cards
- Driver's license
- Car registration
- Welfare identification
- Passports, green cards, work permits
- Lease/rental agreement
- Mortgage payment book, unpaid bills
- Insurance papers
- OFP, divorce papers, custody orders
- Address book
- Pictures, jewelry, things that mean a lot to you
- Items for your children (toys, blankets, etc.)

If you have left your abuser, think about...

1. Your safety - you still need to!

2. Getting a cell phone.

3. Getting an OFP from the court. Keep a copy with you all the time. Give a copy to the police, people who take care of your children, their schools and your boss.

4. Changing the locks. Consider putting in stronger doors, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, a security system and outside lights.

5. Telling friends and neighbors that your abuser no longer lives with you. Ask them to call the police if they see your

abuser near your home or children.

6. Telling people who take care of your children the names of people who are allowed to pick them up. If you have an OFP protecting your children, give their teachers and babysitters a copy of it.

7. Telling someone at work about what has happened. Ask that person to screen your calls. If you have an OFP that includes where you work, consider giving your boss a copy of it and a picture of the abuser. Think about and practice a safety plan for your workplace. This should include going to and from work.

8. Not using the same stores or businesses that you did when you were with your abuser.

9. Someone that you can call if you feel down. Call that person if you are thinking about going to a support group or workshop.

10. Safe way to speak with your abuser if you must.

11. Going over your safety plan often.

This safety plan was from the website: www.domesticviolence.org.

The Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE.

For a list of agencies in Minnesota please visit: www.aardvarc.org/dv/states/minndv.shtml

For help in Wisconsin please visit: www.wcadv.org/

Scott Hasselbring is our UAW-Ford ESSP Representative. He can connect you with resources you may need. He can also get you in contact with TEAM, Total Employee Assistance Management, which offers confidential counseling. Scott's in-plant phone number is 651-696-0616. TEAM's phone number is 651-642-0182 or toll free: 1-800-627-3529.

Statistics used in the first paragraph were from the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. To read more on domestic violence in MN, please go to www.mcbw.org and look for the Femicide Reports.

*In Solidarity and Safety,
Kari Altema
Women's Committee Chair*

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast cancer is among the most common cancer which women are diagnosed. It has no racial boundaries; however, Caucasian women have a higher rate of developing this type of cancer. Even though Caucasian women have a higher rate of developing it, African Americans have a higher rate of dying from this disease. Screening for this disease can help save your life. It is important to maintain regular screenings. Mammograms should be scheduled every year starting at age 40. Women should have clinical breast exams every three years starting at age 20. After the age of 40, they should be increased to every year. Please talk to your doctor about regular screenings.

Here is a list of resources which you can get more information on Breast Cancer:

Susan G. Komen for the Cure
1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-456-6636)
www.komen.org

American Cancer Society
1-800-ACS-2345
www.cancer.org

Intercultural Cancer Council
www.iccnetwork.org

National Cancer Institute
1-800-4-CANCER
www.cancer.gov

Breast Cancer Network of Strength
1-800-221-2141
www.networkofstrength.org/information

*In Solidarity,
Kari Altema
Women's Committee Chair*



Ever have situations bother you enough where it interferes with your happiness, well-being, or peace? Here is a poem I have held dear for a very long time. It is a great way of helping "let go" of excess "baggage" or emotional clutter. I hope you find this helpful.



Let go...

To "let go" does not mean to stop caring, it means I can't do it for someone else.

To "let go" is not to cut myself off, it's the realization I can't control another.

To "let go" is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences.

To "let go" is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another, it's to make the most of myself.

To "let go" is not to care for, but to care about.

To "let go" is not to fix, but to be supportive.

To "let go" is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

To "let go" is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes but to allow others to affect their destinies.

To "let go" is not to be protective, it's to permit another to face reality.

To "let go" is not to deny, but to accept.

To "let go" is not to nag, scold, or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.

To "let go" is not to adjust everything to my desires but to take each day as it comes, and cherish myself in it.

