

Local 592 Tribune

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation and UAW partnering to identify buyer for the Illinois plant



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Editor:
Alton Jackson

Normal, Ill. & Detroit, Mich., (July 27, 2015) — Today, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation and the United Auto Workers (UAW) announced following news that Mitsubishi Motors will end production at its Normal plant at the end of November 2015, pending a final decision by the Board of Directors' meeting. Mitsubishi Motors and UAW leaders met last week to discuss the facility closure and have pledged to work collaboratively to identify a suitable buyer to assume operations of the facility.

our motivation to exit from this facility is unrelated to labor costs or our relationship with the UAW," said Hiroshi Harunari, executive vice president in charge of overseas operations for Mitsubishi Motors Corporation. "Our partnership over the years has been both respectful and mutually beneficial. Our primary focus right now is to work together to identify a strategic buyer for the plant in order to transit into next phase.

"The Normal plant is a high-quality operation with very skilled and experienced employees. At a time when a growing number of car manufacturers are seeking to expand production capacity in the U.S., we believe the Normal plant and its world-class workforce will be appealing to potential buyers. We stand by the leadership and members of UAW Local 2488 at the Mitsubishi Motors' plant during this transition and we will work together toward securing a bright future in Normal."

"This difficult decision follows years of challenge to remain viable, and was compelled by the combination of insufficient U.S. sales and low production capacity utilization. We greatly value the work of all of our employees in Normal and want to stress that

"In the coming days, weeks and months, our focus will be on helping the hard-working men and women at Mitsubishi Motor's plant transition to new job opportunities under new ownership," said Ron McInroy, director of UAW Region 4.

Special points of interest:

- E-Board Contacts
- Fighting for you and yours
- V-CAP Investing in your future

Presidents Report

By Mike Roth— UAW 592 President

Brothers and Sisters,

Since the negotiations is over and we have a new contract with the Company that goes through May 20, 2018 there has been some issues that need to be worked out with the Company because they have been unable to abide by what they agreed to in negotiations. This is not to say that we haven't been discussing these with the Company or that there isn't a resolution in sight. It just means that they need to be reminded of the commitments that they made and they need to held to them.

There has been a change in HR, as Alpa Patel has left for another job. We now have an HR group that seems as though they want to and is willing to work with the entire committee. It is a nice change to have the ability to sit down and reasonably discuss the issues at hand and work towards a resolution. Let's all hope that this continues.

Grievances

To date we only have 3 grievances that could go to arbitration. We are in discussions to see if there is any resolution for these grievances prior to arbitration. We have been able to work through all of the other grievances that were in various steps in the process to the committee's approval.

Local 592 Website update

Recently at the mem-

bership meeting, there was a motion to redesign the website by a professional designer. This action was approved by the membership and the website is currently being redesigned. Hopefully it will be completed by mid-September. We are trying to make the website more user friendly and with a better look. We will be able to add information from our local and around the Region.

The seniority list will

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still be available for our members the view and it will be password protected. Please see your Chief Steward for the password. There will be an upcoming events calendar as to keep the membership informed when meeting and special event are being held. The Union newsletter will be put on the website. This is a way for the Local to save money by not mailing or printing so many in the future. We understand that there are some that do not have computer access and would still like the newsletter and we will do our best to accommodate them.

I want to thank Greg Kimbrell for all the hard work he put into the website, I

know it wasn't easy getting it updated in the amount of time you had worked on it.

Local 592 Picnic

I would like to thank all that had helped with the preparations, setup, running and clean-up at this year's picnic. Without your help this would not have been possible.

Everyone that attended the picnic had a great time as we had live music by Southern Charm and a lot of great food. There was the bouncy houses for the kids (and some adults that went through) and prizes that were given out throughout the day. There was enough corn that we were able to give away to anyone that wanted it.

Now for the bad news, the attendance was less than desired from our membership. Prior to the picnic, there were only 46 tickets sold. We currently have 362 active members and this picnic is for YOU. We would like to see a better turnout as this event, it does cost the Local a lot of money to put this on. There have been discussions about not having the picnic next year because of the low turnout. If you have suggestions and or comments on how we can improve the picnic attendance we would surely like to hear them. Let's not let this tradition go by the wayside

In Solidarity,

Mike Roth

Continued Cover Story

UAW Secretary-Treasurer Gary Casteel, who serves as director of the union's Transnational Department, pledged the support of the international union in advocating for continued jobs and production at the Normal plant. "We will explore all possibilities, and leave no stone unturned, in assisting the leadership of UAW Region 4 and UAW Local 2488," Casteel said.

The production of the 2016 Outlander Sport will be consolidated in Japan. Mitsubishi Motors will continue to sell its cars, including current and planned models, at Mitsubishi dealerships across the United States.

