

FIRST LOCAL NEWS

Published by United Auto Workers Local 249—Kansas City, Missouri

April 2018

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shutdown
announced | P9

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Protect
your pay,
vote NO on
Proposition A
| P10



International Union United Auto,
Aerospace and Agricultural Workers Local 249
8040 NE 69 Highway
Pleasant Valley, MO 64068



UAW Local 249 Women's Committee sponsored the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kids hunted for Easter eggs, played games and took photos with the Easter bunny. Photo by Don Lehman.

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The Ford Transit Van makes a great showing at the 2018 Kansas City Auto Show. Photo by Don Lehman.



The F-series, America's best selling truck for 40 consecutive years, is shown at the 2018 Kansas City Auto Show. Photo by Don Lehman.



UAW Local 249 Recording Secretary Shirley Mata spoke at the Heartland Alliance for Progress meeting about Lauren Arthur's kick off at the union hall for her special election race June 5 for the state senate 17th district seat. It's important to get a working class politician elected to this seat.

First Local News

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1st Vice President Tony Renfro
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Bargaining Committee Steve Chorbak, Jim Fisher, and Travis Ramsey
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Parts Depot Bargaining Chair Dave Rogers
Nurse's Bargaining Chair Cathy Koogler
Team Solutions Bargaining Chair David Norris
Retiree Representative Larry Rupp

The Regular Membership Meeting of United Automobile Workers Amalgamated Local Union 249 is held on the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the local union hall, 8040 NE 69 Highway, Pleasant Valley, Mo. The Executive Board Meeting is held at 1:00 p.m. prior to the Regular Membership Meeting.

UAW-Ford Joint Programs

Apprentice Training

Cortez Bradley 816-459-2060

Benefits

Steve Hibbs, Derron Joyner and Jason Hartman 816-454-6333

Employee Involvement

Chad Troncin 816-459-1372
Darroyce Thornton 816-459-1490

Employee Support Services

Kenny Alexander 816-459-1226

Health and Safety

Ed Samborski 816-459-1210
Terry Tharp 816-459-1407
Ulysses Bales 816-459-1605
Joe Camper 816-459-5559
Dave Sambol 816-459-1223

Quality

John Lowe and Jeff Wright 816-459-1232
Dealer Rep. Danny Mata

Helpful Numbers

Quality Hotline 1-866-723-3937
Employee Health Services 816-459-1226
National Employee Service Center 1-800-248-4444
Blue Care 816-395-2700
Blue Cross PPO 1-800-482-5146
Preferred Care Blue PPO 816-395-3193
Child Care Referrals 866-327-7952
UNICARE Life Insurance 1-800-843-8184
UNICARE Medical/Disability Leave Claims 1-877-475-9652
Delta Dental (Active) 844-223-8520
Delta Dental (Retired) 800-524-0149
United Concordia Dental Plan 1-800-937-6432
Ford A,X,& Z Plan 1-800-348-7709
www.fordvehicleprograms.com
UAW-Ford Legal Services 800-482-7700
UAW-Ford TESPHE 1-800-248-4444

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UAW & International Women's Day

By UAW Vice President Cindy Estrada

As we commemorate International Women's Day, working women around the world face sexual violence and harassment. They may be targeted in the workplace, on the street, or at home.

Wherever the violence occurs, sexual assault is a human rights issue and it's a union issue, impacting the health, safety, dignity, and humanity of the (usually) female target and her male aggressor.

Gender-based violence is one of the most prevalent and tolerated human rights violations in the world. More than 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence or both, and between 40 and 50 percent of women experience unwanted sexual advances, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at work.

Violence against women is still one of the most under-reported and destructive problems of today's workplace. It destroys lives and livelihoods. It damages workers and their families. It harms the reputation of businesses and it costs the economy billions of dollars.

As mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, and spouses who have daughters, sons, nieces and nephews, we union members know that sexual violence and harassment are issues that unions must keep fighting every day.

For decades, the UAW has taken a strong stand against sex discrimination.

The union demanded equal treatment for women in its collective bargaining agreements long before it was legally required and rolled out a comprehensive member training program soon after sexual harassment was established as a form of sex discrimination in the early 1980s.

Because unions are made up of

people from the general population, our worksites have the same discrimination problems as society at large. That dynamic means our responsibility to fight sexual violence in all its forms is ongoing and requires us to find new tactics to address the problem in a meaningful way.

That's why the UAW is proud to join the global campaign "Not in my union, not in my workplace" and work with hundreds of other international unions to help end gender-based violence at work and beyond.

Coordinated by the global union federation IndustriALL, the campaign urges UAW members and members of other IndustriALL affiliates to pledge to help stop violence against women.

The need to address gender violence and harassment is urgent and the pledge is clear. To move one step forward toward our goal of violence- and harassment-free workplaces and spaces, we join IndustriALL affiliates around the world:

To take a public stand against all forms of violence and harassment against women and to condemn all attitudes and actions that perpetuate sexism and violence.

To take up the issue as a priority in our union and to allocate the necessary resources for activities aimed at preventing and combatting this violation of women's rights.

To foster a culture of respect for women within our union by raising the awareness of our members, staff and officials and providing education on the importance of eradicating violence and harassment in the workplace and in our union.

