

Local 592 Tribune

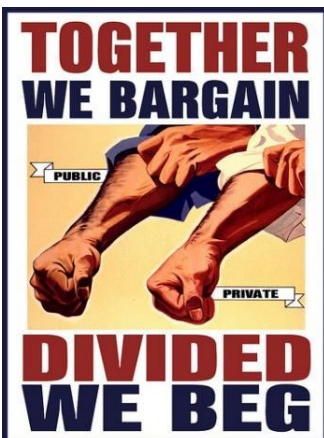
Solidarity In Your Stocking

By, Chris Remhof

Inside this issue:

Cover Story	1
President's Report	2
In Remembrance	3
Safety Committee	4
VIP's	5
President Biden	6

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The International UAW achieved a great victory in their negotiations with GM, Ford and Stellantis last month. Business pundits, labor journalists and most importantly the members of the locals, overwhelmingly praised what was won at the bargaining table by new UAW International President Shawn Fain and his team.

To get there, UAW negotiators implemented a sophisticated operation of striking the Big Three at once, but in selective plants. The Stand Up Strike pulled workers off the job at certain plants strategically designed not to cripple the auto companies, but keep them guessing and off balance. This flexible approach allowed workers at most plants to keep working and making wages, while also not depleting the UAW Strike Fund. It also allowed the UAW to dial up the pressure on any one of the Big Three if negotiations stalled.

After 6 weeks, tentative agreements were reached with the Big Three. Across the companies, 64% of voting

members voted in favor of the agreements. Some of the gains are as follows:

Over the life of the agreement, members will see raises of at least 33%, after COLA and compounded wage increases, ranging up to over 160% for some of the lowest-paid workers. Tens of thousands of autoworkers saw immediate raises of over 40% upon ratification.

At all three companies, the union won a 3 year wage progression to the top pay rate, down from 8 years.

Stellantis agreed to reopen the Belvidere assembly plant it closed in February and committed to build a \$3.2 billion battery plant there employing more than a thousand union workers. The company was slated to shed more than 5,000 U.S. hourly jobs when bargaining began. It's now on track to add more than 5,000.

The UAW won commitments at all three automakers that will bring thousands of electric vehicle (EV) and battery jobs under the union's national agreements.

Current retirees will receive annual bonuses for the first time in 15 years, a \$1.25 billion boost in their benefits. That's a billion dollars more than the union won for retirees in the last four contracts combined! At all three companies, workers hired before 2007 won an increase in their pension multiplier for the first time in over 15 years. Though the union did not win back defined benefit pensions for post-2007 hires, the employer contribution to their 401K is massively boosted to 10%, which will more than double many members' annual 401K contributions over the life of the contract.

Locally, everyone should be excited about the eventual reopening of Stellantis Belvidere Assembly. The company will retool the plant for a midsize pickup truck with two shifts, build a brand new adjacent EV battery plant, and an Amazon styled Mopar parts distribution center. That's billions of dollars of new investment in the Rockford metro area.

Continued on page 3

President's Report

By Alton Jackson – UAW 592 President

Brothers and Sisters:

The Local 592 Annual Picnic was held on August 5th at the SM&SF Park and it was a great success! I would like to thank Vice-President Mike Roth, his wife Tina, Recording Secretary Michael Fishe, his wife Lori, District 1 Chief Steward John Cartwright, his wife Annette, District 3 Chief Steward Jason Fisher, District 4 Chief Steward Craig Fryda, his wife Jackie, Trustee Chair Melannie Gaddis, Union EAP Representative Jeff McCullough, and his wife Kim for all their help in the planning, setup, and hard work during the picnic and afterwards. I would also like to thank Scott Lineman for the use of his golf cart during the picnic.

Local 592 walks in the Labor Day Parade every year. We usually get approval to purchase 1,200 flying discs and we hand them out to the children as we walk. The line up begins at 8:30am at the corner of 7th street and 5th Avenue heading towards 8th street, but the parade does not start until 10am. We welcome all current members, retirees, and their families to participate and walk in the parade to show their support for our Local and organized labor. This year we only had 5 participants. I would like to have more involvement from our members in the parade. If anyone has any ideas or would like to help organize this event, please let me know.

