

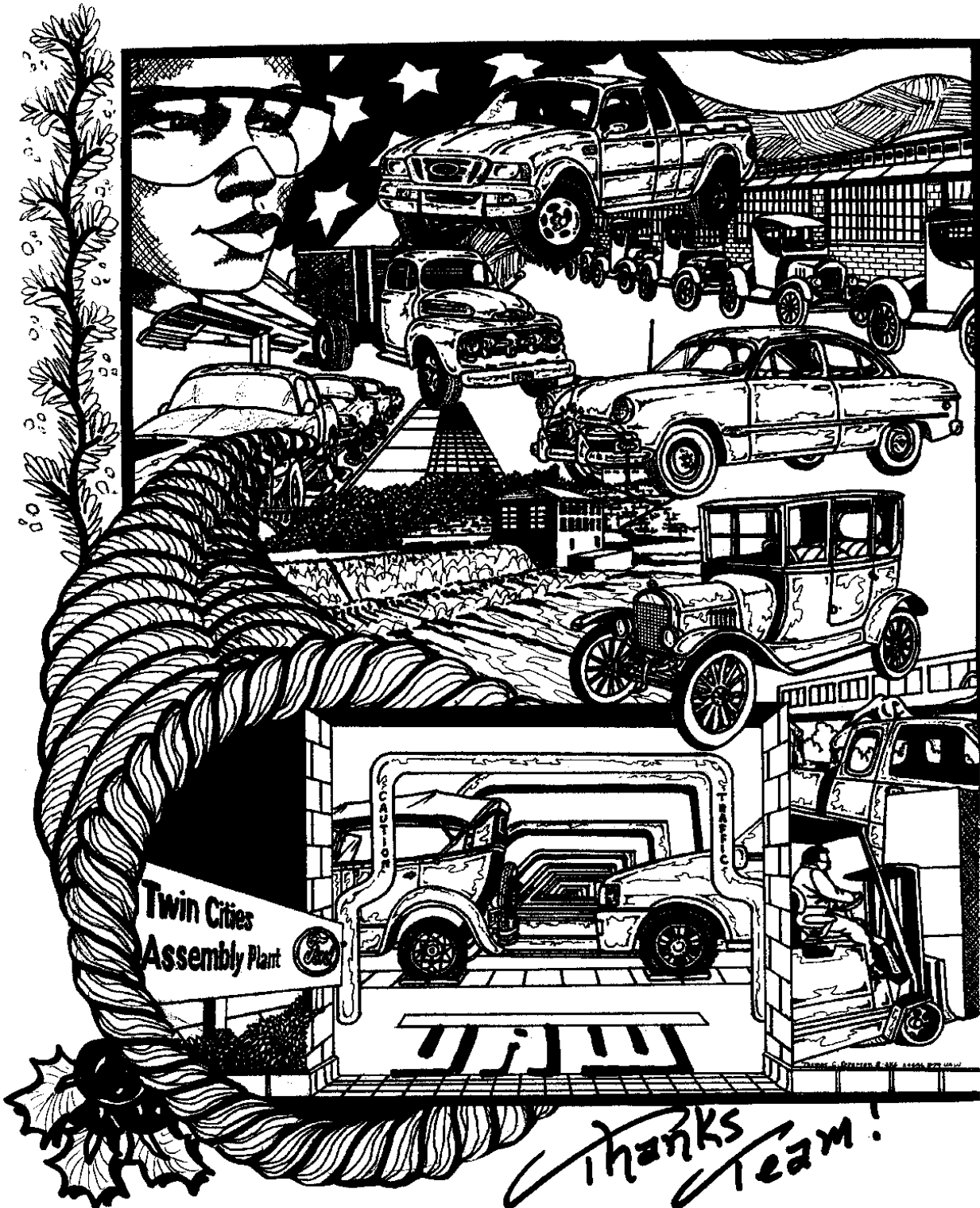


the LOCAL 879 UAW

# AUTOWORKER

*"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"*

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2009



# CHAIRPERSON'S



# REPORT

Our rolls are at 750 members. We will remain on 5-10 hr days for the rest of the year. The survey is completed on our membership and we will be working 10 hr Saturdays for 21 November and 5 December 2009. The company should be putting out a bulletin sometime this week.

The new modifications to the 2007 UAW / Ford National Agreement have failed to pass by a margin of 72% against overall. The International has stated they will not be going back to the table with the Company as the UAW Membership has spoken.

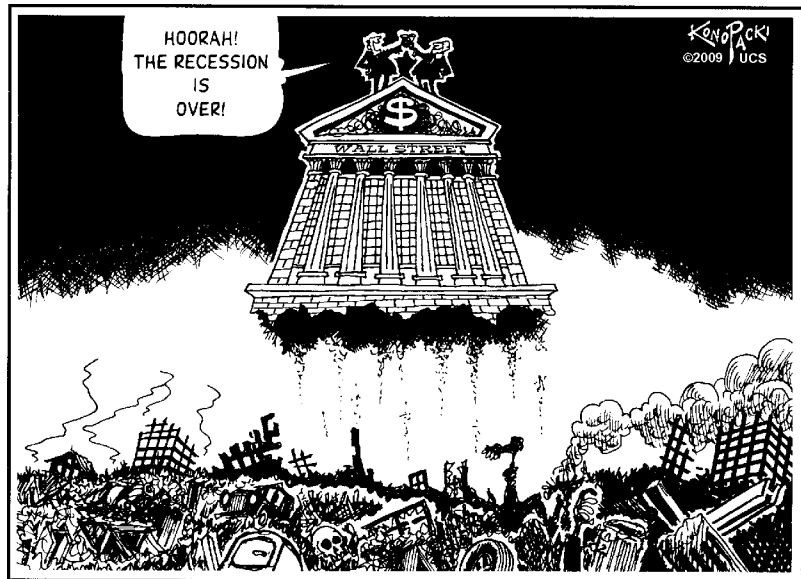
Although Ford Motor Company has started talks with the International concerning cost savings, the UAW is talking to the Company about keeping the new work commitments to other plants intact. This could be a very interesting conversation at best. We will have more information as it becomes available.

The Company will be testing about two hundred more people to shore-up resources in case they need to hire. The test date will be 20 November 2009.

We must say this has been a most interesting and busy year, 2009. The Holidays are coming. It is that time to count your blessing with the plant still producing Rangers. Our membership still leads the company in Quality and cost. Thank you for doing such a great job. You all should be very proud of these accomplishments.

Have a great Holiday season and enjoy your time of with the family and friends.

*In Respect,*  
**Jim Eagle**  
*Chair*  
**UAW Local 879**



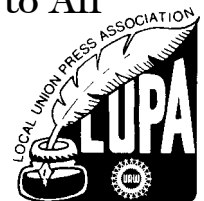
The Local 879 UAW

# AUTOWORKER

“An Injury to One is an Injury to All”



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Publisher ..... UAW Local 879  
Executive Editor ..... Ronda Danielson  
Managing Editor..... Marilyn Bobick Johnson  
Composition ..... Delores Velline  
Computer Layout Artist..... Dennis G. Beimert  
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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



## A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

The staff of *The Autoworker* wishes you and your families our best - for the holidays to come and the year ahead. We are proud of our publication and strive to keep you informed about local and national labor issues. Thank you for your continued support of our work.

The Autoworker will continue to exist as a quarterly newsletter, due to ongoing budget cuts within our local. You can expect to receive 4 issues in the coming year. Publication is tentatively scheduled for February, May, August and November.

Some of you will also receive a mailing asking if you want to continue receiving the paper. This will be directed mostly to surviving spouses of our retirees.

If any of you have a computer and wish to view the paper on-line, it is available at [uaw879.org](http://uaw879.org). The on-line version is in color and prints out nicely. Notify the union hall if you decide you no longer want to receive the hard copy in the mail.

We look forward to serving you in the year to come and hope to deliver more positive news concerning the future of our plant.

