

# Local 592 Tribune

## Trump's National Anti-Labor Relations Board

By, Justin Miller - writing fellow for The American Prospect

Condensed for size from a July 18th, 2017 article in The American Prospect

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In his first seven months in office, President Trump has made quick work undoing a host of Obama-era labor regulations. Now that he finally got around to making two nominations to the National Labor Relations Board, he's beginning the pernicious, though slow-moving, assault on worker and union rights that typically plays out when the board has a Republican majority.

It's at the NLRB, the independent agency charged with enforcing and interpreting the nation's labor laws, where Trump will be able to most forcefully reverse President Obama's workers' rights legacy—a highly vulnerable legacy given that it was confined to leveraging the power of executive-branch departments and agencies.

Trump's NLRB nominees are longtime Republican lawyer Marvin Kaplan and management-side labor lawyer William Emanuel. If they're confirmed, Republicans would have a 3-to-2 majority. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee is expected to vote soon to confirm both appointees, at which point they will go before the full Senate.

It took years for Obama to overcome Republican intransigence and have the Senate approve all five of his appointees. But once Obama's NLRB was finally up and running, it delivered a series of bold decisions that moved labor law back in favor of workers and their unions—as the original National Labor Relations Act was intend-



ed to do—after George W. Bush's board had, for eight years, tilted the scales in favor of management.

With several landmark decisions, Obama's board altered the labor law landscape in ways that made it easier for employees to organize and increased corporate responsibility for workers.

Labor law observers expect that the new Republican majority will be eager to undo any pro-worker victories and restore the legal

Continued on page 3

**Editor: Chris Remhof**  
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### Save the Date

#### Union Picnic

August 5th

Noon—5pm

SMSF property @

7625 Kishwaukee Rd  
Stillman Valley

# Presidents Report

By Brian Opsahl – UAW 592 President

It is an honor to be addressing the members as your new President. I look forward to the opportunity over the next three years to try and make positive changes to our local. Any suggestions or ideas are welcome. I also wish to thank all of those that served the membership and gave your time to our local. Your service is much appreciated.

We have several upcoming events that need as many members helping as possible. The Union picnic on August 5<sup>th</sup> at SMSF park, the Labor Day parade on September 4<sup>th</sup> in Rockford and the retiree banquet at our Union hall in the fall. Please contact me if you can help for a few hours at any of these events.

I believe some security upgrades and building monitoring needs to be installed at our Union hall. The safety of our members is extremely important to me. The upper hall was just repainted and a new audio system has been installed. Please come to the next membership meeting and check it out.

The new bargaining committee has started working together and forming plans towards next year's contract negotiations. Surveys will be coming out later this year to gauge what your most important issues are so please take a moment to fill them out.

One thing I have said over and over is that we work for you 'the members' and the bargaining team will keep that commitment as long as I'm your President.

**In Solidarity,**

**Brian Opsahl**

**ARE YOU A  
UNION  
HITCHHIKER?**

Have you ever driven down the road and run upon a hitchhiker? Most of the time, their thumb is giving a clear message.

"If you furnish the car, the gas and do the driving, I'll ride with you. But if you think I'm going to pitch in for gas, you're out of your mind. By the way if you have an accident and I'm hurt, I'll sue you for everything you've got".

We have hitchhikers in our Union too. What they're really saying is: "if you supply the protection of a Union contract, negotiate the contract, protect me at work, get me fair and decent wages, health benefits and hours of work, I'll ride. But you're crazy if you think I'm going to get involved and help you make this a better place to work. And by the way, if anything irritates me, you'll hear from me".

Being a Union member is not just about one person or the seven members of the bargaining committee. It's about ALL of us pulling in the same direction to help make the whole of our Union stronger.

**In Solidarity,**

**Brian Opsahl**

## Continued Cover Story

barriers provided to companies that utilize contracting and franchising.

Both Emanuel and Kaplan have drawn the wrath of labor unions and progressive advocacy organizations, which contend that they will come down in favor of corpo-

**Trump NLRB nominees William Emanuel & Marvin Kaplan have long track records of representing and siding with corporate giants in labor disputes or crafting legislation aimed to roll back worker protections.**

rations instead of the working people that Trump purported to speak for during his presidential campaign. "In today's economy, where inequality is on the rise and unions are on the decline, workers need to be able to feel comfortable when they come together to better working conditions," says Catherine Ruckelshaus, general counsel for the National Employment Law Project. "The board is supposed to support those actions."

William Emanuel is a lawyer with a long track record of representing corporate giants in labor disputes. As Michael Arria reported last week for *In These Times*, Emanuel disclosed 49 former clients, pledging to recuse himself from cases involving those companies, which include Uber, Nissan, and

JPMorgan Chase. He also authored an amicus brief defending the class-action waivers in employment contracts that the NLRB outlawed.

Trump's other nominee, Marvin Kaplan, is currently counsel to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Before that, he was the Republican counsel on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce where, as *The New York Times* reports, he helped craft legislation aimed at rolling back specific NLRB actions.

William Gould, who served as the NLRB chairman during the Clinton administration, recently wrote a scathing op-ed in the *San Francisco Chronicle* opposing Kaplan's nomination.

"Since the 1980s, a number of NLRB nominees by Republicans as well as Democrats have come from Capitol Hill staffs. This has promoted a trend toward the appointment of Washington insiders trading places between political staffs and Washington law firms—the insider elite, which supposedly prompted President Trump's call to "drain the swamp."

Kaplan would constitute the Washington insider plus. His deep involvement in initiatives designed to impair the Obama NLRB have involved him directly in an unprecedented attempt to control the board through politics".

