



Local 592 Tribune

Dedicated to Working People Everywhere

SEPTEMBER 2010

UAW Local 592
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Local 592

Amalgamated Units

- Unit 1—Hamilton Sundstrand
- Unit 2—MNP Precision Products
- Unit 3—Learning Curve, Inc.

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www.uaw592.com

Rebuild America A Program for Jobs, Justice and Peace

The magnitude of today's job crisis cries out for bold action to put Detroit – and America – back to work. Our country's "jobs deficit" – the number of jobs we need to return to the 5 percent unemployment rate that prevailed before the recession began, factoring in labor force growth – stands at 11.5 million. If we're to return to 5 percent unemployment within 3 years, we need to be creating, on average, nearly 450,000 jobs per month. Returning to a truer "full employment" level of 4 percent unemployment would take even more. So far this year, monthly job growth has averaged just over 90,000. In Detroit, almost 90,000 men and women are officially unemployed, a staggering 24 percent of the workforce. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. Thousands more want to work, but have despaired of finding employment and given up looking. Others are working short hours, or have had to settle for part-time jobs because full-time work was unavailable. Including these discouraged and underutilized workers, a conservative estimate of the real level of unemployment in the city of Detroit would be 157,000. At the same time, America has at least \$2.2 trillion in unmet infrastructure needs, even after the modest \$130 billion in infrastructure spending that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Investing just \$220 billion (a tenth of the need identified by the American Society of Civil Engineers) in renewing and modernizing our nation's infrastructure would increase GDP by \$345 billion and add roughly 1.7 million much-needed jobs nationally. Urban areas have a special stake in infrastructure investment – and any serious program to modernize our country's infrastructure has a special stake in urban areas. Targeting urban areas for major infrastructure investments makes good economic sense. If we are to close our 11.5 million job deficit, job creation must be focused where joblessness is concentrated. More profoundly, the density of population, cultural resources and economic activity within urban areas makes their revitalization key to broader regional growth. Our program to rebuild Detroit and America includes initiatives to help struggling families; investments in our cities, infrastructure, industries and people; guarantee justice for workers; and end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rebuild America by helping struggling families Millions of Americans are hurting right now. When we help them, we're also helping to put the economy back on track. Unemployment checks are quickly recycled as workers spend them on necessities, providing a needed boost in consumer spending. More federal assistance to states and cities will prevent layoffs, cuts in services and tax increases that threaten to further squeeze consumer demand and push the economy back into recession. A moratorium on foreclosures will not only keep families in their homes, it will help stabilize neighborhoods and protect housing values.

- Aid for the unemployed. In July, the Senate finally acted to extend unemployment benefits to jobless workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of state benefits. That extension will run out again at the end of November. In the meantime, the COBRA subsidy that allowed many jobless workers to continue health insurance

PRESIDENTS REPORT

By **Mike Roth**

Unit #1 H.S.

Hamilton Sundstrand Management announced to the Union of their intent to move more Material Clerk to New Breed on July 15, 2010 that would affect 10 bargaining unit jobs. We entered into negotiations with the Company over their decision to move this work per the contract (Art. 19 Sec 19.5(H)). Your Bargaining Committee put in requests for information and was denied some of the information that we had requested on two occasions. We have since filed Labor Board charges with the NLRB because we feel we are entitled to that information and that the Company violated the contract by signing an agreement with New Breed prior to any talks with the Union. We made proposals based on the information that we did receive, that would enhance and maintain the Material Clerk work with-in the Rockford campus. The Company has maintained their position that they are going to outsource this work through out this process, even though that we brought up quality concerns and the advantages of using our Material Clerks to do this work. The Bargaining Committee will now enter into Impact Bargaining with the Company to minimize the impact to affected bargaining Unit employees. Your Bargaining Committee would like to thank the membership for coming forward with ideas and information that helped us during this process. The Company has stated that Material Clerk lay offs will begin some time in the near future, extending through the end of this year. We will keep you informed as we proceed in this process.

Grievances

We have been able to get some of the outstanding grievances resolved, but we do have a number of them that are slated for arbitration. We will

continue working towards a resolution on these grievances prior to arbitration.

Retiree healthcare switch

As of September 1st, the Company started the switch from Unicare, which is leaving Illinois, to UMR. There are NO changes to benefits. The only change is who is administering the claims. If you are experiencing any issues with your healthcare administrative changes, please contact Mike Rourke 815-962-0600 or Carole Krajnak 815-226-6544.

Retiree Banquet

The Retiree Banquet is scheduled for October 9th at the UAW hall. Unfortunately we have had to make changes in how we prepare for the banquet to get an accurate count of how many will be attending. After many discussions as to how we will do this, and the declining membership, we will be asking for \$5.00 per reservation card for those attending the banquet. The money collected will go towards the overall cost of the

banquet.

MNP

On August 25, 2010, the Union filed charges against MNP with the National Labor Relations Board against managements decision to increase your portion of your healthcare premiums. Your Bargaining Committee and Union will vigorously fight to ensure your premiums are not increased and that all increases that you have already paid are returned to you. We are confident in our position and the Labor Board has found enough merit with the charges to issue a case number (33-CA-16803).

