

President's Report – October 08

by Greg Golembiewski

Greetings Members of Local 730,

On September 6, 2008, several members from our Local and I attended the State Convention in Lansing. Some of our delegates attended the Veterans caucus, others went to the Hispanic/Latino caucus. Later that morning, everyone met in the Labor caucus where we were joined by President Gettelfinger, Vice President Cal Rapson, Vice President Bob King, Region 1D Director Don Oetman, former Assistant Director Mike Bieber, and much of the staff from the regional office.

Governor Granholm addressed the convention, along with Senator Levin and Senator Stabenow, as well as several candidates trying to unseat Cliff Taylor from the Michigan Supreme Court. All of us were able to participate in the Congressional District caucus, voting later in the afternoon. The winner was Diana Hathaway, who will be on the ballot to face Cliff Taylor in the November election. The day wrapped up with a silent auction. All of us left the convention knowing we have a lot of work to do before Election Day, and it will take a huge effort from our entire membership. No one is exempt from this process; our livelihood depends upon it.

The Car Show held at the plant September 23-25 was a success. We had over 300 people attend. This was our first car show, and the dealers were very encouraged with the turnout. We are still compiling data to see how many sales were generated from the show. There are plans in place for next year's show already. During the wrap up meeting, the committee will look at some new ideas to help make next year's event even more successful. I would like to say thanks to all of our members who helped out with this event. We could not have pulled it off without your assistance.

Skilled Trades Sub Councils

October 6-9 Toledo Ohio

The subcouncil was attended by Steve Rop, Russ Bolthouse, Joe Z., John Graver, and myself. Mark Kelly opened the conference with talks about health and safety. We must always remind ourselves to lockout no matter what you are doing. He talked about fatalities and how we must prevent them from occurring. Currently, GM has 16,700 skilled trades' people and Ford has 11,581. Mark told the council about the changes in the apprenticeship selection process. First, the testing will be done by a third party administrator. Everybody was purged off the old list and will be given a chance to retest. Currently, we have an overall pass rate of 30% due to the difficulty of the test.

Other issues discussed:

- Retraining going on per Document 112.
- New date of entry if they don't bring new work with them. At the present time, the union is not pushing GM on the one-for-one replacement just to put the member in the Jobs Bank or send them to layoff. Each Local should keep track of their numbers and try and build a case for adding new members to their respective trades. Example: If a plant has trades people working production and their trade is working overtime, this is a case and the International wants to know about it. Remember to document everything accurately.
- PMP: The Locals have to force management to live up to the agreement in regards to the PMP. After all, it is their plan.

- Training: The International wants a timeline for training to be enforced.
- Volume related layoffs or in the Jobs Bank: Have a say in this.
- Agreement: Make management implement the language that they agreed to.
- Green Book Outline: Mark outlined the Entry Level Wage and Benefit Agreement. This applies to all regular employees hired after October 15, 2007.

Cap Tickets

We still have several people who have not sold all their cap tickets. Please try to get them sold and turned in asap.

Don't forget: November 4 is Election Day.

It is our right and responsibility to vote!

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In solidarity,

Greg Golembiewski, President