Labor News From the World Wide Web

The Picket Line

Missouri House votes to repeal of prevailing wage law

The Republican-controlled Missouri House narrowly endorsed a plan March 6 to repeal the state's prevailing wage laws.

In a move that could again set up a Democrat-led filibuster in the Senate, the House gave preliminary approval on an 86-63 vote to jettison the guidelines that set how much workers earn on public construction projects.

Prevailing wage laws are designed to ensure that public sector construction jobs are bid based on equipment, materials and overall project management, rather than on the wages of the employees.

Under the House version, bidders on public works projects like schools, roads and county jails would have to pay employees state or federal minimum wage, whichever is higher. — *St. Louis Post Dispatch*

Without reform, lobbyist gifts keep rising

The numbers are in, and 2017 was the worst year on record for lobbyist gifts. Last year, lobbyists reported giving \$1,067,143.50 in gifts to Missouri legislators.

This means, the average total amount of gifts given by lobbyists since 2004 rises to \$880,000. That's almost a million dollars every year in free booze, expensive dinners, and fancy vacations.

But the worst part – we still don't know who really took most of the gifts given due to a major loophole allowing lobbyists to report their gifts to 'groups' or 'committees.'

The Clean Missouri Initiative is taking desperately needed legislative reform measure directly to voters to make our state government more transparent, limit the power of big money in our legislature, and ensure we're able to hold legislators accountable when they fail to act in the public interest. — *Clean Missouri Initiative*

Right-to-work vote is coming in Missouri

A long-running effort to tighten regulations on Missouri labor unions will come to a head this year with a statewide vote so heated that even its election date could be swept up in party politics.

The monumental vote has drawn huge fundraising totals, including dark money donations, and Republicans may move up the election to give right-to-work proponents an advantage. A Republican-sponsored bill in the Missouri General Assembly would move the vote from the November general election to the August primary, a date thought to have strong Republican turnout likely to approve right to work. — *Allison Kite, The Kansas City Star*

UAW Takes Action to Support Incarcerated Korean Trade Unionists

A UAW representative recently returned from a trip to South Korea to try to secure the release of two key labor leaders jailed for their union activity. Since December 2015, Han Sang-gyun, who was president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, has been imprisoned for representing his members. And last December, KCTU General Secretary Lee Young-joo also was arrested after a 10-day hunger strike and two years of house arrest. There are other trade unionists who are charged or incarcerated as well.—*AFL-CIO blog*

SIT-DOWN

The Story of the First Ford Sit-Down Strike

By Pat Hayes

Friday, April 2, 1937 was a warm day in Kansas City. Winter was losing its grip. There was a hint of spring in the air. Workers at the Ford Motor Winchester Ave. plant in Kansas City were tired. They'd built 538 vehicles a day that week. The men were looking forward to a weekend with their families away from the hard, dirty work of auto assembly and the relentless production pressure imposed by their bosses.

At 3:15 p.m. as men lined up at the time clock to punch out, foremen started pulling workers aside and telling them to turn in their company badges. They wouldn't be needed the following week, they were told. Production at Winchester Ave. was being cut back by 17 percent to 450 units a day according to plant manager H.C. Doss.

From his annual retreat to the Ford Plantation, a 70,000-acre estate near Savannah, Georgia, Henry Ford told reporters he was cutting production because he didn't want to take unfair advantage of rival automaker Chrysler whose production had been crippled by a sit-down strike.

The sit-down at Chrysler by some 6,000 workers began the previous month on March 8, 1937. It followed closely on the heels of the historic Flint sit-down strike which led to the first UAW contract at one of the Detroit

giants. The Chrysler sit-down simultaneously closed nine plants, including Dodge Main, Plymouth Assembly, DeSoto, Dodge Truck, Chrysler Jefferson Avenue, and Chrysler Highland Park.

Despite what Henry Ford and H.C. Doss said publicly, Ford workers gathered around the time clock that day noticed that the vast majority of those being laid off – as much as 90 percent by some estimates – were union men. In past seasonal layoffs, workers had been let go by seniority with the last hired being sent to the street first. Many of those being told to turn in their badges that day had worked at the plant longer than those told to return the following Monday. Some had worked at the Winchester Ave. plant for as long as 24 years according to the workers, while those being retained "had been employed only from three to six months."

The workers rejected the company's claim that the layoffs were nothing more than a cut in production. Ford's ill-advised, poorly timed company attack on the budding organizing drive at the plant, designed to kill the union before it got its feet on the ground, instead sparked the first sit-down strike at a Ford Motor Co. plant anywhere in the country.

Local 249 had been chartered by the UAW just weeks earlier on Jan. 15. Trying to avoid reprisals by Harry Bennett's notorious Ford Service Dept. thugs, the union was still meeting in secret and hadn't come out in the open yet. An official election of union officers hadn't yet taken place, but organizers had elected an executive committee of 18 men made up of three representatives each from the six plant departments. They were led by Baron DeLouis, head of the committee who would go on to be elected the first president of Local 249, Walter Williams, Pat Monroe, L. L. Oliver, Ray Dunn, Frank Bell, Homer Kelley and Henry Rees.

Telling the men not to turn in their badges, punch out or leave the plant, the union executive committee

countermanded the bosses' orders on the spot. Chassis Dept. workers who punched out earlier at 3 pm. and left the plant were called back to join the strike. The union placed guards at the entrances to the plant.

