



UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR GREEN



Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

-Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter

Dear Region 2B Family,

As we move through 2026, one thing is clear, it's going to be a busy year. We have already had some events and celebrations for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. I have been to a few facilities to meet with bargaining committees as they prepare for upcoming negotiations. There have also been some trainings in the region. We are preparing to move into our new headquarters. There are elections coming up, both inside our organization and outside as well. It's a Constitutional Convention year, which means that our members can submit changes to our union's constitution. This happens every four years and for those that don't know, our constitution holds the language that governs our UAW. There is also a lot of strife in America right now. As trade unionists, we must ensure that our rights under the United States Constitution are upheld. Peaceful protests are a powerful tool that have been used and will continue to be used to fight for the justice and dignity that all workers deserve.

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Martin Luther King Jr. was not just an advocate for the Civil Rights Movement, but for ALL people. I have seen and read some of his speeches and I always pick up something new from each one. The one thing that sticks with me the most is that an “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”. If you let them come after your neighbor today, they will come after you tomorrow. I have seen this play out in the workplace. Maybe many of you have experienced this as well. Like when the “new” boss comes in and starts to test the limits we are willing to accept. If we stick together and show solidarity, we can protect each other. That’s what it’s all about, all of us, not just one of us. So, when I saw what happened to a union member, VA nurse, 37-year-old man, Alex Petti, as he went to render aid to another human that was being pushed to the ground, I felt sick. He was doing what I can see myself doing and this makes me want to fight back. It also inspires me that most people who saw this injustice are doing just that. Yet, we must recognize that they want us to fight back with more violence so they can point the finger. They want to blame us for our reaction to their actions. But we cannot do that, we must remain peaceful. I have seen many videos of peaceful and lawful protesters being baited with violent acts. It’s not easy to always have the restraint needed to remain “peaceful”, so it’s up to all of us to remind each other.

Fighting to win better contracts also takes all of us. Our members need to stand united at all times, but never is it more important than when we move into contract talks. I have been working with the regional staff and many locals that are either in negotiations or preparing to start. Preparation is key. This is why plant tours and meeting with the elected bargaining committees is so important. I would rather us move into negotiations with an offensive stance opposed to being on defense. I had the opportunity to get out to Lafayette, Indiana and meet with the old DANA, now Allisons off highway folks who build some amazing products. The level of pride and labor that goes into their work is amazing. I want to thank the leadership and membership at Local 2317 for their hospitality. Know that Region 2B has got your back as we prepare for upcoming negotiations.

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Assistant Director Rick Smith and myself also had the opportunity to meet and visit Local 1033 at Triumph-Thermal Systems in Forest, Ohio. The hard work and pride our members have there is extremely evident. I left knowing that airplanes can't pull over and let folks off when there is a mechanical failure (many members told me this). They take their work very seriously and produce the best products in their field. Thank you, Local 1033 for your hospitality and the great work you do!

Local 128 at Collins Aerospace was another great experience. I was not only impressed with the workforce and product manufactured there, but by the solidarity and passion the elected officials have. They have already started to prepare for their contract negotiations next year. The communication is frequent and transparent. They have every desire to win for their members and are putting in the work to make that happen. Thank you, Local 128 leadership and members, alike. When you stand together, you win!

Yet, even with the best laid plans, companies can come in and upend our work. What is happening at Local 1181 and Eagle Machining right now is a prime example. This company is owned by First Brands, which has filed for bankruptcy and is owned by Patrick James. There is a current investigation on his involvement to enrich himself and his family by misappropriating hundreds of millions of dollars from the company. A slap on his wrist at best while workers and communities pay the price. This type of corporate greed is killing America and her workers and needs to stop now. We need real penalties to hold these oligarchs accountable. Just this past Tuesday, our members went to work and were told they were closing effective that day. THAT DAY! This is extremely disrespectful to the workers, and just pissed me off. I can't even imagine how they must have felt. This is what happens when the greed of a few exploits the lives of the many.

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Conn-Selmer is also slapping our members, and the Eastlake, Ohio community in the face. The owner there, John Paulson, who is an economic advisor to the White House, spent over 20 million to build a factory in China. Assistant Director Smith and I toured this facility before the holidays as they were preparing for upcoming contract negotiations. The pride and skill that goes into the musical instruments they make is unmatched. The company, with no warning, comes in on opening day of contract talks and says they plan to close the facility. The leadership and membership at Local 2359 are not giving up, and neither are we! We will be having a day of action, SAVE OUR PLANT rally on February 5th in Eastlake, Ohio (stay tuned for more information). We MUST fight to keep our jobs in the USA.

