



Local 592 Tribune

Dedicated to Working People Everywhere

Mike Bagley, Chair Education Committee
Tim Mills & Manuel Guerra, Editors

www.uaw592.com

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Jobs Campaign Teams Up With Richard Auman

On June 5 at their weekly meeting, Jobs Campaign activists met with UAW-endorsed candidate Richard Auman, who is running against the incumbent Don Manzullo for the 16th Congressional District. A basic strategy was discussed and an election talking points paper was handed over to Auman. The paper contained an introduction to the Jobs Campaign, describing its purpose and political viewpoint, followed by a selection of exemplary pro-worker bills held up by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.



*16th Congressional District Candidate
Richard Auman*

Prior to the Auman endorsement, UAW Region 4 representatives discussed the dire situation at Hamilton Sundstrand with Congressman Manzullo, as did officers from Local 592. Manzullo remains steadfast in his blind attraction to unfettered corporate power, despite phone calls and letters to his office from union members who will suffer the consequences.

Jobs Campaigner and retired Hamilton Sundstrand toolmaker Dick Nash said, "I think it's high time that we stem the tide of job losses in the state line area and legislation is a reasonable place to start, but with legislators like Manzullo, we don't have a sympathetic ear. We need to take steps to elect people who will represent working people rather than corporations."

Auman-for-Congress campaign manager Don Defoe agreed to attend the regular Jobs Campaign meetings, in order to keep abreast of the Campaign's activities and to flesh out a common approach to putting a Jobs Campaign candidate in the U.S. House of Representatives. Jobs Campaign meetings are held every Monday from 4:30PM to 5:30PM at the UAW Hall on 112 N. 2nd St. in Rockford.

Campaigners say they are fed up with Manzullo's enthusiastic support for so-called free trade deals, such as the job-killing U.S. agreement with Singapore. Hamilton Sundstrand workers in Rockford stand to lose about one hundred and thirty good jobs when the company completes its move of the Plant 1 manufacturing unit, and the Plant 6 actuation assembly & test operations to Singapore.

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Bargaining Committee Cites Goals, Challenges For '06 And Beyond

The *Local 592 Tribune* staff dropped off a questionnaire for the Bargaining Committee to complete. What follows is a compilation of responses from the Committee.

Q: What are the leadership's goals for the remainder of the year?

A: We want to keep as many jobs as possible in the plants, which includes finding non-traditional work to prevent layoffs, while seeking the recall of laid-off members. In addition, we must successfully communicate the need for every Union member to show respect and care for each other. Many of our people are under a great deal of stress — no thanks to the company. Let's treat our Sisters and Brothers better than management has chosen to treat us. Filing grievances is one thing, but grievances are no substitute for simple kindness and solidarity.

Q: What are the biggest challenges that face our Union?

A: The biggest challenges are employers outsourcing our good paying jobs, shifting healthcare costs (including expensive medications) to employees & retired people and eroding pension plans, while our government signs off on job-killing trade deals and tax cuts for drug companies — all of which are a serious threat to the very survival of our Union.

Q: How is Steward training going?

A: We had UAW International Representative Doug Womack do grievance handling instruction. The Worker-to-Worker program was spelled out. We will continue to educate the Stewards on the issues that we face today. We need to do a better job getting more Stewards interested in the task at hand.

Q: What is different in so far as how our Local Union operates, since amalgamation? Do you have regular meetings with Unit 2?

A: We don't see any big differences. The calendars were handed out [with the Unit 2 holiday schedule]. We always make sure we communicate with Unit 2 on what we have planned. Unit 2 has been busy with contract negotiations.

Q: What would you like to say to laid-off or soon-to-be-laid-off members? Retirees?

A: We are working hard to get this company to see the value that our members bring to UTC, but they are so blinded, they can't see the long-term effects they are creating. If we see an opportunity for non-traditional work, we immediately bring it to management's attention. We sent in an information request about all "yellow badge" employees: "What are their duties? Responsibilities?" There are a lot of

Union members who have the same skills and could do that work. We are committed to getting those positions. To the retirees, we say thank you for all the sacrifices you made for us. We will do everything in our power to protect your benefits and expand them if possible. You are the people who built this Union and we will not forget that.

Q: Answer the statement, "The Union is not doing anything to improve the situation around here."

A: The Bargaining Committee is not the Union. We all are the Union, and that means we all need to do our parts. We are all in the same boat. We need to stick together and quit thinking our bosses are here to help us. After all, they did our jobs when we were locked out. We need to participate in our Union and watch each other's backs.

Are the critics looking at the mirror when they are directing the blame? Are they going to regular meetings and adding their input? Joining a committee? No Union member is perfect (including Stewards & Officers), and everyone makes mistakes, but for as long as we try, we may always improve.

We have more influence as a Union when we stand together as one. Although we face difficult times, we still need to work together for the betterment of all.

Moonlight Bowl Boosts "Inspiration of Hope"

The Women's Committee-sponsored Moonlight Bowl benefit for the Inspiration of Hope Foundation, held on June 3rd at Don Carter Lanes, hauled in \$1020.00. According to Chairperson Kristie Bader, the fundraiser would not have been as successful if not for the generous donations from Local 592 members and area businesses: Rockford River Hawks, Maria's, Olympic, Magic Waters, Rockford Park District, The Filling Station, The Cutting Room, Casey's Pub, Volcano Falls, Golf & Games, Grand Prix Go-Carting, Sunrayz Tanning and August Salon. Big winners were Denise Seaman, \$125 – 50/50 Raffle, Mike Cascio \$344 – Strike Jackpot, Bob Dickson, One-Nite Stay @ Cliffbreakers Jacuzzi Suite w/ \$20 Gift Certificate & Champagne.

