



UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR GREEN



Dear Region 2B Family,

February is Black History Month and is recognized in the US and Canada to honor and recognize those from the black community that did so much for our nation and the world. Inventors, activists, and other real life change makers that raised the bar and helped all of us recognize that skin color is irrelevant in the real scheme of things. This year, with the passing of Jesse Jackson, Black History Month had me doing some reflecting. I remember when he ran for President of the United States. I also remembered the racist slurs I heard back then because he wanted to run for office. I was 14 then, an impressionable age, and had great respect for Jesse Jackson because he stood up in the face of adversity to do what was right and fair. I also remember Reverend Jesse Jackson standing up for LGBTQ rights in the 1990's, again, in the face adversity. While I am white and straight, seeing others taking a stand for ALL people by doing what is right and fair, knowing others will throw hate and violence at you regardless, has made me a better person. For us in the labor movement, standing up for ALL workers, fighting for civil and human rights, and trying to get some justice in the workplace, we need look no further than Black History Month to see real leaders that paved the way for all of us. The fight for civil and human rights is very much tied to the labor movement. Never forget to stand up for something, or you'll fall for anything. "America is not like a blanket – one piece of unbroken cloth, the same color, the same texture, the same size. America is more like a quilt: many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven and held together by a common thread." - Jesse Jackson, 1984 Democratic National Convention Address.

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Our UAW is the same with many different pieces, shapes, colors and sizes with one common thread holding us all together, that is our labor. Your labor equals time and energy and I would argue, that is your most valuable resource. As a labor organization we fight to protect that valuable resource, your labor, and when I say we, I mean it takes ALL of us. That means every member, standing up for one another, watching out for each other (even when it's not reciprocated). Those that have been around a while need to help teach those newer folks. Watching our members coming together is something that I truly love to see. It was a real privilege for me to see our bowlers kicking off the 66th Annual Region 2B Bowling Tournament at Jugs in Toledo. Coming together outside of work is important and necessary to build the type of solidarity that we need. Having fun and enjoying some time outside of work is always great but doing it with other UAW members really makes it feel like the family we are. I want to thank all the bowlers for continuing to compete in this important tradition and the locals that support this great tournament. I want to thank Ron, Steve, and Ken for volunteering their time to make this such a successful event. Congratulations to Mike Kakos and Rick Pressuto who both bowled a 300 in the same game and on the same team!

It's not all fun and games in the workplace though. Right now, we have members at Local 2192 that are out on strike. Anyone that has been there knows how stressful it can be. Bills pile up, uncertainty looms, and just being off your normal daily schedule can cause havoc. But the workers at Lorain Job and Family Services decided to do the tough thing and stand up for their fair share. Some of these workers are paid so little, they are eligible for the very services they provide to the community. While their healthcare costs have gone up, along with everything else, they have been left behind. The county commissioners say they are broke but have added dozens of \$100,000 a year "administrators" that actually do what? After we reached an impasse at the bargaining table, we moved to an independent fact finder to offer a ruling, this is common practice in the public sector. What is not common is for a party to just say, they don't agree. Long story short, please help support our work family at Local 2192 in Lorain County as they navigate these difficult times. Also, a huge thank you for all the support they have already received from our retirees, and locals 2000, 1005, 1250, 1112, 573, 1216, 70, and more.

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The region is also working with the legal department trying to protect our members that work for companies owned by First Brands. Their scandal has already impacted workers at Eagle Machining, Local 1181, with more fallout expected. Corporate greed at its finest. I read where people want to blame the “union” for these companies folding up, but that is a bold face lie. This was a scam, playing a shell game with people’s lives and while a couple folks got arrested for a white-collar crime, thousands of lives will be disrupted or destroyed just because of corporate greed. Working on closing agreements are the worst. Even if you can get some additional benefits for our members, they are literally losing their jobs. I have seen a plethora of plant closings in my 30 plus years of being a UAW member. The 1990’s and 2000’s were horrible. After going through a plant closing myself, know that I want to fight with every available resource to try and keep work here. Our members deserve it, our communities deserve it.

