



# the LOCAL 879 UAW AUTOWORKER

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

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2008



## Making their own History

# CHAIRPERSON'S



# REPORT

Our rolls are 929.

The Bargaining Committee has just returned from the National UAW/Ford Council, in Detroit Michigan February 18 and 19, 2008. Subjects that were covered ranged from the Shrinking UAW Membership, National Attendance policy, the Buy-out program, Family Days and the five unpaid personal days for Temporary Members, transfers, VEBA, and GEN & SUB funds.

President Ron Gettlefinger of the International UAW spoke to the council about our VEBA trust fund and how important it was for all UAW members and particularly our appointed representatives to be actively involved with their locals and regional directors on Political Action. See more detailed information in our Bargainers report.

As Bob King, Vice President, UAW/Ford Department, spoke to the UAW/Ford Council, it was apparent he was not happy with Ford Management. Ford Motor Company has totally disregarded some basic agreements between the parties. In particular, the health and safety arena where the bulk of harsh discipline only falls on the UAW memberships. Health and Safety responsibility rests with everybody, including management.

## BUY-OUTS

Enterprise-Wide Buy-outs are available in Labor relations from Tuesday, February 19, 2008 through Tuesday, March 18, 2008 in Labor Relations for employees interested in applying for special retirement incentives or buy-out packages. The UAW-National Ford Department had a representative available at TCAP to explain the options being offered on Monday, February 18, 2008. These packages are not for Tem-

porary Members.

Unlike the previous buy-outs, selection is irrevocable. UAW hourly members will not be allowed to sign off or decline the buy-out offer after the completion of the sign-up period, March 18, 2008.

## TRANSFERS

We had a discussion with Chuck Browning, Administrative assistant to Bob King. Chuck Browning has ASSURED your bargaining committee that we should see transfers sometime in the next three months. Obviously, some basic things need to happen before we get transfers. A lot of things

can happen between now and then, but we continue to seek out transfers for our members.

## TEMPORARY MEMBERS


Provided you have worked at the plant at least one full year you will be able to use your 2 Paid Family days starting June 2, 2008. Once any Temporary member reaches their one year anniversary after June 2, 2008, you also will receive your 2 Paid Family days to use. These days must be scheduled in advance.

*Chair Report* ( Continued on page 7 )

The Local 879 UAW

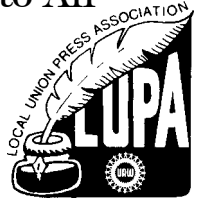
# AUTOWORKER

“An Injury to One is an Injury to All”



**UAW**

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

### OUR EDITORIAL POLICY

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

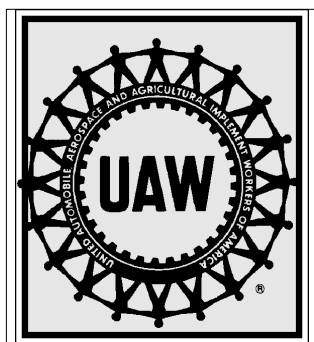
Thanks for your support,  
 and we look forward to hearing from you.



RECYCLED PAPER  
 PRINTED WITH SOY INK

# PRESIDENT'S

# REPORT



For me, this past Christmas was a great one, as I'm hoping it was for you also. As always, the spirit of the holidays seems to bring out the best in all of us. Case in point was the 2007 Toys for Tot's collection at TCAP which was nothing short of spectacular. The whole plant pitched in and donated over **1,600** toys. We ended up filling six new Rangers, three of them 4 doors, packed solid with toys. In the back of the 4 doors were hats, scarfs and mittens that were also collected. Then the Rangers were driven to the Kare 11 News station by six volunteers where they were dropped off. The military men on duty to take the donations were somewhat overwhelmed by the amount. The only time I can say that perhaps the military was understaffed!

But I want to tell you about a certain person who went beyond the gift of giving. Anyone in Body Build and the Skilled Trades Department, who knows Louie Fragale, knows that he has a huge heart. But his donation of toys valued at over \$10,000 was beyond words. Louie was presented with a Humanitarian Award by me and the plant manager, Kurt Wurtzel. It was a very moving moment. But an award should be given to all of you that made this happen. It's true what they say, "I am my brother's keeper".

## Politically

As you may be aware, precinct caucuses were held February 5<sup>th</sup> for the State of Minnesota. It is very rare when you or I are part of history making events, but this Presidential election is that rare event. Whoever you believe would be the best President is your personal choice, but I urge you to get out in November to vote. The next President will have a huge burden to carry. Balancing a National Budget, trying to get out of a recession and ending the war, will be an enormous challenge.

## Locally

Even though the Christmas Party at the Crown Plaza in January wasn't a huge turnout like last year, I think everyone had a good time and again the food and entertainment was great. Thanks go to the Recreation Committee and all that helped arrange the party.

I also attended the Retiree's Christmas Party and as usual, Gene Neuman and the rest of the Retiree's Board, did a great job. The Hall was packed and it was good to see so many faces that I have worked with over the years. It's always heartwarming to hear what they are doing after retirement. Of course, the ones who told me they were heading south for the winter made me envious!

## Upcoming Events

March 12<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm at the Local Hall, the 2008 Labor & Community Film Series Presents: Who Killed Vincent Chin? This Academy-Award nominated film addresses issues such as the souring of the American dream for U.S. workers and how racism takes hold in our communities.

At the April Membership Meeting, nominations will be taken for all elected officers and District Committee persons. You must be a member in good standing for one year to run for a position. After the nominations, you can accept, decline or call for 5 days to make your decision. If you use the 5 days, and decide you want to run, you must in writing accept the nomination to the Local Union Election Committee at the hall within the 5 day period. Elections will be held at the Hall May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with the polls open from 5 am till 5 pm. Run-offs if necessary will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>, same time, same place. Polls for JCI and Menomonie (TCHVC) will be determined.

I'd like to say a few words on some comments from workers in the plant who feel that they are "second class citizens". In this Local, we are all union paying members, and therefore are treated equally. No one is better than someone else. You may recall these words "We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal". These words were spoken not only by Thomas Jefferson, but by Martin Luther King Jr. as well.

I realize many feel that the new entry level wage of \$14.20 per hour is unfair and some demand that it be removed from the new contract agreement. The fact is, that

our local voted in favor of the National contract. A "Yes vote" meant that you were in favor of the entire contract, which included the lower entry level wage. It was approved by other Ford Locals across the country as well. The only way this can be changed is by changing the language in the next contract. For those who stand up to voice they're opinion, I admire your strength and courage.

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

*"Our lives improve only when we take chances, and the first and most difficult risk we take is to be honest with ourselves".*

*In peace and solidarity,  
Roger Terveen  
President, Local 879*

Think you'll get lucky

and

find a good job?



Improve your odds  
with the

Dislocated  
Worker Program

Sign-up

Wed. March 19

@ 4:30 PM

Training Center  
Auditorium

Questions?

Call Tracy Ausen

@ 651-695-3502

# FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year started in similar fashion to 2007. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 19 members have retired bringing our Retirees Chapter up to 1,536 members. We currently have 142 members on Pre-retirement Leaves. Be reminded that all retired and active members are entitled to and encouraged to vote in the upcoming May 6<sup>th</sup> Local Union election.

On a sadder note, Local 879 has lost 6 retired members who have passed away this year. These members have left behind spouses and families who continue to receive some of the most comprehensive survivor's benefits in the industry. Our members, both active and retired, can be proud of the job the UAW and Ford have done to provide for those left behind. Local 879 also sends a floral arrangement to the funeral services of members, which is truly appreciated by our survivors. This practice will continue. We also send flowers to our active members who have suffered a loss in their immediate families.

I would also like to remind our members that the Union Hall is still available for rent. The cost is \$350.00 and you must hire a policeman. Call the Hall for details.

2008 elections are in full swing. Barack Obama continues to win primary after primary and caucus after caucus. Obama has truly inspired our hopes for change in the direction that our country has been taken by the current administration. At this time the International UAW has not endorsed a candidate. Hopefully an Obama endorsement is forthcoming.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> the Minnesota State CAP Executive Board screened candidates for United States Senate. All major candidates were invited to screen including Norm Coleman, who declined our invitation. After interviewing and careful consideration, the Minnesota State CAP Executive board has voted to endorse Al Franken for United States Senator for the State of Minnesota.

