

# Local 592 Tribune

## Labor News in Review

By, Chris Remhof

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Here's a collection of different labor union related news items I wanted to review with you.

300 employees of Collins Aerospace and UAW Local 128 in Troy, Ohio settled on a new union contract on March 14<sup>th</sup> by a 212 to 67 vote. This ended a three week lock out of workers by the company after the initial contract offer was rejected 230 to 37. It was the first labor dispute at that plant since the 1960's. The former Goodrich plant is part of the 'Wheel & Brake' division of Collins after the two companies merged in 2012.

Union members wanted to continue working while management and union leaders kept negotiating, but Collins Aerospace policy says union members must be under contract while working. Local 128 rati-

fied a three year contract that eliminated a two-tier wage system, included raises, ratification bonus, pension increases, a 5% healthcare premium cost cap, and cost of living increases. They gave up their pension for new hires starting in 2024 and adopted a "Company Automatic Contribution"



Photo credit: WIAFL-CIO

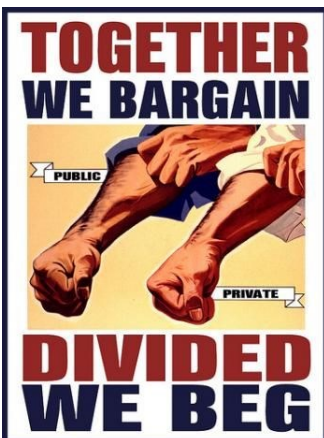
program for the 401K that equals 3 – 7% of weekly pay based on an age table where as the older you get, the more the company contributes up to 7%. Local 592 leadership has been in contact with Local 128 and are gleaming 'lessons learned' from the Troy, OH negotiations as our contract with Collins is up May 21, 2023.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is looking to replace its aging fleet of over 215,000 mail delivery trucks. These vehicles are 30 years old, get horrible gas mileage, don't have air conditioning or air-bags.

The USPS trucks are made in by Oshkosh Defense in Oshkosh, WI and there are 1,700 workers whom are members of UAW Local 578. Oshkosh Defense makes military vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances and many different types of commercial vehicles. In February 2021 the company was awarded the USPS contract for new mail trucks for between 50,000 and 165,000 over ten years.

There's a fight in Washington, DC about how many of the new mail trucks will be electric vs gas and will they be built at the union shop

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# President's Report

By Alton Jackson - UAW 592 President

Brothers and sisters:

Local 592 held nominations for delegates on April 3, 2022 for the 38<sup>th</sup> International Constitutional Convention. Our local is allowed two delegates. Craig Fryda and Michael Fishe were nominated and they accepted the nominations. Since only two were nominated and unopposed, an election is not necessary.

On the movement of hardware within the plant, the company has put out a letter stating that "all materials should be moved/handled by material clerks." It was distributed to office managers for communication.

The Union has ordered the panel for the next termination arbitration that was recently approved by the grievance screening board. We are working with our International Servicing Rep. Ted Dever to strike names for the Arbitrator, and get it scheduled. We will also order 3-4 more panels in the coming weeks on other grievances the board has approved.

It has come to our attention that there may be an issue with the Personal Absence days per section 7.7 of the contract. It should appear on the balances tab of your Auto-Time once you become eligible after 6 months of continuous service.

UAW Local 128 in Troy, Ohio has reached an agreement with Collins Aerospace after a 3 week lock out. I will be reaching out to their President, Joe Konicki, to find out more details since the last time we have talked.

Local 803 has voted down their 3-27-22 "Last, Best, Final" offer from Rockford Powertrain. Those approx. 90 brothers and sisters are currently on strike as of this writing. Please keep

**"all materials should be moved/handled by material clerks."**

them in your prayers for a reasonable contract settlement soon.

Once again, please don't forget to update your address with the Union when you move. It's very important that we keep our records correct locally, as well as with the International. The Local will notify the International of any change reported to us. When you change it with the company, they do NOT notify the Union. The International will need current addresses on file to send out information and voting ballots.

In closing, we're about 13 months away from our collective bargaining agreement with Collins Aerospace expiring. We'll do everything we can to come to an agreement that we can be proud of, but it takes both sides to want that. It's not a bad idea to have a few extra dollars saved for a potential, but hopefully avoidable, labor dispute. Think about what priorities in the CBA we should improve upon and any suggestions for language changes that improve our working environment. We'll survey the membership later this year or early next. Please attend the monthly membership meeting and reach out to your Chief Steward with questions.

In Solidarity,  
President Alton Jackson



## Cover Story continued

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in Wisconsin or a non-union South Carolina site that's a vacant warehouse which has never produced anything. Union workers in Wisconsin are mounting a campaign to change the company's mind and get Congress to pass a law which would force the work to be done in Wisconsin.

The Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, AL that's been trying to organize for the last 2 years had a close vote last month. 993 votes opposed the union and 875 in favor. There's 416 ballots being challenged by either the company or the union. The National Labor Relations Board will schedule hearings and ultimately decide on the challenged ballots.