To "let go" is not to criticize and regulate anybody but to try to become what I dream I can be.

To "let go" is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.

To "let go" is to fear less, and love more. ~-Author Unknown.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kari Altema, Women's Committee Chair.



Are you looking for a place to help out and volunteer your time? There is a website called I Can Help Twin Cities (icanhelptwincities.com) which will help you find a perfect match for what you would like to do and where you would like to donate your time. The website is very easy to use whether you are looking to volunteer or an organization looking for volunteers.

Recently, I found a place to help pack food pouches for Kids Against Hunger through the website. My two boys and I volunteered a few hours on a Saturday to help pack food for children in Haiti and Nicaragua. It was a very rewarding thing to do knowing we were helping children who desperately need nutritious food. While we were there, the board count went from 51,000 meals packed to over 100,000 meals packed. It was very exciting! My boys, 11 and 13, seemed to really take pride in what they were doing knowing they were helping children from a country their heritage stems from.

Volunteering is a great way of giving back to your community. It lifts the spirits of everyone involved. Take a few minutes and see what you can do. Volunteering can be a very rewarding experience if you are willing to donate your time.

*In Solidarity,
Kari Altema*

BARGAINER'S REPORT

First I would like to thank the membership for taking the time to go and vote in the elections that took place in May. I appreciate all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as our UAW Bargainer. I took office immediately after the election results and have been busy dealing with issues in Paint, Body and Material Handling Departments ever since. I will continue to do my best to serve the membership. I also feel it is important that the membership and the leadership, work together in doing our best to keep this plant open and operating.

Feel free to ask me any questions you may have. You can call me in-plant @60477; you can stop by the Committee office, or catch me when I'm out walking the floor. I am here for you.

*In solidarity,
Marcus Carpenter
UAW Local 879 Bargainer*

I want to thank everyone who voted for me for Guide. It is an honor to serve this great membership. The experience has been eye opening to say the least. Please feel free to come to me with any concerns you may have. I want to be your voice on the Board.

*In Solidarity,
Tammy Mansfield
UAW Local 879 Guide*

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Civil Rights Committee is an essential guardian of the "No Discrimination" policy of our union. Members of this committee fulfill the local union's commitment to assure members full rights regardless of religion, race, creed, color, sex, political affiliation, national origin, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

The committee informs members of steps and procedures, including filing complaints and hearings, whenever a member or members believe their rights have been violated, either by management or other union members. The committee works toward the elimination of discrimination in the workplace, the community and the nation. Members of this committee have the opportunity to keep the local union moving forward toward the fulfillment of our UAW commitment on the civil rights front.

This committee needs members who feel a moral obligation to speak out on the issues of intolerance, injustice and bigotry and to rebuke any person or group that expresses such activity.

Brothers and Sisters,
We would like to thank the membership for giving us, a few members of the Civil Rights Committee, the opportunity to attend the Civil and Human Rights Conference at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Education Center at Black Lake near Onaway, Michigan. It was truly a worthwhile experience and an eye-opener. We learned a great deal about the many aspects of civil and human rights.

The theme of the conference was "Reaffirming Civil and Human Rights for All". The classes were broken down into categories such as Civil Rights Policy/Procedure and Laws, Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment, Civil and Human Rights history, just to name a few.

These classes were very intense and we feel compelled to bring back what we learned to our membership. We plan to distribute information to everyone. Our UAW President Ron Gettelfinger gave a speech encouraging us to get every working individual to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

We are glad to be a part of this Committee and thank you all again.

*In solidarity,
UAW Local 879
Civil Rights Committee*



YOU ARE INVITED TO

THE 2009 ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

WHEN: OCTOBER 31ST 2-4 PM

WHERE: LOCAL 879 UNION HALL

WHAT TO WEAR: YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE - THEMED COSTUMES FOR OUR ON STAGE COSTUME SHOW! ALL COSTUMES WELCOME!

PRIZES, CANDY, FOOD, GAMES, KID'S DJ, FACE PAINTING, CARICATURES!

