



# Local 592 Tribune

Dedicated to Working People Everywhere

Mike Bagley, Chair, Education Committee  
Tim Mills, Editor

[www.uaw592.com](http://www.uaw592.com)

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## **Negotiations Underway with Hamilton Sundstrand, Job Losses Trim All Three Units in Local 592**

### **H/S Bargaining Kickoff**

Hamilton Sundstrand opened contract negotiations Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. UAW Director Dennis Williams and Assistant Director Dennis Kinard both attended the negotiations. Director Williams communicated during his opening statement that the UAW "would be keeping an eye on the negotiations between Hamilton Sundstrand and Local 592" and pledged his full support for Local 592's success.

The other Union leaders who came to show support were: Tom Littlejohn (UAW Local 1268, Chrysler), Matt Williams (PB&PA, Rockford Police), Laderyl Walker (UAW Local 712, Conn.), Mark Hebert (President, IAM Local 743,



*Table talks opening day with Hamilton Sundstrand*

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HS), Tony Walter (Vice-President, IAM Local 743, HS), Dean Johnson (UAW Local 592, Retirees Chair). All pledged to do what they could to help Local 592 win a fair contract.

UAW President Gettelfinger and UAW Vice-President Jimmy Settles (Aerospace) also pledged their full support for Local 592's success during negotiations.

Both parties exchanged complete non-economic proposals. Hamilton Sundstrand is currently proposing a 3

year agreement and made proposals regarding recall rights and seniority, the grievance/arbitration procedure, 1164 time, inverse voluntary layoffs, be-reavement, and the elimination of several letters of agreement. The Union did not receive any proposals regarding vacations, holidays, overtime, wages, pensions, or benefits at this time.

Both Hamilton Sundstrand and UAW Local 592 are scheduled to meet again on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. At that time the Union is scheduled to receive

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Hamilton Sundstrand's benefits proposal on insurance.

We gave a tour of Plant 1 & 6 at Hamilton Sundstrand to the guests who had time to stay and received several compliments regarding the UAW T-shirts and the membership's solidarity. The Bargaining Committee greatly appreciates it. Our solidarity is our greatest tool in negotiations, when we stand together and speak with one voice there is very little we cannot accomplish.

We will publish Negotiation Updates as negotiations proceed and we will ensure that our website is kept up to date also. The website is located at [www.uaw592.com](http://www.uaw592.com). You may need to 'refresh' your browser window when you first open the website in order to see the updated information.

**Job Losses, etc.**

All three units are seeing job losses at this time. Currently Hamilton Sundstrand (Unit 1) has 60 brothers and sisters on layoff, MNP Precision Products (Unit 2) has approximately 30 on layoff, and RC2 (Unit 3) has seen its membership dwindle from 34 at the time they organized two years ago down to about ten total union members today. Many of the job losses at RC2 are the result of employees finding better jobs or in some cases from terminations.

Local 592 has been contacted by a group of employees working in the maintenance department at a nursing facility called Asta Care in Rockford, IL. They have a majority of employees who have signed union authorization cards and are scheduled to have an NLRB

election for union recognition on April 11<sup>th</sup>. We are sure they will make the right decision and are looking forward to including them in the Local 592 family following a successful election.

The Local 592 union picnic is slated for August 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. We are uncertain at this point if the picnic will be held at Sundstrand Park or if the location needs to be changed due to new rules regarding the use of the park in Belvidere. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new brothers and sisters from our other units and to enjoy each others fellowship and solidarity. We will keep you posted on the location of the picnic as soon as we have a new location secured if necessary.

In Solidarity,  
Ted Dever, President

**Real wage reversal persists**

From EPI [http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/webfeatures\\_snapshots\\_20080220se](http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/webfeatures_snapshots_20080220se)

Data released this morning by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that a combination of slower wage growth and faster inflation has led to falling real hourly and weekly earnings for most workers.

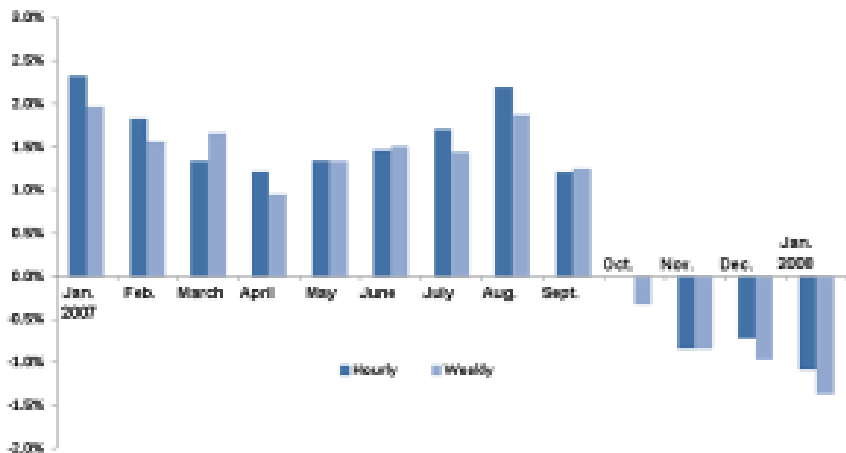
The **Figure** shows the yearly change in real earnings for the approximately 80% of the workforce that are non-managers in services and blue-collar factory workers. After handily beating inflation last year, wage growth began to slow as the economy lost speed in the last quarter of 2007. A year ago, annual hourly wage growth before inflation was 4.3%; this year (from January 2007 to January 2008), it was 3.7%.

