

# LOCAL 551 INFORMER



## Where International Workers Day Started – Chicago’s Haymarket



## West Virginia Teachers The Start of a Working Class Revival?



Serving the membership of UAW Local 551 Ford Chicago Assembly Plant, Team Solutions, Troy Design Manufacturing (TDM), & Union Sorters of America





**Pam & Lisa**  
Install roof molding

**Ashley**  
Installs Headlamps

**Basil**  
Sends Doors To Doorline

**Trim A-Crew installs all the bells and whistles!  
We Salute the Hard Working Men and Women of  
UAW Local 551**

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### Retiree Chapter

Carl Bishop.....	Chapter Chairman
Lester Long.....	1st Vice Chairman
Harry Neumaier .....	2nd Vice Chairman
Frankie Rockhill.....	Recording Secretary
Stephanie Overton.....	Financial Secretary
Curtis Thomas.....	Sergeant-At-Arms

## Local 551 Web & Facebook

Local 551 Website - [uawlocal551.com](http://uawlocal551.com)

Facebook- UAW Local 551 Union Hall & UAW Local 551 Communications

### Local Officers

President	Chris Pena
Vice President	Scott Houldieson
Recording Secretary	Mindy Capps
Financial Secretary	Steve Roman
Trustee	Terri Houldieson
Trustee	Scott Mathey
Trustee	Jason Wachowski
Sergeant-At-Arms	Wayne Davis
Guide	Ken DenHartog
Chairman CAP,	Alan "Coby" Millender
Unit Committee	Tommy Kotallis
Unit Committee,	Aaron Straker
Unit Committee	Jeff Bacon
Retirees Rep.	Lester Long

### Team Solution

#1 Shift Steward	Randy Watson
Alt-	
#2 Shift Steward	Devon Warren
Alt- Eric Clay	
#3 Shift Steward	Anthony Fraction
<b>USA</b>	
<b>All Shifts</b>	
<b>TDM</b>	
Silvano Castillo	Chairman
Diego Jimenez	1st Shift Rep
Gabriel Guevara	2nd Shift Rep
Joe Bailey	2nd Shift Alt

## Union Hall

13550 S. Torrence Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
(773)646-1472

In Plant Committee (Area Code 773) or  
Dial 1-800-(367-3551) then the last 4 for the extension

Alan "Coby" Millender, CAP Chairman	646-7336
Jeff Bacon, Unit Committeeperson	646-7427
Aaron "Hammer" Straker, Unit Committeeperson	646-7129
Tommy Kottalis, Unit Committeeperson	646-7338

### Pre-Delivery, MP&L, Sequencing Center, IQ

John Harris, District Committeeperson	646-7271
Omar Myrick, Alternate Committeeperson	
Anthony Fitch, District Committeeperson	646-7271
Jay Rogers, Alternate Committeeperson	
Kendric Grady, District Committeeperson	646-7271
Laurese Stephen, Alternate Committeeperson	

### Body, Paint

Armando Lozano, District Committeeperson	646-7198
Kevin Ballard, Alternate Committeeperson	
Marcus Carpenter, District Committeeperson	646-7198
Dave Johnson, Alternate Committeeperson	
"Chill" Willie Jackson, District Committeeperson	646-7198
Jonathan "Red" Williams, Alternate Committeeperson	

### Trim, Door Line, IP Line, Trim Repair,

Yahir "Chud" Ben Yisrael, District Committeeperson	646-7194
Anita Garza, Alternate Committeeperson	
Janice Gray, District Committeeperson	646-7194
Marlin "Tank" Cox, Alternate Committeeperson	
Mark Allen, District Committeeperson	646-7194
Shaun Beasley, Alternate Committeeperson	

### Chassis, Motor Line, Sub-Frame, QOSC's, SPC's, Receiving Shop Floor (Sec. G)

Billy Aburto, District Committeeperson	646-7193
Randy Smith, Alternate Committeeperson	
Jimmy "Jam" Jones, District Committeeperson	646-7193
Rhonda Smith, Alternate Committeeperson	
Darrick "Weve" Powell, Committeeperson	646-7193
Ayanna Dixon, Alternate Committeeperson	

### Skilled Trades

Mike Marzillo, District Committeeperson (Grp 1)	646-7426
Frank Kubicz, Alternate Committeeperson	
Steve DenHartog, District Committeeperson (Grp 2)	
Alternate Committeeperson	

### Appointed Representatives

Star Jones, C-Crew Health & Safety	646-7199
George Butler, B-Crew Health & Safety	646-7199
Justin Woods, A-Crew Health & Safety	646-7199
Laura Smith, Benefits	646-7130
Thomas Griffin, Benefits,	646-7512
Yolanda "Yogi" Anderson ESSP & Education	646-7192
Willisha "Pechez" Ruff, ESSP & Education	646-7192
Dawn Diggs, Days, Quality	646-7125
Angela Dulaney, Nights Quality	646-7125
Scott Retherford, Production Standards	646-7195
Brian Robinson, ERC & FPS	646-7533
Sean Brown, Joint Apprenticeship Committee	646-7147
Kevin "Red" Marshall, Ergonomics	646-7137
Kenya Townsend FPS	646-7116
Ratko Drljaca FPS	646-6403
Pete Sotelo FPS	646-7380
Tim Thomas FPS	646-7580

### Heights Auto Workers Credit Union

Burnham Location	(708)891-6990
Chicago Heights Location	(708)758-4277

### Benefits

visit our web site for more ( <a href="http://www.uawlocal551.com">www.uawlocal551.com</a> )	
Retiree Health Care Connect	(877)829-9444
Delta Dental for Retirees	(800)524-0149
Medco	(866)662-0274
Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) & TESPHE	(800)248-4444
Active Blue Cross/ Blue Shield HMO	(800)892-2803
Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Dental for	
Active members (DenteMax)	(800)752-1547
Active Blue Cross/ Blue Shield HMO	(800)482-5146
Ford A, X & Z Plan	(800)348-7709

INFORMER STAFF – Miles Warren, Sandy Stagner, Paulette Hyneman, Vicky Gossett, Sylvia Blanco, Ron Coppage, Scott Houldieson, Kellie Banks, Tony Puente II

## Local 551 Presidents Report

By Chris Pena

I would like to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to represent Local 551 at the 37th Constitutional Convention that takes place in Detroit. It is an honor and privilege to represent the hard-working men and women of Local 551. Delegates will be voting for a new International UAW President to replace Dennis Williams and a new International UAW Vice-President to replace Jimmy Settles as well as vote on resolutions that have been submitted by different UAW locals throughout the country.

