



Local 592 Tribune

Dedicated to Working People Everywhere

Mike Bagley, Chair Education Committee
Tim Mills & Manuel Guerra, Editors

www.uaw592.com

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RC2 Workers Make A Difference With the UAW

On the day before the certification election on July 21st, when he said that RC2 workers would vote for their union, in-plant committee member Tom Bellows insisted that "We get no respect from the company. We have been accused of being criminals and saboteurs."

Brother Bellows gave two examples of such treatment:

Tom said he was handling some computer equipment when a supervisor approached him.

"She said 'Wrap it in black plastic so no one can steal it,' explained Tom."

In another incident, a drain pipe

which ran from the roof to the floor had leaked, causing the building to be flooded.



"We get no respect"

"It would take a large monkey wrench to open that pipe, but we were accused of doing it, anyway," said Tom.

Bellows pointed to the prevailing pay scale in the Rochelle, Illinois area and compared it to the cheap deal they were getting at RC2:

"At RC2, we are 2-6 dollars per hour lower for warehouse work. Del Monte is union and pays 16\$ per hour," said Tom.

UAW Local 1268 member Dale Furlough said he volunteered for the July 20th RC2 plant gate rally "...be-

cause I believe these people need support. They need a fair wage."

On Election Day July 21st,



"They need a fair wage"

workers voted at RC2 19-8 for union representation. Organizer Wayne Hungerford agreed with in-plant committee member Tom Bellows that respect for employees was a key issue.

"Harassment and intimidation is what led the workers to organize," said Wayne.

Hungerford explained that RC2 is a shipping and receiving warehouse. RC2 workers receive inventory from China and ship it to the UAW Local 1982 plant in Dyersville, Iowa.

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"Harassment and intimidation is what lead the workers to organize"



Thanks to membership approval at our September meeting, RC2 has officially become Unit 3 of Local 592. A hearty welcome to our new Sisters and Brothers!

"Shop Talk"

Let's welcome our new members from RC2 into our great Local. RC2 is a distribution warehouse located in Rochelle, IL. In July, workers at RC2 voted to join the UAW. We are adding 30+ brothers and sisters into our Local from RC2 and they are gaining over 1500 active and retired brothers and sisters upon whom they can rely in times of need.

Election day is less than a month away. Walter Reuther once said, "[t]here is a direct relationship between the bread box and the ballot box." Truer words have never been spoken. We see that throughout the Bush administration's leadership that gains made at the bargaining table can easily be taken away through the stroke of a pen by politicians who cater to big business. On November 7th, vote for pro-worker candidates, so that we can begin to take our country back.

Here in the 16th Congressional District of Illinois we have fallen victim to the bad laws and trade policies that Congressman Don Manzullo continues to support. He stated openly that he would continue to favor such bad deals – even as the job-killing Singapore Free Trade Agreement was being considered in Congress and when Hamilton Sundstrand management was announcing their intention to relocate over 150 jobs to Singapore. Congressman Manzullo betrays the 16th Congressional District, here in Illinois, and the whole country by supporting laws and treaties that further weaken our manu-

facturing and economic base. Fortunately, we have an alternative to Congressman Manzullo in Dick Auman who is challenging Manzullo in November.

Congratulations to the newest Stewards of Local 592: Lance Anderson, Ron Bellars, Mike Gonzalez, Mike Petrie, Dave Rodriguez, and Matt Schulte. The Stewards are the backbone of our Local but are only as strong as our solidarity. Always remember; a grievance against one is a grievance against all.

At the August meeting, the membership decided that Recording Secretary, Mike Rourke, will replace Bill Kiddell as the second full-time Union officer at the Union Hall. This change will make our Local more efficient. Any insurance issues or questions should be directed to Mike Rourke either at the Union Hall (815-962-0600) or through his pager (815-983-1189).

The Ron Engelkes discharge grievance was settled just short of arbitration. Ron will receive a lump sum payment and be able to retire with pension benefits and insurance.

