

FIRST LOCAL NEWS

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

June 2018

**UAW ladies
volunteer for
Women's Build**
| p7

**Unions gear
up to get out
the vote on
Prop. A**
| p6

**Local 249
celebrates Cinco
de Mayo**
| p5



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



UAW Local 249 member Travis Hagewood from Truck Paint A-Crew is running for Missouri State Representative in the 31st District (Blue Springs). He feels that he can make a difference, and as a representative that is exactly what he plans to do. Photo by Don Lehman.

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UAW Local 249 Recreation Committee sponsored a BBQ Cook off April 29th at the union hall. First place winners were 2 Bald Guys & Fish, second place went to JoRo's BBQ and third place to E-Z Bake Smokers. Photo by Don Lehman.



Local 249 and VFW member Kathy Butterworth helped place over 2000 flags for Memorial Day on Veterans graves at the Terrace Park Cemetery. Photo by Don Lehman.



Members Jimmy Garret, left to right and Jesse Honts participate in UAW Local 249's first Corn Hole toss contest. Photo by Don Lehman.

First Local News

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UAW Local 249

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Officers of Local 249

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1st Vice President Tony Renfro
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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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The Picket Line

Legislature creates chaos and confusion over Proposition A

Amid all the confusion in the Missouri Legislature about the right-to-work issue, one key fact must not be forgotten: Right to work has less to do with workers' freedom not to pay union dues, or creating jobs, than it does with suppressing Democratic votes. That fact, borne out in recent academic research, provides context for several recent developments," says a recent editorial in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

The editorial goes on to note: "The staggering amount of secret "dark money" pumped into an abortive effort to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot via the initiative-petition route. Greitens' secretive organization, A New Missouri, donated at least \$1.15 million to the effort, money that resulted in zero signatures being turned in but that enriched lawyers and consultants tied to Greitens. — *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Legislature subverts will of the people by moving right to work vote

Missourians planning to weigh in on the state's right-to-work law may need to show up to the polls in August, not November," reports the *Kansas City Star*. The House voted 96-47 to move a referendum that could repeal the law from the November election to the August primary ballot. Senators passed it 23-7.

The referendum, Proposition A, could overturn the right-to-work law Missouri lawmakers passed last year. Voting "yes" would uphold right to work. "No" would repeal it.

We Are Missouri, a campaign working to repeal right to work, took issue with House members' vote to move the date, saying supporters of right to work "have one ultimate goal: lowering Missouri wages."

"Anyone who has been paying attention to what has been going on in Jefferson City knows the level of dishonesty and dysfunction and this is no different," We Are Missouri spokeswoman Erin Schrimpf said in a statement. "Proposition A is wrong for Missouri."

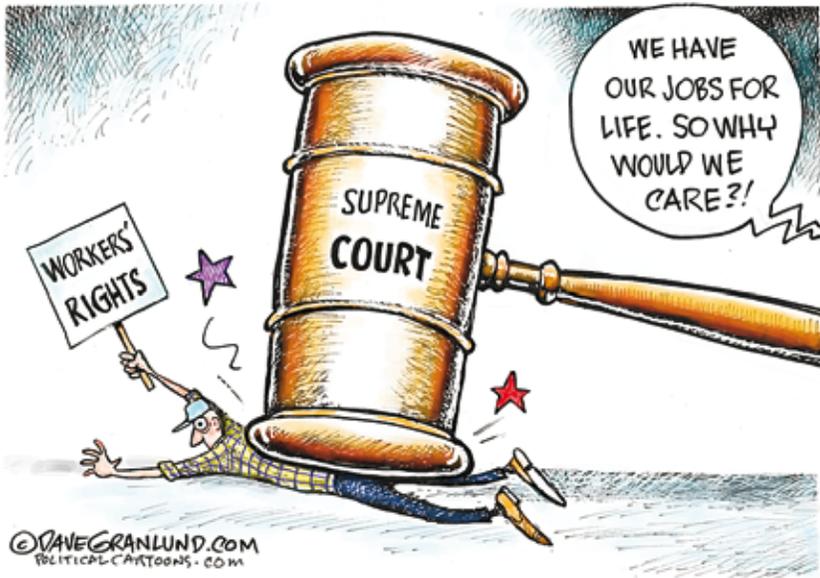
Schrimpf said right to work "fails to create jobs and forces workers to accept lower pay." — *Kansas City Star*

The Gap Between CEO and Worker Compensation Continues to Grow

CEO pay for major companies in the United States rose nearly 6% in the past year, as income inequality and the outsourcing of good-paying American jobs have increased. According to the new AFL-CIO Executive Paywatch, the average CEO of an S&P 500 Index company made \$13.94 million in 2017—361 times more money than the average U.S. rank-and-file worker. The Executive Paywatch website, the most comprehensive searchable online database tracking CEO pay, showed that in 2017, the average production and nonsupervisory worker earned about \$38,613 per year. When adjusted for inflation, the average wage has remained stagnant for more than 50 years.