The Annual Retirees Banquet was held on Saturday, October 14 at the Eagles Club in Rockford for retirees and their significant other. It was proposed to start at 1:00pm this year and the Recreation Committee had great feed-

back on the new time. We had good 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 Vice-President Mike Roth, Recording Secretary Michael Fishe, his wife Lori, Financial Secretary Michael Petrie, District 1 Chief Steward John Cartwright, and District 4 Chief Steward Craig Fryda, and his wife Jackie, for helping with organizing, set up, and cleaning up after the banquet.

Along with our November Membership Meetings we held our New Member Lunch/Dinner. This is done to encourage members to

We currently have 11 grievances in 3rd step. Two of those are already scheduled for Arbitration in early 2024.

attend the meetings, explain how the Union conducts business and have good conversation with the executive board in general. I would like to thank District 4 Chief Steward Craig Fryda and Recording Secretary Michael Fishe for helping to organize and prepare for the dinner.

We currently have 11 grievances in 3rd step. Two of those are already scheduled for Arbitration in early 2024. The Restoration Benefit is scheduled for February 2024 and the Tool & Gage Arbitration in April 2024. Your Bargaining Committee was successful in getting a signed agreement for one of our terminated members. The committee is still working on the other two terminations.

In May, during the contract vote, inside the "Tentative Agreement Highlights", page 5, Appendix D – Supplemental Unemployment Benefits, we talked about meeting with the company within 90 days of ratification to discuss SUB benefits. We did meet several times with the company, but their tune had changed from one of collaboration and willingness to increase benefits, to being dismissive and wanting to decrease funding levels. Your bargaining committee wasn't interested in decreasing your benefits and talks have ceased.

Active members, please remember to update your information with the UNION and the company separately when you change addresses. Retirees, please also update Local 592 and the RTX Pension Center when you move. Recording Secretary Michael Fishe is keeping our records up to date for the local.

In closing, on behalf of myself and the entire Local 592 Executive Committee, we'd like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In Solidarity,
President Alton Jackson



ANGELO LOPEZ 2009

Cover Story continued

Continued from page 1

On November 9th, President Biden visited Belvidere and met with local workers, leaders and UAW officials. After arriving at the Boone County Community Building, Biden removed his suit jacket and put on a red UAW shirt that said “We Are Belvidere”. “I told my team let Stellantis know Belvidere is a priority, and I got on the phone and let them know firsthand it was a priority,” the president said.

Local 592 International Representative Ted Dever, Local 592 Vice President Mike Roth, Recording Secretary Mike Fishe, and past President Brian Opsahl were in attendance. “It’s a great day for Northern Illinois, the UAW and our members when the President of the United States visits and throws the weight of his office into our corner,” said Mike Fishe.

UAW International leadership is not done or satisfied with these wins and gains. There’s still more to do. UAW President Shawn Fain has set his latest ambitious goal: To gain UAW membership in nonunion companies across the industry — from foreign automakers with U.S. operations like Toyota, to electric vehicle makers like Tesla, and to EV battery plants

that will likely represent a sizable share of auto jobs in the decades ahead.

Shortly after the UAW contracts were signed with the Big Three, Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Subaru, Volkswagen and Hyundai increased wages at U.S. factories in a move the union said was aimed at thwarting UAW organizing efforts. Many of the companies also reduced the number of years it will take for workers to reach the top of their pay scales. All of that wasn’t done out of the kindness of their corporate heart. It was done because the UAW won significant gains for its members. The union rising tide truly does lift all boats.

The non-union plants “know we’re coming for them,” Fain said. Calling the recent pay increases Toyota and others handed out a “UAW bump”. He also quipped that UAW stands for “U are welcome”.

2023 has mostly been a good year for the labor movement. Local 592 ratified a good contract with Collins Aerospace, Actors & Writers Unions went on strike to secure new job security language and pay increases, and automotive workers have much to be thankful for. Best wishes to you during the holiday season and I hope Santa puts some solidarity in your stocking.

