



the LOCAL 879 UAW
AUTOWORKER

"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2008



CHAIRPERSON'S



REPORT

Our rolls are at 799.

Our production hours will be 4 days, 10 hours for the remainder of the year.

There have been numerous rumors about layoffs coming or more layoffs in the future. We can tell you at this time that we will be scheduled for 2 down weeks. They are the weeks of December 15th and December 22nd 2008. This is always subject to change and there could be **more layoff time coming** with the position that Ford Motor Company is in at this time.

Save some of your money for the slow days. As it stands, we will see at least 5 weeks of down time in the year 2009. There could be more. Don't listen to rumors; ask us and when we find out for **sure** what weeks we have down, we will put out a bulletin.

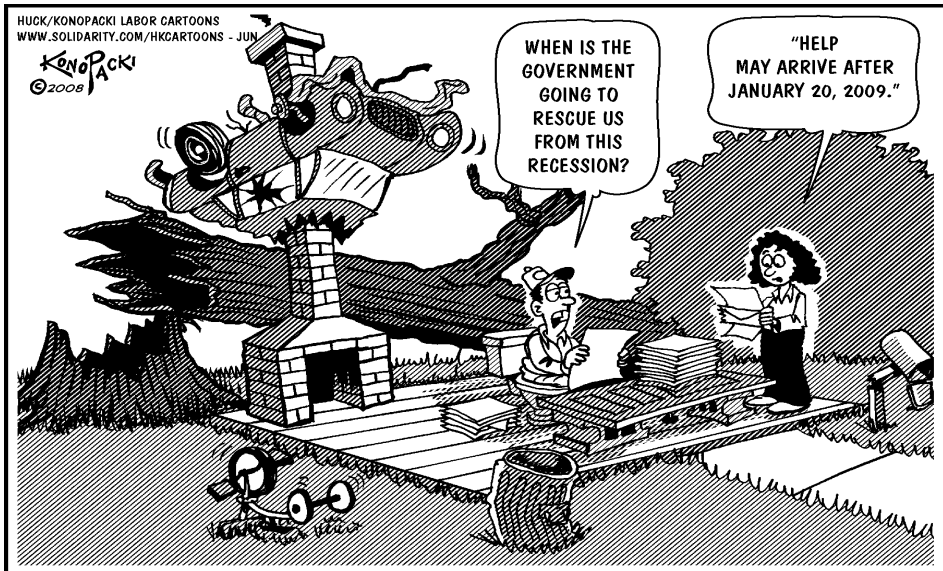
The National Ford Department has been negotiating with Ford Motor about our requests for the membership. We are confident we will see some gains, but no word as of yet.

America is at a crossroads with all that is happening in the world today. Keep yourself informed on the issues. Which candidate is for the working class? Who supports revisiting the NAFTA Agreement? Who has the best plan for America? Which candidate supports Union workers? Take the time to seek out information on all of these issues and any issue that is important for us, the middle class working Americans. We are very confident, after looking at both candidates, you will make the right choice – OBAMA.

This is our last report for the rest of the year.

Wishing you and your families a holiday season to remember – filled with happiness and joy.

In solidarity,
Jim Eagle
Chairman
UAW Local 879



The Local 879 UAW

AUTOWORKER

“An Injury to One is an Injury to All”



Official Publication of
UAW Local 879
2191 Ford Parkway
St. Paul, MN 55116
651-699-4246



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Production	Impact Printing
Circulation	Local 879

Committeepersons, U.S. Mail

The Autoworker is published monthly by Local 879 UAW and is distributed at the Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant by UAW Committeepersons and by mail to Local 879 Retirees. Circulation is 2,200

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.

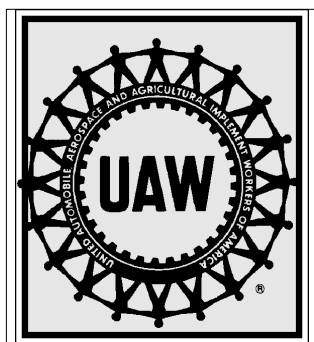
Thanks for your support,
and we look forward to hearing from you.



RECYCLED PAPER
PRINTED WITH SOY INK

PRESIDENT'S

REPORT



I bet there isn't one of you that hasn't received a phone call, flyers or seen/heard ads on TV or radio about political candidates. And you've probably had it up to your eyeballs about what each candidate promises they will do for you. We'll, I have one pet peeve I have to get off my chest.

I won't tell you who to vote for, that's your freedom of choice - but I'd like to point out an ad put out by Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman. In this ad, Senator Coleman says "Working together is how we kept the Ford plant open."

The only "we" involved in saving the plant is "you", the ones who labored so hard to make a great product for so many years at Twin Cities Assembly Plant.

I said in the last Autoworker that I thanked Senator Coleman, Don Shelby, Eleanor Mondale, Mayor Coleman and Governor Pawlenty, for saying good things about our plant. But I'd like to know how the Senator sees himself as "we" in his ad? Because the Senator wrote a letter and went to Detroit, he became Mighty Mouse to save the day? I'll let you be the judge on this.



I attended a meeting in Detroit September 8th thru the 10th. This was a joint conference between the UAW and Ford Motor Company. The UAW urged each local to let its membership know the issues and voting records. Ford Motor Company came right out and said twice to allow candidates, incumbents or otherwise into each plant to listen to Ford's issues and to take a tour of the plants as long as no political flyers were handed out.

When I reminded the Company of this statement, their response to me was "only incumbents were allowed". I find this very interesting. I wonder what Ford would say if McCain or Obama wanted to visit our Facility. Who would be the incumbent?

I'm sure you know about the \$700 billion bailout bill. This is an issue that has upset many folks, and in particular the hard workers of America.

I still don't know where this money is coming from, although I know who gets to pay it back. Again it falls on the blue collar workers to bail out the greedy CEO's, bankers and investors who stole the live savings of you, me and the elderly. When some politician asks for your vote, ask them where they are getting this money for the bailout. Could it be from foreign investors? Gee, Japan lends capital to the US; we taxpayers get to pay back the loan with interest. I wonder how many other foreign investors who are in the Auto Industry will be part of this.

Here's a fact. Do you know what the donations from the major players in the auto and motorcycle industries were for the 911 disaster?

Aston Martin-Nothing
Audi-Nothing
BMW-Nothing
Daewoo International-Nothing
Fiat-Nothing
Honda-Nothing
Isuzu-Nothing
Mitsubishi Motors-Nothing
Nissan-Nothing
Porsche-Nothing
Subaru-Nothing
Suzuki-Nothing
Toyota-A Big Fat Nothing

Now for the good ones!

Volkswagen-The employees and management created a Foundation, funded initially with \$2 million, to assist children and victims with humanitarian help.

Harley Davidson motorcycles gave \$1 million and 30 new motorcycles.

Daimler Chrysler gave \$10 million to support the children and victims in addition to other donations from their dealers, employees and suppliers.

GM gave \$1 million to the American Red Cross, matching employee contributions and a fleet of vans, trucks and SUVs.

Ford Motor Company gave \$1 million to the American Red Cross, matching employee contributions to the American Red Cross and 10 Excursions to the New York Fire Department. The company also offered emergency response team service and office space to displaced government employees.

Now ask yourself this question. If Toyota or other foreign companies or nations are so willing to lend us money, why didn't they help us during the 911 aftermath? Have you ever wondered why American consumers continue to buy foreign products and in particular SUVs, trucks and cars, and not give a second thought to where your money goes? It sickens me every day when I drive to work and see all those foreign cars being driven. And what's even more sad is driving into the parking lot at work and seeing these same foreign vehicles! What even turns me hotter is that government officials in the State of Minnesota and those running for office are driving foreign cars around! Oh, yes I know - some were UAW, made in America but bottom line, the money goes back to foreign nations. If you honestly think that one person, maybe even you, "can't make a difference", well then I've got some swamp land in Florida real cheap for you.

If anything, when you get a call at home asking for support for a candidate - ask them what they drive. I'll tell you what I tell them. If it's a foreign car (and I don't care where it was made) then maybe they ought to get into another line of business.

LOCALLY

We had our Local V-CAP drawing October 2nd at the Membership Meeting. Nine winners were drawn for a total of \$500. They are as follows:

Paul Hozza-\$150
Ben Gross-\$100
Kevin Kinzler-\$75
Dan Fritz-\$50
Mike Cullen-\$25
Ken Goodenow-\$25
Gerald Wagner-\$25
Tom Pierce-\$25
Greg Nyberg-\$25

Prez Report (Continued on page 4)

Your checks will be mailed out to you. Thanks to all who made this a huge success for the Local and Region.

