

# Local 592 Tribune

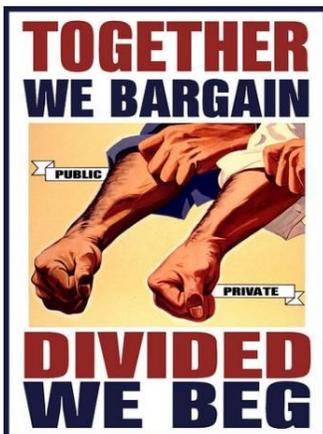
## Are you with me?

By, Chris Remhof

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I'm glad that's over with! UAW Local 592 and Collins Aerospace worked out a new 5-year agreement which passed with 77%. Congratulations and thank you very much to our UAW International Rep Ted Dever, Local 592 President Alton Jackson and the rest of the bargaining committee.

This was contract vote number seven for me, and mostly followed the usual pattern of some worry, mixed with confidence that it would work out fine. Every day brought a new rumor, different analysis from someone not in negotiations, and management keeping an extra eye on the shop floor.

I've said it before, but I believe a union's strength is measured by two metrics: leverage and solidarity. To me, I felt we had good leverage with the company struggling to build units because we lacked parts. Very few office people able to step in and take over in a labor dispute and inflation skyrocketing. But, with approximately 67% of

the union having 10 years or less of seniority, and many being first time UAW members, I wasn't sure how the solidarity part of the equation would work.

It appears that we're in good shape. The membership handled an election for executive board members, strike authorization vote, and contract vote all within 30 days. And did so while electing some new blood to the E-Board, gave the bargaining committee a 98.9% strike vote and only 5% of active members didn't vote on May 21<sup>st</sup>!

As of today, about 31% of the local will have 30 years of more in May of 2028 when this contract expires. That doesn't even factor in those that will be short by a few years but choose to retire on points rather than "30 & Out". I feel confident that our next generation of leaders are starting to emerge. There's certainly more to do, and the time is now.

In July, elections will happen for department stewards throughout the Rockford campus. Plus,

President Jackson will be appointing Chairpersons for our standing committees, such as, Civil Rights, Women's, Veterans, By-laws, and more. Look on the back of your union calendar for a list of all the different committees.

Honestly most of our committees only meet a few times a year, if that, so it's not to much to ask of someone. Plus, if you want to gain experience and make a positive impression, super charging a sleepy committee and putting your stamp on it, is a great start. Department steward can be a bigger task, but there's plenty of people to help and ask advice from. Who better to advocate for you, than you?

So, take a deep breath, pat yourself on the back and rest up during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Then it's time to get back to building a better union and workplace. Are you with me?

# President's Report

By Alton Jackson – UAW 592 President

Brothers and sisters:

The Bargaining Committee worked hard to bring the best possible tentative agreement to the membership at ratification. We spent very long hours in a short period of time negotiating with a difficult team from Collins Aerospace. The Memberships support for the Committee was felt on several occasions at the table. The Committee appreciated all the support from the membership before, during, and after ratification of the new agreement.

On behalf of the Bargaining Committee, I want to thank the membership for an outstanding job during April & May. As examples, 98.9% voted "YES" for Strike Authorization, wearing your union shirts and 95% of the membership voted on the tentative agreement with 77% voting yes. A divided membership begs at the negotiating table. We were united, you were united, and it allowed us to bring you the very best offer the company was willing to submit that didn't require a costly, for both sides, strike or lockout. Thank you so much. The company and the Union are currently reviewing the final document for errors. As soon as we agree, it will be sent to print. This process usually takes a few months to complete.

Switching gears, the Recreation Committee has been busy planning the Annual Local 592 Picnic. Tickets will only be sold

at the door, \$5 per person. It will be at the SM&SF park on August 5, from Noon-5pm. The address is 7625 Kishwaukee Road Stillman Valley, IL 61084. The union picnic is for you and your immediate family, as a way of thanking you for all that you do at work, in your community, and within Local 592. We will need volunteers to help with setting up, selling tickets at the gate, 50/50 raffle, run adult games, run kids' games, and clean up. Please contact Recreation Chairman John Cartwright or one of the Bargaining Committee members to volunteer, any help will be ap-

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preciated. Attendance prizes will be drawn during the day. We hope you all come out and enjoy the day with family, friends, and co-workers.

Local 592 will be walking in this year's Labor Day Parade. We will purchase 1,200 flying discs and we will be handing them out to the children as we walk. The line up begins at 8:30am Monday, September 4 at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue heading towards 8<sup>th</sup> street. We welcome all current members, retirees, and their families to participate and walk in this parade to show their support for organized labor.

The Annual Retirees Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 14 for retirees and their spouses. The recreation committee is still working on the time and location. The postcard reminders will be sent out sometime in September. Please RSVP if you plan on attending. Please detach the RSVP portion and return it so we can get an accurate count for the dinner. Hope to see you at the banquet.

