



# Local 592 Tribune

Dedicated to Working People Everywhere

Bruce Bade, Editor

Mike Bagley, Education Chair

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

**October / November 2005**

## First Place Awards For 592 Tribune

At this years UAW-LUPA Communications Conference held in October, at the Walter & May Reuther Family Education Center at Black Lake, our local newsletter, the 592 Tribune, received three first place awards for Journalistic Excellence.

The LUPA (Local Union Press Association) conference is where UAW local union editors, Webmasters and video producers from across the country come to exchange ideas and information, there were classes and workshops for the delegates to become more effective communicators also.

The awards were for two stories and one essay from the 2004 year. The first category was Best original Article: " H-S Eliminates 35 union Members" I'd like to thank brother Jeff Bronson for contributing that story. The judges comments: "Well-reported, insightful, professional, great use of quotes. They made a very complex problem very understandable"

The second award was for Tim Mills "Best Call To Action Story" "592'ers Demonstrate for jobs." Nice job Tim! Judges comments: "Concise, active, good use of quotes and explanation of issues"

The first place award for Best Editorial or Essay went to Jeff League, Jeff did an excellent job on his essay called, "How I feel" Judges Comments: " Emotional, poignant, riveting essay that shows how close all of us walk to the edge of the abyss. Powerful stuff."

These awards were for stories that we will never forget, they all dealt with the lost of our union brothers and sisters jobs due to the companies cold and heartless actions. I urge you all to go back and read these stories again if you can. To be recognized by the judges is a great achievement for our newsletter. Accepting these awards on behalf of our local was a great honor for me.

I like to thank the membership for allowing myself and Earle Rowe the opportunity to attend this years conference. I'd also like to thank all the people that helped with the newsletter.

Our message and story about labor must be heard, getting our message to the members and the retirees are more impor-

tant then ever now.

In Solidarity, Bruce Bade



*The Walter and May Reuther Family Education Center.*



## Keep Jobs In U.S.

Wake up, America! If you think your jobs are safe, They're NOT! Just look at what UTC and other big companies are doing. They are taking good jobs out of the United States and putting them in low-cost, low- quality-producing countries. They do NOT care about people that built this country and the hard work that went into it. All they care about is their wallet and how they can make their wallet fatter. Instead of investing in the facilities in the U.S., they would rather spend millions in building a new factory in Singapore and other locations outside the U.S.

They spend countless millions doing studies of what can move next. If they could get away with it, they would out-source ALL of the military programs to foreign countries. How would you like our serviceman flying planes that were made by these countries. I would NOT. I don't even feel comfortable flying in any commercial jet that the parts are no longer being made in the good ole U.S.A. I don't want these foreign countries taking our technology and using it against us. We need to stand up as Americans and voice OUR displeasure with the way that these so-called U.S. companies are treating the American people. Talk to your state and local officials and ask them what they are going to do to keep jobs in their communities. We need to band together as Americans , to make these companies realize that we are the future and they need to invest in us.

Mike Roth, Vice President

## Retirees New Officers Of Local 592

President - Dean Johnson

Vice President - Marv Swanson

Recording Secretary - Paul Plasters

Financial Secretary - Paul Scarpetta



## Local 592 Childrens Christmas Party

**Join us again for our  
Annual Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 3rd.  
At the U.A.W. Hall on North 2nd St.  
*Food and fun for all.*  
Time 11- 1**

**UAW Local 592 Tribune**  
112 North Second Street  
Rockford, IL 61107

### Our Editorial Policy

Published by Local 592 with the interest of it's membership, to further the aims and programs of Local 592 and to promote policies of the International Union UAW.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Education Committee or UAW Local 592.

We welcome articles from our members as long as they are constructive and contribute to the welfare of this union and its members. All articles must be signed and include a phone number. UAW Local 592 reserves the right to edit all articles.



## President's Report

By Ted Dever

Hello brothers and sisters. The first thing I would like to do is welcome our Textron brothers and sisters into our proud Local as unit #2. Through nearly unanimous membership action at the October membership meeting Textron was officially recognized as unit 2 of UAW Local 592. I am sure that they will be welcomed with open arms and am looking forward to seeing them at our next membership meeting. There are approximately 180 unionized employees currently employed at Textron where Bill Penn and Bargaining Chair CJ Klewin are leading their bargaining committee in an effort to gain a first contract.

At Sundstrand we currently have 104 members laid off with more reductions on the way as REL continues its transition to Phoenix. We anticipate up to 150 members to be on layoff, including our Janitor and MDS brothers and sisters, by the end of the year. Those numbers represent 150 families that have had their livelihoods severed, all in the name of corporate greed. Since the last newsletter management has also announced they intend to relocate over 31,000 hours of commercial production and test work from the Actuation Enterprise in Rockford to Singapore. Management says that this will save the company \$1 million per year. I have a better idea; let's outsource George David and his fat salary (\$55 million/yr) to Singapore, and then we could keep jobs in Rockford and still be money ahead.

