

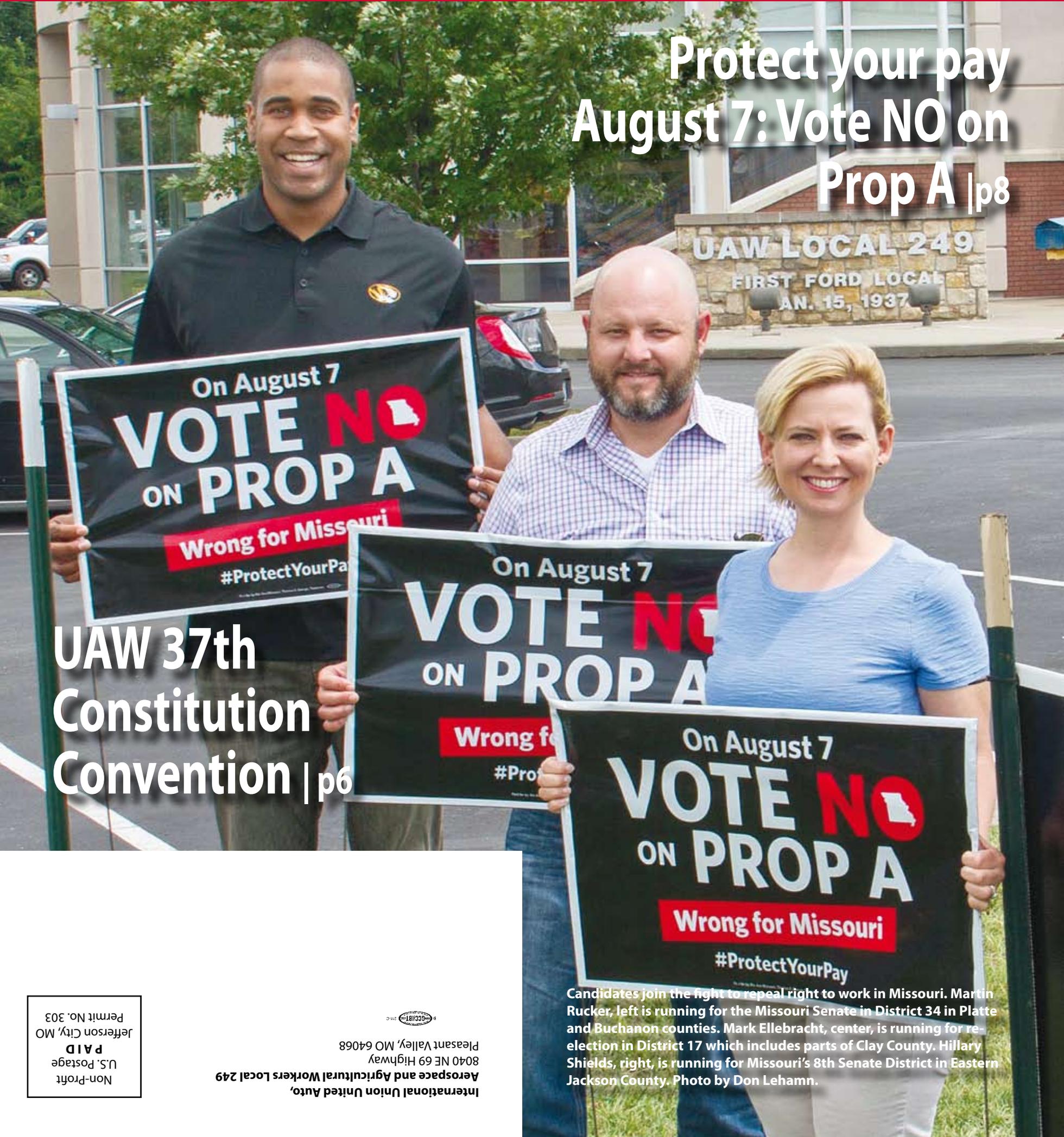
FIRST LOCAL NEWS

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

July 2018

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Candidates join the fight to repeal right to work in Missouri. Martin Rucker, left is running for the Missouri Senate in District 34 in Platte and Buchanan counties. Mark Ellebracht, center, is running for re-election in District 17 which includes parts of Clay County. Hillary Shields, right, is running for Missouri's 8th Senate District in Eastern Jackson County. Photo by Don Lehmann.

International Union United Auto,
Aerospace and Agricultural Workers Local 249
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UAW Local 249 Delegates met at the UAW 37th Constitutional Convention held at the Cobo Center in Detroit. Photo by Don Lehman.



The Father Daughter Dance was held June 23 at the UAW Local 249 union hall. The dance, presented by the Women's Committee was a huge success. Photo by Don Lehman.



The President of Demos, Heather McGhee was recognized for her extraordinary commitment to social justice when she was presented with the Owen Bieber Social Justice Award at the convention from UAW President Dennis Williams. Photo by Don Lehman.

First Local News

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UAW Local 249

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Officers of Local 249

President Jason Starr
1st Vice President Tony Renfro
2nd Vice President Tom Carr
Recording Secretary Shirley Mata
Financial Secretary Dana Davidson
Treasurer Chrissy Kline
Trustees Ed Scaggs, Connie Thomas, Sade Ott
Sergeant at Arms Leon Allen
Guide Jeremy Fue
Bargaining Chair Jim Fisher
Bargaining Committee Steve Chorbak and Travis Ramsey
Skilled Trades Bargaining Committee Member Ron Pangborn
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

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Employee Involvement

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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

UAW condemns Janus decision

The Supreme Court Janus decision is yet another effort to put obstacles in front of working men and women to join collectively behind the power of a unified voice, UAW International President Gary Jones said in a June 28 statement.

"To be clear, labor will survive. But to be equally clear, our elections do matter, as the appointment of conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch by the Republican-led Senate left little doubt about the outcome of this decision. The Janus decision is just another barrier and another attack on working men and women. It cannot, however, take away the powerful voice that UAW members and other unions deliver when they sit across the table and collectively bargain for their families, their safety and their communities.