Inflation, conversely, driven up by higher energy prices, is growing about twice as fast as was the case one year ago. This combination has led to the dramatic shift in the buying power of workers' paychecks. A year ago, real

hourly and weekly earnings grew on a yearly basis by over 2%; this January, they are both down by about 1%. Note also that over the past two months, due to the decline in average weekly hours—a function of the weakening job market—real weekly earnings are falling more quickly than hourly earnings.

These trends have important implications. First, falling real wages will likely lead to diminished consumption, reinforcing slower macroeconomic growth. Second, the reality of squeezed paychecks for most workers helps to explain the primacy of economic concerns among voters in the presidential primaries.

Yearly change in real earnings, hourly and weekly (January 2007 - January 2008)



Source: BLS. (Note: BLS uses the CPI-W to deflate earnings.)

## Know the Candidates: Greg Tuite

**Know the Candidates** spells out positions taken by Illinois 69<sup>th</sup> District candidate Greg Tuite (D), who is running to unseat the incumbent Ron Waite (R). This material was culled from a questionnaire; the complete text is available upon request.

### Jobs and the Economy.

"The key factor in attracting jobs is to have a well trained workforce. We need to determine what employers are looking for and make sure that those needs are integrated into our education system. The means from grade school up through the community college and four year college level. We need to make sure that we have the infrastructure that supports employers who need to compete in the global economy. My opponent has no education plan."

### Education.

"Education is the key to improving our workforce and our economy. This is why I have already been endorsed by the Illinois Education Association. We need to make the state live up to its obligation to provide 51% of the funding for our public schools. We also need to make sure schools are held accountable with the increased resources they get. Rockford schools are falling behind. From 2000 to 2006 we have fallen 2% in the number of people that have college degrees in Rockford. We are well below the state and national average. This has to change. My opponent's only suggestion for education is to go to a local income tax. This will only help the wealthy districts."

### Healthcare.

"My opponent has no real plan for health care. In 2006 he told Register Star columnist Chuck Sweeny that Wal-Mart's plan to open clinics in their stores was the solution to provide low cost health care. He also voted against the Kid Care program. Health care is primarily a federal issue and hopefully will be dealt with by a new Democratic President. In the meantime we need to make sure that there are public-private partnerships to make sure that the uninsured have access to doctors and



*The Tuite family*

can obtain the prescriptions that they need."

### Seniors.

"Most seniors want to be able to stay in their own homes. We must ensure that they can get care in their homes instead of having to move out. They shouldn't have to sell their home because they can't afford property taxes. Most of the help that my opponent has given seniors has been focused on the Belvidere area. The 69th district is a large district that runs from South Beloit all the way down to Genoa. I will be a representative that works for the entire district, not just the town I was born and raised in."

### Youth.

"A good education is the best thing we can do for our kids. Part of that includes good after school and extracurricular activities. We also need to encourage employers to hire teens and provide mentoring programs. In the urban areas of the district we see increases in gang activities. We need to coordinate efforts between our schools, parents, and law enforcement to

intervene early to prevent gang membership. By the time they are in 8th grade or high school it is too late. My opponent will state that he is tough on gangs. But while it is easy to pass laws to increase penalties on gang crime, it is harder to get to the root cause of the gang issue. I want to treat the cause of the disease, not just the symptoms."

### Veterans.

"The best way to insure that our veterans receive all of the benefits and care that they have earned, is to make sure that the Department of Veteran's Affairs is properly funded. We need to make sure that we have enough veteran's service officers to service the state and that they have the funding they need. We also need to make sure that our veteran's homes are funded and staffed. We should consider opening a veteran's home in Northern Illinois so our vets don't have to go to LaSalle. My opponent voted against the Veteran's Care lottery ticket that provides funding for veteran's programs in Illinois."

