



UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR GREEN



Dear Region 2B Family,

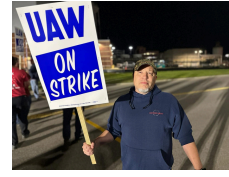
As we move into September, we celebrate Labor Day. For us in labor, it is important to remember the struggles that past generations made for us to have a better work life. My grandfather fought for a union in the steel industry over 100 years ago. Work conditions were horrible back then with no health and safety regulations. There was no job protection, fire exits, weekends or regular work shifts. Those workers went to work and stood outside the gate hoping to get picked for a work shift. Those not chosen walked home and came back before the next shift. This lack of scheduled work, he told me, was one of the main reasons workers demanded a union. Remembering those that fought for better work practices is important, so we never forget what was fought for because, that's exactly what we have to lose. There were some important figures in the labor movement, but it was the workers as a whole that made the difference. Things are not much different today. No one leader is going to come save workers' rights, ALL workers need to stand together to create real change. When we become complacent, our rights will continue to get stripped from us. Make no mistake, those not in the union have benefited as well. Our gains and protections spill over into regulations that help protect all workers lives in more ways than I can list here. So, for all the activists out there, know that you are fighting for all workers and not just yourself, thank you and never give up.

Region 2B



There were a lot of meetings and events in August. We started the month off with Jeep Fest in Toledo. Long time President, Bruce Baumhower, of Local 12 was honored with his name being attached to the amazing event. I got to meet with some members form NE Ohio at Local 1005 during the AFL-CIO's "It's Better in a Union Tour". Your IEB met in the first week of the month, there was the Veterans Conference, Women's Conference and Civil and Human Rights Conference, all happening as well. I got to spend a day with our brothers and sisters at Local 531 at ZF Automotive. They had a rally in Lafayette, Indiana as the company is planning on closing that facility. It's been open for over 100 years and they want to move the steering columns they make for school buses, heavy trucks, and military equipment to cheap labor locations outside of the US. This is corporate greed at its finest and we will continue our fight to protect this work. I also got to visit our work family from Local 1765, DANA in Lima, Ohio. Here again they are closing this facility after 55 years. Collaborating with Local Leaders and their members in these situations is numbing. It always gives me flashbacks of the plant closing I had to work through. This is why I am committed in doing everything possible to make sure we fight for every single member and workplace in our region.

Region 2B



Plant closings are not good for our workers, their communities, and especially our retirees. I have seen firsthand how our retiree chapters struggle after a plant closing. These are the folks who built, supported, and fought for their union. After the plant closes, there are no new retirees coming into the fold. The Retiree Chapter starts to slowly shrink in members and funds. This is why I implore all retirees to pay your union dues. Its \$3 a month. That's \$36 a year. The cost is low, and the solidarity is high. It's the best deal out there. And for those giving more, thank you for supporting your retired work family.

I enjoy listening to retirees and their stories about many things, but when I hear them talk about what gives them a strong sense of pride, it just hits me differently. I had an opportunity to listen to one such story at a recent conference in Black Lake. This retiree told me he paid \$50 a month in retiree dues and \$50 a month in VCAP. This made me want to know more. His name is Dennis Harr, he is a Sergeant-at-Arms at Local 211's retiree chapter. Dennis was one of 11 children. His dad, Emery Harr served in WWI. In fact, he had 9 other close family members who served in the military, including 5 of his brothers. His pride in service is overwhelming. Service to our nation and service to the working class is priceless. He explained that he was one of 8 siblings that worked in a union shop and told me how grateful he was for the union. His pride in our organization and his service to our nation made me feel proud. We have so many retirees out there with stories like Dennis', I hope our active and younger members take the time to listen to them. Their life stories can help us understand that we need to fight every single day to protect the regulations and laws that many of our members literally died for. Our whole existence as a labor organization is to fight for and serve all workers, we must never rest in order to preserve our future.



Region 2B

I was most recently in Cincinnati this past week standing with our family from Local 647. These are the workers at GE Aerospace, and they are fighting for a fair contract. Their healthcare costs were already high enough and GE wants to raise the costs. Even though their CEO has received more than a 985% raise over the last three years and the company has made around 17 BILLION, with a B, in the same time period and had over 2 BILLION in stock buybacks in just the first quarter of this year. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the egregious corporate greed happening on the shoulders of the working class.

Those members who work in Evendale, OH and Erlanger, KY took to the strike line at midnight, early Thursday morning. I want to thank the bargaining committees from both units for standing up for their members best interest. GE Aerospace was playing games at the bargaining table thinking our members were not ready to take action, surprise GE, our members were ready and are now in the midst of a strike to get what they deserve. I am asking the entire Region 2B family to help show up and support our work families down there. Nothing about a strike is easy or fun. Unfortunately, they are necessary to gain the respect and dignity in work that our members deserve.

I want to close with wishing our UAW a Happy 90th Anniversary! Those that fought before us and those who will for fight after us is why we can never rest. Our time is now and our future depends on our activism and solidarity with our work family.

Have a safe and Happy Labor Day and may God bless us all.

In solidarity,

Dave Green
UAW Region 2B Director

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