



Local 592 Tribune

Dedicated to Working People Everywhere

February 2009

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.
- Unit 4—Asta Care

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We're on the web!
www.uaw592.com

President's Report

By Mike Roth- UAW Local 592 President

The 2008 election cycle is finally over. Some of the candidates that we endorsed won their respective races while others did not. The most noteworthy election win was that of Barack Obama as President. History was made on November 4th when the first African American was elected to lead this country and I am confident we will be a greater nation because of it. For the first time in eight years we will, on Tuesday, January 20th, have a friend of Labor in the White House. A President who is willing to embrace Unions, who understands our issues, and who is prepared to do the right thing by empowering Labor through proactive legislation and making appropriate executive appointments.

For those of you who helped during the election cycle I would like to extend a hand of gratitude. Even though we did not win every race we targeted our Local is better off because of your efforts. I would especially like to thank our CAP Chair, Julie Leindecker, for all the extra hours that she dedicated to the election efforts for

without her we would not have been able to communicate as effectively in the Plants as we did.

Unfortunately, one race that did not go our way was the race between Don Manzullo and Bob Abboud. We felt that we Mr. Abboud was a strong candidate who also had our local union's interests at heart but he unfortunately fell short. Congressman Manzullo has proven time and time again that his interests lie outside those of the working men and women of Illinois' 16th Congressional District and we will regrettably be saddled with his poor judgment and misguided policies for another two years. I would like to thank our CAP Co-Chair, Tim Mills, who volunteered many hours to Bob Abboud's election effort. The time to begin planning for the next election cycle against Congressman Manzullo begins today.

ON LAYOFF...

Currently there is 80 members on layoff. Let's all work to get these members back to work.

Changes in the Local

As of Jan. 5th, Ted Dever has accepted the position of International Servicing

Representative for Region 4. reporting to Director Dennis Williams. Ted will be replacing Mike Krumholz as Local 592's Servicing Rep. Mike Krumholz will now be a Servicing Rep. in Iowa. Our best wishes go out to Mike Krumholz, it has been a pleasure working with you these past couple of years.

With all the hard work and dedication that Ted has put forth it is no surprise to anyone, that he was asked to be a Servicing Rep. for Region 4. We are all proud of Ted's accomplishments and look forward to working with him in his new role. We know you will do a great job. **Congratulations & Thank you!!**

I (Mike Roth) will be assuming the role of President and a special membership meeting will be forth coming to have nominations for Vice President. If any member that holds an Executive Board Office wants to run for Vice Pres., they must notify the Local of their resignation in advance of the nomination meeting per Art.38 section 16 of the Constitution.

In Solidarity,
Mike Roth

IAM Machinists Approve New Boeing Contract by 74%; 57-Day Strike Ends

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) announced Sunday, November 1, 2008 that its members voted to ratify a new 4-year contract with the Boeing Company by 74 percent.

The new agreement covers 27,000 IAM members at Boeing facilities in Washington, Oregon, Kansas and California, and ends a strike that began on September 6, 2008.

Machinists will begin returning to work as early as November 2 (for third shift employees) and November 3 for first and second shift employees. Per the Settlement Agreement, members have until the beginning of their shift on Monday, November 10 to return to work.

"Our Union has delivered what few Americans have - economic certainty and quality benefits for the next four years. Each of you stood up and did your part to win this battle," said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski. "Your solidarity brought Boeing back to the table and made this Company address your issues. After 57 days of striking, we have gained important and substantial improvements over the Company's offer that was rejected on September 3. I am proud to be a member of the Machinists Union and want to thank our members for their solidarity and commitment."

"This contract gives the workers at

Boeing an opportunity to share in the extraordinary success this Company has achieved over the past several years," said Aerospace Coordinator Mark Blondin. "It also recognizes the need to act with foresight to protect the next generation of aerospace jobs. These members helped make Boeing the company it is today, and they have every right to be a part of its future."

Among the many job security gains, the Union reasserted its jurisdiction over the scope of work of bargaining unit represented jobs that was lost in the 2002 contract. The Union members' share of medical costs will remain unchanged from 2002 through 2012. In addition to the many monetary gains achieved in the new contract, the takeaway language that was riddled throughout the Company's 9/3/08 proposal was withdrawn - retiree medical is preserved, survivor benefits are returned, reinstatement of seniority lost due to lay-off is returned, promotional rights restored and the list goes on.

As part of the Settlement Agreement, the Union negotiated insurance and benefits will be considered continuous for all returning employees and their dependents. The Company will return all insurance premiums that were paid during the strike and all valid insurance claims will be paid.

The union has said the contract pro-

pects more than 5,000 factory jobs, prevents the outsourcing of certain positions and preserves health care benefits. It also promises pay increases over four years rather than three, as outlined in earlier offers.

The union members, including electricians, painters, mechanics and other production workers, have lost an average of about \$7,000 in base pay since the strike began. They had rejected earlier proposals by the company, headquartered in Chicago.