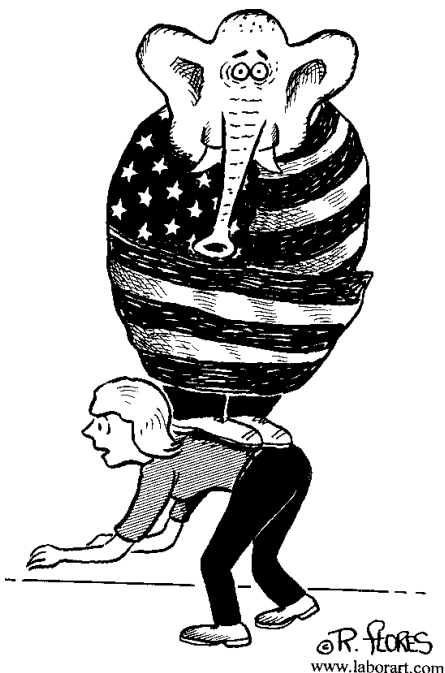
The Recreation Committee will be holding our annual Children's and Adult Christmas party. Look for more information in the upcoming months. I also know the Retirees will be having their Christmas Party at the hall. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

I would also like to thank the membership and in particular, Margie Rios, Mitch Wilkinson, Ron Calari, Sylvia Rutledge, Rori Green and Rosie Van Risseghem for helping with the United Way Drive. We once again increased our donations. Without you, there would be too many hungry and homeless people trying to survive.

With that I'd like to leave you with these thoughts;

"The whole challenge of life is to act with honor and hope and generosity, no matter what you've drawn. You can't help when or what you were born, you may not be able to help how you die; but you can and you should try to pass the days between as a good person".

*In Solidarity and Peace,
Roger Terveen
President and proud member
of Local 879*



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

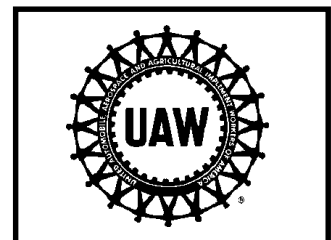
On September 13th 2008, 95 World War II Veterans and 49 guardians boarded a plane in Minneapolis, MN for Washington D. C. The first Honor light hub in Minnesota was born. The veterans, including my father U.S. Marine Corp Sergeant, (enlisted January 4th 1942- October 9th 1945), were welcomed to D.C. with a full celebratory reception including grounds crew waiving flags, a decorated jet way, a full gate of people waiving flags and cheering while a full band played patriotic music. Boarding buses, the veterans traveled from memorial to memorial to be honored and to pay respect to those who could not be there

with them. Upon arriving back in Minnesota, the very same day at 10:30pm, Veterans were given a heroes welcome home with color guard and bagpipes. My sister, and my family among many others were in attendance. This was a day that my father and his friends will not soon forget. There were 15 women who participated in this program. This was the largest group of women who have participated in the Honor Flight since its inception. The program has to date flown 10,000 veterans of World War II to Washington D.C.

(Continued on next page)

FINANCIAL REPORT UAW Local 879

JULY, 2008



Marsha Anderson-Shearen. , Financial Secretary

BALANCE ALL FUNDS

Balance on hand, July 31, 2008	\$614,443.18
Income, August, 2008	56,133.86
Expenditures, August, 2008	74,159.89
Balance, August 31, 2008	\$596,417.15

DEATH BENEFIT FUND

Balance on hand, July 31, 2008	\$893,319.31
Income, August, 2008	9,575.54
Expenditures, August, 2008	3,000.00
Balance, August 31, 2008	\$899,894.95

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

INTERNATIONAL STRIKE FUND REPORT - JUNE

The following is a summary of Strike Fund Income and Expenditures for the month of June 2008.

NET WORTH, MAY 31, 2008	\$843,720,289.23
INCOME FOR JUNE 2008	
Dues Per Capita Tax	3,483,516.19
TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR	\$847,203,805.42
DISBURSEMENTS FOR JUNE 2008	\$9,016,574.11
NET WORTH, JUNE 30, 2008	\$838,187,231.31

There are 14 strikes in effect at the present time, involving 1,091 members.

In May of 2004, our nation completed the construction of the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. to commemorate the sacrifices of the "Greatest Generation". Sadly because of their age, financial constraints or health concerns many of these veterans do not have an opportunity to see their monument. Honor Flight, a non-profit organization based out of Ohio, offers free flights to World War II veterans to Washington D.C. to see the National World War II monument.

To assist disabled veterans, Honor Flight provides oxygen, wheelchairs and scooters as needed. They also give out T-Shirts identifying the Veterans. They do this free of charge to the veterans – they have paid enough.

My father is a WWII veteran that served in the South Pacific for almost four years. He stormed the beaches of Palau and Guam. He and two other friends he exercises with at the YMCA in Burnsville heard about this flight and could not believe that this could all be done for free. They applied and were accepted into the program. The others that went with my father were James W. Johnson US Army Air Corp, Commissioned December 1st 1942 to November 28th 1945 and Flight Officer; William R. Bennewitz US Marine Corps, Commissioned 1942 to 1945 Captain. I believe we all need to honor all of our veterans and this is one small way to do it. I cannot say enough about this group of people I met that were on the flight. They were humble and so grateful to be able to take this trip.

My father did not talk much about the war when I was growing up but you could tell when he did mention something about the war how deeply he must have been affected by it. As a child I believe he wanted to protect us from the life changing experiences he had in the war. After viewing the movie Saving Private Ryan with my father many years ago I realized why he didn't expound on the particulars of the war he so valiantly served in. He had described to me many incidents that he experienced in the war, but had always held back details about what happened. Many of them were played out in the movie. I remember when the movie lights came up in the theatre after all the movie credits were done playing; everyone in the theatre was just sitting there. Most were like me and my father. I was an adult child who saw a glimpse of the horrors

my father experienced as a young man. I couldn't stop the tears from flowing although I struggled to be strong as my father must have been so many years ago as a young man serving his country. I did not have the strength. He says to this day it is the thing in his life he is most proud of and I am proud to have him as my Father.



My Father at the World War II Memorial. He is 88 years young and is the one with a huge smile on his face on the far left. The youngest World War II veteran alive today is 79 years old.



This is Jerry Kyser in his home with the medals he earned in Vietnam. Behind him are his father's medals that he earned in World War II. His whole home is decorated with honors and pictures honoring those who have served our country. I have never met a more passionate and kind man. His family's service dates back farther than the Revolutionary War.

I had the opportunity to meet Jerry Kyser the Twin Cities Honor Flight Sponsor, who coordinates the program. He is a passionate advocate of this program. He raises money and takes pride in honoring these well deserved veterans. He showed me pictures on his wall - his family's military history goes all the way back to the French Indian war. His father served in World War II as my father did and he himself served two tours of duty in Vietnam. The mission statement for the Honor Flight Network is "To fly America's veterans to Washington DC to visit those memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends."

If you have a loved one that served in World War II that you would like to get on the next flight there is going to be another one in April of 2009. You may contact Jerry about this or if you wish to donate to the program. The local phone number of Honor Flight Network is 651- 481-8835.

The website is www.HonorFlight.org email is info@honorflight.org, or you may write to: Honor Flight, Inc.
300 East Auburn Ave.
Springfield, Ohio 45505
Ohio Number is 937 -521-2400

There is an event that the Peer Support Committee and the International are putting on Wednesday, October 22 right after work. Hopefully this issue of The Autoworker will be out in time. We are going to have many resources available to you:

- George Moye is going to speak on your ESSP benefits.
- Norm Strom will have some financial and retirement information.
- Connie Leak from the International will speak on stress management.
- United Way coordinator Kera Peterson will be here with information on 211 and foreclosure prevention.
- Ben Gross will speak on the current political climate.

We are providing free drinks and munchies plus there will be prizes given away. There is a wonderful Relaxation basket that is just packed full of goodies, soaps,

(Continued from page 8)



CONSERVATION NEWS



DOWN ON THE FARM: Despite a handful of summer like days, October has also managed to dampen some spirits with a spell of rain and cold. A triple dose of killing frost has consumed most of the garden- leaving only the tomatoes that are carefully tarped at night. The patch of 40 some plants is covered with a single tarp that once served as a temporary roof when the house was being shingled. It's a bugger to handle, but provides a great canopy for those precious fruits below.

A stubborn streak in me refuses to give up the harvest - but a day will come when I'm ready to let it go. The turkeys are anxious for me to make that call as the garden is transformed into a pen for them this time of year. In less than a month's time, they will have cleaned up all that was left behind and fertilize the garden in the process.

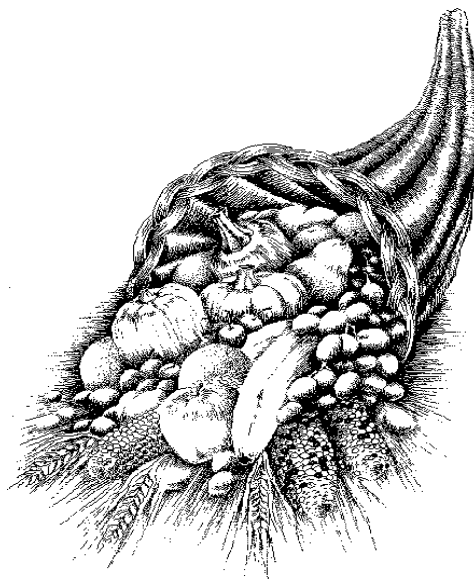
The color has been exquisite this year and many city folks are traveling to my neck of the woods to share in the splendor. Taking my surroundings for granted, the mistake was mine in making a routine trip along the mighty St. Croix which is a short distance from my home. Bumper to bumper traffic stopped me in my tracks - forcing me to escape the jam and take a road less traveled.

