

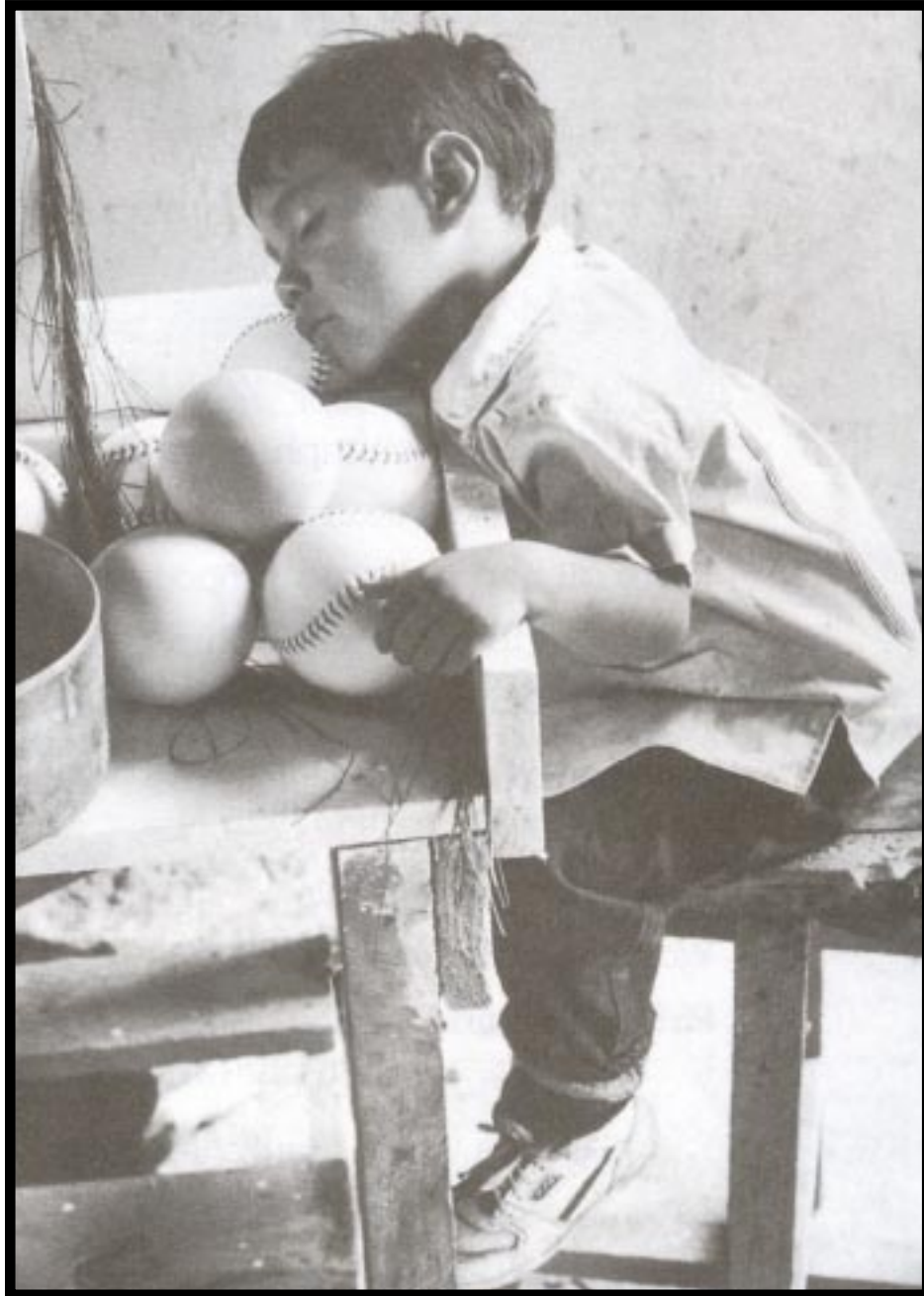


the LOCAL 879 UAW

AUTO WORKER

“An Injury to One is an Injury to All”

DECEMBER 2005
JANUARY 2006



**Shop with a Conscience - Stop Child Labor
Know Where Your Goods Come From...**

CHAIRPERSON'S



REPORT

Our rolls are at 1775

Important news

Rob McKenzie will be going to Detroit the week of the Union Meeting for a leadership conference. This should be an interesting conference, as it may shape the course of our future leadership in the UAW International Union.

The week of the 12th of December, Rob and I will be going to Detroit for a UAW Ford Council meeting, dealing with health care cost. There will be many discussions and a vote. When we return, we will inform the membership and make plans for a vote on the health care issues.

The pension legislation bill (HR2830) is continuing to be discussed in Congress. Watch this one. This will affect every working man and woman in America. Ask questions of your Congressman. Get informed. Call 1-888-355-3588.

The Unions are the people who brought America the 8hr day, more productivity, more profits and many wonderful memories of great weekends. We have helped those less fortunate than ourselves, with better wages, benefits and a future to support their families. We cannot all be CEO's of companies, but we can strive to give our children a better life. We are working families of the middle class that continue to be eroded by world globalization.

The Big News is the Delphi Bankruptcy. How the Management team can get bonuses and stock options, numbering in the Millions of dollars, (500 million) while the CEO does away with worker's pensions, is beyond common sense. This is criminal at best. This will have a great affect on the automotive industry for years.

The following quote is from the Detroit News, "GM, which refused to bail out Delphi Corp., before it filed for bankruptcy in October, now appears to be coming to the table to help avert a potentially disastrous standoff between Delphi and its labor unions."

GM and Delphi are discussing a possible financial rescue package. This will reduce the chance of a strike that could cripple both companies and put many working families in the poor house. We can only hope that GM bails out Delphi.

As the year closes once again, we are left with the excitement of the future and a numbing uncertainty of what the New Year

will bring for our families, us personally and our plant. All we can do is do our best. Thanks to this memberships' determination, dedication and just plain hard work in making our plant one of the top plants in Ford Motor Company. Have a safe and happy holiday.




Happy Holidays!

In Solidarity,
Jim Eagle
UAW Chairperson
Local 879


The Local 879 UAW

AUTOWORKER

"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"



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

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



RECYCLED PAPER
PRINTED WITH SOY INK

PRESIDENT'S

REPORT



This fall has been a disastrous time for the domestic auto industry. The bad news began with Delphi Corp.'s bankruptcy filing. Unable to get the financial help they demanded from General Motors and having their call for 60% wage and benefit cuts from the UAW rejected they filed for bankruptcy protection. Faced with very similar problems Ford and Visteon negotiated for a package whereby Ford took back 12 plants, renegotiated those UAW contracts and now has those plants up for sale. The new Delphi CEO, Steve Miller, has taken a much different path.

Miller has very publicly blamed the auto industry's problems on the UAW and the workers. He has made a wage and benefit package ultimatum of \$20 an hour and complained about UAW workers with a \$65 package. He threatened to move all the Delphi jobs overseas if the UAW strikes. He has a plan to offer the top executives over \$500 million in bonuses. The UAW has filed a complaint with the court on this, as has the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. The PBGC says giving hundreds of millions in executive bonuses when Delphi may not be able to contribute to its pension fund is not a sound business practice. UAW President Ron Gettelfinger called the proposal "obscene".

When the global free trade agreements were first brought before Congress there were many people talking about how much prosperity and how many high wage jobs would be created. Steve Miller is very candid that the corporate model of globalization has been about lowering wages and breaking unions.