*In Solidarity and peace,  
Marilyn, Dennis and Dee*

### On the Cover

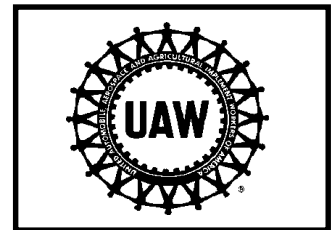
Thanks to Brother Thomas Epperson for the artwork he so generously donated for the cover this issue. We asked – and he delivered. We appreciate all that you do for the membership.

*Autoworker staff*



## FINANCIAL REPORT UAW Local 879

AUGUST, 2009



Marsha Anderson-Shearen, Financial Secretary

### BALANCE ALL FUNDS

Balance on hand, August 30, 2009 .....	\$558,407.94
Income, August, 2009 .....	\$79,579.44
Expenditures, August, 2009 .....	-\$73,815.79
Balance, September 1, 2009 .....	\$564,171.59

### DEATH BENEFIT FUND

Balance on hand, August 31, 2009 .....	\$908,223.41
Income, August, 2009 .....	\$4,583.37
Expenditures, August, 2009 .....	-\$1,025.00
Balance, September 1, 2009.....	.\$911,781.78

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 -MAY

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

NET WORTH, APRIL 30, 2009 .....	\$823,199,359.72
INCOME FOR MAY, 2009	
Dues Per Capita Tax .....	\$2,582,565.98
TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR .....	\$825,781,925.70
DISBURSEMENTS FOR MAY, 2009 .....	\$3,474,010.18
NET WORTH, MAY 31, 2009 .....	\$821,417,673.06

In May there were 8 local unions on strike representing 802 members.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE



**TOYS FOR TOTS**



**U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE**  
For more information visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)

**November 9th through December 16th**

**Brought to you by the UAW Local 879  
Women's Committee and  
Ford Motor Company**

*"bringing the joy of Christmas to needy  
Children nationwide"*



## In Appreciation

Thank you to James Killeen, son of Dan Killeen, retiree and grandson of Bob Killeen, Sr., former Local 879 Union official and International Union Representative.

James generously made and donated the frame/shadow box that protects the American flag and Operation Iraqi Freedom award that was given to the Local by retiree, Michael Sharpe. This will be displayed at the Local 879 Union Hall.



## TCAP lobby ready for your donations



## Help Coming for Aching-Back RNs? OSHA Patient-Lifting Rule Sought

More health care workers suffer musculoskeletal disorders than construction, mining or manufacturing workers: the average registered nurse lifts 1.8 tons over a 12 hour shift. A U.S. senator wants to do something to make the job safer.

Sen. Al Franken has introduced legislation that would require OSHA to issue a standard requiring health care workers to use mechanical lift equipment when moving patients. His Nurse Protection Act (S. 1788) would require hospitals to buy special equipment and train staff how to use it.

The cost to the economy of health care worker injuries – an estimated \$20 billion a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control – is such that the expense of the equipment and training would be recovered in less than three years, according to one government expert.

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) introduced identical legislation in the House earlier this year.

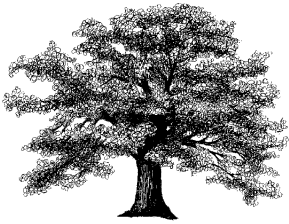
In a statement, the United American Nurses (UAN) union said the measure “has our full support.”

“There is no reason why a (registered nurse) should have to accept a lifetime of injury or chronic pain as part of his or her job,” declared UAN President Ann Converso. Nearly half of all nurses say they have ongoing back pain, according to the American Nurses Association, and 12 percent of nurses who have left the field say they did so because of back injuries.

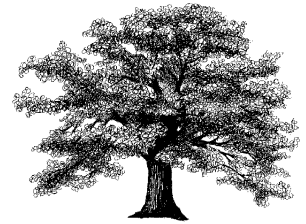
Franken’s legislation would establish a \$200 million grant program to assist health care facilities in buying required equipment. There would be whistleblower protections for workers reporting violations of safe handling standards.

The equipment would not have to be used if it was seen as detrimental to the care of patients.





# CONSERVATION NEWS



**DOWN ON THE FARM:** The red and white sign at the end of my driveway echoes the sentiments of my neighbors and other concerned citizens of Chisago county where I live. **“STOP THE POWER PLANT!”** decrees saturate the landscape of this rural countryside in opposition to a proposed 780 megawatt power plant site less than 3 miles from my home. Estimated to be the 4th largest power plant in Minnesota, the “Sunrise River Energy Station” is prompted by the efforts of LS power - a large private investment firm based in New Jersey.

Most power plants are located in heavy industrial parks with no homes, schools, farms or protected park lands in adjacent areas. The site of this plant is in the middle of a rural residential/agricultural area and in close proximity to the Sunrise River which flows into the mighty St. Croix.

The visions of 200 foot smoke stacks, fuel oil tanker trucks and more transmission lines have raised more than a few eyebrows. Neighbors and supporters of preserving our local environment have come together to raise concerns about our natural resources, rural character, wildlife habitat and green space. I am proud to witness and be a part of this grassroots organizing effort to stop the project in its tracks.

I like to think of my family and the good folks of Chisago County as “settlers” here. We came here because we love and respect this area . We came here to build our lives, hopes and dreams - not power plants.

On the opposite side of the coin, blue and white road signs showing their support of the project are also scattered about. **“POWER PLANT YES- SAY YES TO JOBS!”**



From a union perspective and as a dedicated union member for over 32 years, I find myself in a compromised position. I understand and sympathize with the union sisters and brothers who have expressed their need of the gainful employment that

this project would create. But, I also know how unions operate, how large corporations can't be trusted and how contract agreements can be changed and modified as deemed necessary by all parties involved.

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that the construction and skilled trades jobs will be filled with local unemployed workers of Chisago County.

Yes, I support jobs – green jobs for blue-collar workers! I support jobs that promote green technology, green manufacturing, renewable energy and conservation efforts. As we well know, jobs come and go and I cannot support a project that lines the pockets of a handful of people at the expense of my home, our community, our fragile environment and our planet.

Despite the union blood that flows through my veins, I consider myself an environmentalist first. For as many years as I can remember, I have half heartedly joked about chaining myself to a tree someday and being hauled away in shackles – all for the right cause. Maybe my day has come...

During this holiday season and always - may you and your loved ones find peace and purpose in all that you do.

*In Solidarity,  
Marilyn Bobick Johnson  
Conservation Committee retiree*

# ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING . . .

## DOES 'BUY AMERICAN' MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

### Just Ask the Solar Industry

For the first few years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, activity in the U.S. solar, or photovoltaic (PV) industry was virtually dormant. According to a report published in September by Greentech Innovations, all that is about to change as conditions ripen for a takeoff in the manufacture of solar power components. One of the major factors precipitating that takeoff, according to Greentech, was the inclusion of a Buy American provision in the stimulus legislation enacted in January of this year.

The report alludes to a "stream of announcements from manufacturers, both established foreign players as well as new domestic entrants, about setting up production facilities in the U.S. Adding to the momentum have been a number of manufacturing incentives and generous subsidies for domestic manufacturing."

The report predicts that solar product manufacturing facilities are expected to grow at an annualized rate of 50% through 2012.

Key determinants for companies seeking to set up solar manufacturing facilities will be the availability and cost of skilled labor, power prices, state incentives, proximity to end demand and tax rates, the report says. Oregon, Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania appear to have the best combination of characteristics for growing the industry.

A number of new solar manufacturing entrants locating factories in the U.S. are owned by European and Asian companies.

California and Oregon are emerging as the leading centers for solar equipment manufacturing, comprising 28 % of production volume by 2012.

Another key factor in boosting solar manufacturing: the inclusion of an Advanced Energy Tax Credit (a 30% tax credit on the capital cost of equipment which ultimately will convert to a direct cash payment in federal law) added to some form of incentives for photo voltaic manufacturing offered by 18 U.S. states.

A supply chain is developing, creating demand for companies producing materials vital to PV manufacturing.

One down note in the report, many of the established firms – both American and foreign-owned – have adopted schedules to manufacture in Asia and locate only assembly facilities in the U.S.

