

President's Report May 2009

Greg Golembiewski, President

Greetings Local 730 Members,

Michigan State AFL-CIO Convention

On April 22, Larry Palmer and I attended the Michigan State AFL-CIO Legislative Convention held in Troy, MI. The theme was "How Government Can Work for Michigan Working Families." The agenda was filled with guests that included 31st District State Rep, Fred Miller; Speaker of the House of Representatives, Andy Dillon; and Lieutenant Governor, John Cherry. The AFL-CIO has a lot of the same problems that we have. They are losing members, revenues are down, and member morale is at an all time low. We are committed to working together to help pass the "Hire Michigan First" Bill, Employee Privacy Act, Worker Freedom Act, Foreclosure Bill, and Employee & Free Choice Act. They are our partners in labor and we will continue to support one another.

GM Worker Orientation

The GM Worker Orientation on April 29th was held at Local 730. We were very disappointed that we had a very low turnout. Between all of the sessions there were less than 70 people that attended. I would like to thank everyone who was involved with this very worthwhile program. Especially the Joint Adjustment Committee, the Peer to Peer Group, Lloyd Conway from the State of Michigan, Maureen Downer from Michigan Works, and all of the agencies that participated.

Area Conference at Region 1D

The evening of April 29th twenty-five Local 730 members attended the Region 1D Area Conference. Topics discussed by Region 1D Director, Don Oetman were V-CAP Contributions, the Worker Free Choice Act, and Organizing. Assistant Director, Gerald Kariem gave a speech that was very motivating and well received by everyone.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

On May 5th the local union, along with our management counterparts submitted notice to the Department of Labor in Washington DC to withdraw our current Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) application. We will re-submit it after May 20th. This will be more beneficial to our members under the new American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009. More information will be given as it becomes available.

Car Czar & Governor Granholm

On May 5th Steve Rop and I were invited to attend a meeting with Dr. Ed Montgomery, Director of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. Also in attendance were Governor Jennifer Granholm, representatives from the Department of Labor, Commerce, Treasury, and Energy, Small Business Administration, State and Local elected officials, Region 1D Director Don Oetman, Region 1D Assistant Director Gerald Kariem, UAW Servicing Rep Harvey Woodard, Sue Levy, and the staff from

Region 1D. Mr. Montgomery told us that the federal government was willing to help us out, but it was going to start from the bottom up. The talk force discussed wire grants, help for small businesses, extended unemployment, retraining, funds for Green Energy, and Brownfield Sites. Steve and I spoke with Mr. Montgomery afterwards telling him about our plant closing, how it has impacted our members, their families, and the community. We also let him know about all of the good things that we have done jointly such as the Self Help Transition Center, Worker Orientations, Job Fairs, and Peer to Peer Program. Steve and I invited Ed and his staff to our plant for a future visit.

Thank you to all of the retirees for your support and encouraging words during these trying times.

Please remember to continued to work safely.

Don't forget to vote in the upcoming election 5:00 a.m. May 27 to 5:00 a.m. May 28, 2009.

Be sure to come to the Local 730 Picnic on June 21st at Douglas Walker Park.

In solidarity,

Greg Golembiewski,
Local 730 President