Also screened and endorsed was Ashwin Madia, who is running for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional seat being vacated by Jim Ramstad who has decided to retire. Madia recently returned from Iraq where he served in the Marine Corps. He has pledged to support manufacturing workers and their families.

During the screening Madia stated, "I'm in this race on behalf of the working families who make America great. That's who I'll be fighting for every day when I go to Washington." What a breath of fresh air – a Democrat who actually acts like a Democrat.

As far as I know, the Annual Retirees Pig Roast is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in Garrison, MN and the Retirees Summer Picnic is to be held on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

*In solidarity,  
Robert J Killeen  
Secretary-Treasurer*

## ON THE COVER

**In honor of Black History and Women's History months, we acknowledge the 2 people - and their supporters - who best represent the theme of this issue of *The Autoworker*. Middle class working Americans will benefit from either of these labor friendly presidential candidates. We can't lose!**

## FINANCIAL REPORT UAW Local 879

MARCH, 2008

Robert (Bob) Killeen, Jr. , Financial Secretary



### BALANCE ALL FUNDS

Balance on hand, December 31, 2007 .....	\$693,183.30
Income, January, 2008 .....	70,208.63
Expenditures, January, 2008 .....	84,973.79
Balance, January 31, 2008 .....	\$678,418.14

### DEATH BENEFIT FUND

Balance on hand, December 31, 2007 .....	\$880,301.59
Income, January, 2008 .....	8,195.20
Expenditures, January, 2008 .....	2,000.00
Balance, January 31, 2008 .....	\$886,496.79

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

### INTERNATIONAL STRIKE FUND REPORT - NOVEMBER

The following is a summary of Strike Fund Income and Expenditures for the month of November 2007.

NET WORTH, OCTOBER 31, 2007 .....	\$881,602,909.63
INCOME FOR NOVEMBER 2007	
Dues Per Capita Tax .....	3,445,034.41

TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR .....	\$885,047,944.04
DISBURSEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2007 .....	\$9,967,986.33

NET WORTH, NOVEMBER 30, 2007 .....	\$875,079,957.71
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There are 22 strikes in effect at the present time, involving 4,001 members.

# BARGAINER'S REPORT

Jim Eagle, Tom Reis and John Killeen recently attended the National Ford Council Meetings in Detroit, Michigan Feb 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 51,453 active members which is a 3.5% drop from a yr. ago, this follows on the heels of the Enterprise Wide Buyouts. There are 691 members in protected status of which 340 are in the skilled trades. There are 8 members on indefinite layoff. The GEN fund is at \$944 million and the SUB fund is at \$918 Million.

Ron Gettlefinger, President of the UAW addressed the Council and spent quite a bit of time talking about the VEBA Trust Fund. They have finished the staffing of the Trust and there are 5 UAW trustees and 6 non UAW trustees. Managed correctly he said there is enough current funding to keep the trust solvent for 70 years. He then played some promotional TV commercials about the UAW that are being aired in 5 different markets around the country. These were very well done and approved by the Council. He then went on to talk about the upcoming Federal and State elections and how important it is for UAW members to actively support candidates that support labor. Mr. Gettlefinger made it a point to mention that all appointed reps should be actively involved with the locals and regional directors on political action. Those who are not may not be appointed any longer.

Bob King then addressed the Ford Council. Bob spoke about a plethora of issues facing the UAW. The following is a grocery list of the items he mentioned. Anyone with ideas on non supervisory salaried organizing should relay that info to him. Terry Thurmond vice president of organizing is taking any suggestions. The bargaining committee at the Atlanta plant is currently organizing 1000 to 1500 taxi cab drivers in the metropolitan area. They are an amalgamated local, which made this easier to do. Bob believes the only way to eventually eliminate the entry level wages is through aggressive organizing and growth of the union. Bob went on to talk about diversity in the union and maintaining the diversity we have with the exit of a lot of the full time reps due to buyouts. Bob talked about the

Millennium Development Committee and some of the ways the UAW supports their efforts to end poverty, child mortality, HIV, and education for children across the globe.

We then attended to matters more directly relating to the membership here at the Twin Cities Assembly Plant with Chuck Browning and other reps from the Ford Department. They are as follows.

**TRANSFERS** – Chuck Browning, administrative assistant to Bob King assured us that there would be transfers for our members within the next few months. He did not give specifics on numbers or dates but as this unfolds we will let the membership know.

**INTERNATIONAL SKILLED TRADES JOB FAIR** – They told us that on February 28<sup>th</sup> the International is sponsoring a job fair for skilled trades employees that may be interested in various skilled trades jobs around the country. These are not necessarily jobs covered by the UAW bargaining units.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY** – The new attendance policy was rolled out to the Council and when approved by Bob King will be implemented some time in early March. Any questions on this policy should be referred to the bargaining committee.

**NEW BUY OUT PACKAGES** – The sign up window for the new buy outs will close on March 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are signed up at close of business that day you cannot back

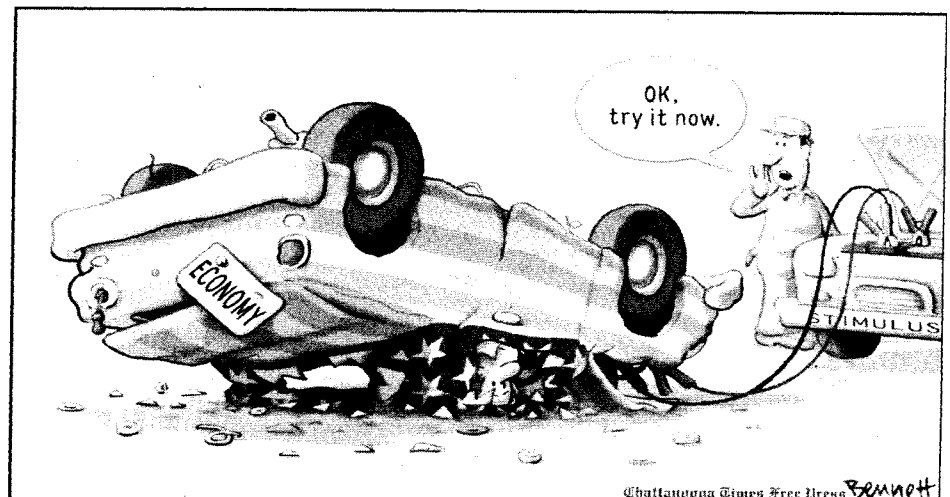
out. The grow-in period will end on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. Any questions about the buyouts should be referred to the bargaining committee.

**UNPAID PERSONAL DAYS/FAMILY DAYS FOR TPT EMPLOYEES** – TPT employees will be entitled to 5 unpaid personal days starting June 1<sup>st</sup> of 08. You must have 1 year of seniority to qualify. These days can be used after the fact assuming a good attendance record. They cannot be used after the fact to collect holiday pay on absence occurring day before or after a holiday. TPT employees are also entitled to 2 family days as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, also 1 yr. seniority required.

**MEDICAL COVERAGE** - The Ford Department is active in negotiations to help our members here at TCAP to keep our Health Partner coverage. This coverage gets re-negotiated every yr. and is in serious jeopardy of being taken away. I would ask that all questions be referred to Dorothy Sokolowski (Benefits Rep) on any possible changes to our health care coverage. Notices will be put out to the membership if there are changes.

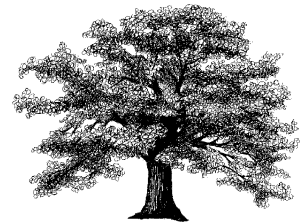
**DISLOCATED WORKERS PROGRAM** - If you have not attended an orientation class for dislocated workers please call Tracy Ausen at 53502 in the Training Center to get signed up. This is a very good program to take advantage of in light of the plant closing and the benefits available.

*In Solidarity,  
Bargainers UAW Local 879  
John Killeen and Tom Reis*





# CONSERVATION NEWS



**DOWN ON THE FARM:** Despite the constant grumbling I hear about the cold, I continue to enjoy the climate and lifestyle in which I live. I wouldn't trade my life here for anything unless it meant taking all of my critters with me.

Daily chores, though more time consuming in the frigid North are what keep me motivated and mobile. Frozen water dishes have been the biggest challenge as the chickens and goose demand a hearty drink each day. Thanks to the invention of electric tank heaters, the horses have constant access to fresh water from their 100 gallon tank that only needs filling once a week. With a steady supply of food and care, the outside critters have fared the winter well.