### TOYOTA TO U.S.: "We're Outta Here!"

Now that the Cash for Clunkers program has closed, Toyota Motor Corporation is bidding farewell to its Fremont, CA plant and laying off some 4,600 employees. The company says the trim is part of a worldwide cut of some 70,000 workers made necessary by the global economic downturn. By some estimates, the move will cost California between 30,000 to 50,000 jobs in a ripple effect on parts suppliers and related businesses.

Toyota says it will move part of the Fremont factory's output to San Antonio and the rest to Japan and Canada.

Toyota got an estimated 19.4% share in the Cash for Clunkers program – selling more units than any other manufacturer. Three Toyota models – the Corolla, Camry and Prius – place in the top 10 sold. The Ford Focus was 4<sup>th</sup> and the Ford Escape was 10<sup>th</sup> on the list.

The Toyota Fremont plant was a joint venture with General Motors and Toyota opened under the name of NUMMI. It was Toyota's only unionized North American plant. GM pulled out of the deal in June of this year.

Toyota will continue to operate eight other U.S. plants – all non-union – employing some 23,000 workers.

#### Top 10 Selling Models Under Cash for Clunkers\*

(As compiled by the U.S. National Highway Transportation Board)

1. Toyota Corolla
2. Honda Civic
3. Toyota Camry
4. Ford Focus
5. Hyundai Elantra
6. Nissan Versa
7. Toyota Prius
8. Honda Accord
9. Honda Fit
10. Ford Escape

*-Labor Letter, September-October 2009*



### GE Expands U.S. Production on Union-Made Energy Star Washing Machines

General Electric in Louisville, KY has announced it will add a second shift to increase production of its Energy Star washing machines at the company's Appliance Park factory. The move will add 90 union jobs to the production line where workers

are represented by IUE/CWA. The company also announced its intention to expand production on a new energy-efficient water heater in 2011, a move that would add an estimated 420 union jobs at an average payroll of \$57,440.

The company's \$69 million expansion plans were spurred by a concessionary agreement signed by the union last May, along with \$12 million worth of state and local tax incentives.

# VETS REPORT

During this last shutdown, Ron Caliri and I took the opportunity to meet with other old Freedom Fighters in Black Lake, Michigan. UAW soldiers from far and near gathered together to learn and discuss matters pertaining to those who serve as well as those who served in our armed forces.

It was a time of learning, workshops and study. This education doesn't sit on its hands either. For several years veterans and veterans groups (UAW and beyond), have tried to get legislation to get our fighting heroes tuition reimbursements. Last year the "Post 911 Educational Assistance Act" was passed by then President Bush and thanks to public scrutiny, it was passed with bipartisan support! Veterans can now receive tuition reimbursements up to the highest in-state public rate in their home states, as well as payments for books, fees and a living stipend. The law also increased the amount paid to National Guard and Reserve members AND allows re-enlisting members to transfer these educational bennies to their spouses and/or children. Our soldiers fought for everything we have both then and now. Funding for our soldiers is the only provision stipulated in the Constitution. In other words, "THEY EARNED IT!"

For most of us, time will bury our trophies, but beyond the classes, the research,

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

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

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

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

the discussions, Local 879 was able to walk with men who have already made dinosaur prints for historians to ponder.

I have told you in the past about Col. Lawrence Milben and (my favorite), Lt. Col. Jefferson (WW II pilot/POW in Germany) of the Tuskegee National Airmen. They were there with us, but so was another warrior, Keith Little USMC. Hollywood made a movie about them and called it "Windtalkers". As an actual WW II Navajo code talker, Keith said "too many people get their history from movies – old movies are better."

U.S. troops in the Pacific relied heavily on Navajo code talkers. The idea for using the Navajo dialect (called Diniby Native speakers) didn't start there; it started during WW I with the Choctaw language! Later, Apache and Navajo too.

Mr. Little has since mailed me a list of ciphered words along with their deciphered meanings – SIGNED!! A dinosaur footprint of my own (for my sketch of his wife no doubt).

Ron and I also attended a memorial with friends and family of a 35-year old former UAW brother that lost his life in Afghanistan. Only 12% of this country have ever worn the uniform. That includes those serving now.

Only 1% of this country's men and women presently wear the uniform. They fight for peace every day while others complain for it. Freedom has a flavor the protected will never understand.

Ron and I also took some time to visit our recently departed brother, Jim (Buck) Buchanan. The workmen were just putting in his stone and they left the area so that we could have some private time.

Ron spoke some words covering their years here at TCAP. I spoke of his son "Bobby" who I had the honor of working with in Trim. Bobby is enlisted now. I think he leaves for the Navy on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. He becomes another volunteer in the 1%. He deserves all the positive support we

can give him. They all do. His father, an Army Vietnam Vet, would be proud...as should we all. If you are or know a vet who has questions or needs some kind of help - contact me, Ron Caliri, Art Wiegeler or Ron Knutson. We will do what we can to point you in the right direction.

***Semper Fi!***  
***Thomas Epperson***

Well, the trip to Black Lake was exciting for Tom and I – not for the weather. The day we traveled was real sad. But for the fact we were very much looking forward to reuniting with all our brothers and sisters, and listening to all our invited guests speak about their life experiences.

Navajo code talker Keith Little, and our Tuskegee Airmen, as well as our black Marine Platoon spoke about life during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

We also had another World War II Vet attending who served with General George Patton. He discussed a lot of his war experiences with many of us. Due to health considerations Maurice will not be attending any more National Conferences.

The accommodations and three square meals a day is always a great experience. It's all about learning more every year and getting the most out of this National Conference, something our Executive Board needs to pay closer attention to. It's all about our small committees within the Local Union. If we can't accomplish that small task, then what is the Union's real function?

***In solidarity,***  
***Ron Caliri***



# CAP CONNECTION . . .

October 3, 2007 the UAW Region 4 conference took place in Ottawa, Illinois. The conference two main pushes were on Health Care and the Employee Free Choice Act. These two issues are very important to workers of the UAW.

We have been bombarded by ads from various groups advocating various positions on health care reform. Some say don't change it. Others see the need for fundamental changes in how we need reform. The UAW is along with the later group urging health care reform. Many leaders throughout the last 100 years have advocated reform like President Teddy Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr. and UAW President Walter Ruther. Our elected leaders have failed to act.

One of the surprising things that I heard was that the health insurance industry is protected from anti-trust laws like professional baseball. In simple terms, they don't have to compete. They can sit down together and discuss what territory that they are going to sell to, determine the prices they want to set, and all other things. This is not called competition.

The public option will help create at

least some competition in the health care industry.

United States Representative Jan Schakowsky from Illinois, who is an advocate for the public option, told us a story about a very sick woman that testified in front of Congress.

This business woman paid her monthly premiums on time for years. Her doctor discovered she had breast cancer. The Friday before her surgery on Monday, she was told by her insurance company that she couldn't have the operation. She was being denied for the following reasons: 1) She never disclosed that she had acne before. 2) She had lied about her weight. Representative Schakowsky said "What woman hasn't lied about her weight?"

We were encouraged to contact our Senators and inform them that any health care reform must have a public option.

At the conference we had an opportunity to display the Electric Ranger and allow people to drive it there. It was well received. Even Representative Jan Schakowsky came over to take a look. She serves on the Energy and Commerce Com-

mittee in the US House of Representatives. At a private lunch with Regional Director Williams they discussed the Electric Ranger.

## Update on the Electric Ranger.

1) We had an independent group test the range of the Electric Ranger. They have determined that Bob Albertson's projections on the range of the Electric Ranger are correct.

2) A University in Minnesota has expressed interest in working on developing a power pack for the Ranger.

## Region 4 news

At the Region 4 CAP conference, Director Dennis Williams informed the conference his intention to run for the Secretary Treasurer spot at the Constitutional Convention this June. Currently he is the only one that has announced his intentions to run. We are expecting Ron McInroy, the current Region 4 Assistant Director, to announce his candidacy for Region 4 Director. Furthermore, the Iowa Minnesota CAP Director indicated his retirement. Along with being the CAP Director for Minnesota we have been told he has been active with our UAW Region 4 Veterans Committee.