DOWN SOUTH: On a mid-September trip to the southern U. S., I had the opportunity to observe the fall migration of Ruby-Throated hummingbirds on the Rock Springs Nature Trail just North of the Tennessee River in north-west Alabama.

The birding area includes a wetland and beaver pond shoreline laced with orange jewelweed, an abundant food source for the traveling hummers. As they prepare for their journey south to their winter homes in Mexico and Central America, they feed on the nectar from the jewelweed's tubular flower.

While taking my solo hike through woods and wetland, I crossed paths with a woman from Wisconsin who was also passing through. We were pleasantly surprised to meet each other as neighbors so far from home. Several hummingbirds were sighted that day - some from as far North as we had traveled.

FROM THE NORTHWOODS: The color peak has passed - but an upcoming trip to the Northwoods will satisfy the adventurer in me. The cabin, some 20 miles from the Canadian border



has been sorely missed since the last visit several months ago. Summer has never been an ideal time to hike the mile long trail from vehicle to cabin - especially in the height of mosquito season. Autumn and winter are the favorite times to go - leaves or no leaves, snow or not. There will be firewood to gather as word was received of a large cedar that has fallen, missing the cabin by a matter of feet. Camp fires will blaze and stars will be gazed... all in the company of friends.

LOCALLY: Talk of layoffs and shorter work schedules are a direct reflection of a sick economy and the auto industry is usually the first to feel the

blow. The "Buy-American" sentiment has been rejected by many consumers. Folks are looking for smaller vehicles that guarantee better fuel economy. I love my Focus and I love my Ranger - but I don't blame anyone for the vehicle choices that they make. I place the blame on the American auto companies for not producing what consumers really want. I blame the Big 3 for placing their energy and resources into gas guzzling trucks and SUVs instead of pursuing better designs and technologies that will help to stabilize our market share and our environment.

If Ford and others had read the writing on the wall over a decade ago and embraced the idea of hybrid and alternative technology, we might not be in the shape we're in today. A revolutionary electric and magnetic Ranger concept is available now - and ready for their consideration. For more information on the progress of the Electric Ranger Project, see the article on page 14 of this issue of The Autoworker. Nope, I don't blame my friends and neighbors...I blame those who have made the poor decisions in not producing what my friends and neighbors want to drive.

FROM THE HEART: Due to budget cuts within the Local, The Autoworker has been reduced to a quarterly publication. With that in mind, this will be your final issue for the year. It is with heartfelt wishes from me and the entire staff of The Autoworker that the remainder of your year be filled with peace, prosperity and hope for brighter future. May your choice in the upcoming election also come from the heart...by electing the person who will lead us forward in causes of the environment, human rights, social justice and peace.

*In Solidarity,
Marilyn Bobick Johnson, Editor
Conservation Committee Retiree*

YES for MINNESOTA

Dedicating Funds to Protect Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage and Natural Areas

This November, you have the opportunity to Vote Yes for Minnesota – dedicating funds to preserve clean water, protect game, fish and wildlife habitat, arts and parks and trails. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make an investment in protecting Minnesota’s quality of life and preserving it for future generations.

We need clean water for drinking, fishing and swimming, for the benefit of ourselves, our children and future generations. This initiative will protect our drinking water and provide funding for the clean up of our rivers, lakes and streams. Nothing is more important than having clean water.

The amendment will offer tremendous help to protect our environment. The outdoor fund will preserve our many forests,

prairies and natural areas that both Minnesotans and our tourists enjoy so much. Protecting our lands for game habitat, wildlife, fishing, hunting and hiking is critical at this time and passing this amendment now is the right thing to do for our state’s future.

Minnesota has also been blessed with one of the strongest arts communities in the country. Passage of this amendment will ensure that kids from all corners of the state have access to arts education. This amendment is a long-term investment in Minnesota’s future generations.

Lastly, this amendment will support and enhance our parks and trails systems. While we enjoy ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, this will ensure that we upgrade existing facilities and expand our current

network of parks and trails.

This November 4th, you have a chance to make a long-term investment in Minnesota. Vote “Yes” on the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment and protect the Minnesota you love for future generations.

Funding from the state amendment over the next 25 years will be distributed among four purposes: 33% for water quality, 33% for wildlife habitat, 19.75% for arts, and 14.25% for parks and trails. Since this is a constitutional amendment you must vote on the ballot or else all unanswered votes are recorded as negative.

For more information, contact “Yes for Minnesota” by phone at 651-644-2088, or by e-mail at info@yesformn.org.

Report Says \$100 Billion Investment Could Yield 2 Million ‘Green’ Jobs

A new report says that a \$100 billion investment program for energy efficiency would create 2 million U.S. jobs over a two-year period while also addressing global warming and building a green, low-carbon economy.

The report, Green Recovery: A Program to Create Good Jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy, urges investment in six green infrastructure areas for energy efficiency to curb skyrocketing energy costs and create U.S. jobs. Focusing particularly on the struggling construction and manufacturing sectors, most of the spending would be in public infrastructure investments with a focus on:

- retrofitting buildings to improve energy;
- expanding mass transit and freight rail;
- constructing “smart” electrical grid transmission systems;
- wind power;
- solar power; and
- next-generation biofuels.

In releasing the report, co-author Bob Pollin said the \$26 billion it would take to retrofit public buildings would pay for itself in five years through energy savings.



The report suggests that payment for the initiative could come from proceeds from auctions of carbon permits under a green-

house gas cap-and-trade program. “Most of the federal spending would be in the form of public infrastructure investments in public building retrofits, public transportation, and building smart grid systems because the money to support these activities can be delivered relatively quickly by the federal government, and through the federal government to state and local governments,” according to the report.

The investment would result in widespread employment gains across a broad range of occupations, including roofers, welders, electricians, truck drivers, accountants, and research scientists, the study found.

The report was prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst under commission by the Center for American Progress and released by a coalition of labor and environmental groups, including the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club.

BARGAINER'S REPORT

Back in February we attended the National Ford Council meeting. At that meeting Ron Gettlefinger, President of the UAW spoke about how important it is for UAW members to actively support candidates that believe in labor and keeping jobs in our country in the upcoming federal and state elections. Since George W. Bush took office in 2001, the United States has lost over 3 million manufacturing jobs. That's more jobs lost than any other President in the United States history. We need a candidate that is looking for ways to bring our jobs back to the United States by lowering taxes for the middle class, not by giving tax breaks to the rich.

We need a candidate that is in touch with the blue collar workforce and who also understands what it will take to turn our economy around. We need our next President to do something before it is too late! The Bargaining Committee, after studying

the candidate's views, believes that **Barack Obama** is looking out for our best interests as Union Members. We will be supporting **Barack Obama for President of the United States**. How you vote is your personal decision and we the Leadership respect that! Our hope is that everyone will make sure that they get as much information on each candidate before the election. And make sure to get out and vote for the candidate that is going to help all of us in the pursuit of bringing back the middle class jobs and wages that we have all lost. **Vote on Tuesday, November 4th!**

Based on our economy slowing down significantly and Ranger sales continually dropping, Ford Management has informed the Bargaining Committee that we will have some lay-off weeks scheduled in December, if not sooner. Remember that lay-offs are **always** subject to change, and the company should be putting out a bulletin soon.

Left with the uncertainty of our economy and the slowing sales of most vehicles, there is a high probability of more down time to come beyond that of which the Company has already determined.

The Bargaining Committee suggests that each member of our local 879 does his or her best to prepare themselves financially by putting some money away if at all possible. Again, this is based on the unforeseen financial slowdown of our plant due to the reduced sale of the Rangers.

With the Holiday coming up we would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.

*In Solidarity,
Bargainer UAW 879
Tom Reis and Shawn Milliron*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT (Continued from page 5)

lotions and candles. There will also be free oil changes from Tires Plus, an ultimate tailgating kit, Yankee candles, movie night out, dinner for two to Chipolte and shampoos from Trade Secret. Noodles and Company is going to provide the food and Caribou coffee will provide coffee. I am hoping for a large turnout.

Fare for All was another huge success because of you. Thank you all so much for donating by purchasing these packages. I spoke with the company about the expired dates on the meat and they assured me that the meat was frozen before the date and is still good for over a year. They also assured me that the FDA audits them regularly and they are in good standing.

I am trying to get recycling going in the hall. Please pay attention to the bins and barrels I have designated. Thank you.

