Volume 55 - Number 6

Kokomo, Indiana

June, 2006

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President's Report

Sona Camp, President



Organized labor helps all workers; its hard luck damages middle class

I recently read this article that was written by Mark Gaffney, President of the Michigan AFL-CIO. It first appeared in the Detroit News on April 21, 2006. The message is so fitting that I decided to reprint it with a few changes.

The rash of wage cuts, plant closings and work concessions has been met with schadenfreude, a German word for taking malicious satisfaction in the misfortune of others.

It comes from right-wing columnists, middle managers and even, unfortunately, some union members. They say blue-collar union workers are finally getting what they deserve.

These sentiments are short-sighted. The loss of good middle-class jobs in Michigan's and Indiana's economy is a tragedy. And it can be seen in Gary, Ind., or Pittsburgh, where outsourcing also has damaged the backbone and financial underpinning of communities.

Unions built the Midwest

Organized labor built the Midwest -- the cities, the suburbs, the roads, the schools and universities, our communities and the hospitals and stadiums. Union wages have also benefited and raised the wages of management, salaried workers and nonunion blue-collar workers. When the union negotiated better benefits, they were extended to management.

So why the joy in some corners?

It's often said Americans don't have a sense of class-consciousness. But what we see these days is a resentment of our neighbors who have good union jobs.

Many purveyors of schadenfreude seem to be younger, college-educated, nonunion, white-collar workers. Often they are the sons or daughters of union members who went to college because of the wages they now complain about. These workers often have or make less than union workers. There's a reason for this. As nonunion workers, they don't have an effective way to get better wages, benefits and working conditions. They opt to go it alone out of an ideological affinity that is detrimental to their own interests.

Union workers can negotiate and create respect on the job and have a democratic voice in the workplace. These are American values. Don't complain because others have a union; complain because you don't.

Misconceptions abound.

There are also a lot of negative stereotypes about union workers being lazy or unwilling to sacrifice. Say the same thing about any other group and you will correctly be called a bigot.

(continued on page 3)



Shop Chairman's Report

George Anthony, Shop Chairman

MONTHLY S.E.L. REPORT FOR MAY, 2006

Production 2,376 Production 1,379
Skilled Trades 836 Skilled Trades 671
Total 3,212 Total 2,050

ACTIVE WORKFORCE

S.E.L. PROTECTED ALL LEAVES

Production 1,491 Production 112 Skilled Trades 685 Skilled Trades 14 Total 2,176 Total 126

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - 2,176

BENCHMARK

I want to thank all our members that participated in our Strike Authorization vote. 1,631 voted "Yes", 47 voted "No", and 2 ballots were voided resulting in a 97.1% approval rating to our International Union. This vote showed a great and strong voice from UAW Local #292 and the entire membership should be proud of themselves.

The 34th Constitutional Delegate Election was held on May 10, 2006. Over 770 members came to the Union Hall and cast their ballots (both active and retired members). The five delegates elected to represent UAW Local #292, along with President Sona Camp and myself, were Nick Kodrea, Jill Quackenbush, Georgia Zeigler, Kacee Anderson and Anita Dawson. They will do an excellent job doing their responsibilities of electing our International President, three new Vice-Presidents and a new Director for our Region #3, along with changes to our Constitution. Our delegates will make excellent ambassadors for Local #292.

When the Special Attrition Package was rolled out to the membership, the deadline to sign up for one of three retirement packages was June 1, 2006. The deadline has been extended by the National Parties to June 23, 2006. As of May 17, 2006, there were 514 Production and 247 Skilled Trades members signed up to retire, of the approximately 1,250 eligible. I am expecting that number to grow to over 1,000.

There have been over 1,000 referrals turned in by Kokomo Delphi employees. Almost 400 have been called in to fill out applications for hire and sign papers to allow Delphi to do a background check on them, which will take about two weeks. Currently over 250 have returned their completed application. Delphi will start the interview process the first part of June and then do drug testing. Results of the drug testing will take about two weeks. The earliest we could see new employees off the street will be about June 19th followed by one week of orientation.

By the end of May we will have brought to Kokomo approximately 60 transfers, most of them coming from Anderson, Indiana. The sooner we can get transfers to Kokomo and new employees hired off the street, the sooner Delphi will be able to let those of you leave that have decided to retire. I am expecting Delphi to allow more to retire on July 1st and larger numbers on August 1st. All of this depends on how quickly management works on getting replacements for those wanting to retire.

