



Vol. 19, Issue 7
August 2008

UNION SPIRIT

Mitsubishi Unit Premier Unit Interlake Unit

Ten-Hut Veterans Report

By Steve Pople

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered in any capacity to help with The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall when it was here the last weekend in June. This was a great event and it wouldn't have happened without the help of all the volunteers who participated. I was the chairman of the security committee and I had 127 volunteers helping me. I know it was the weekend in between the 2 weeks of shut down, so a lot of people had other plans and we understand that completely. I hope you all enjoyed the shutdown period and possibly you got a chance to come and see The Wall, as well as all the other exhibits we had on display. We estimate that there was approximately 15,000 visitors to The Wall, so we had a great turnout. The Quilt of Tears display drew a lot of visitors too. The Quilt of Tears represents the Vietnam veterans who have died as a result of exposure to agent orange and those who are still suffering today as a result of their exposure to this highly toxic chemical. Many people are not aware that there are over 58,000 names on The Wall from the killed in action in Vietnam, but more than that number have died since the war as a result of their exposure to agent orange. Still, the U.S. government does not fully acknowledge the connection of this chemical to the illnesses of our exposed Vietnam veterans. They are still suffering and dying today. One fact I would like to relate to all Vietnam veterans is that if you ever are diagnosed with diabetes and stepped one foot in Vietnam you are entitled to disability benefits based on the severity of your diabetes. This is the only condition I know of that the government is taking responsibility for due to exposure to agent orange. So, if you know any Vietnam vets who have diabetes please relay this information on to them so they

can get the benefits our government owes them for the price they have paid for all of us. Finally, I would like you all to know that our local Veterans Committee banner hung from the center of the stage throughout the entire event, so we were all well represented. And on that note I would like to thank you all for allowing me to represent you all as a member of the executive board for this event and also as chairman of the security committee.

The last Thursday before shutdown we had our annual gate collection for Manteno Veterans Home and I am proud to tell you that we collected \$1,249.00. I must admit that I was surprised to find out how much we collected as that is about how much we collect every year, but with 16 months of the pay cut under our belts I felt like it might run a little lower this year. UAW Local 2488 members always step forward when it comes to taking care of veterans and your Veterans Committee salutes each and every one of you. The veterans at the Manteno Veterans home will put the money to good use as their needs are never ending.

Manteno Vets Day VIII is Saturday, August 16th. We will leave the Union Hall at 7a.m. and caravan to Manteno. We usually head back home around 2p.m. Its a great event and a day well spent. Mark your calendars and try to come along with us this year, you'll be glad you did. Ask someone who has gone before and they'll tell you about it and that they had a great day. We will be taking donations for the home up until Friday the 15th of August. So if you have any movies, books, stuffed animals, board games, cards, or anything else you think the home could use just drop it off at the Union Hall and we'll make sure it gets

there. Once again, thank all of you for your generosity and patriotism towards our veterans. All gave some and some gave all, and it makes me proud to say the membership of this local gives back and never forgets the vet.

September 11th is Patriots Day at the Interstate Center and your Veterans Committee chairman has been asked to represent you again this year by being on the executive board for this event. I thank you for allowing me to represent you again this year in this capacity. This is another major event for Bloomington/Normal this year and we try to make it better each year. We have been meeting every 2 weeks for the past 4 months and everything is still in the planning stages but it is shaping up to be a great event. There will be a huge motorcycle parade through town with the participants carrying up to 150 American flags. We will have the entire Interstate Center, and grounds, so we can bring in many different displays and representatives from all the veterans servicing agencies who will be attending the event. We will have a huge job fair with approximately 100 different employers on site to offer job applications. Remember, you do not have to be a veteran to to this event or to apply for a job with any of these employers. All Americans deserve a good job with a wage you can raise a family on and the job fair is to try to help unemployed veterans get a job or maybe a better job, however veterans want to see all Americans have a good job so the job fair is open to everyone seeking a job or a better job. There will be awards handed out to area employers who take care of their veteran employees as well as reservists and active duty personnel. This is another great event you won't want to miss so put another mark on your calendar. At Ease.