SPONSORED BY UAW LOCAL 879 RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Local 879 Recreation Committee is seeking new members. If you are interested in working on events for our members and their families, contact President Ronda Danielson in the plant.

PRESSING MATTERS....

It's Time to Pick Our Battles Carefully!

We have become a divided and distracted Local. We have become a Local divided over an issue of whether to pay our elected Recording Secretary for two days work a month. We have become a Local distracted by this issue and the conflict surrounding it. Instead of being a united Local fighting for our jobs and our future, we are a divided Local fighting over an issue that in two years when the plant closes will be insignificant.

For the past two and a half years, Local 879 has had no By-Laws Committee. Instead, past practice or precedence has it that by-law changes go to the E-Board and then to the highest power, the membership for approval. This is also the process at other Locals where no By-Laws Committee exists.

Three months ago, at the June membership meeting, the by-law change to pay the Recording Secretary two days wages a month was voted on and approved by the

membership. The by-law change has since been approved by International UAW President, Ron Gettelfinger, the highest elected official in the UAW.

Not everyone agrees with this change or the way it was handled. Change and conflict are inevitable and go hand in hand. Change, conflict and disagreement can often be productive. We have a newly formed By-Law Committee and members have become more involved in Union activities. People have become passionate and understand that their voices can be heard.

Change and conflict can also be destructive. It is easy for people to dwell on the conflict instead of moving forward and focusing on what is really important. Time and energy that can be used productively is instead consumed in the conflict. The conflict becomes a distraction. It's dramatic, it makes the day go by quickly, it can be exciting, and it takes our mind off the plant closing. None the less, it is destructive.

It's time to stop the destruction and put things into perspective. Why are we fighting amongst ourselves when we should be using our valuable time, resources and energy to keep the plant open? It's time to move forward. Two years from now when the plant is closed and no one is getting paid, will the months we spent arguing over two days pay/month for the Recording Secretary really be seen as productive or a victory for anyone?

It's time to unite and pick our battles carefully. It's time to focus our energy and support and voices on the issues that affect ALL of us. Five months is far too long to spend on an issue of this magnitude. We have a much bigger battle ahead of us; one that affects our jobs and our future. For many of us, it is the biggest battle of our lives.

Remember: United we stand, divided we fall.

*In Solidarity,
Tracy Ausen*

FORD BRAZIL LAUNCHES THE NEW 2010 FORD RANGER

Ford Brazil is launching the new 2010 Ford Ranger with a new design and exclusive features that reinforce the pickup truck's comfort and convenience.

The truck recently was presented to 120 Brazilian motoring media from all over the country during a 3-day event in Campinas, Sao Paulo. The auto journalists test drove the vehicle over more than 75 miles in an on-road and off-road experience testing all the truck's features and confirming its "Built Ford Tough" reputation.

The most influential automotive magazines and newspapers had already test driven the truck during a pre-preview in July and the positive news stories are all over the media.

"Ford is largely known as experts in the pickup truck segment and Ford Ranger is the icon of this status with more than 6.5 million vehicles produced around the world. The Ford Ranger has been in Brazil for 15

years and is sold throughout the South American market," noted Marcos de Oliveira, president, Ford Brazil and Mercosur.

The new model will soon be on sale in the Brazilian market, with a total of 18 possible configurations. The new Ranger will be available in Regular Cab and four-door Super Cab versions with two engine choices: 3.0L 16V Power Stroke Turbo Diesel electronic, and 1.2 L 16V Duratec High flow (gasoline).

Responses from a clinical research study with pickup customers from across South America served as the guide to the new design development and the result is a pickup truck even more modern and robust, with attributes that reflect the pickup's traditional toughness and power. The changes made focused primarily on style evolution and quality.

"The new design is the most important

change to the pickup, making it have a more modern and robust appeal. Ford Ranger is a traditional model that has the "customers' trust," says Wilson Vasconcellos, product manager.

Beyond the style, cost-benefit improvements, the 2010 Ford Ranger offers more features at an affordable price. Compared to the competition the Ford model is the best choice for the consumer.