The bankruptcy proceedings are continuing with Delphi and the UAW calling witnesses to the stand concerning Delphi wanting to terminate our contracts and medical coverage. Both sides are spending more time on the court proceedings then they are on negotiating a new contract. Hopefully the judge will force Delphi to the bargaining table with the UAW instead of terminating our Agreements.

I will handbill the membership on any new information I receive. Let's stay UNITED and therefore stand stronger.



Local 292

1201 W. Alto Rd., P.O. Box B, Kokomo, IN 46904 Ph. (765) 453-4600 or (800) 347-4254 Office Hours 7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Sona Camp
VICE PRESIDENT	Kacee Anderson
RECORDING SECRETARY	Jill Quackenbush
FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER	Chris McTaggert
TRUSTEESJim Shelton, Sharon	Geiselman, Sue Althouse
SGT-AT-ARMS	Richard Floyd
GUIDE	Anita Dawson
RETIREE CHAIRPERSON	Sue Conner

SKILLED TRADE UNIT OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN	Ed Raska
VICE CHAIRMAN	Travis Witt
RECORDING SECRETARY	Liz Stevens
SGT-AT-ARMS	Roger Eubank

UNIT CHAIRPERSONS

DELPHI-DELCO ELECTRONICS	George	Anthony
AMERICAN FOOD & VENDING	Joni l	Ramseyer

SHOP COMMITTEE

Jerry Shirley	ZONE #
Jim Justice	ZONE #
Jay Brown	ZONE #
	ZONE #

BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVES

Phil Caraco, Billy Cantu, Anna Ward, Nick Kodrea & Georgia Zeigler Alternate-Mark McAlpin

APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE

Gary Shaw

JOINT ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVE

Lewis Hall

JOINT TRAINING REPRESENTATIVES

Lana Puterbaugh & Francis Van Camp

A.D.A.P.T.

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Sharon Gillem, Chairperson Ronda Bilbee Vice Chairperson Shirley Rinehart, Secretary

SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

CIVIL RIGHTS CHAIRPERSONPetra Jameson
HEALTH & SAFETY Mickey Atkisson & Francis Call
HEALTH & SAFETY ALTERNATELarry Bailey & Marshall Ewing
ERGONOMICSDiana Coomer
WORK FAMILY REPRESENTATIVELarry Etherington
VETERANS AFFAIRS CHAIRPERSONRalph Coulter
COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRPERSONDiana Coomer
COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-CHAIRPERSON Mark McAlpin
CHAPLAINCY CHAIRPERSONThelma Corbit
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CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSONCharlie Skoog
UNION LABEL CHAIRPERSONSarah Drake
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONGeorgia Zeigler
YOUTH CHAIRPERSON
RECREATION CHAIRPERSONAnita Dawson
CONSUMER AFFAIRSPat Harden
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE TECHNICIANKathy Wilson

EDITOR

Petra Jameson

Recording Secretary's Report



Submitted by Jill Zuackenbush. Recording Secretary

Worker's Memorial Day – a day of observance for workers who lost their lives while on the job - workers who never returned home to their families when the work shift ended – workers who unknowingly left home without a final good-bye.

Our nation mourned the gruesome and tragic deaths of 20 coal miners after the Bush Administration weakened mine safety protections. Ergonomic standards have been repelled and government protections against workplace chemicals blocked.

We continue to fight for the living, the injured, the at risk. Every single day 12,878 US workers are injured or made ill by their jobs.

UAW members and all American workers suffer injury, illness and death from workplace exposures. Ergonomic risks still cause the majority of disabling workplace injuries. Chemical exposure permitted by weak OSHA standards makes workers sick and cause the majority of known work related deaths.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reported there are 123 facilities where a release of chemicals could threaten more than a million people. There are more than 750 additional facilities where a release of chemicals could threaten more than 100,000 people.

The progression of UAW negotiated Health & Safety programs throughout the years have saved lives and reduced work related injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

Worker's Memorial Day is the one day, each year, when working people and their unions pay tribute to those who have been hurt or killed on the job.

Please keep the families and friends of those brothers and sisters in your prayers – they live with their loss every day.

Brett Maggart, UAW Local 685 Jeffrey Mankowski, UAW Local 212 Wayne Mueth, UAW Local 110 Ronald Ward, UAW Local 9212 Rodney Windish, UAW Local 3032 Robert Zell, UAW Local 9212

Thank you

We want to thank a few great people for their thoughtfulness during the Friday strike vote. Ruth Dunn and Betty Douglas provided us with a heater and Richard Floyd brought us hot tea. These individuals were kind enough to go out of their way to help keep us warm. We really appreciated it!