Saturday April 21st, the Annual Bike Blessing hosted by the Motorcycle Committee was held at the Local 551 Union Hall. Dozens of motorcycle enthusiasts attended this event and a music video was filmed also for our "Made in America Campaign". The Motorcycle Committee has enormous support and participation from our members. This committee organizes charity bike rides for veterans, children with disabilities, and other charitable causes. The next charity bike run is scheduled for June 23rd from Calumet Harley in Munster, Indiana benefitting the Down Syndrome Association.

The first week of July shutdown has many events planned by Local 551. The Recreation Committee will be hosting the Family Picnic held at Six Flags Great America on July 2, 6, and 7th. Discounted tickets will be made available online including the union discount code. July 3rd we will be in the Annual Highland, Indiana Twilight Parade. All members who want to

participate in this parade can contact me at the Union Hall. Sunday July 8th the Recreation Committee is hosting the 39th Annual UAW Family Picnic. It will be held at Hidden Lake Park in Merrillville, Indiana. All members and their families are welcome and this will be another great event to build solidarity amongst the membership.



Recently Local 551 reached a settlement agreement with the company approved by a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board. This agreement states:

- The company will not interrogate you in response to your or other employees' protected union activities
- The company will not suspend or discipline you in response to your protected union activities
- The company will not prohibit you from lawfully discussing employee discipline or disciplinary investigations

This action was taken after the company continued to violate our members' rights under the National Labor Relations Act. As part of the agreement the company was required to post the letter from the settlement agreement. You can see it in the glass case outside of Labor Relations.

April 28th, 2018 marks the 48th anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. It is also a day recognized annually as National Worker's Memorial Day, a day of reflection and remembrance in honor of workers who have been injured or killed on the job. We must recommit to being aware of good safety practices, both at work and at home. Serious injuries can be life changing, and fatalities change many

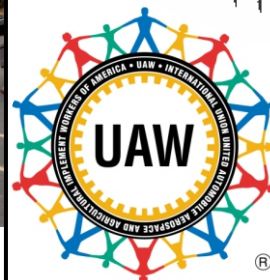
lives forever. When it comes to an unsafe act or condition, if you see something, say something. Make it personal to you and your co-workers and document it.



2017 Twilight Parade



Robert Allen leads the Motorcycle Committee for a made in America music video for a contest sponsored by the AFL-CIO.





Alan Coby Millender

### Local 551 Membership, #IT'S ALL ABOUT Union

It's a brand new season on the horizon! We are about to landmark history by producing autonomous vehicles, Explorer plug-in hybrid's and new luxury Lincoln Aviator plug-in hybrid's. A big hand clap to the UAW Membership, including all the retiree's for the blood, sweat and tears endured in getting us here.

As reported this is the first revamp for the company in 50 years. Chicago Assembly Plant has been chosen as one of the plants to help build the future!

### WE DID THIS! GET READY!

Also evident are the continued efforts to fulfill the agreements we, the Bargaining Team secured for the Membership in the Local Contract. Below are just a few highlights checked marked indicating **we got it done!**

- Super Holiday Language ✓
- Overtime Agreement ✓
- Supplementing Classifications & assignments of OT ✓
- OT Equalization ✓
- Alternate Work Schedules ✓
- Restroom Relief ✓
- Painting and Clean up ✓
- New Facility Items Gained ✓
- New Escalators ✓
- Smoker Huts ✓
- Remodeled Break Areas ✓
- New Picnic Tables ✓
- Remodeled Bathrooms ✓
- Remodeled Fitness Center ✓
- New Fitness Center Equipment ✓

In Solidarity, Coby

# CAP Chairman's Report

What's New...FACILITY UPGRADES PER OUR LOCAL CONTRACT May, 2018



### Fitness Center

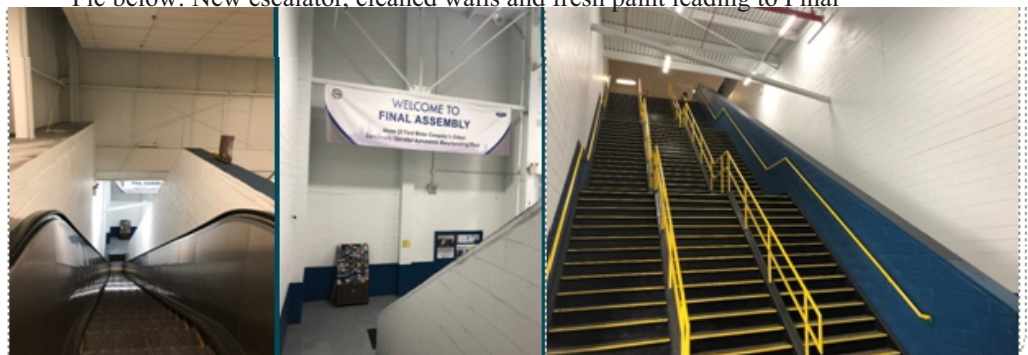
- New equipment
- New lighting
- 3 new Tv's
- Fresh paint
- Hand sanitizer dispenser
- Water fountain
- Drop ceiling replaced
- Vent cleaned
- Replaced floor
- Installed clock
- Added outlets and switches
- Air conditioner working, not leaking
- Cleansers to wipe equipment

Special thanks to 'Pechez' and 'Yoggi' the ESSP Reps who manage the Fitness Center Bob Forsell, Project Coordinator overseeing ALL Facility projects; Team Solutions for their cleanup efforts Danny Palumbo and every involved Electrician and Skilled Trades Journeyman helping to get the job done!



Pic above: New 'Buggy parking area' for Ford safety, UAW safety, Body Shop maintenance, Environmental and Union officials. Across the aisle are 5 additional parking spots for the Membership. This area was added for safety, eliminating parking in the isles, pedestrian walkways and in front of the medical elevator.

Pic below: New escalator, cleaned walls and fresh paint leading to Final



## Vice President's Viewpoint

By Scott Houldieson

Allow me to begin by congratulating the candidates who ran for delegate. We all put ourselves out there with the purpose of being the voice of Local 551 at the Constitutional and Special Bargaining Conventions. Thank you for allowing me the honor of representing you there again.

It is now May of 2018. There are sixteen months remaining on our current contract. To put it another way; we have sixteen months to prepare our contract demands and prepare ourselves to make sure they are met.

