



the LOCAL 879 UAW AUTOWORKER

"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2007



**REMEMBER OUR VETS ON
VETERANS DAY - AND EVERY DAY**

CHAIRPERSON'S



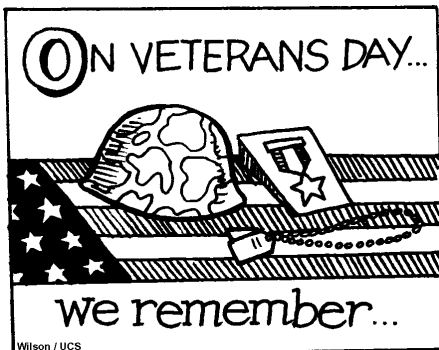
REPORT

Our hourly rolls are 965. No word on the contract as of this writing. The tentative production schedule calls for 5-10's through November of 2007. By the time this paper is published, we will have worked our last mandatory Saturday on Oct 20th. We have one VOLUNTARY SATURDAY COMING UP ON November 10th.

We will be going to (4) Ten hour days starting the 3rd of December 2007. Our last work day will be the 20th of December 2007. We return on January 2, 2008. Veterans Day is a paid holiday; we feel that will be the 16th of November. We will be working 8 hrs on the 21st of November prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. The Holiday includes 22 and 23 November 07. Those that have worked 90 actual days will get holiday pay. (8 hrs pay each day)

On the National front, the negotiations are on hold until they are finished with Chrysler. When we get the contract highlights, we will get them out to the membership. We will be setting up a meeting at the Union hall on a Saturday or Sunday for contract information and voting. More information on the meetings will be put out in a separate bulletin.

*In Solidarity,
Jim Eagle
Building Chair
UAW Local 879*




ON THE COVER

Thanks to Brother Thomas Epperson for creating our cover again this month. In honor of Veterans Day, November 11th - it sends a message of solidarity to our brothers and sisters who have served on behalf of all. Many thanks, Thomas for sharing your talent and sentiments with us.

The Local 879 UAW


AUTOWORKER

“An Injury to One is an Injury to All”



UAW

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LUPA

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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.

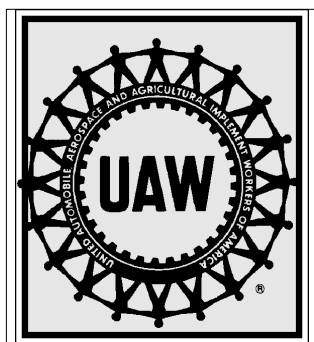
Thanks for your support,
and we look forward to hearing from you.



RECYCLED PAPER
PRINTED WITH SOY INK

PRESIDENT'S

REPORT



This is about the fourth time I've had to change my report. Trying to keep abreast of what is going on with contract talks is near impossible. As you know, GM went out on strike for two days, and on October 10th, Chrysler went out for half a day. What is in store for us at Ford remains to be seen. October 18th brought the UAW and Ford together for talks on our contract. Developing details and news will be forwarded to the membership as it becomes available.

We took a strike ratification vote, and it was approved by 94% locally; nationally it was 96% for strike if we had to go out.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you in this local for backing our strike preparation in the event of us going out on strike. It's not an easy thing to get prepared for, but we were one of the few Locals that had a plan in place in case we were called out.

LOCALLY

We have three brand new officers on the Executive Board. Our new Sergeant-at-Arms is Kari Altema and our two new Trustees are Rori Green and Cindy Roberts. I know they will do a fantastic job of representing this membership.

Now, we have two things that need to be addressed. First thing is that any new member who needs to be sworn in must be done at the Local Hall during our normal Union Meetings. Our meetings are always held on the first Thursday of the month on a five-day work week, or on a four-day work week the meeting is held on the first Wednesday of the month. The meeting starts 15 minutes after the scheduled Chassis shut down, which is normally 4:45 pm. There are no meetings in July. What was that I heard? That you won't remember the days or the time? There are always notices posted in the main plant

and Paint building. Look on the bulletin boards or the doors as you come in or leave the plant. Also the times and dates are always posted well in advance on our web site at www.uaw879.org. Secondly, Death Benefit Cards were mailed out to those who did not fill one out. Are you one of those who haven't turned it in? Please do so and either hand it in to me, your District Committee person or bring it to the Hall. Anyone who has already done that, but has a new beneficiary and has not changed it, you must do that also over at the Hall. Also, look for the notice in this Autoworker for a Driver Safety Program class. Some of us 55 or older folks can use this for a deduction on our car insurance.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE UNION?

As you may or may not know, this local has many standing committees that need members on them. They are **Union Label/Organizing, Citizenship and Legislative, Civil Rights, Community Services, Recreation, Conservation, Women's, Veterans, Education, Strike Support, Bylaws,** and the **Peer Support Committees**. If you're interested in becoming active in our Local, there are two ways to do that. One is joining one of these Committees and the second is attending your monthly Membership Meeting. Anyone interested in one or more of these Committees, visit our web site for information under Committees, or call me at 60240 in-house or 651-696-0510.

SOMETHING NEW UP IN THE SKILLS ENHANCEMENT CENTER (SEC)

We have a new Network available called Plato Web Learning available only in the SEC. You now can get online assistance to improve your math, reading and writing skills. You must see Deb Lehr up in the SEC on Mondays or Wednesdays between 11:30 am and 6 pm to have your user ID set up. This is a great program and it even does individual assessments. Look for other classes being offered in this issue of *The Autoworker*. We are also adding a link to our web-site for the SEC and classes offered. Keep an eye open for this! Everyone is welcome to the use of the SEC!

Would you like a way to make your day go faster at work? We have books on tape for you to check out and listen to at work or home. When done, simply drop them off.

No library card needed! Plus there are more things to check out, just come up and visit us upstairs in the Training Center.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

By all accounts (and war stories), I've heard that all who went to this year's Golf Tournament had a great time! I'm not very sure who has bragging rights, but according to Debbie Francis, her team got to use one of her shots as closest to the hole. Heck, I think Debbie somehow got everyone to turn around and she kicked the ball closer! Anyway, I'd like to thank our past president and ex-servicing Rep Rod Haworth, and Time Study Rep Dawn Riley, for their hard work on making this tournament a huge success again.

DISLOCATED WORKERS PROGRAM

We will continue to meet once a month for Dislocated Workers Orientation Meetings. Notices for this will always be posted on bulletin boards or in the flyer stands. Don't forget to look at our web site under upcoming events. Also, we have planned a two hour class called "Introduction to Small Business" to be held in the Training Center December 6th, 2007. This is free to anyone interested in coming. To sign up, call either Tracy at 53502 (outside 651-695-3502) or get hold of Nancy White, our on-site career counselor at 60769.

SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR SOLIDERS

I'm pleased to announce that the Local will be doing a collection of donations to send to our military people. We will have collection boxes set up in the entrances into the plant to gather the donations. We will gladly take whatever you can donate.

If you need ideas, go to:

www.operationminnesotanice.com and click on "need help shopping". If you know of someone in the military that you'd like to see a package sent to, get their addresses to us or e-mail me at rterveen@ford.com so we can send a care package to them. We will collect items until the end of November, and then on December 1st, we will meet at the hall to package these items up to ship out. If you'd like to help out on packaging, give me a call at 60240 in-plant or 651-696-0510 Ext. 1.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Greetings,

Our Local membership is now made up of 1522 retirees, 338 surviving spouses, 315 full-time active, 549 temporary full time and 166 members on a pre-retirement leave. The fate of our members now rests with the National Bargaining Committee, which at the time of this writing is in final negotiations with Ford Motor Company.

Local 879 was chartered into the UAW on June 21, 1941. The first meeting of the Ford workers was held on July 16, 1941 at the German House Auditorium on Rice Street. The meeting was chaired by R. Madigan from the CIO whose slogan was "Ten Million Members by 1944". International Representative Joe Mattson welcomed the Ford workers into Local 879 UAW.

The first meeting of our Executive Board was held on August 21, 1941 and was chaired by Brother Mattson. Our first Local Union President was Ed Murnane who held that position until 1944. Easton Pope was appointed Financial Secretary in June of 1941, but lost his re-election bid to Frank Widerski who held that position until June 1967. Upon his retirement Frank was presented with a color television by Building Chairperson Al Hendricks.

Our Board moved into its new office on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul in October 1941. Brothers Mattson and Pope were instructed to purchase chairs, a desk and other office equipment. We also received our first American flag, which was donated by Brother Block. In two short months the Japanese would attack Pearl Harbor, plunging America into World War II which would last until August of 1945.

Seniority was the most contentious issue in the early months of our Local. In October the Executive Board ruled "that we classify each man as to the work he was

doing on June 20, 1941 and that all men in military service would be covered by such provision".

The membership voted to hold our membership meetings on the first Thursday of each month in January of 1942. The leadership recommended the meetings be held on Wednesdays. The membership also elected Ed LeMay as a delegate to the State CIO Victory Council. William Dunford was elected as our first Building Chairman in February 1942. He held that position until February 1947 when he was defeated by Ed Jirousek. Art Krause received 82

McCarthy.

This is also when discussion about our Local's Death Benefit Fund began. Region 4 Director Pat Greathouse had approved our plan in March of 1948. The Ford Motor Company initially resisted the establishment of our Fund, yet in spite of their objection the Death Benefit Fund was successfully established.

The very first beneficiary was Alvina Brickley, widow of John C. Brickley, who was born on December 17, 1889 and died on November 19, 1948. Alvina received \$670.00, which was the Fund's balance at

that time. Mrs. Charles Walton was the first beneficiary to receive the total \$1,000 benefit. Charles died on November 18, 1949. Since that time the Fund has paid out over \$1,300,000 to the survivors of our members.

Ray Busch (for whom our Union Hall is named) was now President and Bill Dunford was once again elected Building Chairman. In the Spring of 1950, the Local's Building Committee was authorized to investigate the cost to construct a base-

ment on our recently purchased property on Ford Parkway. Groundbreaking would finally take place on April 8, 1953.

There are all too many stories for one person to tell about our great history in the Minnesota Labor Movement, and I welcome all retirees to write in with stories about our past. My goal is to create a timeline in our Local's history. Your story will create the human interest to go with this timeline.

Please send your stories to me.