*In Solidarity,  
Jim Reinitz*

## It's past time to CHANGE

The war with the health insurance industry was won by just 2 votes in the U.S. House. Now the battle ground moves to the U.S. Senate where 3 key issues remain unresolved:

### 1. A Public Option.

A citizen insurance plan. This is needed to control cost by providing competition to insurance companies. The goal is to provide quality health care to the people not quantity of profits to private companies. The UAW supports a public option.

### 2. Employer Mandate.

This would require businesses to extend health insurance benefits to all employees or pay the government to opt out. If you have a public option without and employer mandate, employers would simply send their employees to the public option, creating a

race to the bottom. The UAW supports employer mandate.

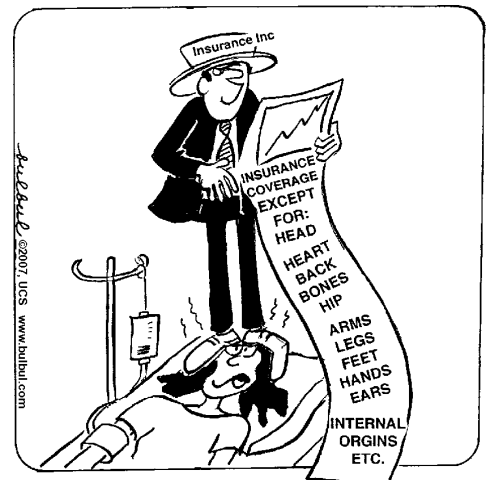
### 3. Elimination of a proposed tax on high-end health plans.

Sen. Baucus' plan would tax "Cadillac" health plans, where those whose employer provides more than \$8,000 per person or \$21,000 per family of coverage annually will be taxed at 40 percent for every extra dollar. Union members have already given up to much over the health insurance battle. We cannot support any measure that would tax our hard earned benefits.

It's time to let our Senators know where we stand. Contact Amy Klobuchar 202-224-3244 & Al Franken 202-224-5641 or call the AFL-CIO at 1-877-323-5246

Begin to believe -  
we can make this happen,

*Benjamin Gross*



"The free market coverage that doesn't quite cover!"

# HONORABLE MENTION

Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 I had the honor of being a Guardian on the third Minnesota Honor Flight which flies WWII veterans to Washington, DC to get their first view of the nation's tribute to the troops that helped defeat Hitler's forces. I want to thank the membership for assisting me for part of the Guardianship fee that I incurred.

I had the privilege of being guardian to two WWII vets, Clayton Ustred and Earl Weinberg. Both of these men were very extraordinary, patriotic, kind and unpretentious individuals. I have the utmost respect for them.

Both of these men served their country during WWII. It was a privilege to be guardian to them. Had these veterans not done what they had done - who knows what this world would have turned out to be like under Hitler's regime.

When we arrived at the airport the air was charged with excitement. There were 103 WWII veterans on this flight to see their memorial. There just happened to be servicemen and women at the airport arriving from Iraq after having been deployed there for a year. There was also a group of soldiers being deployed to Hawaii. It was wonderful to watch the young and the old interact and witness the present and the past together. One group was at the beginning of their journey, another group in the middle and the last group was looking back. It was humbling to be in their presence.

At the airport the WWII vets were met by many well-wishers and the ROTC from Cretin Durham Hall stood at attention near the doorway to the plane giving honor to these deserving WWII vets.

On the plane ride to Washington, DC the vets were given V-Mail that we collected mostly from their families before the trip. V-mail was how soldiers got communications from the states. Thomas Epperson who served in Beirut, Lebanon as a Marine in 1983, who has been decorated with a Purple Heart and works here in the plant Trim line 2 wrote two very moving V-Mails for my vets. Thank you so much Tom, they loved the letters you wrote. V-Mail came about because the regular mail was too bulky, so the post office had people write

their letters on a certain form. Then they would photograph them on 16mm film and send the negatives by mail overseas to processing centers that were located close to where the soldiers were stationed. The letters were then printed on photographic paper and sent to the soldier. This way, 1,750 letters could be condensed down to just 4 ounces of film.



**Pictures on the plane of the many Vets and Earl and Clayton reading the V-Mails**

I spoke with many other guardians and Vets on the plane. One of them was Ernie Crest who told me (when he saw I was a UAW member that works at the Ford plant) that he just bought his fifth Ranger and he just loves them. I gave another Vet my number so he could purchase another Ford vehicle at X-plan discount. One of the guardians was Keith Anderson who is a retired member of Local 789, the meatpackers union is South St. Paul. Secretary of State Mark Ritchie even accompanied us on the trip. He was guardian to "Stan the Man" a former wrestler who just retired as Minnesota state commander for all the VFW's. Stan is a positive and entertaining person.



**"Stan the Man", Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Keith Anderson Local 789 retired, Clayton Ustred, and many other WWII vets.**

We were met in Washington DC with an Honorary water cannon salute when we landed. This honor is given to the last flight in. It was amazing to see the people who turned out to say thank you to the veterans along the way. When asked why they came all this way they said it was their honor to be able to thank these veterans. All ages showed up to express thanks to these deserving veterans.

We then went to the memorial. I have been there before, but never have I been so moved by the experience. We walked around the memorial and met one man that had his father's army jacket and picture and asked us to take a picture of him by the Minnesota pillar. His father had passed away just a year ago and he wanted to bring his father to see his memorial. There were many others doing this. It was heart wrenching.

There even is a small place on the side of the memorial for "Killroy was here".

The Veterans appreciated seeing their memorial, but the experience they were most impressed with was the gratitude from everyone who met them. Time and time





again I would hear a vet calling home saying it is so wonderful to see the people who were at the airport, at the memorials and everywhere we went. "The appreciation towards us is unbelievable," they would tell their loved ones. This is something we should all do. Freedom is not free. It is all veterans present and past, veterans who served in times of war and in times of peace. They have given us the privilege of living in this country the way we do with our freedoms intact. Everyone thank a veteran - it means more to them than you might think.

Throughout the day we also went to the Korean, Iwo Jima, Women's, and the Vietnam memorials. Countless Americans have lost their lives defending this country and it is overwhelming to think of their sacrifices.

There are many Veterans who also serve in our UAW Local 879 leadership.

Rick Millette, who is our UAW Ergo Representative volunteered in the U.S. Navy and served three tours of duty in Vietnam. He volunteered right after high school at the height of the war.

Jim Eagle, our Building Chair, volunteered to serve in the Army and served in Vietnam in the 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade servicing Chinook helicopters 1968 through 1969. He retired from the military before coming to work at Ford. He remembers the day he left Vietnam on September 5<sup>th</sup> 1969, the day Ho Chi Min died.

Scott Hasselbring, ESSP Representative volunteered to serve in the Army and was enlisted from 1978 to 1988. He was stationed at Camp Casey Korea, Fort Hood in Texas, Fort Jack in South Carolina, Fort Rich Alaska and Fort Riley in Kansas. Although he did not serve in war time he was at any given moment ready to be called out to defend our country.

Art Weigle is serving right now in the National Guard. He has been enlisted for 19½ years and did active duty in the first Gulf War. He also returned in September of 2007 after 16 months active duty in Iraq.

Of all who I have spoken with there is one overarching theme that all veterans seem to have - they seem to be humble about their service. Never saying - I did this or I did that. They state I just served where I was needed. These people are all heroes in my mind and should be thanked accordingly.

The Veterans are a union of honorable citizens that stick together for the betterment of the whole country, just as we are a part of a union and need to stick together for the betterment of our union. We can do this just as our union brothers and sisters did before us. We can overcome these tough times when the company has the upper hand. We need to come together and fight for what is right - not against each other.

