

Local 592 Tribune

It's a big year for Labor

By, Chris Remhof

Inside this issue:

Cover Story	1
President's Report	2
Negotiation Primer	3
Safety Committee	4
Veterans Committee	5
Picture from 2000	6

Editor: Chris Remhof
newsletter.uaw592
@gmail.com

2023 will be a huge year for the labor movement in the United States. Besides our own collective bargaining agreement expiring in May, you'll have Ford, General Motors, Stellantis, UPS, 200,000 postal workers, 5,000 Illinois Caterpillar workers, members at GE, United Airlines and many more negotiating with their employer.

Plus, workers who have voted to form unions, but haven't yet ratified a contract with management will be bargaining at Starbucks, Amazon, Traders Joe's, REI and Ultium Cells in Ohio where the UAW won the right to represent 900 workers that will make electric batteries for GM.

Mary Barra the CEO of GM, said in December that she sees labor negotiations with the UAW coming down to "job security" and being "appropriately compensated". I think that would be spot on

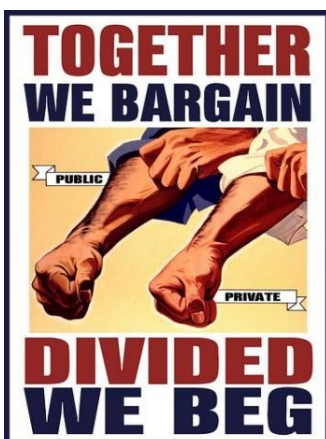
for members of Local 592 as well. Worldwide inflation pressures, supply chain disruptions, Covid-19, war and climate change have upended the status quo in many areas.

We don't know what negotiating posture RTX will take with us this May, so we should be ready for anything. Last May, 3,000 members of IAM District 26 at Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut ratified a three year agreement that included new work, job security language, strong wage and pension multiplier increases, plus improvements to vacations, personal time off and health care. But, we also saw Collins Aerospace lock out 300 workers at Local 128 in Troy, Ohio last March for three weeks.

Collins Aerospace in Connecticut, the old Hamilton Sundstrand plants, will be coming out of a 2.5 year contract in May of 2024, so they'll be looking closely at how our negotiations go. You can help our cause, your cause, by

wearing your red union shirt on Wednesdays, attending the monthly meeting, volunteering for the upcoming Election Committee, voting yes for the strike authorization vote and saving a few bucks for a rainy day.

With less than 120 days left of the original 1,825, we're deep in the 4th quarter on this contract. It's time to step up and get the ball into the endzone, but it takes the whole team to do it. Hundreds of thousands of union members are gearing up this year too for their own opportunity to improve their lives and working conditions. The clock is ticking, let's go!



President's Report

By Alton Jackson – UAW 592 President

Brothers and sisters:

The 2023 UAW International Officer Run-off Elections will be conducted by secret ballot over the next few weeks. The offices to be filled through the election are the offices of International President and one International Vice-President. All UAW members in good standing as of January 31, 2023, are eligible to vote in the elections, including members who are part-time workers, reinstated members, and retired members. In order to have your vote counted, your mail-in ballot must be received by the U.S. Post Office in Dayton, Ohio, by the final deadline of February 28, 2023.

On January 12, 2023, the first formal mail distribution of mail-in ballots will be distributed to the electorate. Also, February 15, 2023 is the final date that replacement ballots can be requested from the Election Vendor. Lastly, February 28, 2023, is the deadline for all return ballots to be received by the designated postal facility. However, February 17, 2023, is the last day by which members should place their ballots in the mail to best ensure receipt by the February 28 deadline. The tabulation of votes will begin at 8:00 am the next day. After the winners are announced, the newly elected officers will be sworn-in within seven days.

Please remember to update your information with us when you change addresses. This includes both active and retired members. Recording Secretary Michael Fishe will be updating our records for the local. By keeping your information current with the Union, it will insure you receive all communications from the International.

