



AutoKnow



General Motors Vision Statement: GM's vision is to be the world leader in transportation products and related services. We will earn our customers' enthusiasm through continuous improvement driven by the integrity, teamwork and innovation of GM people.

Money Expert Suze Orman To GM Workers: "Take The Buyout"

This is a very critical month for GM. The company is working to put the final pieces in place to meet key restructuring targets required by the U.S. loan agreement.

GM's need for government support is driven by the global financial market crisis, a dramatically weaker economy and a huge drop in vehicle sales. These conditions have hit the entire auto industry, which in the U.S. is down more than 40%, to the lowest sales rate in 50 years.

GM hourly employees in the U.S. are facing their own critical decision this month. The company and the UAW have agreed to a Special Attrition Program aimed at reducing GM's employment numbers in response to the unprecedented drop in vehicle demand and consistent with the viability plan we submitted to Washington on February 17.

In a recent broadcast of CNN, reporter John King asked GM workers what they are thinking about as they consider the Special Attrition Program.

"We encountered some autoworkers who work at General Motors out in Indianapolis and they have on the table a buyout plan from General Motors," said King. "It will give them \$20,000 plus a voucher for a car up to \$25,000. Might seem like a lot but it's not if you can't then find a job down the road."

King then asked the well-known personal finance expert Suze Orman what her recommendation was for GM employees considering the Special Attrition Program.

"I'm so sorry to say, I would take the buyout. And only because I don't think the problems for General Motors are going to be fixed very shortly here," said Orman. "So I think there's probably a greater possibility that the job may go away than it's going to be fixed and he's going to keep his job."

Orman continued to say that an offer in hand may be the best strategy for many as she addressed the concerns of the GM employee who appeared on the show.

"While he may not be able to find a job where he's

(continued on page 3)

Three Generations of GRMP Employees on 36th Street Billboard

The Grand Rapids Press ran a feature on the three generations of Smigiels who have worked at our plant, starting the year we opened in 1936. Dan Smigiel, first-shift TDO, paid to have a billboard displayed outside our plant. The billboard honors his father (Bob) and grandfather (Frank), the 36th Street plant, and General Motors. Frank worked at this plant from 1936 until he passed away in 1962. Dan's father, Bob, worked here from 1952 until he retired in 1982. Dan started here in 1979. You can read the entire article at http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/03/workers_billboard_thanks_gm_fo.html.



Update on Work Leaving Grand Rapids

The following is a list of part numbers and common stable part codes that Grand Rapids will be shipping, or has already shipped, over the next few weeks. We will keep you posted as more moves are announced.

GR Press Line	Part Code	Part Number	Part Name	Die Ship Date	Receiving Plant
SHEAR	A0172B	B5954723	Pnl-Rkr Inr RR L	3/25/2009	MARION
W	A0172	15954723	Pnl-Rkr Inr RR L	3/25/2009	MARION
W	A0186	15960075	Pnl-Rkr Inr RR L	3/25/2009	MARION
CO2	A0186	15960075	Pnl-Rkr Inr RR L	3/25/2009	MANSFIELD
BB1	A8136	15083331	Rnf-E/Cmpt UpR R	3/26/2009	INDY

What's New in the Grand Rapids Transitional Center

- **Job Fair for Grand Rapids Metal Center Employees:**

Where: National Guard Armory – 1200 44th St. SW, Wyoming

When: Tentatively May 14, time TBD

Who: All employees (both salary and hourly).

Also open to veterans and general public.

Potentially 75 different employers will be in attendance! Call the information line (1-866-634-7432) or visit the Transitional Center for more information. Keep watching your *AutoKnow* for upcoming events.

- **Worker Orientation Meetings:**

Where: Local 730 union hall, 3852 Buchanan Avenue

When: April 29, 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Who: All GRMP employees (hourly, salaried, working, laid off)

- **Resume and Interview Skills workshops:**

Where: Grand Rapids Metal Plant

When: April 2 (noon-2:00 p.m.), April 9 (3:30-5:30 p.m.), April 15 (3:30-5:30 p.m.), April 23 (noon-2:00 p.m.)

Who: All Grand Rapids Metal Plant employees (hourly and salary)

Sign-up sheets are posted on the board outside the Transitional Self-Help Center.

Retirement Planning/Investing Seminar

Mainstay Capital Management (a “GM-Approved,” independent, registered investment advisor) has been invited to the Grand Rapids Metal Plant to present an educational seminar on retirement planning and investing. **Seminars lasting one and a half hours each will be held on Wednesday, March 28**, as follows:

When: 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Where: 2nd Floor – Conference Room 1-1A

If you’re interested in attending one of these seminars, please schedule yourself for a before- or after-your-shift meeting.