*Fraternally,
Robert J. Killeen
Secretary-Treasurer*



GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES April 8, 1953
Don Livingston, Arne Cline, Bill Pramb, Bob Killigan, Bill Dunford,
Frank Widerski, Ray Busch

votes. Carl Boye was elected as our Local's third President and out of 1273 members eligible to vote, 1027 voted.

Local 879 became very active in State and Local politics during this time opposing the St. Paul Mayor's proposal to tax soft drinks in the city. We also reimbursed President Boye \$2.00 for the ticket to Congressman John Blatnik's dinner.

On September 2, 1948, Brother Boye introduced at the Union meeting the young Mayor of Minneapolis who had decided to run for the U.S. Senate. Hubert H. Humphrey spoke about his campaign and walked out the door with the balance of our PAC Fund money minus \$50.00 saved for Eugene

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT . . .

Happy Fall everyone. I wanted to make this article shorter, but lacked the time to do it. My father, Richard Anderson, was born in 1920 and served as a Sergeant in the Marines in World War II. He stormed the shores of Peleliu and Guam, and when he was finally allowed to go home, after four long years in the Pacific, they announced the war was ending. When he arrived in San Francisco, he called home, talked to his mother, and consequently asked to speak with his father. His father had passed away two weeks before. I can't imagine what it was like for him as a young man to hear such devastating news after being away from his family for so long.

To this day I remain proud of how he served our country. He has told me on numerous occasions it is one of the things he has done in his life that he is the most proud of. Everyone who has served our country is a modest hero as far as I am concerned. I believe my father's generation is truly the "greatest generation". I believe my father has a lot more than serving in World War II to be proud of though. His legacy lies in all of the people he has touched in his life. He has taught me many things, among them are: to be honest, loyal, caring, respect my neighbors and never to hurt anyone, even if they have hurt you. To always listen to both sides of the story and never to judge and to 1. Never give up, 2. Never give up, 3. Never give up, that no act of kindness no matter how small is ever wasted, to pay attention to politics, if you

don't vote you have no right to bitch, to treat your neighbor as you would want to be treated, to never bite the hand that feeds you. I could probably go on and on about how much I respect the man, but I will stop here. One of the first things he taught me was to be loyal, loyal to my family, my friends, my employer, if I take care of those around me, they will take care of me.

No matter how someone has treated you, I believe that you must treat them with respect in return, that is how we will get through this. Everyone has had a bad day, maybe said something they did not mean in a moment of anger. I have faith in people that they are all good (ok, there are some exceptions) sometimes they have just had some awful things happen to them, and you just happened to be there when they were angry. I have taken abuse from some people, I have not retaliated and these people have rescued me when I have been down. We all have to help each other through this. We all have to watch each others backs. When someone is down we need to pick them up, dust them off and say lets try that again. This capacity to take care of each other is here in this plant. I have experienced it so many times with this membership. I do believe we have a special plant here, I have found the membership's capacity to give, and care is unsurpassed from any place I have worked. Unexpected acts of kindness and compassion are commonplace here. We are all human beings on this planet, and we should ask what we can do for our brothers and

sisters, not what they can do for us.

We have to remember many of these lessons when it comes to our union. They are out there working for us. Even when we believe they have abandoned us. Our union was formed by the blood sweat, and tears of people that paved the way to better working conditions, better pay, weekends... What I see now is a horrible pattern forming. Northwest, Wal-mart, and many other companies are carrying out atrocities against the working class. Northwest used to be one of the best employers around. I would have loved to have gotten into that company when I was young. The pay was great, and they had great benefits. Now the starting pay for people who load the planes is \$9 an hour. I had 300 shares of Northwest stock and it is worthless now. What is that? The stockholders lost, the employees lost, yet their planes are full of paying customers. Who is getting that money?

I wanted to add that my last article for the Autoworker (the information about how to handle stress) stemmed from knowledge Tanya Wade and I gained at the Women's Conference at Black Lake this year. We may have failed to thank the membership properly for sending us to that wonderful educational conference, so Tanya and I would like to thank you now from the bottom of our hearts. Until next time....

*Marsha Anderson-Shearen
Vice President UAW Local 879*



Huck ©2007, UCS



Prez Report (Continued from page 3)

V-CAP DRAWINGS

We just finished our Local and Minnesota State V-CAP drawings. The winners from this Local were Reed Knutson, Kenneth Herbert, Richard Flipp, Richard Cornell, Linda Chambers, Gerald Ries, B Zeestraten, S Glass, Azariah X, R Spencer, C Byers, Mike Montie, Melinda Jones, M Scott, Darius Shannon and D Pipes. Your checks will be mailed out to you. The Grand Prize winner for State CAP was Lloyd

Schoen, a retiree from Local 180 (CNH) in Wisconsin. Congratulations to the winners and to those who bought tickets, the State and Local V-CAP thanks you for your support.

GIFT OF GIVING

**Toys for Tots and the Mitten Tree
November 5 thru December 20, 2007**

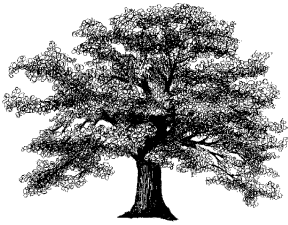
Santa's sleigh and boxes will be provided at each entrance to collect new toys for children. A mitten tree will be set-up at each entrance. Please bring new hats, mit-

tens and scarfs to decorate the trees. The items will be donated to children also through Toys for Tots.

With that, I'd like to leave you a quote to ponder:

"An intelligence test sometimes shows a man how smart he would have been not to have taken it."

*In peace and Solidarity,
Roger Terveen*



CONSERVATION NEWS



Uninterrupted colors satisfy our need to hold on to the season as long as we possibly can. Blended with a mix of fading maple and birch, the mighty oaks are always the last to let go. True to form, their reds and browns stand strong and bold - weaning us gently from another autumn of our lives.

DOWN ON THE FARM: Excessive rain has taken the place of the drought conditions that plagued us just over a month ago. Local farmers are now faced with difficulties in harvesting their crops as muddy fields make it nearly impossible to navigate. Care of the critters here has been a challenge in itself with muddy boots nearly sucked off the feet of those of us attempting to make our way through the daily chores.

Approaching the last few weeks of their lives, the turkeys - like their predecessors - are starting to express themselves verbally by responding in unison to everything they hear. It saddens me to think that they will soon be gone but they have received the absolute best of food and shelter - and all of their needs have been met with respect from those who care for them. The end result (and ultimate sacrifice) will occur the Sunday before Thanksgiving with fresh, home-grown birds for my family and friends to enjoy.

The last of the garden produce has finally been gathered, preserved and stored away for the winter and the thought of next spring's planting has already crossed my mind. Despite the dry summer, there was more than enough to harvest and share.

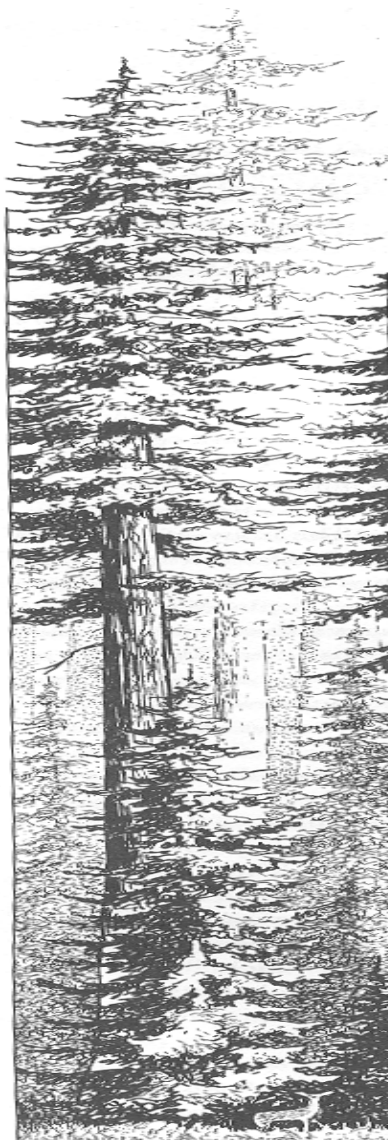
The horses are hinting at a change in the air and are beginning to store an extra layer of fat to keep them warm through the winter. Skylar, the filly is 6 months old now and soon to be weaned from her momma, the Clydesdale mare.

Buck, the yellow lab who found us nearly a year ago has settled in perfectly to his new home. His coming to us remains a mystery, but we never question his love and devotion. The other canines have accepted him as one of their own and would feel the void should he ever leave.

As we prepare for our time of Thanksgiving here **DOWN ON THE FARM**, our
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wish for you is that there is much in your lives to be thankful for.

FROM THE NORTHWOODS: A recent trip to the cabin near the Canadian border of the North Shore, offered us more of the same conditions we had hoped to escape ...mud. Three inches of rain fell in a 24 hour period resulting in raging rivers, flash floods and impassable roads. The level of Lake Superior rose over five inches and



the sediment from in-flowing rivers and streams was visible for miles on the surface of the water. Fire bans that were in place earlier this year were completely lifted and the only problem during our 3 day stay

was finding wood dry enough to ignite. Four muddy dogs made matters worse and it took some doing to keep them warm, comfortable and off of our laps! The peak color season had long left the area and all that remained were remnants underfoot and trees with nothing to show for their efforts. Despite the weather, a trip to the Northwoods is always welcomed and necessary food for the soul.

LOCALLY: There are continued efforts on the part of many in this local to promote Twin Cities Assembly Plant as a green manufacturing facility with the intention of creating jobs and a sustainable future. Keep an open mind to the ideas that are being proposed and begin to educate yourselves about the benefits of renewable energy, alternative fuel sources and sustainability.

Read more about the Electric Ranger project in this issue of The Autoworker and the people who are working to make this a reality. I am proud to serve on the Board of Directors of this group - Autoworkers of Minnesota, Inc. Learn more from Brother Lynn Hinkle in the upcoming issue on the work he is doing on a national level to bring labor and environmental groups closer in their thinking and to stand together on common ground.

PERSONALLY: In order to keep my mind from turning to mush, I am currently enrolled in an environmental program through the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Much like the Master Gardener Program that you may be familiar with, this is the Minnesota Master Naturalist program. Upon completion of the course which focuses on Minnesota ecology, I will be given the opportunity to educate others about the Natural World. I'll keep you posted on my progress...Until next time, remember this.

