

Local 592 Tribune

Weaker Unions Mean More Dangerous Jobs

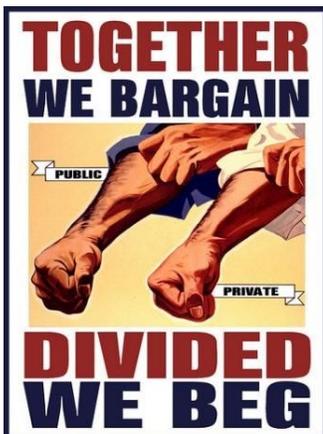
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The Republican-controlled Congress and the Trump administration are pursuing an aggressive agenda aimed at curtailing workers' rights by gutting rules and regulations that they claim are unnecessary and make life more difficult for Americans. The truth is that these rules and regulations protected us from hazards on the job, gave hope to workers who were trying to form their own union, strengthened union, and boosted the paychecks of millions of workers who work overtime, and eliminating them is a loss to all working men and women.

So far, they have:

Dismissed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) record keeping rules so employers are no longer obligated to make and maintain accurate records of work related injury and illness data for a reasonable amount of time.

Delayed effective dates of OSHA's new beryllium standard and the enforcement of OSHA's silica standard.

Slashed the Department of Labor's (DOL) budget, eliminating worker safety and health training programs.

It also stands ready to eliminate a rule set by the Obama administration that allowed

more workers to be paid overtime by raising the salary level for overtime eligibility from \$455 per week (\$23,660 annually) to \$913 per week (\$47,476 annually). The new overtime rule made millions of American's eligible for additional pay, including thousands of UAW members who work in our colleges and universities.

President Trump's

Continued on page 3

Presidents Report

By Brian Opsahl – UAW 592 President

Spring is in the air and it's also the time of year when contract negotiations start in earnest. Opening day will be April 12th and once a week until May 14th, then marathon sessions until we're done.

It's the right time to remind everyone about not buying anything expensive until the negotiations are completed and saving money for the possibility of a work stoppage. It's better to be prepared, than not. Please don't read anything into that as every President before me has the same message before contract.

Couple of other contract related items. Everyone on the Companies bargaining team is new to our contract negotiations, but we don't believe this should cause any issues. If you're planning your retirement around contract time, keep in mind when ordering your package, it's only good for 90 days and the numbers will change slightly each month. Please have Kristy Bader look them over after receiving them to insure accuracy.

We will be asking for a strike authorization vote in early May and would like to see all 358 of our member's voting "YES" for that authorization leading into the negotiations. This is a standard process for the UAW, and simply authorizes our elected bargaining committee to call a strike if circumstances warrant. Bottom line: a strong "Yes" vote makes our con-

tract expiration date meaningful and pressures UTC to make real movement toward a fair contract. If the vote passes, are we automatically on strike? No, the strike vote gives the bargaining committee the authority to call a strike if the circumstances justify. A "No" vote on the strike authorization makes us look divided, weak and gives us less leverage to negotiate for a strong contract.

Negotiations with UTC open on April 12th.

Moving on to other items. We've settled several grievances in the last few weeks but we also have two heading to arbitration: CO-07-17 the 3-D grievance and DS3-14-17 the THADD plant-8 O.T. grievance.

I've been asked to spend more time at the plants and I fully expect to. However, my time right now is needed to be spent on negotiations. When completed, Mike Fishe and I plan on having a certain designated day at each plant, each week, to see and be seen.

A reminder to those of you who wish to bank leftover vacation, you must submit the form to your supervisor and payroll before April 1st and it must be for at least a week, not more than six total.

Please welcome Kevin Alex as our new oiler/waste lube hauler when you see him in your area.

The semi-annual financial trustee's audit was conducted in February and there were no issues.

The red union t-shirts are now handed out. We bought extra this time, so until the supply is gone we're selling them for \$20. Please plan on wearing them on "Solidarity Wednesday".

We've installed a new monitor in the union office to track grievances as the old dry erase board was outdated and needed to be replaced. This will allow the bargaining committee to make and track changes to grievances in a more efficient manner.

Lastly and with a heavy heart, let's remember our co-worker and friend Julie Leindecker who passed on February 22nd after three plus years of fighting cancer. If you knew Julie, you knew what a pleasant person she was and I'll sure miss her. Please also keep those serving our nation here and abroad, our members and family lost, in your thoughts and prayers.

In Solidarity,
President Brian Opsahl.

Continued Cover Story

Supreme Court appointee Neil Gorsuch has a long history of ruling against workers in cases regarding wages and health and safety. The Supreme Court is set to hear a case

Board (NLRB). Both are pro-corporate and have worked against workers' interest in the past.

In the last few years, we have seen Republican legislatures in Indiana, Michigan, and

ing. Get out the vote for candidates in favor of unions and working men and women. Be the change you want to see. It's really up to each of us to make a difference and together we can't be stopped.

Get out the vote for candidates in favor of unions and working men and women.

that could seriously weaken public sector unions and Justice Gorsuch could be the one who swings the decision against labor unions. With President Trump in office and a Republican majority in Congress, they're filling appellate judicial seats they held open during President Obama's final two years in office with conservative judges who will have life tenure. This will no doubt be detrimental to labor laws, this union, and working men and women who are trying to make ends meet.

President Trump also appointed William Emanuel and Marvin Kaplan to the National Labor Relations

Wisconsin pass so-called "right to work" (RTW) laws over strong grassroots opposition. RTW laws make it illegal for workers to bargain for union security in their collective bargaining agreements. The intent is to weaken unions financially so they are a less effective counterweight to corporate power in the workplace and the political system.