LIFE AFTER FORD

Notes from the Outside



Heard a good 'roomer' a few days ago. (Oops, I know that it is not spelled like the guy living in a boarding house, but you know what I mean). Besides, what do you expect from a retired electrician who writes this stuff and uses his own computer, printer, paper and time for nothing? Well, you know; you get what you pay for.

Let's get back to the subject. The "Ye Olde Ford Plant" was a great place for rumors flying back and forth. To refresh your memory: Steam Plant guys having nets in the water, taking fish out and selling them; the Hydro guys growing mushrooms in the high-voltage cable tunnels and selling them; Yard crew growing marywanna (can't spell that either, so let's just call it pot) around the pine trees behind the warehouse and along the tracks. A "lady of the night" plying her trade in the parking lot, but not the salaried end of the lot.

Go to the Employment Office and get your Thanksgiving Turkey, Henry Ford's Birthday Bonus to all workers, the car built with two doors on the left side and one door on the right. "Nuff of that, you can add your own remembrances to these.

Anyhow a fellow retiree Dale Haag shared this one with me. Ford hired a new member to the Plant Guard force at Twin Cities Assembly. His first name was Leo. He was assigned the graveyard shift (Midnight to 8 AM) and told to sit in the guard's office and keep watch on the multiple video

screens from cameras located out in the plant. What he was watching for was ghosts out in the plant. If he did see ghosts, he was to call a certain phone number and they would send a team of people to the plant to remove them, much like the Ghostbusters program on TV. It is said that the reason the ghosts are in the plant is that the building is built on the former site of a burial ground (for whom?) and a church.

Well, if there are wandering spirits in that building, who would know better than the group of skilled tradesmen, we knew as 'Pumpmen'. They worked all shifts, weekends, down time, 24/7, 365 days per year. If ever there was anyone in that plant who ran into the strangest things, it was that group. If any of you retired Pumpmen ever heard of this or have seen a ghost, let me know so that we can put this 'roomer' to rest.

If you missed 2 Retiree events this summer, you missed a good time with your fellow retirees. One was the Annual Pig Roast at Garrison, MN. Food was great, lots of Ford hourly and salaried people in attendance. It was good to see Kenny Anderson, Toolmaker plus, and get news of his brother Jerry, who is living in Florida. Hey, Jerry, do you still call me Rotten Robert"? If you do, I will still call you "Jerky Jerry". The best to you, Jerry! Met up with Blackie Barthel and his son, Mark. Have not seen them since January 1, 1996 when Ford bid me good-bye and good riddance. Could go on, but will close this for now.

The other event was the Annual Local 879 Retiree Picnic at Battle Creek Park in St. Paul. I believe there were about 300 folks at this event. As usual, the food was great and people meeting and greeting was the order of the day. Glad to see some of the widows of Ford retirees there as they shared a lot of memories of 'yesteryear' with the folks at their tables. They are always welcome at any of the Local 879 events. Thanks for coming.

Just a note: Mark this on your calendar: October 8th Ford Retirees Get-together with

salaried and hourly at the Apple Valley American Legion Post Clubrooms, 14521 Granada Drive. Just a bunch of Ford retirees having a get-together to swap stories – not all of them true, but all fun to hear.

Reminder: Retirees meeting the 3rd Monday of each month at the Hall at 1:30 PM. Would like to see you there.

Cubby Johnson

RETIREES

JULY 1, 2009



Jeff Bloomquist
7-1-2009

LUNCH WITH THE BUNCH
Ford hourly and salaried
Get-together
Thursday, October 8, 2009
11:00 AM
Apple Valley American Legion
14521 Granada Drive
Apple Valley MN
Better halves cordially invited

RETIREES' CHAPTER MEETINGS

September 21, 2009 1:30 PM
October 19, 2009 1:30 PM
November 16, 2009 1:30 PM

December 21, 2009 12:00 noon
Retirees Christmas Party

BREAST CANCER 3 DAY

AUG 21, 22, 23

This year I had the opportunity to do something BOLD something SELFLESS. I joined THE BREAST CANCER 3 DAY.

