

Local 602 Chairman's June 2011 Report

Respectfully submitted by: Rick Martinez / Shop Chairman

UAW/GM Leadership Conference Update:

Meeting held in Detroit on June 2, 2011. President Reed and I attended these meetings which are typically held on an annual basis. Key speakers at this meeting were Bob King (UAW President), Joe Ashton (V.P. UAW/GM Dept.), Dan Ackerson (GM Chairman), Cathy Clegg (GM Vice-President/Labor Relations).

There were no specific negotiation issues talked about during these meetings. Both UAW and GM leadership applauded the contributions made by all that helped GM stay in business. The New 2013 Malibu to be built by UAW Local 31 in Fairfax, Kansas, was presented to the delegation and the Chevy Cruze built by UAW Local 1112 in Lordstown, Ohio was applauded for its huge success in the marketplace. A dealer representative from California explained the Cruze was making inroads in that area of the country that has been dominated by imports for way too long.

GM has invested 3 ½ billion dollars in the US since bankruptcy proceedings and has funded the largest private pension fund in the world from a 17 billion dollar deficit down to 6 ½ billion underfunded and expects this to get down to 0 underfunded. GM has added 9,000 jobs since bankruptcy proceedings.

CEO Ackerson stated "GM is not doing poorly because we are competitive and gaining market share for the first time in a long time. UAW/GM is on the same team and we need a common understanding coming out of negotiations. We need to seek common ground because I don't want this company's viability to be in question again. GM has returned 30 billion back to the American tax-payers so far. "He concluded with this statement "GM is in an industrial war in this world...Management and Labor must fight together to help this country succeed in this war."

UAW President King stated "I think Dan Ackerson is a great leader for GM. And I agree that we are in this together. It was the American tax-payer that kept us alive as President Obama stood behind the American auto industry in light of substantial political pressure to let us fail. Our union is under attack from many fronts and these negotiations will be under heavy scrutiny. Neither UAW nor management can afford to go back to the old way of doing business. Negotiations are about coming together to create solutions. Local unions and local managements need to address our issues in our plants immediately and together. Right now our quality is the best it has ever been and it needs to stay that way. Our past quality issues were a joint problem and we cannot let quality slip again. UAW attendance is the best in the industry, our market share is growing, and we need to assure that our customers become our best salespeople because of the great products that they own."

After leadership presentations President Reed and I then participated with our management counterparts in 3 educational sessions, *View from the Third Party*, *View from the Media*, and *View from the Competitive Landscape*.

It was a distinct pleasure for President Reed and me to represent our 602 membership at this Joint Leadership meeting!!

Local Negotiations:

I expect that our bargaining committee will begin negotiations on our local contract mid-July. We will review and organize all of your demands and put together a bargaining strategy that will deliver a good contract for your review and approval.

Local demands will be received through your elected representatives until July 15th. We currently have a significant number of issues to address and want to make sure that nothing is forgotten as we begin these most important set of local negotiations.

The bargaining team and I will require the membership's patience as these talks with management progress. I will make sure that there is proper representation in the plant in the absence of the District Shop members and Zones who will be bargaining on behalf of the membership.

Suggestion Plan Position Opening:

President Reed and I have agreed to post for this position vacated by reason of the election of our new Financial Secretary who held that position prior. The posting should be on the in-plant boards this week.

Status of Temps:

Management had recently implemented a plan to bring in 100 temps to fill jobs vacated by members who returned to Flint and summer vacation coverage needs. At the direction of the corporation local management was then directed that our plant could only maintain a temp workforce of 80 for these reasons. It is unfortunate that this situation has occurred after 100 temporaries were brought into work. I assure you that both local management and local union leaders are equally saddened by these changes and the effect on those involved.

Labor Relations Notices:

Local union was successful in gaining agreement with management to extend the Final application period for shift preferences through 6/20/11. They had originally implemented a plan to freeze both the transfer process and shift preference immediately.

Management has again implemented UAW/National Agreement allowances for the purpose of suspending Plan "A" refusal provisions. Your local union leadership has raised a great amount of concern about past abuses of these management privileges. Last year's requirements for skilled trades to work 7 days/week 4 weeks in a row using this language and to have production members work excessive OT mandatorily to over fill conveyor banks was in many cases unfair for the many members who don't typically work overtime or those who attempted to make personal plans with their families during that time period.

As a result of meetings between President Reed, myself and local management we were able to get the start times for 3rd shift moved back to "normal" start times due to the July 4th Monday holiday.

Closing comments:

This membership has high expectations of their elected leadership here at Local 602. The membership should expect that we work together for the entire membership, that we work together to insure that each and every member has the opportunity to be involved in their union and that we work together to insure that each and every member has fair and consistent representation. You should expect due process in the handling of your grievances and straightforward honest answers in response to your concerns. In order to achieve this I will ask that we all become our brothers and sisters keepers. Take personal responsibilities for our actions, and ask for help when needed. Our collective energy must be used to move our local union forward. For it is not about where we came from...it's about where we want to go!!

I will present my monthly Chairman's report at the membership meetings and then pass a copy of my report to our recording secretary who will post this report on the local union's web-site. Members of the local union must register on the web-site in order to view this report and other information that is pertinent and private between this union leadership and the membership.