

Local 592 Tribune

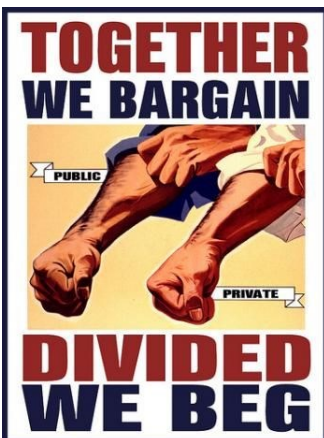
Organizing Amazon

By, Chris Remhof

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Over 5,500 workers at the Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama are voting in late March for the chance to organize a union and become part of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU). By now we've all used Amazon or know who they are. One of the largest companies in the world with yearly revenue of over \$375 billion and 1.3 million employees, Amazon is a giant!

The workers at Bessemer could become the first unionized Amazon warehouse in the United States and give hope to others all across the country. Employees argue that a union is needed at Amazon because of working conditions and pay. "Pickers" must meet a quota of 315 items picked per hour and can't go to the bathroom until break, which is four hours after starting. In a 10-hour day, you get two 30 minute breaks. But, the breakroom is a 10-minute walk for some workers in a facility

that's bigger than 16 football fields. The company is very aggressive about "time off task". If your item scanner is idle too long or you pause between picks, this is tracked and can lead to write ups or termination. Not to mention that your shift can change with less than 12 hours' notice.

Amazon is fighting back. Using the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse, Amazon is able to fire pro-union employees over being closer than 6 feet apart at any point in the building because they're monitored by cameras throughout. They've held anti-union 'information meetings', posted flyers in bathroom stalls, and sent employees anti-union text messages. They've even worked with county officials to increase the green light time of the stoplight at shift change so employees can speed past union organizers.

Amazon, who also owns Whole Foods, was caught last year tracking those employees via a

"heat map" that scored the employees, and the stores, susceptibility to organize. More than two dozen metrics, including racial diversity, employee loyalty, 'tipline' calls, safety violations and proximity to other unions were included in the score.

It's not just the workers in Alabama that should hope they win their recognition vote. The entire labor movement wins when there's greater union density. On average, union workers earn wages that are 27 percent higher.

Unions helped create the middle class as we know it today, and the strength that union members have when negotiating their wages and benefits is the reason why. It's time for Amazon to cancel their anti-union campaign and let the workers in all their facilities have their voices and concerns heard.

President's Report

By Alton Jackson – UAW 592 President

Brothers and sisters,

As the Covid-19 Vaccines are becoming available, Collins Aerospace had the Winnebago County Health Department come to Plant 6 and administer the Pfizer vaccine to our members that want to receive it. In general, it was well received with only a few scheduling issues near the end of the day. Please continue to do your daily assessments, follow all of the PPE requirements around the facilities, and social distancing around and out of the shop. The company is starting to hand out discipline for non-compliance. Also, there's a lot of confusion on the temperature trailer process. The company is meeting to discuss the issues that have been brought to the attention of the Bargaining Committee. Throughout this temperature screening process, we've found several discrepancies and pointed these out to the Company in an effort to make improvements and keep everyone safe. The Committee also submitted an information request to the Company for the current Temperature Screening Process/Policy along with all dates and times of communi-

cations from management regarding this new policy. The Company claimed that all members were notified of this new process/policy during daily "Tier" meetings. We're waiting for the Company to answer this request along with several other overdue requests.

**Local 592 Union Picnic,
if allowed, will be
Saturday, August 7th.**

Our Local 592 Membership meetings are still suspended by the International. We hope to start them back up again in April 2021. Please check the union boards in the shop or call the hall before you come to a meeting.

The Recreation Committee is starting the planning process to have the Local 592 Picnic this year. Our hopes are that we will be able to gather in groups bigger than 50 people. It is scheduled for August 7, 2021. Please watch for future updates as things may change.

We've received the ruling from the Arbitrator on the 'Cardinal Rule' termination of an Electrician. Unfortunately, the grievance was denied and the termination was upheld.

The veterans committee is selling tickets for an Orca 58 quart cooler as the grand prize valued at \$340.00 as a fund raiser. The second prize (2nd draw) will be a 66 oz. Orca jug and 3rd prize will be an Orca 20 oz. mug. If you would like to purchase tickets, contact Veterans Chair Joe Harper or another committee member. The drawing for those will be at 3:30pm on April 14, 2021.

In September of last year, the company went from three HR Representatives that work with the Union to two. The level of service that our members are receiving has slowed. The Bargaining Committee has expressed our frustration with HR and we are working to improve it.

In Solidarity,
President Alton Jackson

Safety Committee Report: Craig Fryda, Chairman

Hello all!

I want to start out this article with a nice story. This story is what safety and looking out for our brothers and sisters is all about.

One of our brothers was coming in to the building one morning and slipped and almost fell on some black ice. The temperature had risen the day before and melted some snow. Overnight, it dropped just enough to re-freeze into ice.

This is the really cool part of this story.