Over the next few months we will be organizing a committee to help prepare for negotiations. It's important that we all participate in the process. We will collect contract ideas and do our best to help every member get their ideas heard while preparing everyone for their role in getting a great contract in 2019.

To some that will sound like pie in the sky. There are two ways to look at it. We can either sit back and take whatever is sent our way. Alternatively we can organize to make sure OUR negotiators know what we want and that we expect OUR contract ideas to be on the table and fought for.

The first thing I'd suggest to everyone is build a little nest egg. When those bonuses come around put them away. Find room in your budget to put just \$50 per week aside. That will total to a little over \$3,200 by September of 2019 to help you get through a tough spell. The savings will give you some breathing room in case we are forced to fight for a fair contract. Actually the only way we can win a fair contract is to fight for it. If we don't strike you will have the extra money either for a treat or to put towards retirement.

Second think about the goals you have for your family; College fund, a home, more time for your family. Think about the goals you have for your job; dignity, safety, a bearable workload. The company is here to make money. To make profits they need us. To maximize profits they push to squeeze the most work for the least money out of us. It's in our best interest to work together to keep our workload at a reasonable level. It's in our best interest to work together to increase our compensation.

West Virginia teachers showed us what power workers have when they stand together. In West Virginia teachers don't have collective bargaining rights or the right to strike. The state legislature was attacking them from many angles.

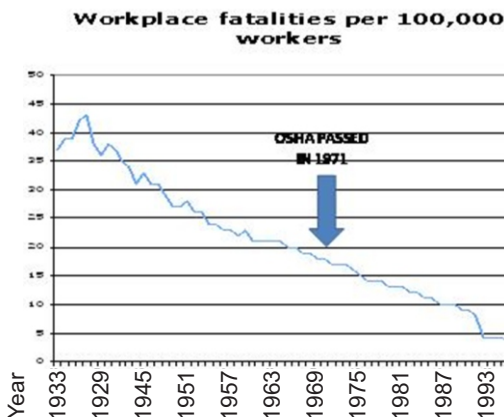
Fed up with the attacks they quickly organized their resistance. We have more time to organize our resistance. Let's not waste any of it.

### Mourn for the dead. Fight for the living.

Workers Memorial Day is April 28th. Why was this date chosen? It is the day in 1971 that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) became a functional government agency. The Occupational Safety and Health Act which created OSHA was passed in December of 1970 and was signed by President Nixon on December 29, 1970.

At the dawn of the Industrial Revolution workplace safety wasn't even an afterthought. Workers were concerned but employers and government were oblivious. One of the earliest systematic surveys of workplace fatalities was conducted in Allegheny County Pennsylvania from July 1906 to June 1907. In that one year period 526 workers died in workplace accidents in just one county.

The National Safety Council, was founded in 1913. They began collecting safety statistics. In 1913 they estimated there were 23,000 workplace fatalities that year out of a total workforce of 38 million. This was a rate of 61 fatalities per 100,000 workers. By 1970, the year before OSHA was enacted high unionization rates and other regulations had reduced workplace fatalities but there were still more than 14,000 per year. By 2016 that number dropped to 4,821 fatalities per year. A rate of 3.6 fatalities per 100,000 workers.



**Any UAW Local 551 member interested in being part of the contract committee for the 2019 Ford contract call or text Scott Houldieson 219-801-2002**



Source National Safety Council

## LEADERSHIP starts with YOU

**L**eadership is one of those words that we hear people called themselves all the time. People misinterpret what leadership is, they define leadership by title, authority, position, seniority, and experience.

For me, the essence of leadership is about people. It is about who you are when you show up in life, when you show up for the people who surround you. It is your presence in the conversation, it is the deep listening and it is the establishment of a relationship connection as you lean in and build trust.

Leadership is about being the real you, it's the moment you lead with an open heart, the genuine you shines through and when you are not there, people connect with the experience that of what you made them feel at the time when you were leading.

People want to know what you stand for. What you really care about, what drives you, what makes you happy, what ticks you off and what inspires you. They want to know why they ought to be following you. Giving people your own time and energy is one of the most valuable gifts leaders can do.

Leadership is not something that can be turned on and off for convenience or for taking the easy way out of responding to a particular situation. It requires a commitment to continually educate and develop yourself, intentional relationships and earning the respect of those you lead, those you follow, and those who either regularly or occasionally are part of your life. The leadership journey begins with you. Therefore, the first person you must lead before you can lead others is YOU.

Inspired article source: John Maxwell



**Steve Roman**  
**Financial Secretary/ Treasurer**

## Trustees Take

**F**irst and foremost, Thank You to everyone that came out to vote in the delegate elections. Congratulations to everyone. Even if you didn't get elected you put yourself out there and showed you are a leader. I didn't make it as a delegate but I did make it as an alternate. I won't have the power to vote but this will be a learning experience that I am grateful for. I will be sure to give a full report on what happens at the Convention which will be in June.

On another note we had another successful Trustee audit. The International Auditing Department also conducted an audit covering the last four years. I am pleased to say neither audit found any misappropriations of funds. As always I am available if you have any questions. You can find me in the Chassis Shop on C Crew.

In Solidarity,  
Terri Houldieson





## ESSP Spring Report

My Union Family

This year, the UAW ESSP will host CAP's Annual Health & Education Fair in August. We will keep you updated with more information. The UAW-Ford Rouge Powerhouse Memorial Scholarship is going on now through May 15th. The scholarship is for incoming 2018 Fall College Freshmen. Please keep in mind, dependent children of Active UAW represented Ford employees, their spouse or same sex domestic partner are eligible for the UAW-Ford Community Engagement Scholarship up to \$1,500 per calendar year. You can find additional information on the Education Boards in the Mezzanine, New Body Stairwell, Pre-Delivery and our Local website; [www.uawlocal551.com](http://www.uawlocal551.com) or [www.myuawford.com](http://www.myuawford.com).

UAW ESSP/ Education Rep. Pechez Ruff



## ESSP/ Education Spring Report

Greetings Brothers & Sisters of UAW Local 551,

First and foremost I would like to congratulate the members that were converted to full time in-progression. Just to let you know that after 90 days you are now eligible to use your ETAP funds to attend classes at an accredited college. Six thousand per year, so do not hesitate to take advantage of this opportunity to go back to school. Knowledge is power. Just contact the ESSP/ Education Reps. for more information about signing up for classes in the future. Yoggi 773-646-6716 or Pechez 773-646-7192.