The newly elected Executive Board members will be sworn in at the Membership Meeting on June 28 at Screw City Tavern in the back meeting room. The meeting will take place at 4:00pm. All board members-elect should be at the meeting.

We currently have 15 grievances in 3<sup>rd</sup> step. The Quarantine grievance is scheduled to be paid out which is another win for our members that were wrongly sent home due to the company not following their own policies. The Tool & Gage grievance is close to a resolution. Collins will be posting two positions for that classification, which has been dormant for over 13 years. The Restoration Benefit grievance for retirees is heading to Arbitration and will be screened by the Region 4 Board soon.

In Solidarity,

President Alton Jackson

# May 21st contract ratification vote passed:256-71



Photos courtesy of Chris Remhof

## Safety Committee Report: Craig Fryda, Chairman

I'm finally back in the plant! For those of you who do not know, I fell and broke my ankle back at the end of January. I returned to work on May 1<sup>st</sup> only to dive right into contract negotiations. Since that is behind us, let's get back into the grind. I'm glad to be back, and working with our first class team of safety stewards who carried the load while I was healing. Thank you so much for all your hard work, I really appreciate it.

I want to take this time to discuss ergonomics and how important they are for our wellbeing. I just recently completed a JHA (job hazard analysis) task with the EH&S team. We spent four days going through many different areas, assessing the hazards for the area and cleaning up the JHA's on file. The long-term plan is to update them all, make them more accessible, easier to find and use. One of the main purposes of this assessment was to identify hazards related to day-to-day tasks in each area. We identified a lot of ergonomic issues, created a list and will be addressing those soon.

What is an ergonomic issue?

The Google definition: Working in awkward postures or being in the same posture for long periods of time. Using positions that place stress on the body, such as prolonged or repetitive reaching above shoulder height, kneeling, squatting, leaning over a counter, using a knife with wrists bent, or twisting the torso while lifting.

What can we do to help with ergonomics? Change it Up.

Repeating the same movement continuously throughout the day can cause strains. One way to alleviate that, if possible, is to alternate your repetitive tasks, rotate job assignments, or take rest breaks throughout the shift. Use your breaks to stretch or do simple exercises to keep your muscles and tendons from becoming tense or strained.

Lift with your Knees. Be sure that if your job involves lifting, that you are trained in manual material handling, and that you practice proper lifting techniques. Never lift with the muscles in your back. Lift with your legs as those muscles are much stronger than the muscles in your back.

Get a Good Chair. If you sit at a desk all or most of the day, you need an ergonomic chair that has various settings for a variety of seated postures. The best chairs have adjustable height, armrests, lumbar support, and seat pan depth settings. If your feet don't reach the floor, a footrest should be used in conjunction with the chair and remember it doesn't matter how well the chair is adjusted if you don't sit properly in it!

Look after your Eyes. Eye strain is common in workers who spend a lot of their day looking at computer monitors. Adjust your monitor so that it is at eye level when sitting straight in your chair. Ensure that you look at it directly, and that it's not angled. Monitors with poor resolution or a flicker should be upgraded or replaced.

The last one is so important. We need to remember we're only human, and just do the best you can every day. I know we feel the strain when we are behind, but always remember to "breathe".

Relax. A stressful work environment can cause workers to tense their muscles and remain in that state for extended periods of time. Workers who feel pressure to complete tasks may skip breaks or strain themselves to complete tasks faster at the expense of using proper ergonomic material handling techniques. Training, information, and control over the ergonomic set-up of your workstation goes a long way in reducing the stress that causes ergonomic injuries.

At the end of the day, we all want to go home in as good of shape as we came in. If you're feeling pain or strain, reach out to your safety stewards, supervisor or EH&S and evaluate your job/area, use the ergonomic tools we have and make the task more user friendly.

Thank you and be well!

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



# Union Picnic Saturday, August 5th



## ANNUAL PICNIC

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Saturday) – Noon to 5PM  
SM&SF Park  
7625 Kishwaukee Rd., Stillman Valley, IL

Tickets \$5.00 per Person

Refreshments, Music, Games with Prizes, Bounce House for Kids, and Lots of Attendance Prize Giveaways

The Union picnic is for you and your immediate family, as a way of thanking you for all that you do at work, in your community and within your Local Union. There will be lots of activities for all ages, along with catered food and refreshments. We hope you all come out and enjoy the day with family and friends.

Entry Tickets will be sold at the [Picnic](#)



2000 union picnic at Sundstrand Park



2017 union picnic at SM&SF Club



**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, June 28th 1pm night shift, 4pm dayshift.
- Wednesday, July 26th 1pm night shift, 4pm dayshift.
- Wednesday, August 23rd 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: @local592uaw

**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 2023 Contract Negotiation Team**



**Local 592**  
**Tribune**



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