Starbucks and its workers, mainly on the East Coast, have been the site of much union activity. So far, 13 stores have unionized and only one voted against it. According to the union, Starbucks Workers United, 180 other locations in 29 states have filed petitions to unionize. The company is mounting an overly caffeinated anti-union effort to stop workers from organizing or from getting their first contract. Instead of spending tens of millions of dollars opposing their employees, maybe Starbucks should use that money to address workers concerns. Just a thought. At last check, six stores in Chicago have filed for a NLRB election to unionize.

Two hours north of Rockford, 265 UAW members of Local 1472 look to have ended a five-day strike with Vollrath Company in Sheboygan, WI. 74% of the membership voted down a five-year offer that didn't eliminate tiered pay or have enough increases to wages and benefits. At press time, new contract details weren't available, but union leaders expected the membership to pass the improved agreement.



Photo: Starbucks Workers Solidarity / Twitter

## Pension Committee Report: Kristie Bader, Chairwoman

Just a friendly reminder, the company sent everyone their yearly pension statement in February.

Please save for your records because the pension department changed the website, we are no longer able to view your continuous and credited service. We might need this statement as a reference when you retire.



## Safety Committee Report: Craig Fryda, Chairman

Hello all,

The Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) promote effective worksite-based safety and health. In the VPP, management, labor, and OSHA establish cooperative relationships at workplaces that have implemented a comprehensive safety and health management system. Approval into VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

In practice, VPP sets performance-based criteria for a managed safety and health system, invites sites to apply, and then assesses applicants against these criteria. OSHA's verification includes an application review and a rigorous onsite evaluation by a team of OSHA safety and health experts.

OSHA approves qualified sites to one of three programs:

- **Star:** Recognition for employers and employees who demonstrate exemplary achievement in the prevention and control of occupational safety and health hazards the development, implementation and continuous improvement of their safety and health management system.
- **Merit:** Recognition for employers and employees who have developed and implemented good safety and health management systems but who must take additional steps to reach Star quality.
- **Demonstration:** Recognition for employers and employees who operate effective safety and health management systems that differ from current VPP requirements. This program enables OSHA to test the efficacy of different approaches.

Collins Rockford is currently a Star site, and we strive to keep that.

The reason we feel it is so important: We want everyone to go home in the condition they came in. VPP has shown to significantly lower workplace injuries. Statistical evidence for VPP's success is impressive. The average VPP worksite has a Days Away Restricted or Transferred (DART) case rate of 52% below the average for its industry. These sites typically do not start out with such low rates. Reductions in injuries and illnesses begin when the site commits to the VPP approach to safety and health management and the challenging VPP application process.

We recently had an OSHA audit via Zoom, which has never been done before. Employees were given the opportunity to talk to an OSHA auditor one on one and express any concerns they have about safety. The very same auditor was here in March at both plants, and there were a few action items, but no major issues. Great job and congratulations everyone!

At the end of the day, a safety team's goal is that no one gets hurt. The VPP program is a tool we use here at Collins to work towards that goal. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or your safety stewards.

Thank you, and as always, be safe!

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



## Veterans Committee Report: Joe Harper, Chairman

Memorial Day, the unofficial beginning of summer, will soon be upon us. With the weather we had this spring we're all waiting to get outside, grill and spend time with family and friends. Memorial Day is an American holiday which has origins back to right after the Civil War but didn't become a federal holiday until 1971. It was created to honor the men and women that paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of this country. Unlike other American holidays, such as the Fourth of July, Memorial Day is celebrated around the world in countries where our fallen have been laid to rest. Places like Manila, Philippines where over 16,000 American WWII casualties are buried to Flanders Field in Waregem, Belgium where 400 Americans from WWI were laid to rest. In Normandy, France there is a Memorial Day ceremony to honor the Americans that gave their lives to free France from the Nazi.



Here in America, almost every small town has a ceremony, celebration or a parade, while bigger cities have many different opportunities to remember our heroes. Personally, I think every American should attend one of these events, but I also understand life can get busy and that's not always possible. So, I'm asking you at some point during the Memorial Day weekend, please stop and take a moment to say thanks in your own way to those men and women that gave their lives for our freedom, and the freedom that is felt around the world.

**ATTENTION:** Until further notice, Local 592 union meetings will be held as follows. **1pm** night shift meeting at UAW Hall 929 S. Alpine Rd. **5pm** day shift meeting will be at Screw City Tavern 4412 Manchester Dr., across from Plant 6, in their backroom.

**Upcoming Local 592 Membership meetings:**

- Wednesday, April 27th.      1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.
- Wednesday, May 25th.        1pm night shift, 5pm dayshift.
- Wednesday, June 22th.      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**

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Phone: 815-962-0600

Follow us on Twitter: @uawlocal592

**We are on the Web!**  
[www.uaw592.com](http://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



Memorial Day is May 30th, 2022. UAW Local 592 commemorates all those members of the United States military that lost their lives serving our country. They paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect us, our freedoms and liberties. Please take a moment that weekend to pause and reflect on the memories of those loved ones lost, and those that you've never met but owe so much to.



**Local 592**  
**Tribune**



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