After months of training, logging hundreds of miles, writing letters and soliciting family, friends and co-workers; the day of the walk had finally arrived.

The 2009 Twin Cities Breast Cancer 3-Day began with an emotional opening ceremony at Southdale Center in Edina. Despite the rain and clouds, our spirits were bright. The community was out in full force encouraging us along. We walked along Lake Harriett, Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles. Our 20-mile day ended at Macalester College.

Saturday's 22.7-mile day brought blue skies and sunshine. Cheering stations were packed with friends and family. Beautiful wooded trails provided shade from the sun and the "Comfort Zone" cooled us down with water sprays and wet wipes.

Sunday was another gorgeous day. We walked down beautiful trails and enjoyed cheering stations at the North St. Paul Tap & Grill and Indians Mounds Park. We kept our eyes on the finish line the State Capitol. As we walked along downtown St Paul we rested in grassy designated area and met with family and friends before gathering for the closing ceremony on the capital grounds.

The money we raised will help Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund to help save lives.

It has been an experience I will never forget. I met an amazing group of people. All working in unison for the same good to find a cure and erradicate this deadly disease.

To everyone who encouraged me, supported and sponsored me, you were the in my thoughts the whole 60 miles.

*Thank You,
Lisa Startek*

Hello to all at UAW 879! This is a special update from one of the transfers (Robert Taylor) about the Parts Distribution Network. There are 19 PDC's in all and I believe Ford will be announcing the closing of 4 PDC's soon.

Our membership is no longer the 104 that existed when we 5 transferred from TCAP to Sacramento in 2007. Our hourly rolls are now 71, with 3 out of the 5 transfers having left Ford. The shifts are no longer days and nights and are a combination of the 2 called a "Super- Shift" with start times of noon and 2:30 PM. This has resulted in cost savings of between \$8-9 million throughout the PDC network.

Most of the PDC's have implemented the ILO and as of this writing our facility has no one in ILO or GEN. We work 8 hours per day with voluntary 2 to 3 hour per day and some Saturdays, depending on the Dealer order volumes.

My training here is on - going. With my supervisor's patience, it took almost the

last 2 years to get where my counterparts were and I feel like there is so much more I need to learn. Job assignments can be at a fast pace and you can be assigned another as you complete one.

Our workday starts off, with a start-up meeting and supervisors give us the work for the day and update us daily about Ford and all of its Facilities. They name TCAP consistently as being THE NUMBER ONE manufacturing facility in the Americas and I believe people are starting to take notice.

It gives me a great sense of Pride, knowing how hard the work ALL of the membership at UAW 879 and the people at TCAP are putting forth to achieve NO#1. Keep up the great work and hopefully I will be asked to continue with further PDC updates.

*In Solidarity,
Robert Taylor,
Former member of Local 879*

Sisters and Brothers,

My name is Kelly Michalec and I want to take this opportunity to give a warm felt "Thank you" to every one at Twin City Assembly who contributed to my walk for the Twin Cities Breast Cancer Three Day Race for the Cure which is an organized walk to raise funds to fight breast cancer. The walk was held over the weekend of August 21st and we all walked the distance of 60 miles.

I was unprepared for what an emotional experience it was. I think we all know someone in our lives who has been touched by cancer in one form or another (right before the walk I sadly lost my uncle to cancer) and I thought this was one way I could fight back against such a terrible disease. You all were so supportive in my walk; not only with financial donations but also all the words of encouragement that you gave me. I am thankful that you allowed me to have such an incredible experience and that you allowed me to contribute to the fight.

Once again, Thank You!!!!

*Kelly Michalec
FPS Coordinator Paint*

HUNDREDS OF HATS

Over the past four years, Blaine United Methodist Church has been the host site for the Warm Hands, Warm Heads, Warm Hearts Mission.