General Motors is also wading through a sea of troubles after losing \$4 billion this year. The UAW hired a financial firm, Lazard Inc., to examine their financial con-

dition in response to repeated requests for health care cuts. In October, following the Delphi bankruptcy, the UAW finally agreed to increase the hourly worker's cost for health care coverage. The changes would amount to about \$750 for a married retiree and about \$1 an hour for an active worker by the end of next year. The contract changes were approved by a 61% yes ratification vote. The news didn't get any better for American workers when GM announced the wanted to eliminate 30,000 hourly jobs out of a total of 125,000 in the coming years.

I expect the UAW to negotiate a similar health care package with Ford in the very near future. There is a National UAW-Ford Council meeting in Detroit scheduled for the week of December 12 that Jim Eagle and I will be attending that I assume will be dealing with the health care issue. Any agreement would have to be voted on by the whole membership.

Ford will have a restructuring announcement in late January. **At this time I don't believe that they are going to name specific plants they intend to close.** They will identify these plants in the months ahead as they decide which products they will make. I recently learned Ford has a contract with CP Rail to haul Rangers from here through 2008. They have a contract with JCI to make Ranger seats through 2009. Ford is planning to make Rangers for a few more years. Hopefully in that time the Company will stabilize and be able to make a new investment in St. Paul.

The domestic auto industry has played a huge role in the U.S. economy over the years. When Bill Ford testified before Congress on Nov. 23 this year he pointed out that: The domestic auto industry (GM, Ford, DMX) employ 90% of the workers in the industry; build 75% of cars and trucks; buy 80% of auto parts; Since 1980 have made 85% of the investment (\$17 billion); The domestic manufacturer content is 80% U.S. based vs. 31% for Japanese based companies, 5% European and 2% Korean; They pay health care for 2 million people and spend \$11 billion in pension pay outs each year. If the U.S. auto industry fails many people outside those directly employed will suffer.

NEW ST. PAUL MAYOR

St. Paul elected a new Mayor by a 69% to 31% margin in November. Mayor Elect Chris Coleman hit the ground running meeting with me at our union hall two days after the election to discuss the status of TCAP. He has requested a tour of the plant and would consider making that part of his inaugural week activities. Just before Thanksgiving he along with Governor Pawlenty and Senator Coleman participated in a call-in to a Vice-President of Ford Motor to talk about the future of the plant. He currently has his staff working with the Governor's office on some ideas on how state and local government could help Ford make the next generation of vehicles (alternate fuels, hybrids) in Minnesota.

The local union CAP Committee pounded lawn signs, door knocked, made phone calls and stood with Chris at various events. Our new Mayor recognized their involvement when he went over the list of organizations and people he wanted to thank at his election eve celebration. He mentioned four unions who played an important role in his election, one of which was UAW 879.

At our UAW-Ford Bargaining Council meeting (Sub-Council #2) in October a motion was passed calling on the UAW to work with other groups to organize demonstrations around the issues of unfair trade policy, sky rocketing health care costs and attacks on retirement security. This motion was also made at the Ford Council meeting the following day and was also passed there. I sent the letter out to UAW Vice-President Gerald Bantom on behalf of the Sub-Council at the end of the month. Many of the problems workers are facing are a result of economic structural changes and poor management decisions but some are the result of a political agenda crafted to benefit the wealthiest in the country and we need to work with others to promote our own answers.



In solidarity,
Rob McKenzie
President
UAW 879

UAW: 'GM Can't Shrink Itself to Prosperity'

The United Auto Workers union reacted with frustration to General Motors' announcement that it will cut some 30,000 jobs and close all or parts of 12 assembly and parts plants in an effort to remain in business. The reductions will lower GM employment to about 100,000 by the time the cutbacks are completed in 2008. Closures will come in Michigan, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio and Ontario, GM said.

UAW President Ron Gettelfinger said it is GM's responsibility to improve its market share by "offering products that consumers find attractive, exciting and want to buy. Being successful in this regard is the exclusive responsibility of management. GM cannot shrink itself to prosperity.

"While GM's continuing decline in market share is not the fault of workers or our communities, it is these groups that will suffer because of the actions announced today," Gettelfinger said. "For the workers, their families and the thousands of other people who work in the small businesses that supply these facilities, hope is diminished, the future is unclear and communities are less stable."



"Your herd is due for another downsizing. Should we go by seniority or solely refreshment?"

KOKOMO – A TREEFUL OF MADE-IN-THE-USA PRODUCTS

Last year members of the Union Label Committee at UAW Local 685 in Kokomo, IN decorated a made-in-USA artificial Christmas tree with \$3,500 worth of gifts for display at the Kokomo Mall. The idea was the brainchild of retiree Ken Kirby who chairs the committee. The tree had no lights (there are no made-in-America decorative lights) but its elaborate decorations were all American-made.

The Kokomo local represents workers at four Daimler/Chrysler plants.

Workers Demand Justice on Human Rights Day

In scores of U.S. cities and towns—and on six continents around the world—workers were planning to celebrate International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 by calling on governments and employers to make workers' rights a reality.

Unions were set to lead many of events during the week of Dec. 5 - 10, which in the U.S. included marches and rallies, prayer breakfasts, teach-ins, lobby days and testimony before "Workers' Rights Boards" on the growing difficulty of workers to establish unions in their workplaces.

Rallies were to be held in Orlando, Fla.; Bloomington, Indiana; Duluth, Minn.; Jackson, Miss.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; and many other locations. Teach-ins were set for several college campuses, including in Washington D.C., where marchers were to carry a union-rights petition to the White House, and publicly recite the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

In a creative effort, Denver unions sponsored a public "Captive Audience Meeting" on Dec. 8 at which elected officials heard about the coercion, threats and retaliation by employers that occurs almost without fail when workers try to form unions.

Last July the AFL-CIO Executive Council identified union rights as a key feature of real democracy, but also as crucial to a strong economy. "The erosion of health care and retirement security is a reflection of declining job quality, but it is also a consequence of the ruthless, relentless assault on the freedom of workers to form and join unions," says the Council's resolution.

"In workplaces where employers respect their workers' organizing and bargaining rights, industrial relations are smoother, workers are more productive and jobs are better. Substitute employer hostility and opposition for respect, however, and the quality of jobs plummets," said the Executive Council.

Visit www.aflcio.org for details about Human Rights Day events across the U.S.

Gas Prices May Be Culprit in Higher Turnover

Two-thirds of workers responding to a recent survey said rising gas prices are hurting their ability to get to work, and more than a third said they are looking for jobs closer to home.

The survey results show that high gas prices represent "the newest threat to employee retention," according to the temporary staffing firm Manpower Inc., which conducted the poll.

Some workers have begun making changes to reduce costs, Manpower said. Six percent have increased their use of public transportation, five percent bought a more fuel-efficient vehicle, five percent reported carpooling and 4.5 percent have made a job change to avoid commuting.

Manpower said employers will need to assist workers if they want to reduce turnover. Raising mileage reimbursement rates, encouraging public transportation use, offering telecommuting and providing onsite banking and other services are among Manpower's suggestions.

Halliburton Hit on Pension Ripoff

Halliburton, the oil field services company headed by Dick Cheney before he became George W. Bush's vice president, has been found by the U.S. Labor Department to have used its worker's pension fund to pay some of the costs of its executive pension and bonus plans.

Three violations of federal pension law were found. Two of the violations began while Cheney was in charge of the company.

Halliburton has been required to pay more than \$8.6 million to correct the violations.

In the largest violation, which occurred after Cheney resigned in the summer of 2000, the Labor Department determined that Halliburton was supposed to distribute several million dollars in cash and stock to pension participants but instead kept the money for itself.