We have been discussing resolutions to a few grievances with the company trying to get the number heading to arbitration down. The Temporary Layoff

**UAW International Executive
Board election ballots
should be mailed no later
than Feb 17th**

grievance has been settled and paid out by the company. We are also working on a resolution to the Kishwaukee warehouse grievance. The Union will be ordering the next panel of Arbitrators for the Tool & Gage Arbitration.

We have received the Negotiations surveys back from the membership and we are compiling the results. When completed, the Bargaining Committee will be meeting to put together our proposal to the company. It is the Bargaining Committee's intent to bring the membership the best possible contract to the ratification vote.

The Membership has approved the purchasing of red t-shirts to show solidarity as we approach negotiations in 2023. Our current contract for Unit 1 expires May 21, 2023. We ask that the membership wear them on Wednesdays. The more the company sees us with the red shirts on red shirt Wednesdays the more they will see that the membership supports the Bargaining Committee. If you do not wear the union shirt, any red shirt will show support.

The Retirees Banquet this year was a great place for fellowship and great food. It is always nice to see the retirees and discuss old times, new times, and everything in between. I would like to thank Recording Secretary Michael Fishe, Financial Secretary Michael Petrie, District 1 Chief Steward John Cartwright, and Kody Nicholson for helping with organizing, set up, and cleaning up after the banquet.

There was another proposed By-Laws change for our local since the last newsletter. It was to change the November and December Membership Meetings to the 3rd week of the month if they land on the week of the Holiday for that month. Please don't forget that the time of the Monthly Membership meetings has changed from 5:00 to 4:00 pm for the day shift.

In Solidarity,

President Alton Jackson

Labor Negotiations Primer: part 2 of 3

Part 1 of the labor negotiations primer was in the last issue of the Local 592 Tribune.

In April, there'll be a large formal meeting where Collins Aerospace leaders from Rockford and out East will sit down with the Local 592 bargaining committee, our International Servicing Rep Ted Dever, the UAW Region 4 Director and likely some union presidents from other Raytheon Technologies sites. Introductions, opening statements and a "State of the Business" will be made. Exchanges of opening proposals are made and reviewed over the course of several weeks. The non-economic issues are addressed first. These might be policies that Collins is trying to implement across the company or ones that local executives have on their wish list. Once consensus is reached on a specific issue, it's "tentatively agreed to", but still subject to being part of the final offer. Issues not agreed to might be withdrawn during subsequent proposals by one side or the other to continue to 'bargain in good faith'.

Don't forget that while negotiations are ongoing, the bargaining committee is also working on the everyday issues that pop up in the plants with the help of the department stewards.

On a weekday in late April or early May, for active members only, voting will take place at our union office from 6am to 6pm for the "Strike Authorization Vote". This is a standard process for the union, and simply authorizes our elected bargaining committee to call a strike if circumstances warrant. In no way does it guarantee Local 592 will go on strike. That power ultimately is with the membership after reviewing the company's "last, best, final offer". They watch that vote tally closely. Why would they give better contract terms to us if we appear divided or uninterested? Bottom line: a strong "Yes" vote in favor of strike authorization makes our contract expiration date meaningful and pressures Collins Aerospace to make real movement toward a fair contract.

During April and May the bargaining committee will periodically do "Worker to Worker" flyers to give you a general sense of how things are going or address rumors that might be out there. Details of negotiations can't be given, but the committee will do its best to keep you updated.

Local 592 union elections coming this Spring

There will be a SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING on Sunday April 23, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. at the UAW Hall, 929 S. Alpine Rd., Rockford, IL for the purpose of nomination and election of the Election Committee and the nominations of candidates for ALL Executive Board and ALL Unit Bargaining Committee positions. You need not be present to be nominated, however, persons nominated but not accepting nomination at the April 23, 2023 meeting must notify the Recording Secretary in writing no later than 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday April 26, 2023. Retired members can run for all positions except the seven members of the bargaining committee.

The GENERAL ELECTION for ALL Executive Board and ALL Unit Bargaining Committee positions will be held on Tuesday May 2, 2023 at the UAW Hall, 929 South Alpine Road., Rockford, IL. The polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. A run-off election should one be necessary will be held on Monday May 8, 2023 at the UAW Hall, 929 South Alpine Road, Rockford, IL. Polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Winning Candidates will take office at the June 28, 2023 Membership Meeting. Notices will be published on the bulletin boards in the plants and on Local 592's website.