This project is spearheaded by its founder, Joe McKenzie (Marketing Director at Highgrove Credit Union) with assistance from his wife Nancy, his 7-year old triplets, Will, Sam and Molly, and the generous donations of fellow church members. One church member in particular, Phil Harry, has donated several hundred new hats to support this important mission.

Over the 2008-2009 cold weather season, the Warm Hats, Warm Heads, Warm Hearts Mission delivered over 700 hats and gloves. Undoubtedly, there will a need for this worthwhile project as the 2009-2010 winter season approaches.

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**

UAW/Ford Motor Co. BLOOD DRIVE

Training Center Rooms 250 A & B

Wednesday, Sept. 30th

7:30 AM – 1:30 PM

For information:

Call Tracy Ausen @ 651-695-3502

*Every effort will be made to get people interested in donating off their jobs.
Retirees welcome!*

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | givebloodgivelife.org



FRUSTRATED JOB SEEKER? LET US HELP!

WE ARE OFFERING THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS HERE
AT THE FORD TWIN CITIES ASSEMBLY PLANT

**ALL CLASSES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BUT PLEASE REGISTER BY CALLING
NANCY @651-642-0721 OR JOHN @ 651-696-0769**

MINNESOTAWORKS.NET

- Has **thousands of jobs** posted everyday
- Is a **FREE** service for job seekers and employers
- Is like having **your own human resource expert** on duty for you 24/7
- Allows job seekers to post up to **5 different resumes**
- Has the technology to **match your resume** to open positions



TUESDAY, SEPT. 8th or 22nd - 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

CREATIVE JOB SEARCH

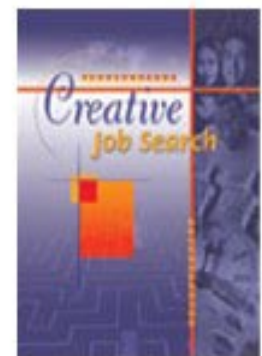
This EXCELLENT 2-day workshop is a MUST for all job seekers in the current economy! You will receive the most up-to-date information to help you gain new employment. Don't miss this opportunity to get ahead on your job search NOW! The topics to be covered include:

Day 1:

- . Transition
- . Job Search Preparation
- . Skills Identification
- . Resume Strategies
- . Resume Content & Formats
- . Electronic Resume Tips
- . Cover Letters

Day 2:

- . Job Search Tools
- . Job Search Process
- . The Job Market
- . Internet Job Search Strategies
- . Interviewing
- . Thank You Letters
- . Finishing Touches



TUESDAY, SEPT. 29TH AND WENESDAY, SEPT 30TH 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS

Do you get frustrated using a computer? This workshop will give you the basic computer skills employers are asking for in today's workplace including:

- How to cut and paste
- Format and save your documents
- Use different fonts & insert bullets into a Microsoft Word document.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15TH or 29th - 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Why leave your future to the roll of the dice?



Control your own destiny with the Dislocated Worker Program.

Take a look around you. Your coworker today is your competitor tomorrow in the job market. Plan ahead to set yourself apart.

Dislocated Worker Program Sign-Up
Sept. 22 @ 4:30 pm
Training Center Auditorium

The Dislocated Worker Program can provide you with the following benefits now, while you are still working!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| -Tuition Assistance | -Career Exploration |
| -Job Market Info | -Resume Assistance |
| -Job Search & Interviewing Tools | -Career Planning |

Contact Tracy Ausen @ 651-695-3502 for more information.
New hires are eligible for the program after being at Ford for 6 months. Rehires are eligible right away.



AARP Driver Safety Program

Auto Insurance Discount

UAW Local 879 is sponsoring the AARP Driver Safety Program Refresher Class.

Minnesota law mandates a 10% reduction in car insurance premiums for persons 55 years and older who complete a defensive driving course like the AARP Driver Safety Program. Your initial class needs to be an eight-hour session. Then, every three years you will need to take the four-hour refresher class to maintain your 10% insurance reduction. Courses consist of an overview of safe driving; there are no written or driving tests required.