The Bargaining Committee would like to thank the membership for the support during these tough times and will keep you informed as we move forward.

In Solidarity,

Mike Roth



coverage for themselves and their families has been allowed to expire. So has the extra \$25/week that unemployed workers were receiving as part of the Recovery Act. With more than five unemployed workers for every job opening, with the average duration of unemployment exceeding 34 weeks, with nearly 6.6 million Americans unemployed for more than six months, and with unemployment expected to remain high into 2011, Congress needs to act promptly to ensure that benefits for the long-term unemployed continue beyond November. The 65 percent COBRA premium subsidy and \$25 increase in weekly benefits should both be restored immediately. Failure to do so is both cruel and economically irresponsible. It's widely recognized by economists that assisting the unemployed is one of the most effective stimulus tools in the federal government's arsenal. According to Mark Zandi of Moody's Economy.com, a dollar spent on unemployment benefits increases GDP by \$1.61.

- **Aid for cities and states.** Cities and states continue to reel from the economic downturn, and their plight is adding to our jobs crisis. State and local governments across the country have eliminated more than 300,000 jobs over the last two years. And the situation is not getting any better: the depressed economy means depressed revenues, leading most states to enact even deeper cuts in fiscal 2011. At a time when more citizens need services, services are being cut; at a time when more jobs are desperately needed, jobs are being cut; and at a time when families are watching every penny, taxes and fees are being raised. The federal government has the power to stop this destructive cycle by extending financial assistance to state and local governments. Recent Congressional action providing \$26 billion for Medicaid and education was helpful, but did not go nearly far enough. The Economic Policy Institute has recommended \$150 billion in federal assistance to state and local governments, estimating that those dollars would save or create between one and 1.4 million jobs.
- **Direct job creation.** With hiring in the private sector weak, and with states and cities cutting their own employment roles, the federal government can and should directly fund the creation of public service jobs, as it has done historically in other periods of high unemployment – most notably, during the Great Depression. The Local Jobs for America Act, introduced by Representative George Miller (D-Calif) would provide \$75 billion over two years to local governments and states, targeting those communities where the need is greatest, for programs to put the unemployed to work on community service projects run by either local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **Moratorium on foreclosures.** Foreclosures are devastating neighborhoods in Detroit and across the country, sending out ripples of pain – from the families who are losing their homes, to neighbors whose property values are plummeting, to entire communities confronting abandonment and blight. According to RealtyTrac, there were 11,889 homes in foreclosure in the city of Detroit in July, and 100,995 across the state of Michigan. Despite \$75 billion in funding for mortgage modifications to assist beleaguered homeowners, financial institutions are dragging their feet. According to the most recent report of the Making Home Affordable Program, out of more than 3 million eligible loans nationally, only 1.3 million have had trial modifications initiated – and a mere 421,804 have a permanent modification in place. In Michigan, through July, only 14,525 homeowners had received a permanent modification of their mortgage loan. Meanwhile, foreclosures mount – another 18,833 were filed in Michigan in July, according to RealtyTrac. To give struggling families a meaningful opportunity to save their homes (and to create a meaningful push for lenders to work with them toward that end), we support legislation (S.B. 29) introduced in the Michigan state legislature to establish a 2-year moratorium on foreclosures.
- **Rebuild America by investing in our cities, infrastructure, industry and people** In the midst of this crisis, we have an opportunity to rebuild our industrial economy on a more just and sustainable basis. Investing in revitalized cities, modern infrastructure, "green" industries and workforce skills is an investment in our country's future.
- **Upgrade and modernize our nation's infrastructure, with special attention to the needs of urban areas.** From the levees that failed to protect the people of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina to the catastrophic bridge collapse in Minneapolis to the time lost each day traveling over congested and potholed freeways, the human and economic cost of neglecting our nation's infrastructure is painfully clear. Repairing our 20th century is a massive undertaking in and of itself – but we need to do even more, and build an infrastructure for the 21st century and beyond. The oil spreading over the Gulf of Mexico this spring and summer dramatized the need to invest in buildings, transportation systems and technologies that will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Investments in infrastructure create jobs directly and immediately, but they also increase our long-term productivity and competitiveness – and, if guided by goals of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, will help us address the challenge of global warming.
- **Retool manufacturing facilities to make the products of the future.** Infrastructure repair and modernization will spur demand for a wide range of manufactured products, from solar panels to rail cars. So will the broader push for greater energy efficiency in our homes, our appliances and our vehicles. At the same time, manufacturing plants stand idle, and skilled manufacturing workers count the weeks until their unemployment benefits end as they search desperately for work. Smart public policies can end this disconnect by providing loans and other incentives to retool and reopen existing manufacturing facilities, and training to qualify workers for the jobs in green industries.