"This year's report provides further proof that the greed of corporate CEOs is driving America's income inequality crisis," said AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler. "Too many working people are struggling to get by, to afford the basics, to save for college, to retire with dignity while CEOs are paying themselves more and more. Our economy works best when consumers have money to spend. That means raising wages for workers and reining in out of control executive pay."

Our economy works best when consumers have money to spend. That means raising wages for workers and reining in out of control executive pay. Executive Paywatch is a tool that helps the U.S. pursue those goals. — *AFL-CIO Now Blog*



A privilege to serve

By Dennis Williams

It has been a privilege to serve as the president of the UAW for the past four years.

Working together with the UAW's dedicated officers, directors, assistant directors, staff, local union leaders and members, we have created a strong, stable and growing UAW.

The Great Recession of the late 2000s created a perfect storm of challenges for the UAW, and membership fell to below 370,000 members by 2011. Operating dues also fell and we annually ran \$30 million in the red. As a result, the strike and defense fund balance decreased significantly.

But we have rebounded and we are stronger now.

The UAW ended 2017 with its third straight year of fiscal surplus and the strike fund is healthier. We won organizing drives in many parts facilities and in higher education — most recently at Harvard and University of Washington — bringing UAW active membership to more than 430,000 members.

Big Three bargaining demonstrated how our democratic process works. In 2015, negotiations at GM, FCA and Ford resulted in the protection of health care benefits, improved retirement income, and addressed job security and job quality. These negotiations also resulted in record profit sharing bonuses for members at the Big Three. Most important, these contracts did away with the two-tiered system, negotiating a path to full pay and benefits. These historic gains set the tone for negotiations in all other sectors of the UAW.

The bottom line is that the UAW is in better shape than it was four years

ago. And we are proud to continue the UAW tradition of working diligently, together, to improve the lives of men and women in the workplace and in the community.

None of the UAW's collective bargaining gains were handed to us by employers. It takes the UAW membership, standing together as a union, to accomplish anything at the bargaining table. Each union member knows the future depends on breaking down walls and not avoiding tough conversations. We believe that no matter where you come from, who you are, what language you speak or what religion you practice — being in a union is about working men and women standing up for each other. That's how it was in 1935 when the UAW was formed, and that's how it is now.

There will always be opposition from anti-union bosses, politicians and media. Yet year after year, UAW members have risen above this and committed to fighting for worker rights in state capitals, in Washington, D.C., and in the workplace.

That's because the UAW is about standing up for working men and women all over the country each and every day. We are committed to advancing the well-being of working men and women — both as workers on the job and as citizens in the community.

Together, over these last four years, the UAW has forged a positive path for the future of workers, their families, and the nation for generations to come.

I am very proud and honored to have been a part of it.

Ellebracht gives legislative update

By Pat Hayes

Missouri State Rep. Mark Ellebracht, a Democrat, who represents parts of Clay County, including parts of Liberty, Pleasant Valley, Kansas City, and Claycomo gave Local 249 members a legislative update at the monthly membership meeting May 20.

Ellebracht started by blasting the decision to move the public vote to overturn the right-to-work law passed by the legislature last year from the November general election to the August 7 primary when fewer voters traditionally go to the polls. Workers and their unions, turned in 310,567 petition signatures to put repeal of right to work on the November ballot.

The decision to move the vote marked the first time in Missouri history that the legislature moved the date of a referendum.

"They voted to serve the people who financed their campaigns," said Ellebracht, "instead of the people who live in the districts they're supposed to represent."

The lack of public support for right to work was clearly demonstrated in recent months by the failure of a petition drive to write the law into the Missouri constitution.

Vast sums of dark money flowed into the failed petition drive to put the constitutional amendment on the bal-

lot. Despite a \$1.15 million donation to the effort from the Greitens controlled dark money outfit, A New Missouri, zero signatures were turned in.

In a preview of how right to work will actually play out for ordinary Missourians, Ellebracht noted that while the lawyers and consultants made millions on the pro right to work petition drive, the people who gathered the signatures never got paid.

"They can't win under the rules," Ellebracht said to thunderous applause from Local 249 members, "they have to cheat."

The 11th hour passage of a so-called "paycheck protection" law by the legislature, Ellebracht told Local 249 members, is another example of how lawmakers are working for big money contributors instead of their constituents. The measure requires public sector workers in the state to opt in each year to have union dues taken out of their paychecks. It's designed to force unions into never ending organizing drives that will sap their ability to rep-



Missouri State Rep. Mark Ellebracht gave a legislative update to Local 249 members at the May union meeting. Photo by Don Lehman.

resent members and negotiate better wages and working conditions.