Chairperson's Report



By Fred Morissette

Thank You

I would like to thank you, on behalf of the entire Bargaining Committee, for your overwhelming support of the strike authorization vote taken at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum on Sunday, August 3. It was determined that the voting would take place at the coliseum because our hall would not support a meeting of this size. Your Bargaining Committee felt it was essential to keep all of our members informed as to the current state of negotiations, prior to taking the vote. We really appreciate the fact that you did not share any of the information with the media, as we requested. Consequently, it makes the committee feel more at ease, which therefore will allow us to disclose additional information regarding negotiations to the membership in the future.

I had a few members ask why we were spending so much money on the coliseum rental. In actuality, that venue was several hundred dollars less expensive than having a 12 hour vote at the UAW hall. In addition, had the vote been taken at the hall, we could not have had the informational meeting that allowed everyone to ask questions in one forum. Thank you for taking the time out of your Sunday to show your support.

Negotiation Meetings Progressing

We are starting our fifth week of daily talks. Negotiations on the non-economic issues are progressing as

they would in a regular set of negotiations. The only exception would be the insulting economic proposal that was verbally passed across the table on July 31st. The entire Committee is working very hard to bring back the best possible contract.

Rumors

Every day someone on the Bargaining Committee receives a call from a member that has heard some ridiculous rumor on the shop floor. Please ignore the rumors and focus on continuing to build the quality vehicles you have been building for the past twenty years. Just as we did at the strike authorization vote meeting, the committee will continue to keep you openly informed of any new advancements that we, with the help of our International leadership, have made.

Good Luck

I would like to wish the members who decided to take the VSP good luck in their future endeavors. While we will all miss you, after having worked with you for so many years, we wish you the best as you move on. Keep in touch.

July Grievance Report	
Job Rotation	2
Job Bidding	1
Backfill	1
Work Assignment	1
Total	5

Manpower	
Production	1078 (-106)
Skilled Trades	186
Apprentices	4
Supplemental	52 (-3)
Laid Off	630 (-43)

Domestic Sales July 2008	Units	2007
Galant	2,286	+30.6%
Eclipse	1,910	+35.6%
Spyder	298	- 39.7%
Endeavor	764	+22.6 %
Total domestic sales 5,258.		Decrease of 14.9% from July 2007

Export Sales July 2008	Country	Units
Galant	Canada	35
	Puerto Rico	12
	Kuwait	69
	Jordan	37
	Mexico	60
	Quatar	20
	Jebel Ali	188
	Oman	68
	Russia	249
	Ukraine	361
Total		911

Eclipse	Ukraine	4
	Mexico	30
Total		34

Spyder	Mexico	7
	Total	7

Endeavor	Canada	1
	Mexico	30
	Total	31

Total export sales for July, 2008 983

Total Combined Domestic & Export Sales for July	Units
Galant	3,197
Eclipse	1,944
Spyder	305
Endeavor	795
Total sales of our vehicles	6,241

Barack Obama

July 18, 2008

Dear UAW Brothers and Sisters,

When a mainstay of the American economy is forced to make a restructuring decision like the one General Motors announced this week, it is a sober reminder of the difficult economic times we're facing and of why we need change and a new direction in Washington.

I stood with you on Tuesday and I stand with you now. I am steadfast in my commitment to the auto industry, to American jobs and to America's working families. America cannot truly prosper unless Michigan prospers.

Given the news this week I wanted to write to you and share some of the steps I will take as President to ease the burden on the workers and families who are the backbone of the auto industry and to prepare us to move forward together.

We have the best workers and best companies in the world, but as we ask you to partner with us to help make America energy independent, we must invest in giving you the tools to succeed. We must also make sure that our workers are not left behind as the auto industry grows and changes. And that starts by providing families with immediate relief from rising gas and food prices. I support a \$50 billion second economic stimulus package that will put energy rebate checks in the hands of the people who need them, help families struggling to meet their mortgage payments stay in their homes, and give states like Michigan support so they don't have to cut back on vital services.

