



Local 592 Tribune

Dedicated to Working People Everywhere

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www.uaw592.com

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President Dever Looks to Pro-Labor Candidates in 2008

There still seems to be some confusion about when a Hamilton Sundstrand UAW employee must retire in order to keep retiree insurance. As long as you retire from H/S on or before December 31st 2007 and make your healthcare election within thirty days of retirement, you will be eligible for retiree healthcare. The mix-up likely stems from our pension administrator Towers Perrin giving out bad information. They have told some people that they must retire on or before November 30th in order to keep retiree healthcare. At the request of the union, Hamilton Sundstrand management notified Towers Perrin of their error.

I recently attended a President's meeting chaired by our Regional Director Dennis Williams at the Pat Greathouse Education Center in Ottawa, IL. Congressman Phil Hare (D IL-17) and UAW Vice President Terry Thurman spoke to the group. Con-

more union members in the United States.

About twenty-five Local 592 members made the trip to the annual Fall Conference in Ottawa where presidential candidate, Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) was the keynote



Mae Paden is all smiles as candidate Barack Obama autographs her shirt

speaker. One of the main topics of his speech was the need to fix our healthcare system. He relayed his own personal story about sitting by his mother's bedside while she battled ovarian cancer. According to the Senator, what bothered him most was that his mom was unable to reflect on her life during her last few days because she had to worry about healthcare bills. Her healthcare provider had corresponded with her, stating that they may not cover

her bills, because the cancer may have been a pre-existing condition from a previous employer. After his address, Senator Obama stayed at the conference long enough to mingle with the crowd of over five hundred UAW members.

We have recently settled two pending arbitrations with the company to the Union's satisfaction. Unfortunately, we still have three terminations and a Kelliher overtime violation in various steps of the grievance procedure. It appears that the company's tactic is to deny all grievances until

gressman Hare mentioned the recent mining accidents and stressed the need for enforceable workplace safety regulations that hold employers accountable for negligence. Vice-President Thurman explained the importance of organizing and the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), otherwise known as "card check." According to various studies, the majority of workers in the United States would prefer to belong to a union in their workplace. The studies suggested that if every worker who wanted to join a union could do so, free from management interference, there would be as many as fifty-seven million

What's Inside:

"Joined at the Hip"
Page 2

Knocking on Doors
Page 3

Presidential Forum
Page 4

they are appealed to arbitration to determine how serious the Union is about each particular grievance. Eventually they will learn we do not file frivolous grievances.

The membership spoke loud and clear that if the VPP flag was going to fly in front of Hamilton Sundstrand then the UAW flag should fly with it. They are a matched set. The company benefited from participating in VPP because OSHA would remove them from the annual programmed inspection list, and would not issue citations for safety violations as long as the violation was promptly corrected. Regrettably, Hamilton Sundstrand management chose to withdraw from the benefits of

OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) rather than publicly recognize the partnership between the two parties in the VPP.

The membership approved sending two delegates to Leadership Training at the Walter and May Reuther Family Education Center in Black Lake, MI. The first training session is for new or newly active members and runs from Sunday, November 11, 2007, through Friday, November 16, 2007. The second session runs from Sunday, February 17, 2008, through Friday, February 22, 2008, and is for members who are interested in becoming more active within the local union. Anyone who wants to attend should contact the

Bargaining Committee as soon as possible. The education and experience that you will receive at Black Lake is second to none.

Following the UAW CAP Conference in November, we will distribute ballots listing the names of the presidential candidates. We will ask you to "vote" for whom you believe the UAW should endorse for president. The ballots will then be counted and sent to our Regional Director, Dennis Williams, with our Local's recommendation for endorsement

In Solidarity,
Ted Dever, President
UAW Local 592

Critics Say Manzullo, Bush "Joined at the Hip" with SCHIP

In a recent communiqué, 16th Congressional District Representative Don Manzullo (R - Egan) indicated his

age for more children than the original law, passed with majority support coming from both sides of the aisle in

Rival candidate Bob Abboud (D), a nuclear engineer and the mayor of Barrington Hills, "is strongly in favor of



Congressional candidate Bob Abboud chats with workers at Boone County Fair

Congress's passing bipartisan bills like this," explained Abboud campaign spokesperson Steve Temkin. Abboud is running to unseat Manzullo in 2008.