"Our own well-being can be achieved only through the well-being of the entire natural world around us."

-Thomas Berry

*In Solidarity,
Marilyn Bobick Johnson
Conservation Committee Retiree*

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING . . .

ELECTRIC RANGER UPDATE Have you seen it run yet?

Since May, Gary Muenzhuber and I have been looking forward to the day when the Electric Ranger would be up and running. About a week ago, we were given the pleasure of seeing that happen. It is not completed though. It still needs the lithium batteries and some tweaking. We are thrilled for Bob Albertson, our friend the inventor, who once again is proving doubters wrong. For those who want to see the truck run go to www.magtransauto.com.

A Free Ranger

When I was talking to Bob Albertson one day, he stated that the Electric Ranger would be free. He looked at the price of the Ranger with a 5-year loan. He studied the maintenance that Ford suggests for a Ranger along with gas and oil changes. He asked a mechanic to add up the cost of the suggested maintenance program. The mechanic came up with a figure. The Electric Ranger will not require this maintenance, so the money saved could be put into the truck's monthly payment. After five years, you would have a Ranger paid off using the money normally used for the suggested maintenance program. Go to www.magtransauto.com for this information. The Board of Directors of Auto Workers of Minnesota, Inc.

When the 505 (C) 3 non-profit was created, a Board of Directors needed to be appointed. Many qualified people were put on the list to be asked to serve on the Board. Qualities that were wanted for the Board was one that shared a vision of creating manufacturing jobs in Minnesota. The people we requested to serve were from business, labor and government. The people who serve also had to come from both political parties. This diverse Board met for the first time in September 2007.

The following people are members of the Board:

Mike Freeman, Chairperson
Jim Rau, Vice Chair
Ken Steiger, Treasurer
Marilyn Bobick Johnson, Secretary
Bob Albertson, Inventor
Stan Daniels

Tim Lovaasen
Cindy Schulte
Tanya Wade
Bob Killeen
Dan Ochsner
Rod Haworth

At the first meeting they appointed Jim Reinitz as Executive Director and employed Gary Muenzhuber.

The Mission Statement of the



Electric Ranger being driven by its inventor, Bob Albertson

Auto Workers of Minnesota, Inc.

"To save and create jobs by educating government and business about the development and production of an affordable, Minnesota-made electric vehicle and its value to the regional manufacturing industry."

The Commerce Department of Minnesota

The Auto Workers of Minnesota, Inc. is pursuing the \$150,000 that has been promised by the State. This money was approved by the Minnesota State Legislature for the development of this electric vehicle. The Commerce Department is helping pursue other grants that may be of interest to us. Meeting with National Organizations for Grants

The Auto Workers of Minnesota, Inc. have been contacted by a couple of national organizations which have shown interest in our project. They are interested in seeing us succeed and have promised to help us with

acquiring grants to help offset the administrative costs we need now and into the future. We hope to share more information in later issues of the Autoworker of these organizations and the help that they are providing.

Meeting with UAW and Elected Officials

We have met with several people who have shown interest in the Electric Ranger. As mentioned in the current Autoworker, UAW Regional Director Dennis Williams met with our delegation and expressed encouragement for this project. We are also aware that UAW Vice President King and UAW Vice President Thurman have shown interest. In a meeting, Congresswoman Betty McCollum expressed interest in the project. She has been an advocate for alternative fuel vehicles since going to Congress.

A delegation has been called to meet personally with Senator Norm Coleman about the project. In having a personal meeting with the Senator, we have confidence that he also has interest in the Electric Ranger. Because the meeting is happening after the publication of this Autoworker, we will inform you of his reaction in a later edition.

Congressman Jim Oberstar is also interested in this project and its impact on Minnesota workers. We also expect to have a meeting with Congressman Walz to at least share what we have been doing in the area of retaining Minnesota jobs.

Website: autoworkersofmn.org

We will soon have a website up and running to update you and the world of our work. Currently we are looking for a web host for the site.

Jim Reinitz
Executive Director
Auto Workers of Minnesota, Inc.

CAP CONNECTION . . .

On October 5th Bob Killeen and I went to Ottawa, Illinois as delegates to the Fall CAP Conference. For those who have never heard of CAP, we are the political action arms of the UAW. CAP gets involved with both issues and electing candidates who support working men and women of this country and their families. For those who purchased V-CAP tickets, we appreciate it. Remember – your money is supporting your issues.

We went to Ottawa to hold both the Minnesota State and UAW Regional V-CAP drawing. In this issue of the Autoworker, you will see listed the winners of the drawing. The grand prize of \$15,000 went to a retiree in Wisconsin.

Also in Ottawa, we were treated to a speech by Senator Barak Obama who spoke to about 600 UAW members. He spoke about his past, and the willingness to walk the picket line with the American workers. In other highlights he mentioned the need for universal health care coverage. This

type of health insurance coverage would allow a worker who loses their job to take the insurance coverage with them.



Senator Obama with Bob Killeen

Senator Obama also spoke of the history of the UAW. He spoke of our great union labor leader, Walter Reuther. He

mentioned that Walter Reuther bailed Martin Luther King, Jr. out of jail in Birmingham, walked with MLK in Detroit, and spoke at the March in Washington. He further mentioned that “That the UAW built the auto industry in this country, secured good-paying jobs for generations of workers, and helped create the middle class – the backbone of the American economy”.

After the Senator’s speech, the delegation that is working on the electric Ranger met with Director Dennis Williams. He left us with encouraging words regarding the electric Ranger and offered suggestions to us. Williams has promised us that he would approach UAW Vice President King after the National Bargaining Agreement is finished about the status of the project. King had earlier in the spring shown interest in our project and was to have mentioned it to Bill Ford and Allan Mulally.

*In Solidarity,
Jim Reinitz,
Local 879 CAP Committee*

ERGONOMICS AND HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

Since the warm weather is gone, there has been a lot of confusion about ice and water being provided on the line. We only do this in the warmer weather months. We only have the ice chests, and the big coolers in here May through October 1st. However, there are ice and water machines in every canteen and one is located by the Rolltest area. (North side of Trim 1). We have a heat stress program for the hot months.

We are working on the shelters for the new smoking areas, and some are completed. The other two for the front of the building by the Salary entrance and the one up in the Paint Department should be installed in the next two weeks. We are making a new entrance on the south end of the Motor Line in Chassis and that will be a smoking area also. Please try to stay out of the restricted areas on your way to the smoking areas. Especially the dock areas where they are unloading and can’t see you. We as a Safety team do not want anybody hurt or hit by a PMHV.

I would also suggest that in the winter months, you layer your clothes, because even though we have heat, the overhead

doors and rail doors have to be open to let trains in and stock being moved from the warehouse to the main building also. Cold breezes are inevitable, especially in the



back of the plant. And there will be no Hot Cocoa served in the cold months, contrary to the rumors around here!

Why do I have to use the hoists? This is the common question around here in the last few weeks. From past experience, there are jobs that have been identified as poten-

tial high risk operations where excessive weight and posture can cause repetitive injury. We as an Ergonomics Committee have fought hard to get these assists implanted, to reduce injuries and allow you to go home the same way you came in here. The hoists do take more time in the beginning, but as you get used to this assist it will get better. If you have concerns regarding time needed to use the hoist or have Maintenance issues, contact the Ergo office or Health and Safety and we will work with you to solve these problems. The following guidelines are established for the use of ergonomic assists, which are implemented through the Plant Ergonomics Committee.
*** When an employee’s job is such that engineering solutions are ineffective, and ergonomic issues exist, the Ergo Committee may introduce some form of assist. The assist, once proven effective in eliminating the ergo issue, will be used by the operators for their own benefit. We, as a Safety team, do not want anyone hurt or injured.**

Debbie Francis and Kristen Camper

CAP CONNECTION . . .

Reconsidering Free Trade

Recently Congresswoman Betty McCullom called Brother Bob Killeen at the Union Hall and wanted to have a conversation with him and some members of the Local Union. Congressman McCullom represents Minnesota's 4th Congressional District, which includes St. Paul where this plant sits.

One of the issues she wanted to discuss is the Peru Free Trade Agreement. As many of our members are aware, we have never supported a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) so far. Congresswoman McCollum assured us this one was different. It was one that had everything we have been asking for so far. She asked the rhetorical question: "If we can't support this Free Trade Agreement, then aren't we against all Free Trade Agreements?"

The Congresswoman pointed out what she and other opponents of the Free Trade Agreements are looking for:

No Fast Track Authority: We have demanded the right of the American people through Congress to be able to amend these free trade agreements. Past agreements have given the President Fast Track authority which only allowed Congress to vote up or down on the agreements without amendment. The Peru FTA allows Congress to amend the agreement before it is voted on.

Labor Rights: We have demanded that countries that do business with us allow people to form labor unions and to pay their people wages they can live on. We have

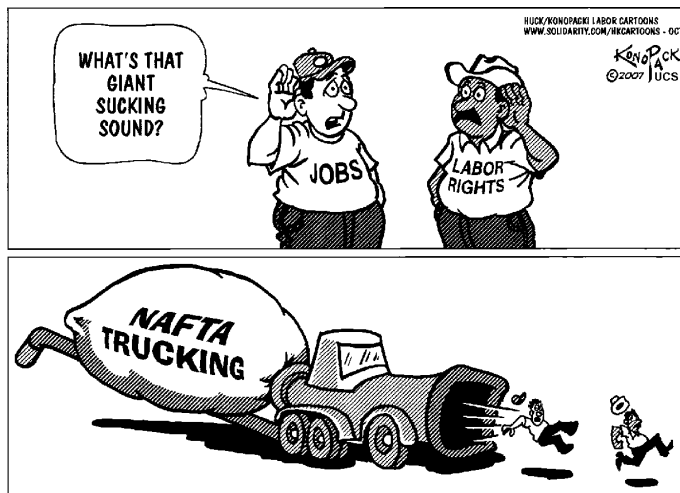
extreme disadvantage. Peru gave rights to the workers to form unions and wrote it into their laws.

Environmental Laws: All the Free Trade agreements have refused to write in any environmental protections into the other country's law. This again leaves U.S. manufacturers having to adhere to US standards which the foreign competition does not have to follow. These companies are more free to pollute the water, air and soil without regard to the damages they could be causing. Again the American worker is at a disadvantage when it comes to competing with a worker in a foreign company. Once again Peru stepped up and wrote into law the type of environmental protections we were seeking. The International UAW went further and

looked into Peru's economy and decided that nothing Peru sold internationally would affect the manufacturing worker of the United States. It is basically a country that raises fruits and vegetables.