In Remembrance (2022)

We missed posting this in the spring newsletter and regret that error. We’ll have the 2023 “In Remembrance” in the Spring 2024 newsletter.

Please take a minute to remember our brothers and sisters that passed away in 2022. They’ve helped pave the way for the pay, benefits and working conditions that we enjoy today. Our condolences to their families.

2022 Active: none

2022 Lay Off: none

Retiree:

James C. Spring (87)	01-08-2022
Georg B. Fuhrer (72)	01-28-2022
Eldred L. Hon (90)	03-01-2022
Robert D. Hexom (92)	04-29-2022
Hoyt H. Dawson (95)	07-29-2022
Guilebaldo, Mendoza (72)	08-09-2022
Charles D. Williams (71)	08-13-2022
Richard E. Loos (65)	08-28-2022
David L. Wright (86)	08-28-2022
Daniel P. Macias (69)	08-29-2022
Patricia Born (75)	09-06-2022

Donald F. Lund (89)	09-10-2022
Lucille A. Paul (81)	10-06-2022
David A. Schade (71)	10-11-2022
Charles N. Utter (75)	10-13-2022
Howard McCullough (67)	10-16-2022
Roberto D. Soliz (93)	11-06-2022
Vance C. Arnold (54)	12-06-2022
James E. Pennington (69)	12-14-2022

Retirees from 2021 that were missed.

James M. Zomok (74)	04-26-2021
Gertrude (Trudy) R. Dowd (100)	07-24-2021
Willie D. Wolverton (83)	10-11-2021
Helen Grabarek (101)	11-08-2021
John R. Ainsworth (83)	11-23-2021

Safety Committee Report: Craig Fryda, Chairman

The holiday season is a magical time, but Christmas traditions, decor, and celebrations can lead to accidents, or worse if you're not careful. Here's how to keep your family safe and healthy through to the New Year.

Your tree is a fire risk — even if it's fake. Each holiday season, fire departments respond to hundreds of Christmas tree fires nationally. Tree fires aren't super common, but when they do happen, they're likely to be serious. Keep your tree at least three feet away from all heat sources: fireplaces, radiators, and heat vents. If you have a real tree, remember to **keep it watered**; the drier the tree, the more easily it could ignite. Your stand should have a water reservoir that can hold one quart of water per inch of the stem's diameter, and choose a sturdy stand so the tree won't tip over.

Don't overdo it on the lights. As much as you may want to cover every inch of your house with lights, you may have to scale back depending on your outlets. Check the lights' packaging for the power output and never plug in more than what a power strip or outlet says it can handle. You never want to connect more than three strings of lights in one series. Always look for the UL symbol when buying electrical items and pay attention to its color: Green means it's approved for indoor use, and red means it can be used indoors and outdoors. If you're using old lights, check the wires to make sure there are no signs of fraying or cracking. Even if you've followed all of these precautions, you should still unplug all indoor lights when you leave the house.

Candles are pretty, but they're still open flames. December is the peak time of year for candle-related house fires, says the National Fire Protection Association. Sure, they set a glowing holiday mood, but lit flames and Christmas decorations don't mix. In one five-year study, the NFPA found that 52% of decoration-related fires were started by candles. Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from surrounding objects. Trim wicks to a quarter of an inch before you light them and only let candles burn for one hour for every inch of diameter, so the wax can melt evenly. So, if you have a three-inch candle, it shouldn't burn for more than three hours. Never leave lit candles in a room that's unattended.

Never toss anything but logs into your fireplace. Amy Artuso, program manager for the National Safety Council, says, "Don't try to burn evergreens or wreaths in a fireplace or wood stove". Greenery and tree needles burn much faster than logs, creating sparks, which can fly into the room or onto the roof. They can also cause a build-up of creosote, a highly flammable compound, in the chimney. "And don't burn wrapping paper, because it can contain metallic materials that could be hazardous to breathe in," says Artuso. Make sure the fire is out and the embers have cooled before you leave the house or go to bed. Put the ashes in a metal bin that's at least 25 feet away from the house. Have a professional come out at least once a year to inspect the chimney.