"You cannot silence the voice of so many American families who want a seat at the bargaining table. The UAW and the rest of labor stand together no matter what obstacle." —UAW

Gary Jones: We will embrace the values that make us strong

Newly elected UAW President Gary Jones addressed delegates on the closing day of the convention with a message of facing challenges with a clear vision, drawing from the strengths of the past and moving forward with "values that embrace education, health care, time for families, fraternity, a fair living wage and equality for all."

He shared a poignant reminder of one of the union's most famous victories. "When faced with bridges, we will remember standing on the overpass on Miller Road, Gate 4, in the Ford River Rouge complex," he said. "If we are told to sit down, we will quietly remind them, as we pull on our white shirts, of how we once sat for a spell in Flint and in doing so, changed the world with the strength of our solidarity."

"And when one of us is under attack, an army of red-shirted brothers and sisters will rise and say proudly, 'what you do to one of us, you do to all of us.' We are UAW, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Knowing who we are and knowing what the UAW is about could not be more important than it is today," he emphasized.

In his final comments, Jones stressed the union's unwavering core values. "The UAW's idea of a middle class has meant organized opposition to anti-union interests, wherever they may be. We will fight for our retirees, for our active members and for members to come. We will stand up for civil rights, for gender equality, and for families and workers everywhere. We have a history of right on our side." —UAW

Rev. William Barber: There is right and wrong and we are on the side of right

The Rev. Dr. William Barber, the fiery preacher and leader of the Poor People's Campaign, brought delegates to their feet with a message about race, politics, inequality and how America's "rejected" and disadvantaged can turn the tables and take this country back.

Rev. Barber explained that failed bureaucracies that leave communities with poisoned water, states that suppress voting rights and politics that play to issues that divide Americans are detrimental to our democracy and must be stopped.

Racism. Gender discrimination. Militarism. Those are issues the powerful use to divide allies. Those are issues that caused supporters to turn against the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., said Barber. And today those are among the issues that divide allies like labor and religious leaders. Barber was at the Vatican and referenced how the pope addressed why that kind of division must change.

"The rejected must come together, what we need in this country is a massive, nonviolent fusion. Civil disobedience. Mobilization. And, we need mass power-building among the poor and the working poor," Barber told delegates.



GM: Invest in American workers

By Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown

June 22 was a dark day for the American auto industry and American workers.

On the very same day GM laid off the entire second shift at the historic Lordstown plant in the Mahoning Valley, we got word that GM plans to build its new Chevy Blazer in Mexico – that's right, the company is bypassing American workers and sending more jobs to Mexico.

All this comes on the heels of the windfall GM got from the tax bill Congress passed last year. GM can now bring nearly \$7 billion in overseas cash back to the U.S. at a dramatically lower tax rate, and they can immediately deduct the cost of any new investments in plants and equipment.

They could be using that extra cash to invest in Lordstown and build more cars in America. But what are they doing?

They're laying off 1,500 Ohio workers. Think about that: 1,500 workers, 1,500 families affected.

And that's just a year after they laid off the third shift – more than 1,000 workers – at the same plant.

They've got some nerve.

The workers at this plant are among the best in the world. The car they make – the Chevy Cruze – beat out the foreign competition in its class last year.

For the 2018 models, J.D. Power and Associates named the Cruze among the top two cars in its class, and they named the Lordstown plant among the top 6 plants in the Americas.

Anyone who's been to Lordstown wouldn't be surprised.

Ten years ago, I stood on this floor as we voted to save the American auto

industry.

Two years later, I stood in Lordstown and watched the first Chevy Cruzes roll off the assembly line. I even drove one of the cars.

Two years ago, I stood in Lordstown for the plant's 50th anniversary. I saw the pride the community takes in that plant.

GM itself estimated more than 10,000 people – young and old, families with their children, vintage car buffs, former workers – turned out to watch the parade and celebrate the plant.

The line to get into the plant for a tour stretched down the street and around the block.

That is what this plant and the auto industry mean to the communities they serve.

That's why we worked so hard to save this industry, including GM, after the economic crisis. In addition to the federal auto rescue, the state of Ohio gave GM more than \$80 million in tax incentives for the Cruze plant.

But now, after Ohio gave millions to this company, GM is turning its back on Ohio – all while making record profits and reaping the rewards of the tax bill.

As a country, as a state, we are invested in this industry – GM needs to invest in America and in Ohio. They need to invest in the workers and the communities that built this company and made it great.

Instead of making plans to invest in Mexico, GM should be working with us to invest in American workers.

We've invested in GM. It's time for GM to invest in Ohio workers.

Local 249 volunteers key to Arthur victory

By Pat Hayes

Local 249 volunteers were key to the surprise landslide victory by Lauren Arthur in the June 5 Missouri Senate District 17 special election. The conventional wisdom in political circles was that Arthur, a former teacher and Democratic state representative, had no chance against Republican Kevin Corlew in the Clay County race. That conventional wisdom was turned on its head by the time the polls closed on election day with voters sending Arthur to the state senate by a double digit margin.

One critical key to Arthur's victory was an early decision by Local 249 President Jason Starr to endorse her over Corlew, despite the fact that Corlew had voted against right to work. Local 249 led a successful campaign in the AFL-CIO to push for her endorsement there.

"Clay County is our backyard," says Starr. "We need a state senator to represent our interests on a wide range of issues, not just one. We appreciate Kevin Corlew's vote on right to work, but there are many issues that are important to working families. Lauren Arthur stands with us on all of those issues."

The endorsement by Local 249's CAP Committee brought an army of union volunteers to knock on doors and make phone calls in the district.

"Local 249 volunteers knocked on more than 8,000 doors and made more than 11,000 phone calls to support Arthur," says CAP Committee Chair Shirley Mata.

Local 249 also helped to turn out volunteers from other unions, including teachers, steelworkers, communications workers, pipefitters, machinists, teamsters and boilermakers, according to Mata.