So if we are not for this Free Trade Agreement, what one would we be in favor of? Let your Congressperson know. Yes on the Peru Free Trade Agreement.

Jim Reinitz
CAP Chair



free trade agreements that allow companies and governments in foreign lands to compete unequally with workers in this land. In some countries, prisoners are paid nothing to manufacture things to get sent to this country. There are no child labor laws that protect their country's kids. The workers are paid less than adequate wages for their work. This is all done in other countries when our laws strictly prohibit this type of activity. The lack of these restrictions in others countries leaves the US workers at an

CHASSIS NOTES . . .

Change, change...everywhere is change. That's the way it's been in Chassis for the last six months – as everyone bids on new jobs, moves around and new people start a life at Twin Cities Assembly Plant. Now it's October and the only major change is the turning of the leaves outside. Snow is just around the corner. A word to the wise: as the weather turns to snow and ice, remember to give yourself enough time to get to work on time.

I would like to commend the workers in the Chassis department for their work

performance – 10 hour days, Saturdays and continually building a quality unit. Great job, Chassis especially on October 19th when 500 trucks rolled off the Chassis line.

As new jobs are posted on the bid board, don't be afraid to ask me what the job is before you bid. That way you may avoid being locked out of the bidding process. Ask questions, don't just assume you know the answers. When requesting a day off, fill out the request format the supervisor's desk. Then make

sure they acknowledge it by returning it to you and either approving it or denying it.

If you ever have any questions, don't be afraid to stop by and ask or call me at 60242 and I'll come out to find you. Keep up the great work, Chassis!



In Solidarity,
Gerald "Turtle" Ziskovsky

VETS REPORT

To begin, I would just like to take a moment to thank Local 879 in its entirety for the flowers that came to my Mother's funeral. The gesture was both timely and welcome. Thank you.

On the week of August 26th, our Brother Ron Caliri and I went to Black Lake for the National Veterans Conference. What a week! It had been almost exactly 10 years since I was there before – for some reason they remembered me – must be my refrigerator art. I figure that a majority of us have never been to Black Lake's "Walter and May Reuther Family Education Center". Look it up online or better yet, go there – it's your Center.

There were hundreds of delegates there – far too many to fit into one class, so they split us up. All of us. There were 8 classes dealing with everything from Veterans Benefits/Medical, Veterans Legislative, PTSD to Veterans Committees themselves. The invaluable information covered within these classes have proven their worth in the last 10 years – I have passed the info on upon request to those in need and am ready to do so again.

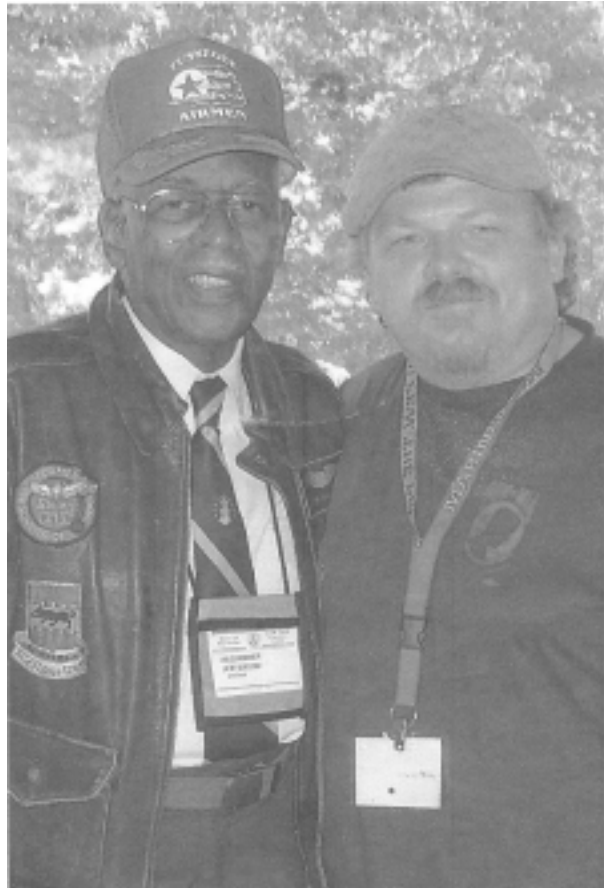
Aside from the classes, there were speakers: Rick Weidman, Director of government Relations – Vietnam Vets. He gave us the history of the Labor Movement and Vets. Why? Because nearly 100% of the laborers that spilled their blood to create the Unions of this country were vets. (Now only 7% of this country are vets). He is promoting the idea of Health Care (free) for all vets. They've earned it. Even though I'm not too keen on the government getting its hands on my body, on this point I agree with him.

Dr. John Shaut, Clinical Psychologist DAV Medical Center, also spoke of history – PTSD history – centuries ago called "Soldier's heart". It is what happens to you after you witness/endure traumatic events. Compared to civilians, soldiers are better prepared for these situations for they are trained to channel fear to endure a threat.....interesting.

I don't want to bore you with all the details, but there was one man there that I already knew. I had met him several years ago with my daughter, Amanda, who is now 20 years old. His name is Alexander

Jefferson. He was a WWII pilot shot down in October of 1944 and held prisoner for 9 months in Germany under the fist of the Luftwaffe. This 2nd Lieutenant found himself imprisoned with 5,000 other men. Men from America mostly, but from our allied countries as well - men who came from every walk of life. Lt. Jefferson was a little concerned at first but, as he tells it, they all became fast friends, comrades' even.

As was their duty, they planned an elabo-



rate escape. Once free, they felt they needed someone who spoke the language. That would be our young pilot's job. He was covert in his studies, but now he spoke perfect German.

He still laughs at this part: "Despite everything that Hollywood and the like have taught you because it was never an issue, we forgot one small detail – I'm BLACK! Lt. Jefferson was a Tuskegee Airman and a kinder gentler man there never was. I got an autographed photo (to my daughter) and a Tuskegee Challenge coin (really cool).

It isn't often that we brush up against

history but that's how the past meets the future. Mr. Jefferson is now 89 years – my daughter is 20 – when her kids learn about the Tuskegee Airmen, they'll have something to show the class.

Ron Gettelfinger was there too. He spoke quite a bit but said very little. Ron was kinda sittin' on his hands waiting for the Q&A, but he flew out of there quicker than we're used to (I mean, at our age).

There were a couple of our fine soldiers there. A Corpsman (Navy) who has a newfound for the Marines, and an Army gent. Both good men – great men. We have a lot of great men and women out there. Those who are serving and those who served. We take one day a year to honor them. They were ordinary people; the gal at the drugstore, the bag stuffer at the market, the cable guy, the bank teller, and the line worker.

Part of our country forgot that once and shamed them so bad some never recovered.

This Veterans Day, take a moment to say "Thank you" and "Welcome home". Treat them the way you treat your favorite sports team. Give them the respect and dignity they have every right to demand...and do.

Once again I thank you all for allowing Ron and I to go to Black Lake. May we both use our knowledge well.

Semper Fidelis
Thomas Epperson

* * *

To my Brothers and Sisters of Local 879, The August Veterans Conference in Black Lake, Michigan with Brother Veteran Tom Epperson was another great Conference, and as always, I learned a lot. Veterans from Region 4 were very happy to see Tom make it.

There was some shop talk outside of the conference and in our classes. As we all know, contract talks are a mess, but our Union seems to be holding its own.

In summation, I thank the Local and the membership for the opportunity to be there.

Ron Caliri

New Appointment

Greetings to all of my brothers and sisters in solidarity, I would like to introduce myself. My name is David Perkins and I am pleased to announce my recent appointment as a representative of our local. I am honored that our union leaders thought enough of me and are allowing me to serve our membership as part of the leadership team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the union office for making my transition from the production floor a smooth one.

I am originally from Detroit, MI and my family has a long "proud" history with this company. I am a third generation Ford Motor Company employee. My grandfather (Alex Perkins Sr.) put in over 35 years as a member of Local 600 working at Dearborn Assembly. My mother and stepfather (Harry & Barbara Boone) retired from TCAP this past January. In addition I have a number of extended family members who are either currently employed or recently retired from Ford Motor Company. My family has well over 200 years of combined service to this company, I have often

told people with a great deal of gratitude that Ford "helped raise me".

I am thirty-three years old. I have a beautiful wife of 11 years (Mona) and we have three incredible children: Serena (12), Jr. (4), and Evelyn (2). I started at TCAP part time in June of 2000 and became full time on March 5, 2001. I started in Paint, went to Chassis when I got full time and spent the last four years in the Body shop before coming into my current position as Education & Employee Resource Coordinator (ERC). I have actively attended union meetings throughout my time here and served as the Grow Rep in the Body shop for four years.

I have a Bachelor's degree in marketing from the Univ. of St. Thomas and am currently pursuing my Master's degree. As the ERC I want to lead by example and show others how to prepare themselves to make a productive transition into their next career paths when our plant's doors close. The Education and Employee Resource Coordinator (me) is here to assist employees

who want to prepare themselves to make this transition successfully. I am the contact person to help active employees and retirees get access to education and skill enhancement services that are available to them.

I am here to assist people who want to find out what resources are available to them that will help them reach their career goals. Whether your interest is the Dislocated Worker Program, Trade school, or a more traditional post secondary institution, I am available to help you with your career development program. Just a side note regarding the common questions I have been getting. TFT's and flowbacks are not eligible for ETAP funding and RETAP courses are covered if the classes are administered here at the Training Center. Thank you for your time and I look forward to serving you in whatever capacity that I can. Remember this, a closed fist has more affect than an open hand, let's stick together it is the *only* way to get things done!

*In Solidarity,
David Perkins*

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

ABUSED? NEED HELP?

Physical abuse is behavior that causes physical harm to someone. Slapping, punching, pinching, pushing, restraining, hair-pulling, burning, cutting, choking, throwing things and scratching are all forms of physical abuse. These behaviors cause emotional pain as well as physical pain.