We are here to assist you. Also we want to welcome the transfers from the Stamping plant and the recent TPT's. In solidarity let's extend a helping hand to assist each and every one of them, we are our brothers and sisters keeper.

Did you know.... We have new equipment in the fitness center, stop by and get fit for life. With the summer fast approaching make sure to eat a well balanced meal daily, drink plenty of water to stay hydrated, also visit your PCP for a yearly check up. Staying healthy is important.

### BCBSM PPO UPDATES

There are two updates to the BCBSM PPO Plan. The first update. 3D mammography is now a covered benefit. 3D mammography can significantly improve the early detection of breast cancer. The procedure takes 3D images of the breast from multiple angles using a small rotating digital scanner. This procedure is great for women who have been

identified as having dense breast tissue, those who have a family history of breast cancer or who may be at a higher risk for developing the disease.

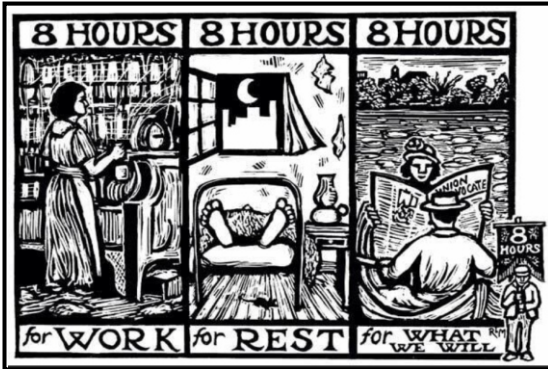
The second update. There is a stool DNA test now available as an alternative for some low-risk patients to a colonoscopy. It is sold under the name cologaurd. A stool sample is collected at home and mailed to a lab. The test does not require special preparation or medication restrictions. As always talk to your doctor. If you have benefit questions stop by, call, leave voice mail, or email the benefits office.



# What About The Eight Hour Day?

By Scott Houldieson

One of the great tragedies of the Labor Movement is the battle over the eight hour day. The blood of many workers was spilled to win precious time for rest and leisure. The modern Labor Movement has dishonored that struggle by negotiating away this hard fought right. Future generations of the working class will have to re-fight battles already won because we didn't fight for our rights.



At their 1884 convention in Chicago the Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions resolved that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886, and that we recommend to labor organizations throughout this jurisdiction that they so direct their laws to conform to this resolution by the named time."

In Chicago, on May 1, 1886, Albert Parsons, head of the Chicago chapter of the Knights of Labor, along with his wife Lucy and two children led 80,000 people down Michigan Avenue in support of the eight hour day. This is widely considered to be the first ever May Day Parade.

In the days following the May 1, 1886 deadline for the eight hour day, more than **350,000 workers nationwide went on strike** at over 1,200 factories. In Chicago alone 70,000 workers were on strike in support of the eight hour day.

On May 3, 1886, August Spies, editor of the Arbeiter-Zeitung (German for Workers Newspaper), spoke to a meeting of 6,000 workers. After the meeting many of them moved down the street to confront strikebreakers at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Co. Chicago plant. The Chicago Police arrived and opened fire on the strikers, killing four and wounding scores more. The Chicago Times called the killings justified.

A protest meeting was called for the next day, May 4, 1886, at the Haymarket Square near the present day intersection of Randolph St. and DesPlaines Ave. The protest was put together hastily. With little time to promote the meeting, still about 2,500 people showed up.

The first speaker was August Spies. Spies sent a messenger out to look for Parsons, Samuel Fielden, (Fielden was Treasurer American Group of the International Working Person's Association and a good speaker), to help him address the meeting.

The mayor of Chicago, Carter Harrison, had issued a permit for the meeting and attended it. August Spies gave brief opening remarks, then Albert Parsons spoke for over an hour. As the last speaker, Samuel Fielden, began his speech Mayor Harrison went to the DesPlaines Ave. Police station to tell Captain Bonfield to send his extra officers home because the meeting was about to end. Instead, Bonfield waited until he was sure the Mayor had gone home and sent the officers to disburse the meeting.

It was starting to rain, so when the police arrived at the meeting there were only about 200 left in attendance. Bonfield sent the police into the crowd. As they advanced someone threw a dynamite bomb into the police formation. One officer was killed instantly by the bomb. The police began indiscriminately firing their weapons, and in the process killed eight more police, injuring 60. An unknown number of workers were killed and injured.

In the following days hundreds of people were arrested. The police never learned the identity of the bomb thrower. Chicago newspapers published unsubstantiated police theories of anarchist conspiracies, and xenophobic attacks on foreign born workers. Many of the inflammatory articles called for revenge against anarchists and unionists.

Amid the calls for revenge eight prominent speakers and writers were arrested and tried for murder. They were: Adolph Fisher, who distributed fliers advertising the Haymarket Meeting, he worked for a German newspaper print shop; Albert Parsons, who gave a speech at the meeting, & was the head of the Chicago chapter of the Knights of Labor; August Spies, who addressed the opening of the Haymarket Meeting, & was the editor of the German Workers Newspaper; George Engel, who was a factory worker and union activist but didn't attend the Haymarket Meeting,

These were the four that were eventually executed November 11, 1887. Louis Lingg was also scheduled to hang with Fisher, Parsons, Spies and Engel. Lingg escaped the gallows by taking his own life the day before the executions. He lit a blasting cap in his mouth. Lingg was a carpenter by trade. He was not present at the Haymarket Meeting, but was convicted.

Meanwhile three men remained in prison, two on death row. Michael Schwab, and Samuel Fielden were on death row. Oscar Neebe, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison. He was the office manager for the Arbeiter-Zeitung.

Michael Schwab was one of the editors along with Spies. Neebe was convicted despite the fact that he was not at the Haymarket Meeting. When he

**Attention Workingmen!**

GREAT

**MASS-MEETING**

TO-NIGHT, at 7.30 o'clock,

AT THE

HAYMARKET, Randolph St., Bet. Desplaines and Halsted.

Good Speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious act of the police, the shooting of our fellow-workmen yesterday afternoon.

Workingmen Arm Yourselves and Appear in Full Force!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

**Achtung, Arbeiter!**

Große

**Massen-Versammlung**

Heute Abend, 7 1/2 Uhr, auf dem

Haymarket, Randolph-Strasse, zwischen

Desplaines- u. Halsted-Str.

Die Gute Rede werden den neuesten Schuttschreih der Polizei, indem sie gestern Nachmittag unsere Brüder ersch. getöten.

Arbeiter, bewaffnet Euch und erscheint massenhaft!