- **Ensure fair trade.** We can't continue to allow an unlevel field to drain jobs out of our country. A global race to the bottom hurts workers in the developed and developing worlds alike.
- **Rebuild America by guaranteeing justice for workers** Our economy is suffering not just from a shortage of jobs, but also a shortage of justice. The two are entwined. When workers' rights are respected and the benefits of rising productivity are shared equitably, economic growth has a solid foundation. When they are not, economic growth is weak and unsustainable. The financial crisis that has so devastated our economy was, at bottom, the result of a lack of justice that led income gains to flow disproportionately to those at the top. There is no better way to reduce poverty, no better way to keep families in their homes, no better way to strengthen our tax base, no better way to ensure that the jobs of the future are good jobs – than through the right to organize and bargain collectively.
- **Rebuild America by ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan** The dollar cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan now exceeds \$1 trillion; the cost in lives is incalculable. Just last month, the U.S. Senate approved an additional \$60 billion in funding for war, after first stripping out \$20 billion in domestic spending that would, among **other** things, have prevented teacher layoffs. The insidious effect of these two wars on our national priorities could not be clearer. It's past time to end them. Can we afford to rebuild America? We can't afford not to. More than three quarters of the increase in the federal budget deficit since the end of 2007 is a direct result of the recession. As employment increases, that gap will close. Even deficit hawks such as David Walker (CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation) agree that job creation must take precedence over balancing the budget in the short term. In the longer term, we can begin to get our fiscal house in order by allowing the Bush-era tax cuts for the rich to expire as scheduled at the end of this year and ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that those two factors – on top of the economic downturn – account for virtually the entire projected federal deficit over the next ten years. New revenue sources – including, for example, a tax on financial transactions – could also be tapped to fund needed investments without squeezing other domestic spending or increasing the long-term deficit. The U.K. has a small tax on stock trades, and it raises nearly 0.3 percent of GDP – the equivalent of \$40 billion in the U.S. Extending the tax to options, futures, credit default swaps and other derivatives could easily double that amount, and would have the added virtue of slowing the breakneck pace of speculation. It's only fitting that Wall Street, after causing so much destruction, should be asked to contribute to the cost of reconstruction.

Article from LUPA web site

Executive Board Contacts

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Cell/Pager</u>	<u>Email</u>
President – Mike Roth	962-0600	978-0309	mike.roth@hs.utc.com
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Sergeant-at-Arms – John Cartwright	226-6961		johnathan.cartwright@hs.utc.com
Guide – Marv Swanson	962-0600		
Retiree's Chairman – Dean Johnson	962-0600		deanoji@sbcglobal.net
Unit 2 Representative – Craig Rice	914-1721		Craig58200@aol.com
Unit 3 Representative – Sandy Chapman			

Annual Retirees Banquet

Retirees and your spouse are cordially invited to the Local 592 Annual Retirees Banquet.

Date: Saturday, October 9, 2010

Time: 5:00 P.M. Social Hour

6:00 P.M. Dinner

Place: UAW Bldg., 112 North 2nd Street

Rockford, IL 61107

Due to declining membership numbers and higher costs, we need to get a more accurate headcount for the banquet. Therefore we will be charging \$5 to reserve a place at the banquet. Please send your reservation RSVP card and \$5 in an envelope by September 25, 2010 to:

UAW Local 592

Retirees Banquet

112 N. 2nd Street

Rockford, IL 61107

MNP ANOUNCEMENTS

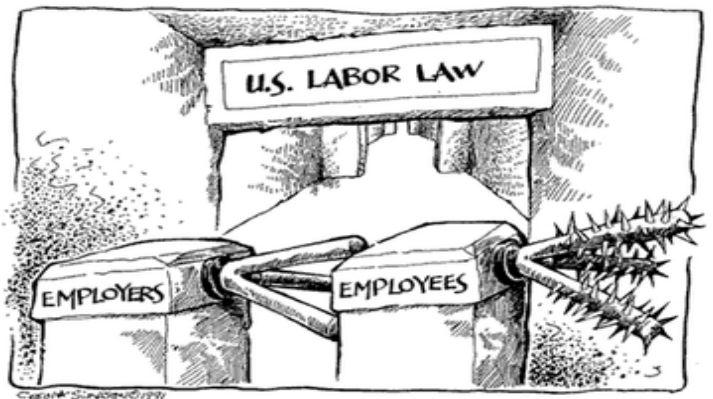
We would like to thank everyone for the support in retaining the UAW as our Bargaining Rep. As of now we have filed a Labor Board Charge about the insurance premiums and a grievance has been filed against management for doing bargaining unit work. As we move forward we will keep you updated. UNITED WE BARGAIN, DIVIDED WE BEG.

In solidarity

Your committeemen



"TODAY'S LESSON..."



Reminder!

A note from the Recording Secretary...

Please remember to notify your union office of any changes of name or address. The number to the union office is **815-962-0600**. If you know of other members who have had a change of address within the last year please remind them to notify the union office as soon as possible.

Fraternally,
Michael Rourke
Local 592 Recording Secretary

" You can lead a man to Congress, but you can't make him think "
- Milton Berle

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