Verbal abuse is a form of communication that intimidates or controls or disrespects another person. Verbal abuse can be a subtle and confusing form of abuse. The emotional bruises of verbal abuse can be just as painful as physical wounds. There are many forms of verbal and emotional abuse including:

- * Name calling
- * Ordering someone around
- * Minimizing or trivializing a person's needs, feelings or opinions
- * Countering: Disagreeing with everything a person says
- * Disguising insults as "jokes"
- * Diverting: changing the subject so that issues are not discussed
- * Criticizing
- * Denial or "forgetting" (saying nothing happened) is a defensive tactic that

invalidates a person's feelings and perceptions by denying reality

- * Withdrawing/ignoring/denying intimacy
- * Explosive anger frightens and intimidates others
- * Hiding car keys so victim cannot leave
- * Hiding personal items
- * Threats of suicide if (s)he leaves
- * Threatens harm to victim if (s)he leaves
- * Threatens harm to the pets if (s)he leaves
- * Non-verbal threats include gestures, body posture and facial expressions
- * Controlling all of the finances/not letting the victim have access to the money
- * Actively sabotaging the victim's friendships and social life. Controlling who the victim can or cannot see
- * Damaging property belonging to the victim
- * Blaming the victim for his or her own behavior

- * Stalking
- * Telling the victim (s)he is crazy, not a good mother/father, nobody will want him/her if (s)he leaves

There is no behavior that can justify abusing another person. You do NOT deserve to be abused. There are plenty of places for you to get help and get out.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
590 Park Street, Suite 410, St Paul MN 55103

Voice: 651-646-6177 or 1-800-289-6177
Fax: 651-646-1527

Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence
307 S Paterson Street, Suite 1
Madison WI 53703
608-255-0539 Fax: 608-255-3560

Web site address:

<http://www.wcadv.org/>

Link to ALL programs in Wisconsin: <http://www.wcadv.org/?go=download&id=112>

Submitted by Kari Altema

The United Auto Workers — Voice of American Labor

“Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will” (Douglass, 1849/2002, p. 358). The preceding statement by abolitionist Frederick Douglass embodies one of the most basic tenets of the union known as the United Auto Workers. Its leaders have stood alongside, and suffered beatings and assaults, with workers who faced violence and incarceration for demanding fair treatment and humane working conditions. Its representatives backed up the laborer on the shop floor who endured bullying and threats by unscrupulous line bosses. Its people have gone to the bargaining table and demanded what was fair and right for the employees building the products that keep the company in business. The UAW was, and still is, the worker’s voice.

The vision of three brothers would bring the UAW into existence. According to *This Union Cause* (1996, p. 25), it was the 1930s, and a major growing industry was in the sights of the labor movement for industrial unionism. During that time, Walter P. Reuther, Roy L. Reuther, and Victor G. Reuther would be recognized as the indisputable leaders that organized hundreds of thousands of automobile factory employees into the United Auto Workers. Their father, Valentine Reuther, was himself one of youngest labor leaders in the nation at age twenty-three.

He taught his children that working people have a right to human dignity, security and equality, and that life’s greatest satisfaction lies in serving mankind. Imbued with this philosophy, the three Reuther brothers went out to organize auto workers into the UAW and to help them win a better life through the bargaining table and the ballot box. (*This Union Cause*, 1996, p. 25)

The UAW established itself as a force to be reckoned with during the Flint, Michigan sit-down strike. According to the UAW publication *Heritage of Struggle* (1985), strikers were tear-gassed, beaten, jailed, shot at, and wounded. They were occasionally killed. Their demands included: time and a half for overtime, a seniority system,

regulating assembly line speed, recognizing the UAW as their only bargaining agency and reinstatement of those fired for involvement with the union (p. 32).

It started on December 30, 1936, and finally came to an end in February 1937 “after Michigan’s governor Frank Murphy played the role of mediator, negotiating recognition of the UAW by General Motors. The next month, auto workers at Chrysler won recognition of the UAW as their representative in a sit-down strike” (“United Auto Workers,” 2007, ¶ 2).

Now it was Ford Motor Company’s turn. Henry Ford had undoubtedly learned of the events at GM and Chrysler, and was not receptive to the idea of his plants becoming union shops. He promised, “The



UAW would organize Ford over my dead body” (“United Auto Workers,” 2007, ¶ 3). This ominous statement would herald a confrontation at the massive River Rouge plant in Dearborn, in what has come to be known as the “Battle of the Overpass.” The event would mark one of Ford’s darker moments in history, and one of the UAW’s most widely publicized events.

This Union Cause (1996) recounts how Walter Reuther, leading a group of fifty trade unionists, tried to hand out leaflets at an overpass outside of the River Rouge

complex when “they were suddenly and savagely set upon by a band of armed Ford Company ‘Service Men’ . . . one unionist suffered a broken back; one sustained a skull fracture and nearly all had bloodied noses” (p. 27). In his book *The Brothers Reuther* (1976), Victor G. Reuther includes Walter’s account of what happened on that afternoon of May 26, 1937:

I was there a couple of minutes and then all of a sudden about 35 or 40 men surrounded us and started to beat us up. I didn’t fight back. I merely tried to guard my face. The men . . . picked me up about eight different times and threw me down on my back on the concrete . . . they kicked me in the face, head, and other parts of my body . . . they would raise me up, hold my arms behind me and begin to hit me some more . . . they kicked me again and then picked me up and threw me down the first flight of stairs . . . all the time I had the permit to distribute the leaflets in my pocket, but no one would look at that . . . the police standing around did nothing . . . (p. 201)

Ford Motor Co. obviously wasn’t too eager to have any of this made public. According to Howe and Widick (1949), photographers on the scene from the Detroit papers, the *Associated Press* and the *New York Times* had their cameras grabbed from them. In fact, Ford pulled its advertising for a year and a half after *Time* published a sobering account of the violence.

One can only speculate what Mr. Ford thought would be accomplished by these

tactics. This fact remains: The UAW succeeded in galvanizing a workforce that deserved, and successfully demanded, better from the company that profited from its massive efforts.

Through the “Battle of the Overpass,” Ford workers secured benefits that included but weren’t limited to paid vacation, supplemental unemployment benefits, pension payments at retirement, and establishment of a grievance procedure (*This Union Cause*, 1996, p. 27).

The list of gains made over the years by the UAW through collective bargaining goes on and on. Even if you never belonged to a union, chances are you have enjoyed at least some of the benefits. In addition to those cited earlier, *Heritage of Struggle* (1985) lists many more; here are but a few: paid-up life insurance, paid holidays, hospital-surgical- medical protection, prescription drugs, long-term disability, cost-of-living raises, health and safety program, relief periods, severance pay, shift premiums, promotional opportunities, and moving allowances. These were more than just good ideas; in time, government would come to enact some of them into law and create agencies to enforce others. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is one example. Another is a federal labor law mandating time and a half for over 40 hours per week for nonexempt workers. As one examines the situation closer, it becomes apparent that these benefits are much more than “perks.” They are essential to the health, well-being, fair treatment, and just compensation deserved by all working people.

There are those who would maintain that the UAW — or any organized labor union, for that matter — is nothing but trouble. One typical argument is that union people get away with being lazy or become confrontational with management because they know the union will protect them. I have worked in both union and non-union environments.

I was employed in a non-union business before going to Ford. During that time, I believe I’ve maintained a good relationship with my superiors as well as my co-workers. However, there were times when I felt powerless when disagreeing with management about an issue. Even when I believed I presented a valid case, their minds were made up and that was how it was going to be. After over 19 years there, having my job eliminated and being put in a position I intensely disliked, I decided to move on.

After starting at Ford, I was quite amazed at how intense some union/management discussions became. At *first*, I wondered what I had gotten myself into. That soon gave way to a sense of strength and the knowledge that my new employer recognized that I had someone watching out for me. I never took advantage of that, and yes, there are those that do. They’re the ones who give unions in general a bad name. Perhaps unions should reevaluate and ad-

just their policies accordingly to prevent those who blatantly abuse the system from getting rehired. For myself, I did the job Ford had a right to expect from me. If any more was pushed on me than I could safely or reasonably do, I had a union representative in my corner. Workers need a voice because people can and do get hurt on these jobs.

Another argument against unions is how violent strike situations can become. In the instances given earlier in this paper, it would seem that most of the people getting hurt and killed were the ones trying to bargain with their companies for a better way of life. According to Gary Schaubsluger, Organizer for the Minnesota Pipe Trades, “History shows company agitators are responsible for creating much of the problems associated with picket lines by stirring up the workers, causing disruption on the inside and trouble on the outside” (personal communication, April 29, 2007).

I had the opportunity to join a picket line with UAW Local 879 (Ford Twin Cities Assembly) people in support of the workers at Case (UAW Local 763) in St. Paul. The company manufactures farm implements; this was a parts facility. It was a very cold winter day, and I’ll never forget when the van carrying the replacement workers pulled up. For safety reasons, the van must come to a complete stop when it reaches the strikers. When everyone is out of the way, it can proceed. Picketers use this chance to speak to the people who are undermining the Case employees’ bargaining leverage with management by stepping in on their jobs. Under no circumstances would any kind of violence be part of this, but I learned how compassionate observation can carry even more impact. The people in the van needed to look at the strikers standing out in the cold — to look in the face of the father holding his young daughter — and realize that one of them would be taking the food off this man’s table. I noticed that many of the riders in the van would not look at the picketers; some of them were bent forward with their faces in their hands. It was in this moment that I had the clearest understanding that, in crossing a picket line, you are not filling a vacancy in a company. You are taking someone else’s job, plain and simple. You may argue that you need the money too, and this job pays better than most out there. Just step out of the van and thank the people holding the signs — they were the ones who paid the union dues and

struggled with the company to get those wages. They did *not* give up their jobs. They may not necessarily even be making demands for more, they may simply be fighting to keep what they have.

Many people today are enjoying a better way of life as the result of the UAW’s efforts. The power of collective bargaining has succeeded in more evenly distributing the wealth that labor helped to create. Unfortunately, the UAW has lost membership due to global economic changes, competition from foreign automakers, and plant closings in this country while new facilities are built overseas.

As a result of this, the UAW started in the 1990s to direct their organizing efforts to include different geographic localities (such as Puerto Rico), and other occupations such as freelance writers (through the subsidiary National Writers Union), non-profit organization workers, and staff employed by universities. Even earlier, beginning in the 1980s, the UAW has undertaken the organization of academic student employees, also known as “ASEs.” Teaching and research assistants, graders, and tutors are occupations usually included in this group. With the slogan “Uniting Academic Workers,” the UAW represents more ASEs than any other Union in the United States as of 2004 (“United Auto Workers,” 2007, ¶ 9).