Cheney has received hundreds of thousands of dollars in "deferred compensation" since leaving the company, which has been awarded billion-dollar contracts for work in Iraq.



CONSERVATION NEWS



Failed attempts to capture the moment leave us no choice but to just let go...of another year, another season. Mindful of the change, we reflect on that which has passed and celebrate what is to come. Old wounds are healed, lessons learned and hope settles in to help us carry on.

DOWN ON THE FARM: A peculiar sort of silence has fallen over the farm now that the turkeys are gone. Chores come easier, and the time used caring for them is now idly spent. Considering the circumstances, the slaughter went well and could not have been done without the helping hands of family and friends. Good reports continue to roll in from all who received a homegrown bird. Plans are already being made for next year's flock if the government doesn't step in to stop them. The avian bird flu scare could limit the numbers of chicks available - even to small potato operators like me. It is my hope to keep the tradition alive.

Gemini, that little puffball of a chick hatched on my birthday is full-grown now. To my disappointment, "she" turned out to be a "he" - so there are now 3 roosters vying for all the chicken love they can find. To his credit, he is a stunning black with speckles of white and tan on wings and chest. So far he has been non-confrontational and respects the space of the other 2 established males.

Chuckie, the Boston Terrier, had a near-death experience being trampled by the horses 3 days before Thanksgiving. A couple of swift kicks sent him flying - and left in a lifeless heap. Fearing his demise, we carried his limp body to the house and lovingly began a thorough examination. To our delight - he came to, shook his head and looked at us like nothing had happened. The result being extra hugs, treats and privileges. We're fairly certain now, that it was all a scam....

Stellar, the colt, is a magnificent fellar.

He is big and brave and luckily inherited the kind and gentle dispositions of both his sire and dam. By spring he will stand nearly as proud and tall as his Clydesdale mama.

Speaking of horses, you may have heard of a tragic accident in St. Croix Falls involving a horse and buggy the day after Thanksgiving. What you *don't* know is that you are connected to this through one of our own union brothers, 2001 retiree Jack Boucher.

medical condition. Star provided his only dependable means of transportation.

A hit-and-run driver rammed the buggy throwing Steve onto the highway and spooking Star. Jack tells me that Star knew her directions and ran for the safety of home, making all the correct turns. She was struck and killed by oncoming traffic a short distance from where Steve laid injured. Jack was one of the first ones on the scene to assist his friend and help with Star. The next day he gathered



Steve Litzhow (driving) and retiree, Jack Boucher (in furry hat) with Star in parade before the deadly accident.

Jack, who was riding in the buggy with his good friend Steve Litzhow in the Taylors Falls Lighting Festival parade was dropped off just minutes before the accident occurred. Steve headed over the bridge on Highway 8 to his home on the Wisconsin side of the river in St. Croix Falls.

His Amish trained horse, Star, and their antique buggy are a familiar sight in the area as Steve can't drive due to a

with others to bury her on Steve's farm.

Jack and other good folks in the area are busy planning a benefit concert and sleigh ride fund-raiser. A generous soul from the Rochester area has already delivered a brand new buggy.

In the midst of tragedy, there is room for goodness and kindness to ease the pain. Unfortunately, sometimes that's what it takes to remind us of our precious

lives, our friends that fill it and the connection we all have to one another.

Perched near the warmth of the crackling fire, I reminisce of the year gone by - forever thankful for my own continued health, strength, friends and home...

LOCALLY: The Local Conservation Committee looks to the past year with gratitude for the 2 events we were fortunate enough to sponsor. A 2-day Earth Day event and tree give-away commemorated our annual Spring celebration - but was cut short due to extensive layoff time in April. To make up for it, we hosted our first annual Apple Festival and Environmental Awareness Day in October which seemed to boost morale while educating and raising awareness about the environment. Next year's schedule of events will be determined as our own work schedule is decided. We are always open to suggestions from you.

In a recent conversation with Sister Terri Cable, she reported the sighting of a snowy owl perched high on a utility pole at 35E near the Burnsville Mall. After doing some research on the Minnesota DNR website, I found this to be true.

Snowy owls live on arctic tundra of Canada and Alaska in open grasslands

and fields, and even on frozen stretches of water. When they migrate into northern Minnesota they are sometimes seen hunting for food in railroad yards and other city areas. They usually perch on the ground or on buildings or utility poles.



Some years many snowy owls visit Minnesota. Other years almost none come here. They are seen most often in the northern half of the state. However, there

is no permanent population of snowy owls in this state. During winters when snow and cold in Canada drive snow owls south (known as "invasion years") these birds may be seen in the southern part of Minnesota.

General description: The snowy owl is a large, white owl with a round head, yellow eyes, no ear tufts and a black beak.

Length: About 22 inches.

Weight: Five pounds. (About the same size as a great horned owl.)

Color: Some snowy owls are nearly pure white. Others are heavily speckled in black or brown.

Sound: Although snowy owls hoot and make various other calls during the nesting season, they are mostly silent

As promised last month, some interesting facts about our Hydro Plant, complete with historical photos can be found elsewhere in this issue.

On behalf of the Local Conservation Committee, our wish for you is a peaceful holiday season.

*In Peace and Solidarity,
Marilyn Bobick Johnson
Conservation Committee*

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING . . .

PAWLENTY ASKS FORD PLANT FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE

Gov. Pawlenty says he will ask Ford Motor Company to partner with the state to produce an alternative fuel vehicle at the company's St. Paul plant.

Ford officials have said they plan to announce significant plant closings in January. Ford employs more than 2,000 people at the St. Paul plant, which makes the Ranger pickup truck. Pawlenty says he will send a letter to Ford this week, asking the company to partner with the state to produce a hybrid vehicle or one that would run on renewable fuels such as ethanol. Pawlenty says the state could be involved in research or support of the plant's conversion. He says he doesn't know if the St. Paul plant is slated for closure but says the state should do what it can to save the plant.

"We have to be concerned, because the industry overall is in trouble. The particular product that's made at the St. Paul plant - the Ranger - while it's a good product, is declining rather markedly in sales and obviously that's not a good sign," he said.

Pawlenty, U.S. Senator Norm Coleman, R-Minn., and St. Paul Mayor-elect Chris Coleman called Ford officials last week to discuss the future of the Ford plant. Ford lost \$284 million in the third quarter.

BARGAINER'S REPORTS

The workloads in the final area are going slow, but we are making progress. We still have jobs that are unresolved in both Trim and Chassis. The Bargainers and the District Committee people are meeting every day with management working hard to settle the jobs. Remember to work at a normal work pace, keep your Committee person informed of any changes or concerns, and stay in contact with your counterpart on the opposite shift to insure that both shifts are on the same page.

The new posting procedure will become effective December 5th to be consistent with our Local Agreement. The Bar-

gaining Committee has distributed a bulletin outlining the changes. If anyone has any questions, make sure and ask.

The Christmas Holiday shutdown will be from December 24th through January 2nd. Make sure and work the last scheduled work day before and the first scheduled work day after the holiday to be sure that you will receive pay for the entire holiday period.

*Have a safe and happy holiday.
In solidarity,
Tom Reis, Jim Blackbird
and John Killeen*

SKILLED TRADES

Serious times: A Year-end Review

Union elections brought about significant changes to the local. Nationally - Delphi and their CEO Robert Smith, 30K to be laid off at GM, employee pricing and demands for hourly wage cuts and health care co-pays; one can't say that the times are boring! Add to all these a restructuring plan that could seal the fate of TCAP, and it's been quite a year so far!