The farm dogs turned house dogs – have their own story to tell. They have enjoyed this winter like no other, taking delight in the best of both worlds. They help me with the chores and then race me to the house for the warmth of the woodstove.

Unfortunately, such is not the case with many family pets this winter. When people fall on hard times, their animals do too. The failing economy and loss of jobs has also meant a record high in home foreclosures. More than 13,000 Minnesotans lost their homes last year – double from 2006.

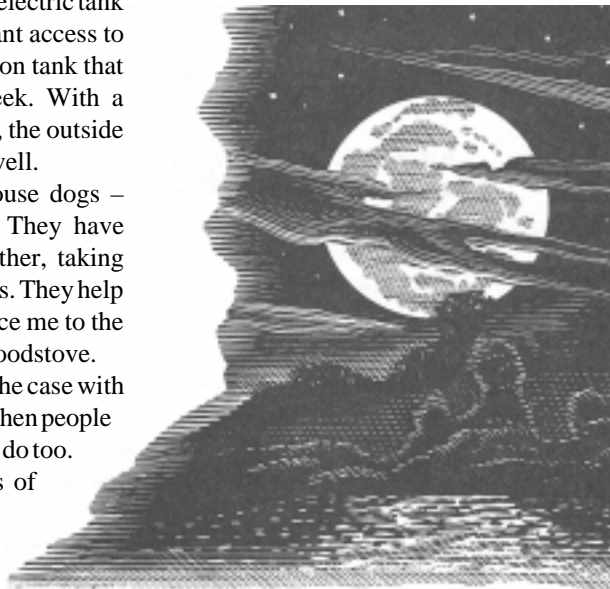
Across the country, homes are vacant but not entirely empty. In a panic to vacate, some homeowners are forced to abandon their dogs and cats. Sometimes folks are forced to move in with family members, into a smaller house or apartment and unable to make arrangements for their pets.

Small and large animals alike are turning up dumped or released near farms and in rural areas – hoping someone will take them in. I now believe that is how our beloved yellow Lab, Buck came to find us last year at this time.

With the present crisis, shelters are at full capacity. When the economy plunges – adoptions drop as well. There are things you can do. If you have the means to care for a pet, now is the time to adopt. If you have ever considered fostering for a rescue group – now is the time to do it. Even a temporary home can make a difference. Most impor-

tantly, don't judge anyone during these desperate times. If you hear of someone on the verge of eviction or foreclosure with nowhere to take their pets, try to find help for them *and* their critters.

**CELESTIALLY:** A February lunar eclipse put me in my humble place in the universe. The frosty breath leaving my lungs momentarily clouded my vision as I watched the moon mysteriously change before my



eyes. The warmth of the horses standing next to me gave a brief reprieve from the sub-zero temps of the night. The middle of the horse pasture - free from distracting lights seemed the ideal spot for me to enjoy the view.

Whenever and where ever I experience the phenomenon of a lunar or solar eclipse, I have a sense of wonder about those who share it with me at the same time – be it my immediate neighbor or my neighbor somewhere else in the world. Do they see it the same way I do...do they feel what I feel...?

A lunar eclipse occurs when a full moon passes into the Earth's shadow and is blocked from the sun's rays that normally illuminate it. The sun, Earth and moon must be perfectly aligned (in that order) during a full moon for this to happen.

The exact color of the eclipsed moon depends on dusts and clouds in the atmosphere. These colors can range from a dark

brown to a coppery-red hue, which can be the result of volcanic eruptions somewhere on the planet. If you missed this one which occurred on the night of February 20<sup>th</sup>, join me - and the rest of the planet - for the next one due to appear on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**IN THE COMPANY OF WOLVES:** As I continue my work as a regular volunteer at the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, I marvel at all there is to learn about the raptors and animals I care for. During a recent public event, I was given the opportunity to educate others about the raptors I was handling – a Long Eared Owl and an American Kestrel. There are seven birds that reside at the Center; a Great Horned Owl, Long Eared Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Red Tail Hawk, Red Tail Hawk-Kriters, Rough Legged Hawk and an American Kestrel. Daily care of the birds includes monitoring their weights, checking for injuries or illness and preparing food that consists of a diet that they would find in the wild.

Small mammal care is also a part of the daily duties – providing food and water to the likes of fox, porcupine, lynx, skunks and raccoons. On occasion, I have been allowed to assist with wolf restraint and partake in wolf reproductive research. It has been an honor to work in close proximity with wolf researchers, biologists and educators.

The next fundraising event for the Center will take place on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion in Forest Lake from 6:30-9:00pm. Join us if you can for an evening of wine tasting, food and silent auction. Visit the website for more information [www.wildlifesciencecenter.org](http://www.wildlifesciencecenter.org) or call 651-464-3993.

Until next time, remember...

*“Clouds come from time to time-  
and bring a chance to rest...  
from looking at the moon.”*

Basho(1664-1694)  
Japanese Haiku poet

*In Solidarity,  
Marilyn Bobick Johnson  
Conservation Committee Retiree*

# STATE OF THE UNIONS

Once upon a time, back when America had a strong middle class, it also had a strong union movement.

These two facts were connected. Unions negotiated good wages and benefits for their workers, gains that often ended up being matched even by nonunion employers. They also provided an important counterbalance to the political influence of corporations and the economic elite.

Today, however, the American union movement is a shadow of its former self, except among government workers. In 1973, almost a quarter of private-sector employees were union members, but last year the figure was down to a mere 7.4%.

Yet unions still matter politically. Before I get to that, however, let's talk about what happened to American labor over the past 35 years. It's often assumed that the

U.S. labor movement died a natural death, that it was made obsolete by globalization and technological change. But what really happened is that beginning in the 1970s, corporate America, which had previously had a largely cooperative relationship with unions, in effect declared war on organized labor.

Don't take my word for it: read Business Week, which published an article in 2002 titled "How Wal-Mart Keeps Unions at Bay." The article explained that "over the past two decades, Corporate America has perfected its ability to fend off labor groups." It then described the tactics – some legal, some illegal, all involving intimidation – that Wal-Mart and other giant firms use to block organizing drives.

These hardball tactics have been enabled by a political environment that has

been deeply hostile to organized labor, both because politicians favored employers' interests and because conservatives sought to weaken the Democratic Party. "We're going to crush labor as a political entity," Grover Norquist, the anti-tax activist, once declared.

But the times may be changing. A newly energized progressive movement seems to be on the ascendant, and unions are a key part of that movement. Most notably, the Service Employees International Union has played a key role in pushing for health care reform. And unions will be an important force for Democrats in next year's election.

*Paul Krugman  
Times Daily,  
December 2007*

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*Chair Report* ( Continued from page 2 )

## UNPAID PERSONAL DAYS

The Bargaining Committee also asked about the use of the Temporary Members' unpaid personal days after the fact and according to Chuck Browning, providing you have a good attendance record, you may use them after the fact under the same requirements as your Family Days. Have one year of working at Ford Motor Company and cannot use them before 1 June 2008. The after the fact unpaid personal days will not qualify you for a paid holiday if you are AWOL.

## NATIONAL ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

The National Attendance program will be implemented on March 3, 2008. The Company will be putting out a bulletin very soon. Please consult with you District Committee person and/or attend the next Union Meeting on March 5, 2008 for a clearer understanding of how this may affect you personally.

## MEDICAL COVERAGE

Our Health Partners coverage is in serious jeopardy. Our Benefits Rep. Dorothy is aggressively addressing this issue. As your Chairman, I brought this to the whole body of the National UAW/Ford Council and in person to Bob King for their help. Please see bargainers report for more information.

In closing, we all understand that working families and the working men and woman, everywhere, are under attack as we race to the bottom in wages and benefits, but nothing will change unless you and I are willing to become involved in our own destiny. It is very easy to blame others while doing nothing for ourselves. Get involved.

*"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning."*

*-Frederick Douglass*

*In Solidarity and respect,  
Jim Eagle  
Chairman  
UAW Local 879*



## AMERICAN FLAGS MUST BE USA MADE

American flags sold in the states must be manufactured in the United States, beginning January 1, 2008.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) and Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), the provision is included in the omnibus jobs and economic development and housing finance law, most of which took effect July 1, 2007.