This is why we have been pushing back at Conn Selmer as they are planning to close their Eastlake facility and move that work to China. Our team has been engaging with the White House and are hopeful that one of the Presidents top financial advisors, John Paulson, will do what he knows needs to be done, and that’s protect American Jobs. He should be keeping an iconic musical instrument made in Eastlake, Ohio with decades of blood sweat and tears behind every single instrument. These are practically handmade with the highest quality and pride built in every single one. We will continue to shine a light on the hypocrisy of these billionaires saying one thing and doing another and highlight their greed for the world to see. We are living in a time where there is the greatest disparity of wealth ever in our nation. The top 1% held roughly \$55 trillion in assets in Q3 2025, comparable to the total wealth held by the bottom 90%. And they tell us they have no money for the workers.

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On a more positive note, we all saw the historic win in Tennessee at VW. This was a long time coming, and a lot of work in the making. The energy is high down there and I am personally very excited for those workers as well. In Region 2B we are working on a few first contracts right now. We will continue to organize workplaces where workers need a voice. This work is not easy. It takes the willingness to stand up against adversity knowing that hate and maybe even violence will come your way. But we must do it because we know the truth. We know that even though our union is not perfect (nothing is) it's the best way to protect ourselves and our communities. It's the best way to raise all ships in the harbor. Make no mistake, the haters do not want you to have a voice and if you are in a union, you have one. Some of our members don't even know the power they have by using their voice. One of my priorities is to have more education and trainings so our newer and younger members can learn what they have, how to use it, and why its important.

In order to facilitate the education and training, I am pleased to announce that we will be moving into the new regional headquarters in March. While we won't be fully operational as some work is still being completed, I am excited for our members to see their new facility. This new space will provide our members with the resources to help learn and grow for decades to come. I have also continued to inquire about the online trainings that were suspended. These are expected to be up and running mid-year. They have been promised to be fresh with new information and an overall better learning platform. The region has also been putting on trainings at different locals. We have done Election Committee training already at Local 2209 and more training is scheduled at Local 1005 and 1219. If there is any training you would like to see or believe your local needs, we just need to know about it. The local leadership should reach out to their servicing representative and make that request.

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March will be another busy month with trainings in the region, National Ford, GM, and Stellantis sub councils, our Ohio CAP Convention, International Executive Board meetings, plant tours, and we need to move out of our old building and into the new one. In fact, I think this entire year is going to be very busy, and not just for me but for all of us. I can't thank the regional staff enough for all the work they do supporting our members. No one ever said it was going to be easy, but it is important and necessary to wake up and be ready to fight every single day. As you know, many of the rights we have fought for and won, can be stripped away with the stroke of a pen.

This is why the UAW is involved in politics. We have an obligation to participate that comes right out of our constitution. We have a moral obligation to not leave the world in a worse place for our kids. This is why our CAP Committees do the work they do. These members are volunteering their time to do everything they can to protect working folks. They do the research and try to inform our membership on which candidates will support labor organizations and all working folks in general. Every member should vote in every election. It is not a real difficult thing to do, and it really does matter. My hope is that you look at your unions endorsed candidates and not at the letter after their name. We all know there are folks in both political parties that have sold us down the river. We need working folks to fix the issues working folks have. CEO's and billionaires do not care about us, never have and never will.

It's up to all of us to stand up in solidarity if we care about ourselves and our future. There is no one person that will come and save us, it takes all of us working together. History has shown we can overcome the hate and division, but we must band together. I want to thank all the retirees out there. Many of you helped me become the leader I am today. You stood and fought some tough battles along the way and shared your experiences and knowledge with me and others. Our retirees have continuously showed up and showed out. Anytime there is a call for support, retirees are there. I just saw some on the picket line last week in Lorain County. So again, thank you, thank you, thank you, to all the retirees that continue to help lead the way. You have carried the torch that helped others see. God bless and as always,

In solidarity,

David Green
UAW Region 2B Director