Ellebracht also condemned the partial repeal of the state's prevailing wage law in the final days of the legislative session. The prevailing wage law was designed to set standards for pay in public works projects. The repeal of the law will cut the wages of construction workers building roads,

bridges and other publically financed projects.

Despite the legislative setbacks, Ellebracht is confident about the future.

"This is a fight for our way of life," he said. "They are trying to take our living standard away. Everyone here needs to vote in August. Bring your friends, family and co-workers with you. We are going to win."

The Path to Full Employment

by L. Randall Wray, Flavia Dantas, Scott Fullwiler, Pavlina R. Tcherneva, and Stephanie A. Kelton

Despite reports of a healthy US labor market, millions of Americans remain unemployed and underemployed, or have simply given up looking for work. It is a problem that plagues our economy in good times and in bad—there are never enough jobs available for all who want to work. L. Randall Wray, Flavia Dantas, Scott Fullwiler, Pavlina R. Tcherneva, and Stephanie A. Kelton examine the impact of a new "job guarantee" proposal that would seek to eliminate involuntary unemployment by directly creating jobs in the communities where they are needed.

The authors propose the creation of a Public Service Employment (PSE) program that would offer a job at a living wage to all who are ready and willing to work.

Federally funded but with a decentralized administration, the PSE program would pay \$15 per hour and offer a basic package of benefits. This report simulates the economic impact over a ten-year period of implement-

ing the PSE program beginning in 2018.

Unemployment, hidden and official, with all of its attendant social harms, is a policy choice. The results in this report lend more weight to the argument that it is a policy choice we need no longer tolerate. True full employment is both achievable and sustainable.

Real, inflation-adjusted Gross Do-

mestic Product would be boosted by \$560 billion per year on average, once the PSE program is at full strength, according to the economists who produced the study.

The economic stimulus generated by the PSE program would also increase private sector employment by up to an additional 4.2 million private sector jobs relative to the baseline, due to the "multiplier effects" of the program.

Even though it boosts GDP by over \$500 billion per year, adds more than 19 million private and public service jobs, and raises wages nationwide above \$15 per hour, the program's impact on inflation is minor: the boost to inflation peaks at 0.74 percentage points higher than the baseline projection and then progressively falls to a negligible 0.09 percentage points higher than the baseline by the end of

the simulation period.

The program's net impact on the federal budget averages 1.53 percent of GDP in the first five years of the program (2018–22) and 1.13 percent of GDP in the last five years (2023–27).

These net budgetary impacts could be significantly overestimated, since the simulation makes very cautious assumptions about offsetting reductions in Medicaid and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) expenditures that would result from higher employment and wages. Executive Summary 2 Public Service Employment

State-level government budgets are improved by a total of \$53 billion per year by boosting employment and growth.

Based on the demographics of estimated PSE participants, the program would disproportionately benefit women and minorities.



UAW Local 249 standing committees came together to celebrate the first Cinco de Mayo fiesta on May 5 at the union hall. Events included food, face painting, bounce houses, games, music and piñatas for the kids. Photo by Don Lehman.

Local 249 celebrates Cinco de Mayo

By Colleen Taylor

Local 249 Human and Civil Rights Committee along with the support of the 11 other standing committees put on Local 249's very first Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on May 5 at the union hall. The event included amazing food, face painting, bounce houses, games, music that kept everyone in great spirits and piñatas for the kids.

Gina Cervantes, leader on the Human and Civil Rights Committee was honored to host the first Cinco de Mayo celebration for Local 249 and also UAW history.

"When this opportunity was brought to me, I jumped at it without a second thought. For me, a Hispanic female, to be able to create a foundation that would bring recognition to the Latino communities as well as open the eyes of others to new cultures, was truly a blessing. Because it is extremely important to make sure to represent the Hispanic heritage because people are Hispanic every day of their lives, not just on this particular holiday".

Most non-Mexican Americans have "no idea" about the day's history.

May 5th, 1862 was a huge milestone in history when the Mexican Army was victorious over the French Empire at the battle of Puebla. Unfortunately it has now become an Americanized holiday and not celebrated in Mexico, hence why the shirts sold by

the committee do not say Cinco de Mayo this year.

Having the Cinco De Mayo Fiesta and also a shirt sale was just another way for the Human and Civil Rights Committee to put forth an effort to bridge the gap between labor unions, communities, and culture. It gives people an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the Mexican and Latino heritage.

"I believe it's events like this that will bring people of different cultures together, one Union hall at a time. If we do not intentionally include, we unintentionally exclude and for the Region 5 Civil and Human Rights Committees, we are all about inclusion", said Garrett Waters, UAW Local 249 Human and Civil rights committee chairman.