Organizers formed the sit-downers into committees to guard against smoking and drinking and to clean up fire hazards. Others were assigned to patrol the gates and doorways leading into the plant. By agreement with the company, strikers were allowed to leave the plant in groups of 15 for five minutes to smoke and for 15 minutes to go to nearby restaurants to eat.

At 11 p.m., union men welded three gates to the rail yard at the east side of the plant shut and two gates at parking lots on the north and south entrances to keep police or scabs from breaking the strike during the dark of night.

The Ford workers had every reason to expect an attack. Harsh treatment was a fact of everyday life inside the plant, so much so that its occasional absence seemed less like a change in the bosses' temperament than the calm before a brewing storm.

"No rough bossing going on as

before," Moreland noted in his diary at the time. "Something wrong!"

Henry Ford was implacably opposed to all labor unions. Little more than a month before layoffs at the Winchester Ave. plant sparked the sit-down strike here, Ford advised "all workers to stay out of labor organizations."

"A man loses his independence when he joins a labor organization of any kind and suffers as a result," said Ford. Following the April 12, Supreme Court ruling upholding the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations act, which for the first time gave workers the right to organize and bargain collectively without employer interference, Ford was blunter.

"We'll never recognize the United Automobile Workers union or any other union," Ford said. Showing his contempt for the law Harry Bennett didn't mince words either. The Wagner Act, he said, "did not exist for him."

Most workers weren't buying it.

That week, in addition to the 2,363 autoworkers idled by the sit-down at Ford, nearly 1,300 other Kansas City workers were on strike at various area companies including Gordon Brothers Manufacturing, Gernes Garment Company, Missouri Garment Company, Goodenow Textile, Butler Manufacturing and Meyers Sanitary Dairy. Nationwide, during the first three months of 1937, the Bureau of Labor Statistics recorded nearly 1,000 strikes. For the year, the number of strikes hit a 20-year high, likely exceeding the previous record of 4,450 set in 1917, according to CQ Research.

With some 1,400 workers occupying the plant, according to union spokesman Homer Kelley, members of the union executive committee met with H.C. Doss and plant superintendent Joseph Bush to demand that the men be laid off under seniority rules.

"Both Mr. Doss and Mr. Bush refused to agree and said they would dismiss the men as they pleased," Kelley told the Kansas City Times. "Most of the men they laid off are union men, and older in point of service than the non-union men they kept on the payroll."

"If the company will put the old men back to work and lay the new men off, we'll call off the strike," Kelley told reporters on behalf of the union executive committee. "We don't have any complaint about a seasonal layoff. Heretofore they have laid off the new men first."

Despite the inherent tensions between Ford and the union and the violence that was routinely employed to keep the men in line, the Kansas City sit-down was notably free of violence on either side. The city sent just eight

police officers to the scene to direct the crush of traffic attracted to the area by the strike.

A large crowd of supporters began to gather outside the plant.

"Who says we can't take Ford?" strikers and sympathizers shouted to each other numberless times that night across the fence separating them, according to a reporter for the Kansas City Times.

Outside Gate 6, the wives and children of the sit-down strikers gathered to talk to their husbands and shout encouragement. Twine was used to hoist food supplies to strikers on the roof. The windows to the plant on the street side were opened and the strikers and the hundreds of family members and supporters who gathered in front of the plant carried on a lively discussion throughout the night.

Despite the festive atmosphere, the determination of the strikers was demonstrated by the refusal of one young man to leave the plant to take his girlfriend to the movies. "A girl dressed in what was obviously her best dress" stood at a window arguing with a young man who refused to leave the plant, according to one reporter who witnessed the exchange.

"Well, if you won't come out, I'll just go to the show with Jim," she snapped when he couldn't be persuaded to leave. "Turning, she walked away, her heels beating a tattoo on the street."

The good humor around the plant notwithstanding, the striker's wives knew all too well how damaging the lost jobs and pay would be to their families if the strike should fail.

"Across the street from the plant, two mothers watched the laughing crowd," wrote the same reporter. "I've seen this coming a long time and I just can't be happy about it," one of them said."

This history of the 1937 strike at the Ford Winchester Ave. plant in Kansas City, the first sit-down strike at any Ford plant in the country, is based on the testimony of Ford workers and supervisors before the National Labor Relations Board in an unfair labor practices suit filed December 12, 1937. The board heard testimony from the participants in the tumultuous events in Kansas City of 1937 and reviewed 28,000 pages of evidence from the UAW and 10,000 pages submitted by the company. It is also based on contemporary reports in The Kansas City Star, The Kansas City Times, The Kansas City Journal-Post and The New York Times. This history also draws on the diary kept by Cicero Moreland, an electrician at the Ford Winchester plant who joined the UAW on April 6, 1937.

St. Patrick's Day



The UAW Local 249 Civil Rights Committee celebrated St. Patrick's Day by decorating the glass display case located in the tunnel. St. Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland.

By Garrett Waters

This year I was honored to decorate the case for St. Patrick's Day. While thinking of how I wanted to design the case, I did a little research on the holiday and its origin.