I would also like to thank the membership for sending our head Trustee Rori Green and I to Detroit for the Financial Secretary's conference. I garnered much information from the conference and am much more comfortable in my job. I apolo-

gize for not having a financial report in the last Autoworker. I was still learning the job at the time. No one has to worry I can assure you there is nothing wrong with UAW Local 879's finances.

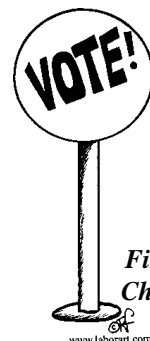
Lastly I wanted to say a few things about this election. We need to forget about the candidate's rhetoric and look at what they do. This election is about the issues:

- 22 of McCain's top advisors are in the financial industry
- McCain wants to make the tax cuts Bush put in for the wealthy permanent.
- McCain has voted against raising the minimum wage time and time again.
- Look at the programs & policies the candidate supports.
- McCain voted to privatize social security in (1998, 2005) Yikes! Seen your TESPHE or 401K lately?
- McCain voted against the Free Choice Act.
- McCain voted to give the wealthiest a 1% tax break.
- McCain has voted 90% of the time with President George Bush and 100% with Bush this year.

Remember this. We can't change peoples minds by criticizing them. We can influence them by speaking to them about the issues.

NAFTA was supposed to be an economic boom for Mexico, Canada and the U.S. Instead what happened was that the rich have benefited and the workers have suffered. NAFTA completely overlooked labor standards and allowed the rich to exploit the workers of this world.

This trade imbalance needs to be addressed. In my entire life and most of my father's who lived through the depression, we have not seen the economy in this poor a shape. Ask anyone who has lived it how frightening and dreadful the shape of our economy is.



*In Solidarity,
Don't forget to vote!
We have that right and
that is our power.
Marsha Anderson-Shearen
UAW Local 879
Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Chair Peer Support Committee
CAP Committee*

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Here are some statistics from The Breast Cancer Network of Strength website:

<http://www.networkofstrength.org/information/bcnews/stats.php>.

* Excluding cancers of the skin, breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among U.S. women, accounting for more than 1 in 4 cancers.

* Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer.

* One out of eight American women who live to be 85 years of age will develop breast cancer, a risk that was one out of 14 in 1960.

* 2.4 million Women living in the U.S. have been diagnosed with and treated for breast cancer.

* An estimated 182,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in American women during 2008. About 1,990 new cases of breast cancer are expected in men. In addition, an estimated 67,770 cases of in situ breast cancer (both DCIS and LCIS) are expected, with 85 percent being DCIS.

* An estimated 40,930 breast cancer deaths are anticipated this year (40,480 women, 450 men).

* The greatest risk factor for developing breast cancer is gender (female) and the second is age. During 2000-2004, 95 percent of new cases and 97 percent of breast cancer deaths occurred in women aged 40 and older.

* The risk of developing breast cancer increases for women whose parent, sibling or child has had the disease.

* It has been estimated that 5 percent to 10 percent of breast cancer cases result from inherited mutations or alterations in BRCA1 and BRCA2.

* Women who begin menstruating before age 12 are at increased risk of developing breast cancer. The more menstrual cycles a woman has during her lifetime, the more her risk increases.

* Other risk factors include inherited mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, a personal or family history of breast cancer, high breast tissue density, high-dose radiation to



the chest wall, long menstrual history, never having given birth or giving birth for the first time after age 30, and biopsy-confirmed atypical hyperplasia.

* After decreasing 16 percent from 2006 to 2007, the estimated number of new cases of female invasive breast cancer is expected to increase slightly in 2008 to 182,460, up from 178,480. The estimated number of new breast cancer cases in men is expected to continue to decline slightly, with 1,990 new cases in 2008, down from 2,030 in 2007.

* Female breast cancer incidence rates continuously increased for two decades, but have leveled off since 2001.

One possible explanation for the decrease is that millions of women stopped taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) following published research that indicates a positive link between taking HRT and developing breast cancer.

* Patients with private insurance from all racial/ethnic groups are more likely to be diagnosed with stage I breast cancer and less likely to be diagnosed with stage III and IV than those who were uninsured or who had Medicaid insurance. While 89 percent of patients with private insurance survived five years, only 77 percent of uninsured and 75 percent of Medicaid patients passed the five year mark.

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is in need of support, there is an agency called "Your Shoes" which provides immediate emotional relief by having breast cancer survivors on the other end of the call. The phone number is 1-800-221-2141. They have interpreters in more than 150 languages and will answer your call whatever time of day or night. Please check out their website. <http://www.networkofstrength.org/programs/yourshoes.php>.

Great links for prevention, diagnosing, and other important information:

Susan G. Kromen for the Cure: <http://ww3.komen.org/home/> Their 24 hour hotline is 1-800-IM-AWARE (462-9273).

Sister's Network Inc. A National African-American Breast Cancer Survivorship Organization: <http://www.sistersnetworkinc.org/default.asp>. Their phone number is 1-866-781-1808. Email them at: sisnet4@aol.com.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Kari Altema*

POLITICALLY SPEAKING....

The Power to Create Change

Government of the people, by the people and for the people. It means that we are not here to serve our government, but that our government is here to serve us and we have the right to decide who will represent us and how we want to be represented. It means that we have one of the greatest rights any free people can have: The right to vote.

Every four years during a presidential election cycle we are asked if we are better off now than we were four years ago. This has become the measurement for success or failure of the current executive branch, a barometer for the policies of the President

of the United States and the direction we as a nation are heading towards. I ask, are you better off than you were 4 weeks ago? If not, why? What can you do about it? The answer is simple, on your day off - November 4th, go vote! Minnesota has same day registration, just bring a drivers license, State ID or social security number.

Voting is a right that, throughout history, many have fought for and sacrificed everything to achieve. It's a right that people continue to fight for and that millions of people throughout the world still do not enjoy. As Americans we have the great

privilege to live in a free society and voting is the right that makes us free. So on Tuesday, Now 4th, make it a family affair, bring the kids, your kids friends, your grandkids (they will still be paying for this mess) and go to the polls. At 8 P.M. set off some fireworks so they remember this day. When history was made, when "The People" stood up and said "Enough Is Enough" and defeated the special interest groups excessive greed. A vote for Barack Obama will restore a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

You have the power to create change....

*Benjamin Gross ,
Co-Chair CAP Committee*



Obama on Manufacturing

Jobs of the future

"We need to make sure our automakers are ready to build these next-generation vehicles right here in the United States, which is exactly what my energy plan will do."

Letter to UAW members, July 18, 2008

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH FACTS

· One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime

· An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. That is 3,561 women per day, 148 women per hour, or 2.5 women per second.

· The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and 86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.

· 54% of all rape cases occur before a victim reaches 18 years old.

· 71% of rape and sexual assault victims knew their offenders.

· 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.

· Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.

· 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime.

· 81% of women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner; 31% are also sexually assaulted by that partner.

· Almost one-third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.

· 76% of female murder victims had been stalked by the person who killed them.

· Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.

· Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

· 30-60% or perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.

· 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused by the time they are 16.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website is the source for the above statistics.

<http://www.cadv.org/unsorted/topicspecificfactssheets231.html>.

What can you do to help?

· Believe the survivor and assure them that is NOT their fault.

· Talk about domestic violence. Don't be afraid to let a family member, co-worker or stranger know that you are concerned about them.

· Wear a purple ribbon for domestic abuse awareness.

· Refuse to accept violence in your life.

· Learn the facts about domestic violence.

· Call the police if you witness domestic abuse.

· Donate to a local shelter or agency.

· Volunteer at a shelter or agency which provides support for people in abusive relationships.

· Don't give up on someone you know who is being abused.

· Don't blame the victim.

· If you are a victim, get help and get out.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

The National Sexual Assault Hotline is 1-

800-656-HOPE (4073).

The National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline is 1-800-331-9474.

As always, call 911 in emergencies.

Twin Cities area agencies/shelters:
Cornerstone Advocacy Service, Bloomington, MN 55431. Business #: 952-884-0376 Hotline/Crisis: 952-884-0330.
Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, St. Paul, MN 651-646-6177.

Alexandra House, Inc. PO Box 49039, Blaine MN 55449. Business #: 763-780-2332 Hotline/Crisis: 763-780-2330

Wilder Domestic Abuse Program, Blaine MN 55434 business #: 763-783-4983

Womankind, Inc. Support Systems for Battered Women, Fairview Ridges Hospital, 201 e Nicollet Blvd., Burnsville MN 55337. Business #: 952-892-2500 Hotline/Crisis: 952-924-8200

Rivers of Hope, PO Box 142, Elk River MN 55330 Business #: 763-441-0792 Toll Free #: 1-800-439-2642

Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter, Powderhorn Station, Minneapolis MN 55407. Business #: 612-827-6105 Hotline/Crisis: 612-827-2841

Lesbian Battering Intervention Project, St Paul MN 55104 Business #: 651-646-6177 Hotline/Crisis: 651-646-0994

St. Paul Intervention Project, St Paul MN 55104 Business #: 651-645-2824

For a complete list go to:

<http://www.sboard.org/SHELTERS/MN.HTM>

*Respectfully submitted by,
Kari Altema*

McCain's RECORD ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The following website clip is from: <http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/378921rileywomen14.html>. Please go to the website for the rest of the article. It is a very good article, which talks about elderly women in poverty, military women and sexual violence, and women and contraception. I love the quote at the end of the article: "McCain may have a woman on the ticket but he does not have interests of women at heart."