Das Executiv-Comite.

**Handbill calling for a meeting of workers in reaction to the shooting of strikers by Chicago Police at McCormick factory**



# What About The Eight Hour Day?



heard that Spies and Schwab had been arrested he took over editing duties until his arrest a couple of days later.

Samuel Fielden was the last speaker at the Haymarket Meeting. His speech was interrupted by the police advancing. Fielden was reluctant to make a speech. He was climbing down from the speech platform when the bomb was thrown.

These events are the origins of International Workers Day – May Day. This is recognized as a national holiday in more than 90 nations around the world. From Algeria and Brazil to India and the United Kingdom May 1st is a national holiday. Some of the countries, such as Argentina, Italy and Sweden have celebrated May 1st as Labour Day since 1890.

In the United States Labor Day was chosen on the other end of the calendar. The September Labor Day holiday was passed by Congress as an appeasement to labor after the repressive tactics the U.S. Government used to put down the Pullman Strike in 1894. It's time for a resurgent labor movement to agitate for workers to have a national holiday on May 1st.

Song writer John Warner commented: "I heard an ABC program which dealt with the erosion of the eight hour day principle via individual contracts and "flexibility" arrangements. I think the eight hour day concept must be stated explicitly as a standard from which we must refuse to budge and that all work done beyond that point be at the choice of the worker and paid with meaningful penalty rates to compensate for the time lost to rest and recreation with the family."

I've personally participated in May Day commemoration at the Haymarket since 2006. It's a day to remember the struggles of our forefathers, most of whom were immigrants. It's a time to renew the struggle for shorter hours without a reduction in pay.

We must come together and renew the fight our ancestors won against the forces aligned to exploit us. By come together I mean talk and walk with our coworkers our neighbors and our class. By come together I mean both locally and internationally. We are taught to be nationalistic and look at foreigners as something other than us. The multinational corporations love this. We are so much easier to exploit when we are kept divided.

Pastor Martin Niemoller preached in Germany in the mid 1930's until he was arrested and put into a Nazi Concentration Camp in 1937. He said:

First they came for the Communists and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the Socialists and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me— and there was no one left to speak for me.

The attacks on immigrants and refugees we are witnessing today are an attempt to divide the working class. They are reminiscent of the attacks on political opponents and scapegoated communities in fascist regimes. They harken back to the way the business class violently repressed the rising labor movement in the late 1800's.

Here are the lyrics to "The Eight-Hour Day" written by John Warner:

*Come all you workers and hear what I say,  
They're trying to plunder the eight-hour day,  
Won by our forbears in a bloody campaign,  
So rise up and be in the struggle again,*

**Chorus:**

*So stand up united, let no one betray  
Our right and our children's - the eight-hour day.*

*Individual contracts were made for the fool,  
If business divides us then business*

*can rule,  
If we let the government back what they say,  
It's a twelve-hour shift and no penalty pay.*

*This system they're making's a ticket to hell,  
Working weekends and Christmas and New Years as well,  
No time for the needs of our children and wives,  
If we let productivity measure or lives,*

*It's a user-pay's system as I have heard tell,  
They're using us hard, so they'd better pay well,  
Business and government walk hand in fist,  
And it's only in union we can resist.*

*So come all you workers and fight this abuse,  
Let overtime hours be our right to choose,  
Fight to regain a fair penalty pay,  
And grip like a bulldog the eight-hour day.*

Let us remember the words of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." Don't remain silent while our sisters and brothers are mistreated. It won't be long before there's no one left to speak for you.



**The Filipino Labor Federation (KMU) dedicated a plaque for display on the Haymarket monument at the 2018 ceremony.**

# UAW Local 551 Black History Month Event Unity In Our Communities

By Miles Warren Jr.

Sisters and Brothers every year in February our local 551 often reserve tables at some celebration for Black history month or we give a special presentation. This year our Civil and Human Rights Committee under the leadership of Ronald Earl Coppage, Chairman and Ronda Witherspoon CO-Chair put together an event for our members family and friends.

Unity In Our Communities Dinner was a Program here at our union hall on February 17, 2018 for our members, families and friends. Our local president Chris Pina had a big part in this endeavor by this committee. I had the pleasure to be at a couple of the meetings where they made plans for this event. Brother Ron said from the beginning that he had never done anything like this before, but I am here today to say what a great job Ron, Ronda, Chris and this committee did.

Ron and his committee brought in people like Riley H. Rogers Mayor of Dolton who gave a great speech about our community, K Love, a spoken word artist who said a poem, Andrew Holmes a community activist whom you might have seen on the news he goes where violent crimes happen around the city and he speak for families who have tragedy in their life. He spoke about things that are going on in the community. Maurice Gray from our very own local 551 gave a spoken word presentation. We also had a woman and man team who told folk stories about life situations, while she did the talking he played the bongos. We had guest from UAW Local 600 in Dearborn, MI and Local 588 in Chicago Heights, IL here for the program.

Did I tell you all about Ron's cousin Megan McNeil? She sang songs that lit the place up. The DJ was local 551's very own DJ Bouchee. He had the place rockin' with the music that he played. The dinner food was delicious it was severed in the kitchen by the committee. Let me tell you sisters and brothers the night was electric with energy.

Our local president Chris Pina said a few words and I even had a chance to speak briefly. The Unity In Our Communities was a big success I was there to take pictures and help out but I really enjoyed the whole program, sisters and brothers we need your support for events like this. So once again I want to thank Ronald Coppage, Ronda Witherspoon and the Civil Rights Committee for the wonderful job they did.! Until the next time keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars.

In Solidarity Miles Warren Jr.



# Diabetes in Our Workplace

By Miles Warren Jr.

Sisters and Brothers it has been brought to my attention that some of our coworkers are being mistreated by our own members because they have Diabetes. First I would like to say I think it's unfortunate someone would have this terrible disease. So I would like to educate our members that don't understand what Diabetes is and how it affect a person life.

Our bodies needs glucose to make energy. Glucose is a sugar that goes into our cells that makes up muscles and others tissues. Glucose comes from two major sources , the food we eat and our liver, your liver stores and makes glucose.