I think that we'll be spared from being named in January but who knows for how long. William Clay Ford says: ¼ million hybrids by 2010; ½ million E-85's by 2006.

A retired UAW member used to say that if you can't drink the water in the country the product is made in then one shouldn't buy the product. I would add that if the unions are being systematically smashed and public opinion is crushed the same goes. If major shareholders in oil and health

care corporations are price gouging. If political leaders are not part of the solution, they're part of the problem.

We must do our best to stay engaged in the solution!

P.S. \$50 per year as a temporary loan to the political party of your choice. See Rob McKenzie or your committee person for details.

2nd P.S. I got a turkey from Marilyn and Bama that weighed 46 pounds and it fit in our oven. Next year we're hoping for a 48 pounder.

Happy Holidays,

*Nick Harrod & Chris Kohn,
Trades and Plant Service Reps.*



STEPS TO REVITALIZE MANUFACTURING

They may be giant steps, but the UAW and other industrial unions agree that reforming labor law, universal health care and fair trade policies are the steps needed to rebuild America's manufacturing base.

Each issue is intertwined with the others. Fair trade will be elusive until workers' rights and environmental standards are enforced in every country. Plus, until we solve our health care crisis, employers in the United States will continue to be squeezed by insurance costs.

And not only is labor law not evenly enforced, there are ongoing initiatives in the U.S. government to weaken unions, starting in the White House and led in the legislature by Rep. Charlie Norwood.

In the meantime, American job losses are higher than anytime in the past 58 years. Since George Bush came into office in 2001, America has lost 2 million manufacturing jobs.

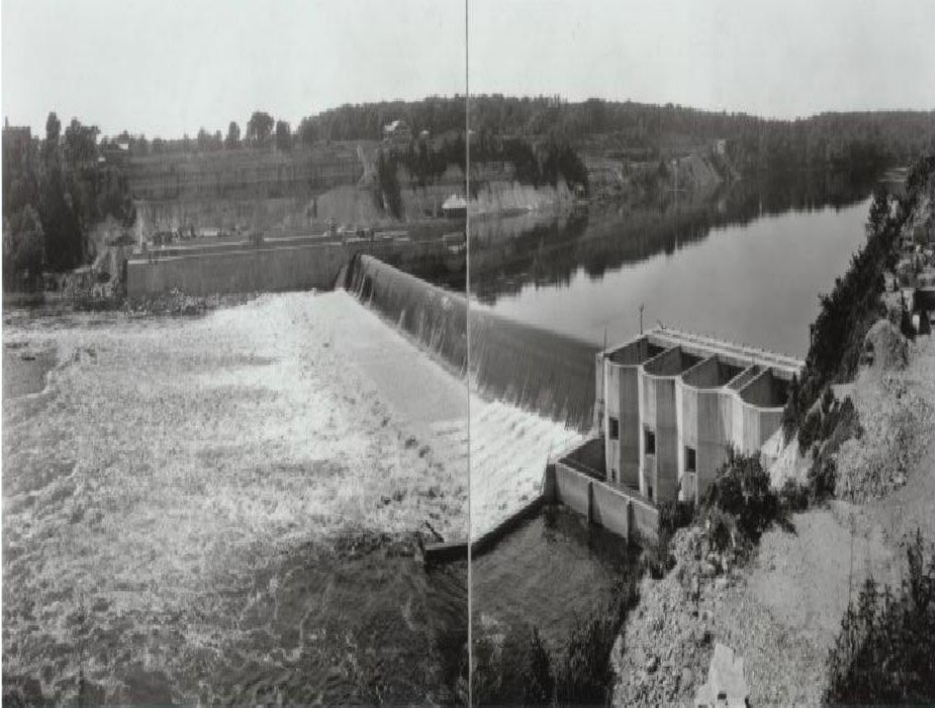
The bottom line is that in this time of national insecurity, it is irresponsible for America to leave its capacity to manufacture goods so heavily in the hands of other countries.

It's time to build up our manufacturing base. We need good-paying jobs and so do our children.



FACTS ABOUT THE HYDRO PLANT

In the early 1920's a prominent group of St. Paul businessmen led by Col. L. H. Brittin made several trips to Detroit to speak to Henry Ford himself in an effort to attract Ford's growing business in St. Paul.



Construction began on the Hydro Facility in 1923 and was completed in conjunction with the opening of the assembly plant.



Twin Cities is the only assembly facility in Ford with its own hydro power plant. This plant provides 100% of the electrical power needed for plant operations.

We are required by the federal license governing the hydro operation to produce at full capacity and support (free of charge) all electrical demands to operate the U.S. government locks across the river from our hydro plant.

The economic benefit from the hydro operation exceeds \$10.00/unit or over \$1.6 million. The Hydro Plant was completed in 1923 and generated enough energy to serve a city of 75,000.

HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER PLANT

- Plant was built at a cost of \$1.5 million
- Building is 160 ft. long x 74 ft. wide and 51 ft. high
- Twin Cities is the only assembly location with its own Hydro Power Plant
- Houses for (4) Westinghouse generators rated at 4,500 KVA – 13,800 volt output
- Total daily power output averages close to 400,600 KWH
- Hydro station is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Ford Motor Company has retrofitted the generators to become more efficient and produce more energy (increase of 35%) at a cost of \$4 million

LOCK & DAM #1

- Constructed in 1912 by the Corps of Engineers at a cost of \$3.9 million
- Dam is 574 feet long with a fixed overflow spillway
- The U.S. government spent \$45 million during 1981-82 to refurbish the locks
- The pool that is created by the dam extends 5.4 miles upriver

Three big smiles are worth a thousand words . . .



HAPPY HOLIDAYS from
The Autoworker staff.
Marilyn, Dennis and Dee



Local 879 Recreation Committee
presents the

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday December 11 th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
At the union hall

Bring the kids to see Santa!!

Music Games
Food And Fun

Hope to see you there! !



Bush's New Supreme Court Nominee Has Record Showing He's Bad For Labor!

We expected Bush to nominate a conservative Justice, but Alito is way out of the mainstream. If he's nominated, he'll erode workers' rights for decades to come. One Ohio Representative feels so strongly about him that he wrote a letter to the Republican Ohio Senator urging him to vote against the nomination. His letter can be found at: <http://www.house.gov/sherrodbrown/releases/DeWineAlito.htm>

I urge all members to go to this website and get informed! It is pretty easy to copy the letter, or simply the web address, and paste it to an email and send it on to our Senators. Make sure to let them know that confirming Alito would be bad for Minnesota workers and that you want them to vote him down! Please urge family and friends to do the same. I have!

Contact our Senators at:

Norm Coleman (R)
(202) 224-5641
Web Form: coleman.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.ContactForm

Mark Dayton (D)
(202) 224-3244
Web Form: dayton.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm

In Solidarity,
Laura Wehrly

*The following highlights are just 2
of the many found in the letter.*

In Caterpillar Inc. v. UAW, 107 F.3d 1052 (3rd Cir. 1997), the Third Circuit upheld a system where the company and the union negotiated for union stewards to process grievances over violations of the contract without losing pay or benefits, a relatively common practice that had been used at this particular plant for over 18 years. In the wake of a strike, the company suddenly challenged the legality of the system the company itself had agreed to and sought to have it overturned by the courts. The Third Circuit rejected the company's argument. In dissenting, Judge Alito sought to overturn the practice to benefit the company and disable union grievance procedures, which they had bargained for through their previous contract.

Dear Senator DeWine:

I write regarding the announcement of Judge Samuel Alito as President Bush's Supreme Court nominee. Immediately following Mr. Alito's nomination, you stated he was a "good, solid pick," and not someone who was out on the fringes. Before her record could be reviewed or ascertained, you indicated similar support for Harriet Miers, a very different type of candidate whose ideology and experience were vastly unlike Mr. Alito's.

