

Local 592 Tribune

Labor News Roundup

By, Chris Remhof

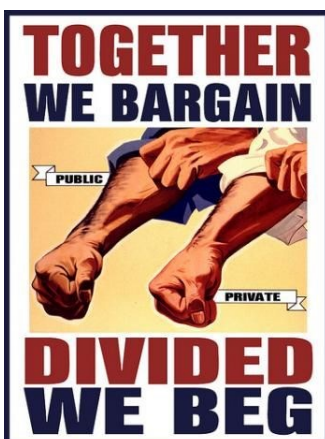
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Editor: Chris Remhof

newsletter.uaw592

@gmail.com



In April, workers at the Volkswagen factory in Chattanooga, Tennessee voted to be represented by the UAW with 73% of the votes cast. The National Labor Relations Board has certified those results, and the UAW and Volkswagen put out a joint statement saying they look forward to working with together to build quality vehicles and will enter negotiations for a fair contract later this year. Two previous attempts to organize Volkswagen Chattanooga by the UAW had failed, but recent successful negotiations with GM, Ford and Stellantis helped convince employees that union representation would benefit them. Worker Vicky Holloway, a 13-year veteran of the plant, said she voted for the UAW because, "right now we have no say. It's like our opinions don't matter." Most successful organizing drives involve more than just salary increases. Safety, job security, and input to decision making, are huge motivators as well.

Unfortunately, in May the UAW lost a vote to organize the workers at

the Mercedes-Benz plant in Vance, Alabama. 56% of the vote was against being represented, and this was the third defeat for the UAW at this plant since it was built in 1997. Unfair labor practice charges were filed against Mercedes-Benz by the UAW and the union is asking the NLRB to vacate the results and hold a new election. Some of the charges are that the company fired pro-union workers, forced workers into captive audience anti-union meetings and interfered with workers ability to advocate for the union. The UAW said in a statement, "all these workers ever wanted was a fair shot at having a voice on the job and a say in their working conditions. Let's get a vote at Mercedes in Alabama where the company isn't allowed to fire people, isn't allowed to intimidate people, and isn't allowed to break the law and their own corporate code, and let the workers decide."

In Lordstown, Ohio, UAW Local 1112 ratified their first contract with Ultium Cells with a 98% yes vote. The plant builds battery cells for GM electric vehicles and was non-union

when it opened in 2021. Workers made \$16.50 per hour but under the new union contract, they'll make \$35 an hour by 2027 and received a \$3,000 signing bonus when the contract was ratified. With Ultium Cells opening another large plant in Spring Hill, Tennessee soon, and more battery plants for other companies in the plans, UAW ranks could continue to grow in this emerging industry.

According to the Center for American Progress, workers are voting to join unions at the highest rate in 15 years. Helped in part by a strong jobs market, a pro-worker National Labor Relations Board under President Biden, and front-line workers tired of being ignored, under appreciated and overworked, people are rediscovering the benefits of union membership. In 2023, there were 1,777 union elections for representation. The most since 2010.

President's Report

By Alton Jackson – UAW 592 President

Brothers and Sisters:

The newly elected Executive Board members were sworn in to office at the Membership Meeting on June 26. The new Chief Steward of District 2 is Andrew Jarvis, and the new Sergeant-at-Arms is Dale Vorndran. I would like to congratulate them on their new roles and their continued involvement in supporting our Local.

The Recreation Committee has been busy planning the Annual Local 592 Picnic. This year's Picnic is free for all active and retired members. It will be at the SM&SF park on August 3, 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 need volunteers to help with setting up, selling 50/50 raffle tickets at the gate, running adult games, and cleaning up. This year we will be doing two 50/50 drawings. One will be for the recreation committee and the other one will be for the retiree chapter fund. Please contact Recreation Chairman John Cartwright or one of the Bargaining Committee members to volunteer, any help will be appreciated. We hope you all come out and enjoy the day with family, friends, and co-workers.