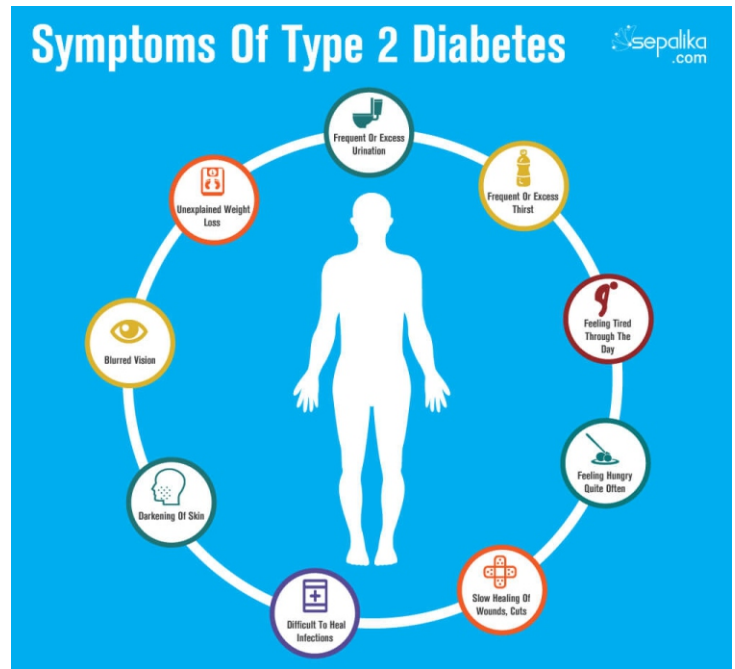
To understand diabetes you must understand how glucose is processed in the body. Insulin is a hormone that comes from a gland situated behind and below the stomach the (Pancreas). The pancreas secretes insulin into the blood stream, the insulin circulates, enabling sugar to enter your cells. Insulin lowers the amount of sugar in your blood stream. When your glucose levels are low like when you haven't eaten in a while the liver breaks down stored glycogen into glucose to keep the level within a normal range. As your blood sugar level drops so does the secretion of insulin from your pancreas.

Now Diabetes is a disease in which your blood sugar level are too high. So in other words you have all of this sugar in your blood stream and not enough insulin to lower your blood sugar level

Some of the symptoms and signs of diabetes type 1 and type 2: \*increased thirst \* frequent urination \* extreme hunger \*unexplained weight loss \* presence of ketones in urine (ketones are a by product of the breakdown of muscle and fat that happens when there's not enough available insulin) \*fatigue \*irritability \*blurred vision \*slow-healing sores \*frequent infections such as gum or skin infections and for females vaginal infections.

Type1 diabetes can develop at any age it typically appears during childhood or adolescence. Type2 diabetes - the more common type - can develop at any age but people over the age of 40 get it more often.

Long term complication of diabetes can be life threatening it can lead to \*cardiovascular disease \*nerve damage \* kidney damage \* eye damage \* foot damage \* skin conditions \* hearing impairment \* Alzheimer's disease.



Diabetes often can be prevented by eating healthy foods plus physical activity and losing excess weight. Risk for pre-diabetes:

- \*Your weight the more fatty tissue you have the more resistant your cells become to insulin.
- \*Inactivity the less active you are the greater the risk.
- \*Family history, your risk increase if your parents have or had diabetes.

Race has a lot to do with being a diabetic it's unclear why people of certain races like Black Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans are at higher risk than others. Your age, your risk increases the older you get and high blood pressure has a lot to do with being a diabetic.

Some people with diabetes can control the disease with diet and exercise alone. Others need to take insulin to help control their blood sugar. Insulin is sometimes taken in pill form, more advanced cases of diabetes require daily injections of insulin. People with diabetes frequently have to use the restroom and get fatigued. Cuts in people with diabetes can easily lead to infections. We need to be understanding and do our best to help our sisters and brothers who are dealing with their disability as best as they can.

Treat one another with compassion and consideration for this chronic disease. Some day it could be you that needs the understanding that your sister or brother needs today. So sisters and Brothers lets help our coworkers that have this disease. I believe we all are here to help each other for the betterment of mankind. Until the next time keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars!!!

**WHO'S AT RISK**  
for prediabetes or type 2 diabetes?

You could have prediabetes or type 2 diabetes and not know it—there often aren't any symptoms. That's why it makes sense to know the risk factors:

- 45+ years old
- Physically active less than 3 times/week
- Family history of type 2 diabetes
- High blood pressure
- History of gestational diabetes\*
- Overweight

\*Diabetes during pregnancy. Giving birth to a baby weighing 9+ pounds is also a risk factor.

**DID YOU KNOW...** African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, and some Asian Americans are at higher risk.

If you have any of the risk factors, ask your doctor about getting your blood sugar tested.



In Solidarity Miles Warren Jr.

# Teachers Write New Chapter In The Proud Labor History of West Virginia

By Scott Houldieson

When you think of West Virginia do you think of the birth of the US Labor Movement? Or do you think of a Red State where labor is weak? I think of it as the birthplace of legendary UAW President Walter Reuther.

West Virginia labor history began with the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. This was a month long strike that spread across the country. The strike was repressed violently by the U.S. Government. West Virginia was also the site of historic miners strikes. The Paint Creek – Cabin Creek Strike (1912), The Battle of Blair Mountain (1921), The Black Lung Strike (1969), The Pittston Coal Strike (1989-1990) all tell a story of labor unrest in West Virginia.

This year teachers added another chapter to the story of West Virginia labor history. Teachers went on a nine day state-wide strike. West Virginia teachers had gone on strike in 1990. In 1990 teachers in 47 of the 55 counties struck for higher pay. Over the next three years teachers pay was increased, faculty senates were established in each school, new training and support programs were created to develop better classroom instruction. This year the strike included all 55 counties. This is a state where teachers are prohibited by law from striking.

They have unions but don't have collective bargaining rights. Their wages and benefits are set by the state legislature and an appointed Public Employee Insurance Agency (PEIA). The party breakdown of the state Senate is 22 Republican and 12 Democrat. The breakdown in the State House of Delegates is 64 Republican and 36 Democrat.

Average teacher pay in West Virginia ranked 48th among the 50 states. Only Mississippi and Oklahoma average teachers pay was lower.

Six West Virginia teachers spoke on a panel at the Labor Notes Conference on April 6th. We learned about the issues that sparked the West Virginia teachers strike. You can see the discussion on YouTube at

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_CaxlW1NNeo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CaxlW1NNeo)



**West Virginia teachers were a hit of the Labor Notes Conference**

While low pay and stagnant wages have plagued the West Virginia teachers for years there was more behind the story. Brandon Wolford is a special education teacher at Mingo County Schools. Brandon knew the pay was low in West Virginia, but he said teacher felt we had pretty good healthcare benefits. It seemed like a good trade off. The insurance plan was an 80/20 plan – the state pays 80% of plan premiums and the employees pay 20%. Then the state began cutting the health insurance.