*In solidarity,  
Marsha Anderson-Shearen  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer  
UAW Local 879  
Chair,  
Peer Support /Education Committee*

# Women's Report



**Pictured: Kenny Herbert, Ronda Danielson, Kari Altema, Tracy Ausen, Margie Rios, Jim Hooper and Steve Wilson. Not pictured, Tanya Wade. Not attending: Amanda Roberts and Marsha Anderson-Shearen.**

As Chair of the UAW Women's Committee, I would like to thank the Membership for the opportunity for our Women's Committee to attend the Fall Women's Conference in Ottawa, Illinois on October 29<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. We had eight of our 10 members go to this conference with the Nickel fund paying all of our lost time and conference fees. Our Local paid for the hotel fees, gas mileage and per diem for our members.

Dennis Williams, Director of UAW Region 4, started out the conference with a talk about health care reform and how critical it is. He also talked about violence in the homes and in work places. He gave a charge to the men in the committees to educate men in the workplace about stopping the violence.

Assistant Director, Ron McInroy, spoke about M.E.R.T., Member Emergency Response Team, which is a joint venture between the community and the UAW. It is an emergency response team being organized within the UAW that opens up union halls as temporary shelters in times of disaster.

Theresa Bullock, UAW National Women's Department, presented the conference topic on domestic violence. She enlightened us with what domestic violence is and how the cycle could be stopped. It is always a treat to listen to Theresa speak. She is a very courageous, intelligent woman who inspires me to keep educating others about domestic violence.

UAW CAP Coordinator, Brad Schwanda, spoke on health care reform. He had us write a letter to our senators about the importance of getting health coverage reformed in the USA.

One of the highlights for me was listening to the Regional reports on what other Locals have been up to since last year. Many Locals raised several thousands of dollars for breast cancer research with brat/beer sales, bake sales, and raffles. The majority of the Locals are really striving to help out to their communities by volunteering a helping hand to shelters, nursing homes, hospitals, homeless shelters and other community needs. It is very inspirational to me to see what others have done so that maybe our Local can take on larger service projects.

I feel this conference was a huge success. I am so glad our whole committee (except two people) got to go to Ottawa for the conference. As a committee, I feel we have accomplished a lot this year. We had our first meeting in March, with five people in attendance. Now, we have ten very dedicated and motivated members who are willing to go the extra mile, volunteer on their own time and continue to make our committee stronger with ideas of how we can help our Local and our community. We have worked hard with collecting items for the Listening House of St. Paul and the school supply donations which went to the St. Paul public schools. We were able to provide the Membership the awareness ribbons for domestic abuse and breast cancer.

On Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> we will be at Lund's from 10:00am to 6:00pm ringing the bells for the Red Kettle Fundraiser for the Salvation Army. I encourage you to show up and show support to our committee members and the Salvation Army. So, when you are out Christmas shopping that Saturday, stop by!

The UAW Women's Committee will also be collecting toys for Toys For Tots. Please be on the lookout for the collection boxes in the near future. I am hoping it will be a huge success like last year when nine Ranger pick-up trucks were filled with toys to be dropped off.

On behalf of the UAW Women's Committee members, I would like to thank the membership for allowing us to go to the 2009 Fall Women's Conference.

## Standing Committees



Making a Difference in our Communities and our World!

*In solidarity,  
Kari Altema,  
UAW Local 879*

*Women's Committee Chair*

# To Your Health . . . AND SAFETY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this the sun is shining and we are enjoying a wonderful November day when the expected temperature will be in the 60's. Such weather after a chilly October is a rarity, but certainly a nice one.

Soon the temperature will drop and the snow will come, bringing with it all the icy conditions that make winter driving the hazardous sport that we have to deal with. Please take the weather and the road conditions into account when driving to and from work or any other activities you have planned. Give yourself a few extra minutes so you can keep a safe space between you and any other vehicle.

When you get to work please be careful in the parking lot. With daylight savings time it is all that much darker out there and we need to look out for each other in the parking lot. Now that the "speed bumps" are pulled out for the snow plows we all seem to find it a bit easier to go too fast through the parking lot. Please be considerate and careful when getting in, through and out of our parking lots. Also, please give yourself some extra time when getting from your car into the plant.

There are always icy areas that freeze up and create hazardous walking areas. Running through the lot just adds to the danger. If you notice a particularly bad spot please let me or anyone with the ability to contact Maintenance know of the area so we can get some sand out there to prevent a bad accident.

We have been walking around the parking lot and picking known areas so we can patch and repair some critical spots but the freezing and thawing of winter will create problems... it always does.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!



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

## What is Ergonomics?

The science of ergonomics originated during the Second World War to overcome performance failures due to human error in new high tech defense systems. Because of its success, ergonomics is now routinely applied in the design and development of most military and aerospace systems. Industrial applications of ergonomics are increasing in response to the need to improve the productive use of human resources, the quality of working life and occupational health and safety.

The application of ergonomics ranges from the design of toothbrushes to the layout of aircraft cockpits, from the design of baby carriages to wholesale packaging.

People working in ergonomically designed workplaces or using ergonomically designed products will tire less quickly, be less distracted by discomfort and ambiguity, less muddled by confusing displays and instructions, less frustrated by inconvenience and less stressed by excessive physical demands. This will mean a lower probability of error, less likelihood of accidents, less time correcting mistakes and better morale. The cost of ergonomics depends where in the lifecycle of a systems it is applied. Applied early in the planning stages, costs will be less: existing budgets will simply be better spent. Applied as a reaction to serious problems, then costs will be higher.

A working definition of ergonomics is: The systematic application of knowledge about the psychological, physical, and social attributes of human beings in the design and use of all things which affect a person's working conditions: equipment and machinery, the work environment and layout, the job itself, training and the organization of work.

In plainer language this means:

- \* Fitting the job to the people who have to do it, through the design of equipment and procedures.

- \* Fitting the person to the job, through use of placement procedures or training.

Application of the science requires matching task demands and environmental conditions with user characteristics.

However, it is usually not so simple to put principle into practice and a number of techniques have been developed to help this process. Ergonomics draws on engineering and design methods as well as life science and behavioral science knowledge

Remember:

If your hurting because of your job maybe I can help!

I hope you all have a very Happy Holiday and a Great New Year!!

*Rick Millette*  
**UAW Ergo**  
**Twin Cities Assembly**  
**651 696 7913**



# BARGAINER'S REPORTS

Wow! We had an interesting last quarter. The rumors don't stop; that mill keeps churning and churning. People in this membership should get the facts and do a little research before believing everything that you hear. Your local Union Leadership is always available to help the membership to obtain the correct information to the best of their knowledge. We have recently discovered that not all of membership completely understands the unemployment process and the severity of filing for unemployment while you are working most likely will lead to termination. If you do not know when to file or how to file you can always ask our Appointed UAW Benefits Representative, Carol Almstead, (she is the expert on our benefits) and she can be reached at 60514 from any in-plant phone or 651 696-0514.

We are still in the 120-day letter. This is when the Company can move work around. Like we've stated many times before, if you

are having problems with work that is being added to your job make sure you contact your Union District Representative.

According to all the other UAW Locals, their members stated there were to be no more concessions and the October Contract Modifications were voted down. The Local Bargaining Committee is working vigorously to try and get what was promised to our plant in those October Modifications. The Temporary Part Time and Long Term Supplement employees wanted the option to be hired as entry level employees or stay where they are with their current rate of pay; plus they were to be offered paid EAA days.

The fulltime traditional Ford employees would have liked to see some type of guarantee so that if or when this place does close that they get an option to transfer to a designated plant. We also agree with those members but we do know and understand what the contract language states when it

comes to transfer rights. That information is located in our National Contract Agreements Volume I, Appendix N and Attachment A, B, and C pages 210-220. We enjoy trying to help the members of this local; your employment status does not matter whether you could be a Fulltime, Flow back, TPT or LTS employee.

We are all UAW Brothers and Sisters working together and we have to look out for one another. We are always available for questions so please feel free to stop us when you see us on the plant floor. We can also be reached in the Committee offices or by phone. The phone numbers for the Bargainers are: 60737 for Shawn Milliron and 60477 for Marcus Carpenter. We are here for you.