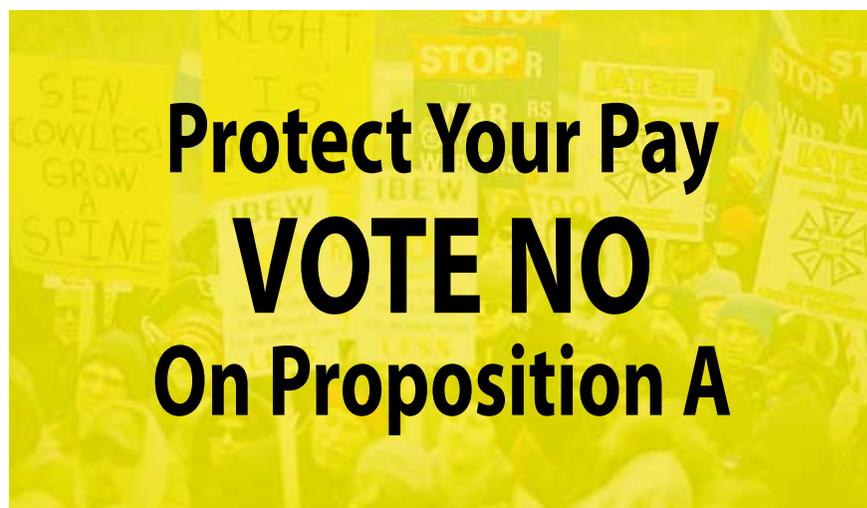
I learned that St. Patrick's Day was a cultural and religious celebration for founder, Saint Patrick, introducing Christianity to Ireland.

St. Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland. He passed on March 17th, 460 A.D. It was then to become an annual tradition to be celebrated throughout Ireland.

I also learned that the Irish really know how to party. Not only because they have an annual parade and enjoy partaking of a beer or two, but also because they participate in their own version of Mardi Gras. Their annual celebration is called, Shrove Tuesday, (Fat Tuesday) which is also known as

Pancake Day. It's what the Irish do to kick off Lent. Lent is a 40 day sacrifice in which you give up food, smoking, TV, or any other thing that could be considered as a vice.

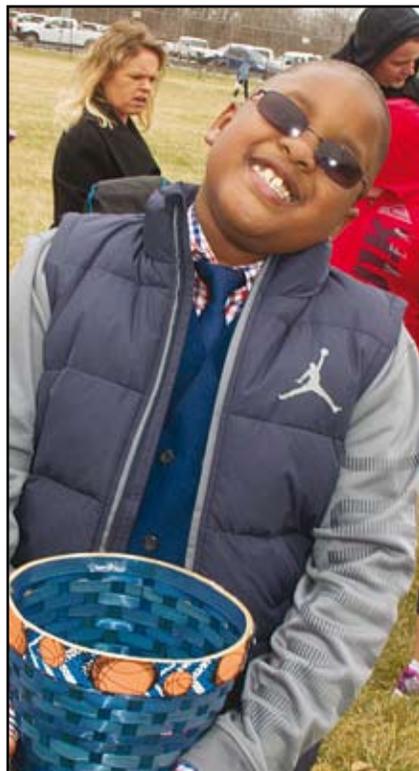
I'm lucky to have chosen the Irish culture to honor because reading about them, how hard they worked, and all their sacrifices, I found them very similar to all the other immigrants that make this country so special. The Irish culture and traditions have been sewn into the fabric of our land and represents so much of what our flag stands for. I'm proud to be part of a union that honors our Irish brothers and sisters.





The annual UAW Local 249 Easter egg hunt held March 25 at the union hall was a great success with a large turnout of children ready to find Easter eggs. The party was sponsored by the Women's Committee and featured photos with the Easter bunny, face painting, cotton candy and a goodie bag for the kids. Everyone left with a big smile and a bucket full of Easter eggs. Photo by Don Lehman.





Worker Death shows Disney's Poverty Policies

Kenneth Quinnell AFL-CIO Now Blog

As a result of the federal tax cut, Disney promised that its employees would get \$1,000 bonuses. Disney offered the bonuses to most of its employees with no conditions. But for 41,000 union members in Orlando, Florida, and Anaheim, California, Disney is requiring them to agree to the company's contract proposals in order to get the bonus.

In December, Disney workers in Orlando rejected the company's offer of a 50-cent pay raise, far below the livable wage that Disney's employees are fighting for. A new report shows that the overwhelming majority of Disney employees who responded said they do not earn enough for basic expenses every month.

Meanwhile, the tax cut will bring Disney some \$2 billion every year. Giving every Disney employee the promised \$1,000 bonus would cost Disney \$125 million. The report on Disney employees revealed that more than 10 percent of working people at Disneyland resorts have been homeless or have not had a place to sleep in the past two years.

Yeweinisht "Weiny" Mesfin was one of those Disney employees who was homeless. Weiny's former co-worker, Vanessa Munoz, told Weiny's story to Left Voice:

I met Weiny in October 2013.

Carsland was her home. You could find her in that land working from 11:30 p.m. to 8 a.m., six days a week. She always smiled and greeted you with a "hello." Restrooms were her major.

The first month working with her in restrooms was hard. She had her own ways of doing things, and as soon as I got to know her, I knew what she liked and what she didn't. She was good at her job and never once did I hear her complain about her job or her pay.