In total, UAW activists, working with volunteers from other unions and the coordinated campaign of Sen. Claire McCaskill, knocked on more than 52,800 doors and made 197,000 phone calls in support of Arthur.

The volunteer effort for Arthur was necessary to overcome the massive financial advantage from the corporate donors backing Corlew in exchange for his votes against working families on paycheck deception, workplace discrimination, minimum wage, cuts to unemployment insurance, forced arbitration and charter school expansion.

Arthur's victory speech on election night gave a strong indication that the union support for her campaign will pay off for working families.

"For too long the priorities and pet projects of billionaires and corpora-



Mo. State Sen. Lauren Arthur, in blue dress, shown here with Local 249 members Sade Ott, left to right, Shirley Mata, Tony Renfro, Jim Fisher, Jason Starr and Travis Ramsey. Photo by Don Lehman.

tions have been put ahead of investing in Missourians. We sent a message loud and clear that we demand great public schools ... and a transparent and responsive state government," Arthur said in her victory speech.

"Arthur will become just the 10th Democrat in the Missouri Senate," says Local 249 President Jason Starr. Anti-worker Republicans still control 24 of

the 34 seats in the Missouri Senate. That means we still have our work cut out for us."

"Local 249 is already pushing to extend this victory into the August 7 primary with the Vote No campaign on Prop. A. As we move to November we'll use the template we developed in the Arthur campaign to win more victories," says Starr.

Vance Pearson elected Region 5 Director

Vance Pearson was elected Region 5 Director at the 37th Constitutional Convention in June of 2018.

Prior to that, he served as the region's assistant director following an appointment in January 2016 by Region 5 Director Gary Jones.

In September 2002, President Ron Gettelfinger appointed him to the International staff as a servicing representative in the union's Retired Workers Department.

In November 2003, he was assigned to Region 5 as a servicing representative responsible for collective bargaining, arbitrations, and organizing. Pearson also served as a retiree representative, Community Action Program representative and as the office manager of the region's sub-regional office in Pico Rivera, California.

Pearson hired in at Boeing North American in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1981 and became a member of Local 887. Coworkers elected him to serve as

an alternate committeeman, a committeeman, a seniority coordinator, a bargaining committeeman, a shop vice chairman, a chairman, a vice president and later local union president.

Pearson is a graduate of Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa where he earned certification as an aircraft electrician.

Pearson has a long history of being involved in his church and gives his full participation in his community including being a long-term member of organizations such as the NAACP, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

Pearson lives in St. Charles, Missouri. He has two sons and one daughter.



UAW Local 249 President Jason Starr, left to right, newly elected Region 5 Director Vance Pearson, Region 5 CAP Rep. Clint Harris and Local 249 Bargaining Chairman Jim Fisher toured the Transit Final Dept. in the Kansas City Assembly Plant May 31st. Photo by Don Lehman.

Communicators distribute Prop A cards

By Colleen Taylor

In early June, the Member to Member Committee was tasked by leadership to get Vote No Prop A cards distributed to the Local 249 membership. The Vote No Prop A cards are part of We Are MO, a broad coalition of Missouri citizens who are joined together in a statewide campaign to place so-called "right to work" on the ballot and give voters, not the out of touch politicians the right to determine the economic future of working class Missourians.

There was a limited amount of time for the committee members to get the Prop A cards out to the committeeman, cover all shifts and help where need be. Committee member's Tony Gott, Transit Trim 3rd shift and William DeCoudres, Stamping Plant 3rd shift played a critical role in getting the cards out to the committeemen for distribution to the area communicators.

"Over 4000 Prop A cards were handed out and we received over 2000 signed cards back. We have more coming in everyday," said Gott. "It has been very successful."

"The committeemen were a great help and very positive about the job at hand," said DeCoudres. "We had three days to do this and they played a key role in getting this done."

Missourians must vote no on Proposition A because it fails to create jobs and forces workers to accept lower pay. The passing of it will only broaden the gap between working families and the wealthy CEOs. Instead we need to be giving workers and families greater economic opportunities.

A yes vote would give even more power to big corporations at a time when CEO pay has grown 361 times higher than what the average worker makes. Proposition A is being promoted by a well-coordinated network of out-of-state billionaires, super PACs, and corporate special interest groups that are down-sizing, shipping jobs overseas, and hiding profits offshore to avoid paying the same taxes families and small businesses must pay.

Missouri's corporate legislators, backed by billionaires, out-of-state CEOs and dark-money special interest groups have done everything in their power to make sure Prop A will pass. They moved Prop A to the ballot in August, knowing historically fewer voters turn out to the polls. In other words, in addition to misleading voters about the true intent and impact of Prop. A (RTW), they are trying to influence the vote.

A No vote on Proposition A is a must on August 7 for the working class people.

The distribution of the Prop A cards is just one of the many undertakings by

the Member to Member Committee that have been successful. "Committee members Cameron Pennington and Tony Gott were involved with the literature for the get out and vote for Lauren Arthur, the Democratic candidate for Clay County Missouri Senate (District 17)," said Jo Meneses, Worker to Worker Committee Chairperson.

The hard work paid off because Arthur won the election. This was a win for the working class people.

"We have gone through all the growing pains now. We've learned that it's about getting the information out to the committeemen and finding out from them what works best for their area. It's critical to get feedback from the committeemen," said Gott.

The sixteen Member to Member committee activists attribute the success of the Worker to Worker communication process to the support of the Local 249 committeemen.

There are now approximately 450 communicators who have joined the communication program. The committee has also received over 3300 surveys with great feedback from the membership.

"We are the pioneers of the Member to Member Committee. We look forward to sharing our committee's success stories with other locals and all of Region 5," said committee member Lamar Taylor, MP&L Body Transit.



Curtis Collins, left to right, Shenelle Edwin, and Thomas Lowe distribute Prop A cards for signatures through their Member to Member Committee. Its been quite successful with over 2000 cards returned. Photo by Don Lehman.

For more information on vote no prop A, go to <http://www.votenooprop.org/>.

If you would like to learn more

about the Member to Member/Communications group and their events please contact member2member@gmail.com.