When he slipped on the ice, a fellow brother saw this happen and decided to take action. The two of them decided to find the pail of salt and spread it on the ice so no one else would fall. They then filed a RIDII and made sure EH&S was aware of the situation. EH&S then reached out to facilities to make sure our snow removal contractor salts at even the slightest chance of ice forming.

This very well could have saved someone from slipping on the ice and possibly breaking a leg, hitting their head resulting in a severe injury, or even worse. I know we usually talk about rules or regulations but I wanted to spread some kudos. You know who you are.... thank-you!

RIDI



I wanted to take a minute to talk about the new RIDI (Report it, Don't ignore it) system. We all now have an icon on our desktop for the RIDI system. You simply click on it and fill out the form just like before. The new system goes to your union safety chair and to EH&S. The union safety chair is the RIDII coordinator. It's the responsibility of the RIDII Coordinator to validate / discard the RIDII, and assign to responsible party for resolution. That being said, your union safety chair will see each and every RIDII that's entered and work to get it resolved.

I also want to emphasize if you have a safety concern, bring it to your supervisor. If it's not resolved or you don't feel comfortable talking to them, talk to your safety steward. The safety committee is committed to making sure everyone goes home in the condition they came in!

As always, be safe!!

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



Pension Committee Report: Kristie Bader, Chairwoman

Brothers and Sisters,

Everyone should have received their Pension Statement showing your credited and continuous service as of December 31, 2020. If you feel there is a discrepancy call 1-800-243-8135, email the pension center, or contact me. I'm currently working with several people to try to get their years of service corrected. This is not an easy task but with dedication, determination, desire, and drive it will get accomplished! Wishing everyone health, happiness, and prosperity.

In Remembrance (2020)

Please take a minute to remember our brothers and sisters that passed away in 2020. They've helped pave the way for the pay, benefits and working conditions that we enjoy today. Our condolences to their families.

Active:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Zeferino Reyes (41) | 05-18-2020 |
|---------------------|------------|

Laid Off:

Retiree:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Mike T. Rotello Sr. (94) | 01-17-2020 |
| Gregory A. Holtapp (65) | 01-29-2020 |
| John R. Melbaum (71) | 01-31-2020 |
| William K. Cutler (94) | 02-07-2020 |
| Marvin L. Swanson (80) | 02-07-2020 |
| Howard A. Sunday (86) | 03-01-2020 |
| Robert T. Steve (83) | 04-30-2020 |
| Olive V. Bresette (89) | 05-14-2020 |
| Roger S. Clemmons (87) | 07-19-2020 |
| Paul E. Plasters (82) | 08-03-2020 |
| Wallace S. Skogsberg (72) | 08-16-2020 |
| Robert L. Brown (78) | 08-17-2020 |
| Stephen A. Bozarth (64) | 09-11-2020 |
| Curtis L. Nedland (66) | 09-21-2020 |
| Lavina J. "Stormy" Pumphrey (80) | 10-05-2020 |
| James V. Robinson (80) | 12-11-2020 |

Veterans Committee Report: Tadd Johnson, Co-Chairman

'Back to some sort of normalcy', 'light at the end of the tunnel' and 'in the near future'. These are just a few of the phrases we're hearing now that there are Covid-19 vaccines being administered.

2020 and the beginning of 21 have been extremely tough on all who have been affected in one way or another by the pandemic. It's been equally tough on organizations such as the Veterans Committee who volunteer to help those in need. The past year basically shut our organization down from doing what we love to do the most... volunteering.

Whether it was the veterans home in Manteno, Illinois, Hastings, Minnesota, or Union Grove, Wisconsin, we truly missed interacting with all the resident veterans last year during 'Vets Days'. At this point in time, we're unsure if we'll get the chance to volunteer this year due to the uncertainty of how far along we will be in getting through this crazy pandemic. One bright spot in October of last year, was that The Top of Illinois Veterans Stand Down was still able to take place in downtown Rockford, albeit in very limited capacity. Our committee chairman, Joe Harper was one of the few who were able to volunteer. Although it was a much smaller turnout, it was still a huge success.

As things are hopefully getting 'back to some sort of normalcy' we are seeing a 'light at the end of the tunnel' and your local 592 Veterans Committee will be planning more ways to volunteer 'in the near future'.



Please contact the Benefits Service Center (800-243-8135) if you are having issues with your benefits. The Company requires this first. If you need additional assistance please contact Mike Fishe (815-962-0600) at the UAW hall so we can pass those concerns along with the ticket number to the Benefits Manager to get it resolved.

Upcoming Local 592 Membership meetings:

The International UAW has ordered no in-person membership meetings till April 15th because of Covid-19 concerns. Please see the shop union bulletin boards or call the union hall at 815-962-0600 for more information.

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

Notice

In an effort to reduce our costs and carbon footprint, the Newsletter is going digital for all that receive it by mail!

We will be transitioning to posting the newsletter on our website (www.uaw592.com). For those that would still like to receive the newsletters by mail, or would prefer email, please contact the Union office at (815-962-0600) and give your name & current address or email.



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Tribune



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