Every day she had a pear or apple for lunch and occasionally a muffin. Sometimes she'd buy me lunch and refuse to have me pay her back. So I would secretly pay for her muffins or lunch whenever I saw her walk into the cafe. "No, darling! It's OK," was her reply whenever the lunch lady would tell her that her meal was paid for. She would then come to me and thank me but, the next day, would beat me and secretly buy me lunch. She was like that



with everyone, not just me. If you had a birthday, she would chip in and help buy you a cake. Because that was the type of person she was. She was a kind person who was loved by everyone.

November 2016: Weiny goes missing right after Thanksgiving weekend. Working for almost five years for this company now, I was used to seeing people come and go. Some went and just never came back. Sometimes you saw it coming and sometimes you just didn't. I wasn't ready for her to go, and I never thought I'd see her go.

It took about a month for us to find her. It took endless messages, Facebook shares, phone calls and driving around. All it took was a message from her cousin that Wednesday morning in December. "We found her. She is passed. Thank you for all that you did" was what it read. My heart dropped, and I wanted to just disappear. I felt like what I did wasn't enough. I felt like I was to blame.

Soon enough, I found out more things about my friend, Weiny. I found out she was found in her car in a gym parking lot after suffering a heart at-

tack. She sat in her car for almost a whole month waiting for someone to find her. Why? Because she lived in her car and that gym parking lot was her home. She would use the gym to shower and use the restroom.

She didn't have enough money to get her own place, and my heart broke because all she did was give and give. Never once did she complain. But behind that smile and "good morning, darling" lived a whole different person. A woman struggling and working eight-hour shifts for six days for a company that didn't even bother helping with flower arrangements. For a company that took and took from her and terminated her on the spot after her third no call, no show. A company that asked for her costumes back as soon as possible so they can give them to the next re-hire.

Someone out there on third shift at Disney now wears my Weiny's beanie, her sweater, shirts and pants. Someone out there is about to give as much as Weiny did for a company that refuses to pay the employees an affordable living wage.

How Unions Carried Pennsylvania's 18th

By Richard L. Trumka and Rick Bloomingdale

Rep.-elect Conor Lamb made national waves with an improbable win last week in Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District. He faced down \$10 million in outside money funneled to his opponent by corporate and right-wing interests. He fought through a barrage of incessant, hyper-partisan attacks blanketing the airwaves. He was abandoned by his own party's national infrastructure in a district that hadn't elected a Democrat in nearly 15 years. And he still came out on top.

It wasn't because of some stale advice whispered into his ear by an overpaid consultant. He doesn't owe this victory to super PACs or corporate donations. It certainly wasn't thanks to the Democratic Party establishment—it's still finding its way out of an agenda and message that failed to resonate with working people in 2016.

The fact is: Working people and the power of a union-run, member-to-member campaign are what carried

the 18th District.

This election came down to a fight between our grassroots labor coalition and state Rep. Rick Saccone's corporate-funded, RNC-managed smear campaign. The outcome proved what we already knew: The path to power runs through the labor movement.

Conor will be settling into a new office in Washington because he proudly stood with unions in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Hourly Optional Life & Accident Insurance Program Open Enrollment

The UAW-Ford Hourly Optional Life & Accident Insurance Program Open Enrollment period for 2018 will run March 19, 2018 through April 27, 2018

Contact your UAW Benefits Rep by visiting the union hall or by calling 816-454-6333 for more information

July vacation shutdown announced

By Todd Hillyard

There are currently 13 single shift Saturdays planned in the Transit System between April and August and talk that a few more could be added. The overtime Saturdays will be rotated back and forth between dayshift and nightshift each week beginning in April. The F-150 is also working some overtime days as well. The March 10 Super Day for B-Crew was canceled due to a parts shortage from Faurecia. March 30th was a voluntary holiday for C-Crew and then it looks like the five additional days for May and June have now been canceled. We will update everyone as we get new information. Schedules are always subject to change based on customer demand but this is what it looks like currently for both systems between now and August.

The vacation shutdown period has been announced for KCAP this summer. The Truck System will be down for two consecutive weeks July 2 and July 9. The Transit System will be down one week only, the week of July 2. Skilled Trades and any other employees who are mandatoried to work vacation shutdown will be notified prior to the July shutdown period.

The Transit rebalance was settled a few weeks ago before the International had to come down over all the work standards grievances we had written. The committeemen in Transit Trim and Chassis will be working on implementing the settlements to close out the rebalance for this model year.

We are proceeding with the election to fill the open committeeman spot in Truck Body A-Crew. The election will be on April 5 from 2pm-6pm. I would also like to congratulate Roger Ducoulombier who recently won the election for #3 shift Skilled Trades.

We recently had some additional Team Leaders bid in MP&L as well. In order to do this we made a few changes to MP&L requirements for Team Leaders since they are fairly new to the stock department.

The positions of Team Leaders will be bid by system in MP&L (Transit, Truck & Stamping) and they will not be part of the area preference sign up. For purposes of start time and shift bumps, leaders will exercise their seniority in Truck, Transit or Stamping. This was done to be more consistent with all other leaders and in an effort to continue growing this higher rated job in the stock department.