*In Solidarity,*  
**Marcus Carpenter**  
**Shawn Milliron**  
*Bargainers*  
**UAW Local 879**

## SOLIDARITY

### WORKERS' MEMORIAL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

They are moving dirt and pouring concrete for the newest memorial on the Minnesota Capitol grounds.

Crews anticipate finishing the Memorial Garden for all Minnesota Workers by next summer. Its main feature is a carved native-stone wall paying tribute to workers who have lost their lives on the job.

The garden-style memorial is on the south end of the Capitol Mall and just east of a plaza recognizing World War II veterans.

Other memorials on the grounds honor veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars as well as one to fallen police officers.

A combination of state, federal and private donations will pay for the \$423,000 memorial, according to the state Department of Administration.

*-Associated Press*



### "The Economy Is So Bad, That..."

1. I got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.
2. CEO's are now playing miniature golf.
3. Hot wheels and Matchbox cars are now trading higher than GM cars.
4. McDonalds is selling the 1/4 -ouncer.
5. People in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.
6. The most highly-paid job is now jury duty.
7. People in Africa are donating money to Americans.
8. Motel Six won't leave the light on.
9. The Mafia is laying off judges.
10. When a bank returns your check marked "insufficient funds" you have to call and ask if they meant you or them.



My name is Art Wiegele. I would just like to thank all my brothers and sisters in the Paint and Body departments for voting for me in the election to be your committee person for the next year and a half. I will do my best to be your ear and support in the union. Thank you for all your patience in my first few weeks on the job. I'm learning from you and the union leadership on how to best do the job that you have elected me to do. It has been a very stressful time for all of us as we have gone through the contract modification vote. GROW rep elections should be finished by now and I would like to welcome all the new GROW reps for Body Build and Paint.



*Body/Paint Committee*

*Art Wiegele*

# PRESSING MATTERS....

## Why isn't the Saint Paul Ford plant's hometown paper in its corner?

I was both excited and worried to see two articles about the auto industry in the Friday (10-2-09) Pioneer Press. The huge photo of the Ford logo really caught my eye! The article "Ranger's Road Just Gets Rougher" was really about us, but filled with doom and gloom. I'd just heard some good comparative numbers about Ford sales, so I had higher hopes when I turned to the article "Clunker hangover puts dent in sales" that the Press had reprinted from the New York Times. It included sales numbers from pretty much every automaker EXCEPT Ford!

I went to the New York Times website in preparation for writing an email to Nick Bunkley. I planned to complain that he had omitted Ford's good sales numbers in his article. When I read his original article, I discovered that the omission wasn't his!

How can it be that the hometown newspaper of Saint Paul, also home to the Ford TCAP plant where we build the Ranger, would choose to omit the original article's paragraphs that informed us that Ford "has been gaining market share both from new models and by surviving without rescue or bankruptcy", that its sales declined only 5 percent in September (not the 6 percent stated in the accompanying article), and that Ford's three domestic brands rose 5 percent?

I understand that editors must edit, but only for article length, not to alter its informative quality. By omitting Ford's good numbers, not only compared to other domestic brands but better than all foreign brands with the exception of Hyundai, many readers might easily - and incorrectly - infer

that Ford's sales stats can be lumped with GM and Chrysler. This Ford plant worker is left to wonder why our hometown paper would alter a NY Times article in such a way as to make Ford and our Saint Paul assembly plant look worse rather than better?

I notice that the dispenser for the Pioneer Press at the front of the plant usually empties out pretty fast. We might want to rethink supporting a hometown paper that doesn't seem to support us! Better yet, call, email or write them to tell them what you think!

*Respectfully Submitted by,  
Laura Wehrly  
Pipe fitter - and proud former  
UAW Local 879 member*

## Another View: Dell Takes the Money, Runs by Jim Hightower

Only five years ago, political poobahs in North Carolina were crowing loudly, laughing giddily, and slapping each other's backs. We won, they hooted!

Won what? The national bidding war among various states to bribe Dell, the computer giant, to build its new assembly plant on their turf. By putting up about \$318 million in tax giveaways, cash, grants, and other freebies, North Carolina officials "won," and in October 2006, there was a glorious grand opening of the \$7 million Dell plant in Winston-Salem. The future was bright.

But, uh-oh: sudden storm clouds. This October - a mere four years and two days after that ribbon cutting - Dell announced that it was cutting out for Asia, closing the plant, discarding the 905 people who worked there, and kissing off North Carolina. Thanks for the memories.

Now, the political poobahs who had so happily thrown the public's money at Dell are claiming to be skinflints, insisting that

they had driven a hard bargain with the slippery giant. The governor rushed out to declare that the deal included iron-clad clawback provisions: "We made it very clear to them," she said, that if they left, "every red cent of incentives money had to come back."

Some of it will, says Dell, but not all of it. Some \$9 million of state money to widen roads and upgrade interchanges is not expected to be repaid, nor will about \$5-million-worth of worker training and hiring services, and \$3 million in tax breaks that Dell already pocketed.

Trying to put a little happy face on this bad deal, one state official noted that while their jobs are gone, workers still benefitted from the training they received. Sure - as long as they're willing to take their training to China to get a job. Along with most other computer makers, Dell has now moved all of its computer manufacturing offshore.

*-Jim Hightower is a nationally syndicated radio commentator and the bestselling author of Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow. For more information visit [www.jimhightower.com](http://www.jimhightower.com)*



**"It's expensive sending jobs overseas! There must be a way to import Chinese wages!"**



# LIFE AFTER FORD

## Notes from the Outside



### Greetings

*and best wishes for the holidays and New Year. Looking forward to corresponding with you again in 2010! Stay healthy and keep up the good fight.*

**Cubby**



### 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: Tuesday & Thursday, February 16 & 18, 8 am - noon.

4 Hour Refresher Class: Thursday, January 14 **or** Thursday, March 18, 8 am - noon.

UAW/Ford MnSCU Training Center, RM 250A.

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

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

October 27, 2009

To: President Ronda Danielson

Maybe you would redo the enclosed short article and put it in the next Autoworker. Stan and I went to the same high school and this is an article from a high school alumni newspaper. Stan worked in Body Build production for many years and retired as a Steamfitter on the midnight shift in the Paint building. Thanks.

*In Solidarity,  
Bill Hoye*

### NEVER GIVE UP ON YOURSELF

Congratulations to our class Vice President, Stan DeWitt, class of 1953. While playing in the Senior 75-year old Slow Pitch Senior League, Stan would add another World Series ring while competing this September in Las Vegas. This is his fifth time in nine years he has competed and been a part of this national competition. Previous wins were in 2001, 2003 and 2005. A World Masters championship was also won in 2001.

*Al Katraz*

### ATTENTION ALL RETIREES WHO TOOK THE '28 AND OUT" BUYOUT PACKAGE AND ARE NOW OFFICIALLY RETIRED WITH 30 YEARS.

Please come to the Union Hall to complete paperwork, get your photo taken for "The Autoworker" and received your union watch. You may call the Hall with questions at 651-699-4246.

### 2010 Twin Cities Ford Retiree Arizona Get-Together

Thursday February 18, 2010

11:30 AM

Please contact:

**Ron Luzinski**

**480-654-8437**

or

**Dave Truax**

**480-396-1068**

**Hope to see you there!**

### RETIREES' CHAPTER MEETINGS

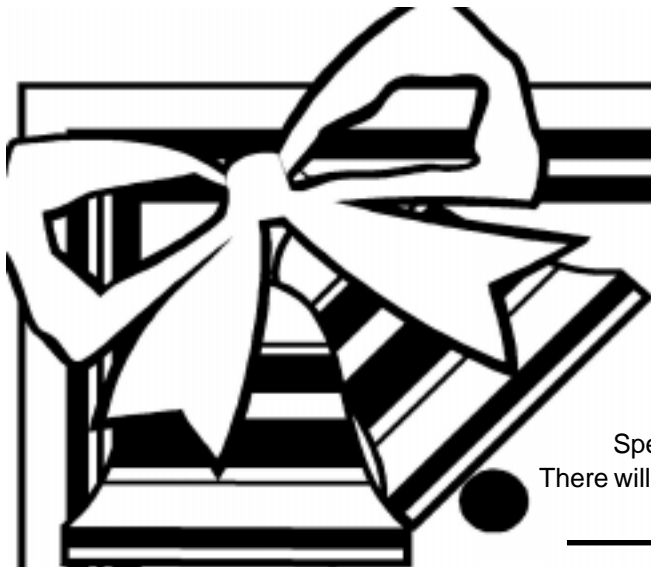


**November 16, 2009 1:30 pm**

**December 21, 2009 12:00 noon**  
**Retirees Christmas Party**

**January 18, 2010 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.



## UAW Annual Childrens' Christmas Party

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Place: The Local Union Hall

When: Sunday December 13

Special Guest Appearance: Santa Claus with helpers  
There will be lots of activities, games, and fun fun fun for everyone.