We also have to help the auto industry meet the challenges of a 21st century economy. To start, we should be providing immediate funding for the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program (ATVMIP), which offers low interest loans for automakers to help make immediate investments in retooling their plants. And as President, I will invest \$150 billion in clean energy to help create the fuel-efficient cars and alternative sources of energy that will jumpstart a green economy and help free this nation from the tyranny of oil. By providing tax credits and loan guarantees for our automakers and by expanding consumer tax incentives for ultra-efficient vehicles, I will provide the real solutions necessary to help this industry compete and win in the global economy. We need to make sure our auto makers are ready to build these next generation vehicles right here in the United States, which is exactly what my energy plan will do.



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I also have a broader agenda to strengthen hardworking families. I will put a \$1,000 middle-class tax cut into the pockets of 95% of workers and their families. And we'll end tax cuts for companies that ship jobs overseas and give them to companies that create good jobs here at home.

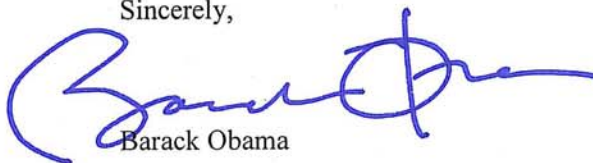
I will extend Trade Adjustment Assistance to service industry workers, and create education accounts to help workers retrain and provide retraining assistance for vulnerable workers before they lose their jobs. And I will double funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership so its training centers can continue to bolster the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.

My health care plan will work with employers to make it easier for them to provide their employees benefits and will provide quality, affordable, and portable health insurance to any American who wants it, saving a typical family up to \$2500 a year.

I have complete confidence that GM and our other auto companies will adapt and thrive in the 21st century economy if we bring real change to Washington and forge a true partnership together. And I am fully committed to making sure that the working men and women of the auto industry receive the support and respect they deserve as the industry changes to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

My heart goes out to all the workers and families in Michigan and across the country who have been affected by turbulence in the auto industry over the years – including those who learned just this week of further job cuts. You deserve a leader in the White House who not only understands the difficulties you and your families face, but who will stand up for you every single day. That's exactly what I'll do as your President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barack Obama

The President's Report



By Ralph Timan

I would like to thank all the members for your overwhelming support of the Bargaining Committee by giving a strike authorization by 97% margin. The vote followed our informational meeting on Sunday August 3. We had a lot of comments made to us prior to the meeting as many assumed no new information would be disclosed. We must forget what was done in past negotiations, this set of talks are very different. We will not call for a meeting unless we have something to tell you. During the meeting, information was shared by the Bargaining Committee about the company's first economic proposal, which was more of an outline, with good reason; members need to know Mitsubishi's stance in these talks. It would be foolish of us as leaders not to keep you informed of the situation we are in.

The US auto industry is changing right before our eyes as the power of the big three has diminished. They are no longer "setting the standard" but following the practices of others (Toyota, Honda, Nissan, etc.) to stay competitive in the industry. Another factor to consider is tough economic times and that the U.S. economy is in a recession and the price of oil has jumped 400% since 2001. We also must keep in mind that Mitsubishi, while on better financial ground than it was 2 years ago, is still financially shaky at best and their resources are not as deep as they once were. Our plant is only scheduled to build 56,000 vehicles this year on one shift and many days are running less than eight hours of production. We cannot put our heads in the sand and think

that these conditions with Mitsubishi and other outside forces will not somehow impact these contract talks. I know this Bargaining team will be working hard to bring back the best possible agreement and we will keep you up-to-date and informed as we get closer to August 28.

Until then, as we get closer to the contract deadline we must remain focused on our jobs and stand together in solidarity. I know that rumors will continue to swirl over what is being discussed at the Bargaining table. I want to remind all members if you hear any rumors that start with "I heard from x that x heard this" to please call the plant office or the union hall to verify any hear-say. As we have already done when we have information to pass along we will do so in an appropriate and professional way. Do not be caught up in the rumor mill! We thank you for your continued support during these contract negotiations.

On August 23rd there will be a UAW Night at the Peoria Chiefs game with one dollar of each ticket going to MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association). This will be a fun family event with a number of great activities going on at O'Brien Field. Among the UAW Locals participating besides our own are UAW Local 974-East Peoria, UAW Local 2096-Pontiac and Firefighters Local 594. This should be a enjoyable night and a great way to show solidarity with our sister UAW locals. Tickets will be available at the box office or at the gate O'Brien field if you missed our advance ticket sales in the plant.