The work stoppage cost the company an estimated \$100 million per day in deferred revenue and postponed delivery of its long-awaited 787 jetliner, which has already been delayed three times.

As the Machinists strike wore on, Boeing began talks with another union, the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), in hopes of avoiding a second strike by 21,000 scientists, engineers, manual writers, technicians and other hourly workers.

Boeing officials and representatives of SPEEA, which struck for 40 days in 2000, moved into the final phase of contract talks Wednesday. The union's current contracts expire Dec. 1, 2008.

Negotiators at a hotel outside Seattle say they hope to present a proposal to SPEEA's membership by mid-November.

To read more on this story visit:

<http://www.iam751.org/>

Walter P. Reuther - "No Greater Calling"

The Life of Walter Reuther

The first in a two part series...By Thomas Featherstone

Walter Reuther is often remembered as the most accomplished leader in the history of the American labor movement. A man of character, resolve and boundless energy, he sought to level the playing field for American workers. Through his efforts, millions of working families continue to enjoy a more secure future.

Reuther was ambitious, but took pride in being the nation's lowest-paid union president. As head of the United Automobile Workers (UAW) from 1946 to 1970, he held enormous economic power, but used it to better the lives of the union rank and file. As an advisor to four American presidents Reuther had political influence, but applied it on behalf of the disadvantaged. He spoke and lived his guiding philosophy: "There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to do it well."

To effectively "organize the unorganized," Walter Reuther worked to combine several small Detroit local unions into the Westside Local 174. He became president of the large local, and at the UAW's 1936 convention, he was elected to the un-

ion's executive board.

Success came rapidly to the UAW in 1937. General Motors and Chrysler recognized the union after sit-down strikes crippled their production. Henry Ford's intractable resistance dashed all hopes of the third automobile giant quickly recognizing the UAW. Reuther would soon discover



"Battle of the Overpass" - May 26, 1937 photo at Ford Motor Company Rouge plant; (left to right) Robert Kanter, Walter Reuther, Richard Frankenstein, J.J. Kennedy just before the confrontation with Ford security staff.

the extent of Ford's anti-union tactics.

On May 26, 1937, Walter Reuther and other UAW organizers passed out leaflets at a pedestrian overpass next to the Ford Rouge factory complex in Dearborn, Michigan. What followed, now known as the "Battle of the Overpass," began when members of Ford's private police organization, euphemistically called the Service Department, attacked the

UAW group. "After they kicked me down all the stairs," Reuther recalled shortly after the battle, "they then started to hit me again...driving me before them." The incident was a public relations disaster for Henry Ford, but he continued to resist the UAW until April 1941, when a massive strike shut down the Ford Motor Company.

In 1939 Reuther was appointed the head of the General Motors department by UAW President R. J. Thomas. When General Motors stalled negotiations for a new union contract, Reuther called for a June strike, but only by tool-and-die workers. This tactic halted the all-important retooling for the 1940 model year.

Faced with a production shutdown, General Motors agreed to a new contract.

Just before World War II, with almost half of the nation's auto-manufacturing capacity idle, Reuther received national attention for his plan to use factories in Michigan and elsewhere to build five hundred military aircraft a day. Although technically feasible, the plan was never implemented be-

(Continued on page 4)

Walter P. Reuther - "No Greater Calling" (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

cause automakers resisted what they considered an attempt to dictate their production. However, during the war the industry did produce aircraft, tanks and other war material in unprecedented amounts.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was impressed by Reuther's aircraft proposal, which complemented his Arsenal of Democracy programs. Reuther gained a reputation for creative ideas and Roosevelt frequently consulted with his "young red-headed engineer" on wartime production problems. Reuther turned down an appointment with the high-profile War Productions Board to stay with the labor movement.

Walter Reuther was recognized as a labor leader of national stature when he led a strike against General Motors at the end of 1945. Autoworkers



Walter P. Reuther, UAW President from 1946 to 1970

had seen their buying power erode during the war and Reuther demanded a 30 percent pay increase. He claimed GM could grant the pay hike without increasing car prices and challenged the corporation to open its books to prove it. The UAW and GM reached a compromise without opening the corporation's books,

but Reuther often returned to the theme that automakers had obligations beyond making money for their stockholders. They also had a duty to their employees and, ultimately, the American public.

