

The future is ours to take...

Welcome to all of our new transfers, and welcome back to all of our entry level Local 602 members! I know it has been a struggle since November of 2009, but we are confident that we will all remain working for the foreseeable future. Speaking of the future, the future of our products in the marketplace is looking up. I don't know about you, but I am not shedding a tear for Toyota! These "transplants" have taken root in American soil, and positioned themselves as U.S. companies and leaders in quality. That may have been true 10 years ago, but now we meet or exceed their products in nearly every positive quality category.

Once the transplants enjoy a little "bad press," and consumers begin to shift away from them we expect consumers to return home to domestic manufactured products. Let me share an e-mail that

was sent to me over the weekend! It is just one example of how our products and our people are helping to change perception.

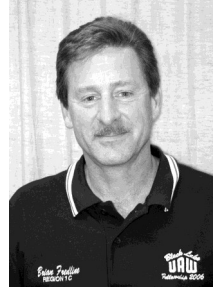
Thanks to Local 602, I believe your members built my 2010 Enclave. I love it. This vehicle is true American made quality. I'm proud to drive it. This is the eighth new GM product in my life and I have never been disappointed. It seems bashing the Unions is still popular but I retired from IUOE Local 139 in WI. at age 57 and can still buy quality new vehicles. How many non-union workers can do this. Keep up the great work. Dave Kovacic, Iron River, WI. E-mail dkovacic@cheqnet.net

With all the negative news that we have endured in this past year, it is nice to know that many of our customers still buy and drive quality American made products,

brought to you courtesy of the proud men and women of UAW Local 602. At the risk of flooding his in-box, I would encourage you to send Dave a note telling him how much we appreciate his loyalty to a great American product. It is people like Dave who keep us working, so let's keep working for him.

Oh and by the way, I made up a new slogan for Toyota:

TOYOTAMOVING FORWARD.....EVEN AFTER YOU SLAM ON THE BRAKES!



In Solidarity,
Brian Fredline
President,
UAW Local 602

Lives on the Line

In 1936 life was tough, but life on the line was tougher. The line sucked the life out of you until you couldn't keep up with the line speed-ups.

The metal dust hung so thick in the air your skin would rust. If you could get relief, the restrooms were kept cold and unsanitary to limit your stay. If the man next to you collapsed from the heat you were forced to step over him and keep working as the foreman pulled him away, yelling "keep the line moving."

Your work week averaged 45 hours. You weren't paid for the times the line quit running, and model changeovers could last for months.

If you were over forty, chances were you would not be called back after a layoff, your job going to someone younger.

You went home at night pale and exhausted shell of a man, barely able to

didn't dare complain to the iron-fisted foreman, as he would show you the line of men outside the gates waiting to take your job.

Shortly before 7:30 a.m. on December 30, 1936, a group of you ceased work and seized control of the Fisher Body #2 plant in the Flint Chevrolet complex. Later that night, after the second shift lunch break more of you sat down and shut down Fisher Body #1 across town.

The women's auxiliary (made up of wives, sweethearts and mothers of the mostly male workforce) provided a steady flow of hot coffee and food, and protected you by forming picket lines between you and the police.

On January 11, 1937 the plant went cold and your food supply was cut off. Later that night, tear gas accompanied

the police, as they tried to Continued on

muster enough strength to eat. You

What is White Shirt Day?
White Shirt Day was first celebrated on Feb. 11, 1948 based on a suggestion from Local 598 member Bert Christenson. He wanted a way to honor the men and women who participated in the 1937 sitdown strike, which gained the UAW recognition as the sole bargaining agent for GM workers. White shirts are worn to work on the anniversary of the end of the strike. This action was intended to send a message to management that "blue collar" workers had earned the right to the same respect as their management counterparts. Although originally a celebration of GM workers, the birth of the UAW has improved all workers' lives. We encourage all UAW members to begin celebrating this important UAW anniversary. The rules in 1948 were simple and apply equally well to any workplace today.

White Shirt Day rules:

- Everyone wear a white shirt or blouse to work.
- Don't get your shirt any dirtier than the boss gets his.
- Observe all safety rules.
- Observe all work rules, especially the rule calling for a clean work area.