As the nomination process continues, I hope that you will not rush to a hasty judgment in supporting Mr. Alito's nomination. The failed Harriet Miers nomination taught us that President Bush and his administration have a long way to go before they regain the trust of the American people regarding their nominating process or the adequate review conducted by the Senate. Having reviewed just a few of Mr. Alito's opinions on workers rights and protections, employment discrimination, and labor cases, it appears that his decisions could further harm Ohio workers and weaken protections for Ohio's hard working families.

Mr. Alito's record indicates a bias against America's working families. What is striking about this is that he appears hostile even to the basic right of workers to have a day in court, not to mention interpreting the law against them.

I hope you will consider the examples offered below carefully as you make a decision that will affect Ohioans and our nation for years to come.

Sincerely,
SHERROD BROWN

In a case regarding retirement benefits, DiGiacomo v. Teamsters Pension Trust Fund of Philadelphia, 420 F.3d 220 (3rd Cir. 2005), the Third Circuit found that a Teamster driver, who had worked in a union position from 1960 to 1971 and then from 1978 onwards, had to be credited for the time working before 1971 for calculating his pension. This was based on an interpretation of the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) which prohibits forfeiture of benefits due to a break in service.

A GIFT FROM THE HEART

*Let kindness come with every gift,
Open up the door of love in your heart.*

Some of us have been moved to help one of our co-workers Jeff Jackson. Jeff is a former relief man in the Trim Department on the dayshift. Now he is a tug driver in the Final area. Jeff has been facing some extraordinary circumstances over the last two years. Because of his wife's illness, they have moved to Georgia to be closer to their family.

Jeff has been traveling back and forth between states to be with his wife and this has caused his company benefits to be exhausted. Jeff is now away from work on his own recognition to again be with his wife as she continues her battle with cancer. He will not be returning until late January.

If you can, or if you feel moved to give a contribution to this proactive cause so that



Jeff and his wife Janice

it does not become a case of hardship, you will be blessed as well. In December there will be a collection taken up for Jeff to help supplement the medical expenses and expenses accumulated while he has been trav-

eling back and forth from Minnesota to Stockbridge, Georgia.

Whatever you do in this case, let it be for the good of others.

Thank each one of you for your support and for responding to a call for help.

Collection dates are the weeks of December 5th and 12th.

Contact: Dayshift

Roger Hill - Tug Driver,
Final Area

Harry Boone - Forklift Driver,
Body Build

Barbara Boone - QC Inspector,
201 Flat-top

Mitch Gill - Forklift Driver, Trim

14th Annual
HEART FOR THE HOLIDAYS
TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE
DRAWING WILL BE HELD THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 19TH AT THE UNION HALL
1ST PRIZE: Portable DVD Player
2nd Prize: Zephyr Tickets
3rd Prize: Gift Certificate from Mancini's
TICKETS ARE \$2.00 EACH
or
3 FOR \$5.00
Sponsored by Local 879 UAW
Community Services Committee

*Give peace in our hearts, in our homes,
in our world ...in our universe.*

CAP CONNECTION...

THE WISCONSIN HEALTH CARE PLAN

A Business/Labor Solution to health care costs

When anyone mentions health care costs in America and what should be done, the subject stirs up controversy. We hear people talk about National Health Care, the Canadian Health Care System, Socialism and Communism. We never hear of any plans that business and labor can both get behind that can help reduce the skyrocketing costs of health care.

In Wisconsin, a group of Business and Labor leaders have come up with a plan to reduce costs by 20% and maintain an excellent health care system. A system for those that live in Wisconsin should push their elected leaders in Madison to support, and those who live in Minnesota should ask their elected leaders in St. Paul to look into.

Before we discuss the Wisconsin Health Care proposal, look at what our current health care system is costing our employer and we as employees.

- * Our nation pays the most money for health care in the world, but is ranked 38th in the best health care in the world.

- * Other countries that have nationalized health care live longer than we do.

- * Kaiser Family Foundation found that premiums have soared 73% since 2000 and grew an average of 9.2% in 2005. The rate of growth this year is more than three times the growth in workers' earnings.

- * The Wall Street Journal reported that the cost of a family's health insurance costs more than someone who is working at minimum wage.

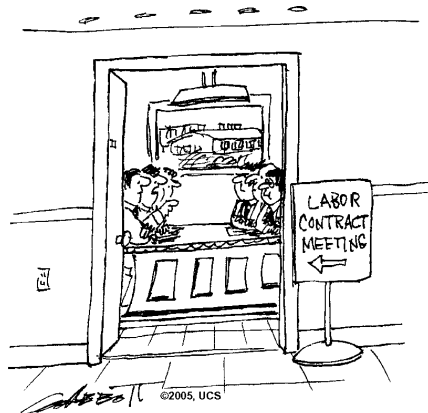
- * Ford spent \$3.1 billion to cover 550,000 hourly and salaried workers, retirees and dependents in 2004 and expects that to rise to \$3.5 billion this year.

- * The auto industry has higher legacy costs. For the 34,000 retirees that GM insures, Toyota covers insurance for about 100 American retirees.

"We need to have a debate nationally that includes business and obviously includes the politicians," said Bill Ford,

who argues that health care costs cannot be dealt with simply by shifting them around between companies and workers. "It's got to come up and it's got to come fast".

The costs that the Wisconsin Health Plan targets for reduction are administrative costs. Medicare's administration costs are 3% while other private insurers are at 23 to 26%. These costs are because of the differing deductibles that you and your neighbors pay when you go to either your health care of pharmaceutical provider.



"No, the union does not accept your proposal to replace the health insurance plan with monthly lectures on prevention."

These providers, after receiving your medical insurance card, need to find out what they need to charge you and your insurer. Your neighbor then accesses the same providers and this provider needs again to find out what they need to charge your neighbor and their insurer. By allowing you to keep your provider, but charging some deductibles removes these administrative costs of your health insurance. Some additional strategies to reduce costs include computerized drug ordering, quality control measure, computerized medical records, and patient safety protocols which would need to be implemented.

The Wisconsin Health Care plan would be offered for the same cost between small businesses and large businesses. Would allow those individuals who currently can't afford health insurance to buy into the plan. There were 650,000 uninsured in Wisconsin in the year 2000, which under the plan would be reduced to 85,000.

The system would be financed through employer assessments of less than \$300 per worker per month. (These are costs for 2003; medical inflation since 2003 would increase that cost today). The employee share of the cost would be paid through co-pays (\$15 per physician visit, \$15 generic/\$20 brand name co-pays for prescription drugs) and deductibles (\$300 per year single, \$600 family).

This plan they see as a win for employers. Employers would see that their health care costs for employees would be lower than in other states, that the quality of care would be higher – and that they would have no administrative costs for the health care of their workers! Wisconsin would not only have a stronger economy, but would have eliminated the current incentives for employers not to offer health insurance, to offer inadequate insurance, or to shift costs to their employees in order to save money and be more "competitive".

For those who are interested in reading the outline of the plan, go to www.wisafclcio.org.