In Remembrance

Active:

Noel C. Gustafson 04-22-08

Souri Vannavong 03-16-08

Kerry D. Verastek 03-29-08

Scott A. Wilcoxon 02-25-08

Retiree:

David E. Burk 05-07-08

Michael A. Cascio 12-22-08

Jerry L. Dailing 08-21-08

Richard W. Daughenbaugh 08-18-08

Bernard A. Durman Sr. 11-12-08

Warclaw Grzebien 02-18-08

Emil P. Hagberg 07-21-08

Fredrick J. Hansen 04-02-08

Donald E. Heisler

Crotee Leach 10-15-08

I Jay Lewis 10-15-08

Mariano J. Musso 05-05-08

Earl L. Remmers 12-30-08

Joe Renteria 07-19-08

Edith Seymour 02-2008

Charles L. Smith 05-08-08

Henry R. Smith 09-15-08

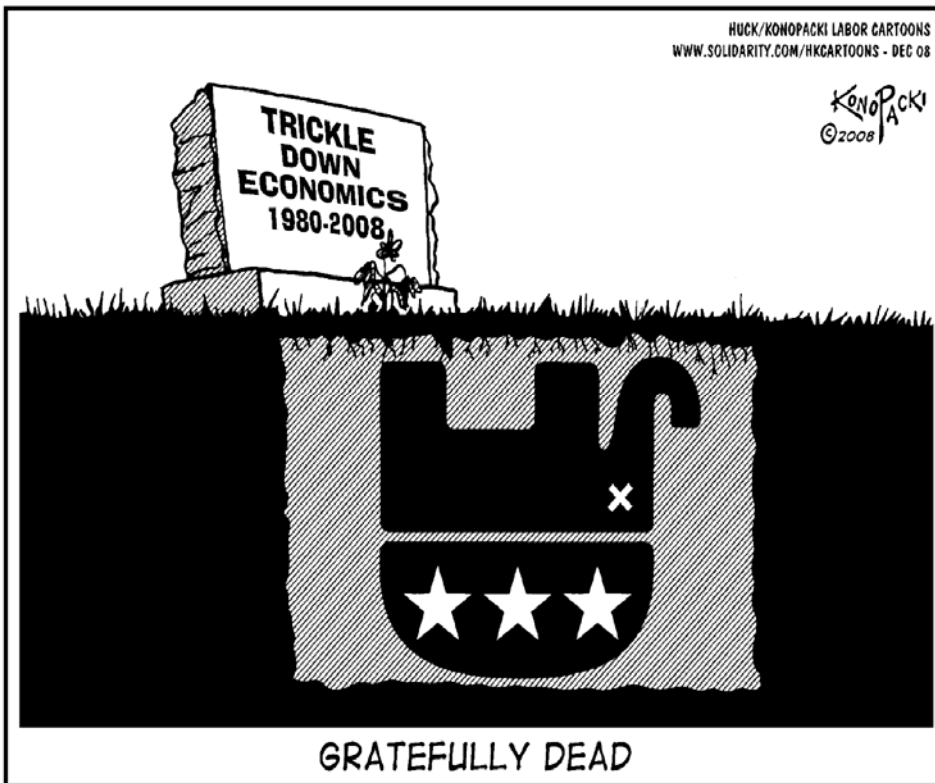
Harry A. Strom 01-2008

Doris Wenger 01-12-08

Melvie A. White 03-11-08

Gilbert Wierschke 07-16-08

Eugene W. Zweep 03-28-08



CAP NEWS

Elections

I want to thank all retirees and active members who participated in election activities throughout the campaign season and on Election Day! UAW endorsed candidates picked up some key seats during the 2008 Elections. The race for President of the United States saw an unprecedented number of individuals voting for the first time. History was made when Barack Obama, an African-American, was named the 44th President of the United States. President Obama promises transparency in Government and accountability. He also encourages and inspires each of us as individuals to take responsibility not only for ourselves but for our neighbors and communities by getting involved with charitable causes.

2008 Federal Election Winners (UAW Endorsed)

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

BARACK OBAMA

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

JOSEPH BIDEN

IL United States Senate

Dick Durbin

WI United States Congress

Tammy Baldwin

2008 State of IL Election Winners (UAW Endorsed)

IL State Representative

Chuck Jefferson – 67th district

Jack Franks – 63rd district

2008 State of WI Election Winners (UAW Endorsed)

WI State Assembly

Andy Jorgenson – 37th district

Kim Hixon – 43rd district

Mike Sheridan – 44th district

Chuck Benedict – 45th district

Joe Parisi – 48th district

Winnebago County Election Winners (UAW Endorsed)

Winnebago County States Atty

Joe Bruscato

Winnebago County Auditor

Bill Crowley

Winnebago County Board

Dave Tassoni – 7th district

17th Judicial District

Rosemary Collins

Gwen Gulley – sub district 1

Boone County Election Winners (UAW Endorsed)

Boone County States Atty.

Michelle Courier

Food Drive

Thanks to everyone who donated non-perishable items and/or money for the food drive the CAP Committee sponsored for the River Valley Food Pantry. Special thanks to Rick Ward for helping load and deliver the items collected.

Spring Elections

Primary elections for city, township, and municipalities will be February 24th, 2009. The general election will be held on April 7th. A list of party candidates was listed in the Rockford Register Star on December 16th, 2008.

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

“There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well.”

By Walter Reuther



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Tribune**

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