UAW Local 249 Picnic

Monday, September 3 from 11 AM - 5 PM

La Benite Riverfront Park
Cement and N Courtney Rd, Sugar Creek

The UAW Local 249 annual picnic will be held on Labor Day, Monday September 3rd from 11am to 5pm at LaBenite Riverfront Park in Sugar Creek, MO.

The Carnival style event will have good food, rides, inflatables, carnival midway games and so much more! The event is free for Members and immediate family. Members will need to stop by the Hall to sign out event bracelets before the sign up deadline of August 24th. For more information please contact the Union Hall at 816-454-6333



UAW Local 249 convention delegates Dave Norris, left to right, Sade Ott, Financial Secretary Dana Davidson, Skilled Trades Bargaining Committeeman Ron Pangborn, Committeeman Dean Freed, Bargaining Chairman Jim Fisher, Bargaining committeeman Travis Ramsey, Vice President Tony Renfro, and President Jason Starr study proposed resolutions. Photo by Don Lehman.

UAW 37th Constitution Convention

By Gwen Starkey

The 37th UAW Constitutional Convention kicked off in Detroit June 11-14 with thousands of delegates in attendance from all over the country including Canada and Puerto Rico. Delegates were there to debate and vote on proposed constitutional changes, policy resolutions and other important issues. This year's theme, We Are UAW, was designed to organize, educate and agitate members into action.

Important issues voted on during the convention included an executive salary increase, adjustments to dues and initiation fees, trials of members, civil and human rights and the election of officers, including president, secretary-treasurer and three vice presidents.

After all introductions were made, the business of the convention began. The first speaker was the Mayor of Detroit Mike Duggan who welcomed delegates by extending a big thank you to the union for the good work UAW members do.

The delegates then had the opportunity to debate and vote on

proposed resolutions. After reading each resolution, regions were polled for their support for or against the resolution. For Region 5, Delegate and UAW Local 249 Financial Secretary Dana Davidson stood in support of the Resolution: Education for a Strong Union saying, "I stand in support of this resolution because I think education is so important. I was blessed early on in my career to have the opportunity to go to Black Lake and to go to summer school and see how all the issues that are happening affect each one of us."

Region 5 Delegate and UAW Local 249 President Jason Starr spoke in support of the Resolution: Strengthening

our Political Voice saying in part, "We are under constant attack. We must be willing to take on those in power head on. Together we can elect candidates who will stand united."

Delegate and UAW Local 249 Bargaining Chairman Jim Fisher spoke in favor of the dues resolution saying, "I stand in support of this resolution because it does three things. One, it fully supports our strike and defense fund. Two, it proves to our members that our international union is responsible for our dues and finally, once all the goals are met, it reverts back to traditional formula for collecting union dues."

Delegate and UAW Local 249 Vice President Tony Renfro spoke in support of the resolution, Protecting our way of life, Trade Policy, saying in part, "I stand on the shoulders of all the UAW members that came before me. The Trade Policy in the US will mean more jobs for our middle class."

A riveting speech by social activ-

ist and President of Demos, Heather McGhee rocked the Cobo Center when she spoke of sowing seeds of dissension from those that try to divide us. She spoke of memories of Black Lake when she saw a sister wearing a t-shirt that said, "no one fights alone". She said, "For me, that simple idea, that no one fights alone, so powerful, I couldn't shake it. I kept seeing that phrase. It is so far from the reality of American life today. The struggles of our daily lives to pay off the student loans, healthcare bills, the childcare bills, or just keeping the lights on. These are all solo fights. Americans, half of them who couldn't pay a \$400 bill without going into debt or selling something, are going round after round with just us and our bank balances, alone. We are fighting alone, for self-improvement to get ahead, fighting the dead end job, getting a second or third job, fighting to find cheaper housing or going back to school."

"Brother and sisters," she said. "You in this room know better than anybody, that's no way to win. We didn't get a 40-hour workweek by fighting alone. We didn't get healthcare, pensions, and safety on the floor by fighting alone. Our brave ancestors who won these rights for us, they weren't fighting alone. Their only power was in their numbers. These victories were only possible when people recognized their common struggles and linked arms even across lines of difference. They built the greatest middleclass the world has ever seen."

Delegates jumped to their feet with a deafening sound of cheering and clapping. McGhee was recognized for her extraordinary commitment to social justice when she was presented with the Owen Bieber Social Justice Award from UAW President Dennis Williams.

Other topics presented were the Flint water crisis and the ongoing power crisis and flooding in Puerto Rico. Videos were shown throughout the 4-day event from union members talking about making my story your fight, and the winners of the union made contest, "Built by the USA".

As the week continued, there were many other powerful speakers. Detroit NAACP president Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony in his "I'll show you a union" speech, used the analogy of the UAW as a hornet's nest, saying, "If you poke one, you'll get the whole hive."

The Rev. Dr. William Barber, preacher and leader of the Poor People's Campaign spoke about the "Other America" saying "The disadvantaged and poor make up the other America. That is the America with substandard housing, poisoned water and little if any economic justice. But there are more of those rejected Americans than there are oppressors and it's time for coalitions committed to the moral high ground to come together." Michigan gubernatorial candidate, Gretchen Whitmer also spoke asking members for their support in her upcoming election

Other speakers included; The Governor of Montana, Steve Bullock; NAACP President and CEO, Derrick Johnson; President of the Teamsters union and longtime UAW friend, James P. Hoffa; President of the AFL-CIO, Richard Trumka and Professor Janice Bellace, member of the Public Review Board.

We all had the opportunity to get connected to something that was much larger than we were. At the end of the week after Gary Jones gave his acceptance speech, he concluded with a quote from Isaac Newton saying, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants".



Outgoing UAW International President Dennis Williams gave a riveting farewell speech telling delegates that he will never forget his experiences and plans to spend more time at Black Lake. Photo by Don Lehman.