While piecemeal advances under Democratic administrations' labor boards are helpful, they are, of course, nowhere near enough to combat the systemic undermining of federal labor law and collective worker power by corporations and allies in the Republican Party—especially when GOP administrations make the NLRB's pendulum swing back in favor of management.

**LOCAL 592 PICNIC**  
**AUGUST 5, 2017**  
**Noon to 5 P.M.**

**S.M.S.F. Park**  
**7625 Kishwaukee Rd.**  
**Stillman Valley, IL**

*Live music by*  
*"Loud Exhaust"*



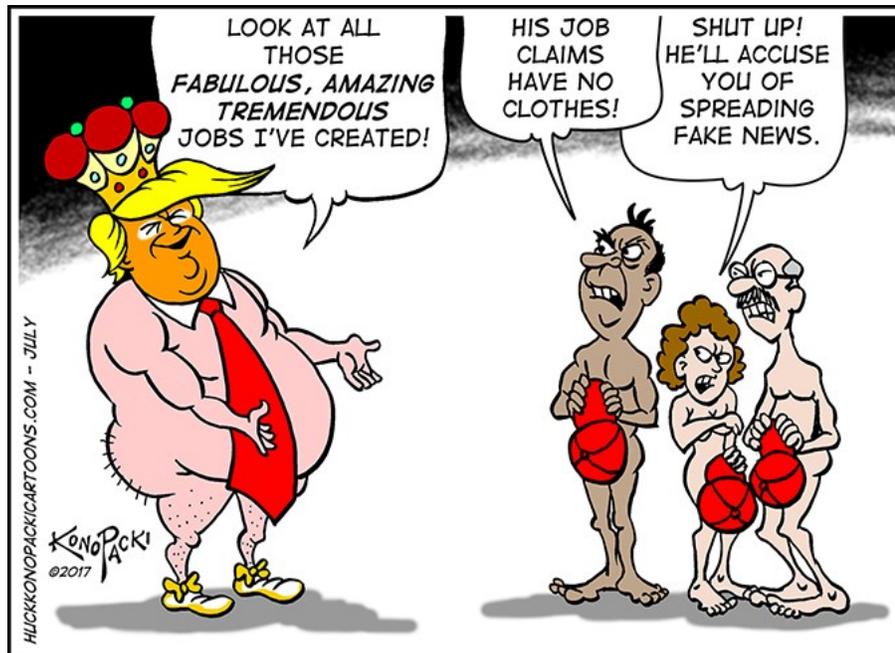
**Food & Beer**  
**Adult and Kids Games/Prizes**  
**Attendance Prizes**  
*Hamburgers/hotdogs/Brats/pulled pork sandwiches/potato salad/beans/fruit salad...*  
**Dessert**

**TICKETS \$3.00**  
**PER PERSON**

*For Members in Good Standing and their immediate family only!!*

## Executive Board Contacts

|   | Phone    | Cell     | Email                        |
|---|----------|----------|------------------------------|
| President – Brian Opsahl                    | 962-0600 | 262-3245 | musky.opsahl@hs.utc.com      |
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| Guide – TBD                                 | 962-0600 |          |                              |
| Retiree’s Member at Large – Rex Thomas      | 962-0600 |          |                              |
| Unit 3 Representative – Chris Jacobs        | 962-0600 |          |                              |



Please contact Mike Rourke, Insurance Steward, at the UAW hall if you are having issues with health benefits so he can work to get those resolved (815-962-0600).

# Veterans Corner

By Greg Kimbrell

I recently had the opportunity to serve dinner to around 30 local veterans that are either homeless, or in need of assistance at the Veteran's Drop in Center at 1539 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Rockford. Not only can these veterans get a free meal, they can also get clothing, take a shower, wash their clothes and pick food from the pantry. The drop in center is funded by donations. With this being said, I would really like Local 592 to get involved in this facility. The night I served dinner we had 4 pizzas, 1 crockpot of pulled pork, buns, salad, dessert and drinks. All of this was donated. So as you can see it doesn't take much to feed the men and women. The veterans were all thankful for the meal. I think it would be great if our local could serve one meal a month. As you can see it would not cost much. If you think this is a good idea or would like to volunteer, please contact me at 815-222-4004 or email me at work.

Most of you are aware that the local collects jeans for the Veteran's Stand Down. This year I am going to start collecting in August. There will be containers at both plants set up to collect these jeans. You can also give them directly to me. This year's Stand Down is going to be held October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Mendelssohn Club in Rockford.

I am also still looking for people to go with me to the Veteran's home picnic in Manteno, IL on August 19th. Contact me if you would like to volunteer and I can give you the details.

I would like to thank the local for everything they do for veterans.

- **August 19th:** Veterans home picnic in Manteno, IL. Please join me in volunteering as many Local Unions from Region 4 will be helping. I'll have room for several people if you'd like to carpool.
- **October 27th:** Veterans Stand Down in Rockford at the Mendelssohn Club.

Region 4 UAW vet's website has a lot of this information: <http://www.region4uawvets.com/>

## Upcoming Local 592 Membership meetings:

Wednesday, August 23. 1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.

Wednesday, September 27. 1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.

Wednesday, October 25. 1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.

## 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.

## WWW.UAW592.ORG

- Contract
- Seniority lists
- Attendance Policy
- FMLA paperwork
- Short term disability forms

The password for access to the seniority list is: **UAWs1592#**

The password for access to the documents list is: **UAWLocal1592**

**UAW Local 592**

112 North Second Street  
Rockford, IL 61107

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Fax: 815-962-3353

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

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence”.

Martin Luther King Jr.



**Local 592**  
**Tribune**

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