Nominations for delegates were at the March membership meeting for the 37th Constitutional Convention held in Detroit June 10th-14th. There were 10 Delegate spots and 10 alternate Delegate positions needed to attend the Convention from Local 249. After the acceptance period expired only 10 delegates and 10 alternates accepted so there will not be an election

to fill the spots all candidates won by acclimation. The Delegates are Jason Starr, Todd Hillyard, Steve Chorbak, Jim Fisher, Travis Ramsey, Ron Pangborn, Dana Davidson, Tony Renfro, Sade Ott and Ed Scaggs. The alternate Delegates are Jeff Wright, Michael Wheeldon, John Travers, Dean Freed, L. Scott Pyle, Leon Allen, David Sambol, Terry Sharp, Steve Hibbs and Neal Byers. We will all put out a bulletin to thank everyone for your continued support.

There has been an extremely large number of members getting terminated for 5 and 10 day quits. If you are on a medical leave it is your responsibility to make sure your paperwork is submitted and you are covered for your absence. Nobody can do this for you. If you do receive a quit letter, all members should report in person to deliver paper work and make sure you are covered. Do not rely on a phone call, fax or a doctor



UAW bargaining Chairman Todd Hillyard reported to the monthly membership meeting about the July vacation shutdown schedule. Photo by Don Lehman.

to do it for you. If you don't take your employment serious nobody else will either. Once you are terminated it can take several months before we are able to get people reinstated so pay attention if you receive any letters from the company regarding your leave and always keep your address up to date in labor relations.

There is a continued message about how sexual harassment, harassment or retaliation will be handled by the company going forward. They

now have a team in Labor Affairs in Detroit that will review all complaints and recommend actions taken by the plants.

I will urge all of our members to refrain from any form of behavior that could be construed by anyone as offensive because the company is going to take all complaints seriously. We are all adults and no matter how comfortable we are working together 50 hours a week we need to treat each other with respect every day.

UAW 249 Educational Health Fair
April 30th - May 4, 2018 — 10:30 AM - 6:00PM
Ford Motor Assembly Plant
8121 NE 69 Highway Claycomo, MO 64119

Reps from local colleges and healthcare providers will be set up in the tunnel at the Ford Motor Assembly Plant to answer questions

For additional information please contact: Kenny Alexander ESSP 816-459-1226, Steve Hibbs, Derron Joyner or Jason Hartman UBR 816-454-6333

Protect your pay, vote NO on Proposition A

By Jason Starr

It seems, the closer working people get to overturning the anti-union right-to-work law passed by the Missouri Legislature last year, the dirtier and more underhanded the tactics of the law's billionaire supporters get. More than 300,000 Missourians signed petitions to overturn the law this coming November, but that doesn't mean the law's supporters aren't still doing everything in their power to force the law on the state.

They are raising millions to thwart the will of the people. Three political action committees supporting right to work have raised more than \$2.6 million according to the *Kansas City Star*. Freedom to Work has raised \$1.3 million, Liberty Alliance has raised \$832,000 and Missourians for Worker Freedom has raised \$500,000.

Last month, the St. Louis Post Dispatch reported that "Republican lawmakers are poised to introduce legislation that would move a statewide referendum on a new right to work law from the November general election to the August primary."

These anti-worker politicians and their wealthy sugar daddies hope that by moving the right-to-work referendum to the August primary when fewer people traditionally turn up to vote they can save their unpopular law from defeat.

Missouri House Rep. Holly Rehder, R-Sikeston, told the *Post-Dispatch* she was planning to introduce legislation to move up the timetable for the vote before deadline to introduce bills.

"A similar measure is expected to be filed in the Senate," according to the *Post-Dispatch*. "It will be up to

GOP leaders in the House and Senate to decide if they want to pursue the change."

No matter when the referendum on Proposition A takes place, working people need to be clear that right-to-work will have a devastating impact on pay and benefits in Missouri.

That is why we are calling for a no vote on Proposition A.

Proposition A is an unnecessary, unfair government overreach into the workplace that distracts from the real issues like creating jobs and improving schools.

It's being promoted by a well-coordinated network of out-of-state billionaires, super PACs, and corporate special interest groups that are downsizing, shipping jobs overseas, and hiding profits offshore to avoid paying the same taxes families and small businesses must pay.

If Proposition A makes right to work the law in Missouri it will give even more power to big corporations at a time when CEO pay has grown 364 times higher than what the average worker makes.

We autoworkers understand that real freedom in the workplace is about



Local 249 President Jason Starr chairs the March Membership meeting. Photo by Don Lehman.

having a voice on the job so that we can have some control over our work schedules, job safety and a seat at the bargaining table.

Local 249 activists played a major role in the petition drive to take right to work out of the hands of the politicians in Jefferson City and put it where it belongs — with the voters.

We are confident that Missouri voters will reject right to work if they're given a free and fair vote. We oppose the underhanded tactics of the law's fat cat supporters, which reveal a deep seated disdain for the rights of the people of our state.

Local 249 members will turn out to vote no on Proposition A whether the vote is held in August or November and we will do everything in our power to mobilize voters across the state to turn out for the election.

The success of the petition drive to put right to work on the ballot shows what we can do when we are united.