When first introduced as a stand-alone bill, the selling of novelties and other items depicting the flag would have been prohibited. This provision was removed before the bill was considered and passed by the House



# As national park tribute shows, wartime Rosies still riveting

By Michelle Locke

Fog drifts over the old shipyard, casting a veil over the shoulders of empty factories where thousands of women once thronged, welding and hammering and typing and filing as they put a lipsticked smile on the face of the war at home.

This is the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historic Park, a sprawling tribute to the sacrifices of a generation located in what was once a wartime boomtown on the shores of San Francisco Bay.

As recounted in Ken Burns' recent documentary "The War", which details the impact of the war boom on cities including nearby Sacramento, Northern California was as swept up in the homefront mobilization as any region of the country.

"There is no more charged period in history – hate, love, fear, despair, everything that goes along with a human emotion is just heightened during a period of war. No one was left untouched by this experience," says Lucy Lawliss, a National Parks Service landscape architect who is among the people working to establish the park.

The iconic image of Rosie the Riveter is of a cheerful, blonde housewife. But many Rosies didn't fit that image at all.

For Betty Reid Soskin, a black woman already living in the San Francisco Bay area when World War II broke out, life on the home front meant confusion and change.

Workers, male and female, were recruited from all over the country to work in the shipyards, including people from states where blacks and whites wouldn't be sharing drinking fountains for another 20 years.

Soskin went to work, too, keeping clerical records for the segregated union set up for black shipyard workers.

These days, Soskin tells stories, her own and others', as a community outreach worker for the Rosie the Riveter park.

Soskin hesitates to call herself a "Rosie." She didn't wear a welder's mask or build

tanks or even know much about the massive effort going on at the Richmond shipyards. At the time, she didn't really feel part of the war effort, filing cards and making address changes.

Looking back through the prism of the civil rights movement, she sees it differently.

"When you're in the middle of that, you don't have a sense of what you were involved in historically. I certainly didn't she says".

"But now at 86, I look back and I can see the pattern as it swept across the country and can have the pride in that heroism of the people who suffered through that, who



learned from that."

The Richmond shipyards produced 747 ships, an enormous effort that required round-the-clock shifts.

Mary Head worked with the welders, knocking off the rough surfaces and priming paint for the next step of construction. She was a relief worker, stepping in when someone took a break or was late.

She remembers the work as "greasy and dirty and cold. Honey, it was coold," she

says her voice drawing out the vowels.

Step carefully down the crumbling steps that lead to the old "galleries," long, multi-leveled chambers where hundreds of workers could work on the same ship at one time, and it's easy to imagine just how hard and gritty the work was.

"Even with the pre-assembled pieces, it was a hand-crafted industry," Lawliss said. "It required thousands of people doing individual jobs to assemble this huge thing."

The Rosie the Riveter park is a work in progress. A memorial walkway, flanked by metal structures meant to evoke the hull of a ship, was dedicated in 2000. Park officials also were allotted space in a refurbished Ford assembly plant, a cathedral-like expanse of soaring, glass-paned walls. They hope to open an exhibit these soon.

Visitors get a map and directions to the park's landmarks, such as a housing development built for shipyard workers and Shipyard No. 3, home to the USS Red Oak Victory, an ammunition ship built in Richmond that is being restored by a volunteer group of World War II veterans.

Among those who have visited the park is Kate Grant, a former Rosie. Grant was a tack welder and used to go 40 feet down to the bottom of the ship to lay beads of hot lead on seams. She worked the graveyard shift, 12 am to 8 am., getting home in time to care for her baby, who was watched at night by her younger sister.

She had two weeks training and was outfitted with a hood, goggles, leather pants, gloves and instructions to stay wrapped up when the acetylene torch was going. She was careful; she never got burned.

Her husband joined the Marines and was shipped overseas. She can laugh now about the can of Spam she sent him as a care package. But there was a serious side to her work. "I said, 'Honey, I feel like I'm building a ship for you to come home in.'"

- Associated Press

# VICE PRESIDENT REPORT . . .

## Nails in the Fence

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

The little boy then understood how powerful his words were. He looked up at his father and said "I hope you can forgive me father for the holes I put in you."

"Of course I can," said the father.

We are all family here at TCAP, some new and some old. It is all of us who make this a special plant. I hope that I/we can follow this example in the story, be kind to each other, and of course forgive each other

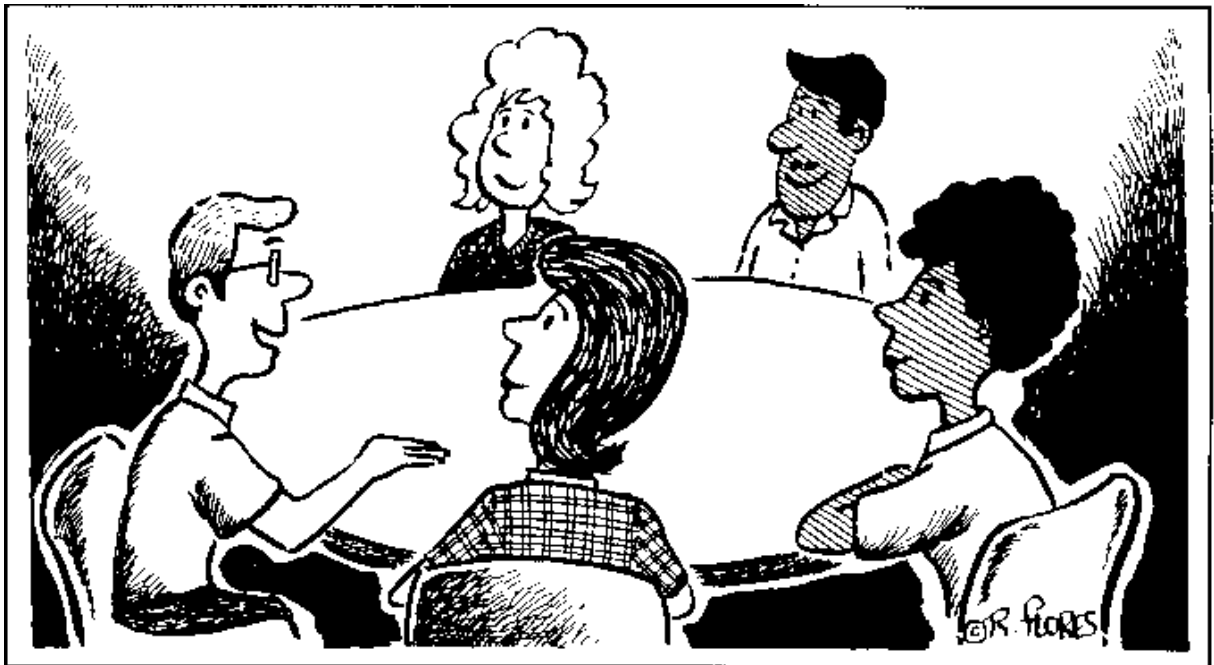
just as the father forgave the son in the story. I know I have fallen many times, gotten angry, and lost my temper but it is our capacity to forgive and accept apologies that makes this such a special plant.

The Peer Support Committee is putting on another class "BE YOUR OWN BOSS! The Keys to a Successful Small Business Start-Up." Bob did a great job last time and is back by popular demand. Call Tracy Ausen @ 651 695-3502 to sign up.

The Peer Support Committee – which is a wonderful committee whose purpose is to prepare everyone for life after Ford, and

out of plant, Joseph Groleau - Pre-Delivery, Barb Rothfolk - Paint, Stanley Kasal - out of the plant and Roger Terveen, UAW Local 879 President. We also have the counselors for the Dislocated Workers on our team and Lynn Larken-Wright from United Way. I or any of the members can put ideas on our agenda and talk about how to implement at the next meeting. Any one interested in attending or joining in our meetings please contact me or Roger Terveen.