The PEIA is administered by a board appointed by the Governor. The board began making changes and the legislature was piling on. For starters premiums were based on an employee's income from their teaching job. The board changed that to base premiums on total family income. So if you worked an extra job, your spouse worked, or your children had jobs in your household premiums went up accordingly.

Then they instituted a "wellness" program named Healthy Tomorrows. Under that program there was a deadline for state employees to get a physical with their Primary Care Physicians. Their cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar and waistline must be at a stipulated level. If any of those were outside of the required level they would be an extra charged \$500 added to their deductible. This went on for a couple of years.

The PEIA board unilaterally imposed another increase in premiums. Then they announced a very intrusive change. The PEIA required a monitoring program called Go365. This program required employees to wear a Fit Bit, record their steps and check in by filling out a questionnaire that included some very probing questions.

Brandon told us about some of the questions at the Labor Notes Conference. They asked how much sexual activity do you perform per week? Is it vigorous? If they failed to participate fully in the Go365 program or didn't meet the required number of steps they were going to be charged an additional \$25 per month.

Meanwhile the state legislature was considering several bills that were an attack on public schools and public employees. One bill would double the insurance premiums. They were planning to switch from the 80/20 plan to a 60/40 plan. They were also considering a charter school bill and a bill to eliminate seniority for layoffs and promotions.

Teachers realized that the target of their anger was really the state legislature. While the PEIA board made changes to their insurance the PEIA board had no power to raise revenue. That power rested with the legislature. So the teachers targeted legislators. Teachers started Bird Dogging legislators. They would show up at places legislators were going to be and ask pointed questions about funding for PEIA. They video recorded these interactions and posted them on a Facebook group they created for organizing.



# Teachers Show When We Fight We Win!

Through the Facebook group they organized email campaigns to pressure legislators about PEIA funding. They organized lots of campaigns along the way to the strike.

January 10th West Virginia Governor Jim Justice gave the State of the State Address. In that speech he called on the State Legislature to pass a bill authorizing a one percent across the board pay increase for state employees, including teachers. Some of the teachers had been present for the speech and were prepared with an answer to the Governors miserly proposal. They dropped a banner in the chambers that read “Public Employee Healthcare Not Corporate Welfare Fund PEIA Now!”

West Virginia teacher Emily Comer reported that the day after the Governors speech everybody in the teachers lounge was suddenly talking about politics. After that speech public employees were enraged and engaged! Had the Governor not mentioned the one percent raise Emily doubts there would have been a strike. There was no mention of properly funding healthcare, which was the overarching issue. The one percent raise was a slap in the face to already fed up teachers.

Job action started as events called Fed Up Friday. The first was Friday February 2nd when the West Virginia State Senate passed a bill that would give teachers, staff and state police a 1% pay increase. Democrats in the Senate tried to get that increased to 3% but Republicans blocked the effort. The bill did nothing to address the increases in healthcare costs being passed on to public employees through the PEIA.

The first county voting to participate in Fed Up Friday was Mingo County followed closely by Wyoming then Logan Counties. Other counties organized walk-ins. Where teachers, support staff and their supporters would gather in front of the school before the start of school.

They gave speeches and carried banners as parents dropped off children for school. Then they’d all walk into school together. These events were designed to show that teachers and staff were organized and ready for action.

Nicole McCormick teaches at Mercer County schools. She told us how teachers and staff confidence grew. Teachers and staff were scared. Their pay was so low that very few had any savings to speak of. Then they began realizing their leverage. When the secretary didn’t show up everything was in disarray. When a couple of teachers were off they didn’t have enough substitutes. They were cramming the kids into other classes. There weren’t enough replacements for all of us.



One of the problems they faced was disunity. There were teachers represented by the National Education Association (NEA), American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and non members. The West Virginia Service Personnel Association once was part of the AFT but split in 2015. The different teachers unions were competing for members. It was the rank and file members who were the driving force behind the strike. They organized on

Facebook, in person and mass meetings of members and non members alike. All pledged to support each other against retaliation.

Monday February 12th the West Virginia AFT and NEA announced the results of a statewide strike authorization vote taken over the weekend. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of a strike.



February 20th the legislature passed a bill authorizing a 2% raise in the first year and subsequent 1% raises for state employees in each of the next two years. The bill did nothing to address the teachers main complaint – rising healthcare costs.

The strike began Thursday February 22nd. All 55 counties in West Virginia went on strike. A week later the Statewide Union Presidents and Governor Justice announced that a deal had been struck. The deal was for teachers and other school employees to receive a 5% raise and the Governor would create a task force to address the rising insurance costs. Senate President Mitch Carmichael, who would have to usher the deal through the Senate, was skeptical. So were teachers.

Teachers saw through the false promises. When the union Presidents came out from their meeting with the Governor they were greeted by teachers on the steps of the capital who were chanting “Back To The Table” and “We Are The Union Bosses”. Until they had the bill passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor teachers had no intention of returning to work. County by county votes were taken the following day to stay on strike.

When the teachers voted to continue their strike Governor Justice made the statement “Don’t be dumb bunnies trust me.” So teachers came to the capital in bunny costumes.

Teachers don’t pick their profession because of the pay. They teach because they love the work and they love the kids. That presented a dilemma. In a state where a high percentage of the children are eligible for reduced or free lunches the strike would be difficult for families who had trouble putting food on the table. Teachers reached out to churches and community organizations for help feeding the children.

(continued on next page)



(Continued from page 11)

The outpouring of community support was overwhelming. Brendan Muckian Bates who teaches in Monongalia County described setting up an assembly line of teachers and assistants packing donated food into bags for students to pick up. Brendan also contacted the local news outlets to let them know. That way word of the food donations spread quickly and it also was positive public relations for the strikers.

The public relations campaign was important because the Senate President Mitch Carmichael went on TV to say the teachers were depriving these children of the one or two meals they get at school. Brandon Wolford called old Mitch out asking where was this concern when the children were on spring break or out for the summer? Did the legislature propose extra funds to feed the children then?

Teachers were expected to return to their class rooms on Thursday March 1st. When their strike continued it became a wildcat strike. A wildcat strike is one that isn't authorized by the union, or in this case three unions.