As a reminder, the International Union has updated their policy on gifts and gratuities. It states that the local union cannot expend funds to grant gifts or gratuities to the general membership of the local union. Such expenditures cannot be considered "necessary expenses" within the

meaning of this section of the constitution. With that being said, we're not allowed to give out retiree jackets, attendance prizes at the annual picnic, or attendance prizes at the membership meetings going forward. This isn't popular, but please understand that neither our local executive board or the general membership as a whole can go against the UAW Constitution.

Local 592 will be walking in this year's Rockford Labor Day Parade. Please remember that if you ordered a T-shirt for the Labor Day Parade and indicated that you would walk in it but do not show up, you will be expected to pay for the shirt. We purchased 1,200

Join us for the Rockford Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 2nd at 10am.

flying discs and we'll be handing them out to children as we walk. If attending, please plan on being at the lineup location by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 2 at the corner of 7th street and 5th Avenue heading towards 8th street. We welcome all current members, retirees, and their families to participate and walk in this parade to show their support for organized labor and Local 592.

The Annual Retirees Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 12 for retirees and their spouses. It will be at the Eagles Club at 3829 11th street, Rockford, IL 61109. It will start at 1:00pm with happy hour followed by lunch at 2:00pm. 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 Bargaining Committee has worked hard to settle all the 3rd step grievances from before 2024. We're still waiting for two of the payouts from those answers. We currently have two grievances in 3rd step from this year, but believe we're close to resolving them as well. Currently, we have no grievances appealed to arbitration. The Restoration Benefit arbitration that took place on April 10 is still possibly a month away from being awarded.

When you decide to retire, it is your responsibility to notify the company of your last day on the active payroll. The Union does not notify them.

For our retirees, if you're having benefits issues, you must contact the Benefits Service Center first. They can be contacted by calling 800-243-8135. Please ask for a ticket number from them so the Union can help if the issue is not resolved. If you're a surviving spouse, you can contact the Advocacy Support Center at 800-828-8100 M-F from 8am-6pm. If a retiree passes away, to receive the life insurance, call New York Life at 800-858-9203.

In Solidarity,

President Alton Jackson



Meet the newest Chief Steward

When Ryan Ostergard took a posting in a different department that was outside of his Chief Steward district, the office was vacated. Andy Jarvis was serving as Sergeant-at-Arms and decided to resign from that position to run for District 2 Chief Steward. Nominations were held on June 2nd. Dale Vorndran was nominated for the open position of Sergeant-at-Arms and Andy Jarvis for D2 Chief Steward. Since they were unopposed, no election was necessary, and they were sworn in to their respected offices at the monthly membership meeting on June 26th.

The Local 592 Tribune reached out to both men for the opportunity to introducing themselves. Dale respectfully declined, and Andy agreed to a few questions.

#1: You're a Certified Assembly Technician who's been with the company since May 2018. What's your labor union background before Collins Aerospace and since you've been hired?

Zero experience before coming here. But since I've been hired, I've been department steward for over five years and assistant chief under Ryan for a year. I'm currently Chairmen of the Bylaws Committee and a part of the Sub Fund Committee too. And for the past year I was Sergeant-at-Arms until I became Chief Steward of District 2.

#2: District 2 is 50% of the local membership total, by far the largest district of the four. What makes you want to accept this responsibility and serve the membership?

I'm very eager to accept the responsibility and serve my members. I want to make sure we're treated fairly, because I'm deeply passionate about the union and for what our past members had to fight for, and what our current members will fight for. Over the years I've familiarized myself with the contract, company policies, reviewed past practices, and have gone over state and federal laws that have an impact on our union. With the skills and knowledge that I've learned from some of the union leaders within our local, combined with my dedication and passion to serve my membership, I have no doubt I can contribute



District 2 Chief Steward Andy Jarvis

effectively. I'm committed to working collaboratively with members to achieve our common goals. I envision a future where our membership is more engaged and where we can make an even greater impact. Motivated by the opportunity to help shape the future and support our members in meaningful ways is what I'm about.

#3: In your opinion, what's the biggest issues facing district 2?

Trying to remember everyone's name.. haha, but in all seriousness the biggest issue I see is figuring out how different departments and business segments work. I'll rely on the department stewards and the bargaining committee which are great assets to have.