I also am a member of the CAP Committee. There are some big elections coming up



—R. Flores/UAW-LUPA

assist them with anything they might need in their life right now. The committee is comprised of a mix of compassionate people who represent a cross section of folks who all have different situations, be it TFT, FT, buy-out's... We are always looking for new ideas for classes or services to offer. Anyone with ideas can reach me at my plant number 60761, or contact one of the members who are located throughout the plant, and out of the plant. Members include Tracy Ausen - Skills Enhancement Center, Patrick Wiles - Warehouse, Kari Altema - Central Maintenance, Denny Dickhausen - Paint Booth Cleaner nights, Tanya Wade - SPC, Margie Rios - Torque, Brian Gustafson -

president, senators.... We have the power of the vote here in America - it is our voice in what happens to all of us. I brought my two sons to their first Caucus on February 5<sup>th</sup>, my oldest will vote for the first time in November, as he turns 18 in October.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you,

*In Solidarity,  
Marsha Anderson-Shearen  
UAW Local 879 Vice-President*

# Heart Disease and Women

Heart disease is not just a man's disease. In fact, it is the number one killer of women. It is also the leading cause of disability in women. The older a woman gets, the more likely she is going to get heart disease. But that doesn't mean younger women shouldn't worry about getting it. All women can be doing things to prevent heart disease. Here are a few suggestions:

**Exercise:** No pill or diet can ever be a substitute for the benefits of getting up and getting going. It is recommended that women (and men) get about 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a day. It can not only make your heart stronger but also lower the risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

Even smaller activities are a benefit to your body, like: walking to the next bus

stop instead of the closest one, walk around when on the phone, do yard work or gardening, park farther away from a store or your job, walk up the stair instead of taking the elevator, take a walk around the building on breaks, don't stay seated more than 30 minutes, even start your own walking club.

**Eat "healthy" fat.** Foods like fish, olive oil, walnuts and avocados are considered to be healthier fatty foods. The unhealthy fats are saturated fats. Those foods include: whole milk dairy products and red meats. Trans fats are usually found in packaged baked goods and fried foods.

**Some tips for eating a healthier diet:** Eat low fat or non fat dairy products. Pick out lean cuts of meat and remove the skin from chicken before cooking it. Broil, bake, roast or poach foods instead of frying them. Cut down on sausage, bacon and processed

lunch meat. Use egg whites instead of the whole egg. Egg whites do not contain fat or cholesterol. In most recipes, two egg whites can be used for one whole egg. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables. Eat plenty of whole grain cereals, breads, rice and pastas.

**Relax!** Finding way of how to cope with stress without smoking, heavy drinking or overeating will benefit your health. Adding harsh chemicals to your body is only going to stress it out more which adds to the risk of heart disease.

Create a positive attitude and stick with it. As hard as it may seem at times, see change as a positive challenge or an opportunity. It could help your heart.

Don't be a statistic. Start today and take care of your heart.

*In solidarity,  
Kari Altema*

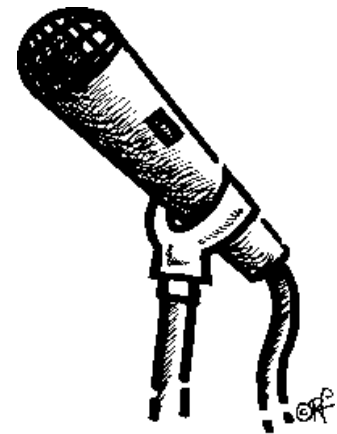
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## 50 Stress Relievers

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- 1) Go for a walk.
- 2) Take a hot bath/shower.
- 3) Throw darts at a dart board.
- 4) Talk it out with a good friend.
- 5) Go see a comedy.
- 6) Go to a park and swing on a swing set.
- 7) Put a puzzle together.
- 8) Draw or paint a picture.
- 9) Write in a journal.
- 10) Walk the dog.
- 11) Go for a bike ride.
- 12) Light a candle and watch the flame.
- 13) Dance around the house to your favorite songs.
- 14) Meditate.
- 15) Go fishing.
- 16) Go for a drive and sing at the top of your lungs.
- 17) Make a priority list.
- 18) Do something nice for yourself on a daily basis.
- 19) Help someone else.
- 20) Get enough sleep.
- 21) Say "no" to activities that don't fit into your schedule.
- 22) Get together with an old friend.
- 23) Talk to a therapist.
- 24) Go to a support group.
- 25) Volunteer at a Humane Society, nursing home, or homeless shelter.
- 26) Plant a garden indoors or out.
- 27) Play a game.
- 28) Go window shopping.
- 29) Clean your house.
- 30) Treat yourself to a dinner out.
- 31) Allow yourself time to heal.
- 32) Let yourself cry.
- 33) Laugh at your mistakes.
- 34) Take a class at a community college.
- 35) Take a mini vacation or go on a weekend get-away.
- 36) Count your blessings.
- 37) Breathe.
- 38) Bake cookies.
- 39) Read a book.
- 40) Throw a full-blown 2-year-old temper tantrum in the middle of your living room floor (without an audience).
- 41) Stop feeling guilty about things you cannot change.
- 42) Blow balloons up and pop them.
- 43) Stop putting yourself down and start thinking positively.
- 44) Write a letter.
- 45) Go for a horse back ride.
- 46) Praise yourself for accomplishments, big or small.
- 47) Quit being a perfectionist.
- 48) Stop procrastinating.
- 49) Forgive.

- 50) My personal favorite: go out and sing karaoke!



www.laborart.com

Take time for yourself every day. It doesn't matter how much or how little time; just enough for you to do something which makes you feel replenished and refreshed. Don't be afraid of trying new things. Create your own list of stress relievers and make time to do them. Most of all have fun doing them!

*In solidarity,  
Kari Altema.*

# Retirees Texas Get-Together - February 8, 2008



# RETIREES

January - February 1, 2008



Toth, Calvin J.  
1-1-2008



Diaz, Daniel F.  
2-1-2008



Dickhausen, Brenda E.  
2-1-2008



Diesling, Randall L.  
2-1-2008



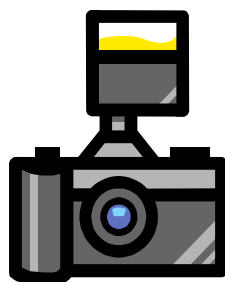
Dineen, Brian P.  
2-1-2008



Killeen, Joan M.  
2-1-2008



Toni Whiteside 1-1-2007



No Picture Available

- Severson, Robert A. 1-1-2008
- Dervie, Thomas A. 2-1-2008
- Finamore, Michael A. 2-1-2008
- Kane, Lyle T. 2-1-2008
- Mondry, Gregory B. 2-1-2008
- Zawol, Dennis A. 2-1-2008



## RETIREMENT MYTHS

**\* I won't need much to live on.** Many experts estimate that on average, to maintain your standard of living in retirement, you' need 60 to 80% of your pre-retirement income. And that income has to continue to grow enough in an attempt to keep up with inflation.



# LIFE AFTER FORD

## Notes from the Outside



How good is your memory? Some people say that they can remember back to their youngest years – say three or four years old. Who knows? Me? Well, don't ask me what I had for dinner yesterday or where my reading glasses are right now. With that in mind, let me tell you of my problem.

In the mid-60's in the Central Maintenance Shop, there was a little area devoted to the repair of seat covers. It was staffed by one man and a sewing machine. It was close – almost a part of the toolmaker area that backed up to the wall separating the toolmaker area from the old lye tank room. The guy running the seat cover area was very outgoing in nature. You know the type that could share a cup of coffee with you and tell a good story. He not only did the repairs on the seat covers, but also used throwaway scraps to make tool pouches for all the trades that wanted them. And they were well made to boot!

I can remember talking to him and hearing that before he came to the Twin Cities Assembly Plant he worked at a Ford Motor plant either in Northern Wisconsin or the upper part of Michigan. This plant made either wooden steering wheels or tire rim spokes for Ford cars, or maybe both.

Now back to my problem. What was his name? This feeble brain of mine keeps saying, "His first name started with the letter A." But for the life of me I just cannot remember the first name or the last.

But I do remember very well some of the toolmakers who worked in that area 'way back when'. So, hey guys, yes, you toolmakers from yesteryear, how about some help with my memory problem. How about you, Don (Pat) Patterson up in Hackensack, Jerry and Kenny Anderson (the Anderson brothers), Merl Heitman, Dick Hendricks, Gordy DeYoung, Bill Brengman, to name a few.

One of you may know this man's name so please help me solve my memory loss! Either call the Local Union Hall and give the information to Dee or Bob, or drop me a line or two in care of our Local's Union Hall. The address is on the inside page of your "Autoworker".

To paraphrase an old saying, "My memory thanks you, Life after Ford thanks you, your Autoworker thanks you and I THANK YOU!"

