



UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR GREEN



Dear Region 2B Family,

August marked another busy month. There were International Executive Board meetings, community events, family days, an International Veterans' conference, International Women's and TOP conference, Ford sub-council meetings, and regional training. I had the opportunity to meet members where they work during several plant tours. Retirees in New Castle, Indiana, made history with their first Area Retired Workers Council meeting. There is also a strike that has now been going on for over six months.

Let's start with the Job and Family Services workers in Lorain County. Local 2192 members have been out on strike for over six months. They walked out on February 18 after the Lorain County Commissioners offered them their last, best, and final offer, which was unchanged from their original offer. Remember, the commissioners only sat down for seven bargaining sessions over seven months. I sat in those negotiations on the seventh session, urging them to give us a counterproposal before the strike deadline. They promised to put a counteroffer on the table the Friday before the strike deadline, but a counter never came.

I will continue to stand behind our Job and Family Services workers, as their steadfast strength has been apparent. They are fighting for the justice and fair treatment they deserve. I want to again thank Gina Jones, Chairperson of the JFS Local 2192 unit, for her commitment to her members and her strength during these difficult times. We've got your back.

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In Springfield, Ohio, International/Navistar is selling the facility represented by Local 402. It is never a good time when employers decide to move out of a community. The Springfield facility has been around for over 100 years and has been a keystone in that part of the state. The silver lining is that a company called Roshel, based out of Canada, is purchasing the plant. Roshel CEO Roman came to Solidarity House and met with me and other members of the International UAW. He has big plans for Springfield, Ohio.

Our main concern is our members and making sure they are protected through this transition. While the details are still being worked out, I had the opportunity to tour the International facility. I was impressed by the continued solidarity of the members there. Knowing you are heading into difficult times while still keeping your head up and being respectful to each other is not always an easy task. I commend the members and leadership of Local 402 for working through these difficult times as they bargain for a better and brighter future in Springfield, Ohio. I also want to thank President Chris Blizzard for his strong leadership, dedication, and sharing his knowledge of the history of the plant and the local.

I was excited to visit Autokiniton in Sandusky, Ohio. It was great to meet with the bargaining team and newly elected UAW Local 913 President Dustin Houser. Our members work hard and take pride in the work they do. It is an impressive facility, but like most others, it has its challenges. Making sure our members and local leaders know they have the full support of our International UAW is why I like to take tours. Making sure management understands that we are watching and expect them to do right by our members is also paramount. Thank you to the members for such a warm welcome.

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Up near South Bend, Indiana, I had the opportunity to tour the AM General facility. I can't thank UAW Local 5 membership and leadership enough for their amazing hospitality. A special thanks to President Mark Maron, Chairman Keith Oden, and the entire committee for all the work they do. This is one tight committee that sticks together and supports its members every single day. It is impressive to see and makes me proud to have them as my union family. Now, if we could just get management at AM General to listen to reason, our members would be in much better shape. What many of these companies don't realize is that our members know the best way to perform their jobs. Success will come when they let the people doing the work have input on how the work should be done.

I was also able to tour INTAT, represented by UAW Local 2339 in Rushville, Indiana. Coming from a foundry, it was great for me to be inside another one. I know our members there work hard and take pride in building quality products for the automotive industry. I was impressed by the leadership of Kyle Eaton, Local 2339 President, as well as his entire committee for holding management accountable on a multitude of issues. We can't think of it as what the company is doing; but rather, what we will let them do. I want to thank the members of UAW Local 2339 for their hospitality and again thank the leadership for their hard work and dedication to our members. When we work together and stick together, we win.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that this part of east-central Indiana was hit hard with flooding. We also have members and families in the community of Gary, Indiana, who have struggled to keep the power on. Weeks without power is unacceptable. Our members losing their homes to floods and other natural disasters is horrible. Region 2B is supporting nonprofits with funds to help our members with food, clothing, and other necessary items as they struggle through these tough times. I also know many UAW locals have been trying to help and support not only our members, but also the communities that have been hit hard by these natural disasters. This is what we do, and this is who we are when disaster hits. If you're in the UAW, you're never alone.



Supporting our communities is part of our identity as the UAW. This month Toledo celebrated the 10th annual Jeep Fest. Local 12 knows — others may not — that Jeep Fest was started by UAW Local 12 past President, Bruce Baumhower. He got together with other community leaders to create this event to help celebrate Jeep. This year marks 85 years of Jeep being built in Toledo, Ohio. Jeep Fest was an amazing event where people came from all over the world to show off and enjoy this iconic recreational vehicle. The UAW's presence at Jeep Fest was huge. Being in our communities is an important part of who we are, and we will continue to support communities everywhere we go.

In just a few days, we will be celebrating Labor Day. I'm encouraging our members and leaders, and expecting the staff of Region 2B, to be out in your communities on Labor Day, proudly wearing your UAW swag. I'm proud to be a UAW member, as we all should be. Let's get out there on Labor Day and let these communities know that we're here to stay.

Region 2B let Washington, D.C., know we were in town this month. August 28 was the 63rd anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was a turning point in our history regarding civil rights and the labor movement. This was one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s most famous speeches, and for those who don't know, it was written in Solidarity House, the UAW's headquarters. Our International President Walter Reuther marched side by side in support of the civil rights movement. He understood that the labor movement and the civil rights movement were connected. A. Philip Randolph also helped bring labor and the civil rights movement together.