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force you from the plant at Fisher Body #2. You fended the police off, spraying them with fire hoses and defending yourselves with the only ammunition on hand, 2-pound door hinges. When the smoke cleared you had "run the bulls" off and still held the plant.

At 11 a.m. January 14, three representatives from each side met in Governor Murphy's office. Thirteen hours later the "Lansing Peace Plan" was announced.

Under the terms of the truce you were to vacate the plants you held in Flint, Detroit, Cleveland, and Anderson Indiana by January 18th. In return, GM agreed to negotiate with the union on "matters of a general corporate nature" beginning January 18th and lasting 15 days.

GM agreed in writing not to remove equipment and machinery from the struck factories or attempt to restart production there. GM also vowed not to discriminate against workers on the basis of union membership.

The Guide Lamp plant in Anderson was evacuated first, followed by both Cadillac and Fleetwood plants.

On January 17th just minutes before the Flint workers were to evacuate the Fisher Body #1 plant, word was received the GM agreed to meet with the Flint Alliance, an anti-strike worker organization.

Union leaders learned that GM had no intention of granting sole collective bargaining to the UAW, but would discuss collective bargaining with the Flint Alliance. The evacuation was called off and the strikers held their ground.

GM announced that on January 22nd it would resume production at most of the Flint Chevrolet complex except for the union-held Fisher Body #2 plant.

On February 1st a decoy strike was planned for plant 9 in the Flint complex at 3:20 p.m. Word of the strike was "leaked" so that the company amassed all of their company guards there.

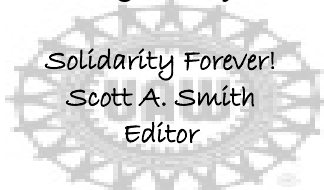
While the fight was going on at plant 9, workers from plant 6 walked off their jobs and joined the fight to take plant 4.

By 5:30 p.m. plant was secured. Plant 4 was the target all along, as it was one of the most important plants in the complex, if not the entire GM system. Plant 4 supplied engines for every Chevrolet produced.

On February 11, 1937, an agree-

ment between the union and GM was reached. GM agreed to recognize the UAW as the collective bargaining agent for those of you who signed up with the union. Negotiations on the Union's national demands covering working conditions, wages and grievance procedures were to begin on February 16th.

The building where you took your



stand may be torn down now, but your legacy lives on with every brother and

Our readers write

Court unleashes China

In yet another slam against individual rights and liberty, the Republican-appointed members of the U.S. Supreme Court recently formed the majority that ruled corporations have the same First Amendment rights as individuals and, therefore, can spend as much company money as they wish to oppose or support individual political candidates.

This ruling opens the floodgates of campaign money from communist China, which exercises great control over many corporations.

Do you want China bankrolling campaign ads, which will influence the elections this fall?

These Republican-appointed judges declared that a corporation has the same rights as any American. The same as a veteran who valiantly served our country? Has a corporation ever lost a son, daughter, husband, wife, father or mother fighting for America? Does this complete lack of moral judgment bother you? It should!

Would Veterans and the parents of our military heroes currently serving America please comment? Do you think corporations have the same rights as us? What do you think?

~Lyle Birchman



NOTICE
Union Meeting
Change of Date to
Feb. 21, 2010
General Membership
7:00 pm
Executive Board
5:30 pm
 To allow our members to spend Valentine's Day with loved ones.



2010 Learning Center Class Schedule

Word level 1: 4

Sessions,
February 10

Excel Level 1: 4

Sessions,
February 15, 17, 22, 24

Power Point: 2 Sessions,
March 1 & 3

Basic Math and Science:
9 Sessions,

March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30



Class times will be
3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
And
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

To attend you must register with the Learning Center
@ (517) 721-3844
Or email us at jladmin@acd.net
Or contact Tom Possehn
@ 131*132*216

NOTE: A minimum of 5 students is required for the class to run.

LIFE ON THE LINE

www.local602.org
 Deadline: Friday, 4:00 p.m.

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