*Cubby*



Greetings! I presently work for Dunlap Shipping as Captain. We ship goods up and down the West Coast, up to Alaska and out to Hawaii. It's a great life.

Aloha to all.  
Captain Russ Mead

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### RETIREMENT MYTHS

**\* I'm too young to worry about retirement.** You're never too long to make plans. The sooner you begin saving for retirement, the less you'll have to put aside. For example: If you want to have a \$200,000 nest egg by age 65, you'll only have to save about \$26 a week if you start at 35. But if you wait until you're 55 to start, you'd have to put aside \$233 every week.

Both cases assume that your money is invested earning a hypothetical 9% return. This example is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to reflect the actual performance of any security. Investing involves risk and you may incur a profit or a loss.

### RETIREES' CHAPTER MEETING

March 17, 2008 1:30 PM

April 21, 2008 1:30 PM

May 19, 2008 1:30 PM

There is a short business meeting followed by the Local President's report on in-plant activities. Coffee and donuts are served and there is time to socialize with your fellow workers.



**From the Editor**

**We regret to inform you** that due to local budget restraints, the number of issues of *The Autoworker* to be published in 2008 will be reduced to four times a year. We have appreciated your comments and support over the years. Following this issue, we are tentatively planning the following months of publications: February/March - April/May/June - July/August/September and October/November/December. Your feedback is always welcomed.

*Marilyn Bobick Johnson,*  
Editor



### **The Barack Obama Biography**

*Barack Obama (born August 4, 1961) is a U.S. Senator from Illinois. He is a member of the main Democratic Party. He has received international media coverage for his keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, delivered while he was still an Illinois state senator.*

*He is the only African American who is currently serving in the U.S. Senate, and the fifth in the entire United States history and the third since Reconstruction. The 2004 U.S. Senate election in Illinois made history as the first Senate election to feature black nominees from both major parties. Obama won the election in a landslide, with 70% of the vote.*

#### **His Early life**

Barack Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii to Harvard-educated economist Barack Obama, Sr., a native of Kenya, and S. Ann Dunham, of Kansas. At the time of Obama's birth, both his parents were students at the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. "Barack" means "blessed" in Swahili.

Of his years in Hawaii, Obama has written, "The irony is that my decision to work in politics, and to pursue such a career in a big Mainland city, in some sense grows out of my Hawaiian upbringing, and the ideal that Hawaii still represents in my mind."

When Obama was two years old, his parents divorced. His father eventually returned to Kenya, and he saw his son only once more before his death in 1982. Ann Obama married another East-West Center student from Indonesia. The family then moved to Jakarta. When Obama was ten he returned to Hawaii under the care of his grandparents, and later his mother, for the better educational opportunities.

#### **His College experience and career**

Upon finishing high school, Obama studied for two years at Occidental College in California, before transferring to Columbia

University in New York City. There he majored in political science, with a specialization in international relations. Upon graduation, he moved to Chicago, where he took up community organizing in the Altgeld Gardens housing project on the city's South Side.

He left Chicago for three years to study law at Harvard University, where he was elected the first black president of the Harvard Law Review. He graduated Magna Cum Laude. While working one summer at a corporate law firm in 1989, Obama met Michelle Robinson, whom he married in 1992. Robinson is also a graduate of Harvard Law.

While in Chicago as a community organizer once again, Obama organized an aggressive voter registration effort that aided in the election of President Bill Clinton and Senator Carol Moseley Braun. The campaign registered over 100,000 voters. Soon after, his talents earned him a position at a local civil rights law firm, and he became a lecturer of constitutional law at the University of Chicago, where he served as a professor until his election to the U.S. Senate.

#### **Barack Obama and Politics**

In 1996, Obama was elected to the Illinois State Senate from the south side neighborhood of Hyde Park, in Chicago. He served as chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee when the Democrats regained control of the chamber. The Chicago Tribune called him "one of the General Assembly's most impressive members."

Regarded as a staunch liberal during his tenure in the legislature, he helped to author a state Earned Income Tax Credit which provided benefits to the working poor. He also worked for legislation that would cover residents who could not afford health insurance. Speaking up for leading gay and lesbian advocacy groups, he successfully helped pass bills to increase funding for AIDS prevention and care programs.

#### **His United States Senate campaign**

In 2004, Obama decided to run for the U.S. Senate seat held by Sen. Peter Fitzgerald. As Obama's name recognition rose, voters took a liking to the bright, charismatic senator. He won decisively in the March primary, dispatching the other six candidates easily, and winning more than 50 percent of the vote.

Entering the U.S. Senate campaign, Obama had become a national Democratic star.

#### **Keynote address**

Obama was chosen to deliver a keynote

address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, and became the third African American to do so. (The first was Barbara Jordan, at the 1976 Democratic National Convention, and the second was Harold Ford, Jr. at the 2000 Democratic National Convention.)

His speech outlined his own family's pursuit of the American Dream, and his belief in a 'generous America'. He criticized the Bush administration for not supporting troops in Iraq.

Finally he spoke for national unity: "Well, I say to them tonight, there's not a liberal America and a conservative America; there's the United States of America."

The address was generally regarded as a great success, thrusting Obama into the national spotlight (similar to New York Governor Mario Cuomo's address at the 1984 DNC).

#### **Senate career**

Obama was sworn in as a Senator on January 5, 2005. He ranked 99th out of 100 Senators in terms of official seniority (greater seniority brings greater privileges in the Senate), ranking ahead of only new Democratic Senator Ken Salazar of Colorado. In his first few months in office, Obama drew praise by his perceived attempts to avoid the limelight and devote large amounts of effort to being a Senator; a Washington Post article spread an anecdote of Obama refusing an upgrade to first-class on a flight home. In March of 2005, Obama announced that he was forming his own PAC, a move not usually undertaken until several years into a politician's career.

In late March 2005, Obama announced his first proposed Senate bill, the Higher Education Opportunity through Pell Grant Expansion Act of 2005 (HOPE Act), which aims to raise the maximum amount of Pell Grant awards to help assist American college students with paying for their tuition. Obama announced the bill at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and said, "Everywhere I go, I hear the same story: 'We work hard, we pay our bills, we put away savings, but we just don't know if it's going to be enough when that tuition bill comes.'"

The April 18, 2005 issue of TIME Magazine listed the 100 most influential people in the world. Obama was included on the list under the section of 'Leaders and Revolutionaries' for his high-profile entrance to federal politics and his popularity within the Democratic Party.



**Hillary Rodham Clinton** was elected to the United States Senate by the people of New York on November 7, 2000, after years of public service on behalf of children and families. She is the first First Lady of the United States elected to public office and the first woman elected independently statewide in New York State. A strong advocate for New York, Senator Clinton works with communities throughout the state to strengthen the economy and expand opportunity. The Senator supports a return to fiscal responsibility because she knows that wise national economic policies are essential to protect America's future.

She serves on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; the Environment and Public Works Committee; the Special Committee on Aging; and she is the first New Yorker ever to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Senator Clinton worked with her colleagues to secure the funds New York needed to rebuild. She fought to provide compensation to the families of the victims, grants for hard-hit businesses, and health care for front line workers at Ground Zero. She continues to work for resources that enable New York to grow, to improve homeland security for New York and other communities, and to protect all Americans from future attacks. She has introduced legislation to provide for direct and threat-based homeland security funding to ensure that first responders and high-target communities have the resources they need.

In 2004, Senator Clinton was asked by the Department of Defense to serve as the only Senate member of the Transformation Advisory Group to the Joint Forces Command. She has visited troops in Iraq and Afghanistan; at Fort Drum in New York, home of the 10th Mountain Division; and at Walter Reed Military Hospital to learn first hand the challenges facing American combat forces. She is an original sponsor of legislation that expanded health benefits to members of the National Guard and Reserves.

In the Senate, she has continued her work for children and families by leading efforts to ensure the safety of prescription drugs for children, with legislation now included in the Pediatric Research Equity Act; working to strengthen the Children's Health Insurance Program, which increased coverage for children in low income working families; and helping schools address environmental hazards.

Senator Clinton continues to work to increase access to health care. She authored legislation that has been enacted to improve recruitment and retention of nurses, to improve quality and lower the cost of prescription drugs, and to protect our food supply from bioterrorism. She sponsored legislation to increase America's commitment against Global AIDS, and is now leading the fight for expanded use of information technology in the health care system to decrease administrative costs and reduce medical errors.