"Bob's unhappy with the president's veto and our congressman being joined at the hip to the administration on this," added Temkin.

At press time, a bipartisan compromise version of the bill intended to

objection to H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, or SCHIP. The bill, which would provide healthcare cover-

the U.S. House of Representatives. Manzullo voted "No" on H.R. 976 and "No" to override George Bush's presidential veto.

garner sufficient "Yes" votes is under consideration. However, observers on Capitol Hill are doubtful that Bush would sign it into law.

Knocking on Doors for the Union

By Tim Mills

During the week of September 10, Bonnie Cannegieter, Jeff Rice and I joined an organizing campaign at the Isle of Capri casino in Waterloo, Iowa. A clear majority of the over five hundred workers, who perform a wide variety of jobs, from dealing cards in the gaming area to housekeeping in the hotel, had signed cards indicating they wanted to form a union of their own. Our assignment was to make house calls and organize an even bigger majority, so that the employer would recognize the casino workers' union and bargain in good faith.

Despite what corporate pundits say, union organizing is not salesmanship. It involves listening to people's genuine concerns about the workplace and offering a way to address them. The seasoned organizer has honed this "all-ears" approach into a craft.

"You can use these same listening skills to strengthen your home local," added Jeff.

Picture yourself greeting a worker ("Hi. I'm Tim Mills and I'm in the UAW...") at the door, who probably doesn't know you, and then asking permission to enter the residence, so you can have a chat about what's going on at her/his workplace. Most people want to keep their jobs, so imagine how you might respond to a stranger who calls on you at home and wants to talk about where you work.

Bonnie and Jeff recounted what it was like driving around in unfamiliar surroundings and meeting new people:

"It was fun and exciting going around in a new area. A couple stops were a little scary, because you didn't know how they were going to react. It teaches you how to think on your feet," explained Bonnie.

"I don't have a problem with that. I enjoy it," said Jeff.

"Sometimes you can drive straight to the place and other times it's a little more difficult, but either way I like the challenge. To quote Forrest Gump, it's [meeting new people] like a box of chocolates – you never know who or what you're going to get," he chuckled.



Jeff and Bonnie

Once you're inside, don't forget to listen to the worker for clues about what's important on the job. If she/he shares with you a noteworthy incident, you should ask how the boss handled it. It's your mission to help the worker relive that moment when she/he interacts with supervision to resolve the situation: ("What did you do? What did the boss do?")

You discuss what a satisfactory outcome to the given issue might look like and how workers can win the opportunity to implement changes on the job through union representation. You explain that a union is truly of their own making. In addition, you warn her/him that management will falsely portray the union as "a bunch of outsiders" or a "third party."

"I would also say to the worker that the company will make the bogus claim that the 'outsider' only wants your dues. But most of the dues money

stays with your local union," said Jeff.

It's not always rates of pay that tip the scales in favor of a union. It could be mismanagement that makes for lousy working conditions:

"I've never been much for unions, but they're [management] driving this place into the ground! They hire hundreds of new people one week and next week they're hiring again to replace the ones who already quit," said one restaurant worker as he signed a card.

Even though you point out that co-workers have already chosen to sign union cards, she/he may be still undecided. What comes next?

I had reached that point in a visit when I asked a housekeeper if it was true that hotel bosses were shorting them ½ hour's pay each day by making them work through an unpaid thirty minute break. She jumped on that subject instantly, complaining that her supervisor had promised to quit stalling the break times, but never kept his word.

"What's it like, when he looks at you straight in the face and says he will fix the problem?" I asked.

"It's like he thinks he can lie and get away with it, because he doesn't respect me," she replied.

Jeff and Bonnie described that high point when the worker decides to sign a union card or to continue going-it-alone with the boss.

"[When they sign] it feels very gratifying because you've helped this worker help themselves," said Jeff.

"When they don't sign, you want

to change their minds, but you don't argue," asserted Bonnie.

What did Bonnie and Jeff gain from the organizing experience?

"We need to get into it more," said Bonnie.

"The full-time organizers make a big sacrifice being away from home and getting people involved. But the whole point is to get stronger. There's power in numbers," she insisted.

"It's hard work and long hours," stated Jeff.