*4 Hour Refresher Class: Thursday, 9/24/09 OR 10/29/09 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
UAW/Ford MnSCU Training Center, RM 240B.*

Call Tracy Ausen @ 651-695-3502 to sign up. Class size is limited.

UAW Local 879 will pay \$7.00 of the class fee for its members/retirees and their spouses.



In Memory

BROTHER ROBERT D. WAGNER died on June 7, 2009 at the age of 75 years. The visitation was held on June 10th at the Anderson Mortuary in Apple Valley, MN. The funeral mass was held on Thursday, June 11th at 11:00 AM at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rosemount, MN. **BROTHER WAGNER** came to work at Ford Motor Company in April of 1953. He spent 38 years there before his retirement in September of 1991.

BROTHER RODERICK D. WOLTERS died on June 22, 2009 at the age of 81 years. The funeral service was held in Mesa, AZ where he has resided for a number of years.

For Your Information

An E-Z Arm Curl Bar and a couple smaller items have gone missing from our UAW/Ford Main Wellness Center.

The Twin Cities Assembly Plant is one of the very few plants that have been fortunate enough to keep their Wellness Center open. When things end up missing, management is forced to consider ways to control it. In the case of our Wellness Center, that may include the installation of security cameras in the workout area, reduced or limited hours, or even closing the center.

Please watch out for the safety and security of our Wellness Center. Remember, we must accept responsibility for ourselves and each other; we are our brother's and sister's keeper. If you see any Wellness Center equipment on the plant floor, or if you have any questions, concerns or information regarding this notice please contact Joni Lager at x55842 or Ford Security at x60557.

BROTHER WOLTERS started his employment at Ford Motor Company in June of 1948. He remained there for 30 years until his retirement in October of 1978, which gave him over 30 years of retirement.

BROTHER JOHN (Jack) LEMNER died on July 8, 2009 at the age of 59 years. There was a memorial service on Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00 PM at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 12508 Lynn Avenue S., Savage, MN. **BROTHER LEMNER** began working at Ford in 1971. After spending 36 years there, he retired in January of 2007. Jack worked in the Paint Department.

BROTHER CARL A. DOERR died on July 12, 2009 at the age of 89 years. The funeral was held on July 15th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Atwater, MN. **BROTHER DOERR** began his employment at Ford Motor Company in July of 1941. After spending almost 35 years there, he retired in February of 1976 and was able to enjoy 33 years of retirement!



LEAVES

Colors changing in the night
Twined together beaded tight
Through your pool they swim along
Brightly singing their faithful song.
Stained with golden
Cracked in holden
Smoldering with fire
Flames flying higher
Disintegrating in winter's frost
Then through the day the leaves are lost.

I wrote this poem because I love autumn. The leaves turn into beautiful colors. I feel this poem is about leaves and what happens to them before and after winter.

*Submitted by,
Miranda Lemond
Daughter of Dave Lemond, Retiree*

BROTHER HAROLD L. ALT died on July 20, 2009 at the age of 87 years. There will be a private family burial service at a later date. **BROTHER ALT** began working at Ford Motor Company in 1947. He spent 30 years there before his retirement in May of 1977.

BROTHER JAMES L. (Buck) BUCHANAN died on August 20, 2009 at the age of 56 years. The funeral service was held on August 25th at the Methven Funeral Home in Anoka, MN. **BROTHER BUCHANAN** began his employment at Ford Motor Company in May of 1978. After spending 30 years there, he retired in 2008. Buck worked in Pre-Delivery.

Our Condolences to the Families . . .

REMINDER

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Monday, October 19, 2009

Training Center Lobby

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM

and

2:30 – 5:30 PM

Paint Building

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Union Hall – (Retirees)

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Employees/retirees who have Health Partners for their health insurance MUST have their ID card with them to receive the flu shot at no cost.

Employees/retirees who have BCBS PPO Plan for their health insurance and wish to receive the flu shot need to go to their clinic or pay \$24.99. BCBS does not participate in flu shot clinics.