To encourage business expansion, Senator Clinton co-sponsored legislation enacted in 2004 to extend tax credits to communities in regions designated as Renewal Communities. She has sponsored conferences and business development tours throughout the state aimed at attracting new investment; introduced legislation to increase access to broadband technology in rural areas; and serves as chair of the advisory board for New Jobs for New York.

Senator Clinton has spoken clearly about the importance of protecting our constitutional rights, respecting such landmark Supreme Court decisions as *Roe v. Wade*. Her commitment to supporting *Roe* and working to reduce the number of abortions, by reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies, was hailed by the *New York Times* as

“frank talk... (and) a promising path.”

Strongly committed to making sure that every American has the right to vote in fair, accessible and credible elections – and that every vote must be counted, Senator Clinton introduced the *Count Every Vote Act of 2005*, to provide a verified paper ballot for every vote cast in electronic voting machines; set a uniform standard for provisional ballots, and require the Federal Election Assistance Commission to issue standards that ensure uniform access to voting machines and election personnel in every community.

Senator Clinton was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1947. She is the daughter of Dorothy Rodham and the late Hugh Rodham. Her father was a small businessman and her mother a homemaker. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and Yale Law School. She is married to former President William Jefferson Clinton. They have one daughter, Chelsea.

Senator Clinton is the author of best selling books including her autobiography, *Living History; It Takes A Village: and Other Lessons Children Teach Us; Dear Socks, Dear Buddy: Kids' Letters to the First Pets; and An Invitation to the White House* as well as numerous articles.



**Hillary's daughter Chelsea with supporter during current presidential campaign rally in Hillary's bid for the White House.**

## FROM THE UNION BENEFITS OFFICE

There is a lot of misinformation going around about the new buyout packages. Before you make any decision I recommend that you either come and see me or call the "Special Programs Hotline" at 1-313-322-7795 or e-mail "Special Programs" at [edoppfaq@ford.com](mailto:edoppfaq@ford.com).

Anyone retiring from Ford Motor Company who wants to keep their current healthcare, will need to call 1-800-524-1234 to authorize the health care deduction. The current cost is \$11.00 for single coverage and \$22.00 for family. If you fail to do this, you will be defaulted to the "Catastrophic Plan".

Anyone who took the Pre-Retirement Leave from TCAP (85% of your pay), must remember to call the NESC at 1-800-248-2444 and request your retirement papers. Ford Motor Company will not automati-

cally send them to you. If you fail to do this Ford will terminate you as a voluntary quit. Do not request your papers any more than 90 days in advance.

Pre-Retirement Leave employees be sure to open any and all mail from Ford Motor Company. Some of you might have been given back credits you lost in previous years that would change your retirement date. Ford is sending out letters to the employees affected.

Any retiree who is turning 65 years old needs to sign up for Medicare Part A and B. Part A is at no cost to the retiree, but Part B currently is \$96.40. Ford Motor Company will reimburse you \$76.20 of that cost. In order to receive the reimbursement you need to call 1-800-333-7444 and follow the prompts to "Special Age 65 Benefit".

TPT's must be sure to sign up for your health care. You are eligible the first day of the eighth month following the month of hire or rehire. Call the NESC at 1-800-248-4444 and follow the prompts. If you need to send in paper work, you can bring it to me and I'll fax it for you. You will have two options to choose from: BCBS PPO Plan or Health Partners. If you want prescription drug coverage you need to choose Health Partners.

Ford Motor Company will be conducting another health care audit this year. Be sure to respond. If you do not do so, your dependents will be taken off your health care.

If you have any questions, just call me at 651-696-0514 or 1-800-211-0016.

*In solidarity,  
Dorothy Sokolowski  
UAW Benefits Representative*

## UNION PLUS OFFERS 'SAVE MY HOME' HOTLINE TO ASSIST WORKERS CAUGHT IN SUB-PRIME CRUNCH

Offering free information and confidential advice 24/7, the new Union Plus "Save My Home" hotline is preparing for a barrage of calls from troubled homeowners beset by higher mortgage payments as their adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) are 'reset'.

Victims of the so-called 'sub-prime credit crunch' include thousands of union families lured into expensive home mortgages that offer attractive initial interest payments – typically for the first three years of their loan – after which rates jump significantly. Many consumers have found their monthly ARM payments increased by \$500 or more when a loan resets. Few of the victims of this phenomenon realized that the fine print on their loans imposed costly charges if they sought to refinance to avoid the higher costs.

The picture for many middle and low-income homeowners has been complicated by the simultaneous drop in house prices that occurred when the housing bubble burst about a year ago – meaning that even if

homeowners could refinance a loan, the value of their house wouldn't cover what they owe.

Acting to ease the pain of these working families caught in the perfect storm of the sub-prime crunch and the collapse of house prices, the AFL-CIO and Union Plus have set up a hotline to provide counseling and information to help families avoid foreclosure. The hotline will be staffed by professionals from Money Management International, a nonprofit HUD certified housing counseling agency. The program also offers face-to-face counseling in any of MMI's more than 100 local offices in 22 states and the District of Columbia.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association approximately 14% of the loans serviced by its members, or 6.2 million of all mortgages, are "sub-prime" loans. The numbers had climbed in recent years as a result of aggressive marketing.

A survey commissioned by the AFL-CIO and conducted by Peter D. Hart Re-

search Associates pinpoints the level of anxiety confronting union families that hold adjustable rate mortgages. The poll found that 62% of homeowners with ARMs believe that escalating mortgage rates are hurting their communities, and 48% expect they'll have to cut back on everyday spending for groceries, clothing and gasoline when their payments increase. Among low-income families (earning \$50,000 or less) 80% believe they'll be forced to make cut-backs.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, as he announced the Union Plus program, said the sub-prime drama is illuminating "a tale of two communities."

"The trapdoor between the American Dream and the American Nightmare for these homeowners is the ARM adjustment. This survey shows that many homeowners simply are not prepared for the steep rise in mortgage payments that his market inflicts on ARM holders," Sweeney said.

*AFL-CIO Label Letter*

Back by Popular Demand

# Be Your Own Boss!

Do you have what it takes?

## The Keys to a Successful Small Business Start-Up

**Thursday, March 27 @ 4:30 pm**

UAW/Ford Training Center Auditorium

Learn what it takes to start and/or manage a small business. Topics include:

- The Benefits of Small Business Ownership
- A Simple Entrepreneurship Assessment
- The Universal Keys to Success
- The Downside of Small Business Ownership
- The Four Ways of Becoming a Small Business Owner
- Resources Available to You Now

To register for this FREE class call Tracy Ausen @ 651-695-3502.  
This class is open to all present or former Ford employees. Bring your spouse!

Instructor Bob Voss has been teaching Business Entrepreneur classes at Dakota County Technical College for 5 years. He is also a counselor at the Small Business Development Center, which offers free professional consulting to small business owners and entrepreneurs. Bob has worked with Dislocated Workers in the past and has extensive experience owning and managing small businesses.



## In Memory

**BROTHER ROBERT F. JEUKENS** died on January 22, 2008 at the age of 77 years. The funeral mass was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Forest Lake MN **BROTHER JEUKENS** went to work at Ford Motor in 1953 and stayed there for 38 years before retiring in June of 1991.

**BROTHER STANLEY E. MORTON** died on January 21, 2008 at the age of 80 years. The funeral was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapel in Coon Rapids, MN. **BROTHER MORTON** began his employment at Ford Motor Company in June of 1949. He spent 31 years there before his retirement in May of 1980. He worked in General Stores.

**BROTHER ROBERT W. PHELPS** died on February 1, 2008 at the age of 86 years. The funeral mass was held on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Church of the Holy Rosary, Minneapolis. **BROTHER PHELPS** began his employment at Ford Motor in December of 1953. After working there for 30 years, he retired in June of 1983.

**BROTHER ROBERT "Bobby" G. HANOLD** died on February 3, 2008 at the age of 64 years. The funeral mass was held on February 9<sup>th</sup> at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Braham, MN. **BROTHER HANOLD** began working at Ford Motor Company in May of 1968. He retired in March of 1998 after spending 30 years at Ford.