"However, when you have a successful campaign, you get a very good feeling knowing that you have given them the tools to improve not only their workplace but their lives."

My Take on the Presidential Forum

AFL/CIO Presidential Forum

August 12, 2008

Soldier Field

Chicago, IL

By Julie Leindecker

First of all, I'd like to thank Ted Dever for getting the tickets for the Presidential Forum and Bonnie Cannegieter for agreeing to go with me.

The UAW has not endorsed a specific presidential candidate. The following is simply my view on the Presidential Forum. I will discuss the format, a few of the questions and answers I felt were relevant, the media spin, and which candidates I believe made the greatest impression.

Thanks to a fellow UAW member from New York, we got great seats directly on the field. Keith Oberman (the mediator) sat facing the candidates. He did a great job of mediating and put everyone at ease with his sense of humor.

There was a lot of energy throughout the crowd and everyone seemed to be longing for some real answers to the crises facing our nation. Questionnaires were sent to all presidential candidates – Republican and Democrat – but only Democrats participated. Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd, John Edwards, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden and Dennis Kucinich participated in the forum.

Questions were submitted online and voted on by union members. Keith Oberman posed the questions to the candidates during the first half of the forum. The second half consisted of questions presented by pre-selected audience members.

One man, walking with the aid of arm braces, said he was forced into retirement from a steel company in Chicago due to illness. Two years after he retired, the company closed its doors. One third of his pension and healthcare to cover him and his wife were gone. There was not a dry eye in the house as his voice crackled, telling how he had to sit across from his loyal wife of over thirty years and explain to her that he could not pay for her healthcare.

His question involved protecting employee pensions. John Edwards said he would push for laws protecting pensions and universal healthcare would also benefit former employees facing these issues. Hillary Clinton said she would stop companies from filing bankruptcies to get rid of pensions.

A question posed to all candidates by Oberman was "China – Adversary or Ally?" While no candidate used either word to describe the situation with China, the answers were consistent with enforcing workers rights, stopping currency manipulation, and to stop borrowing money from China to bail us out. John Edwards added that he wants to enforce com-

plete labeling on products so consumers will know that the products they're purchasing were manufactured in China.

The very best line of the entire forum was given by Dennis Kucinich in response to this question. He said "growing up, we were told that if we dig a hole deep enough, we'll reach China... we're there!"

NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) was also addressed at the forum. Again, with the exception of Dennis Kucinich, most candidates stated that NAFTA has not been implemented in the fashion that is written. Barack Obama said he would get rid of corporate lobbyists and involve union members in fixing the agreement. He also said we need to convince families to buy American-made products. Dennis Kucinich said in his first week in office, he would call the Canadian Prime Minister, the Mexican President, and the WTO and tell them that America is withdrawing from NAFTA and the WTO. This, of course, drew enormous applause from the audience!

Lobbyist money was also discussed by the candidates. This was mainly an exchange between Obama, Clinton, and Edwards. Edwards denounced using lobby money during a campaign and called for all candidates to stop accepting lobbyist money. Clinton, who uses lobbyist funds for her campaign, stated that her record has shown that lobby money does not

effect her voting. Obama and Edwards have both announced that they will not use lobbyists' money. Edwards compared a trial lawyer to a lobbyist. He said they are very similar in that a lawyer presents his case to the jury, as does a lobbyist to a politician. They both hope in the end that the jury or politician will agree and back them up. But, if that lawyer takes a handful of money and hands it to the jury, it's bribery; if a lobbyist takes a handful of money and hands it to a politician, it's

politics.

The media, namely MSNBC, made a big deal out of Clinton's words, "I'm your girl!" This statement actually had very little impact on the forum. Clinton got a few cheers with that statement but was booed at one point in the forum for going off subject. If I had to pick which candidate came out in front based on the questions asked in this forum, I would have to say Edwards and Kucinich were pretty evenly

matched, with Obama a close second.

I urge members to look at each of the candidates' websites and read about their stand on ALL of the issues. Please do not count on media outlets for your information. Although the media is supposed to be neutral and unbiased, that simply is not always the case. It's very important to our future to make sure we vote for the best-rounded candidate with the greatest ideas for change.



“...UNION SOLIDARITY WON IN 37, It Will Win in 2008”



HOW CONCESSIONS WORK



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