REMEMBER: BCBS HAS 100% CO-PAY FOR OFFICE VISITS.

Retirees who are enrolled in Medicare B: Medicare will cover our flu shot. You will need your Medicare ID card.

To Your Health . . . AND SAFETY

Greetings from Health and Safety

Hopefully we have made it through the hottest part of the year. We were a bit surprised by the early onset of hot weather but, even though it was earlier than the contract calls for, we managed to make the ice water available for Production areas just in time. In my discussions with other UAW locals we are still the only one that has this provision in the local contract.

The Emergency Response Team has made good use of some of the down weeks and had classes to re-certify them in CPR and Rescue from a Confined Space and Rescue from Heights. The classes are taught by paramedics and fire fighters who are brought from Michigan State University here in our facility and using our equipment when possible. This allows us to have some hands-on time with the medical bags and rescue ropes, harnesses and hardware.

Our group is composed of a mixture of production workers, maintenance personal from both Ford and contractor agencies, security and supervisors. We try to have members of the ERT team distributed throughout the plant so that the closest member can get to an emergency as quickly as possible. If other or more ERT people are required we contact and send them as needed. This prevents an unnecessarily large cluster of people in one area and a case of "Two many Cooks..." We pray we never have to use our skills but are happy so many people care enough to join the team and be here to help out others in case of an emergency.

Please be safe and follow safety procedures and policies. Safety is our number one concern. With the launch of the 2010 Ford Ranger, issues and concerns will certainly arise. Be sure to let either your Health and Safety Rep or your Ergo Rep Rick Millette aware of problems so we can look into them and work to resolve them. Your supervisor can contact either of us or, of course, your committee person.

*In Solidarity,
Jim Hooper
UAW Health and Safety
Representative Local 879*



FARE FOR ALL EXPRESS

SAVE UP TO 50% ON YOUR MONTHLY GROCERIES WITH FARE FOR ALL EXPRESS

FARE FOR ALL EXPRESS IS...

- **A cooperative food program whose buying power benefits the community**
- **Fresh and healthy foods at a savings of 30-50%**
- **Open to everyone!**
- **Cash and Carry! Purchase packages and take them home that day**



FARE FOR ALL EXPRESS PACKAGES

Regular Pack **\$17**

The Regular Pack includes 4+ fresh vegetable items, 2+ fresh fruit items and 3-4 frozen meats

Meat Only Pack **\$12**

The Meat Only Pack contains 3-4 frozen meat items, which may include beef, chicken, pork and fish

Vegetarian Pack **\$10**

The Vegetarian Pack contains a generous variety of fresh vegetables and fruits

Monthly Special **Price Varies**

Fare For All Express monthly specials are another great way to get more food for less! Watch for Mega Meat Packs, Grill Packs, Holiday Packs and more

Pay with cash, credit and debit cards, or food support card funds (EBT).

***Package contents subject to change.**

****Prices may vary by location.**

Save
30-50%

Visit a location near you!

**Ford Plant Training Center
966 Mississippi River Blvd
St. Paul, MN**

**Wednesdays
3:00-5:00pm**

2009 Dates

**June 17
July 15
Aug 19
Sept 16
Oct 14**

**Visit our website
www.fareforall.org
763-450-3880
1-800-582-4291**



Fare For All is a program of the Emergency Foodshelf Network. The Emergency Foodshelf Network is a nonprofit organization that collects, warehouses and distributes high quality food and essential support services to Minnesota hunger relief organizations.

LUCKY YOU!
Membership Meeting
Door prize winners for
June / July

Jody Greer
 Bill O'Neal
 Ed Roberts
 Johnnie Rudolph

Ray Hoffmann
 David Rix
 Roger Terveen
 Marsha A-S

Local No. 879 UAW
 2191 Ford Parkway
 St. Paul, MN, 55116



Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 St. Paul, MN
 Permit No. 6138

SEPTEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 E-BOARD MEETING	15	16 Fare for All UNION MEETING	17	18	19
20	21 RETIREEES MEETING 1:30 PM	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			