Terri Schafer-Srail and Carol Mund

President's Report

(continued)

In union settings, workers have due process and companies must have just cause to fire an employee. A union has a legal and moral duty to fairly represent it members.

If management does not do its job and fails to take action against bad workers, it's the fault of management. Of course, there are abuses, but those are few.

There is also a misconception that unions have wielded too much power. This is a myth. Everyday we fight for working families against corporations and their well-heeled lobbyists. Too often, it's a battle to only keep what we already have.

Corporations have power

Unions are a bulwark against unfettered corporate power. Without unions, who will speak for the middle class?

So what is to be done? First, we need a policy that rewards manufacturing here. Moving good jobs overseas in a race to the bottom serves only the wealthy few.

A recent study showed that 56 million jobs may be outsourced in the near future. These include high-tech jobs performed now by college-educated Americans.

We need fair trade policies that reward other countries who have democratic governments, free trade unions and observe basic standards for human rights. We also need to recognize the value of middle-class jobs and vote for officials who support them.

Finally, rooting against your neighbors may give you shortterm satisfaction, but it will inevitably lead to losses for you, your family, your community and your country. It's high time to start acting like we're all in this together.

In Memoriam

Ernest Arnett Gerd Klingler (Retired) (Retired) **Dolloras Brady** Gwendolyn Lockert (Retired) (Retired) Mabel Brown **Esther Morris** (Retired) (Retired) Keith Cripe Joan Myers (Retired) (Retired) Ruth Herr **Bruce Raines** (Retired) (Retired) David Jones Evelyn Walker (Retired) (Retired) Bernice Kelly

(Retired)

Bob Stephenson

I don't care what political party you support, just do it. Get involved, go to their meetings, put up yards signs, contribute to a candidate, make your voice heard. Either party, just do it

In return, demand that the party and their candidates support you and your family. Demand that they stand up for working people in this state and country. Make sure they understand that you expect, no you demand, that they look out for your best interest. We need to hold both political parties and their leaders accountable. We need to hold officeholders from both political parties responsible for what is happening in this city, in this state and in this country and to our friends and families.

Tell the candidates we expect them to support fair trade policies that give American workers a chance to compete. Tell them we need decent, no make that outstanding, schools and affordable colleges so our children can have the skills necessary for the global economy. Tell them you will support them if they will support policies that support us. Tell them that every American who works hard and plays by the rules deserves an affordable health care and retirement system. Tell them we need a government that is as responsible for our national budget as we have to be for our personal budgets. We need to become citizens who educate ourselves about how our representatives vote on issues that directly affect our lives and our families. It is not enough that we like them personally or that they are just like us, a guy you'd be comfortable having a drink with. That is no longer enough. They actually have to deliver a government that serves us. We can do it.

What we cannot do is what we've done before. It's not enough just to vote...that is the minimum we should do. We have to get out from in front of our televisions and computers and fight for our future and our country. The results of not doing so have become painfully obvious.

Our Sympathy

Robert Geisert
James Unger
Bill Guerre
Winnie Degraffenreid
Phyllis Ohlemacher
Cheryl McMahan
Steve Nolley
Derrick Jones
Bob McReynolds
Terry Lawson
Mort Ogden
Carolyn Foust
Alberta Morant
Clinton Lawson
James Coning

Mary Raines
Art Ormsby
Brian Raines
Maurice Ferguson
George Ayala
Jeanette Tolerson
Jim Smith
Angela Swallows
Patrick Stevens
Ed Lossing
Pat McLochlin
Aubrey Raines
Belinda Walker
Wendy Butts
John Hooker

Retirement Report

GARY ABELL JANET ARVIN JOE GILBERT ROBERT L. GUERRE, JR. **DEBRA HARRIS ROBERT HOLLIS** SUSAN JACKSON TERRY LAWSON JEROLEE MYERS PAT OWSLEY CANDACE RONDEAU BRADLEY STEPHENSON MICHAEL THOMAS TANYA WELLS MICHAEL WHITEMAN KENNETH YOUNG