The shirt sold by the committee was designed with great importance and thought according to Cervantes.

"The words "Si se puede" on the fist, comes from Cesar Chavez's long fight for the United Farm Workers

Union in the 1970s. It's a powerful rally cry for the struggle of working class Latinos. It means "Yes you can. Yes we can live brown, earn a respectable living and be represented by our union". This power statement was intentionally placed over the heart so that when people wear the shirts, it symbolizes that without this movement, without Cesar's struggle to fight, Hispanics would not be where they are today. And underneath the fist, of course, union strong. That in itself speaks volumes", said Cervantes.

People ask Cervantes, why the skull on the shirt? "Skulls are an icon in the Latino culture. In the Hispanic community they celebrate life and memories. Dia De Los Muertos is Day of the Dead. It's a connection, a showing of respect and honoring their loved ones that have passed on. And last, but not least, the skull was completed with various automotive parts. It's who we are, it's what we do. We build vehicles. We are built Ford tough", said Cervantes.

Waters said he knew the event would be a success from the very beginning, once all Local 249's standing Committees committed to help pull this event off.

"As for the leaders serving on our Human and Civil Rights Committee,

this event meant the world to us, to see 250 to 300 of our members, their families, and community of different ethnicities, religion and culture come out in good spirits to support and celebrate Mexican Culture. It was nothing short of amazing", said Waters.

With the funds raised, the Human and Civil Rights Committee respectfully gifted the Urban Success brothers and sisters a check to show their gratitude. In return, and to our committee chairman's surprise, they handed the committee a personalized frame full of pictures with Local 249 members' involved at community outings. It was truly a thoughtful gift.

The Human and Civil Rights Committee has high hopes that this event will become a tradition and continue annually.

"I met so many new faces and it was heart-warming to watch the families come together in solidarity with their union brothers and sisters to celebrate", said Cervantes. "I would like to thank each and every standing committee that volunteered their time and donated funds for this historic event. And also thank you to Local 249's members and their families that came to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. I look forward to next year".



Volunteers from a number of area unions joined members of Local 249 at the union hall May 14 to kick off the Vote No on Proposition A campaign to turn out the vote for the August 7 election. Photo by Danielle Carl.

Unions gear up to get out the vote on Prop. A

By Pat Hayes

State Rep. Mark Ellebracht, Ryana Parks-Shaw, a candidate for the 30th district of the Missouri House and State Auditor Nicole Galloway were at Local 249 May 14 to work with volunteers from a number of area unions to get out the vote to repeal right to work which will be on the August 7 Primary ballot.

Despite heavy rain, the 27 volunteers knocked on 302 doors and made 349 calls to urge voters to vote no on Proposition A on August 7, according to Local 249 CAP Chair Shirley Mata.

One goal of the door to door visits is to get voters to sign cards pledging to vote no on Prop. A. The response to the cards was amazing, says Mata. Some 302 cards were signed by voters and returned by the volunteers.

If a majority vote no, right to work will be repealed.

In addition to volunteers from Local 249, members of the Steelworkers, Teamsters, Machinists and Painters union took part in the get out the vote effort.

Labor unions across the state

turned in 310,567 petition signatures last August to put repeal of right to work on the November ballot, but legislators in Jefferson City moved the vote to the August Primary, when fewer voters traditionally go to the polls.

Corporate and right-wing dark money PACs poured millions into the effort to weaken unions by making Missouri a right-to-work state. Legislators, led by Gov. Greitens, responded by putting their thumb on the scale by moving the election to August to deny voters a fair chance to overturn the unpopular law.

The unpopularity of right to work was demonstrated in recent months by the failure of a petition drive by right to work supporters to put a measure on

the ballot that would have written right to work into the state constitution. Despite spending more than a million dollars on the petition drive, not a single signature was submitted.

"Right to work is an attack on our way of life," State Rep. Mark Ellebracht, who represents the area around the Ford Motor Kansas City Assembly Plant where many Local 249 members live, told the volunteers.

"The vote by the legislature to move Prop. A to August tells me they think more of their big money donors than their own constituents."

Despite the undemocratic maneuvering in Jefferson City to tip the scales in favor of right to work, Ellebracht is convinced that voters will repeal the law.

"We have to win," said Ellebracht, "and I believe we will."

Local 249 and unions across the state are gearing up to get out the vote for the August 7 Primary election.

Local 249 played a key role in the

petition drive to put Prop. A. on the ballot. And, Local 249 plans to play a central role in the get out the vote effort, according to President Jason Starr.

Local 249 is asking for volunteers to staff the phone banks and participate in the door knocking campaign on their days off. Members who want to participate can call the union hall at 816-454-6333 to sign up.