A farewell from Dennis Williams

By Gwen Starkey

In his farewell address to UAW Delegates at the 37th Constitutional Convention in Detroit, an emotional President Dennis Williams spoke from the heart. Tearing up as he was greeted with a standing ovation and thunderous applause he said, "I want to thank the members of the UAW who have supported me all over this country for many, many years."

He began by recalling his humble beginnings at Rock Island, Illinois when he first ran for committeeman and then as chairman for two terms, unopposed he added. "I met people who really struggled and helped them negotiate their first contract. I remember talking to people in southern Illinois while helping organize Mitsubishi and working in Indiana organizing state workers. The memories of running for director of Region 4, as Secretary Treasurer, and then the opportunity to become President of the UAW. It's been an experience of my lifetime," he said.

He says that it all started from a man in his plant who stopped him while he was running for committeeman. He said, "Dennis, I want you to read this book, and I said I don't want to read any book." The man insisted he read it anyway, and he did. It said, a good leader is an excellent listener. "I carried that thought throughout my career and I found that when you listen you learn about everything," Williams said. "You find out about issues, how much people care for one another, and how much we can learn from one another."

"I think about what we have learned over the years, the struggles that we have had. I think about the many strikes throughout the country,

and one in particular was the men and women at Caterpillar," he says. "I have learned more from the members of the UAW over the years just by the conversations I've had at Black Lake," which is one place he hopes to spend more time there after he retires.

When you're a leader, he said, you have many people that you work with, people that mean a lot, and he took the opportunity to thank each one of them by name, for the help that they gave him and for accompanying him on this great journey. "Brothers and sisters, I will never forget this experience," he said. I will never forget all of you, and I hope to see you on my path as a retiree."

But more importantly, he recalls, "I remember a time when we thought things were impossible, electing Barack Obama as president of the United States, winning in areas where they said it was impossible. These are the things that we do every day. We educate our members, and get them as much information as we can. We have deep conversations so that everybody can get together because we know that if they divide us, we lose, but if we are united, we win. That is a fact, not a myth. I've learned so much over the years that I know that when we decide to do something together, we

can actually achieve it. We have proved that repeatedly."

In this important election year he reminds us that we have to quit being so passive with our congressional representatives and senators. "We have to tell them to do their jobs and represent the working men and women," Williams said. "Furthermore, when we have a president of the United States that tells the workers that he's on our side, we need to call him out and say bullshit. He tries to divide us. What are we thinking? We formed this union in Flint Michigan and there was a sit-down, it meant that workers had a common goal. I get worried when I see people put stuff on social media that is not true, I get angry when I see UAW members lash out at each other and when they lash out at me, they are lashing out at all you as well."

Williams love of the UAW, its members and its mission is obvious. "The power of the UAW is in our actions day in and day out in unity and that's called solidarity, and that is what that wheel is all about," he said. It's what holds the UAW together and drives the labor movement forward. Over the past four years, the UAW has forged a positive path.

"We have put ourselves in a better position. We have looked death in the eyes during the recession. We have brought our union back to a foundation of fiscal responsibility for our membership and we have fought the fight, and we will continue to do so. Brothers and sisters, we are in solidarity together forever."

Protect your pay August 7: Vote NO on Prop A

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka delivered the following remarks in St. Louis calling for repeal of right to work in Missouri

Brothers and sisters, it's great to be back in Missouri. Just about eight months ago, we came together in this great city for the AFL-CIO Convention. We declared to ourselves and the world that the labor movement is here to stay. We left St. Louis with a clear vision and mission based on one unmistakable truth: we are the change we've been looking for.

In the months since, the power of the labor movement has been on full display. Tens of thousands of new members have signed union cards. Countless young people are reaching for the rights and dignities that come with a collective bargaining agreement.

We will never forget the images of teachers marching and chanting for the respect that they've earned. Collective action is on the rise. Journalists in the West. Teaching assistants in the North. Boeing mechanics in the South. And workers at Dollar General right here in Missouri.

Brothers and sisters, we have the power. We're joining together, fighting together and winning together. And we've got to keep it up, because the next fight is coming quick.

The same people waging a corporate-funded assault on worker freedom at the Supreme Court have targeted Missouri for decades. You have the scars to prove it.

Let me be clear. Proposition A will lower wages, destroy jobs, increase poverty and make pay even less equal for working women. Above all, Prop A will undermine our collective voice on the issues important to our lives.

The corporate politicians want us to sit down and shut up. That's why they moved the vote to August. They think we'll stay home. Well I have news for them. This is the summer of workers. And we are going to prove the haters wrong by voting NO on August 7th. Let's hit the doors today and tomorrow and the day after that. Talk to your friends and family! Pester your neighbors. We defeated right to work in 1978. And we're going to defeat it again in 2018.

A victory in August can help set the table for a pro-worker wave this fall.

Today, in communities across the country, we're kicking off our Labor 2018 campaign. We're unleashing the largest and most strategic member

to member political program in our history, sparking change by doing what organizers do best: talking to each other.

Street-by-street and person-by-person, we're having conversations about the issues that matter most. Higher wages, better benefits, time off, a secure retirement and a fair return on our labor. And by starting now and putting our agenda first, we'll be able to cut through the television ad blitz and political noise of October and November.

Each of you are on the front lines of a revolution—a revolution of working people fighting for our fair share of the prosperity we built—a movement demanding what we deserve.

That's how we win elections. We've done it in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and California and Wisconsin and Virginia. Missouri is next.

But, it won't just happen. We need you. Every single one of you.

We have the chance to take our country back. To truly make America great.

We can build a nation where union members fill the halls of power...where we earn a fair wage for a full day's work...where there are more pro-labor Republicans and fewer corporate Democrats...where politicians rally alongside the labor movement instead of cowering behind Wall Street...where we assert our value and power as working people.

Because this is our land. We make this country run. We're teachers and steelworkers, nurses and coal miners, firefighters and letter carriers.

We are the American labor movement, the people who built this country into the most prosperous nation the world has ever known. And, we ain't done yet.

We're marching forward. We're fighting back. This is our moment. And if we stick together, no one has a chance in hell of stopping us.

Thank you. Let's do this.