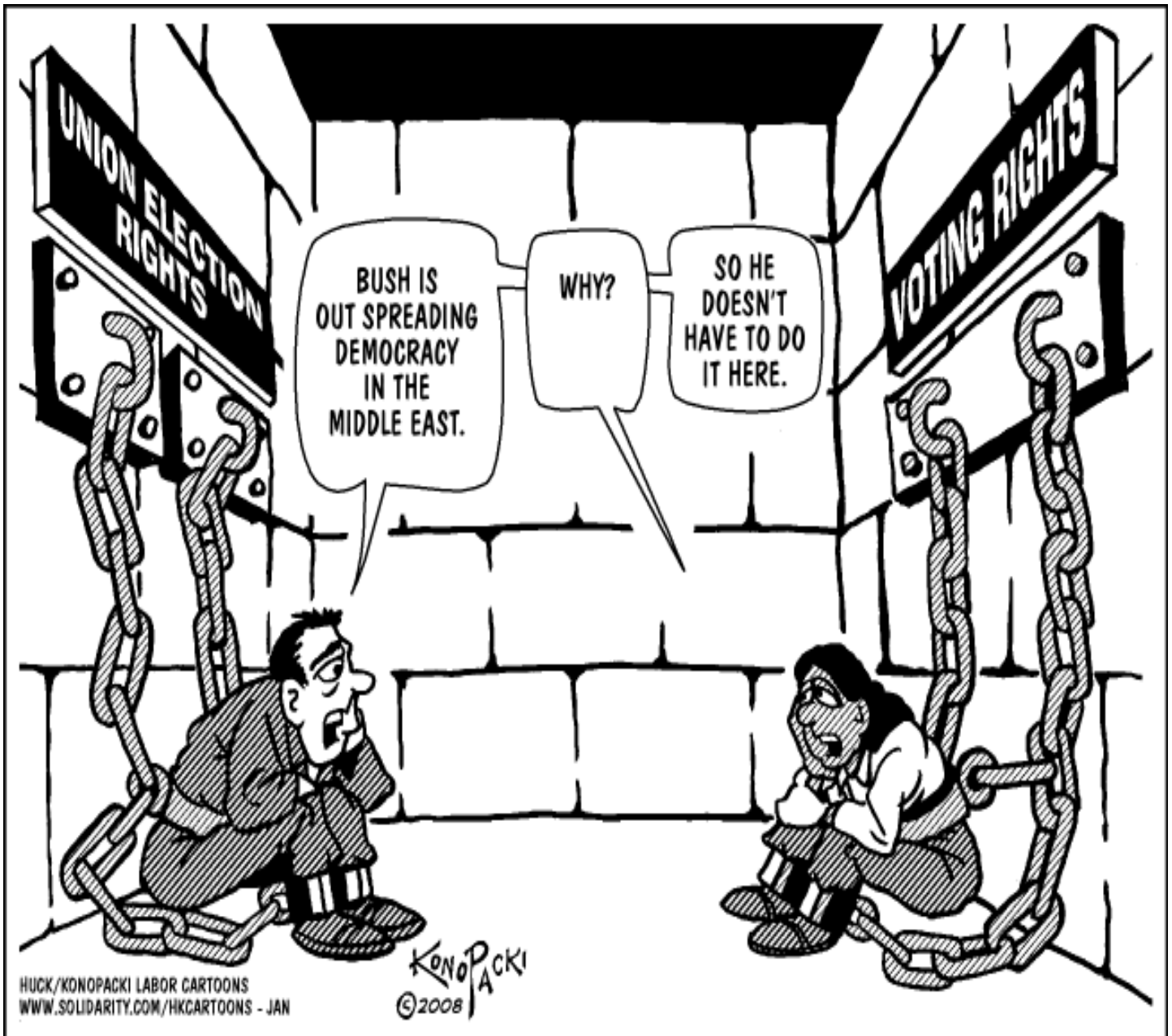
## Rural Life.

"Health care is a major issue in rural communities. We need to support the training of rural health care professionals that is taking place at the U of I School of medicine in Rockford. Also our rural communities can be on the front line of alternative energy development. We need to support those efforts. While my opponent has supported some ethanol bills in the past, he did not support a more recent alternative energy bill promoted by Democratic legislators. Projects that he voted against included: \$ 20 million for

the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for ethanol and biodiesel plant construction; \$ 3 million for new equipment for the National Corn to Ethanol Research Center at Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville; \$ 1 million for ethanol research at Western Illinois University; \$ 100,000 for funding for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to expedite permits for ethanol & biodiesel."

## Workers' Rights.

"I have always supported organized labor. That is why I received the endorsement of most of organized labor in Northern Illinois. I have already received the endorsement of the Illinois AFL-CIO and the IEA. My opponent voted against the right for small municipalities to organize. Without that right, police, firemen, and other municipal employees in communities such as Roscoe and South Beloit would not have been able to organize. I would have supported that right had I been in the legislature."