What YOU can do! Urge public officials at all levels to support workers who are trying to form their own union by speaking out and participating in public rallies and other actions. Tell Congress to pass legislation to strengthen and not weaken our labor laws. Tell state legislators to oppose RTW and other attacks on collective bargain-

On **Sunday, April 8th** 1pm at the UAW hall will be nominations for the 37th UAW Constitutional Convention in Detroit, MI in June. We will elect two delegates to represent us at the convention. You must notify recording secretary Mike Rourke by the following **Wednesday, April 11th** before 4pm to be eligible to run if you're nominated. The election will be held **Wednesday, April 25th** at the Local 592 hall from 6am until 6pm. The top two will win and the next alternate will be the next highest vote getter.

The strike authorization vote will be held at Tebala Shriners Temple on 7910 Newburg Rd **May 6th** from 12 to 4 pm and the bar will be open. Contract ratification vote will take place on **May 20th** from Noon until 6pm at the Tebala Shriners Temple and the bar will be open.

Please contact Mike Rourke at the UAW hall if you are having issues so we can pass along to the Benefits Rep. to get it resolved. (815-962-0600)

Executive Board Contacts

	Phone	Cell	Email
President – Brian Opsahl	962-0600	262-3245	musky.opsahl@hs.utc.com
Vice-President – Mike Fishe	226-6961		michael.fishe@hs.utc.com
Recording Secretary – Mike Rourke	962-0600		michael.rourke@hs.utc.com
Financial Secretary – Greg Kimbrell	226-6961		greg.kimbrell@hs.utc.com
Chief Steward (Dist. 1) – Bob Graham	226-6961	979-8260	bob.graham@hs.utc.com
Chief Steward (Dist. 2) – John Loos	226-6961		john.loos@hs.utc.com
Chief Steward (Dist. 3) – Gilberto Gonzalez	226-6961		gilberto.gonzalez@hs.utc.com
Chief Steward (Dist. 4) – Jeff McCullough	226-6961		jeff.mccullough@hs.utc.com
Trustee Chair– Steve Rasmussen	226-6961		steve.rasmussen@hs.utc.com
Trustee – Brittany Giddings	226-6961		brittany.giddings@hs.utc.com
Trustee – Don Taylor	226-6961		donald.taylor@utas.utc.com
Sergeant-at-Arms – Dave Ford	962-0600		
Guide – Courtney Love	962-0600		
Retiree’s Member at Large – Rex Thomas	962-0600		
Unit 3 Representative – Chris Jacobs	962-0600		

Contact Your Elected Officials

US Senators from IL Richard Durbin 217-492-4062	Ron Johnson 608-240-9646	IL State House District 68 John Cabello 815-282-0083	608-266-2253
Tammy Duckworth 217-528-6124	IL State Senate District 34 Steve Stadelman 815-987-7557	IL State House District 69 Joe Sosnowski 815-547-3436	WI State House District 45 Mark Spreitzer 608-266-1192
IL Congressional District 16 Adam Kinzinger 815-708-8032	IL State Senate District 35 Dave Syverson 815-987-7555	IL State House District 67 Brian Stewart 815-232-0774	WI State House District 43 Don Vruwink 608-266-3790
IL Congressional District 17 Cheri Bustos 815-968-8011	IL State Senate District 45 Tim Bivins 815-284-0045	IL State House District 67 Tom Demmer 815-561-3690	WI State Senate District 11 Stephen Nass 608-266-2635
US Senators from WI Tammy Baldwin 608-264-5338	IL State House District 67 Litesa Wallace 815-987-7433	WI State Senate District 15 Janis Ringhand	WI State House District 31 Amy Loudenbeck 608-266-9967

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).

In Remembrance (2017)

Active:

Maria Noll	07-19-2017
Paula L. Cates	08-17-2017
Brent G. Thompson	10-15-2017

Lyle G. Oakland	06-01-2017
Les Bellah	06-04-2017
Alvin O. Worthington	07-19-2017
Ronald W. Engelkes	08-03-2017
Jackie L. Schnepfer	08-09-2017
Frank E. Dolezalek	08-17-2017
Donald E. Richardson Sr.	08-24-2017
Kenneth R. Bookland	09-21-2017
Verna E. Kobischka	09-22-2017
Michael P. Mineau	10-04-2017
Eugene R. Hedrick	10-19-2017
Donald G. Peterson	11-16-2017
Vera Nelson-Rabe	12-31-2017

Lay Off:

None

Retiree:

Ronald D. Bearrows	01-11-2017
Kenneth L. Neslund	01-14-2017
Gary T. Devlieger	01-15-2017
Frances C. Rinaldo	01-22-2017
Curtis O. Hansen	01-23-2017
Allen L. Gale	01-24-2017
Gale C. Park	01-25-2017
Joanne F. Semrau	02-01-2017
James R. Clancy	03-12-2017
Jack M. Randall	03-19-2017
Ellen Powell-Lindstrom	05-06-2017
Russell O. Skildum	05-14-2017
Susan J. West	05-15-2017

Upcoming Local 592 Membership meetings:

Wednesday, <u>March 28th.</u>	1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.
Wednesday, <u>April 25th.</u>	1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.
Wednesday, <u>May 23rd.</u>	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.COM

- 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: **UAWLocal592**

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

The only thing workers have to bargain with is their skill or their labor. Denied the right to withhold it as a last resort, they become powerless. The strike is therefore not a breakdown of collective bargaining -it is the indispensable cornerstone of that process.

— Paul Clark, 1989



Local 592
Tribune

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