Happy Holidays

from

the

**CAP
Committee!**

*Jim Reinitz
Guide*

Vice-Chairperson of CAP

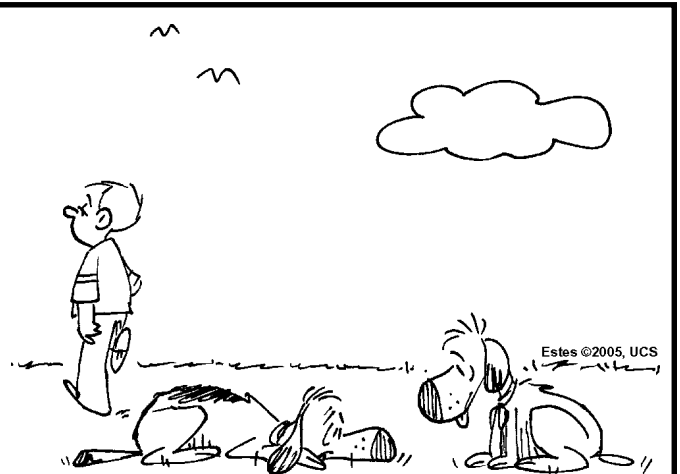


UNION PET PARADE

Due to an overwhelming response, it seems that *all* the union pets want their photos in the Autoworker! Greg Herber, #3 Shift Mainline Chassis Zone G, has taken it upon himself to coordinate this new monthly feature. Turn photos into Greg, put in Autoworker box in Committee room or send to Local 879 Union hall.



Sister and Brother
Mala & Simba 6 ½ years old rescued cats
Proud parents?
Donna & Stanley Kasel Zone G - #3 shift, Brake Fill



Estes ©2005, UCS
 "'Sit,' 'roll over,' 'beg,' 'fetch,' 'play dead' -- he works me like a slave. Is there a union for dogs?"

MADE IN USA TOYS

C&P Sales Company has a catalog full of toys Made in the USA!

Do you want to give American-made toys as gifts?

Our **Made in USA Toys Catalog** contains only American-made toys.

SHOP NOW for HOLIDAY DELIVERY SHOP ONLINE!

<http://www.madeinusatoys.com>

C&P Sales company, a family-owned business located in Akron, Ohio, has been a wholesale supplier of name brand toys since 1947.

To request a catalog or more information, please contact us:

C&P Sales Company
 540 South Main Street
 Akron, OH 44311

330-535-1141
 800-252-1293
 330-535-5504 fax



NOTICE - Adult Christmas Party

Everyone is so busy during December, it was decided to try a holiday party in January. We've had requests to go back to a hotel for the party, so this year it will be at a hotel again.

As soon as the details are finalized, the information will be communicated to the membership.

Local 879 Recreation Committee

UNION = QUALITY

Union-made vehicles are dependable

General Motors models earned eight dependability awards; Ford Motor Company models received four awards – a record for both automakers.

Toyota Motor Corporation received four awards.

Seven of the top 14 most dependable vehicles by nameplate are made by union workers at North American based companies: Lincoln, Buick, Cadillac, Mercury, Ford, Chevrolet and Chrysler.

Five are Japanese.

Two are European.

Source: J.D.Power and Associates 2005 Vehicle Dependability Study, Nameplate Ranking

Union workers are productive

DaimlerChrysler's Belvidere (Illinois) Assembly Plant set the benchmark for highest productivity for sub-compact car production at 18.71 worker hours per vehicle.

GM Lansing (Michigan) set the benchmark for compact cars at 17.53 worker hours per vehicle.

Source: The Harbour Report, 2005

HONORABLE MENTION

MOSE THOMAS MEMORIAL

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mose Thomas was a fighter for his friends, his union, the entire working class. “Stand up for the little guy,” ordered Mose, and that is how he lived his life.

Mose loved to politic, to talk, to argue, to laugh and agitate and to give you hell when you were wrong. For those of us occasionally in trouble, no matter the odds or opposition, he was always by our side, always a stand-up guy for the truth and just action.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in St. Paul at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 27th. We'll be sharing some of our Mose stories and have lunch afterwards. Please join us in celebrating the life of this wonderful union man.

Call me if you need details or a ride.

Tom Laney

715-962-4365

tlaney@localnet.com

All friends of Mose Thomas are invited to his memorial at the

RETIREES

October 1, 2005



Mike Melville

Seniority Date: 8-24-1992

Chassis, Material Handling,
Chassis District Committeeperson,
Building Chairman





LIFE AFTER FORD

Notes from the Outside



While sitting here at my computer keyboard and taking time to look out the window at the snow on the ground, the term "Snowbird" comes to mind. We all know that this refers to those of us who evacuate the Tundra of Minnesota during the months in favor of the warmer climes.

OK, Cubster, what's your point? My point is this: What do we call those of us who choose to stay here during those long cold months ahead of us? Think about that for a few seconds. Any term come to mind? Might I suggest using "Tundra-ites"? Say it a few times – just let it roll off your tongue. Sounds natural, does it not? Yup, it gives the impression that we who stay home on the Tundra have the stick-to-it-tive-ness to weather the long winter months with its' winter driving, snow removal and high heating bills to be paid. Strong we are – yes

indeed – but a few of my retiree friends, such as Ron and Stan (of the old carpenter shop crew) would say of me, "That dumb Johnson did not even know when to come in out of the rain in warm weather, and now he sticks around in the winter because he did not want to go into his backyard and take a few bucks out of the coffee cans he buried there during the years he worked at Ford".

OK guys, sticks and stones may break my bones, but Lutfisk never hurt me. "Nuff said!

As the end of 2005 is fast approaching, I would like to extend from all we retirees, a thank you to Marilyn, Dee and Dennis for doing a great job of publishing our Autoworker. Also thanks to those retirees who sent in pictures of reunions, stories about life after Ford and who shared with us a little about their lives. In addition, a thanks to Union President Rob McKenzie for attending our meetings and bringing us news of what is going on at Ye Olde Ford Plant, and to Gene Neuman, our Chapter President for conducting our meetings and for his great work in the CAP Program. I would also like to extend a thank you to Ann Sellers of the Family Services Center who not only does a great job, but whose sparkling smile brightens up our retirees meetings.

On a personal level, to all of the Snowbird and Tundra-ites, may I wish you all a HAPPY HOLIDAY with best wishes for good health, long life and much happiness in the coming year.

Cubby

RETIRES' CHAPTER MEETING

Christmas Party
December 19, 12:00 PM

Regular Meeting
January 16, 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.

Sometimes unexpected situations can occur that will affect individuals in different ways. This is to remind you that should you need to talk to someone, counseling services are available that are free and confidential for you to utilize 24, hours a day 7, days a week through our UAW/Ford ESSP Program. Please feel free to contact them at:

T. E. A. M.
Phone 651-642-0182
or
After Hour Crisis Hotline
Phone 1-800-634-7710



**George Moye
Edward Dean Jr.**

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



February 16, 2006.

Same time and place.



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

Twin Cities-built
2006 Ford Ranger
FX4 Off Road 4x4



1st
Tickets \$20 each



WIN!
1 of 3 prizes!



2nd
2006 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail

100% of proceeds benefit
WALK TO CURE DIABETES
JDRF
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
dedicated to finding a cure

DRAWING:
9 A.M.
JAN. 21, 2006
MALL OF AMERICA ROTUNDA

3rd
\$500 Gift Card

Make checks payable to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Winner must be 18 years of age or older and is responsible for all taxes and licensing fees. Winner need not be present to win. Permit Number: X-34570-06-001



Thanks to all UAW/Ford employees, retirees and families, 2005 has been a very good year for the UAW/Ford Family Service & Learning Center and the FSLC Local Family Council. It is our hope that you are pleased with the programs and volunteer events that we have offered this year. We are definitely looking forward to 2006. In 2006, we will continue to listen to your suggestions and implement the type of programs and volunteer events that you and your families are interested in seeing.