As for the auto assembly workers in foreign factories, they will not be paid nearly as much as their American counterparts. Hopefully their governments will not permit exploitation of these people. I sincerely believe that, sooner or later, history is going to repeat itself when someday these laborers realize that nothing gets done without their hard work. Someday, power will concede because demands will be made — and met — or the product won’t happen.

Susan Schaubsluger, a recent retiree, wrote this piece for her English 1200: Organizational Communications class at National American University in May of this year. It was entered in the American Psychological Association Research Paper Scholarship Competition and was awarded First Place. As a result, it has moved on to national competition and is under consideration. Congratulations, Sue! Thanks for your work in educating others about the history and struggles of the Labor Movement.



WALTER REUTHER(1907-1970) – Organizer, labor leader, civil rights activist.

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of his Birth

“There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow man. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it all.”

Killed in plane crash – May 9, 1970



PAUL WELLSTONE (1944 - 2002) - Organizer, politician, social justice and labor advocate... friend to all

Celebrating the Next 100 Years of his Legacy

“Politics is not just about power and money games, politics can be about the improvement of peoples lives, about lessening human suffering in our world and bringing about more peace and more justice.”

Killed in plane crash – October 25, 2002

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM Auto Insurance Discount

UAW Local 879 is sponsoring the AARP Driver Safety Program.

Minnesota law mandates a 10% reduction in car insurance premiums for persons 55 years and older who complete a defensive driving course like 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.

8 Hour basic Class: you must attend both sessions
Tuesday, Nov, 27, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday, Nov, 29, 9:00 am - 1:00pm

4 Hour refresher Class:
Monday, Nov. 19, 8:00am - 12:00pm

All classes are held in the UAW/FORD Training Center, RM 205A
Call Tracy Ausen@ 651-695-3502 to sign up. Class size is limited. Sign-up now.
These courses will open up to the public for registration on November 12.
UAW Local 879 will pay the \$10.00 class fee for its members.

Do you have what it takes to be your own boss?

**Local 879 Peer Support and the
Dislocated Worker Program are
sponsoring a FREE 2 hour class**

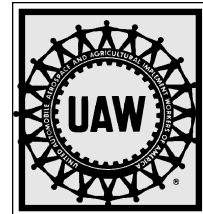
Keys to a Successful Small Business Start-Up

Thursday, December 6 @4:30 pm
UAW/Ford Training Center, RM 255
Learn what it takes to start and/or manage a small business. Topics include:

- What's involved in starting a small business
- Common misconceptions
- Types of small businesses
- Resources available
- Personal and financial advantages
- Questions & Answers

To register for this FREE class call Tracy Ausen @ 651-695-3502.

Instructor Bob Voss has been teaching Business Entrepreneur classes at Dakota County Technical College for 5 years. He has extensive experience owning and managing small businesses.



**"We're not exactly firing you, Sims.
However, we are switching to an all
volunteer work force."**

UAW SKILLS ENHANCEMENT CENTER (SEC) (651) 696-0556 2 ND Floor of Training Center		All SEC classes are FREE to employees/ spouses and retirees/spouses		HOURS: Monday - Thursday - 8AM - 6PM Class hours: Immediately after work 4:30 or 4:45 p.m. (for 1 1/2 hrs.)	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
O C T	1	2	3	4	
	8	9	10	11	
	15	16	17	18	
	22	23	24	25	
	29	30	31	Nov. 1	
N O V	5	6	7	8	
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	19	20	21	22	
	26	27	28	29	
	3	4	5	6	
D E C	10	11	12	13	
	17	18	19	20	

New to the Skills Enhancement Center! PLATO Web Learning Network!
Now you can get online assistance to improve your math, reading and writing skills!
See Deb Lehr (on Mondays or Wednesdays) to set up your user ID and to get started!

- Intro to Windows/Computers** - Learn the basics of operating your computer, from how to turn it on to using a simple word processing and a graphics program. No prerequisites! Please feel free to attend this series of classes as often as you would like!
- Intro to Internet** - What are the basics of using the "Information superhighway"? This class will give you a roadmap as you get familiar with the underlying structure of the Internet, explore various Web sites, and learn the basics of searching.
- Intro to Email** - This class is designed to set up a free email account for you. You are also welcome if you already have email through one of those providers (Yahoo!, Hotmail, MSN, etc.). You'll learn to read & compose messages, create folders to file emails, and save contacts in your email address book for easy access.
- Digital Camera** - Bring in YOUR own digital camera and software so we can explore your questions and discover basic principles of digital photography.
- Intro to Photoshop** - This popular class is fun! You'll learn the basics of this intricate photo-editing program. We'll start with existing images, modifying them with different tools and filters, with each person creating a unique finished product. You'll be able to apply what you learn in this class to Photoshop Elements, should you decide to try it at home.
- Intro to Works** - Come to this class to become familiar with all components of the most common software program on home computers: Microsoft Works. We'll cover introductory word processing, spreadsheets, and databases.
- Resume/Cover Letter Writing** - Stop by for assistance composing your cover letter(s) and resume(s). We'll work with your existing resume or help you to create one from scratch. Attend these sessions as many times as you need.
- "Netiquette"** - This one session class reviews etiquette for all Internet (or "Net") based communications, including email, bulletin boards and instant messaging (IM).
- Intro to Word** - Learn the basics of creating/editing/formatting a document using Microsoft Word.
- Intro to Excel** - Learn the basics of creating a spreadsheet/setting up formulas/editing and formatting using Microsoft Excel.



LIFE AFTER FORD

Notes from the Outside



Ever ask yourself as a Ford/UAW retiree just why our Local has a Retiree Chapter? Good question or a dumb one? Depends on you and your answer to that question!

In a recent discussion with a retiree from another company, the conversation went something like this:

He: Why does your Local have a Retiree Chapter?

Me: Does your Local have one?

He: Yah, but they do things.

Me: Well, our Chapter does too.

He: What, for instance?

Me: Besides our monthly meetings we have an Annual Picnic and Christmas Dinner for our members and spouses.

He: OK, so they like to eat. Big deal! What else do they do?

Me: We send members to meetings, conferences and training programs.

He: OK, but let's narrow it down to the local area. What do you do for your members?

Me: Well, we have people from our Health Benefit company attend our meetings to answer any questions our individual members may have and our Local 879 Benefits Representative attends our meetings to assist us in that area.

He: Good for you guys, but my question is still what do you do, let's say for your membership or the community-at-large? (This guy is a friend from my Pre-Ford days, but he is pushing me just a little too much and I am about to smack him with a wet lutefisk!)

Me: Well Mr. Deep Thinker, be more specific if you would be so kind.

He: Does anyone in your Chapter keep track of any of your members who are house-bound, in a nursing home and just not able to attend your meetings? They may have been great members of your retirees group in the past and now that they are no longer active, are they just dropped by the wayside?

Me: I just plain do not know the answer to that question.

He: About time you thought about that and then you will have part of the answer to my question. Ever consider a simple program of just a simple phone call from one of his or her longtime working friends to help a little in brightening up their day. Let them know they are not forgotten. Or don't you think your membership wants to get involved?

Me: I can bring that question up at our meeting.

He: Now, you dumb herring choker, you're beginning to get the answer to my

question of 'do they do things?'

Me: Yes, I think it is beginning to sink in, you old short-circuit blaster.

He: Good. Now get your members involved. Ask them what else your Chapter can do FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP!

So there it is, members of the Retirees Chapter of Local 879 UAW - what else can we do for our membership? The answer is up to you – or don't you care to get involved? The ball is in your court.

Cubby

Dear Cubby!

I love reading your "Life After Ford". I missed the last retirement pig roast at MilleLacs, but I was happy to have my son Gregory Odash go there and replace me. He retired last December and one of my proud moments was to walk with him on his last day at Twin Cities.

I still miss the guys that I worked with, but am happy to report I've been retired for 28 years. One gal up here asked me, "How do you account for a marriage of 53 years?" I told her I always say, "Yes, Dear". But the gal Hazel has gotten me to go to Norway about 10 times. That's where I was during the retirement party. I'm hoping I can make the next one.

Miss you guys and wish you the best of health.

Gene Odash

P.S. Keep Twin Cities going! It was going to close when I started in 1947.

The Annual Arizona UAW/Ford Retiree get-together will be held on

Thursday, February 21, 2008

New Location! Call for more details!!

Please contact Ron Luzinski 480-654-8437 or Dave Truax 480-396-1068 for verification.

The Annual Texas UAW/Ford Retiree get-together will be held on

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

HAROLD'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

Donna, Texas

11:00 -12:00 Social Hour (BYOB)

12:00 – 2:00 Lunch

If you have any questions, call Norby Asfeld 956-783-8300

or

Arvid Mann 956-783-6055

RETIREES' CHAPTER MEETING



November 19, 1:30 PM

"Christmas Party"

December 17, 12:00 Noon

January 21, 2008 1:30 PM

There is a short business meeting followed by the Local President's report on in-plant activities.

Coffee and donuts are served and there is time to socialize with your fellow workers.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Monday, November 19, 2007



Training Center Lobby

7:00 AM – 11:00 AM

and

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Paint Building

7:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Union Hall - (Retirees)

12 Noon – 1:30 PM

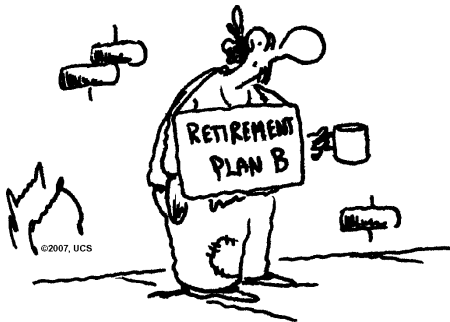


Employees/retirees who have Health Partners for their health insurance must have their ID card with them to receive the flu shot at no cost.

Employees/retirees who have BCBS PPO Plan for their health insurance and wish to receive the flu shot need to go to their clinic. BCBS *does not* participate in "flu shot clinics". (Remember: BCBS has 100% member co-pay for office visits).

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

Employees/retirees may elect to pay for the flu shot. The cost is \$23.00.