**BROTHER DAVID N. MILLER** died on February 8, 2008 at the age of 53 years. There was a gathering on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Mattson Funeral Home, 343 North Shore Drive, Forest Lake, MN. **BROTHER MILLER** worked at Ford Motor Company for 33 years starting in March of 1974 in Michigan and then transferring here in 1984. He was a Millwright in the Body Build Department and retired in February of 2007.

## Our Condolences to the Families . . .

### BILL WOULD BAN IMPORTS MADE IN SWEATSHOPS Senate Measure Targets Products from China

Recalls of millions of unsafe toys may be part of the price Americans pay for buying products manufactured in China under sweatshop conditions or by forced prison labor, worker advocates told a Senate panel.

"When production is outsourced to Chinese factories infamous for paying their workers pennies an hour, dumping toxic sludge into the environment and for covering up all kinds of health hazards, it should come as no shock that the products turned out by these factories pose a danger to our own health," said Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND).

"Toxic and sweatshop toys are two sides of the same coin, and need to be regulated by enforceable laws," said Charles Kernaghan of the National Labor Committee.

More than 21 million toys made in China – from Baby Einstein Discover & Play Color Blocks from Kids II Inc. to Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway by RC2 Corp. – have been recalled because of excessive levels of lead paint, tiny magnets that could be swallowed or other potentially serious problems.

Mattel recalled an additional 38,000 "Go Diego Go?" toys as part of a larger recall of 665,000 lead-contaminated children's products made in China. That recall involved 38,000 orange and yellow Go Diego Go! Animal Rescue Boats, manufactured in China and imported by Fisher-Price.

Surface paint on the boats contains excessive levels of lead.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission also announced recalls in mid-October of 627,000 other Chinese-made toys that are contaminated with lead.

Workers at the approximately 8,000 Chinese toy factories get no safety equipment to use while making American toys, said Bama Athreya, executive director of the International Labor rights Forum.

They also suffer physical, verbal and sexual harassment, often are overworked and cheated out of their wages and rarely have medical insurance, she said.

In addition, forced prison labor is also used to make toys for export, said Harry Wu of the Laogai Research Foundation, who said he spent 19 years in Chinese prison camps.

## WALL OF PRIDE

Our new board is ready for pictures and/or articles of your loved ones, family, or friends serving in the military.

If you would like to have someone recognized or remembered, please give this information to your Committeeperson or drop it off with anyone in the Union Offices or in the Benefits Office. We will then put them up for everyone to see.

Thanks.

*Kristen Chilson  
Deb Francis  
Dorothy Sokoloski*

### Hi Everyone,

As some of you know, I have trained and accomplished several marathons and half marathons. Well I have decided to train for another 1/2 marathon in Anchorage, Alaska for the Leukemia Society. The endurance training team is called TNT and provides world class coaches and training so I can run like the wind!!! In exchange I will raise money to help eradicate the cancer that destroys lives and families. This is the 20 year anniversary of TNT and we hope to reach 1 BILLION DOLLARS. Check out the links below and visit my home page to either make a contribution or check on my fundraising progress.

If you would like to make a donation in "honor of" or in "memory of" please let me know so I can add their name to my training jersey. [Juliemcpherson@frontiernet.net](mailto:Juliemcpherson@frontiernet.net)

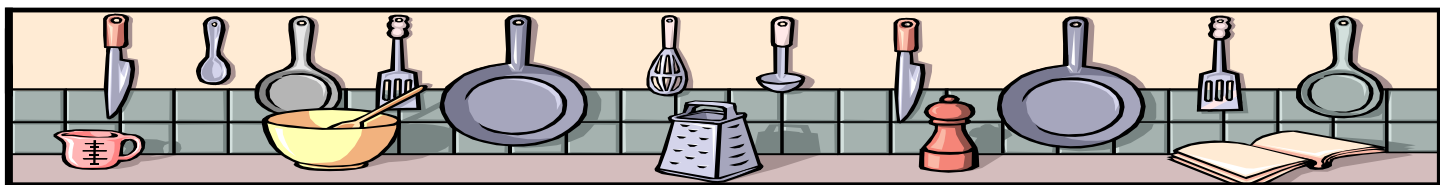
I want to be a part of something that can make a difference, how about you?

Thanks for all your support  
Alaska, look out, here I come!!!

*Julie McPherson,  
former Local 879 member and  
Chassis Zone A worker*

Want to donate or help? Simply go to the link below:

<http://www.active.co/donate/tntmn/tntmnJMcPher1>



# Hearty Soup Recipes

## MINNESOTA WILD RICE SOUP

- 3/4 c. uncooked wild rice
- 1 med. onion, diced
- 1 c. celery, diced
- 1 can (4 oz.) mushrooms, diced and drained
- 1/2 c. butter
- 1 c. all-purpose flour
- 8 c. hot chicken broth
- 1 c. diced chicken
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/4 tsp. thyme
- 1 c. half and half
- 2 tbsp. sherry or dry white wine

Add wild rice to 2 cups water in saucepan. Simmer for 45 minutes. Saute onion, celery and mushrooms in butter in a large pan about 3 minutes or just until vegetables soften. Stir in flour, cooking and stirring until flour is mixed in, but do not let it begin to brown. Slowly add hot chicken broth, stirring until all veg-flour mixture is well blended. Stir in drained, cooked rice and chicken. Season with salt, pepper and thyme. Heat thoroughly. Stir in half and half. Add sherry and heat gently but do not boil.

## HEARTY WINTER'S NIGHT SOUP

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 med. chopped onion
- 1/2 c. chopped green pepper
- 1 pkg. hamburger helper mix for chili tomato
- 5 c. water
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 can (16 oz.) whole tomatoes
- 1 can (8 oz.) whole kernel corn
- 1/2 tsp. hot sauce, optional
- 2 c. elbow macaroni, cooked and drained

Cook and drain ground beef; stir in onion and green pepper in a large cooking container (I use a very large iron skillet). Stir in sauce mix, water, chili powder, garlic salt, salt and Texas pete. Chop tomatoes and add (with liquid) to mixture. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add macaroni and corn with liquid. Cover and cook on low heat for 10 minutes. Serve with cornbread. Serves 8.

## WISCONSIN BEER CHEESE SOUP

Wisconsin Beer Cheese Soup is one of the most well-known Wisconsin culinary creations.

- 4 Tablespoons butter
- 1/3 cup chopped green onion, green tops and white base.
- 1/4 cup finely chopped carrot
- 1/4 cup finely chopped cabbage
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup good Wisconsin beer
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 cups half and half ("half and half" is half heavy cream and half milk), heated

2 cups shredded aged Wisconsin Cheddar cheese (use aged cheese for better flavor)  
(if you wish, one pound cooked sausage or Brats in bite-sized chunks)

Melt butter in large, heavy pan Add onion, carrot and cabbage Cook and stir over medium-high heat until onions and vegetables become translucent Stir in flour, cook 1 minute, stirring constantly Add broth, beer and mustard. Stir well until mixture reaches a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 30 minutes. Add hot half and half and cheese, and if you wish, cooked smoked sausage. Stir and warm gently until heated through and cheese is melted.  
8 servings.

## HEARTY ITALIAN SOUP

- 1 lb. mild bulk Italian or pork sausage
- 1 med. green pepper, chopped
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 28 oz. can tomatoes, cut up
- 2 (8 oz.) cans tomato sauce
- 2 (8 oz.) cans water
- 1 tbsp. granulated or 3 cubes chicken bouillon
- 3/4 tsp. garlic salt
- 3/4 c. small-shaped macaroni, such as rings or shells
- Shredded Mozzarella, Cheddar, or American cheese

In Dutch oven or large saucepan brown sausage, green pepper and onion; drain. Stir in remaining ingredients except macaroni and cheese. Cover; simmer 15 minutes. Stir in macaroni; cover and simmer 10-12 minutes, until macaroni is tender. Top individual servings with cheese. Makes 8 cups.

# MARCH 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 E-BOARD MEETING	4	5 UNION MEETING	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 RETIREES MEETING 1:30 PM St. Pats Day	18 Final day to sign up for Buy-out packages	19	20 First day of Spring!	21 Good Friday	22
23 Easter	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**LUCKY YOU!**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**Door prize winners for**  
**January / February**

Brian Huseby  
 John Killeen  
 Chris Rahmann  
 Darius Shannon

Marcus Carpenter  
 J Rahmann  
 Paul Roberts  
 Tanya Wade

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



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