What did "compassionate conservatism" do for women's safety? Approximately 1,200 women are killed and 1.3 million physically assaulted each year by an inti-

mate partner. In 1994 Congress enacted the Violence Against Women Act to fill gaps in state prevention efforts. To oversee the act, Bush appointed Nancy Pfotenhauer to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women. In her earlier role as president of the Independent Women's Forum, Pfotenhauer waged a bitter fight against the entire act, claiming it would encourage "vulnerable women to mistrust all men."

With Ms. Trust Your Batterer pulling the strings, it is not surprising that right after a photo op authorizing its renewal, Bush cut the act's funding. McCain voted against restoring those funds and opposed programs to aid children affected by domestic vio-

lence. With one hand, Bush and McCain deplore the murder of pregnant women and "unborn children". With the other hand they scrap promising federal efforts to prevent such murders.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Kari Altema*







Manufacturing Jobs

Who will protect our future?

Since George Bush took office in 2001, the United States has lost 3 million manufacturing jobs. U.S. workers are the most productive in the world — but we need a change in government policy to keep good jobs here, now and for the future.

Where do the candidates stand?

 <p>Barack Obama <i>Democrat</i></p>	 <p>John McCain <i>Republican</i></p>
<p>Jobs of the future "We need to make sure our automakers are ready to build these next-generation vehicles right here in the United States, which is exactly what my energy plan will do." <i>Letter to UAW members, July 18, 2008</i></p>	<p>Jobs of the future "Some of the jobs that have left the state of Michigan are not coming back. They are not." <i>Boston Globe, Jan. 18, 2008</i></p>
<p>Funding for advanced vehicles \$150 billion clean-energy plan, which includes building fuel-efficient vehicles in the United States. Supports immediate funding for UAW-backed Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program (ATVMIP): low-interest loans for automakers who retool facilities to build advanced vehicles and key components in the U.S. <i>Letter to UAW members, July 18, 2008</i></p>	<p>Funding for advanced vehicles \$300 million prize for development of a battery to power electric vehicles. No funds for U.S. production or U.S. jobs. Industry experts say the one-time prize is unlikely to "attract the real serious research companies." No plan for building advanced-technology vehicles in the U.S.; no position on UAW-backed ATVMIP. <i>"Battery Bounty Bogus, critics charge;" Ward's Automotive Reports, June 30, 2008</i></p>
<p>Air Force Tanker: Supports spending U.S. dollars on U.S. jobs When the Air Force awarded a multi-billion dollar contract to a European consortium — instead of to Boeing, a U.S. firm employing UAW members — Obama said it was hard to believe "that an American company that has been a traditional source of aeronautical excellence would not have done this job." <i>Seattle Times, March 4, 2008</i></p>	<p>Air Force Tanker: Top aides lobbied for European firm McCain, a leading Boeing critic, received \$12,000 in campaign donations from executives of EADS, Boeing's European competitor. Five of McCain's top aides, including his former finance chair and his finance director, were registered lobbyists for EADS. "He (McCain) was trying to jam us and bully us to make sure there was competition by giving EADS an advantage," said one senior Pentagon official. <i>"McCain's Boeing battle boomerangs," Newsweek, June 30, 2008; McCain advisers lobbied in EADS tanker deal," AP, 3/11/08</i></p>
<p>Supports UAW position and U.S. jobs (checkmark icon) Against UAW position and U.S. jobs (X icon)</p>	

Vote Tuesday, Nov. 4

Prepared by UAW National CAP for distribution among UAW members and their families. August 2008

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THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2008 V-CAP DRIVE

Your V-CAP Dollar contributions will help elect candidates who support working Americans. Let's take back America for these issues:

- Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!
- Social Security Protection!
- Right to Organize a Union!
- Affordable Health Care!
- Fair Trade Policies!
- Pension Protection!



HIGHGROVE ANNUAL PUMPKIN GIVEAWAY

We will once again be giving away pumpkins at our new building on Saturday, October 25th starting at 10 AM. Come join us for some cider and cookies. This year we will be collecting non-perishable food items to support the West 7th Salvation Army Food Shelf.

Highgrove Credit Union is located near the intersection of Montreal Avenue and West 7th Street.

Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union partnered with the St Paul Non-Profit Great River Greening for our Grand Opening in August to give away over 100 potted acorns to the community in hopes that these acorns will grow into mature Burr Oaks Trees. This acorn give-away was a part of Highgrove's "Putting Down Roots in the Community" campaign to celebrate the opening of the Credit Union's new building on West 7th Street.

Highgrove staff will also be volunteering at the upcoming planting event on October 18th at the Xcel Energy plant on the Mississippi to plant trees, seedlings and shrubs to help ensure the ecological health of the surrounding area and the Mississippi River.

"The Conscious Consumer is a key, accessible resource that helps communities around the country deepen their understanding of Fair Trade."

FAIR TRADE IS A PEOPLE- POWERED SOLUTION TO GLOBAL ECONOMIC INJUSTICE.

The Fair Trade system ensures that people along every step of the supply chain receive fair wages, that workers and communities are treated with dignity, and that artisans and producers take steps to preserve the environment. Fair Trade builds real and lasting relationships between producers in developing countries and businesses and consumers in more developed areas all around the world. The Fair Trade economy is based on justice, dignity, empowerment, transparency, and respect for people and the planet.

FAIR TRADE vs. "FREE" TRADE:
The two terms are often confused but they mean very different things.

The "free" market system favors big businesses over workers and small, family farmers. These farmers cannot compete with the heavily subsidized agriculture of the United States. Agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the recent Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) have had devastating effects for small producers and families in the affected countries. Under free trade agreements, when rich countries with subsidized agriculture industries are allowed to dump their surplus products into poorer countries at a price lower than production cost, local producers are unable to earn a living wage from their goods. This is

the exact opposite of Fair Trade, with its emphasis on ensuring producers can earn enough to care for their families and communities.

In the "free" market, small producers are especially vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations. In the Fair Trade model, producers are guaranteed a floor price for their product that is considered to be a living wage in the local context. If the price drops in the global market next week, they will not have to worry about their income. In addition to price stability, Fair Trade also builds long-term trade relationships. Unlike Fair Trade, free trade promotes a "race to the bottom" where businesses search for the cheapest labor and the highest profits. This means that many workers endure sweatshop conditions and low wages only to lose their jobs when a company relocates to save a little money.

The "free" trade model can also have devastating impacts on the environment. Free trade agreements like CAFTA do not require member countries to adopt internationally recognized standards for environmental protection. Furthermore, they allow member countries to compete to attract investment, which could lead to the waiving or weakening of existing environmental laws as big corporations shop for the cheapest and easiest place to do business – regardless of the effect on the environment. In contrast, Fair Trade encourages environmental sustainability, directing Fair Trade premiums to environmental education programs for farmers, and insisting on adherence to international environmental standards.



Electric Ranger Sparks Interest at the State Fair

Over a three day period the Auto Workers of Minnesota, Inc., a 501(c) 3 non profit, was invited by the Industrial Unions Council to display an the Electric Ranger at the Minnesota State Fair. We would like to first thank the IUC and their member unions for the opportunity to have it on display. We also would like to thank the UAW members that volunteered to work at the booth and those who came to visit the booth.

Over a year ago the Auto Workers of Minnesota turned over a Ford Ranger to Bob Albertson so that he could transform it into a totally electric Ranger. As I have previously explained that Bob Albertson was an inventor that we met at the Minnesota State Capitol. He had indicated to us that he had the capability to make a Ford Ranger electric. We had great faith that Bob could do it, because of his track record of inventing. He has over 200 patents to his name including the weed whip, the vending coffee machine, the pulsating shower head, the hydraulic door closer, and the electronic trolling motor.

From both UAW members and from citizens across the state they were excited to see this truck. We even received television coverage from KARE 11 on Friday. For those interested in seeing the segment go to KARE11.com and look for the article by John Croman, "Ford Ranger goes totally electric at the State Fair." Many people had stopped by after hearing the article on TV. Others came after hearing Al Malmberg on WCCO AM and Joe Soucheray on KSTP AM talking about it on their shows.

There was 100% positive reaction to the truck. Many people were interested in the truck for personal use. Others came by and expressed how their businesses would benefit from a total electric truck whether from traveling from rental property to rental property, pizza delivery, or general deliveries. They were impressed at the retail cost that the truck is expected to cost. They were impressed how much it will cost to power the truck for a month (remember the nearly \$4.00 a gallon for gas you were paying then.)

