



UAW Local 774 Chairman's Report



Shop Chairman - Mike Grimmer

LOCAL 774

August 11, 2023

Brothers and Sisters,

National Negotiations are well under way in Michigan as we speak between the International UAW and the Big 3, including our General Motors contract. We have all submitted our resolutions from all of the UAW/GM plants in North America and the Top Bargaining Committee is working on the issues we have presented to them. The message to GM from our members is abundantly clear. The company has been extremely profitable for over a decade now and we want our fair share too. There is a lot of talk about how big and audacious the UAW demand list is, but nothing could be further from the truth!! We are simply asking for all the contractual language that was lost during the bankruptcy to be brought back. We made those sacrifices to save the company, and now that GM has been very profitable, it is time for those things to be returned.

Quite frankly I am excited to hear our International UAW saying the same things that we believe and feel on the shop floor every day. I applaud the efforts of our newly elected International UAW Executive Board to be open and transparent with the membership during this process. Let's all stand together in solidarity and show our support to our Top Bargaining Committee as they fight to bring us a contract full of gains. I will report any information that is shared with us. UAW President Shawn Fain has made it clear that September 14th at 11:59 PM is the deadline for our contract to be completed. I want everyone to be prepared in the event that we have to go out on strike to achieve our goals. I hope we do not have to, but I am more than willing to fight for what we deserve, and I know that you all feel the same.

Overtime Schedule – I want everyone to be aware that there are 2 shifts scheduled every Saturday for the foreseeable future in Gen 5 assembly. Please remember to sign up for all of the overtime that you want on the overtime sign up sheets. Management must utilize all volunteers up to 16 hours on Saturday prior to forcing people to work mandatory Saturdays. This is all part of our new Local Agreement and has been working well.

Supply Chain Issues – Our suppliers are still having difficulty keeping us stocked with parts to run the assembly line and build our engines. We are having a lot of shortages of head castings, fuel pumps, and other parts which is causing downtime during the week as well as causing the above-mentioned Saturdays to be cancelled. These part shortages are self-inflicted by the company due to the

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outsourcing of our work over the years to 3rd party suppliers. These lost engines could eventually cause downtime at the assembly plants very soon.

Clothing Update – The order for everyone choosing the point system has been approved and sent to Aramark for production. Once I have an ETA for this clothing, I will share it. The order for our Skilled Trades members that have chosen the clothing exchange program is in the final approval process and should begin production soon. Aramark has taken way more time to complete this process than expected and I apologize for the delay.

Summer Help Members – Management has informed the Shop Committee that our brothers and sisters that were returned from layoff for the summer months will be laid off week ending August 27th. With the upcoming contract and pending retirements, hopefully you will all be back soon. Please contact benefits with any questions that you might have.

In closing, I want the members to know that we should have a sharable copy of our 2019 Local Agreement in the next couple weeks. Tonawanda has not had a properly staffed Labor Relations department since shortly after we ratified our Local Agreement to accomplish this task. We have had to work with a couple different Personnel Directors from other plants in Michigan to put the contract together. It is almost ready for final review and approval. As soon as it is returned to the Shop Committee, we will share it. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

In Solidarity, Mike Grimmer

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Approved for posting:
/s/ Teddy Maldonado President
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JMR/OPEIU-153