

# Local 592 Tribune

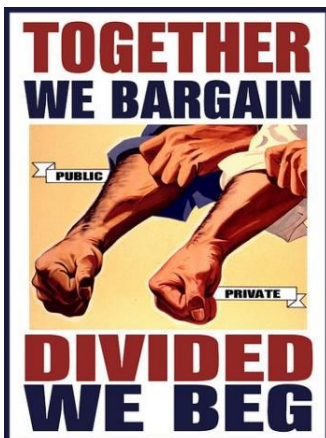
## Are you a participant or spectator?

By, Chris Remhof

### Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
President's Report	2
Safety Committee	3
C.A.P Committee	4
Misc	4
Veterans Committee	5
Cartoon	6

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Being a union member means different things to different people. For some, it means getting involved and finding out how to help and make a positive difference for yourself and your coworkers. Who better to advocate for you... than you! For others, they pay their dues and that's it.

Over my 26 years in the UAW (2 years at Local 1720 in Byron & 24 with Local 592) I've seen and worked with amazing people, and seen others cross picket lines. Some people are natural leaders. They just have something about them. You can feel it when your around them, watching how they listen, learn and handle conflict. For the rest of us, we have a part to play also because no leader or organization can do it by themselves.

This summer we had local union elections, new leadership was selected, others changed roles. Since then, department stewards and committee chairpersons have been selected. All of these keep our union dynamic and fresh. New

members or new office holders gain an insight into union affairs that they didn't have from the outside. Those that left positions have a chance to offer years of wisdom and sage council while regrouping from their years of service. If the Covid-19 pandemic and racial unrest has taught us anything, it's that change always happens and not on our timeline. Be ready to help, because everyone needs it from time to time.

The United States is changing too. Always has, always will. But things feel different this time, and in my 44 years I've never seen so many life and death decisions month after month, day after day. As the father of two teenage boys, it's hard to parent in this 24/7 news-entertainment-internet environment. There's a virus sweeping the world, racial unrest, political turmoil, wildfires, climate change, enemies of America interfering in our affairs and people hoarding toilet paper. Crazy times!

You and I can't change the world by ourselves. But if we do our part and if everyone reading this

does their part, we can make a difference. Do you have two hours a month to volunteer for local 592? Ask AJ how you can help. Do you have two hours a month to volunteer on a school committee, local board or community organization? Can you turn off the TV, put down your phone and find one hour a month to help anyone besides yourself?

We all have talents or time which can be shared to make a tiny part of the world a better place. Tomorrow is promised to no one and sometimes the greatest regrets I have in life are the risks or opportunities that I didn't take. It's time for you, me and America to put down our gadgets, change course and rebuild our workplace and communities better than before. It's not enough JUST to vote. It's not enough JUST to pay your dues. Our time on Earth is limited, but together we can multiply our efforts and achieve so much more.

Get busy and get involved in something bigger than yourself to be the change you want to see.

# President's Report

By Alton Jackson – UAW 592 President

Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you very much for the honor and privilege to serve you as President of Local 592. I'll do my best to be the strongest advocate for our membership, past and present, and I'm excited to work with the rest of the bargaining committee to achieve that.

2020 continues to be a year that no one could have predicted. Please stay up to date on the changes to the self-assessment process and the Pandemic Face Covering Guidance Document as the company is doing daily checks. We're also seeing these processes being misinterpreted by the company. Please let your stewards know of any violations. Craig Fryda, our Safety Chair, continues to stay on top of all of the safety issues. With COVID-19 changes through the year, he stayed up to date and holds the company to their current guidelines. We will file safety grievances if these issues are not resolved in a timely manner.

It was disheartening to cancel the Annual Local 592 Picnic and Labor Day Parade. In compliance with COVID-19 guidelines, we are following along with what Region 4 Leadership has done with all of their activities, conferences, and the Annual Region 4 Golf Charity Event in Otta-

wa, IL. The Local 592 Retirees Banquet has been canceled also.

With the VSO (Voluntary Separation Offer) option offered by the company, it allowed 39 of our members to retire early, and help save those with lower seniority. It wasn't all that we wanted but it was an addition to our contract and therefore, the company wasn't going to change any of the language in their offer.