Fighting for social justice is parallel to fighting for workers' justice. We are all humans first, and everyone should be treated with the same respect regardless of anything else. Companies try to divide us, politicians try to divide us, and billionaires try to divide us. But when we stand shoulder to shoulder, side by side, in solidarity, we can move mountains.

It was our retirees who fought for the rights we have today. Many were around in 1963, which was just 63 years ago. They fought for social justice. They fought for civil and human rights. They fought for jobs. They fought for freedom. This is why we need to do everything we can to protect our retirees today and prepare them for a better tomorrow.

In New Castle, Indiana, we made history this month and held the first ARWC, or Area Retired Workers Council hosted at Local 371. These councils are like union meetings for multiple locals. They bring retirees together who would normally have separate meetings or maybe not attend any meetings at all. Sponsored by the International Retirees Department, these councils have not been used in Region 2B to my knowledge. This is the second one we've started in the region because of the multitude of closed locals from the Big Three. Many of our retirees have a hard time getting help with their benefits. These meetings help them build solidarity and fellowship with each other and have a dedicated representative help them navigate their earned benefits.

It was great to see the first meeting happen in New Castle, Indiana. There is also one in Indianapolis that functions out of Local 933. Supporting our retirees is essential because they built what we have and enjoy today. I want to give a shout-out to Retiree Chapters 2262, 402, 674, and 233 for the invites to your meetings, I learn something new at every meeting. This is why I try to get to as many of these as I can.



Making sure we stay connected helps us grow stronger. This is one of the purposes of conferences, conventions, and council meetings. This month was unique, as we had a Veterans' conference at Black Lake, a Women's and TOP conference in Houston, and Ford sub-council in Florida, all in the same week. This is sometimes difficult for locals when many conferences are happening during the same time frame. Coming from a small local, I recognize financial constraints, and getting people released from our employers can also be challenging at times.

Personally, I hate to see so many conferences scheduled during the same time frame. I also support having more training at Black Lake or in regional offices, where we can use dues dollars to invest in ourselves instead of paying hotels. I didn't know until I got this job how much these hotels charge when we use their facilities for training – not just for the space, but also for food, water, security, and audio/video equipment.

As you all know, Region 2B has a new regional headquarters in Maumee, Ohio. Our facility is state of the art, and the audio/video equipment was donated by our retirees. I want to thank the retirees for investing in our members and their training so we can build a stronger union. This is just another example of our retirees stepping up once again. The purchase of this audio/video equipment cost less than it did to rent equipment at just one of the conferences this month. This is why we need to keep investing in ourselves.



Just last week, we held our first-ever Officers Summit. This was done in coordination with UAW Region 1A under the direction of Mark DePaoli. It was a transformative event that united officers and delegates in a shared commitment of growth, collaboration, and solidarity. This innovative effort equipped officers with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to excel in their roles, address shared challenges, and drive meaningful change that benefits our locals and membership.

Thank you to LaChandra White from the Office of the International President, Roy Escandon from the Communications Department, and auditors Jim Stanton, Zach Olson and Sharon Teamer from the Secretary-Treasurer's Office for sharing their expertise and supporting our officers. By coming together and learning from each other, we are forging a stronger, more united UAW that is poised for a brighter future.

UAW Region 2B servicing representatives Eric Gadd, Tod Turner, Joe Konicki and Ryan Hiestand also had the opportunity to teach Advanced Grievance Handling to our members from GE Aerospace and the Hard Rock Casino. This helps strengthen the skills and knowledge needed to effectively represent and advocate for our membership in the workplace. A sincere thank you to UAW Local 647 for hosting this important training and providing a welcoming space for our members to learn, collaborate, and grow. Your hospitality and support helped make this training a success.

Many different facilities have been holding open houses. We need more employers to do these because it is important for our families to see where they work and what they do. I had the opportunity to stop in at Toledo Machining, represented by UAW Local 1435, and Lima Engine, represented by Local 1219. While I couldn't make them all, it was awesome to see our members showing their families where they work and what they do.



November is coming fast, and we are working hard to make sure our labor-friendly and endorsed candidates get elected. Members of UAW Region 2B came together for intensive Get Out The Vote training to help reshape our future this midterm and beyond. I couldn't be prouder of the work they put in, the knowledge they gained, and the energy they are bringing. Our "UAW Regulators" hit the doors for our endorsed candidates. New friendships were built because conversations were made. Communities were reminded that when workers show up, we show up together. This is only the beginning. We are 64 days out, and every knock, every conversation, and every "yes, I'll vote" gets us closer to changing the future for labor in Indiana and Ohio.

Finally, I want to remind every member, active and retired, to mail in your UAW International Election Ballot. We didn't always have the ability to directly elect our International leadership, but now we do. Please exercise your right to vote. Do your research and check out the candidates. Those who get elected will have a lot of work to do to help ensure every member, active and retired, gets the justice and dignity we all deserve. God bless and as always,

In solidarity,

Dave Green

UAW Region 2B Director