The union is also working hard to elect candidates who will stand with working people and against right to work and other laws, such as repeal of prevailing wage and so-called paycheck protection.

In addition to get out the vote activities around Prop. A, the Local 249 CAP Committee is working hard to elect Lauren Arthur in the June 5 Special Election for Senate Dist. 17 in Clay County.

Local 249 will be working for Mark Ellebracht and Martin Rucker in the primary and general elections, as well.



UAW Local 249 ladies joined together for their 3rd annual Habitat for Humanity Women's Build program. The home, dedicated on Mother's Day each year, is a great opportunity for women to take a proactive step in serving their communities. Photo by Don Lehman.

UAW ladies volunteer for Women's Build

By Gwen Starkey

Chrome or brushed nickel, flat or satin, carpet or hardwood, tub or shower; these are just a few of the many decisions a new homeowner has to make before moving in. Tack on an extra 300 hours helping construct your own home and you'll have a home built for you, by you, and a few of your Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

For the third year, UAW Local 249 Community Services Committee has participated in the Women Build program with the Greater Kansas City Habitat for Humanity. The home, dedicated on Mother's Day, is a great opportunity for women to take a proactive step in serving their communities.

"It's always a pleasure to be able to be a part of such an amazing organization as Habitat for Humanity," Sadie Bass said. "We've been a part of the Women's Build for the past 3 years and I never lose that humble or excited feeling. For most people, buying a home is a major accomplishment and to help someone be able to live in a home that they can afford is

just amazing. We found out that the recipient of this beautiful home was going to a single mother with three kids, so I'm just thankful I was able to help. It's just a blessing to be part of something so amazing and I'm just grateful that they included me." Sadie, who's been with Ford for 19 years and a part of the Community Services Committee for 12 of those years, is a great example of what being active in your union and community is all about. "I am thankful to be on UAW Local 249's Community Service Committee," she says. They do such great things for the Kansas City area."

"This is my second time working with Habitat's Women Build project

and I've enjoyed the union of all the women on this project," Jacque Childs, Chairperson of UAW Local 249's Women's Committee said.

"Women from all walks of life participated, from management as well as hourly. I was able to learn how to work with drywall this time as well as painting. I've never worked with drywall before and it was a neat experience learning the different techniques. It just so happens that I had a drywall project at home that I planned on working on and by helping someone else, I was able to help myself with a little more knowledge about working with drywall. It was great to get together with all of the women from the different UAW Local 249 committees who came together and worked on a house to be able to help another family. It was pretty amazing and I would go do it again."

The ladies wanted to send a great big thank you to the members of the

Local 249 Ramp Crew who once again showed up to cook a fine lunch. As always, solidarity goes hand in hand with community service and UAW Local 249 is always up to the challenge. "I have been doing this for 3 or 4 years now and enjoy it every time," longtime member of the Community Services Committee Betty Arns said. It feels good that we can make a difference in the community. I get to meet new people every time I do this and I wish we could do this more than once a year. I want to give a big shout out to the ramp guys that always make us an awesome lunch."

Maybe Betty's on to something there. Why wait for a specific day or event to get involved. Volunteering makes a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors. Get involved, serve on a committee, plan a fundraiser or other special event. If you look around you'll find a way to get involved that suits you best.



Rabbi Doug Alpert of Congregation Kol Ami in Kansas City speaks to participants at the Poor People's Campaign launch in Jefferson City May 14. UAW Local 249 volunteers Danielle Carl, Gary Thomas, Rob Chrismon, Shirley Mata, Kevin Williams, Garrett Waters, Tamara Maxwell, Greg Smith, Robert Crowley and Doug and Heide Dawson participated in the march and rally. Photo by Danielle Carl.

Poor People's Campaign launched in Missouri

By Pat Hayes

Social justice activists, including many UAW members, from around the state converged on Jefferson City May 14 to demand an end to poverty and inequality in America. On the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's Poor People's march on Washington for economic justice the new nationwide movement launched a 40-day period of nonviolent direct action and civil disobedience with actions in state capitols across the nation.

In Jefferson City, 88 activists, including Heide Dawson, the wife of Local 249 member Doug Dawson, a member of the Community Service Committee who works in Truck Paint, were arrested in an act of non-violent civil disobedience to call attention to racism, poverty and militarism.

Local 249 has committed that at least 30 members will participate in non-violent civil disobedience on June 11 in a day of protest in Kansas City and Jefferson City led by leaders of the labor movement in the state.

"I believe in the fundamental right of everyone to earn a living wage," said Local 249 member Greg Smith, who

took part in the May 14 march and rally. "Minimum wages do not provide that. I also believe that people have a right to decide issues that directly impact the ability to provide for their families."