Seminar topics include:

- Strategies for successfully managing your PSP, SSPP, IRAs, and other investments
- Managing investment risk in today’s volatile markets
- How to take penalty-free, early distributions
- Important considerations for a buyout offer
- Retirement income and investment planning
- Evaluating a buyout – When can I retire?
- Investment strategies for a bear market
- How to “recession-proof” your portfolio
- Seven challenges facing retirees today
- Rollover IRAs - The Annuity Trap
- Lessons from the Madoff scandal
- Financial markets outlook

These seminars are open to all GM hourly and salaried employees. Mainstay Capital Management will also facilitate one-on-one meetings on March 18 if you would like to discuss your personal situation with an advisor.

Seating is limited. Advanced reservations are required. To reserve seating, **call toll-free 1-866-444-6246 or email seminarinfo@mainstaycapital.com.**

If you’re unable to attend one of these educational seminars or a personal meeting, call 1-866-444-6246 to request the information package provided to seminar and meeting participants.

Wagoner on Suppliers, Bankruptcy and Labor Negotiations

GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner met with about a dozen key reporters on Tuesday of this week during a media breakfast sponsored by the *Christian Science Monitor*. His are highlights from his comments:

- Rick said that the financial stability of automotive suppliers was “getting more precarious.” His statement reflects the ongoing issues facing the automotive supply industry including low volume, tight credit markets and general financial distress many suppliers are experiencing.
- Rick said that restructuring the company out of court would accomplish 99% of what could be achieved in bankruptcy, but without the risk of losing customers or the huge expense of Chapter 11. He also commented on suggestions that GM and Chrysler go into a short, prepackaged bankruptcy. Wagoner said a 30- or 60-day prepackaged bankruptcy might not work. “If it doesn’t, you’d need in the end a long period of bankruptcy which I believe would result in liquidation of the company,” he said.
- Rick also commented on the recent agreement between Ford and the UAW in which the UAW will take stock in place of half the cash it is due for its retiree health-care trust fund. He said the Ford agreement “does not meet our needs at all.” He continued: “We need to do something different, and we’re working with the UAW on how to do that.”

SAP

(continued from page 1)

currently living, \$20,000 will allow him to get by for a while, maybe move to a place where he can do something else. But if he lives and does it responsibly, I think 100% of something, you know, is a lot better now than maybe 50% of nothing, which it may be ...”

At the end of February GM reported a \$9.6 billion dollar net loss in the fourth quarter and a \$30.9 billion dollar loss for calendar year 2008. Because of those big losses independent auditors have issued a “going concern” notice indicating that GM might not be able to continue as a company in the future.

The Special Attrition Program ends on March 24, 2009. Please contact your benefits representatives if you have questions about your options.

Compressed Gas Cylinders

Any compressed gas cylinders that are empty or are not being used need to be returned to the cylinder crib.

Transitional Self-Help Center Has Website

GRMP’s Transitional Self-Help Center now has a website that contains a wealth of information to help you make the transition to other employment or retirement. Go to transitionselfhelpcenter.com.

UAW-GM Hourly Special Attrition Program Video and Presentation Slides Available Now!

The effective date of the UAW-GM Special Attrition Program (SAP) is April 1, 2009. Hourly UAW represented employees interested in this opportunity must make their elections by March 24, 2009. There is a video and a set of SAP presentation slides with audio that are available for your viewing. It's easy! You choose which format is best for you and then review the materials from your computer. The instructions for viewing are listed below.



OPTION 1: VIEWING THE SAP VIDEO FROM A COMPUTER

The SAP video is available on the internet so you can view the program at home with your family. It is a comprehensive 24 minute video called, "Supplement to the UAW-GM Special Attrition Program."

Directions to view SAP Video: From your computer, go to www.gmbenefits.com. You will see the following:

UAW-GM Hourly Special Attrition Program
Click Here for Video or
Click Here for Slides and Audio

Select the "Click Here for Video" link. You can watch the video in full screen mode by clicking on the icon below the "25:24" at the lower right of the screen. Then watch the video.

OPTION 2: VIEWING SAP PRESENTATION SLIDES FROM A COMPUTER

The SAP presentation slides (with audio) are also available to those who may not have the computer capacity to handle streaming video.

Directions to view the SAP Presentation with Audio: From your computer, go to www.gmbenefits.com. You will see the following:



UAW-GM Hourly Special Attrition Program
Click Here for Video or
Click Here for Slides and Audio

Select the "Click Here for Slides and Audio" link. The password is **uawsap09** (lower case). The information is identical to that in the video, minus the visual image of each speaker.