RETIREES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 17, 2007

LOCAL UNION HALL

12:00 Noon

Reservations are necessary. Please fill out the form below and mail to:

Local 879 UAW

2191 Ford Parkway

St Paul MN 55116

Or call

Bob or Dee at 651-699-4246

Please respond **NO LATER** than December 7th.



Name _____

Number of people _____

If you have signed up and find you cannot make it to the dinner, please call and cancel as we must pay for each dinner ordered.

RETIREES

January Thru October 1, 2007



Bates, Jimmy 07-2007



Brown, Reginald 01-2007



Burkinshaw, Brent 01-2007



Busacker, William 01-2007



Bussen, Mark 01-2007



Davitt, Joe 07-2007



Earhart, Ronald 07-2007



Erickson, Michael 09-2007



Feifarek, Dan 08-2007



Grice, Gerald 10-2007



Gustafson, Brenda 04-2007



Harrington, Dean 01-2007

RETIREES

January Thru October 1, 2007



Hernandez, Xicotencatl 07-2007



Heroux, Virgil 01-2007



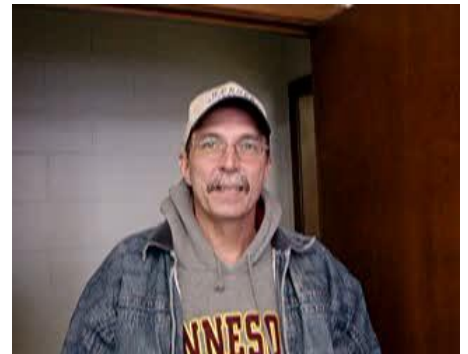
Huppert, Roger 06-2007



Hustings, Dan 01-2007



Jechorek, Tom 09-2007



John, Washko 03-2007



Johnson, Bruce 05-2007



Johnson, Tim 06-2007



Kessler, Craig 06-2007



Kinde, James 03-2007



Krippner, James 09-2007



Kuechele, Brian 06-2007

RETIREES

January Thru October 1, 2007



Kulawczyk, David 10-2007



Lee, Alton 01-2007



Lee, Arliss 03-2007



McDonald, Juliana 11-2007



Meehan, James 09-2007



Miller, Jeff (Grizzly) 09-2007



Minor, Donald 09-2007



Mortel, Jack 06-2007



Mortenson, Ken 06-2007



Noren, David 08-2007



Novack, Kevin 09-2007



Oakland, Craig 06-2007

RETIREES

January Thru October 1, 2007



Peltier, Steve 07-2007



Price, Deanna 09-2007



Ries, Gerald 06-2007



Roberts, Rock 06-2007



Rooney, Kevin 07-2007



Salseg, Richard 09-2007



Schembri, Frank 09-2007



Schweitz, Dan 06-2007



Sharpe, Michael 06-2007



Smith, Sharon 09-2007



Solon, John 01-2007



Sorenson, Jeff 02-2007

RETIREES

January Thru October 1, 2007



Sperry, Tim 01-2007



Spoerner, Robert 01-2007



St Germain, Karen 02-2007



Stack, Ted 01-2007



Staloch, Steve 01-2007



Steinman, Thomas 02-2007



Stevenson, Keith 03-2007



Stewart, Forman 03-2007



Stoeckel, Leon 03-2007



Sudduth Sr., James 01-2007



Swanson, Jack 02-2007



Swanson, Yvonne 07-2007

RETIREES

January Thru October 1, 2007



Swift, Hugh 04-2007



Sypnieski, Gerry 04-2007



Taylor, Louis 01-2007



Teetzel, Kelly 02-2007



Telaga, Terrence 01-2007



Thomas, Greg 03-2007



Tieden, Harold 01-2007



Tindal, Charles 01-2007



Tonn, Wayne 01-2007



Tormanen, Steve 02-2007



Traynor, Tony 09-2007



Triplett, Bruce 01-2007

RETIREES

January Thru October 1, 2007



Van Beck, David 04-2007



VanderWeit, George 02-2007



Vilelli, Joe 3-2007



Vittori, Frank 02-2007



Voeltz, Martin 05-2007



Wagner, Lynn 03-2007



Washington, Charles 01-2007



Webb, Stan 01-2007



Westbury, Mark 03-2007



Wille, Donald 03-2007



Winters, Bobby 01-2007



Winters, Joe 01-2007

RETIREES

January Thru October 1, 2007



Woehler, Michael 01-2007



Wozniak, Walter 01-2007



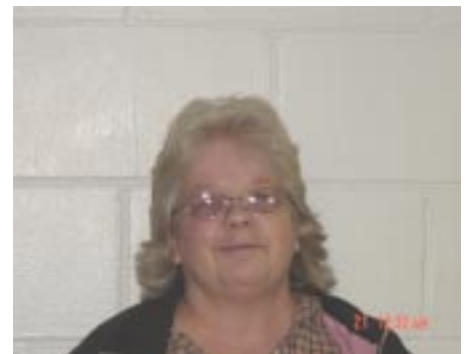
Wulfe, Dan 03-2007



Yancy, Bobby 01-2007



Youngberg, Rocky 03-2007



Zawol, Rebecca 01-2007



Zeestraten, Bruce 05-2007



Zeestraten, Janet 01-2007



NOTICE

Due to the high volume of retirees since January, we decided to spread the pictures out over the past few issues in alphabetical order. We are currently up to date but still have a few remaining that have to be identified. If you haven't seen your picture, please contact us.

We also apologize in advance if we have inadvertently misplaced or misspelled a name with a photo. If this is the case, please contact the Union Hall at 699-4246 and we will happily print a corrected photo in the next issue.

*Sincerely,
The Autoworker Staff*

2007 UAW LOCAL 879 RETIREES PICNIC



2007 RETIREES GARRISON, MN

PIG ROAST



AT KATZEL KENNEL – QUALITY IS # ONE



Irana

When 15-year employee Bill Hansen decided to accept a cash buyout from Ford Motor Company earlier this year, he knew exactly how he'd spend it. He would build a dog kennel. A serious dog kennel.

Currently working as a "flowback" employee building transmissions on the Motor Line, Bill manages to juggle his time with wife Beth, daughter Amber and a kennel full of German Shepherds on their 20-acre homestead near Cambridge.

The idea of breeding Ger-



Zora

man Shepherds began back in 1998 when Beth and Bill bred their first female – Cassidy – who produced lots of puppies in HUGE litters! It wasn't unusual for her to have 13 pups in a litter. The desire to promote better bloodlines eventually led them to the idea of producing workingline and showline German Shepherds of the highest quality.

Their Katzel Kennel, named in honor of Beth's grandparents; is now home to 4 adult breeding females - Irana, Iris, Mia and Zora and one stud, Nemo – all of German, Belgium and Slovakian descent. They are proven champions and have the earned titles,



Iris - Best Of Breed Ribbons

medals and ribbons in both the United States and Europe. The pups are known for the excellent temperaments and are ideal candidates for police work, personal protection, tracking, conformation, showing, agility, Search and Rescue and wonderful family companions.

Unlike the black and tan German Shepherds common in the U.S., the imported Shepherds bred at Katzel Kennels are black and red by design, giving them a unique advantage.

Bill and Beth share a mutual love and interest in the dogs, their well-being and their showing - but Beth is really the driving force behind the kennel and their website, which she created and maintains. Daughter Amber, age 7 ½, is the official puppy socialization expert and is beginning to show the



Nemo

dogs in junior showmanship.

As for that "serious" kennel that Ford helped to build – no expense was spared for the comfort of their dogs who spend equal time there and in the house with Bill, Beth and Amber... as beloved family pets.

For more information on Katzel Kennel, go to www.katzelkennel.com

Marilyn Bobick Johnson



Nemo Front - Iris Back

TURNING PAGES - FACING FEARS

My husband got home from work on a hot afternoon in May of 1988. As he rounded the garage, he found me quietly weeping on the front step of our new home. Immediately questions filled his blue eyes, "Are the kids okay; what's wrong?" To his relief, my tears had nothing to do with the children, but were caused by the overwhelming feelings of apprehension and pressure of going to work at my new job.

I was working second shift from five in the afternoon until three-thirty in the morning at the St. Paul Ford Twin Cities Auto Assembly Plant. I had been there less than a week, and was already exhausted. Facing another night of working in that oven of unbelievable heat and humidity was more than I could handle. There were ceiling fans everywhere blowing hot air around making the factory similar to what I imagined hell to be. The strenuous physical labor was like nothing I had ever experienced before.

I entered into the oven which was dark and gloomy and illuminated only by ceiling lights overhead, the cacophony of sounds were headache inducing and I could smell the now familiar waft of benzene in the air. I had to walk a couple of blocks to get to my job on the assembly line. It was like an ant farm only we were the ants.

I was on the chain job (think chain gang) where an F150 or Ranger truck frame swung through the air with large grappling hooks and half-inch chain attached at the four corners. I would unhook the first heavy hook then continue around the frame until all the hooks were hung up, shove the transmission into neutral in a manual truck and arrange the brake lines correctly. This all was to happen in a matter of one minute before the next frame was there. If I didn't get the hooks off in the time allowed, the frame could get hung up and the next frame would continue to come.

I did everything I could do to complete everything correctly so I wouldn't get caught between the frames and be crushed. I didn't want to stop the line for fear of losing my job. Quantity equals profits; management's goal was to build four to four hundred and fifty trucks in a ten-hour shift. It was all about keeping the assembly line moving.

hausted and the bottoms of my feet felt as if I had been walking over hot coals. I felt as though I must have had a fever of over one hundred and five. My clothes were moist and sticky and I often wondered if I could continue. Not continuing was never actually a choice since I needed the job. I'd start building one truck at a time just to keep going.

I got home at four-thirty in the morning, showered and fell into bed. I was dead to the world until eleven o'clock when the alarm would startle me back into the world again. I had to pick up my son and daughter at the neighbors. I was still tired, but thankfully for me my children were gems. They were easy to entertain and would usually take a two-hour nap after lunch. I kept up this grueling pace for the next four years.

About the time my son started grade school in 1992, I was elated to transfer to the dayshift and be able to spend more time with my family. My hours then were an early six in the morning until four-thirty in the afternoon. I'd get home from work at about five, hobble in pain into the house, get dinner started and get some laundry going. If one of the kids had football, baseball, basketball or soccer to go to, we would be off and running. Those nights we usually didn't get home until about seven-thirty or eight. Hopefully by ten I could fall into bed and sleep until four the next morning.

