

# **President's Report – October 2009**

**By: Greg Golembiewski**

**Greetings members of Local 730.**

## **UAW/GM 2009 Joint Leadership Conference**

On October 22, Marty Green and I along with our Management counterpart Paul Mercehia attended this conference at the GM headquarters in Detroit. Attendees were UAW Chairmen and Presidents, Plant Managers, Personnel Directors, and Labor Reps. The conference panel guest speakers were representatives from the UAW and GM Leadership. From the UAW they were Ron Gettelfinger, Cal Rapson, Garry Bernath, Mike Grimes, and new board member Steve Girsky. From GM they were Diana Tremblay, Fritz Henderson, Ed Welburn, Bob Lutz, Joe Ponce, and Tim Lee.

The meeting centered on the state of the business, where we were a year ago, to now and what will the company look like a year from now. Diana Tremblay talked about all the plants that have to finish up their COA and hit a target of 93%. She also discussed selling our products, promoting a new image, and taking the time to learn more about the products we build.

Cal Rapson talked about working together with GM; he said no more saving the corporation on the backs of the workers and retirees.

Ed Welburn Chairman of the Board of Directors was brought on board by the US government, he worked at AT&T for 44 years prior to his appointment. He thanked everybody for doing a great job over the last year. Finally he said that GM will change its perception with the UAW and that the company will make it through this and survive.

Fritz Henderson talked about the 40 day bankruptcy and about ownership in the company. GM is owned by the following: 60.8% U.S. Treasury, 17.5% UAW, 11.7% Canada, 10% Motors Liquidation Company (MLC). Next he talked about building a great company, and how we were given a second chance. We will need to improve cost structure, increase market share by using market priorities, business results now, public offering, change culture which equals customers, cars, and culture.

Steve Girsky is the newest appointment to the Board by the UAW. He is a breath of fresh air and is on our side when it comes to representing the best interest of our workers and retirees. Steve is a financial advisor from New York who works for Morgan Stanley. He will tell you like it is, good or bad. He is an excellent selection by the UAW.

Ron Gettelfinger applauded local union leadership for the tremendous job that they did holding everything together. He also complimented the board for their work and

reminded them that we need to trust one another in order to work together to get the job done and they have agreed commit to us.

Bob Lutz is a true car guy. He talked about new products, future lines, and where they would be built. The Chevy Cruz will be assembled at Lordstown, the Volt at Hamtramack, and the Gama project at Lake Orion. Flint will produce the engines for the Cruz and the Gama. Fairfax, Fort Wayne, and Lansing Delta will be adding a shift sometime in the first quarter of 2010.

Bob is committed to a new quality and marketing strategy that will unlock talent and grant the design team permission to do their job in half the time without all the red tape that the previous GM was used to. He also said that GM has three new future products one from Cadillac, another from Buick, and the third from Chevrolet. All will be built in the USA. In closing Bob said nobody should ever come to work driving anything but a GM product. The room agreed with a loud applause.

Although we remain bitter and saddened because of our plant closing, we left the conference optimistic that GM will make it, and that is good news for all of us.

## **MONTHLY PROJECTS**

The month of October kept us busy with fall projects around the hall, from furnace checks, replacing the lights on the sign out front, securing a snow plow bid, to dealing with a break in that we had at our hall on October 3rd.

## **Membership Meetings**

Just a reminder that the next regular monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

## **Free Meal to Those in Need**

Every Thursday from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Rockford. It is located at 11 mile and Northland Drive. All those in need are welcome.

## **Hall Rentals**

The Executive Board has reversed its decision to rent out the union hall for 2010. Call the union hall at 534-7613 for available dates and information.

## **UPCOMING PLANT HOLIDAYS**

Following are holidays for those who are still working in the plant. The union hall will also observe these holidays.

November 16 Veterans Day

November 26 & 27 Thanksgiving

Dec. 24 – Jan. 1 Christmas

January 18, 2010 MLK, Jr. Day

In closing, I would like to ask you to take a moment of silence to honor the memory of Harold Teeter (Red) who passed away Tuesday, October 27, 2009. Harold served as Retiree Chapter Chairman from 1990-1999 and on our Retiree Board in various capacities from 1999 to the present. Prior to retiring in 1987 he was Local 730's Financial Secretary for many years. Harold was a gentle giant of a man who always had a smile on his face and a positive word for everyone. He will truly be missed. God's blessings on Harold and his family.

In solidarity,

Greg