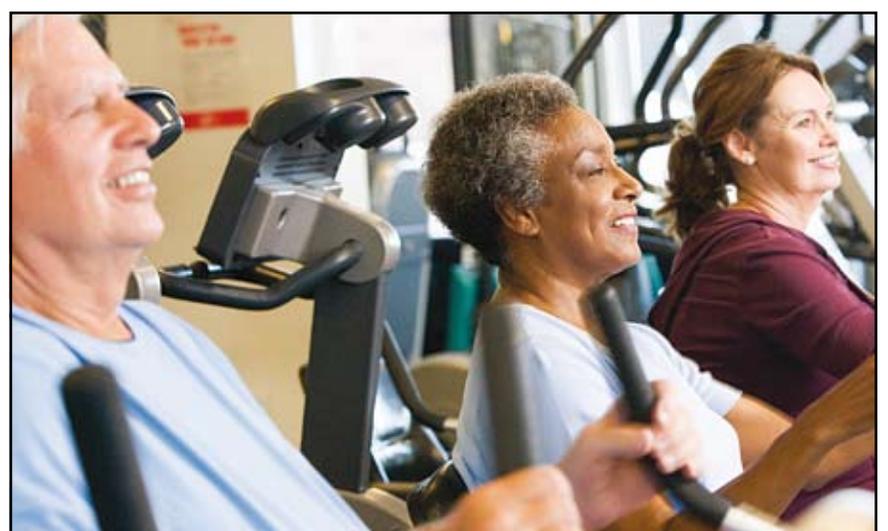
The only way we can stop the continuing attacks on the union movement and halt the erosion of our living standards is to speak with one voice on right to work. We must turn out to vote no on Proposition A. It's wrong for Missouri. It is wrong for America.

A photograph of a man with dark hair, looking distressed. He has his hands covering his face, with his fingers spread across his forehead and eyes. The background is dark and out of focus.

NEED HELP?

Are you worried about money? Do you have problems on the job? Is someone in your family ill? Has a loved one passed away? Have you been physically or mentally abused? Are there drug or alcohol problems in your family? Having thoughts of suicide?

The UAW Chaplaincy Committee is here to listen or to offer spiritual advice. Call the Union Hall at 816-454-6333 and the Local will put you in touch with one of our caring Chaplaincy Committee members.



UAW-Ford Fitness Center

Open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. (22 hrs.)
Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Located in the Education Bldg.

Call 459-1945 for more information.

Third annual Mustang Cruise and F-150 show

By Susan Pena

Dave Grant, UAW Local 249 Veterans Advocate, invited us to attend the third annual Mustang Cruise and F150 show to be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. Those interested should plan to meet at the union hall. On June 5th there will be a special election for the 17th district Mo. Senate seat. Please remember to vote.

Will (Frosty) Nelson, UAW Local 93 Retiree Representative from the General Motors Leeds Plant, thanked UAW Local 249 for sharing the hall with them for their monthly meetings.

He spoke about the CAP council, screening political candidates to see who would be sympathetic with labor, our new governor, right to work, tax cuts on health and education and the effects this had on nursing home care. He asked us to become informed, find out which candidates are labor friendly and to vote.

Cecil Vaughn, UAW Local 710, new Chairman of Region 5 Retiree Chapter, thanked the leadership of UAW Local 249 for the union hall. He spoke about the importance of voting. It is our right, our duty and every vote counts. Please make sure you are registered to vote in your district.

Each time you move or if you have had a name change, you'll need to re-register.

Scotty Jeannin, Region 5 Benefits Representative, announced his retirement. Scotty has been available at

many meetings over the years keeping us informed and answering our questions. Thank you, Scotty for your many years of dedication and care. We will miss you and hope to see you at the monthly meetings.

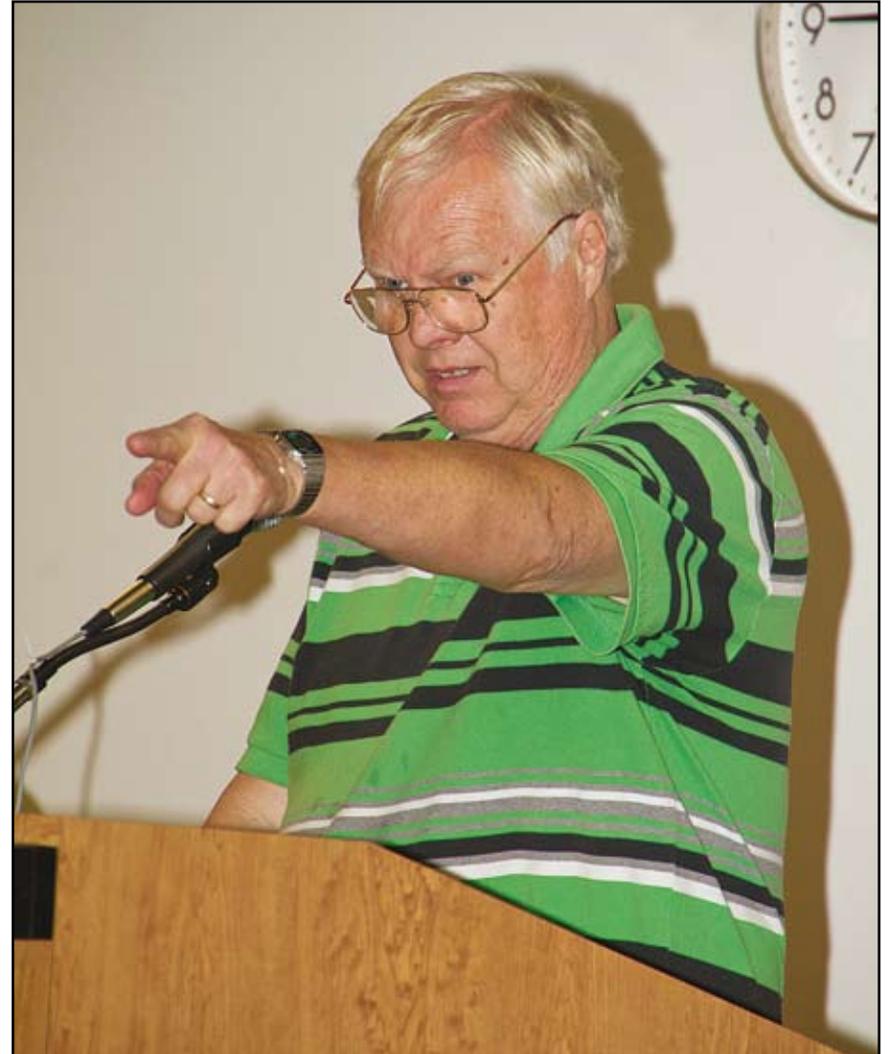
We are grateful to always have our Local Benefits Representatives available. Thank you to Steve Hibbs, Derron Joyner and Jason Hartman for all you do.