## 761st Tank Battalion (1942-45)



*Able Company, 761st Battalion, crossing the Seille River in France, November 9, 1941*

From *BlackPast.org*

The 761st Tank Battalion was formed in the spring of 1942 and was the first African American tank battalion to see combat in the Second World War. Commanding this battalion was a white Lt. Colonel, Paul L. Bates. As the unit fell under the scrutiny of other white officers who were critical of blacks as soldiers and especially as tankers, Bates pushed the 761st in its strive for excellence.

The 761st was referred to as the 'bastard' battalion, indicative of the lack of respect given it by other tank units. This meant the battalion was often broken up piecemeal among various units for support roles. This situation changed when the 761st was assigned to General George S. Patton's Third Army. Patton had heard of the stellar performance of the 761st in training and maneuvers and specifically requested the unit to reinforce his Third Army Division, which was severely depleted from fighting in France. In the

autumn of 1944, the 761st left from England, where it was held in reserve training, and arrived in France, ready to fight.

The 761st consisted of 760 black men and white officers primarily operating the M-4 Sherman battle tank. Soon after the 761st Tank Battalion landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy they became the first black armored soldiers to see battle. The motto of the 761st, which were also called the Black Panthers, was "Come Out Fighting!" Before the end of the war, they more than lived up to this motto.

During combat operation in World War II, front line troops rarely spent more than a few weeks on the front lines; the Black Panthers had been in combat for over 183 days straight. Before the war was over, the 761st would participate in four major allied campaigns throughout a half dozen

countries including France, Germany and Austria, and inflict over 130,000 casualties. The 761st was also highly decorated; earning throughout their six months of combat operations seven Silver Stars for Valor (three posthumously), 246 Purple Hearts and one Congressional Medal of Honor (posthumously). Eight enlisted men received battlefield commissions.

Among the men serving in the 761st was baseball legend Jackie Robinson. Lt. Colonel Bates was so impressed with Robinson and his influence over the men that he appointed Robinson as the official moral officer of the 761st. Robinson would never see combat overseas however. He was court-martialed in August, 1944 after refusing to go to the back of a bus driven by a civilian on the Fort Hood military base in Texas. Robinson was acquitted of all charges, discharged and three years later began playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

## CWA and German Union ver.di Form New 'T Union'

WASHINGTON, April 3, 2008, 2008 /PRNewswire-USNewswire via COMTEX

The Communications Workers of America and ver.di, Germany's largest union, today officially established the first-ever union that will unite and represent workers in the U.S. and Europe. T-Union is a joint affiliate of both organizations. Top officers of both unions formally signed the new partnership during a video conference and talked through strategies and plans for the new organization.

The new union will support T-Mobile workers who want a union voice and collective bargaining rights in the United States and other countries, and German union members who work for T-Mobile in the U.S. A new website is now live, where T-Mobile workers can safely share information and experiences and discuss workplace issues. That site is [www.t-mobileunion.org](http://www.t-mobileunion.org). A text messaging system for U.S. members only also is up and running: text TUNION to get a message about the campaign.

CWA President Larry Cohen said the new union is a "new step in global solidarity" and will be a major part of

the struggle for workers' organizing and bargaining rights around the world. "This is an aspect of organizing that hasn't been done before -- it's a huge breakthrough," he said. "This new union sends a message to T-Mobile management in the U.S. that workers at Deutsche Telekom and at other T-Mobile operations who have bargaining rights will fight hard to protect them and to support their U.S. counterparts who also want the right to collective bargaining."

Lothar Schroder, who heads ver.di's Telecommunications and IT Sector, said the agreement was a good basis for German-American labor relations that must be taken seriously by management. "We believe that through this new union, we will contribute to working conditions for workers in both countries. Management must get used to the idea that we are representing the interests not only of German workers but of American workers as well. This is the right response to globalization," he said.

Ver.di, representing more than 2.4 million workers, represents workers at Deutsche Telekom, T-Mobile's parent company, and holds seats on DT's supervisory board. Ver.di already represents T-Mobile workers in Germany, and T-Mobile workers in the United Kingdom and nine other European countries already have collective bargaining rights. CWA is the largest telecommunications union in the U.S., representing workers in information technology and communications, media and broadcasting, and other sectors.

Workers in a number of T-Mobile locations in the United States are in contact with CWA and have expressed strong interest in getting a voice. In the past, T-Mobile has strongly opposed its U.S. employees from seeking collective bargaining rights. T-Union is a new cooperative program where unions worldwide are working together to stop corporations' attacks against workers and build bargaining power, in the United States and around the globe.

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