"The Poor People's Campaign is giving a voice to those who have been ignored and marginalized and it deserves support from people in all walks of life," says Smith, "These issues are not reserved for any single group they are basic human rights for all."

The United Auto Workers union has been active in the fight for social justice from the beginning. The union played a key role in organizing the original March on Washington and provided important

resources to Martin Luther King while he was writing the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered there. Walter Reuther also gave a speech at the event.

"I think it's important that we support those doing civil disobedience and show everyone in the Capitol that we won't back down from this fight until we get the changes we deserve," says Rob Chrismon, a member of Local 249's Education Committee.

"We may have to leave Jeff City to go back to our jobs," says Chrismon, "but we will be back for more."

Relentless attacks on working people in Jefferson City in the most recent session of the legislature, including undemocratic maneuvering to deny a fair vote by the people to repeal right to work. The passage of a so-called paycheck protection bill designed to weaken unions, and the repeal of prevailing wage, which will lower wages in the construction industry, have brought home to many

Local 249 members the importance of mounting a fight to protect the living standards of working people.

"The moral crisis we face demands a political Pentecost in America today," says the Rev. Henry Barber, a national leader of the Poor People's Campaign. "During slavery, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass and some Quakers and white evangelicals got together and formed a fusion movement that brought about abolition. When women didn't have the right to vote, Sojourner Truth and Elizabeth Cady Stanton got together, and they stood together until suffrage was won."

Every major social movement in this nation's history has won, in the end, says Barber, because a moral, fusion coalition came together and refused to stand down in the face of tyranny.

"It takes all of us to accomplish our goal," says Local 249 member Kevin Williams, "now is the time to stand up."

KCAP wins President's Quality Award

By Jim Fisher

I wanted to thank the membership for my recent confirmation to the position of UAW Local 249 Bargaining Chairman. I will do my best to make this a smooth transition and look forward to serving the membership.

As with past traditions, I will start with the production schedules. Transit production will remain on a 5X10 schedule with Saturdays scheduled for June 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd.

Truck Production returned to its regular schedule on Monday May 21. As everyone knows, a fire at the Easton Rapids Parts Plant has caused the Truck Side to be down for the past 2 weeks.

Despite all the rumors over the past couple weeks, the company was slow to make any announcements on production for a couple reasons. First, they were never confident on how long it would take to get parts in for all the plants to be back up and running, and secondly Ford was avoiding putting out too much information to any of our competitors. Ford at this time has lost about 14,300 F-150's from just the Kansas City Assembly Plant alone.

They will look to find ways to make up the lost production. If there are any changes to the schedule we will keep you informed.

At this time there are currently 17 people (1 from Flat Rock, 4 from Chicago and 12 from Louisville) who have expressed an interest in transferring back to KCAP. The company has stated that they should be returning back to Kansas City sometime in July.

Kansas City Assembly Plant has been named the winner of the 2017 North American President's Quality Award and our plant leads all other plants in the Ford System with the Highest Customer Satisfaction Score's. These are both important to our plant, as it shows we truly have the best work

force. It's all of our responsibility to ensure every unit leaving our plant is of the highest quality we can possibly build.

These awards prove to our customers if we find something wrong with a vehicle we don't accept it, we don't build it, and we don't pass it on. The local leadership even addresses this on pages 133 and 134 in the Local Agreement titled the Stop Button Procedure. I ask all of you to make sure you are following this language.

The company has their upper management walking the floor on Wednesday's doing "Culture Walks". They are looking for harassment on the shop floor. Don't be shy about pointing out any supervisors that you feel are harassing you or other members. We are seeing several of our members having hearings due to harassment. Please be respectful of what you are saying to each other. It only takes one person giving a statement to start an investigation.

Over the last couple weeks we have written multiple health and safety grievances. We have fixed several bathrooms, some of the pot holes in the parking lot, and countless fans in Truck Final. I want to thank our UAW Safety Reps and our Skilled Trades for their help in getting these addressed.

Finally, with Todd Hillyard leaving last month there has been a couple of us filling in with new roles. I want to thank all of our elected and appointed reps for their help, and especially our Bargaining Committee for making this a smooth transition.



Newly confirmed UAW Local 249 Bargaining Chairman Jim Fisher takes over the reins at the May union meeting. Photo by Don Lehman.



UAW-Ford Fitness Center

Open M-F 9 a.m to 7 a.m. (22 hours)

Sat. 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sun. 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Located in the Education Bldg.

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.

Recognizing Local 249 standing committees

By Jason Starr

It is a very busy time for our local with so many attacks being waged against us. Oftentimes we don't take the time to reflect on our victories and the good work that our membership does in our plant and in the community.

Our UAW Local 249 standing committees have been working hard on behalf of the membership and I wanted to take the opportunity to share some of the amazing work that is being done.