UAW V-CAP: Investing in our future

The UAW cannot use union dues to directly support federal candidates and, in an ever-increasing number of states, any candidate for public office. Our only means of monetary support for many labor-friendly candidates is voluntary political contributions from UAW members to UAW V-CAP (our union's political action fund).

Members can contribute to V-CAP in multiple ways. Many of our contracts have "check off" which allows for direct contribution to V-CAP through payroll deduction. Members and retirees can also give to V-CAP directly with a check. Either way, a modest contribution of \$10 a month comes to about 33 cents a day and allows our union to support candidates who support our values.

Send to:

UAW National CAP Department

8000 E. Jefferson Ave.

Fighting for you and yours

UAW Local 9 member Khelan Laster was working as a malt house operator at Malteurop in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when he suffered an asthma attack on Sept. 29. He slipped into a coma and died five days later. When Malteurop, which converts grains into malt for use in the brewing and distilling of many popular beers and whiskeys, switched its malt recipe from barley to wheat, the company

failed to protect its employees from wheat dust exposure, which can cause breathing problems by sensitizing the respiratory system and lead to death. The dust would trigger the asthma attacks that eventually led to the death of the 37-year-old Laster, who left behind a young son. For someone to suffer fatal chemical exposures at work and not have a U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) investigation seems

absurd, but it happens. Management may call OSHA and claim the employee died from medical conditions not related to work. OSHA may stop its investigation right there. But because the Malteurop unit of Local 9 had strong health and safety language and aggressively used its rights under its contract to seek an independent investigation through the International Health

Fighting Continued

and Safety Department, enough evidence was established for OSHA to come in, make use of

the union investigation, perform its own investigation with UAW participation, and determine that Laster's death was a work-related fatality.

Without a union contract, Laster's death would likely have never been classified by OSHA as related to work.

The local requested help from the UAW International Health and Safety Department through Region 4 Director Ron McInroy.

OSHA discovered that Laster had reported tightness in his chest during an annual physical.

In May 2014, he collapsed and was treated for asthma at the plant. OSHA determined that the company doctor should have investigated what was causing the symptoms. For 300 years doctors have known about the fatal effects of inhaling wheat dust.

A multinational corporation that handles wheat should have taken action to reduce exposure and protect Laster's health.

"The Obama administration has done a great job with the OSHA regional and national offices," UAW President Dennis Williams said. "Because of this relationship, we have continued

to improve worker safety."

The union believes — because of the collaborative process between the local union and OSHA — the incident was thoroughly investigated. The union also is taking the proper steps to protect workers in the future, and will push for a robust safety program that identifies and eliminates

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hazards.

"The OSHA people, I have to tell you, were really good because they asked the right questions," said John Biniok, a member of the contract committee of the Local 9 unit at Malteurop.

Doctors from OSHA's Washington, D.C.-based Office of Occupational Medicine (OOM), "determined that, more likely than not, this employee's severe asthma attack and ultimate death was due to occupational asthma from his exposure to grain dust at Malteurop," OSHA said in its

letter.

"OOM notes that deficiencies in Malteurop's Respiratory Protection Program may have contributed to this employee's death," the letter states. "Grain dust exposure is a well-known cause of occupational asthma and other respiratory disorders." Without the union action, Laster's son's chances of getting workers' compensation from the state of Wisconsin are greatly reduced.

"We all know that money does not make up for parents," said John Thanas, a control room operator at Malteurop who also is a member of the unit's contract committee. "You never think your parents are going to be gone. You think they are invincible."

Thanas, who has more than 37 years of seniority, said Laster was well liked in the plant.

"Khelan was a good guy," he said. "We'd always talk sports and stuff. He was a big basketball fan."

Biniok added that Laster was an employee with a lot of energy who worked his way up from sanitation to become an engineer, a position that some in the company were initially skeptical that he could handle.

"In my opinion he did a fantastic job and did a lot better than

Executive Board Contacts

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Unit 3 Representative – Maria Del Rosario Rodriguez	962-0600		

Attorneys for UAW Region 4

Katz, Freedman, Eagle, Eisenstein, Johnson, and Bareck will be at the Hall on membership days between the night and day shift meetings. You may also contact them at 1-800-444-1525.



UAW Local 592

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Follow us on Twitter: @uawlocal592

We are on the Web!
www.uaw592.com

Reminder!

A note from the Recording Secretary...

Please remember to notify your union office of any changes of name or address. The number to the union office is

815-962-0600. If you know of other members who have had a change of address within the last year please remind them to notify the union office as soon as possible.

Fraternally,

Michael Rourke

Local 592 Recording Secretary

“Enjoy the little things, for one day you may realize they were the big things.”

Robert Brault



**Local 592
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