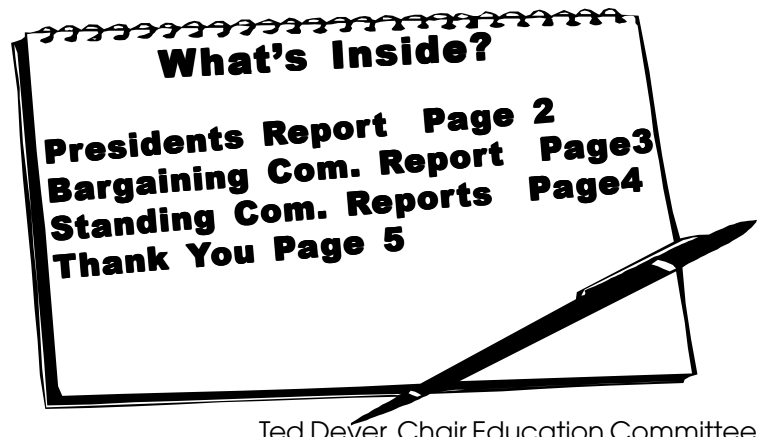




Dedicated to Working People Everywhere



Ted Dever, Chair Education Committee  
Bruce Bade, Editor

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

NOV-DEC. 2002

## The Amalgamation of Local 592

On January 22, 2003 the membership will be asked to vote on the amalgamation of our local. This decision will be another important step in the long history of Local 592. Discussions began with the Executive Board and at the membership meetings in November 2001 after President Bronson got the idea from an AFL-CIO Organizing Conference he attended.

The Executive Board began researching how amalgamated local unions' structures differ from ours by reading their bylaws and asking questions.

We enlisted the help of our International Rep. Bill Penn. Region 4 Director Dennis Williams met with Bill Penn and Jeff Bronson in August of 2002 and said the new UAW policy was that (newly) organized bargaining units under 150 members will be placed in an existing amalgamated UAW Local. Director Williams asked if Local 592 would consider amalgamating and said that Local 1268 (Chrysler) was being asked to do the same.

There have been in-depth discussions at the Executive Board meetings and many good questions and concerns were raised. Outside leadership was brought in to answer those questions and concerns.

Bylaws Committee Chairman Mike Hughes and Jeff Bronson interviewed presidents from Local Unions



*Todd Brian, Tom Athmann, and Jeff Bronson answer questions about the Amalgamation issue at the Nov. membership meeting.*

997 (Maytag) and 893 (Mashaltown) in Iowa.

They explained their history, structure, finances, lost time, etc. Both preferred amalgamated local unions to stand alones. They also interviewed the former president (of Diamond Star Motors in Bloomington, IL) now working as an International Rep in the Organizing Dept. He also had positive feedback about amalgamation and said that newly organized units get a lot of support from

the International Union until they get a first contract and start paying dues.

After talking to different amalgamated Unions and reviewing the bylaws of our (4) different Locals, the Executive Board determined that there is a wide range of flexibility to suit the needs of every local union.

President, Mike Sheridan and Recording Secretary, Todd Brian of Local 95 (GM - Janesville, WI) came to a special 592 Executive Board meeting. They spent over (90) minutes answering questions and talking about their local union. They have (16) Units and over 7,000 members.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> 2002, the Executive Board voted to recommend amalgamating Local Union 592. At November's membership meeting, Todd Brian, Recording Secretary and Tom Athmann, Trustee of Local 95

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jeff Bronson

Over 100 Local 592 members attended the November membership meetings to hear more information about amalgamating our Local Union and in hopes of winning the rolling attendance prize. For any who may not know, we have every member's name, active and retired, in a box. Each monthly membership meeting, beginning in January, a name is drawn for a chance to win \$50. If they are not present the name is put back in the box and the prize goes to \$100 in February, \$150 in March and so on. If someone should win in March, then the April prize would be \$50 and continue to accumulate as before. At our last meeting of the year (usually November) we continue to draw names until a winner is present. This year's winner was retired member, Al "Bud" Ziebell.

The Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>. If you plan to attend with your children or grandchildren and have not purchased a ticket yet, please do so soon. The Community Service Committee (CSC) Collection for members who are off on extended illness or injury will be coming through the plant. The money you donate will go to purchase a fruit basket and grocery gift certificate for our members, so please give as generously as you can! Any retired member wishing to contribute may mail a check to the UAW Hall with a note stating it is for the CSC collection.

Our Bargaining Committee participated in an all day training session on preparing for negotiations

and mobilizing the membership. The class was conducted by UAW Region 4 Education Representative Doug Womak and Sub-Regional Director Bill Penn. We were given reference materials and good ideas on how to better prepare for negotiations next spring. You will be hearing more on this in the coming weeks.

Department stewards were briefed at this month's steward and officers' meeting about the reasons for amalgamating our Local Union and were each given a comprehensive packet of information. You should have been approached by your steward and asked your thoughts. This information contained in the worker-to-worker packet is available to you either through your steward or on our website at: [uaw592.com](http://uaw592.com) or [uaw592.org](http://uaw592.org). If you have any questions or feedback let your steward know.

This will be the last President's column I will be writing this year, as our calendars come out in December in lieu of a newsletter. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your solidarity in what has been a tough year for the aerospace industry. We will need the strength, prayers and support of each of you in the coming months as we move closer to the contract deadline in order to display a united front on our bargaining goals. I am confident that we, the leadership of Local 592, can count on you and you can be assured that, we too, will do our very best. Happy holidays!

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(GM - Janesville, WI) did a great job answering questions for our members who had concerns. Our thanks goes out to both of them for taking the time to help us become better informed on this issue.

The membership will decide January 22, 2003 on this issue and we ask all members to come out for this important membership meeting. If you have any questions ask your stewards or Executive board members. They have information that will help you make the right choice.

## **Free Investment Seminar Planned**

Thomas J Hindes JR. an investment representative from Edward Jones will offer a free investment planning seminar at the UAW hall at 112 N. 2<sup>nd</sup>. St. Wed. Jan.29, 2003 from 12-2pm & 6-8pm. Ask questions and get free advice with no obligation.

# BARGAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

PEOPLE NOT HEADCOUNT!!! We currently have forty one (41) members on layoff. Thirty eight (38) are on Inverse Voluntary, one (1) is on a voluntary layoff, and two (2) are on involuntary layoff. The Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (S.U.B.) Committee's last meeting revealed that \$363,000 has been paid in S.U.B. benefits over the past (12) months. The fund continues to pay out more than the interest generates and has gone from a high of approximately \$2.5 Million to \$2.1 Million. However, it is for lean times like these that the S.U.B. fund was created and if there are no major upturns in layoffs, it will sustain our members for quite some time to come. Without doubt, the best solution for our members and for the fund is to have everyone recalled and working at their permanent job!

With contract negotiations approaching many questions are being raised in regards to retirement options, strike benefits for workers who are laid off or disabled, and "windows of opportunity."

1.) RETIREMENT OPTIONS - There have been no discussions nor are we aware of any plans, by the Company, to offer retirement incentives such as we saw in 1999, or anything else, other than what the Labor Agreement provides. We would certainly be willing to discuss incentives to prevent layoffs and have stated so to executive management.

2.) STRIKE BENEFITS - Should we be forced to go on strike, the benefit payments at that time will be \$200 per week, per member. The International Strike Fund also pays for our health and life insurance premiums in full (i.e. you will have no co-pay for healthcare during the strike). If employees are

on layoff and collecting unemployment and S.U.B., they will continue to collect this benefit until they are recalled. At that time they will be on strike and collect the same benefit as other members. Employees collecting disability (either personal or Worker's Comp.) will continue to collect those benefits until they are no longer disabled and can medically return to work. At the point that they are taken off of disability pay, they will be eligible for strike pay.