There is another fight happening in Lorain County right now at Local 2192. I had the opportunity to meet with the bargaining team for our Job & Family Services unit and our Children Services unit. Public sector bargaining is different than private sector bargaining. When we come to an impasse, we can take the issue to a fact finder who will render their findings. The Commissioners in Lorain County said they didn't agree with the fact finders reports. Understand these reports are based on FACTS, not feelings. Our members there are facing many issues that the county commissioners don't feel are important. This is unacceptable. We will stand up and fight for our members. We need to stand in solidarity with each other to win these fights. Don't believe that "the union" is the problem. In fact, "the union" is the membership, the workers, the people getting screwed. The unions elected leaders are there to bring in the resources and never forget, "the union" is you.

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The best way to share information and bring resources to our locals is through education and training. Region 2B has a variety of different trainings planned and we are always open to hearing what locals need to best serve our members. This week and early next, there are UAW Member Data Portal workshops happening to help our organization prepare for the upcoming International Executive Board (IEB) elections. Making sure all our active and retired members can vote is priority. Getting the correct information in the system is how we can make that happen. We will also be having Election Committee training as many locals will be having new election committee members. There are a couple of large conferences in February as well. The National CAP Conference will be in Washington DC February 8 - 11, and the FOC Conference will be in New Orleans February 23 - 27. These are important for our members that operate in those spaces to build knowledge and solidarity.

Building knowledge through training has been a priority of mine while serving as your director. I am happy to say we will be in our new headquarters in Maumee in March. While we have run into delays for several reasons, making sure our members, leadership, and staff have a safe space to learn and grow is exciting. The new space will offer classrooms as well as a large meeting space so we can offer more training in a less expensive way to educate those in our region. The folks working in smaller locals, like I have, understand that cost savings is important. Many of the conferences we hold have higher registration fees because of the hotel costs. The amount of money they charge for everything from coffee to audio video rental, is ridiculous. Saving our locals money by providing our own space will be beneficial for years to come. Reach out to the region if there is specific training your local is looking for.

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The biggest event our union has this year is our Constitutional Convention, this happens every four years. I have sent out what to expect to our local leaders but want to make sure our members know that this is the time to put resolutions together for constitutional changes. These are not contractual changes at our units but rather language changes to our governing document, our Constitution. Each local will be electing delegates to be the voice of the local. You should all be looking for these delegate elections to be happening over the next few months. Each local union has different by-laws so exactly when each local holds these elections will differ. When I first got hired, I was told to read the Constitution, local by-laws, and bargaining agreement. Your rights and privileges are defined in these books so every member should read them to understand their rights and obligations.

Sometimes what we fight for, and win can be taken away with a pen. My point is, elections have consequences. This is not about a red hat or a blue hat; it's about getting people elected that will stand with and respect workers. Make no mistake, there are many out there that want us to fight each other. They argue that this group or that group is taking your stuff. What I have learned is that when workers unite, they win. They can pick us off one at a time, every time, but we are the majority. Nothing moves without the workers. So, when worker led organizations like the UAW endorse a candidate for public office, it's because our CAP councils have vetted those candidates. Sometimes we are forced to pick between the lesser of two evils, but other times we truly have candidates that support labor and workers' rights. In Ohio we have already endorsed Sherrod Brown for U.S. Senator because he has been one of those champions for workers. My point is this, our endorsements are earned, not given and in Region 2B, we have endorsed republicans, democrats, and independents alike. Our goal in doing so is to protect our work, our members, and our communities. So when you see your CAP endorsed candidates, know that a lot of work went into finding the best ones to represent the membership.

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Finally, I want to thank our retirees for getting us this far. Without them, we don't have the rights and privileges we enjoy today. We must find the passion to stand up and fight for the next generation every single day. We can't let billionaires and the politician's they buy, continue to take from us. We can't sit on the sidelines and think someone else is going to save us. We are at a point in time where working folks need to put themselves first. We need to be standing up for each other, We need to be helping each other. We need to ask for help when we need it. We need to respect each other, even when we have different opinions. We need to be our brothers' and sisters' keeper. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".

In solidarity,
Dave Green
UAW Region 2B Director

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