## UAW Annual Adult Christmas Party

Caberet Style (BYOB)

We will supply cups, ice, mixers.

This years theme: "A blast from the past" 70's, 80's, and 90's  
Dress attire to reflect those years recommended but not required

When: Saturday, December 19

Place: The Local Union Hall

Time: 6pm - 1am

6pm - 7pm Social Hour

7pm - 8:30pm Food

9pm - 1am Dancing and Party

DJ spinning the tunes from then til now



## RETIREEES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 21, 2009

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



Orcall

Marsha or Dee at 651-699-4246

Please respond NO LATER than December 11<sup>th</sup>.

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.

# Seattle +10: Minnesota Week of Action

November 30 - December 5.



It's been 10 years since environmental activists, union members, faith and social justice activists took to the streets of Seattle to protest the convening of the 1999 World Trade Organization. Join us in celebrating a decade of action and the continued struggle for global justice and fair trade.

## Monday November 30th

### Art for Trade Justice

Join your fellow activists in an art building day for the December 5th March and Rally for trade justice. Gustavo Boada, from the Heart of the Beast Theatre will teach the fine points of making puppets, masks and signs for social action.

**When:** 6-8pm

**Where:** Waite House Neighborhood Center  
2529 13th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404

## Tuesday December 1st

**Check the website for events on this date!**

## Wednesday December 2nd

### U.S. Response to the Global Food Crisis: Why We Need a New Vision for Trade

More than 1 billion people around the world go hungry. This teachin will address the questions: what policies caused this growing crisis? Is access to food a human right? How do we achieve it?

**When:** 7:00 – 8:30pm

**Where:** Hospitality Hall, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
4537 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis

## Thursday December 3rd

### Refugees of the Global Economy

Should workers who migrate as a result of trade policies be considered economic refugees? This teach-in will address globalization and immigration.

**When:** 7:00pm – 8:30pm

**Where:** UFCW Local 789 Hall  
266 Hardman Ave. N., South St. Paul, MN 55075

## Friday December 4th

**10 Years Post Seattle: Taking Stock & Moving Forward:** Were you in Seattle? Miami? Come participate in this reflective discussion to assess where we're at and where we're headed.

**When:** 5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Where:** IUE-CWA Hall  
3745 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 5506

## Saturday December 5th

### March and Rally for Trade Justice

Join your fellow trade activists in marching to the UAW Local 879 hall where we will hold a rally for Trade Justice. We'll have food, music, art, puppets, speakers and more.

At the hall, you'll learn more about the movement for a fair global economy and ways you can take action.

#### When:

**11:00am** Gathering at the East Parking lot of Minnehaha Falls Park.  
**11:30am** March to the UAW Local 879 Hall.

**12:00pm – 2pm** Lunch and Rally at the UAW Local 879 Hall.

#### Where:

**Minnehaha Falls Park Parking Lot**  
East end parking lot at the corner of Godfrey and 46th Avenue).  
**UAW Local 879 Hall**  
2191 Ford Parkway, St Paul, MN 55116

A shuttle will be available to bring folks back to their cars after the rally.



RSVP for the **Seattle+10: Minnesota Week of Action** on Facebook!

Contact Alicia Ranney at MNFTC to get involved! · Phone: 612-578-8266 · Email: [aranney@citizenstrade.org](mailto:aranney@citizenstrade.org)  
**Check out the events for the week of action on our website:** [www.fairtrademinnesota.org](http://www.fairtrademinnesota.org)

# A Vision for Global Trade Justice:

## **JOBS**

We support trade policy that has strong and enforceable labor rights standards and ensures that our jobs stay in our communities.

## **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**

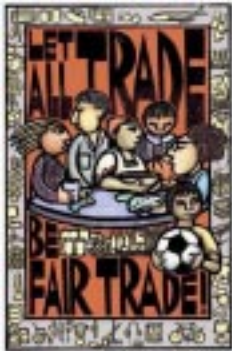
We support trade policy that maintains food safety standards and support family farms and local production.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

We support trade policy that upholds strong environmental standards and allow governments the freedom to implement climate measures without reprisal from the WTO.

## **IMMIGRATION**

We support trade policy that protects the human rights, dignity and enables workers to earn fair wages to maintain their livelihood and that of their family.



Art by Ricardo Levins Morales

The **TRADE Act** is a fair trade policy that will:

- Evaluate the true impacts like those above in existing agreements
- Renegotiate existing trade agreements based on accountable fair trade standards
- Impose a moratorium on free trade agreements
- Abolish undemocratic fast-track negotiations.

Take part in a week of workshops, films and discussions reflecting on 10 years fighting for what we believe in. Then on December 5, 2009 join us for a

## **March and Rally for Trade Justice!**

Contact MNFTC to add your organization's event to the Week of Action.

## Important Numbers for Retirees

### **NATIONAL EMPLOYEES SERVICE CENTER (NESC) 1-800-248-4444**

As of January 1, 2010, Ford will be contracting with **AFFILIATED COMPUTER SERVICES (ACS)** to provide administrative services for our company's benefits. They will be handling your TESPHE accounts and your VEBA account. Thy phone number is staying the same as the NESC and they will also be answering the phone as the NESC.

### **A/X/Z PLAN**

**1-800-348-7709 or online  
[www.axz.ford.com](http://www.axz.ford.com)**

### **BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN DENTAL 1-800-426-4610**

### **BCBS HEALTH CARE**

**1-800-426-4610**

Thermatrix - Physical Therapy  
1-800-638-8786

AudioNet America - Hearing  
Aids 1-877-500-7370  
(Administered by SVS)

MEDCO - Mail Order  
Prescriptions 1-800-778-0735

MEDCO - Prescription Refills  
1-800-473-3455

### **RETIREMENT BOARD**

**1-800-829-8833**

### **MEDICARE**

**1-800-392-0343**

A packet will automatically go out 3 to 6 months before you

reach age 65. Part A is free and the cost for B depends on your income. The cost for Part B is taken out of your retirement check. Do not sign up for C and D.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY AD- MINISTRATION OFFICE 1-800-772-1213**

### **SPECIAL AGE 65 REIMBURSEMENT FOR MEDICARE PART B (\$76.20)**

If a retiree passes away, their spouse is eligible for this benefit. They need to call the number and follow the prompts for age 65 benefit

**1-800-333-7444**

**HEALTH PARTNERS** For physical therapy, hearing aids and mail order prescriptions. Call Member Services to find a participating provider

**1-800-883-2177 or**

**952-883-5000**

### **COMERICA - PENSION CHECKS**

To change your address, taxes or direct deposit

**1-800-647-3674**

### **SVS VISION 1-800-225-3095 OR 651-695-0526**

You can call the 1-800 number to get other participating providers

### **UAW LEGAL SERVICES 651-641-0647**

### **FORD AUTO PARTS**

**1-866-472-7878**

Discount on auto parts

### **STERLING AUTO/ HOMEOWNERS**

**1-888-525-7575**

Discounts on auto and homeowners insurance offered through the UAW

### **LABOR RELATIONS/ HOURLY PERSONNEL**

**651-696-0686**

### **FORD GROUP LIFE INSURANCE - UNICARE**

(Formerly known as John Hancock) **1-800-843-8184**

This insurance is given to all full-time Ford employees. It decreases after age 65 at 2% each month. You can call this number to find out what your insurance is at this current time and if it will decrease any further.