The Human and Civil Rights Committee continues its efforts to build the strength of our local through its education initiatives and events designed to bring out membership together. The diversity of our great union is truly a source of pride and power. The committee recently hosted their first Cinco De Mayo Fiesta that was a huge success, bringing members together to enjoy food, music and fellowship. This event will definitely grow into an event that our members look forward to each year.

The Recreation and Conservation Committee hosted its annual BBQ Cook-off that had its highest level of participation to date. The union hall was filled with the smell of great BBQ and members participated in a Corn Hole Tournament that brought out some fierce competition. The committee has several upcoming events planned so please check the Local 249 app and website for more details.

Our Community Service Committee continues to build the power of our great union through their service work in the surrounding communities. The committee recently organized a women's build with Habitat for Humanity that will make a huge impact in lives of a family in our community.

The Motorcycle Committee continues to raise the bar through their dedicated activism and community service work. The committee continually meets the needs of members of the community whether it is yard clean up after storms, small construction projects or organizing multiple events, including a recent day at a retirement home to spend time and play games with seniors in our community. The Motorcycle Committee also has been very active in our social, economic and political actions including fighting Prop. A (right to work) and standing with workers trying to organize and win union representation. The committee has also organized a solidarity concert to be held at our union hall on July 7th. This event will be a great time

for all that wish to attend so please check the Local 249 app and website for details.

The Women's Committee has hosted many great events for our members and their families including our annual Easter Egg Hunt which is an event that our members look forward to every year. Their next event is the Father/Daughter Dance that takes place on June 23rd. The Women's Committee also works hard to maintain our clean roadways on 69 Highway in front of the union hall, putting in countless hours collecting trash and debris.

Our UAW Local 249 Education Committee has recently been recognized in Solidarity Magazine for their hard work. The article highlights our scholarship program and the recent voluntary union education and training classes that have been a huge success and have brought in so many members that have taken up the challenge to play an active role in building the power of our union.

The newly formed Consumer Affairs Committee is working hard to build alliances in the business community and begin the process of educating our membership on our collective economic power. We must build strong relationships with businesses that support collective bargaining and more importantly we must clearly identify those that do not so that we do not shop at business that does not support collective bargaining and unions.

The Member to Member Committee has completed the launch of the program in the plant and has signed up hundreds of communicators to assist with getting information out to the membership in a direct more efficient manner. We have seen increased awareness and participation in all of our events and social, economic and political work.

The Union Label Committee is refocusing its efforts to build relationships with other labor organizations in the Kansas City area and work to educate the membership on the importance of supporting union made products and services. The committee will soon be taking the message to the community as well to build the strength of our union.

The Veterans Committee is con-



UAW Local 249 President Jason Starr speaks of the importance of our standing committees at the recent membership meeting. Photo by Don Lehman.

tinuing its long tradition of working with veterans organizations to meet the needs of veterans in our community. The committee is working to develop new relationship and strategies to build the power of our union.

Our UAW Local 249 CAP Committee has been working tirelessly to fight back against Prop. A (right to work) as well as build support for political candidates who stand with labor and pledge to fight the attacks against our union and our families and our way of life. The committee has recently launched our annual CAP Cruise/Elk Hunt raffle to raise funds to fight the attacks we face. The amount of work ahead of the committee is daunt-

ing and the local leadership cannot express the importance of the work this committee performs on behalf of the membership. If you are willing to assist in this work and help fight back against the corporate funded attacks please reach out to the leadership at the union hall.

It is easy to see that UAW Local 249 has standing committees that we can all be very proud of and the work that they do makes us all stronger. If you have an understanding of the realities we face and you are prepared to make the commitment to build the power of our great union through standing committee work. Please reach out to anyone on the local leadership team.



Retirees reminded to vote NO on Prop. A

By Susan Pena

Shirley Mata, CAP Chairperson, spoke on right-to-work, Proposition A. It will be on the ballot in August and then as an amendment on the ballot in November. We are asked to be sure to vote on both election days. The wording may be confusing on either or both ballots, but we are to vote NO on both occasions. June 5, 2018 there will be a special election. Anyone living in District 17 is asked to support Lauren Arthur for State Senate in that district. Shirley asked for help phone banking and knocking on doors. If you would like to help, please contact the union hall.

All the Mothers in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized. We hope you all had a great Mother's Day.

Dave Grant, Veterans Advocate, spoke about the governor and the president and expressed the need to be informed and to vote at each election.

Steve Hibbs, UAW Local 249 Benefits Representative, gave us a Retiree Trust update. We will receive new Medicare cards with new identification numbers by April 2019.

Derron Joyner, UAW Local 249 Benefits Representative, was present to answer any questions.

Tonya Moore, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas City Representative, was there to help with insurance needs.