The Local Family Council has been a great help this past year. They are the backbone of the Family Service Learning Center.

A huge thank you to Your Local Family Council Members:

Rob	McKenzie	Bill	Rooney
Dennis	Beimert	Cubby	Johnson
Tom	Bussen	Cory	Lester
Toni	Conley	Chuck	Lines
Brenda	Dickhausen	Doug	Matuska
John	Fox	George	Moye
Dale	Haag	Tim	O'Brien



Please feel free to give your ideas for Family Service Learning Center Programs or Volunteer Opportunities to me or any of these people on your local Family Council. Or if you just want to grab some candy, sit to pass time during your break or while waiting for your shift to begin, the Family Service Learning Center office is on 2nd floor of the Training Center. From my office to your homes – I wish each of you a safe and blessed holiday season and look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year!

Ann Sellers, Director
 UAW/Ford Family Service & Learning Center
 651-696-0161



Toys for Tots

Look for the Sleigh in the Security Lobby and help us fill it with toys! We will be collecting new, unwrapped gifts until December 21, 2005. For more information please go to www.toysfortots.org or call

Ann @ 60161



Hat and Mitten Trees

THE UAW/FORD FAMILY SERVICE LEARNING CENTER AND THE UAW WOMEN'S COMMITTEE HAVE TEAMED UP TO HELP KID'S AT HOMECROFT SCHOOL STAY WARM THIS WINTER.

Help us fill our Trees with New Hats and Mittens!

Tree Locations:

- Paint Lobby
- Security Lobby
- Salaried Entrance

Donations taken through

December 19, 2005





UAW SKILLS ENHANCEMENT CENTER (SEC) (651) 696-0556
2ND FLOOR OF THE UAW Ford MnSCU Training Center
Monday & Wednesday – 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday & Thursday – 8:00 AM – Midnight
All SEC classes are FREE to employees/spouses and retirees/spouses
Individual & group tutoring available on request, appointment helpful.

All classes on this calendar are scheduled at 3:15 – 4:30 PM and 5:00 – 6:15 PM unless otherwise specified
 (Reservations can be made by phone or in person)

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
D e c e m b e r	Nov. 28	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	Dec. 1			
	Intro to Internet (1/4) Understanding Writing Styles (1/4)	Open Computer Lab Understanding Writing Styles (2/4)	Intro to Internet (2/4) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring			
	5	6	7	8			
	Intro to Internet (3/4) Understanding Writing Styles (3/4)	Open Computer Lab Understanding Writing Styles (4/4)	Intro to Internet (4 of 4) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring			
	12	13	14	15			
	Email on the Internet (1/2) Letters to the Editor (1/4)	Open Computer Lab Letters to the Editor (2/4)	Email on the Internet (2 of 2) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring			
19	20	21	22				
"Netiquette" (1/1) Letters to the Editor (3/4)	Open Computer Lab Letters to the Editor (4/4)	Expanding Your Use of the Internet (1/1) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring				
26	27	28	29				
SEC Closed	SEC Closed	SEC Closed	SEC Closed				
J a n u a r y	2	3	4	5			
	Using the Internet to Start Family Histories	Searching Family Histories Open Computer Lab	Introduction to Computers (1/4) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring			
	9	10	11	12			
	Searching Family Histories Introduction to Computers (2/4)	Searching Family Histories Open Computer Lab	Introduction to Computers (3/4) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring			
	16	17	18	19			
SEC Closed	Searching Family Histories Open Computer Lab	Introduction to Computers (4/4) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring				
23	24	25	26				
Intermediate Windows (1/4) Writing Process (1/4)	Open Computer Lab Writing Process (2/4)	Intermediate Windows (2/4) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring				
F e b r u a r y	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1	2			
	Intro to Internet (1/4) Understanding Writing Styles (1/4)	Open Computer Lab Understanding Writing Styles (2/4)	Intro to Internet (2/4) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring			
	6	7	8	9			
	Intro to Internet (3/4) Understanding Writing Styles (3/4)	Open Computer Lab Understanding Writing Styles (4/4)	Intro to Internet (4 of 4) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring			
13	14	15	16				
Email on the Internet (1/2) Letters to the Editor (1/4)	Open Computer Lab Letters to the Editor (2/4)	Email on the Internet (2 of 2) Math Tutoring	Open Computer Lab Math Tutoring				

Intro to Computers—This class will put you in the driver's seat with your computer. We'll use simple concepts to describe the workings of your computer and will focus on understanding the basic components. **Intermediate Windows**—Get more out of your computer! Learn specifics of file management, installing & removing programs, and basic trouble-shooting. *Prerequisite: Intro to Windows.*

Writing Process—From generating ideas, to writing first drafts, to editing a final draft, this class will take you step by step to your final written project. **Understanding Writing Styles**—Learn the basics of American Psychological Association (APA) and Modern Language Association (MLA) writing styles. Learn how to use style manuals as well as online resources. **Letters to the Editor**—Develop your opinions in writing for publication. Work your way through generating, drafting, and crafting an opinion piece.

NEW: Using the Internet to Start Family Histories & Searching Family Histories—Learn how to search the MN Historical Society's web-site for information about genealogy and family history. Class is designed for everyone, with computer support for those needing it.

Math Tutoring—Come in as often as you need to get assistance in any type of math, from basic to college level.

CLASSIFIEDS

“WE WANT YOU”

The *Autoworker* would be pleased to feature you, a family member or co-worker in our “**HONORABLE MENTION,**” or “**RIVETING REVIEW**” segments. If you have an idea or story to tell, please contact Marilyn Bobick Johnson c/o The *Autoworker* box in the Committee Room.

“**PRESSING MATTERS**” is reserved for YOU!! If you have an opinion, gripe or concern we will print your comments. Write to “**PRESSING MATTERS**” c/o The *Autoworker*. Drop box is in the Committee Room or send to Local 879.

The Editors

NEW CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Unless notified otherwise, your classified ad will be run for 2 consecutive issues and then removed.

FOR SALE: Body by Jake. Ab and back machine. \$50.00. 763-783-9461 between 2-4 PM.

FOR SALE: 1939 Farmall “H” Tractor PTO works, 3 point hitch, blade, bucket and fork. Newer back tires. Tractor \$2200 with hitch, blade, scoop and fork. Call 651-674-5935 or 651-470-5469

FOR SALE: Registered Quarter horse with a 22-year old companion Appaloosa. \$1200 for both or best offer. 15-year old gelding. Has been with my family since he was 5 years old. He is 14.2 hands. His markings are blaze, dark spot on right nostril, white on lower lip, right fore sock, stockings on hind legs. He has been ridden by young teens. He is a follower. He has only been ridden about 4 times last year. Teens have developed other interest. We have hauled him to South Dakota and ridden in Custer State Park. He loads great and travels without problems. He did great in the Black Hills. His tack is available if interested. Call 651-674-5935 or 651-470-5469

RETIREEES: The *Autoworker* would like to dedicate a page to you each month titled “**LIFE AFTER FORD**”. Thank you to Cubby Johnson, the new coordinator of “Life After Ford.” We ARE interested in YOU and what you are doing. Send or drop off ideas and photos to: The *Autoworker*, Local 879 UAW, 2191 Ford Parkway, St. Paul MN 55116.