GUY AKERS SUE BONTRAGER SHEILA GRANT MICHAEL GURSKE JOE HOBAN JAMES HOOVER STEVEN KITTS DIANA LEWIS TOM NEAL DARRAL PEOPLES MARY SHELLMAN SHERYL TASH CLARENCE TYLER MIKE WHEELER **REX WILLIAMS** HARVEY ZINSCHLAG RICK ANCIL
CONNIE CAMPBELL
HAROLD GRUELL
MICHAEL HAMILTON
ROGER HOLCOMB
MICHAEL HUNT
TED KNUCKLES
JAMES MCNAIR
DIANA OSBORNE
RICHARD PHILLIPS
RAY SHOLLER
LARRY TAYLOR
WILLA TULLY
ROBERT WHEELER
LONNIE WILLIS

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Open to the Public

Chaplain's Report

Thelma Corbitt, Chaplain



We as parents love to give gifts to our children. We love to honor and make them feel special. They make us feel so proud as their parent when they achieve greatly.

Children are a heritage of the Lord. Our grandchildren are also our pride and

joy. We are always giving them gifts to help them have a wonderful day.

Proverbs 17:6 (New International Version) Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Matthew 7:11 (Amplified Version) If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven (perfect as He is) give good and advantageous things to those who keep on asking Him!

We as parents are responsible for the welfare of our children. We want to provide the safest and secure environment for them that we know how. We try to give them a happy life. We cannot do enough for our children. We love it when they will say how much they love and appreciate us.

We want them to attend the best schools, wear the finest clothes, live in the biggest house and drive the prettiest car. We will work all the overtime that is needed to get this accomplished. It is because of our love for our family.

God loves us because we are his children. He wants us to be happy. He loves for us to talk to him. God wants to give us gifts. He loves it when we can come to him as our Father with our problems. We are His personal concerns.

We are joint-heirs with him. Everything that we have is his, but everything that He has is ours. There isn't anything better than that. We are in the family of God. God is our daddy. There isn't anything that we cannot talk to him about. It doesn't matter how bad it may seem to our eyes. He takes us the way we are. God just wants us to communicate with Him. He loves it when His children tell Him how much we love Him.

God loves his children. We are so special to Him. We can read his word and find out what God has provided for all of us. God's love cannot be matched. No one can love us like God.

Happy Father's Day!

Due to the Constitutional Convention the Union Meeting has been postponed to June 22, 2006



Sisters and Brothers – active and retired:

Thank you for your support and vote of confidence in the recent election for Delegate to the 34th Constitutional Convention.

The response was overwhelming, over the years each and every election you have always been there for us and we truly appreciate the honor of representing you – the membership.

UAW Local 292 has blessed us in many ways and we only want to give back what has been given to us

Per our Constitution and By-Laws a report will be given at the next regular membership meeting.

Again, your support through the years is something we all appreciate and never take for granted.

Thank you for the privilege and opportunity – YOU ARE THE BEST!

In Solidarity, Jill Quackenbush, Anita Dawson, Nick Kodrea, Georgia Zeigler and Kacee Anderson

Women's Committee



The Women's Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the Mother's Day dinner a success.

Special thanks to A Lady's Place, Dick Trott, all the models and Kacee and Ginny for donating door prizes.

Special attrition package deadline has been extended to June 23, 2006

Gettelfinger: It's time for national health insurance

By Ron Gettelfinger

(Editor's Note: The following opinion piece originally appeared in the May 5, 2006 edition of the Detroit News.)

You've probably noticed more media attention than usual focused on America's dysfunctional health care system during the week of May 1-5, thanks to "Cover the Uninsured Week," an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

"Cover the Uninsured Week" is a uniquely American event -- uniquely American because the United States is the only advanced industrialized nation without some form of universal health care coverage.

Why? The conventional wisdom, of course, is that we can't afford it. Well, the conventional wisdom is just plain wrong. It's not that we don't have the money; it's that we're spending our health care dollars inefficiently and foolishly.

America's foolish spending

With its patchwork health care system, the United States spends a higher proportion of its gross domestic product or total economic output and far more per capita on health care every year than any other industrialized nation. In fact, America's health care bill of about \$5,267 per capita is nearly two and a half times the industrialized world's median of \$2,193.

Yet for all that spending, some 46 million Americans - including more than 8 million children -- don't have any health insurance and an estimated 16 million more are underinsured.

What's more, despite having the best doctors, nurses and other health care professionals in the world, the United States ranks near the bottom among industrialized nations on life expectancy, infant mortality and virtually every other measure. In fact, the infant mortality rate in our nation's capital is more than double the infant mortality rate in Beijing.