3.) WINDOWS - No, we're not talking about the latest Bill Gates' upgrade in computer software! Many members are asking if there will be a window negotiated so that those eligible to retire can choose to go out between the old and new Labor Agreement. We have asked Human Resources managers to give us assurances in writing, but they want to "keep their options open" and use that as a possible bargaining chip at the table. What that means to us, is that they would rather have our members lose production time, disrupt their long term retirement plans as they consider moving up their retirement dates, and add stress to not only the worker, but his/her family as well. In our view it is not only mean-spirited but it is bad for business too.

The reality is, they have never been able to switch their benefit systems over to the new changes overnight anyway. Under UTC, it is even more cumbersome. That is why pension improvements negotiated in mid-May take effect on July 1, and healthcare changes take place the following January 1, at the earliest. But the Company still wants to play the game of creating uncertainty for UAW members. The best we can offer at this time, is to say our Bargaining Committee is 100% committed to stopping the company from trapping our members into a no-choice situation.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## CSC Christmas Collection

The Local Union will be conducting its Annual Christmas Collection between November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>. The collection benefits all members that are on extended medical leave. The funds we collect will be used to purchase food certificates and fruit baskets.

We would also appreciate the assistance of any members that wish to volunteer in delivering the baskets on December 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact Terry Myers at (815) 226-5228 or Cliff Saulters at (815) 226-7173, so we can verify the correct date for delivery.

Please donate generously to your less fortunate brothers and sisters.

## LUNCH WITH SANTA

Greetings from the Recreation Committee! We hope to see you all December 7<sup>th</sup> for lunch with Santa. We will have two special elves, twisting balloons, and painting faces while waiting for Santa. There will be food and fun for everyone. Please join us at 11:30am at the hall. As usual, we can use any volunteers that would like to help out.

Seasons greetings,

The Recreation Committee

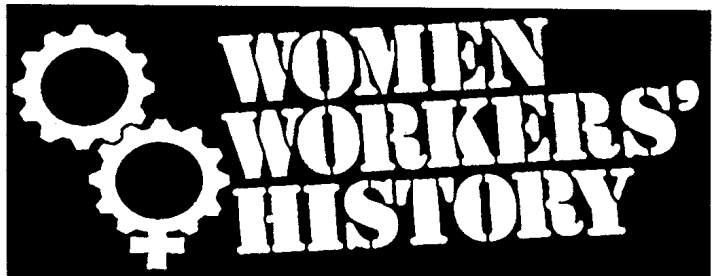
## Veteran's Committee

Local area UAW Veterans' Committees held a Stand Down at the UAW Hall on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for homeless veterans and veterans in need of assistance. The Stand Down consisted of providing haircuts, meals each day and clothing. There were representatives from the Veteran's Administration, Social Security, and local agencies to provide information and assistance to any veteran needing help. Lee Antwine, a retired member of our local, gave a helping hand both days of the stand down.

Thanks to all of the UAW members for your support.

Sincerely,

UAW 592 VETERANS COMMITTEE



## Chapter 66: Summer School

Women workers with a yearn to know more about the world than the daily grind could tell them got a chance to broaden their horizons in 1921 with the establishment of a Summer School for Working Women in Industry at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pa. Both the Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) and the Labor Department's Women's Bureau had a role in setting up the school, which had some 100 participants each year in its eight-week courses.

Half the school's directors were college people, the other half labor leaders, a proposition backed by the student-workers. The courses stressed basic college education, although the students, as well as the WTUL and unions, insisted on discussion of economic issues. Among the instructors at Bryn Mawr's workers' school was Esther Peterson, later Assistant Secretary of Labor in the Kennedy Administration.



At the time, Bryn Mawr did not accept blacks as students. The women workers attending the summer school successfully overcame the opposition of the college president, and black working women were admitted. At first, blacks were segregated in a separate hall, but the students prevailed in their insistence on integration, too. Many employers refused to give women time off to attend the school, so some quit their jobs in order to participate. "The women workers who attended Bryn Mawr Summer School became leaders in their communities when they returned home, and many of them were instrumental in establishing evening classes for working women in their home communities," says historian Philip Foner. "For 15 years the Bryn Mawr School was a leadership center for working women."