Candidates join the fight to repeal right to work in Missouri. Hillary Shields, left, is running for Missouri's 8th Senate District in Eastern Jackson County, which includes portions of Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Greenwood, Independence, Lake Lotawana, Lake Tapawingo, Lee's Summit, Lone Jack, Oak Grove, and Pleasant Hill. Mark Ellebracht, center, is running for re-election in District 17 which includes parts of Clay County, including parts of Liberty, Pleasant Valley, Kansas City, and Claycomo. Martin Rucker, right, is running for the Missouri Senate in District 34 in Platte and Buchanan counties and includes the cities of Camden Point, Dearborn, Easton, Edgerton, Gower, Houston Lake, Kansas City, Lake Waukomis, Northmoor, Parkville, Platte City, Platte Woods, Riverside, Smithville, St. Joseph, Tracy, Weatherby Lake, Weston. Photo by Don Lehman.

Join the Fight to Defeat Right to Work

July 10 at 9am

Liz Schuler, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO will be speaking

At the UAW Local 249 union hall

July 14 from 9 am to 1 pm

**At the Clinton County Courthouse
207 North Main Street, Plattsburg, MO 64477**

For more information call 816-217-1565

Volunteers Urgently Needed

Super Days are scheduled for Truck Side

By Jim Fisher

Transit Production will remain on a 5X10 schedule with Saturday's scheduled for the Day Shift on July 21st. Saturday's are scheduled for Night Shift on July 14th and 28th. There is also talk of a couple of Saturdays being scheduled for August, but that is too far out to confirm yet.

The Truck System will remain on a 3-Crew 4X10 schedule with a voluntary week of production scheduled for the second week of the July shutdown. They are scheduling all seven days of the week and 10 hours per day.

This is to make up for the loss of production from the two down weeks due to the fire at the Easton Rapids Parts Plant.

At this time the company is planning on working a few Super Days and so far B-Crew is scheduled on July 28th and August 25th and A-Crew is scheduled for August 12. If there are any changes we will keep you updated.

We are still on track to have our 17 people transferring back to Kansas City Assembly Plant on July 16th.

We continue to have several members each month receiving 10-day quit notices while out on medical. Make sure that you are working with UniCare, your doctor and our Benefit Reps while you are on medical. While some members have had issues getting paperwork back from either their doctor or Unicare it is still the employee's responsibility to have the paperwork turned in within a timely manner.

A couple of things you can do to help this is to make sure if you are going out on medical, be certain that your contact information is up to date in Labor Relations and at the union hall. Several members are having paperwork sent to the wrong address and there is no way to contact them. You must update your information at both places because they are on separate computer systems.

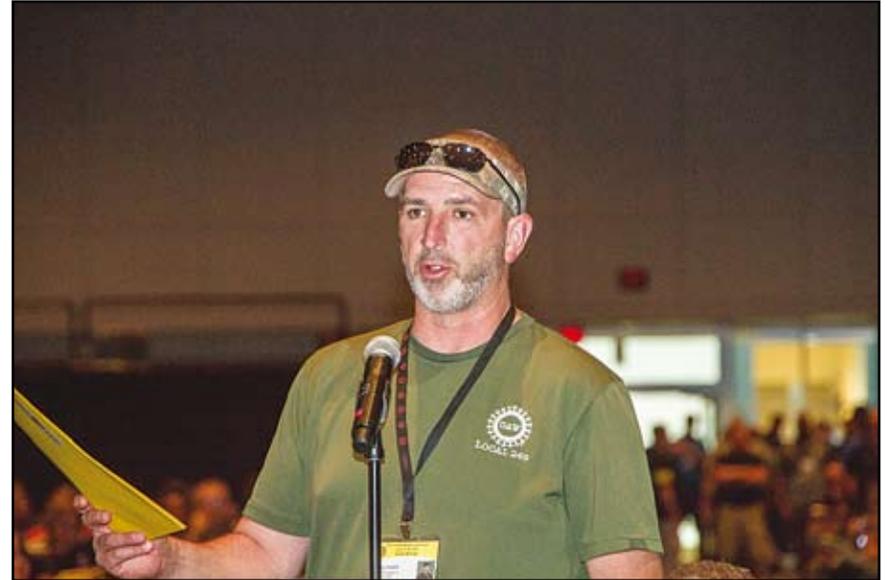
If you are sent home from medical and your doctor gives you a note for additional days off, those extra days off are not covered by that doctor's note. Labor Relations will AWOL you. If you are absent three or more days, you must contact UniCare to open a medical leave of absence.

This must be reported within five days of your last date of work. You will need medical evidence to support your leave and it is due within 14 days of your last day of work. You must be under the care of a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy. The paperwork you will need is available at the union hall or UniCare will send it to you.

Another issue we are having is getting people rehired after they have been terminated for violating the National Attendance Policy. The language on the National Attendance Policy is in Volume 4-A starting on page 17. It clearly states that if you have served a 30 day penalty for absenteeism and AWOL again within 18 months you will be terminated. It is very hard to write a grievance on absenteeism with the language being so clear. For the Reps trying to get you rehired they are literally just begging the company to bring you back.

I would like to congratulate President Starr, his team and all of the volunteers that helped with the Lauren Arthur campaign. This is another big win for Local 249 sending another voice to Jefferson City on our workers behalf. In the past two local elections Jason and his team have worked hard to send out notices so that our members are aware of what is going on in politics and taking this to a hometown fight attitude.

On May 31st newly elected Region 5 Director Vance Pearson visited the Kansas City Assembly Plant. He walked



UAW Local 249 Bargaining Chairman Jim Fisher had the opportunity to speak on a resolution at the 37th Constitutional Convention held at the Cobo Center in Detroit. Photo by Don Lehman.

through the Final Departments in Transit and the Truck Side. After the tour he met with some of our leadership team. We were excited to host him in the plant and look forward to working with him in the future.