#4: Outside of work, what should people know about you and what hobbies or interests do you have?

Outside of work I enjoy being with my family and just being outside. We love to go hiking, camping, and kayaking. During the winter I help coach wrestling at Harlem High School too. I'm always looking to learn and find more hobbies. For instance, my wife just started vegetable and herb gardening which means I just started gardening.

Safety Committee Report: Craig Fryda, Chairman

Summertime always implies lots of sunshine, family, fun and outdoor activities. Summer also provides opportunities for hazards like sunburns, dehydration, heat, and sun overexposure. To ensure your family has a safe wonderful summer, check out these summer safety tips and precautions.

Staying hydrated is the most important summer safety tip. To avoid dehydration and heat related illnesses, you need to replenish fluids lost through sweating. Water and sports drinks with electrolytes are the best. Avoid sugary, alcoholic, or caffeinated beverages as they tend to increase the release of fluids. Don't ignore the signs of dehydration which are dry sticky mouth, headaches, fatigue, and cramps. Heat related illnesses occur because of the body losing excessive amounts of water through sweating and the body's inability to cool down. Familiarize yourself with the warning signs: cramping, light sweating that gives way to more profuse sweating, feeling lightheaded, fatigued, and nauseous. This is heat exhaustion! Uncontrolled heat exhaustion can rapidly escalate into a heat stroke situation if left unchecked. Then when the body ceases sweating it's no longer cooling itself and you become dizzy, confused with hot dry skin and rapid pulse. These are indications of heat stroke!

If you or someone is experiencing signs of heat illness: move to a cool shady or air-conditioned space, replenish fluids, use fans, ice, cool towels, or other methods to bring the body's temp down. If symptoms don't subside within 15 to 20 minutes, call for medical help. Monitor breathing and be ready to give CPR if needed.

Sunburns also affect the body's ability to cool itself, and increase your risk of skin cancer. If you're going to be out in the sun, be aware the sun's rays are strongest between 10am and 4pm. Liberally apply a sunscreen with a SPF (sun protection factor) value of 30 or higher, and reapply throughout the day. Wear loose fitting clothing with long sleeves and long pants, and don't forget a hat and sunglasses.

Under NO circumstances ever leave your children or pets in an unattended parked car in hot weather, even for just a few minutes! Children and pets are more sensitive to heat than adults and it doesn't take as long as the effects are amplified in car acting like a greenhouse. If you see a person or animal trapped in a hot car, call for help immediately.

Besides not locking your dog in the car, don't forget your pets feel the effects of extreme heat too. Make sure to provide them with plenty of water, and if possible, a shady spot to keep cool. Watch for signs of heat stress like heavy panting or labored breathing. Keep them cool by hosing them down, let them lick ice cubes or moving them to a cool place.

So, when the temps soar...

Remember to pace yourself, don't overdo it and avoid strenuous activities in the heat of the day.

Keep hydrated.

Wear sunscreen and loose-fitting clothing with a hat.

Know the signs of heat related illnesses and what to do.

Never leave kids or pets in car unattended in hot weather.

Pay attention to your own body's signals and check on children and pets regularly.

Be mindful of elderly, house bound, and others who may be reluctant to ask for help.

Stay Cool and have a Great summer!

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



UAW Local 592 Annual Picnic

Saturday, August 3rd, 2024 Noon to 5PM
SM&SF Park
7625 Kishwaukee Rd., Stillman Valley, IL

There will be Refreshments, Music, 50/50 raffles, and a Bounce House for Kids.

This year's event will be FREE for all active and retired members to attend.



2017 union picnic

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. There will be catered food and refreshments provided as we have done in the past. We hope everyone comes out and enjoys the day with family and friends.

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>July 24th</u>	1pm night shift, 4pm dayshift.
Wednesday, <u>Aug 28th</u>	1pm night shift, 4pm dayshift.
Wednesday, <u>Sept 25th</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



2024 Labor Day Parade

Join us for the Rockford Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 2nd at 10am.

Hope to see you there!



Local 592
Tribune

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