After about six months of the more difficult jobs, I was lucky enough to get a non-physical job in the plant. I still had to walk ten hours a day but there wasn't any heavy lifting and it wasn't strenuous. I was good with numbers and conscientious so I was given the job of pulling invoices, gathering owners' manuals, and putting labels on the trucks. It was a fast-paced job and not too many of my fellow workers were able to keep up with it.

Believe it or not, despite the hate I felt toward this place, it was becoming my second home. I was making a good living for my family and was in my comfort zone going to the same job every day. Even though I was a human robot, I did feel a sense of accomplishment in doing my job well.

from underneath all of us. We were told the plant was going to close in the spring of 2008. We were all devastated by the thought of our second home closing down and being torn from our extended family. We had to decide whether we wanted to take a monetary or education package or take early retirement. Even though I complained about working at the plant, I was planning to stay for another five to eight years. Instead, I had a couple months to figure out what I was going to do.

I worked at Ford for eighteen years not really using any necessary skills for other employment. Where did all those years go? My first apprehensions were about the threat of losing my weekly income because it's what made our comfortable lifestyle possible. "How do I learn to live on a budget?" I asked myself. It was then that I realized I should have been saving money all those years but I always thought I'd have plenty of time later.

Here I am now, six months into my new life after Ford, poorer but hopefully wiser. My husband is a Real Estate Appraiser and talked me into taking real estate appraisal classes and getting my real estate appraisal license. I was a nervous wreck but shocked myself and did pretty well on the appraisal classes and the Minnesota State appraisal test I took. If I want to become a Certified appraiser (able to perform appraisals without having someone sign them) I have to take 21 credits or have an Associate's Degree per new state guidelines. I feel like I have just started at Ford again, fearful of not only a new job but also the need to go back to school after 35 years.

I still wake up every morning nervous about what the day is going to bring. Working at home with my husband is convenient and much easier on my body than Ford was but a lot more stressful for me mentally. I always feel the need to be good at something immediately. Working with my husband I don't want to be a show learner, or worse yet not able to do the job at all. I have been filled with apprehension and trepidation about what path my life is going to follow next.

By two-thirty in the morning I was ex-

Last summer the rug was pulled out

(Turning Pages continued on page 30)



In Memory

BROTHER PAUL H. BROWN died unexpectedly on August 12, 2007 at the age of 50 years. The funeral service was held on August 20th at Bethany Covenant Church in Richfield, MN. **BROTHER BROWN** came to work at Ford Motor Company July 18, 1977. After 30 years of employment, he was to retire on September 1st of this year. He worked in Chassis and Pre-Delivery. **BROTHER ROGER B. SCHABEL** died unexpectedly in the plant on the evening of September 5, 2007 at the age of 62 years. The funeral mass was held on September 10th at St. Wendelin's Catholic Church, Luxemburg, MN. He was a Pipefitter in Plant Engineering. **BROTHER ROGER** began his employment at Ford Motor Com-

(Turning Pages continued from page 29)

My life is so enjoyable now. My days fly by and I almost feel guilty. I am thrilled about my new opportunities, but I am also scared to death. When I was younger I always looked forward to change and adventure. Now I'm afraid of the failure I might be.

I am 51 years old and what a change this is going to be at this stage of my life. I have been doing physical labor for the past 18 years not really using my mind and now I have to use my mind at work and school. Luckily I am familiar with computers so there isn't much fear there, but cleaning out the cobwebs and getting my brain functioning again is a whole different scenario.

The support of my family is phenomenal, without them this whole ordeal would be even more shocking to the system than it is. They all have a tremendous amount of confidence in me succeeding and as I continue on this journey I hope I can find some of that confidence in myself. I'm looking forward to my self-esteem rising as I'm getting ready to turn the page to the start of a new beginning and all I have to do is face my fears.

*Angie Schwingler,
Retiree*

pany in September of 1964. After more than 42 years there, he retired on January 1, 2007. He was a Flowback employee with Aristeo Manufacturing at the time of his death.

BROTHER JOHN KOGER died on September 12, 2007 at the age of 53 years. The funeral was held on Thursday, September 20th at the Swanson Funeral Home at 806 E Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI. **BROTHER KOGER** began his employment at Ford Motor in May of 1978. After spending 28 years there, he retired in January of 2007. He worked in Body Build.

We have been notified of the death of **BROTHER EDWIN BYERS**, who died at his home in Fallon, NV on November 14, 2006 at the age of 72 years. **BROTHER BYERS** was employed by Ford Motor Company from June 1953 until his retirement in April of 1983.

BROTHER WILFRED (Bill) COLLETTE died in Watertown, NY on October 13, 2007 at the age of 74 years. In accordance with his wishes, no services

were held. **BROTHER COLLETTE** began his employment at Ford Motor Company in September of 1968. After spending 27 years there, he retired in January of 1995.

BROTHER FRED J. BRINKHAUS died on October 20, 2007 at the age of 84 years. A private interment service was held at Fort Snelling Cemetery on October 25th. **BROTHER BRINKHAUS** began his employment at Ford Motor Company in August of 1948. He worked there for 31 years before his retirement in November of 1979. **BROTHER GUNDER B. SALSEG** died on October 23, 2007 at the age of 81 years. The funeral service was held October 26th at the Church of St. Bonaventure in Bloomington, MN. **BROTHER SALSEG** began working at Ford Motor Twin Cities Assembly in October of 1956. He spent 28 years there before his retirement in June of 1984.

Our Condolences to the Families . . .

DISTRICT NEWS

We are almost to the last mandatory Saturday and the company says they only plan on asking for one more voluntary Saturday as of right now. While we are nearing the Holiday Season, I would like to thank everyone for the hard work and dedication in building quality trucks every day, and I know nobody hears that enough. I believe this is the best UAW membership anywhere in the world. As of now we are all still eagerly awaiting news on our national contract with hopes that they can ratify the contract with the best interests of the membership. The Local Bargaining Committee will pass on information as soon as they are notified with a tentative agreement.

I would also like to talk about Solidarity. Some understand what it means, others may not. For some of our new members this may be the first Union they have belonged to. The term Solidarity in the dictionary means "a bond of unity between individuals; united around a common goal or against a common enemy". The term Solidarity may mean different things to different people but for me it is Brother/Sisterhood, or you could say 'a family'. Now sometimes families don't always get along, but they still continue to be a family. With all the hours we have been working with each other and everyone being tired out from the mandatory overtime, we all have had our moments

of stress and irritation. But we always need to remember that we are Brothers and Sisters in our Union and that we need to stick together so that we can stay strong.

During the last year there have been a lot of changes in this plant – some good and some bad – but one thing we really need to maintain is our Solidarity. If we see management treating someone unjustly, or violating the contract, please notify me, or one of the Bargainers, and we will correct the injustice. There have been some complaints of management retaliating against a member for calling the union about a concern in their area. This will not be tolerated and the union needs to be notified of this immediately. There have been some issues with some of the members not getting along with each other. If you have an issue with one of our union brothers or sisters, unless you absolutely feel it necessary to go to Labor Relations to make a statement call your Union Committeeperson and let's try to resolve our daily issues on the floor. I will do my best to help each person resolve it. Let's do our best to be **united**, not separated.

Remember you work for the company, and the Union works for you!

*In Solidarity,
Shawn Milliron*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday - December 8, 2007

Breakfast with Santa: 8:00 - 10:00AM

Santa Visit: 9:00-11:00AM

DJ: 11:00-1:00PM

Local Union Hall

2191 Ford Parkway

St Paul MN Games Prizes - Pop Toss - Face Painter -

Moon Walk - Caricatures - Cake Walk

Join us for lots of Holiday fun!!

Donations for Food Shelf Greatly Appreciated



LETTERS OF THANKS

I would like to thank the UAW and our Local 879 for giving me the opportunity to attend the 24th UAW Civil and Human Rights Conference at the Walter & May Reuther Family Education Center in Black Lake, MI. The Center is beautiful and the architecture is amazing. I learned that Walter Reuther was not only a union leader but he was a civil and human rights activist and an environmentalist.

He had the Center carefully designed so that it would not disturb the environment. The Center is built *around* the trees instead of clearing the lot of trees. The hallways are built like catwalks, raised off the ground connecting all the buildings. So basically you do not have to walk outside if the weather is not permissible. During fall/winter months, the area where the Center is located can usually expect up to 200 inches of snowfall. That is part of the reason the catwalks/hallways leading to various parts of the facilities are raised up.

I was told Walter Reuther wanted to bring the outside in without actually being outside. Brother Reuther was so into the environment that even now if a tree has to come down for whatever reason it has to be approved by the Board.

The classes and the instructors were very interesting. There were some great speakers. The theme for this year's conference was "The Fight Continues for Social

and Economic Justice". Ron Gettelfinger, who is our International UAW President, was scheduled to be the keynote speaker but unfortunately he was unable to attend. Nathan Head guided our group on a tour of the UAW Family Education Center. He stated a lot of historical facts pertaining to the Center, Walter Reuther and other Civil/Human rights leaders who aided and assisted the UAW.

The classes were interactive and informative. I have gained more knowledge in the Civil and Human Rights area. We were told to bring what we learned back to our Committee and to the Local. If you look at and consider the seven years since George W. Bush took office, significant attempts have been made to roll back what has been accomplished during the Civil Rights era.

We, as Union members and/or activists, need to stay on the front lines, continuing the fight for social and economic justice just as Walter Reuther did when he walked with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez decades ago. We need to be politically active and help elect candidates who understand what is at stake. I am encouraged to join the CAP Committee and to join my local NAACP Chapter. I want to do my part and help the fight for social and economic justice.

In solidarity,
Marcus Carpenter

Sisters and Brothers of Local 879,

Thank you for the support you have shown me by voting me into the Sergeant-at-Arms position of UAW Local 879. It is an honor to represent you on the Executive Board.

In solidarity,
Kari Altema

To: **UAW Local 879 Executive Board**

Thank you for your donation to the "We Can Ride" program. It will help many people – young and old!

Michele Eagle



NOVEMBER 2007

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

LUCKY YOU!
Membership Meeting
Door prize winners for
September / October

Marsha Anderson-Shearen
 Jody Greer
 Ben Lundquist
 Chris Rahmann

Kari Altema
 Barb Herber
 Ray Goines
 George Moye

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



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