



March 24th, 2022

Sisters and Brothers,

This Sunday March 27th at 10:00 am, we will be having our regular monthly UAW 774 membership meeting at our Union Hall. At each meeting the Executive Board reports out on what they are working on and then they go over the finances. The members in attendance hear the recommendations for expenditures and changes and then vote on every item. In addition, the chairperson from every standing committee reports out on what the committee is working on. As part of the agenda, I give a Chairman Report on current events and issues we are working on in the plant. I recommend every member attend the meetings, if possible, as this is the place and time for us to talk openly as well as to ask questions where only our members hear the conversation.

Camilo Ballesty Visit - - Camilo Ballesty visited Tonawanda Engine Plant on Thursday, March 17th. Camilo is the North American Executive Director of Manufacturing and Labor Relations. He attended our weekly Key 4 meeting where we had a half hour to promote our plant. We told Camilo that with every obstacle thrown at us during the pandemic and the issues with parts shortages, and high absenteeism due to Covid leaves, we were able to keep GM's assembly plants running without any disruption from Tonawanda Engine Plant. This is quite an accomplishment! We spoke about how much our plant has improved in our metrics, especially cost per unit and hours per unit. We explained that these improvements were difficult on our membership, but that this type of performance goes a long way towards securing future programs. I told them of the urgent need for a new program for plant 5 and how this uncertainty hurts morale on the floor. GM's management style of keeping everyone afraid about their job security is no way to treat people, and it is making us not a workplace of choice. We deserve better as GM knows what work is going to which plants.

My key takeaways from this meeting were **1.** GM's all electric future does NOT include the imminent electrification of Heavy-Duty Trucks. This is great to hear from him because it means that Tonawanda has a long and important role in GM's Truck Dominance Vision. Internal combustion engines will be around for some time as it is going to take a while for the transition to electric to happen. **2.** GM has announced billions of dollars in investment this year and there are many more announcements to be made. We explained to Camilo that Plant 5 has over 600,000 square feet of prime real estate which would be a great place for ICE or Electric Powertrain Systems.

The feedback from local management is that Camilo was very impressed with our performance, the success of the Heavy-Duty Mod 7 launch, and more importantly our people that make this all happen. Great job Brothers and Sisters.

Heavy-Duty Block Mod # 7 - Camilo Ballesty participated in the HD Block Mod 7 Start of Regular Production Ceremony along with the Plant Director and Launch Engineer from Oshawa Assembly Plant. They were all very impressed with the area where Mod 7 is located that was transformed from an old, dilapidated area of the plant to a state-of-the-art machining center in less than 1 year from the start of construction. They were equally impressed with how well the team in Heavy Duty Blocks worked together to get through the validation of the equipment and quality processes to begin regular production. The success of this launch and moving of the Tool Room and Tooling Services departments without interruption to our operations shows how capable we are here at Tonawanda Engine Plant. This is the kind of performance that keeps us relevant to GM. Thank you to everyone involved in this project for their hard work.

In closing, I want to remind everyone there is an important GMS Calibration (Audit) taking place next week. There will be people touring our plant from GM and the UAW International Staff to see how well we utilize the principals of GMS to manufacture our engines. They will be around asking questions pertaining to our standardized work, quality standards, and escalation processes. It is of the utmost importance that Tonawanda does well on this calibration and we need to put our best efforts into achieving a good result. Our plant should do very well on many areas of this calibration because of the pride and craftsmanship that goes into Safely Building the World's Best Engines.

*In Solidarity,
Mike Grimmer*



Approved for posting:-
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