At the Fair many took an opportunity to talk to Bob Albertson about his truck. When he wasn't there the volunteers had an op-

portunity to discuss what they know or heard Bob say about the truck.

Here are some of the highlights of the truck.

The truck is all electric. NO GASOLINE NEEDED. Just plug it into a standard outlet.

The monthly electric bill for just the vehicle is \$36.18. That is if you discharged the batteries, and charged them up fully everyday for a month. That is like the cost of one tank of gas.

The electric truck will have both heating and air conditioning. Last year the Auto Workers of Minnesota knew we had a truck that was going to be heated, we just didn't know how the air conditioning was going to be placed in the truck without taking too much of the battery power. Bob figured that out. I believe that Bob is using new technology that he developed.

The truck currently can go 170 miles with speeds getting up to 75 mph. You then can have a quick charge of the trucks batteries in about twenty minutes and go another 50 miles. The truck is currently being run on six deep cycle marine batteries. Some current electric cars on the market go only 40 miles on a single charge. Bob is working to obtain lithium batteries that will allow the truck to double the range of the truck to 320 miles and allow the batteries to be charged faster.

Some asked if the truck would start in winter. Bob says no. In fact, if the truck doesn't start in the morning the only thing now that you will need to check is the connections to your batteries.

You will still be able to carry the same amount of weight in the vehicles box as you had before. The truck will be able to tow a trailer with two snowmobiles at the same distance and the speeds mentioned before. For the people who fish, including Don Shelby of WCCO, yes you will be able to tow your boat with your Electric Ranger.

The electric engine is warranted for a lifetime. The Mag-Trans Drive is magnetic, so it has a 5,000 year lifecycle. The

batteries have about a seven year life, and to replace them currently would be about \$750. The truck from the bell housing back, and the body of the truck would be warranted by Ford.

Bob Albertson has solved the over torque problems on the drive shafts that some electric cars are having.

The price of the electric vehicle new would be about \$22,000.

For Ford, there are many upsides to this project. As our competitors and our company seek to create electric vehicles only in the sedan market, many are leaving the truck market alone. This product targets a market that no one has put effort into capturing with a totally electric vehicle. This vehicle, with our unscientific poll at the Minnesota State Fair, would be bought by both businesses and individuals. They seek to stop our dependence on foreign oil, reduce the cost of gasoline in their budgets, and seeking cleaner modes of transportation. I believe sales of these vehicles would strengthen Ford Motor Company's bottom line and return a profit. I believe that many businesses would see these vehicles as a potential to reduce costs within their company in regards to their vehicle fleets fuel usage and monthly maintenance costs. Government would also seek these electric Rangers as a way to reduce carbon emissions, and reduce costs in their budget. By reducing such costs, Government would be able to realize a savings and put those savings into other important projects.

Ford would also make a big impact on the consumer. Many of the new electric vehicles coming out do not benefit the average consumer. One new electric vehicle starts off at a \$40,000 price point, then only offers the consumer an opportunity to only drive 40 miles on a charge, our vehicle beats that. In fact, this vehicle goes back to the original thinking of Henry Ford by allowing the average consumer a chance to buy a vehicle at a reasonable price. The price of a new electric Ranger would be no more than what the truck now costs.

Jim Reinitz
Local 879 member and Executive Director of Auto Workers of Minnesota

Electric Ranger Sparks Interest at the State Fair





SUPPORT OUR TROOPS DRIVE

We are again doing the drive to send our troops a little cheer for Christmas.

Your support is greatly needed.

We will be collecting items at both doors in the main building and in Paint from November 1st until December 4th.

We need volunteers to help with packaging the gifts.

We will then meet at the union hall on December 5th at 9:00am to package items to be shipped out.

If you have a family member you would like to receive a package, please give their name and address to your committee person or anyone else in the union .

Enclosed is a list of suggested item to donate.

Food

Beef Jerky
 Breakfast Bars
 Canned Fruit (Pop top lids)
 Canned Meats (Pop top lids)
 Canned Soup (Pop top lids)
 Cereal - in small boxes
 Cookies - Girls Scouts
 Crackers - Plain with cheese
 Granola Bars
 Nuts (sunflower seeds, peanuts etc)
 Oatmeal - Instant packets
 Pop Tarts
 Protein Bars - i.e. Balance of Cliff
 Ravioli - Pop top
 Sardines
 Spam - Minnesota tradition
 Tuna - Pouches or pop top

Don't forget the Woman

Feminine Products
 Hair Products
 Nail supplies
 Bubble Bath
 Scented Body wash & Lotion
 Shaving cream & Razors
 Scented Candles
 Tweezers

Candy

Chocolate (in the cooler months)
 Fruit by the foot
 Gum - packages only
 Hard candies
 Tootsie Rolls
 Twizzlers

Drinks - Nothing Carbonated

Coffee (instant)
 Gatorade
 Kool Aid Bursts
 Sweetened powder drink mixes
 Tea Bags or mixes

Miscellaneous

Batteries
 Bug spray(deet lotions or wipes)
 Board and Travel Games
 Books
 Cd Fanny packs
 Cd's
 Crossword Puzzle Books
 Decks of playing cards
 Disposable cameras
 Flashlights(mini mag, extra bulbs)
 Flypaper
 Greeting card assortment
 Magazines
 Newspapers(local)
 Pens/Pencils & Paper
 International Pre-Paid Phone Cards

Hygiene Items

Baby wipes
 Chap Stick
 Cold Water Wash-Woolite
 Deodorant
 Eye Drops
 Feminine products-Floss
 Foot powder
 Hairbrushes
 Hand Lotion
 Knee highs-keep mites out of boots
 Mouthwash
 Nail clippers
 Q-Tips
 Saline
 Shampoo
 Shoe insole cushions
 Soap
 Socks
 Sunscreen
 Tissues
 Toilet paper including travel size
 Toothbrushes
 Toothpaste
 Tylenol individual packets or travel sizes

**A SPECIAL NOTE TO THE TROOPS ALWAYS
WELCOME**

HONORABLE MENTION

Rattler Strikes 50



tures taken, food and old pictures...taken from the Ford archives.

Thanks to everyone who made this day special for a very special guy. Our hearts were touched by the hand ful of co-workers who went

over and beyond in their efforts to make this a grand Dallas Day party. Without our “Ford Family” this would never have happened. Pre-delivery Rocks!

*Thanks again to everyone,
Ronda Walther*



On Oct. 14 there was a huge party in Pre-Delivery for the “Rattler”. It was a celebration of his 50th UAW/ Ford anniversary at Twin Cities Assembly plant. His name is Dallas Theis, and he works in the “Rattle Shack”. Nicknamed the “Rattler”, his job is to determine the origin of rattles in the Rangers.

When he strikes and calls out over the radio managers groan, knowing they will be number one at the next morning meeting.

We tracked down several of his old Paint buddies and friends from the past and present, both hourly and salary - that came to honor and share in the day’s celebration. There was food and drinks, food and speeches, food and awards, food and new pic-



TO YOUR HEALTH . . . AND SAFETY

There have been a lot of misunderstandings concerning the General Safety rules.

The first misunderstanding is that they are "Union rules". Ford Motor Company creates these safety rules.

As employees of Ford we agree to follow these rules.

As the UAW Health and Safety Rep I enforce them because, it is not only part of the job requirement to make sure the rules are being followed, but I feel it is also my responsibility to try make sure you have the opportunity to work in a safe environment.

It should be the responsibility of management to enforce all of the safety rules. But instead of accepting the responsibility of enforcing the rules, some of the management team here at TCAP puts all of the blame for the existence of the rules on the union. They even go as far as to say it is the union's fault that someone must wear their

glasses, not use their phone, tie their hair back, etc.

We have had a lot of injuries, accidents and even deaths in the Ford system in the last few years and if I can protect one person from a serious injury or accident then I am guilty of caring. A serious accident can happen in just one second and your whole life can be changed forever. In the Ford system, we have had 713 injuries in 2008 and 513 were related to production work.

That is 513 too many.

Another misunderstanding I hear on the floor is "It won't happen to me". Think again. I read reports every week from Ford plants all over the globe that detail all the accidents that have occurred in other facilities.

I know similar accidents can happen just as easily here at TCAP. Part of my job as the appointed Health and Safety rep is to handle your health and safety complaints and con-

cerns and to tour the plant on a regular basis to look for unsafe conditions and acts.

TCAP has a current matrix that lists the various concerns and issues and I work with the individuals and departments to see that the problems are resolved so that our plant is as safe as an environment as we can possibly make it.

I am proud to say that I care about the health and safety of every individual who walks into the plant. But I don't like the UAW being blamed for trying to help to enforce the company's safety guidelines. It is a joint commitment from both the UAW and Ford to see that every individual goes home in the same condition that you came in as. Rather than blaming the union let's be thankful that we all are doing the best we can to keep your vision intact and your body whole and healthy.

Debbie Francis

CAP CONNECTION . . .