Most of us would agree that nothing is more valuable than our family's health. But the harsh reality is that a large and growing number of lower- and middle-income working Americans are forgoing preventive care and putting off medical treatment because they can't pay for both health care and basic necessities like food, housing, gas and electricity.

Medical debt grows

A newly released study by the Commonwealth Fund found that slightly more than one in five of all working-age Americans, both uninsured and insured, have medical debt they are paying off over time. Nearly one in four uninsured adults say they had used up all their savings to pay medical bills.

The Commonwealth Fund survey also found that nearly three in five uninsured adults with chronic conditions like asthma or diabetes didn't fill a prescription or skipped taking their medications because they couldn't afford them. And, not surprisingly, uninsured Americans are far less likely than their

insured counterparts to get mammograms and other cancer screenings, dental exams, blood pressure and cholesterol tests, and other preventive care.

The situation is nearly as bad among underinsured Americans.

Treatments get delayed

A recent survey by the Reader's Digest found that among underinsured middle-class Americans (defined as having household income of \$25,000-\$100,000, health insurance and deducted medical expenses on their 2004 federal income tax return), about half say they've put off or refused medical treatment for a serious condition, or delayed taking or renewing prescription drugs. Nearly one-fourth says they're behind on medical bills -- and nearly half have used credit cards to meet health care costs.

How much worse can it get? Some health care experts predict that if insurance premium increases continue to outpace growth in wages and income, 56 million Americans -- including 27.8 percent of working Americans -- will be uninsured by 2013, just seven years from now. And those of us fortunate enough to have coverage (and jobs) will be faced with higher premiums, co-pays and deductibles.

There's a better way

But isn't there a better way? Of course.

The UAW has long advocated single-payer national health insurance as the fairest and most cost-efficient way to provide affordable, quality, comprehensive health care to every American regardless of income.

Sound impossible? It shouldn't. We already have more than 40 years experience with a single-payer system in America. It's called Medicare, and it may not be perfect, but it sure works better than the privatized part of our health care system.

Medicare provides model

Medicare spends nearly 98 percent of its funds (our tax dollars) on actual medical care. In contrast, as economist Paul Krugman noted in his recent New York Times column, Aetna, one of America's largest health insurance companies, "spends less than 80 cents of each dollar in health insurance premiums on actually providing medical care."

The rest goes to profits, marketing and administrative costs -including screening out people likely to have big medical bills.
In short, health insurance is one area where a government
program has proven not only fairer but more cost-effective
than the private sector.

National health insurance made sense when President Harry Truman proposed it in 1948. Today, it may be the only sensible way to fix America's health care crisis.



Delphi Electronics & Safety will be celebrating "Excellence Week" June 19th –23rd 2006.

This year we will be Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Kokomo Plant from Delco Radio thru Delphi Electronic & Safety. Efforts are underway to gain more Operations employee awareness and involvement. There will be a number of events taking place throughout the week related to the excellence theme. One highlight of the event will be the Classic Wheels Day Show held in the Plant 8 parking lot on Wednesday, June the 21st from 11:00AM – 4:00PM. Employees & Retirees are encouraged to display their wheels. THIS CAN BE ANYTHING WITH WHEELS. (Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, Bicycles, & Tractors. We have even had inquires about the old fashion petal cars.) Vehicle's must be preregistered (no registration fee) by contacting Marla Hightower @ 1-1958, Kerry Logsdon @1-9751 or your area CAC. A Nascar vehicle will be available for pictures, a DJ playing tunes, dunk tank for Union & Management. Hotdogs, chips, cookie and drinks will be served with proceeds going to local charities. Prizes for the Wheels Event will be \$200. for 1st place, \$150. for 2nd, & \$50. for 3rd.

July 2006 Calendar of Events

July 4th	Independence Holiday
	Del Ray Meeting
•	Executive Board Meeting
July 20	Membership Meeting



Notice: The deadline for submitting articles to be placed in the Antenna is the 5th of the month.

Please submit articles to Debi at UAW Local 292 or to Petra Jameson, Editor.

To check out membership updates visit the www.uawlocal292.org website

UAW LOCAL 292

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June 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Retiree Dinner this month			AGRICULTU	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	Del Ray Meeting @ 6p.m.	14	15) RKERS	16	17
18 Father's Day	19	Executive Board Meeting	21	Skill Trades Meeting Membership Meeting 7:30a.m., 12:20 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Shutdown	Shutdown	Shutdown	Shutdown	Shutdown	Shutdown	MPI, 765.675.9556 †

MPI, 765.675.9556