**The 15 days of layoffs out of line of seniority are a huge issue with all of us, and we intend to make it right.**

We have completed the Plant 7 Test Operators Arbitrations in July and our International Servicing Rep. Ted Dever is finishing up his final briefs that are due in September. After that, the arbitrator will have a few months to make his ruling. Our next arbitration is scheduled for November 3. Unfortunately, it's the termination of another one of our members. We have struck names in the Temporary Layoff Arbitration and Thomas Yaeger was chosen. We've contacted him for available dates and will work with Ted to set that up early next year.

The 15 days of temporary layoffs that the company announced in April is a layoff "out of line of seniority" in the bargaining committee's eyes. This is effecting over half the membership, we've grieved it and intend to make it right.

We also have appealed to arbitration the Collins Aerospace Pension Grievance last week. Kristie Bader, our Pension Chairperson, has been working tirelessly and vigorously to make sure our members get the proper pension they deserve when they retire. She sometimes emails multiple times a day, all hours of the night, only to have the company not follow what has been negotiated over many years and through many different Bargaining Committees. I want to say thank you to Kristie for being on top of it all. She is doing a great job!

A few weeks ago, HR made a change to their team. Diana is no longer with the company. If you've brought issues to her, you'll have to work through Ana Kuljanin (815) 966-9660 or Tracy Brewer (815) 394-4430. It's been a slow process to get answers from HR, but I'm trying hard to get them as quickly as possible.

In Solidarity,  
President Alton Jackson

## Safety Committee Report: Craig Fryda, Chairman

I would like to talk about ergonomics, what that means, how we can improve and how we work in our plants to be more ergonomically friendly. We want everyone to go home each day the same way they came in. If you injure yourself, it could be a very costly and lead to a long and painful recovery. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the largest category of workplace injuries and responsible for 30 percent of all workers' compensation costs are Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs). MSDs are injuries and disorders that affect the Human Body's Movement or Musculoskeletal System. Workers everyday deal with the pain from strained or aggravated muscles, tendon, ligaments, nerves, discs or blood vessels directly related to MSD's. These conditions have severe human costs and can affect a person for years, or most of their life. MSD's are unnecessary and preventable with a robust ergonomic plan and strategy.

What is ergonomics? It's the study of people in their work environment, utilizing science to fit the job to the worker. Designing work stations and tools to reduce work related musculoskeletal disorders is one way of helping workers stay healthy and companies to reduce or eliminate the high costs associated with MSDs. When we think of ergonomics, the first thing we think of is lifting heavy objects. Lifting can put great strain on your back. For example, lifting a 25-pound box from the floor requires about 700 pounds of back muscle force when you bend your knees.

Some tips that can help protect your back when you need to lift heavy objects:

- Try out the load first, if it appears to be too bulky or heavy, get help.
- Avoid lifts that require stretching or bending to reach the load. Redesign the work area so objects you lift are close to the body and at waist height.
- Don't lift awkward objects such as long pipes or large boxes by yourself. Get help or use mechanical assists such as cranes or lifts if possible.
- When lifting, keep your back straight and lift with your legs.
- Lift slowly and carefully and don't use jerking movements while lifting.
- Keep the load as close to your body as possible while lifting it and don't twist or turn your spine while carrying the load.
- Make sure your path is clear while carrying the object. Remove obstacles that could cause a trip or spill.

We should remember that lifting and moving heavy objects is not our only risk for work related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The work that we do on computers can also be damaging as well. Some tips to help when working on your computer:

- Top of your monitor should be at or just below eye level.
- Head and neck balanced and in-line with torso.
- Shoulders should be relaxed. Elbows should be close to body and supported if possible.
- Lower back should be supported.
- Wrists and hands in-line with forearms.
- Allow adequate space for your keyboard and mouse.
- Keep feet flat on the floor.

The goal for any safety program is to keep everyone safe and leave work in the same condition that you arrived. If you feel a strain, pull, or pop, let your supervisor or nurse know right away. You don't want to ignore the pain. If you're working and have any ideas on how to make your job safer, easier or more ergonomically friendly, share the ideas with the supervisor, safety steward, or EH&S. It's in the best interest of the worker, as well as the company, to foster a better work environment so let's work together to make improvements. Safety First!