Dear Union Brothers & Sisters,

It has been well documented as to the critical nature of the times we are currently living in. Due to the tremendous influence of our great country what happens here has immediate global impact. This could not have been more evident than in the current domestic economic crisis and the ripple effect created in numerous international markets. These events have made it very clear the United States is the foundation of economic stability for the rest of the planet. It is a great responsibility, but we have been able to thrive in this position for many years.

So what has changed? Over the past eight years our political leaders have spent too much time trying to fix the problems in other countries allowing domestic concerns to spiral out of control. Over this same time bipartisan politics has been fixated on placing blame and not finding solutions. For eight years the political policy and leadership in this country has been reactive instead of proactive.

By choosing to ignore numerous reports and warnings regarding U.S vulnerability to possible attacks via hi-jacked planes, on September 11, 2001 we experienced the worst terrorist act committed on American soil. By choosing to ignore the numerous warnings of the Gulf coast regions inability to withstand a major natural disaster, we were inexcusably unprepared to provide



sufficient rescue efforts for fellow Americans in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. Disregarding our nations need to provide viable economic opportunities for all segments of the population. Documents like

NAFTA, CAFTA and other foreign policies have lead to historically low value of U.S currency and the highest unemployment rates since the depression.

My brothers and sisters in this highly competitive election year it is crucial for you to understand the policies and issues supported by the various candidates at all levels of government. We must know the candidates vying for the oval office down to candidates for your local city council. We must make an informed decision, more importantly understanding the issues and the candidates will enhance your ability to influence other voters. We need leaders who will make decisions that are beneficial for all citizens, not just those on Wall Street. If we do not do our part we will all suffer and have no one to blame but ourselves.

David Perkins
ERC UAW Local 879
Co-chair CAP committee
dperki20@ford.com
651-686-0603

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

Why do we need the Employee Free Choice Act?

The current labor law system is broken. Corporations intimidate, harass, coerce and fire people who try to organize unions – and today's labor law is powerless to stop them.

- Employees are fired in one out of four private-sector union organizing campaigns;
- 78 percent of private employers require supervisors to deliver anti-union messages to the workers whose jobs and pay they control;
- And even after workers successfully form a union, one-third of the time they are not able to get a contract.

What does the Employee Free Choice Act do?

It does three things to level the playing field for employees and employers:

- Strengthens penalties for companies that illegally coerce and intimidate employees in an effort to prevent them from forming a union;
- Brings in a neutral third party to settle a contract when a company and newly certified union cannot agree on a contract after three months;
- Enables employees to form unions when a majority signs authorization cards.

What is the Million-Member-Mobilization for the Employee Free Choice Act?

We want the new President and Congress to realize how important this issue is for workers. With your help, our unions will present them with 1 million signatures urging them to enact the Employee Free Choice Act.

Social Security and Medicare



Who will protect our retirement?

America's senior citizens have worked hard all their lives, and deserve a secure and dignified retirement. Social Security and Medicare provide hard-earned income and health care to tens of millions of retirees, yet special interests continue to push for risky changes in these guaranteed programs. Working families and retirees need assurance that current and future benefits will be protected.

Where do the candidates stand?



Barack Obama
Democrat



Social Security

Supports guaranteed monthly benefits earned by seniors.

Opposes risky private accounts, which will slash benefits for senior citizens.

Opposes raising the retirement age.

Quad-City Times, 9/21/07

www.barackobama.com/issues/seniors



Medicare

Supports strengthening Medicare to continue quality health care for seniors. Favors elimination of taxpayer subsidies for private "Medicare Advantage" plans, which benefit insurance companies, while passing on costs to seniors.

www.barackobama.com/issues/seniors

Voted **against** a steep increase in Medicare premiums for seniors.

S. 1932, Vote 287, 11/3/05



John McCain
Republican

Social Security

Calls the current system of guaranteed monthly benefits for retirees an "absolute disgrace."

Town Hall meeting, Denver, July 9, 2008

Voted for Bush's plan to put Social Security funds into risky private accounts:

"I campaigned in support of President Bush's proposal and I campaigned with him, and I did town-hall meetings with him."

Chicago Tribune, March 3, 2008

S. Con. Res. 18, Vote # 49, 3/15/05;

S. Con. Res. 88, Vote # 58, 4/1/98



Medicare

Voted for **deep cuts** in Medicare funding and to **increase Medicare** premiums paid by retirees. Backs private "Medicare Advantage" plans, a pet cause of the insurance lobby.

S. Con. Res. 83, Vote # 74, 3/14/08;

S. 1932, Vote # 287, 11/3/05



Voted to **raise the eligibility age** for Medicare from 65 to 67.

S. 947, Vote #112, 8/24/97



Supports UAW position and senior citizens



Against UAW position and senior citizens

Vote Tuesday, Nov. 4

Prepared by UAW National CAP for distribution among UAW members and their families. August 2008

opeiu494

WHAT'S IN YOUR FUTURE?

UAW LOCAL 879



UAW LOCAL 879

Dislocated Worker Program Sign-up

November 6 @ 4:30 pm

Training Center Auditorium

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



AARP Driver Safety Program Auto Insurance Discount

UAW Local 879 is sponsoring the AARP
Driver Safety Program.

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

8 Hour Basic Course: Thursdays, November 13 & 20, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

4 Hour Refresher Class: Thursday, December 11, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

UAW/Ford MnSCU Training Center, RM 240B.

September 23, 2008

Dear United Autoworkers Local 879;
We have an exciting volunteer opportunity that I want to share with you and your constituents. As part of our Automotive Skills training program, we are looking for volunteers to aid in the classroom and in the auto shop. This is the perfect opportunity for retired or working individuals to stay involved in the field they love, but on their own schedule.

Automotive Skills Training is a six-week program designed to provide necessary job skills for entering into the automotive repair and/or maintenance industry. Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota provides individuals with about 25 hours of training a week and a training wage when working on vehicles. Women are encouraged to apply.

Thank you for your support.

Jennifer Curran

Volunteer Coordinator-AmeriCorps

Goodwill/Easter Seals

553 Fairview Avenue N

St Paul MN 55104

651-379-5824

jcurran@goodwilleasterseals.org

Help Wanted

Automotive Skills Training Assistant

Assist our automotive skills students at job training sites and in the classroom! The Automotive Skills Training Assistant will provide additional support and guidance for Goodwill/Easter Seals Automotive Skills Training participants on the training site and in the classroom to learning shop safety, fluid and tire maintenance, vehicle inspection and brake repair.

Where: 2929 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

When: Mondays – Fridays 8 AM-1 PM. 2-5 hours per day, 4 days per week preferred. Can't commit to this many hours? Contact us to see if we can work out a schedule that matches your availability.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Beth Mammenga, Community and Volunteer Involvement Manager at 651-379-5937 or bmammenga@goodwilleasterseals.org.



LIFE AFTER FORD

Notes from the Outside



Friends and fellow retirees,

Here's wishing you the best this holiday season and beyond. Stay healthy and keep up the good fight. See you in the next issue of The Autoworker in early 2009.

Cubby

RETIREES' CHAPTER MEETING

October 20, 2008 1:30 PM

November 17, 2008 1:30 PM

**December 15, 2008 12:00 Noon
Christmas Dinner**

January 19, 2009 1:30 PM

February 16, 2009 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.

Retirees

Are you aware that your RETAP (Retiree Education and Training Assistance Plan) pays up to \$1750 a year for tuition for college credit classes taken at the plant in the UAW/Ford MnSCU Training Center? Call Tracy Ausen @ 651-695-3502 to find out what classes are being offered by local colleges in the training center this fall and how to apply for these classes. You can also go online to www.local879.org and click on the 'College Credit Classes in the Training Center' link on the left side of the page to see the list of classes.

WHY IS IT.....?

Why is it that when you buy a pound of hot dogs – you get 8 to a package?

Why is it that when you buy hot dog buns to put them in – you get 10 to a package?

Seems like a lot of waste to me. How about 8 dogs – 8 buns? The extra buns are usually forgotten and go to waste.

Clarence Johnson, Retiree

RETIREES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 15, 2008

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

Marsha or Dee at 651-699-4246

Please respond **NO LATER** than December 5th.



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

May 1, 2007 - October 1, 2008



LARRY FANGLE
05-01-2007



MIKE FOSCHI
07-01-2008



LINDE JOHNSON
10-01-08



MICHAEL J. MCMAHON
06-1-2008



BOB PAGET
07-1-2008



LAWRENCE M. WINKLER
07-01-2008

FORD/UAW Arizona Get-Together

3rd Thursday in February
February 19, 2009

Call: Ron Luzinski 480-654-8437
or Dave Truax 480-396-1068



**VOTE TUESDAY NOV. 4
Between 7 AM and 8 PM**

Where? At a polling precinct near where you live. To find out where check out this website
<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

You may also call the Minnesota Secretary of State Office for more help at these numbers

Phone Lines: (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., M-F)*

651-215-1440 / 1-877-600-VOTE (8683)

Also you may wish to call your local county election office with further questions.