I would like to thank our Local 249 Delegates who were at the convention last week in Detroit for all of their hard work. These guys worked around the clock representing Local 249 in a bright light. Eight of our delegates spoke on

resolutions at the convention. One of our Delegates, Steve Chorbak, served on the Credentials Committee and Local 249 President Jason Starr nominated Gary Jones as the next President of the International UAW. I don't know if it can be expressed enough how big Gary Jones, a Local 249 member, becoming the next President of the IUAW is for all UAW members.

I hope that everyone had a happy and safe 4th of July.

UAW Local 249 Solidarity Concert Headlining Damien Gunn

Saturday, July 7 at 6 PM - 9 PM
United Auto Workers Local 249
8040 NE 69 Hwy, Pleasant Valley

Come join The UAW Local 249 Motorcycle Committee at a FREE Solidarity Concert! Opening Performer will be Nic Danger, and the Headlining Performer is Damien Gunn!! There will be BBQ sold by "The Rub" and Beer sold by "Valley Pub" the night will also include a few guest speakers!

Starr nominates Jones for UAW President

By Jason Starr

Thank you, Mr. President, for recognizing me. Brothers and Sisters, I am Jason Starr President of Local 249 in Claycomo, Missouri in Region 5. I rise to place in nomination a man that will follow the example which has been so worthily set by his predecessors. Every organization is judged by its elected representatives. Our organization is no exception, we have been most fortunate in electing our officers and International union executive board members.

The brothers' name that I will place in nomination hails from my local union Local 249, he has sound judgement, keen perception, relentless courage, tested ability, vision and a profound faith in God. During our 83-years of UAW history his love for humanity has prepared this brother to be the 12th UAW president. His integrity and impeccable character has earned him a place of great distinction among his colleagues.

He is a friend of the rank and file. He has made leadership in our region a part of every important decision he had to make that affect our members and their families. We will miss him dearly. His tenacious leadership as Region 5 Director lead our region to be the first region to raise over 2 million dollars in the UAW Voluntary Community Action Program two years in a row, 2016 and 2017. To date no other region has broken the two-million-dollar barrier.

He is a tireless worker providing the leadership in Region 5 to organize more men and women, giving them a better way of life, his vision was for them to be apart of the greatest union on the face of the earth.

Brothers and Sisters this brother will be an initiates action leader, he will communicate our goals, policies, plans and assess the complex problems that will be facing our union. He will formulate, diagnose and generate an action plan that will impact the overall success of our union, yes, he is a man of action.

Sisters and Brothers, this brother will challenge the status quo. He will find a way to make a significant difference in any situation that we are focused on as a union. He will always be accessible and available to the entire membership, because he knows accountability benefits every level of this membership. His goal has always been to nurture and mentor other union leaders, such as myself.

This brother served as Financial Secretary of Local 1895, Insurance Administrator for the International Union, Chief Accountant, Top Administrative Assistant for three UAW Secretary Treasurers, Assistant Director of Region 5, and elected regional Director two terms in Region 5. He excelled in every position he has held in our union. He earned a degree from the University of Tulsa and is a licensed Certified Public



UAW Local 249 President Jason Starr had the privilege of nominating Region 5 Director Gary Jones for UAW International President. Photo by Don Lehman.

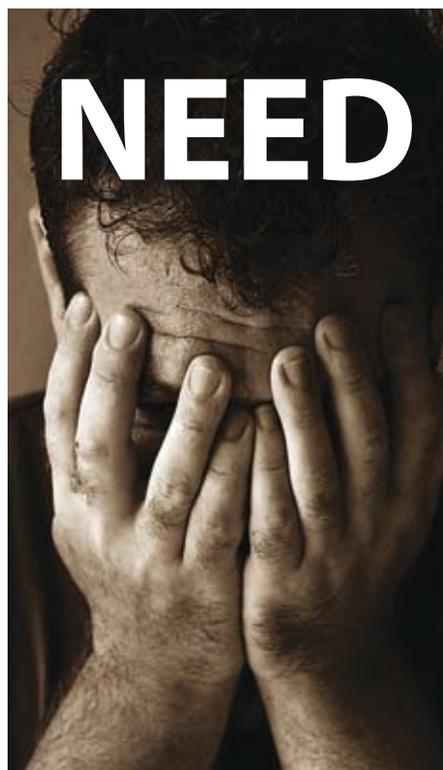
Accountant (CPA). His leadership style has always been to make a difference, for 43-years as a UAW member it has never been about a role, position or title it has always been about making a positive difference for the good of our union.

His goal has always been to stay optimistic with a strong belief in the future of our organization. He is the man of the hour. Because of the spirit in him, he has been chosen to lead our organization into the next chapter of our great unions history and because of this sacred honor, he will never let us down. Brothers and Sisters this union is a way of life to him and not a

job. He has made it a habit to respect everyone, he has listened to this membership and answers their calls. His positive energy has shown him how to be the change he wanted to see in the world. For over four decades he and his wife Cindy have dedicated their lives to making this union better than how they found it.

Brothers and Sisters, fellow voting delegates of this 37th Constitutional Convention I deem it a great pleasure and honor to present to you and place in nomination for office of President of the International Union UAW Brother Gary Jones.

Thank you Mr. President.



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.

Retiree's wish everyone a Happy Father's Day

By Susan Pena

Happy Father's Day to all of our fathers. Mel Thompson, Retiree Chairman, recognized all the retired fathers. We hope you all had a great day.

Shirley Mata of the CAP committee had signs for the retirees to place in their yards for the August 7, 2018 election. She stated the wording on the ballot is quite confusing, but to VOTE NO on Proposition A is a VOTE NO on right to work. Thanks to everyone who took a sign. Thank you to everyone who takes the time to vote.

Rick Mellon, Ford retiree, is running for the House of Representatives in the 39th District. If you live in this district, please support him.

Lauren Arthur won the election for the 17th District Senate on June 5, 2018. Thank you so much for those of you who supported her.