Craig Fryda  
 District 4 Chief Steward  
 Union Safety Chairperson  
 First Responder  
 Cell: (608) 295-6895  
 Craig.Fryda@Collins.com



## CAP Committee Report: Steve Brown, Chairman

Thank you very much for your support of the 2020 UAW Voluntary V-CAP Dollar Drive. Local 592 sold 420 tickets. If you contribute via payroll deduction to V-CAP, then you'll also have tickets included in the raffle. The Drawing will be held October 3, 2020 at the UAW Region 4 Fall Conference in Ottawa, IL.

It is our goal to strengthen our membership by connecting them to the political process, developing community leaders and elected officials who listen, respond and represent the needs of our members and communities. None of us are prepared to write a check for our candidates that can match those of multimillion dollar contributors to candidates that want to destroy our livelihoods and cripple our ability to have our voice in the workplace. Collectively with every member contributing, doing our part, your V-CAP Dollar contributions will help elect candidates who support working Americans and help protect the core values of this organization and the best interest of our members and citizens.

Election day is Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and your vote matters. Vote! If you need help getting registered or finding your polling place, please ask for help. Always remember that what we win at the bargaining table, can be lost at the ballot box if we elect anti-worker and anti-union politicians.



## Executive Board Contacts

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Guide – John Loos	962-0600		john.loos@collins.com
Retiree's Member at Large – Rex Thomas			

# Veterans Committee Report: Joe Harper, Chairman

The Covid-19 pandemic has effected everyone, including our local veterans. They need our help and one of those resources is in your closet. Local 592 is helping with our annual 'Jeans Drive'. If you have a pair or two sitting around and would like to donate, you can give them to a member of the veteran's committee by Oct 1st. Veteran Committee members are:

Joe Harper, Tadd Johnson, Earl Kane, Luke Vittetow & Dan Spain

Thank you for your support!



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

**ATTENTION:** Until further notice, all Local 592 union meetings will be held at OUR union hall. **1pm** night shift and **5pm** day shift union meetings will be at 929 S. Alpine Rd Unit 203 inside the Liberty Square building.

**Upcoming Local 592 Membership meetings:**

- Wednesday, Sept 23rd. 1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.
- Wednesday, Oct 28th. 1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.
- Wednesday, Nov 18th. 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: **UAWLocal1592**

**UAW Local 592**

929 South Alpine Rd., Unit 203  
Rockford, IL 61108

Phone: 815-962-0600

Follow us on Twitter: @uawlocal592

**We are on the Web!**  
**www.uaw592.com**

# Reminder!

A note from the Recording Secretary...

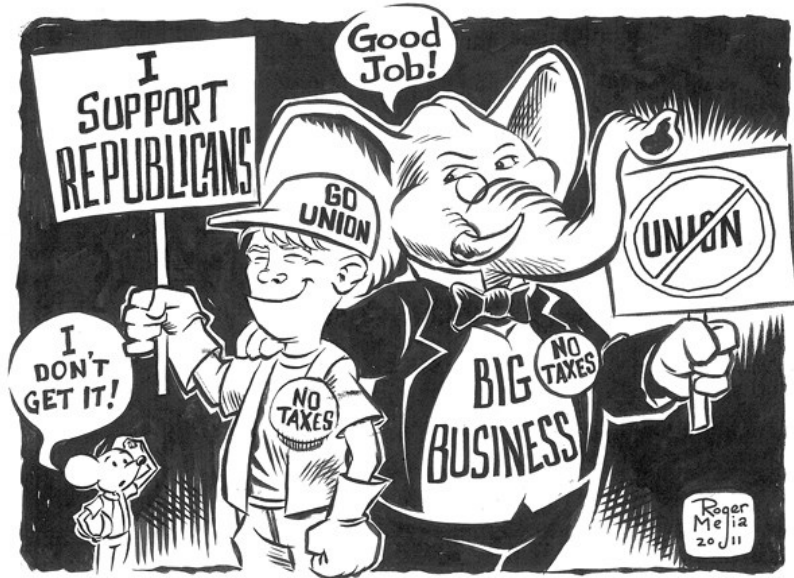
Please remember to notify your union office of any changes of name or address. The number to the union office is

**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 Fishe

Local 592 Recording Secretary



**Local 592**  
**Tribune**

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