"The Inspiration of Hope Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps cancer patients, providing prosthetic equipment, wigs, and other things for women and children who cannot afford them. My thanks to everyone who participated and donated to this worthy cause," said Kristie.

Convention Sets Course for Change

As one of Local 592's two delegates to the Constitutional Convention held in Las Vegas June 12th – 15th, I got a chance to speak in favor of the resolution that will increase the Local Union's share of dues and increase the amount of money the International Union can spend on organizing. This will be accomplished **without any increase in membership dues:** If there is a month where no Local Unions are on strike, nothing from our dues will need to be appropriated to the Strike Fund. It seems crazy not to use some of our funds to fight the companies that are closing our plants and breaking the backs of organizing drives. We also need to change the makeup of the U.S. Congress and Senate in 2006, as we are losing more ground to the anti-worker conservatives every day. The resolution passed unanimously.

We heard from Illinois Senator Barack Obama and Nancy Pelosi (House of Rep. CA) who pledged their support to the labor movement. Most inspiring to me, was the speech given by Baldemar Velasquez, Farm Labor Organizing Committee President. He has spent almost 40 years organizing farm workers from the Ohio Valley to deep in the Carolinas. Most of the workers are immigrants and are paid the lowest wages with no benefits before they unionize. Velasquez's organizing success, he told the UAW delegates, is due to his faith in God and fellow workers. Velasquez used biblical teachings to draw a correlation to union organizing.

"I hear these people talk about "the need to have elections for a democratic process for allowing a union to enter the workplace." I tell you

brothers and sisters that joining a union in the workplace is democracy, not having to work against these anti-worker organizations to win union representation. The Bible tells us the story about the first organizer who was sent down into Egypt to organize a group of slave brick makers. Moses didn't ask Pharaoh to let those slaves vote to see if they wanted freedom. No, he told Pharaoh that God said to "Let My People Go1."



L to R: Delegates Jeff Bronson & Mike Rourke, Region 4 Dir. Dennis Williams, and Pres. Ted Dever

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee scored a major victory in 2004 by organizing 8000 undocumented workers in North Carolina. Velasquez told why his Union worked so hard to organize immigrants, most of who were in the U.S. illegally, "The union organizer's role is not to ask which country you are from. The union organizer's role is to ask: Which *side* are you on?"

Some of the major resolutions that were passed by the delegates and will become priorities for UAW lobbying are:

That the U.S. government create an industrial/environmental "Marshal Plan" with government incentives to build hybrid, clean diesel, and ethanol cars in the United States.

The United States needs to enforce fair trade laws that currently exist and negotiate treaties that include labor rights as part of the deal.

The country needs a universal, national healthcare plan now. In the year 2000, the World Health Organization ranked the U.S. healthcare system the most expensive in the world, yet only 37th in overall effectiveness and 55th place in fairness. (Note: Saddam Hussein's Iraq was right behind us in 56th place for fairness)

We are supporting the Freedom of Choice Act – which means that every worker in America should have the right to join a Union without coercion from their employer and if employees do choose to be represented by a Union, that employer should have an obligation to bargain with them for a contract.

We elected three new vice-presidents: Terry Thurman, General Holiefield, and Jimmy Settles; and re-elected President Ron Gettelfinger, Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Bunn, and Vice-Presidents Cal Rapson and Bob King. We also re-elected Region 4 Director Dennis Williams to serve another four-year term.

It was an honor and privilege to have been able to be your voice at the UAW Constitutional Convention. If you have any questions or would like to know more about what went on, please e-mail me, or call me in the shop at 226-6036.

Jeff Bronson

UAW 592 Delegate

Tools and Building Supplies Made in the U.S.A.

Many of us will be starting spring and summer projects around the home, yard and garden. When shopping for tools and building supplies, please make a conscious effort to purchase items with a "Made in the USA" on them. There are many goods manufactured elsewhere these days, so make certain to look on the label.

The "Brand X" tool may look good, but is it really worth it? Is it made to the same high quality and standards the American-made tool? Will it wind up in the trash, or will it remain in good condition — good enough to pass on the next generation?

Before making your next purchase, do yourself and everyone a favor and look for the U.S.A. label. The following list is from brand names I've found in the area. Good luck with your next home improvement project!

Michael Petrie, Chair

Local 592 Consumer Affairs Committee

>Craftsman. Most hand tools are USA-made, but some are made in China. >Crescent, Channel Lock, Vise Grip. Hand tools. >Schrade, Buck, Gerber Cutlery, knives. >Leatherman. Combo tool-knife, cutters, screwdriver folding tool. >Lisle. Torx & Allen style bits. >Weller. Soldering tools. >Arrow. Staple guns. >Porter Cable, Skilsaw, Milwaukee. Power tools. >Strike Force, Estwing. Hammers. >Rotozip. Spiral cutting saws. >Klein. Electricians' hand tools. >Fluke. Multimeters. >Empire. Mahogany & steel levels, yard rulers. >Lufkin. Wooden folding rulers and 100' contractors' tapes. >Maglite. Flashlights. >Dasco Pro. Punches, chisels.



*Scott Holtapp receives Journeyman's card from
Ron Bellars & Mike Roth*



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