FOR SALE: 1995 Liberty 14 x 70 Mobile home. 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, large deck. Partially furnished. Small garage. Located 4 miles west of Pine City in a mobile home park with Lake Access to Lake Pokegema. \$39,900.00 o.b.o. 1-651-338-3555 pr 651-451-0741 (ask for Al)

FOR SALE: Beautiful 1.54-carat total weight diamond ring. \$3,700 or best offer. Ladies beautiful 14-karat yellow gold diamond ring containing one stunning center stone with a weight estimated by formula to be 1.06 carats. The diamond is set in a magnificent six-prong tiffany style head on a mounting with four invisibly set princess cut diamonds flanking either side of the center stone (eight total) with a total melee weight to be .48 ct. The center diamond has a color grade of H and a clarity grade of S12. The estimated replacement value is \$6,044.00. All original paperwork is available. The ring was originally purchased in 2002. It is a gorgeous ring that will bring a smile to any lucky woman’s face. Call 651-674-5935 or 651-470-5469

FOR SALE: 5-foot red tail boa constrictor with a 50-gallon aquarium, heat lamp, heat pad, water dish and rock. \$250 or best offer. Call 651-674-5935 or 651-470-5469

FOR SALE: Mahogany four-post bed, dresser with mirror. Has been refinished. \$175. Kenmore wringer washer used less than 1 years. \$35.00. Call Irene Odegard at 651-633-5072.

House for Rent: 5 bedrooms, 2 car attached garage. Maplewood area. Available February 1, 2006. Contact: Steve at 612-245-8843

The classified section of the *Autoworker* is a service to all UAW members and retirees. To place an ad free of charge, submit to the *Autoworker* box in the Committee Room or send to Local 879 Union Hall. **Deadline for the next *Autoworker* is January 23, 2006**

FOR SALE: Union-made, Local 879 logo men’s and women’s wrist watches. \$50 each. See Bob Killeen at the union hall or call 699-4246. Will also be available during the union meetings.

FOR SALE: Autobody repair and mechanical tools. Snap-On, red color, 6-drawer wall cabinet (26 ½” W x 19 ¼” D x 36 ¾” H). \$225 Eleven (11) drawer top tool chest (26” W x 12 ¼” D x 17 ½” * H) \$100. Tools you can look at, pick and then we can decide on a price. Thank you. John Sand, Chassis, Days 952-445-3471

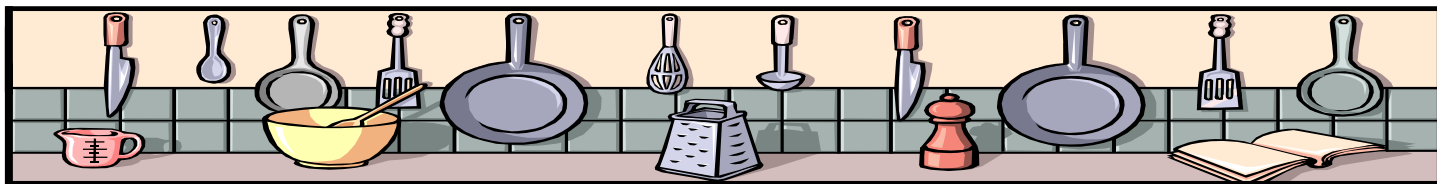
WANTED: Pontiac GTO. Dead or alive. Call GTO Tom at 952-469-1566 or TDWilson@peoplepc.com

MEMBERSHIP MEETING CHANGE

ACTIVE MEMBERS NOTICE



Due to the return of the Alternative Work Schedule (4 ten hour days) - the monthly membership union meeting days will change to the first **Wednesday** of the month. Nightshift meeting will begin 15 minutes after the **Tuesday** night scheduled Chassis shutdown at 3:45 am. Dayshift meets at 4:45 pm. Hope you can make it.



Winter Recipes

SUPER BOWL SAUSAGE SOUP

- 1 # Italian mild sausage
- 1 medium onion (coarsely chopped)
- 2 cloves garlic
- 5 c. beef broth + 2 cans water
- ½ c. red wine
- 2 c. canned diced tomatoes
- 1 c. sliced carrots
- ½ t. basil
- ½ t. oregano
- 8 oz. tomato sauce
- 1 ½ c. sliced zucchini
- 1 green pepper (cut into ½" pieces)
- 3 T. chopped parsley
- 8 oz. tortellini or macaroni



- 1) Brown sausage, drain and cut into small pieces – about 1".
- 2) Sauté the onion and garlic in a little of the sausage fat.
- 3) Add broth, water, wine, tomatoes, carrots, and tomato sauce. Bring to boil.
- 4) Simmer uncovered for about 30 mins.
- 5) Add the remainder of ingredients and simmer 30-40 minutes (covered)
- 6) Add the sausage last.
- 7) Serve and sprinkle with Parmesan.

If you've opened a bottle of wine to make this soup, drink the rest of it with the soup and a loaf of crusty French bread!

BLACK-EYED PEAS With BACON

A real Southern favorite, black-eyed peas are traditionally served on New Year's Day to bring good luck. This recipe with bacon, garlic and thyme makes ordinary black-eyed peas extra special.

- 1 pound black-eyed peas, rinsed and sorted
- ½ pound bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon butter *or* margarine
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme Salt to taste



Additional crumbled bacon, optional

Place peas, bacon and enough water to cover in a large kettle; bring to a boil. Boil for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; cover and let stand for 1 hour. *Do not drain.* In a skillet, saute onion and garlic in butter until tender. Add to pea mixture with thyme and salt. Return to the heat; simmer, covered, for 30 minutes or until peas are soft. Top with crumbled bacon if desired. Yield: 6-8 servings.

COMFORT CORN CASSEROLE

- 15 oz. can creamed corn
- 15 oz. can whole corn
- 8 oz. container sour cream
- 1 stick butter (melted)
- 8.5 oz. box corn muffin mix



Mix all ingredients together. Bake in greased baking dish at 400 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Serves 8 to 10. When recipe is doubled, still use only 1 stick of butter and bake in 9 x 13 dish.

CHEERY CHERRY CHEESECAKE BARS

- ⅓ c. butter
- ⅓ c. brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 c. flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In medium mixing bowl, cream butter, brown sugar and flour. Mix well. Reserve ½ c. crumb mixture for top. Press remaining mixture into 8" square pan. Bake 10-12 minutes, cool while preparing filling.

FILLING

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ¼ c. sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 T. lemon juice
- ½ c. maraschino cherries, chopped



Beat cream cheese, sugar, egg and lemon juice until fluffy. Stir in the cherries. Spread filling over baked crust. Sprinkle reserved crumb mixture over top. Bake again, 18 to 20 minutes or until the filling is set and top is lightly brown. Cool and store in refrigerator. Makes 32-36 bars.

GRILLED HAM STEAK

- ¼ cup apricot *or* plum preserves
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- ⅛ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 ham steak (1 inch thick and about 2 pounds)



In a small saucepan, combine the preserves, mustard, lemon juice and cinnamon. Cook and stir over low heat until thoroughly combined, about 2-3 minutes. Score fat edges of ham. Grill over medium coals for 8-10 minutes per side, brushing with glaze during the last few minutes of grilling. Yield: 6 servings.

DECEMBER 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Executive Board Meeting 4:00	6	7 Union Meetings	8	9	10
11 Children's Christmas Party 1:00 - 4:00 Union Hall	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 RETIREES Christmas Dinner 12:00 Noon	20	21 Mid -Month Executive Board Meeting 4:00	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Holiday
25 Christmas Day Holiday	CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN					31 

LUCKY YOU!
Membership Meeting
Door prize winners for
November

Scott BJORKE
 Jim Blackbird
 Joel Gobats
 Lynn Hinkle
 John Jones
 Jason Kuhlman
 Elaine Lake
 Lynn Pfenning
 Robert Spoerner

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



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