Finally mark your calendar to come and show your union solidarity on Labor Day weekend as we march in Parades in 3 different communities including Pontiac on Sunday August 31st and in both Bloomington and Peoria on Monday September 1st. Hope to see you there.

Labor Day Parades

Pontiac:

Thresherman Parade will be held on Sunday, August 31st.

Line up will be at 1:00pm; Limited number of t-shirts will be available.

Bloomington:

Parade will be held on Monday, September 1st.

Line up will be at the corners of Front St. and Center St. at 9:00am. Limited number of t-shirts will be available.

Peoria:

Parade will be held on Monday, September 1st.

Line up will be on Monroe St. at 1:00pm. Limited number of t-shirts will be available.

Benefits Report for July, 2008

Does the U.S. have the best health care in the world? Most of us would respond to this question with an unqualified YES. But the fact is that in life expectancy and infant mortality we lag behind many countries, even some that we would consider "Third World." In spite of this, our health care per capita cost is nearly three times that of the next closest country. While this is totally unacceptable, we do have the opportunity to initiate change. This November, we need to support candidates who will favor a rational system of health care in this country. A system that is accessible to all as well as effective and affordable. We should accept nothing less.

For the month of July, 14 medical and dental insurance claims were resolved through the UAW Benefits office resulting in additional payments of \$21,478.90. This brings the total for the year to 177 claims totaling payments of \$98,213.28.

Just a reminder that John Powell's plant extension has been changed. It is now 8003. If you have any questions we can be reached at: Kathy Noble – 888-8008 - Gary Nichols – 888-8015, or John Powell, 888-8003.

Illinois AFL-CIO Endorsements (2008 General Elections)

United States Senate

Sen. Dick Durbin (D)

Constitutional Convention

Opposed

US House of Representatives

11th—Debbie Halvorson (D)

17th—Phil Hare (D)

18th—Colleen Callahan (D)

Illinois Senate

38th—Steve Stout (D)

47th—John Sullivan (D)

59th—Gary Forby (D)

Judicial

1st Supreme—Anne Burke

1st Appellate—John O. Steele

1st Appellate—Sharon Johnson Coleman

5th Appellate—James M. Wexsten

Illinois House of Representatives

74th—Don Moffitt (R)

75th—Careen Gordon (D)

76th—Frank Mautino (D)

77th—Angelo “Skip” Saviano (R)

87th—Bill Mitchell (R)

91st—Michael Smith (D)

92nd—Jehan Gordon (D)

101st—Robert “Bob” Flider (D)

103rd—Naomi Jakobsson (D)

106th—Tom Shrier (D)

112th—Jay Hoffman “D)

113th—Tom Holbrook (D)



UAW Local 2488

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Workers Compensation Attorneys

From Katz, Friedman, Eagle, Eisenstein, Johnson and Bareck will be at the Union Center on the following dates to answer Workers Compensation questions.

Richard Johnson

Wednesday, September 3 & 17, 2008
10:00am—5:00pm

Phil Bareck & Chris Mose

Call for an appointment

Downstate Injury Hotline:

1-800-444-1525

Recapitulation as of June 30, 2008

Income	92,846.85
Expenditure	<u>100,258.14</u>
Excess of Income over Expense	(7,411.29)
Regular Dues received	1460
Per Capita Taxes	
International Union, UAW	48,915.24
IL State CAP Council—Region	3,155.82
Transnational Council	83.44
IPS Steel Council	26.80
IPS Council Pooled Arb. Fund	41.82
Retirees Council (Ret. Dues)	<u>65.00</u>
Total	52,288.12

Thomas Shrier, Financial Secretary

A more detailed financial report is available at the Membership Meetings.

Sign Up for Email Updates

With two major contract negotiations taking place at the Local this year. The Local is re-starting our information updates via email. Currently we have over 400 members who have signed up for this great communication tool. If you are not already on our mailing list, you can sign up very easily.

To sign up everyone must re-submit their email address to the Local. This can be done two ways:

- 1) go to the website www.uaw2488.org
- 2) click on the “**Sign Up**” link to fill out the information; or
- 3) contact the Union Center and give us your email information.