Once you know where to go all you have to do is show up and vote.

If you are not registered to vote you can do that at the polling place at the same time you go to vote. If you are flexible I might recommend avoiding the early morning hours as these have been very busy in the past.

Be prepared for this to make it easier on yourself. Bring your current Minnesota driver license or Minnesota state ID card that shows your current address. If you have not updated since you moved or changed your name this is a good time to get to the Driver Vehicle Services and get that updated. Save the old license and keep that along with the yellow slip and that will work to get you registered.

You can even do that on the day of the election prior to going to the polling place. Here are some other methods of registering on election day.

Before you can vote, you must register. In Minnesota, you may register before Election Day, or on Election Day at your polling place. Your registration remains current until you move, change your name, or do not vote for four consecutive years. You may update your registration information by completing another Voter Registration Application.

Am I eligible to vote?

You may register and vote in Minnesota on the next Election Day if you:

- will be at least 18-years-old on Election Day
- are a citizen of the United States
- will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding Election Day
- have any felony conviction record discharged, expired, or completed
- are not under court-ordered guardianship where a court has revoked your voting rights
- have not been ruled legally incompetent by a court of law



Registering on Election Day

If you are not registered to vote or need to update your registration information, you may do so at your local polling location on Election Day. However, you are required to provide proof of residence when registering on Election Day.

To register at your polling place on Election Day, you must have **one of the following with your current name and address in the precinct to verify your residence:**

- A valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit, Minnesota ID card, or receipt for any of these
 - A valid student ID card including your photo, if your college has provided a student housing list to election officials
 - A Tribal ID card that contains your picture and signature
 - A valid registration in the same precinct under a different name or address
 - A notice of late registration sent to you by your county auditor or city clerk
 - A voter registered in the same precinct as you who can confirm your address with a signed oath
 - An employee of the residential facility where you live who can confirm your address with a signed oath
- Alternatively, you may provide both 1) a photo ID from the list below, and 2) a current bill with your current name and address in the precinct.

Photo IDs (may be expired)

- Minnesota Driver's License
- Minnesota ID Card
- United States Passport
- United States Military ID Card
- Tribal ID Card
- Minnesota University, College, or Technical College ID Card

Bills (delivered electronically or by mail)

- Utility bill due within 30 days of election day:
 - o Telephone (landline, cell, VOIP, etc.)
 - o TV (cable, satellite, etc.)
 - o Internet services
 - o Electric
 - o Gas
 - o Solid Waste
 - o Sewer Services
 - o Water
- Rent statement dated within 30 days of election day that itemizes utilities
- Current student fee statement

Registering When Civil Rights are Restored

In Minnesota, you cannot vote while serving a sentence as a result of a felony conviction. However, once the full sentence is completed - including parole and probation - commonly called "off paper", the right to vote is automatically restored.

Bill Lynch

FARE FOR ALL EXPRESS

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

FARE FOR ALL EXPRESS IS...

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

FARE FOR ALL EXPRESS PACKAGES

Regular Pack **\$17**

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

Meat Only Pack **\$12**

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

Vegetarian Pack **\$10**

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

Monthly Special **Price Varies**

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

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

**Package contents subject to change.*

***Prices may vary by location.*

Save
30-50%

Visit a location near you!

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

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

2008 Dates
September 17,
October 15,
November 12,
December 17

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



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



In Memory

BROTHER JAMES R. STEINERT died on August 18, 2008 at the age of 85 years. The funeral mass was held on August 21st at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Lindstrom, MN. **BROTHER STEINERT** came to work at Ford Motor Company in August of 1952. He worked there for 30 years before his retirement in 1982, which gave him 26 years of retirement.

BROTHER ARTHUR P. GOKEY died on August 16, 2008 at the age of 82 years. A memorial service was held on August 24th at the home of his daughter. **BROTHER GOKEY** began his employment at Ford in June of 1947. After spending 35 years there, he retired in May of 1981 and was able to enjoy 27 years of retirement

BROTHER JOHN A. FABER died on September 3, 2008 at the age of 82 years. The funeral was held on September 8th at the Church of St. Matthew in St. Paul.

BROTHER FABER came to work at Ford Motor Company in August of 1953. He for 30 worked there years before retiring in June of 1983. John was able to enjoy 25 years of retirement.

BROTHER JAMES C. COUVE Jr. died on September 10, 2008 at the age of 77 years. The funeral was held on September 13th at the Sandberg Mortuary in No. St. Paul with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. **BROTHER COUVE** began working at Ford Motor in September of 1955. He worked there for 17 years before his retirement in 1971.

Word was received of the death of **BROTHER LEO D. DEANE, Jr.**, who died on July 25, 2008 at the age of 73 years. **BROTHER DEANE** came to work at Ford Motor in 1959. After 31 years there, he retired in October of 1990. The recent death of **BROTHER DENNIS E. LUNDBLAD** was reported. He died on August 28, 2008 at the age of 70 years. **BROTHER LUNDBLAD** began his employment at Ford Motor Company in September of 1978. After spending 22 years there, he retired in April of 2000.

Our Condolences to the Families . . .

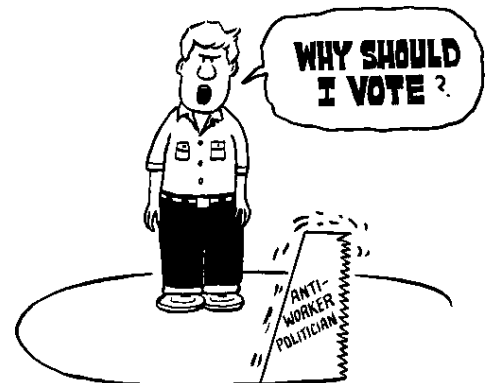
Dear Union Brother & Sister,

As you know this is the most important Election ever. Many of you have seen the downturn of the blue-collar job due to outsourcing to China & India!

This is not the time to sit still. Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors about supporting the labor endorsed candidates, take a few hours out of the day or week and volunteer to phone or door knock.

The Union is only as strong as you, so if you like making a livable wage Call 651 – 644 4850, the DFL Office in Saint Paul or email <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us> to find who your candidates are.

*In Solidarity,
Darius Shannon*



REMINDER FLU SHOT CLINIC

Monday, November 17, 2008
Training Center Lobby
7:00 AM – 9:30 AM
and
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Paint Building
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Union Hall – (Retirees)
12:00 – 2:00 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 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 \$28.00.



Who will protect our rights?

After eight years of a steady assault on working people, our families and our unions, working people need change in Washington, D.C. The rules affecting our workplace rights have been tilted dangerously in favor of employers and against workers. A new approach is needed — not more of the same.

Where do the candidates stand?



Barack Obama
Democrat



**Right to fair pay:
The minimum wage**

Voted **YES** to increase pay for low-income workers.

H.R. 2, Vote 23, 1/24/07



**Right to Organize:
Supports the Employee Free Choice Act,**

to guarantee the right to organize free from employer interference or coercion. *"If a majority of workers want a union, they should get a union. It's that simple."*

H.R. 800, Vote 227, 6/26/07;
Speech to the Pa. AFL-CIO, 4/02/08



Workplace rights

Honored picket lines during the TV writers strike. Opposes the use of replacement workers during strikes; supports collective-bargaining rights for all workers, including airport screeners.

S. 4, Vote 64, 3/7/07
www.barackobama.com/issues/economy/#labor



John McCain
Republican



**Right to fair pay:
The minimum wage**

Voted to **repeal** the minimum wage, and **against** a clean pay raise for low-income workers in 2007 – even though the minimum wage had not been raised in 10 years, while McCain and other members of Congress received multiple pay raises.

H.R. 2, Vote 23, 1/24/07



Right to Organize:

Opposes **Employee Free Choice Act**. Says U.S. labor law should stay the same, so employers can coerce and intimidate workers to stop them from organizing, and can refuse to engage in good faith bargaining.

H.R. 800, Vote 227, 6/26/07



Workplace rights

Crossed a picket line to appear on Jay Leno. Voted in favor of the use of permanent replacements during strikes; *against* a voice on the job for police and firefighters, and *against* collective-bargaining rights for airport screeners.

Think Progress, 2/28/07; S. 55, Vote 189, 7/13/04
H.R. 3061, Vote 323, 11/6/01; S. 4, Vote 64, 3/7/07



Supports UAW position and workers' rights



Against UAW position and workers' rights

Vote Tuesday, Nov. 4

Prepared by UAW National CAP for distribution among UAW members and their families. August 2008

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November 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 E-BOARD MEETING	4 Election Day No Work VOTE!	5 UNION MEETING	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
16	17 RETIREES MEETING 1:30 PM	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29

LUCKY YOU!
Membership Meeting
Door prize winners for
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Greg Herber
 Joaquin Lerma
 Bill Lynch
 Kelly Michalec

Marsha
 Anderson-Shearen
 Jim Eagle
 George Moye
 David Smith

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



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 Organization
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PAID
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