Tonya Moore, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas City Representative was present to answer insurance questions.

Mary Sanders, Family Auxiliary Chairperson, made the announcements. We celebrated three birthdays in March.

Bingo is held on the third Friday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at the union hall. Please bring a snack to share and white elephant gift.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 18th at 10:30 a.m. Please bring a dessert or covered dish. All are welcome and we hope to see you there.



UAW Local 249 Retiree Chairperson, Mel Thompson, spoke at the retiree meeting last month reminding members how important it is to vote. Photo by Don Lehman.



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Dave Grant and Ronda Truelove, show the winning ticket from UAW Local 249's Community Services Committee's 'Pot 'O Gold' 50/50 raffle offering a limited number of 200 tickets at \$100 each as a way to raise money and spread the luck. Ronda, along with three other lucky winners from Truck Chassis, Charlie Thompson, Arthur Thompson and DuJuan Hughes shared in the winnings.



UAW Local 249 Bargaining Chairman, Todd Hillyard, Left to right, Region 5 Director Gary Jones, and former UAW Local 249 President Jeff Wright at a special bargaining convention. This is great news for Region 5 and the membership of UAW Local 249 for having one of their own slated to take the top position in the UAW. Photo by Don Lehman.

Jones to be nominated for UAW president

By Gwen Starkey

Gary Jones, UAW Local 249 member and director of UAW Region 5, will stand for election at the June UAW Constitutional Convention as the likely replacement for retiring UAW President Dennis Williams. Since the union has a practice of not allowing anyone aged 65 or older to run for office, it is anticipated that President Dennis Williams, 64, and UAW Vice-President Jimmy Settles, 67 who oversees the union's Ford department, will retire, ending long distinguished careers serving labor and the working class.

This is great news for Region 5 and the membership of UAW Local 249 for having one of our own slated to take the top position in the UAW. Jones has been described as having a steady hand who can effectively navigate the organization through times of change and uncertainty.

Jones, who lives in O'Fallon, Mo., near St. Louis, became a UAW member in 1975 when he was hired at a now-shuttered Ford Motor Co. glass plant in Broken Arrow, Okla. He became a member of UAW Local 249 when he transferred to the Kansas City Ford

Assembly Plant when the glass plant closed.

Every four years, the UAW holds a Constitutional Convention where delegates elect officers and regional directors and adopt resolutions that set the union's position on important workplace and societal issues, and decide constitutional changes. This year, the 37th UAW Constitutional Convention will convene on Monday, June 11 at the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan, where approximately 1,100 delegates from UAW local unions in the United States, Canada and Puerto

Rico will debate and vote on policy resolutions and proposed constitutional changes. Delegates at the convention will elect international officers, including a new president, secretary-treasurer, vice presidents and regional directors.

Jones was first elected to serve as director of UAW Region 5 in a special election held Oct. 19, 2012, in Kansas City. Jones, who was previously the region's assistant director, filled the director's position formerly held by Jim Wells, who died Sept. 27, 2012, and had led the region since 1995. Gary Jones was reelected director of UAW Region 5 at the union's 36th Constitutional Convention held in June 2014. Region 5 serves UAW members and retirees in 17 states in the western and southwestern United States, including Missouri, California and Washington State.

A graduate of the University of Tulsa and a certified public accountant, Jones was appointed top administra-

tive assistant to former UAW Secretary-Treasurer Roy Wyse in 1995. He continued to serve in that capacity to Secretary-Treasurers Ruben Burks and Elizabeth Bunn, until his appointment as Region 5 assistant director in 2004.

In 1990, former UAW President Owen Bieber and then-Secretary-Treasurer Bill Casstevens appointed Jones to the International staff. He was assigned to the union's Accounting Department. A year later, he was named chief accountant of the UAW.

Current UAW Secretary Treasurer Gary Casteel and Vice President Cindy Estrada who oversees the union's General Motors department, will stand for re-election alongside regional directors Rory Gamble and Terry Dittes. They also will have to be formally elected next year. Passing the gavel from one leader to another is always an exciting time, and soon delegates will elect the UAW leadership for the next four years.