# Saying “Thank You!” is my First Priority

By Chris Remhof

Ogle County Board Member

On Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, the voters of Ogle County Board District 3 elected me to serve them on our County Board. When the votes were counted, the top 6 people in our district were elected. I finished 5<sup>th</sup> with 2,371 total votes, only 244 away from the top vote getter. The Remhof campaign was the top vote getter in the Leaf River area, which is extra special since that is my hometown. That night, I became the first Democrat ever elected to the Ogle County Board from any district outside of the City of Rochelle, and one of the youngest board members ever elected in the County.

I was happy to have the support of many Local 592 members, and UAW members from other locals. I worked very hard at knocking on almost 1,700 doors and listening to the concerns of people in my community. I plan on bringing that same work ethic from the campaign trail to the boardroom. Without the help of my Union brothers and sisters on Election Day, the outcome could very well have been different.

The Rockford Area UAW CAP Council sent some members down on Election Day to help with our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) effort. They did a great job! Special thanks to Local 592 members Regina Hillhouse, Mike Petrie, and my Dad Mike Remhof for their much appreciated help along with Local 1720 members Dave and Dawn Hutchinson.

I'm ready to get to work on the County Board. We will be sworn in on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at a special organizational meeting. I will be placed on a few committees, and also will learn if I will serve a 2 or a 4-year term.

The platform that I took during the campaign will always be on my agenda: Improving communication between County Board members and taxpayers. Controlling urban sprawl and unhealthy growth. Fighting for fiscal responsibility while not under servicing resident needs. These are what I campaigned on and what I believe in.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about Ogle County Government. I'm a public servant now, and I'm eager to help you. Thanks again for your support. This was a team victory and I'm happy to be on your team!

Chris Remhof

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## Buy Union Buy American

By Pete Deskovich

Every UAW member knows that our fellow Union workers make a lot more than just cars and trucks. Our brothers and sisters across U. S. and Canada produce everything from bakeries to bath tubs, from wrenches to welding wire, from tubas to tweezers. The list of products is long and varied.

Local 592 members are proud of the work they do and the service that we provide. The men and women of all UAW shops feel the same way about their efforts. Remember that the next time you go shopping. Need a wrench? Local 1040 out of Ohio makes tools under the Apex brand. You can get a UAW made water heater with a Bradford-White or JetGlass label made in Michigan. Those of us who

enjoy an ice cold beer on a hot summer afternoon (or a freezing February morning for that matter) can get UAW produced Miller beer bottled by three Locals across the country. You might be surprised at the things you use and see every day that are the result of the work of one of our Union sisters and brothers. For a comprehensive list of UAW goods log on to [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org) and click the “union made” section.

In the future look to the Union bulletin boards around the shop for more information about Union made products, boycott alerts, and ideas promoting the Buy Union message. Remember, if you can't find it Union made at least find it American made.

# Local 592 Retiree's Dinner A Success

The rain and cooler weather could not stop our annual retiree's banquet from happening. We had a large turn-out and everyone had a great time. A big thanks to the hard working people that made it all possible. They did everything from dishing up the plates, serving and cleaning up the kitchen. Great job folks:

Mike Hughes, Cindy Finks, Jason & Roberta

Oslund, Tina Roth, Dan Selover, Becky Gil-Gunderson, Dale Blanton, Wally Skogsberg, Bill Kiddell, Terry Meyers, Cliff Saulters, Kristy Baran, Pete & Sue Deskovich, and Noel Gustafson

Remember, any time there is a function going on, we can always use a helping hand. You do not have to be on a committee to volunteer. Just sign up to help with the Veterans, Recreation and Women's Committees just to name a few.



Photos by Bruce Bode



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