Al Harring and John Rinaldo are back in the plant from lay-off performing non-traditional work. Your Bargaining Committee is determined to get more of our sisters and brothers back on non-traditional work, as we push the company to replace the "yellow badges" with union people who can

perform that work. Everyone should be on the look-out for non-traditional work opportunities. If you know of any, please contact your Steward or any member of the Bargaining Committee.

The company has re-established the Attendance program by training management on how it is supposed to work. Stewards and the Bargaining Committee were present for the training in order to insure that management understood that the program was set-up to help the employee if he/she had problems and to enhance communication between employees and supervision. The Joint Attendance Committee (Sue Deskovich/Mike Havens for the Union and Jennifer Sutherland/Gene Weitzl for the company) will meet monthly to review any attendance issues. Remember to punch up the call-in number if you are going to be absent: (815)226-6275.

The RMFG SIP Cell shut down schedule has been changed from October 20th to October 27th. The only equipment still scheduled to remain after the SIP Cell shuts down on the 27th is the Okuma Lathe, the VU-65, and one finisher's bench.

Management submitted a proper WARN letter for RMFG dated September 29, 2006. Layoffs cannot occur in Rockford Manufacturing without penalty until November 30th, 2006. Once a WARN letter is issued, the affected employees are entitled to either 60 days work or pay. If an employee who

is covered under the WARN Act is laid off prior to the 60 days the company must pay the remaining wages. For example, if a WARN employee is laid off after 40 days then the company would be required to pay the remaining 20 days pay. The Union will file for Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) benefits for RMFG now that we have received a proper WARN letter.

Actuation — Actuation management continues to change the layoff schedule faster than the Union can communicate it through Union Updates. It does not appear that they have any idea of what the schedule is and that

they are making up the schedule as they go. We will communicate changes as fast as we can, but with a wishy-washy management, it may not be easy.

401-K — It has come to our attention that employees are encountering problems restarting their 401-K when returning from involuntary layoffs. We have made management aware and are working to resolve the problem.

Phone Numbers & Addresses — Please update your phone number and address and send them to the UAW Hall so you can receive flowers in the

event of a death in your family, Solidarity magazine and other Union mailings, or in the case of H/S, so you can receive paychecks, insurance information and S.U.B.

592 Website — The newsletter has been password protected on the UAW 592 website. Any Local 592 member wishing to view the newsletter on the website will need a user id and password. The user id for all members is: uaw592 and the password is: tribune.

In Solidarity,

Your Bargaining Committee



Had enough of the rubber stamp?

Don Manzullo has rubber stamped Bush administration policies 82% of the time!

> Iraq: Manzullo says, "Stay the course" in this foreign policy disaster, yet opposes expanding military health insurance to the National Guard and Reservists fighting there.

>> Healthcare: Manzullo voted for the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill, handing the health care industry billions of dollars in windfall profits, while *denying Medicare* the ability to bargain for lower drug prices.

>>> Minimum Wage: Manzullo *voted against* raising the minimum wage for hard-working Americans, but repeatedly votes to cut the taxes of the very wealthiest Americans.

>>>> Jobs: Manzullo voted to keep tax breaks for *companies outsourcing American jobs* overseas.

>>>>> Social Security: Manzullo *voted to privatize* the Social Security safety net.

>>>>>> Stem Cell Research:

Manzullo *voted to deny* federal support for stem cell research that could lead to cures for deadly diseases.



16th District Candidate Dick Auman

Congressman Manzullo is clearly part of the problem!

The solution?

Send Dick Auman to Washington to...

Vigorously support the real War of Terror and bring our sons and daughters home from the bloody civil war in Iraq.

Work for access to affordable health care for every American.

Raise the minimum wage for working Americans and stop tax cuts for the very rich.

Fight to keep jobs here and to penalize companies that outsource them overseas.

Strengthen the Social Security safety net for ourselves and future generations.

Fund stem cell research.

It's Time for Change! Send new leadership to Washington for Illinois' 16th district. **Vote for Richard Auman.**

Information received from the Richard D. Auman for Congress Committee



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