With Sundstrand contract negotiations coming up in May of 2008, now is the time to begin looking ahead and preparing for the future. I am hopeful, as is the rest of the Bargaining Committee that we will have successful contract negotiations without any work stoppages. However, it is always prudent to hope for the best and prepare for the worst. One way that I have found to prepare is through what Members Alliance calls a "Vacation Club Account". It is similar to a Christmas Club Account but instead of the funds being paid out in October they are paid in June. By depositing \$20/week into your vacation club account you will have over \$2100 available after interest available by the end of the contract.

Hopefully, we won't need it and the money can be used for a real vacation but if we do have a strike or lockout then you will have money available in addition to your strike assistance check to help pay bills before having to dip into any other savings.

Hopefully, by now everyone should have received a card with a statement pertaining to your Weingarten Rights. Weingarten Rights come from a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the National Labor Relations Act gives workers the right to request union representation during investigatory interviews by supervisors or other managerial staff, including HR. An investigatory interview occurs if 1) management questions you to obtain information; and 2) you have reason to believe that your answers could be used as a basis for discipline or other adverse actions against you. The burden to request union representation is on you to request representation either before or during the investigatory interview. Typically, management will ask if you want a steward present but the law does not require them to. If you do request representation and that representation is denied then you have the right to refuse answering any questions until properly represented and the company is guilty of an unfair labor practice and board charges may be filed.

If you are called to a meeting with management you can invoke your Weingarten Rights by stating the following:

"If this interview could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer or steward be present at this meeting. Until my representative arrives, I choose not to participate in this discussion."

Weingarten Rights are your rights under the law and should be exercised whenever being questioned by management when discipline or changes in working conditions are a possibility.

## Bargaining Committee Report

By Michael Rourke

While writing this report I've been fielding phone calls from some of our laid off brothers and sisters so I will address or pass on their concerns first, followed by a brief of what the bargaining committee is working on. No one wants to be laid off, but when a layoff occurs, frustration over several issues arise, both for the laid off member and those not laid off. One of the most prominent concerns of our laid off members is being unable to work when it appears major overtime is being offered and worked inside the plants. This issue will almost assuredly be a concern now and in the future. I do not believe any one person has the answer to solving this "problem". Nor does any committee have the answer, however, I do believe we as a Union can figure out the solution to the problem.

When we exhibit to the company a divide, as we do on the overtime issue, we are setting ourselves up for the company to win or in other terms conquer us. It's the old "divide and conquer" tactic. In this case we appear to let them go ahead and do it. That should never be a choice we "give" the company, but a battle we will engage in to defend ourselves and our Union's solidarity. Too many times lately I've heard the phrase, "What is the Union going to do about it?", some how we have forgotten that the Union is all of us, not just the people who've been elected to an office. The real power of the Union is in each and every single one of us! Not to sound like President Kennedy during his inaugural speech, but what he said holds very true for us. In this case "ask not what your Union can do for you, ask what YOU can do for your Union".

We must start looking out for each other before there is nothing left. This is a different company than what we have been used to over the past 60 years. This is a company that does not like Unions. Let us come together and fight for our survival! The battle cry in all Unions everywhere should be "UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL! WE WILL NOT FALL! WE WILL NOT FALL! The Bargaining Committee is getting ready for one arbitration case, we are just selecting a date. Now we find ourselves doing investigation work for another case involving a termination. We have an important WIN in the smoking arbitration. While we could not get members made whole for time not being made up, we did get the win of the company not being able to change conditions of employment without negotiating. We have just over 100 members laid off. This is about 50 on inverse and about 50 on involuntary. REL layoffs are continuing. Recalls are also occurring with a total of 3 more recalled between Overhaul and Assembly. The Hitchcock situation may still have an impact on us for a short period sometime in November. The kitting of parts is not going as well as the company would like and could still have an impact on our Brothers and Sisters in the Material Clerk classification. The committee is trying hard to get the company to find non-traditional work, but the company is very reluctant to cooperate. Any members who have ideas to help ourselves out are more than welcome to bring them forward after all who knows the shop floor better than our members on the front lines! In Solidarity.

### ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETING

Our next meeting will be: November 16, 2005

1:00 PM for Night Shift

5:00 PM for Day Shift

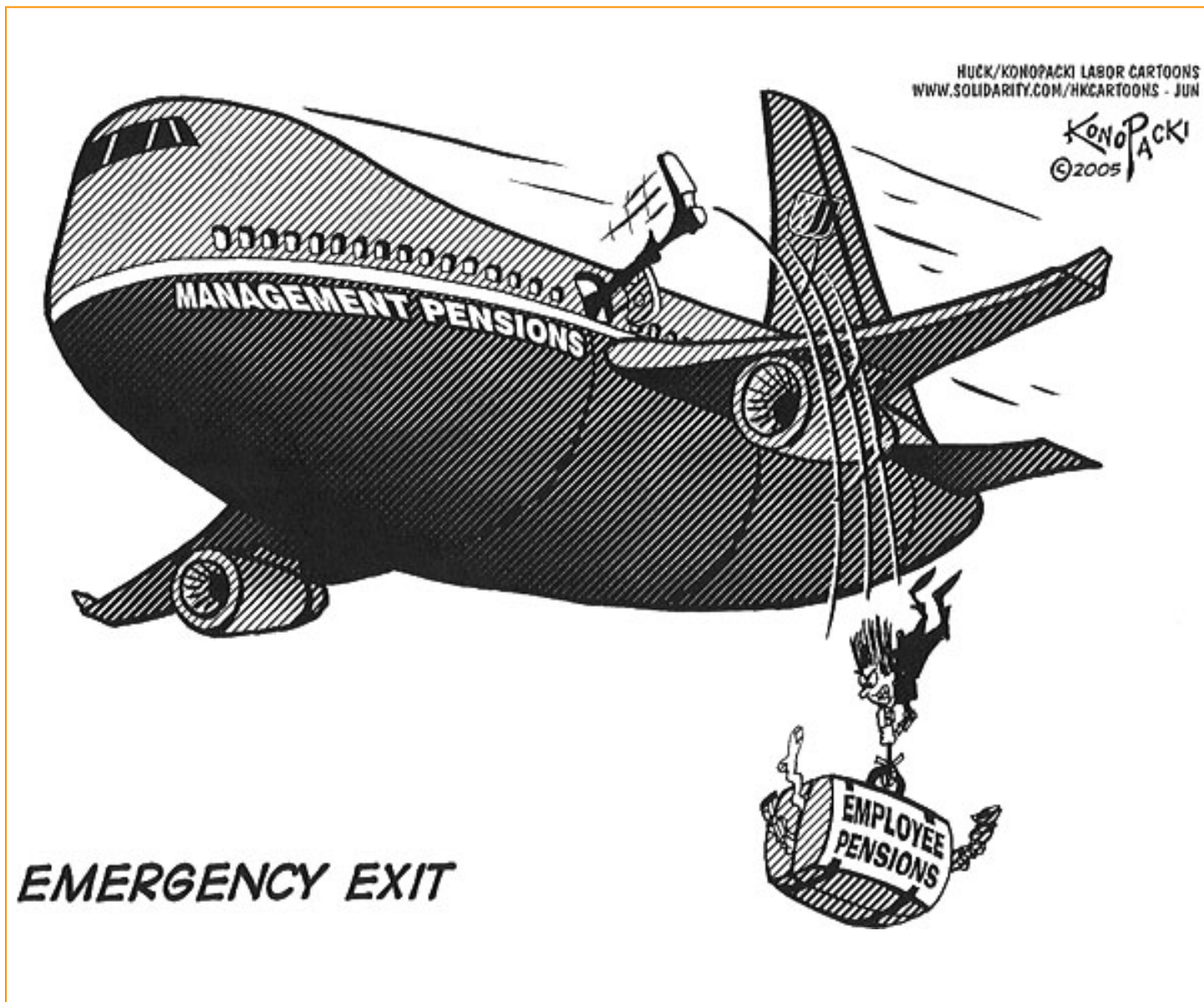
## Consumer Affairs Spotlight

By Mike Petrie

Are you planning to buy or sell real estate? If you are, Local 592 has a member ready to help. Chris Remhof has earned his Illinois real estate license and joined RE/MAX of Rock Valley, the Rockford Area Association of Realtors and the Rockford Multiple Listing Services.

With the impending layoffs facing Sundstrand and Local 592, Chris decided to earn his licenses in the event he was laid off. "I'm a life long resident of Ogle County and member of the Ogle County Board. My knowledge of the area, neighborhoods, zoning, and the fact that I'll make your satisfaction my top priority, are just some of the reasons I hope you'll give me the opportunity to serve you. I can help you buy or sell in Ogle, Stephenson, Boone, and Winnebago counties." Chris's mobile phone number is 973-0181 and e-mail is [chrisremhof@aol.com](mailto:chrisremhof@aol.com).

We wish Chris luck in his new career. If you're member of Local 592 and have a new career or own a business that members can use, let Consumer Affairs Chairman Mike Petrie know about it and you'll be spotlighted in the future. You can contact Mike via e-mail at work or page him on 2nd shift.





Labor Day

2005



Local 592 Tribune

UAW LOCAL 592  
112 North Second Street  
Rockford, IL 61107

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ROCKFORD, IL  
PERMIT NO. 861