Decorations can seriously harm your pets. A cat might see shiny tinsel as a toy, but a single strand can become tangled in their intestines, causing serious damage. Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettias are toxic to dogs and cats when ingested. Candy canes and their wrapper can be a choking hazard, and sugar-free ones made with xylitol are poisonous to dogs.

Don't forget to prep the outside of your house. Keep your driveway and walkways clear of ice and snow, especially if you're expecting guests. Be extra careful as you're shoveling your property: Over 16,000 Americans head to the hospital each year due to injuries that happen while shoveling or removing ice and snow, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Wear proper boots with enough traction, point feet slightly outward to keep your center of balance under you, and take small, slow steps.

We all want to enjoy our holiday time with family and friends, we just want to make sure that we don't turn a great tradition into a tragedy. On behalf of your Safety Committee we want to wish you all a Safe and Happy holiday season!!!

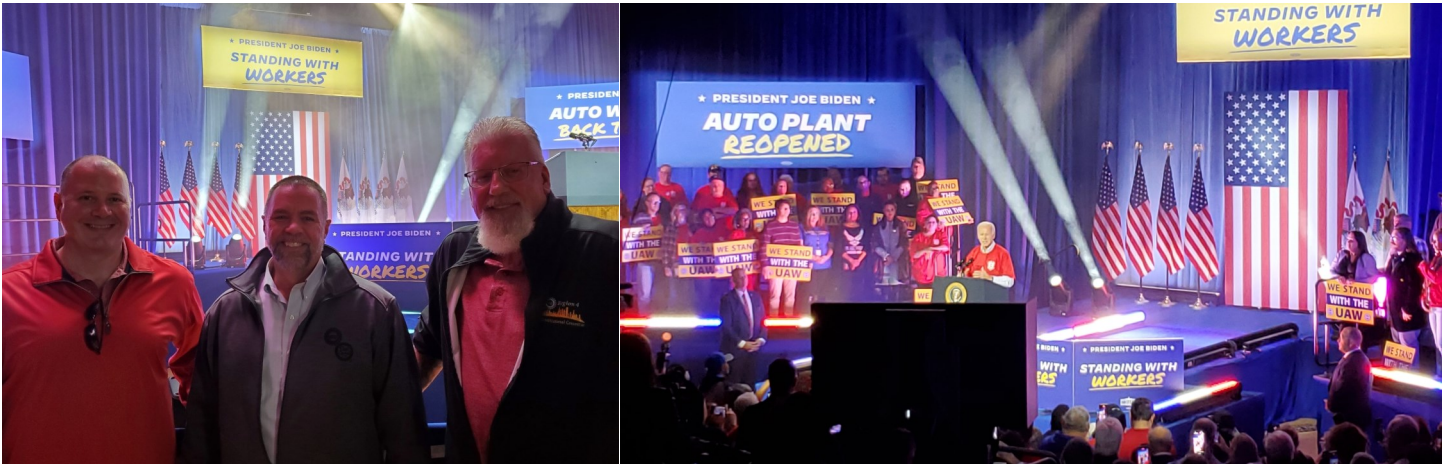
Thank you and be well!

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



President Joe Biden visits UAW in Belvidere

Local 592 Recording Secretary Mike Fische, UAW International Rep Ted Dever and Local 592 Vice President Mike Roth attended President Joe Biden’s speech in Belvidere about the reopening and expansion of the Stellantis Assembly Plant which employees thousands of UAW Local 1268 members.



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>Dec 20th</u> | 1pm night shift, 4pm dayshift. |
| Wednesday, <u>Jan 24th</u> | 1pm night shift, 4pm dayshift. |
| Wednesday, <u>Feb 28th</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: @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



President Joe Biden visiting Belvidere, IL on November 9th to help announce the re-opening and expansion of the Stellantis Jeep factory as part of the new labor agreement between the UAW and Stellantis.



Local 592
Tribune

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