### **FORD OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE/OLIP & DLIP (Mutual of Omaha)**

**1-800-742-8215**

This insurance can be purchased by full-time Ford employees. After you retiree you cannot add or increase this insurance – only cancel or decrease amounts.

### **UAW BENEFITS OFFICE**

**- Carol Almsted**

**651-696-0514 or**

**1-877-211-0016**



## In Memory

**BROTHER ARTHUR E. BORK** died on August 28, 2009 at the age of 79 years. There was a visitation on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Grandstand Funeral Home, Osceola, WI. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> also at the Funeral Home. **BROTHER BORK** began working at Ford Motor in July of 1953. After spending 28 years there, he retired in 1981.

**BROTHER ANTHONY (Tony) QUEVEDO** died on September 3, 2009 at the age of 61 years. A gathering of family and friends and a celebration of Tony's life was held at the Bradshaw Funeral Home in St Paul MN on September 12<sup>th</sup>. **BROTHER QUEVEDO** began working at Ford Motor Company in August of 1986. He was a Toolmaker. Tony was active in Local 879 activities and served on the Local's Executive Board as a Trustee in 1999.

**BROTHER RICHARDS. CUTLER** died on September 12, 2009 at the age of 72 years. The funeral service was held on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Swedberg-Taylor Funeral Home in Webster, WI. **BROTHER CUTLER** began his employment at Ford Motor Company in May of 1966. After working there for over 30 years, he retired in January of 1997.

**BROTHER PATRICK D. (Pat) McCOY** died on September 14, 2009 at the age of 72 years. The funeral service was held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Grace Lutheran Church, St Paul, MN. **BROTHER McCOY** began his employment with Ford Motor Company in August of 1964. He worked there for 30 years before he retired in 1994. Pat was active in Union affairs and served as Vice President on the Executive Board.

**BROTHER HERBERT T. (Ted) ABRAHAMSON** died on October 5, 2009 at the age of 82 years. The funeral was held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Eagan MN. **BROTHER ABRAHAMSON** began working at the Ford Twin Cities Assembly Plant in May of 1948. He spent 33 years there before his retirement in July of 1981.

**BROTHER WILBERT H. KLEINDL** died on October 14, 2009 at the age of 96 years. **BROTHER KLEINDL** came to work at Ford Motor Company in November

of 1954. After spending 24 years there, he retired in 1978.

**BROTHER SANTIAGO TAKASE** died on October 18, 2009 at the age of 57 years. He had recently gone back to his home in Peru where he passed away. No details of the funeral service are available. **BROTHER TAKASE** came to work at Ford Motor Company in 1972. He spent 30 years with Ford before his retirement in July of 2002.

After a long illness, **BROTHER GERALD D. BUISMAN** died on April 1, 2009 at the age of 76 years. No details of the funeral service are available. **BROTHER BUISMAN** began his employment at Ford Motor Company in 1978. After working there for 16 years, he retired in October of 1994.

**BROTHER LEONARD L. CARLSON** died on October 23, 2009 at the age of 88 years. The funeral mass was held on October 30<sup>th</sup> at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in New Brighton, MN. **BROTHER CARLSON** came to work at Ford Motor in 1943. After spending 38 years there, he retired in July of 1981 and was able to enjoy 28 years of retirement.

## *Our Condolences to the Families . . .*

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## With Sincere Gratitude

UAW Local 879 Membership  
and Officers,

Hello. My name is Randy Simmons and I am a member of I.B.E.W. Local 110 and work at TCAP in front body. I would like to thank the UAW Local 879 membership and officers for donating to Guide Dogs of America. On July 11<sup>th</sup> we held a ride (motorcycles) to Wisconsin Rapids and stayed the night at the Hotel Mead and Conference Center (which is staffed with union workers) and returned on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were 37 bikes, which is down from previous years and 50-plus people attending the event, including volunteers as support staff to help the riders and run the event. After arriving at the hotel, we had a cocktail hour, a nice dinner and then an auction was held where over \$3500 was raised.

Again, thank you for your donation and part in helping a blind person received their guide dog for free.

The Minnesota Chapter of Guide Dogs of America is a group of volunteers that started from the I.A.M. and are dedicated to support the Guide Dogs of America and the mission of providing guide dogs free of charge to blind individuals by promotion and fundraising for the school.

Sincerely,

**Randy Simmons, I.B.E.W.**

**member since 1-15-91**

**1887 Windjammer Drive**

**Woodbury MN 55125**

**651-731-1033**

**To learn more about GDA,  
please visit**

**[www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)**



## School Supply Donations



The UAW Women's Committee would like to thank everyone who made the school supply drive a suc-

cess. All of the supplies were donated to the St. Paul Public School system. They were delivered to the main warehouse for distribution to the children

who need them. I am sure they greatly appreciate them!

*In Solidarity,  
Kari Altama  
UAW Local 879*

*Women's Committee Chair*

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### Mullaly says global Ranger and Ka won't be offered in Ford's U.S. showrooms



Ford has been working hard to integrate its product lineup on a global scale, but it appears that some models available overseas may never make it to U.S. shores. Ford CEO Alan Mulally has apparently told *Automotive News* that the Thai-built global Ranger and the A-Segment Ka likely won't be going on sale here in the States. Mulally had previously stated that both vehicles were under consideration for U.S. sale, but now the prognosis appears to be far more dire.

The global Ford Ranger is a far more modern entry-level pickup than its U.S. counterpart which is scheduled to cease production in 2011.

While the future of the Ranger is looking pretty bleak here in the States, it appears there is some hope that the shelved F-100 project could once again be in Dearborn's plans. [Pickuptrucks.com](http://Pickuptrucks.com) is reporting that its sources indicate that the F-100, which is a lighter, shorter version of the popular F-150, is still being considered. The F-100 is said to be bigger in all dimensions than the global Ranger.

While there is still hope for a smaller truck in the Blue Oval's arsenal of products, there doesn't appear to be any pulse at all for an A-Segment hatch. Mulally reportedly told AN that the Ka is just too small to be successful in America, adding "Fiesta is about the smallest vehicle that we think will be a real success in the United States." The tiny Ka, which shares hardware with the soon-to-be-sold in the U.S. Fiat 500, is a full 25 inches shorter than the Fiesta.

# Fare For All Express Holiday Packages \$25.00

## Wed., December 9

3 - 5 pm

Ford Plant Training Center  
Other packages also available.

Contact Tracy @ 651-695-3502  
for more information

Save Over  
30% On  
Your  
Holiday  
Meal This  
Year!



## December Package



- 1 Frozen Ham (Family Size)
- 1 package of individually wrapped Boneless Skinless Chicken breasts (1.5 lbs.)
- 1 other meat item for holiday entertaining
- 2 packages of frozen vegetables
- 1 loaf of Bread
- 1 Frozen Peach Pie (9")

\*Contents Subject to Change

**FARE FOR ALL**  
Express



*Fare For All is a cooperative food purchasing program that benefits the community.*

For more information on Fare For All  
Holiday Packages and for distribution  
locations please contact:

763-450-3880 or 1-800-582-4291

[www.fareforall.org](http://www.fareforall.org)



*Fare For All is a program of  
the Emergency Foodshelf  
Network, a non-profit  
organization.*

**LUCKY YOU!**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**Door prize winners for**  
**October / November**

Darlene Aspley  
 Jay DesLauriers  
 Tim Ritter  
 Sheena Zubick

Damon Canaday  
 Joe Groleau  
 Benjamin Gross  
 Tamera Vogt

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



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# December 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>E-BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>UNION MEETING</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  work
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Fare for All	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Children's Christmas Party	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Adult Christmas Party
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> RETIREES CHRISTMAS DINNER 12:00 Noon	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Christmas Day	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>  New Years Day	