Our new retirees are Nick D. Greene, Norman S. Jeannin and James Wagner. Congratulations to you all and enjoy your retirement.

Service Officer Bill Parker an-

nounced the May deaths: Kenneth R. Brickey, Doin R. Ray and Gabriel Tinoco. Please pray for them and their families.

Lori Marin, Family Auxiliary Vice-Chairperson, announced the birthdays and anniversaries. There are seven May birthdays and three anniversaries. Sharon and Tom Brown have been married 43 years, Yvonne and Noel Clark have been married 46 years, and Sue and Larry Summers have been married 47 years. Congratulations to everyone and God bless you.

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

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 20th at 10:30 a.m. Please bring a covered dish or dessert.

Please start making plans for our Annual September Retiree Picnic. This year it will be at Tryst Falls in Kearney on September 19, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you all there.



Mother's were celebrated at the May Retiree meeting at the UAW Local 249 union hall. Photo by Don Lehman.

UAW welcomes release of South Korean trade unionist



Former President Han Sang-gyun of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions is freed from prison in South Korea.

The UAW is pleased that former President Han Sang-gyun of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions is finally free. Hundreds of UAW members signed a petition for his release and the UAW International Executive Board called for President Han's release. While we are pleased that President Han has been released from prison we hope that soon the government of South Korea will recognize it is unacceptable to imprison anyone for exercising free speech, assembly, and association.

As we celebrate this release, we know that our work is not done. Former KCTU General Secretary Lee Young-joo remains in detention for her role in organizing the November 2015 People's Mass Mobilization and other demonstrations. She awaits a jury trial which begins on June 11, 2018. Korean Construction Workers Union (KCWU) President Jang Ok-ki is also in detention for organizing a massive construction workers' rights protest.

We call for Lee to be acquitted and Jang to be released.

Exercising the right to peacefully assemble and demonstrate is not a crime and should not be punished with a prison sentence. Once again, the UAW calls on the Government of the Republic of Korea to rescind all sentences and drop all peaceful protest-related charges against trade unionists, including those against General Secretary Lee and President Jang Ok-ki.



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Sherry Duffett, left to right, the wife of Local 249 millwright Larry Duffett and a former employee of Clay County, and Teri Welk are leading the petition drive for the Clay County Audit. Photo by Don Lehman.

Petition calls for Clay County audit

By Pat Hayes

A disturbing trend in Clay County has citizens in the area surrounding the Ford Motor Kansas City Assembly Plant concerned. Wasteful spending, reduced transparency, a hostile attitude to the public, vindictive budget cuts and tax increases combined with an 18 percent raise for some county officials have sparked a petition drive to demand an audit of county finances. Leading the petition drive are two determined women with strong ties to UAW Local 249 and KCAP.

Sherry Duffett, the wife of Local 249 millwright Larry Duffett and a former employee of Clay County, is one of those leading the petition drive. Working with her is Teri Welk. Welk's father, Walter Cox, retired as a Ford maintenance supervisor many years ago, her husband, Cary, is a retired relief worker in what was then the Commercial Trim Dept.

Both attended the monthly membership meeting at Local 249 May 20 to circulate the petition, explain the issues and get help from Local 249

members.

"Clay County has hired 11 law firms," Duffett told Local 249 members. "Those firms billed the county more than \$425,000 over the past year and a half, and one of those firms billed the county more than \$105,000 just to handle open records requests, a job once done by the County Clerk."

The county has made huge cuts to the budgets of the County Clerk's office and the Sheriff's Dept., Duffett said, while giving the County Administrator

a \$47,000 raise and a \$500,000 golden parachute.

Many believe the cuts were retaliation by two commissioners, Luann Ridgeway and Gene Owen, over an investigation sparked by the County Clerk and Sheriff into tampering with public documents and opposition to the 18 percent raise for the County Administrator.

The county is paying the legal fees for two county employees charged criminally with tampering with public records, according to Duffett.

The county has also been the subject of investigations by the FBI and the Missouri Attorney General.

As opposition to the wasteful spending has increased in the county, Ridgeway and Owen have moved to limit public comment at commission meetings and conduct business in private executive session rather than

open commission meetings.

"It's our right and our responsibility to get the petition drive done," Local 249 President Jason Starr told members at the meeting. "Clay County is home to our plant. It's where many of our members live and all of us work. Please sign the petition, if you live in Clay County, and help us to circulate it among your friends and family."

A Clay County Audit Hotline — 816-472-9200 — has been set up for those who would like to help circulate the petition. Speakers are available to speak on the issue to homeowners associations in the area. A GoFundMe page has been set up to take donations: www.gofundme.com/clay-county-mo-audit. The group has also set up a Facebook group for those who would like more information: Clay County Mo Audit.