Finally, we can't stress enough the importance of having seven good members of our Election Committee. Retirees are eligible to serve and between nominations, strike authorization and ratification votes, committee members will be busy in April and May. But it's critical we have good dependable help. Please reach out to your Chief Steward if interested.

Safety Committee Report: Craig Fryda, Chairman

I want to discuss injury reporting, when and how we should do it.

We should be reporting all injuries. You may think it's fine or no big deal, but in the long run, ignoring a small injury can turn into a major injury or even death. The smallest of cuts if cleaned out properly and covered will heal and go away in a few days. The same cut left untreated can become infected and become very painful or lead to septic shock and death.

You may think a strain or sore muscle isn't worth reporting but it can be an indication of a serious injury. We need to make sure to take care of our bodies so we can all enjoy our retirement. If you don't report an injury and it becomes serious, filling a workers compensation claim can be difficult if too much time has elapsed since the incident. So, report injuries right away. We need to make sure we report injuries so the accident can be looked at and corrective actions can be taken so another brother or sister doesn't have the same accident.

So how do we report work related injuries?

- Report any work-related injury to your supervisor.
- Obtain a medical pass from your supervisor and report as soon as possible to the Medical Department during their regular operating hours. If your supervisor is unavailable, report to the Medical Department. Then report it to your supervisor after you get treated.
- For medical treatment outside of Medical Department's regular hours, contact a supervisor who will arrange a consult with WorkCare at 714-912-9359. If no supervisor is available, contact WorkCare directly.
- If it's determined by WorkCare that the employee requires outside non-emergency medical treatment, transportation will be provided by Collins Aerospace. The Supervisor shall arrange transportation to the necessary facility (i.e. ambulance, or security). Should the employee be able to return to work, transportation will be arranged by the supervisor and/or designee to transport employee back to work.

In the event an employee is not able to return to work, a family member or person designated by the employee will be communicated with to arrange transportation needs.

Switching gears, I would also like to mention another change that has just happened at all Rockford plants. When I started here, I was told only the Fire Brigade could use fire extinguishers in the event of a fire. I worked with EH&S and the Rockford EH&S Steering Committee, and we have now changed that policy. All union personnel should have been assigned the GLP class 3413183 Rockford EH&S Fire extinguisher training. Upon successful completion you can use a fire extinguisher to put out a fire. The class empowers you to use a fire extinguisher if you can do it safely and feel comfortable using one. This class by no means obligates you to attempt to put out a fire or use a fire extinguisher, it just gives you the empowerment to do so.

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

For the second year in a row the veterans committee participated and supported the "Trek for Troops" sponsored by Darkhorse Lodge.

Last year the weather was our friend, this year it was not. It was cold, windy, and rainy, but the Veterans Committee walked the three mile loop in honor of the 26 marines that were killed in Afghanistan from the 3/5. The money raised goes to the Darkhorse Lodge which is a retreat for combat veterans in the Kentucky Lake area.

Thank you to Luke Vittetow for the hot chili and snacks after our trek, it was a great way to warm back up. Next year we want you to join us in Byron for the trek.



L to R: Steve Brown, Luke Vittetow, Chris Remhof, Joe Harper, Tadd Johnson

ATTENTION: Until further notice, Local 592 union meetings will be held as follows. **1pm** night shift meeting at UAW Hall 929 S. Alpine Rd. **4pm** 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, <u>Jan 25th</u>	1pm night shift, 4pm dayshift.
Wednesday, <u>Feb 22nd</u>	1pm night shift, 4pm dayshift.
Wednesday, <u>Mar 22nd</u>	1pm night shift, 4pm 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

Time travel back to the Union Picnic in August 2000



Terry & Chris Remhof



Regina Hillhouse



Kristy Bader



Local 592
Tribune

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ROCKFORD, IL.
PERMIT NO. 861

UAW LOCAL 592
929 South Alpine Rd., Unit 203
Rockford, IL 61108