

Chairman's Report by Steve Rop, Chairman

*Committee Members: Russ Bolthouse, Mike Carlson,
Nancy Fopma, John Graver, Marty Green, and Doug Lail*

January 2009

National Negotiations

We were informed that on January 7, the National Negotiating Committee has been brought into Detroit to discuss strategy and review what changes or modifications could be made with the agreements with GM, Ford, and Chrysler. As we find out what is going on with the agreement, we will pass this information along.

Vacation

For those of you who will be taking full weeks of vacation, unless it is in a week where there is a holiday, you should take at least four hours of VR for one of the days so it will count as a pay period worked for vacation entitlement.

If you can afford it and are not planning on retiring - if you don't take pay with your vacation, you would get paid the left over balance next January and get credited with those hours. Paragraph 188 and 189 of the National Agreement is where this is covered.

Appendix A and Paragraph 96 Moves

Per conversation with our International Rep in Detroit, with the majority of plants having members laid off, they are not putting in requisitions thru NEPC to hire people. The International is currently negotiating Paragraph 96 Moves with the corporation.

Also, Greg and I have requisitioned to have our plant listed as "Closed Plant Status", so when things open up we will have preferential treatment for moves under Appendix A

Self Help Transition Center

This room is scheduled to open Monday, February 2, 2009. Mike Vincent (UAW), and Chris Ratterink (salary), will be staffing this room to help our members. There will be a 1(800) number to this office.

There is a Joint Adjustment Committee to oversee this center, which is made up of Shop Committee members Nancy Fopma, Mike Carlson, and Russ Bolthouse. Salaried members are Liz Gutierrez, Mike Reinerth, and Maurice Scruggs. They will be working with Michigan Works, the State of Michigan, and some of the local colleges to help our members with their needs.

I know that the membership is starving for information, but I cannot report out on something I don't have. Believe me, I am just as frustrated as you are about how slow we are getting information.

In solidarity,
Steve Rop, Shop Chair
Local 730, UAW