Dave Grant of the Veterans Committee talked about maintaining and cleaning up at the war memorials. The Local 249 Motorcycle Committee is hosting a Solidarity Ride on June 30, 2018. Registration starts at 4:00 pm at the union hall. Anyone interested in riding, and you can ride even if you don't have a motorcycle, please feel free to join them. Sparkie's Fireworks has partnered with Local 249 and the Veterans Committee to provide a convenient firework's tent across the street

from KCAP at the Local 249 union hall parking lot. Local 249 members get 25 percent off regular purchases, plus there are special sales and giveaways. Have a happy and safe 4th of July Independence Day. God bless America.

Larry Rupp, Retiree Representative, spoke about new Ford purchases. Please be aware of where your vehicles are manufactured. You can check the first number on the VIN (vehicle identification number) to see where they were made. Number 1 means it was made in the U.S.A. Number 2's are made in Canada and 3's are made in Mexico. The Ford Echo Sport is made in China. Thanks to Larry for bringing this to our attention.

Tonya Moore, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Representative, was present to help with insurance needs along with our Local 249 Benefits Representatives.

Anita Pickens, National Veterans Advisory Committee Member, was present at the convention to see Gary Jones sworn in as president of the international union, UAW. Congratulations to brother Jones.

Service Officer Bill Parker an-



UAW Local 249 retirees celebrated all fathers in attendance on Father's Day at the June meeting held at the union hall. Photo by Don Lehman.

nounced the May retirees: Robert E. Herman, Charles H. North Jr., Sonja R. Robinson, Daniel R. Schmitt and Roger D. Snow. Congratulations to you all and we hope to see you at our monthly meetings.

The May deaths were: Donald G. Holt, Jerry V. Jensen and Roy O. Wyse. Please pray for them and their families.

Due to health reasons Robert Thomas has resigned as Sergeant-At-Arms of our Local 249 Retiree Chapter after many, many years of service. Thank you Bob. We will miss you.

Lorie Marin, Family Auxiliary Vice-Chairperson led us in song for the four June birthdays and two anniversaries. Jean and Mel Thompson have been married 21 years, and Ethel and Paul Sandburg have been married 59 years. Congratulations to all.

Bingo will be held on the third

Friday of the month at 11:00 am at the union hall. Please bring a snack to share and a white elephant gift.

We will not be meeting at the union hall during the summer months of July or August. Our next meeting will be at the annual Retiree Picnic held at Tryst Falls Park near Excelsior Springs, Mo. on Wednesday September 19, 2018. Sign-in begins at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. The food will be catered by Wabash Barbecue in Excelsior Springs, Mo. Please bring a side dish or dessert along with a lawn chair and umbrella. We hope to see you all there.

We are also invited to the UAW Local 249 annual Picnic Monday September 3, 2018 at LaBenite Park located at 3700 N. Cobbler, Independence, Mo. from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please stop by the union hall to pick up bracelets for admittance before August 24th.



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Connect with us to get the latest updates, sign up for text alerts, learn about Local 249 events, take action, and read stories that are relevant to you.

Download from the Google Play Store <http://bit.ly/2qZwEq6> or Apple Store <http://apple.co/2qq5E0l>



Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/UAWLocal249

Retiree Picnic

**Tryst Falls Park near Excelsior Springs
Wednesday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m.**

The food will be catered by Wabash Barbecue

Please bring a side dish or dessert along with a lawn chair and umbrella



International Rep. Todd Hillyard, left to right, UAW Local 249 Bargaining Chairman Jim Fisher, newly elected UAW International President Gary Jones and UAW Local 249 President Jason Starr celebrate the Team Jones victory at the Constitutional Convention held in Detroit. Photo by Don Lehman.

Local 249's Gary Jones elected UAW President

By Gwen Starkey

Team Jones won in a landslide victory as UAW delegates from across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico met at the 37th Constitutional Convention held at the Cobo Center in Detroit June 11-14. Jones, UAW Local 249 member and former Director of UAW region 5, was elected President of the UAW International Union along with other members on the Team Jones slate: Secretary-Treasurer Ray Curry, current Vice Presidents Cindy Estrada and Terry Dittes, and incoming Vice President Rory Gamble.

UAW Local 249 President Jason Starr had the distinct privilege of nominating Gary Jones as President. Starr said in part, "Every organization is judged by its elected representatives and our organization is no exception." He spoke about Jones being a proven leader of sound judgment, keen perception, relentless courage and tested ability with an innovative vision and a profound faith in God.

"His integrity and impeccable character has earned him a place of great distinction and esteem among his colleagues," Starr said. "He's a cham-

panion of the rank and file and has made leadership of our region a part of every important decision that he has made, that not only affects our members, but their families as well. We will miss him dearly. He is a tenacious leader of Region 5."

Starr spoke about the Community Action Program (CAP) and how Region 5, under the leadership of Jones, broke the \$2 million mark on CAP contributions to fight the attack on labor. Something no other region has accomplished. "He's a tireless worker," Starr said. "He set the standard

for leadership in Region 5, organizing more men and women, giving them a better way of life. His vision for them was to be a part of the greatest union on the face of the earth and to face the complex challenges together."

Jones comes well qualified for the job. For the last 43 years as a member of the UAW, he has worn many hats. He has served as Financial Secretary of Local 1895, insurance administrator for the international union, and was a chief accountant. He was a top executive administrative assistant for three UAW secretary treasurers and was assistant director of Region 5 before being elected director of Region 5. He holds a degree from the University of Tulsa and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant.

His leadership style has always been about making a difference Starr says, and not about goals, positions or titles. "It has always been about mak-

ing a positive difference for the good of our great union and our country," Starr said. Jones' goal has always been to stay optimistic with a strong belief about the future of our organization."

"He is a man of the hour," Starr said. "He is the right man at the right time to lead our organization into the next chapter of our great union's history. Because of this sacred honor, he will never let us down brothers and sisters. This union is a way of life for him, not a job. His positive energy has shown how to be the change you want to see in the world."

For over four decades, Gary and his wife Cindy have dedicated their lives to making the UAW better than they found it.

Replacing Jones, in a unanimous vote, Assistant Director Vance Pearson was elected as the new Director of Region 5. We welcome him warmly and look forward to working with him.