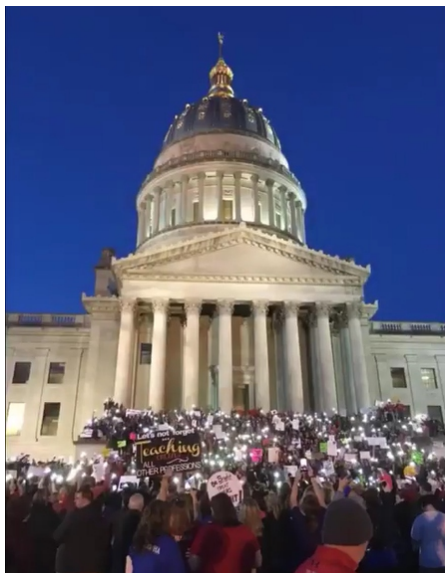
The county school district administrators realizing teachers and other staff, (including bus drivers and staff) were not coming back on Thursday began cancelling school. This did a couple of things for school employees. By officially cancelling classes the days would be made up, just like a snow day. This meant teachers would get their full salaries for the year. It also meant that teachers were free to go to the state capital to picket/lobby rather than being at their schools on the picket lines. At the capital one of the favorite chants delivered to legislators and the Governor was: Not 1, Not 2, Not 3, Not 4, but 55 are at your door! Referring to the fact that all 55 counties were out on wildcat strike.

Brandon Wolford, as the leader of his county teachers, found ways to help his co-workers get through a bit of time without pay. He arranged with the local credit union anyone who was without a pay day could get a personal loan for the amount of their paycheck and it would be paid off over time at a reasonable rate. Key is doing the advanced legwork to find solutions to these problems for your members ahead of the strike.



The state legislature met in Saturday session again on March 3rd. As teachers suspected they trimmed the deal Governor Justice had made of a 5% increase to 4%. The three unions issued a joint statement saying: "Senate President Mitch Carmichael and his leadership left them no choice. All West Virginia schools would be closed on Monday and remained closed until the Senate approved the deal that was made with Governor Justice."

Finally the Senate approved the bill but not without threatening cuts to Medicaid to pay for it. The Governor signed the bill, including a 5% raise all state employees, on Tuesday March 6th – bringing the teachers strike to an end in West Virginia. The actual bill made no mention of cuts to Medicaid. Teachers and other state workers have vowed to stay vigilant against future budget cuts that will hurt the families and children they serve.



Their primary demand remains unmet. West Virginia state employees are still waiting to see what recommendations the Governors PEIA task force will propose. Considering that public employees have few seats at the table on the task force teachers will remain wary. Even if the proposals are good that doesn't insure that the legislature will approve extra appropriations for the recommendations.

There are lessons to learn from the West Virginia teachers strike. The teachers demands were inclusive of all public employees so solidarity extended beyond teachers. They used Facebook as a means to democratize information. Mass action and civil disobedience works. They helped reduce the strain on the families of school children. They let the press know about their efforts to help the families they serve. The press became a pipeline of information to the families and increased good will for their strike in the communities they serve.

Teachers in Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona have put the lessons of West Virginia to use. Teachers in Colorado and Indiana have made some rumblings for more school funding or they too could be on the picket line. and converging on the state capitals.

[www.teacherportal.com/seacher-salaries-by-state/](http://www.teacherportal.com/seacher-salaries-by-state/)  
<http://wvpublic.org/post/march-7-1990-public-school-teachers-strike#stream/0>  
[www.nytimes.com/2018/02/27/us/west-virginia-teachers-strike-ends.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/27/us/west-virginia-teachers-strike-ends.html)



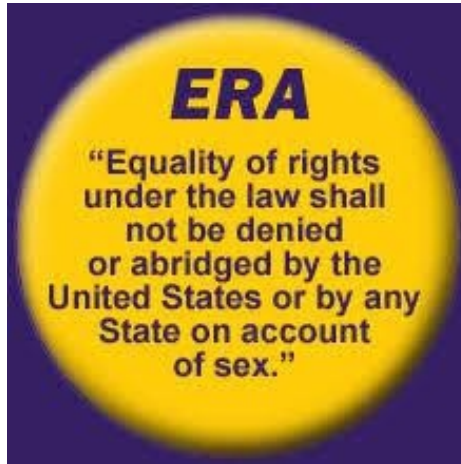


Addie Wyatt was a leader with the United Packinghouse Workers of America. Her activism and hard work helped win many "equal pay for equal work" provisions in local union contracts.

 [JFCW.org](http://JFCW.org)  
#EqualPayDay

## Equal Pay Day

By Scott Houddieson



Equal Pay Day is the calendar day that the typical must work until matching what the typical man made in the previous year. The gender wage gap is 80% as compared to White, non-Hispanic men. That means a woman would need to work until April 10, 2018 to earn what a man earned by the end of 2017.

Equal pay is also a family issue. Mothers fare even worse than the typical woman. The pay gap for mothers is 70% of what a man makes. Equal Pay Day for Mothers (May 30, 2018) is well after Mother's Day. Policy choices regarding paid family time and child care assistance contribute to the gap.

It would be a great achievement for families if we were to close the wage gap. According to the Pew Research Center mothers are either the sole or primary wage earner of the family in four out of ten American households with children under eighteen. If we value families then we must value the work women do as breadwinners.

What can we do to address this problem and close the gender pay gap? We can start with raising awareness about inequality. Equal Pay Day should be as recognized as other social justice initiatives are. Pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Many people aren't aware that the ERA was never passed. Nevada became the 36th of the required 38 states needed to pass the ERA. Nevada passed it on March 22, 2017. This is 35 years after the deadline Congress set of 1982. Legal scholars have noted that if the required number of states eventually ratify the ERA Congress can simply extend or remove the deadline.

Illinois is one of the states that failed to pass the ERA. There have been multiple times that Illinois has passed the ERA in one house of the legislature only to have it fail to pass in the other house. The Illinois Senate

## Pay Equity

is not just a women's issue. Pay Equity is an issue that affects every family.

#equalpayday  
#talkpay  
#time4transparency

PROGRESSIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS 

@MIProgressiveWomen michiganprogressivewomen.com

has taken up the ERA again, passing the bill on April 11th, 2018. Now the Illinois House of Representatives can put the ERA within one state of the required 38.

Will they do it before the end of the session? State Representative Lou Lang D-Skokie has introduced the bill into the Illinois House. Contact your State Representative and let them know the ERA is important to you. It's election time. State Reps listen a bit more intently to their constituents when their elections are on the line. Don't know who your Illinois State Rep is? Find them here by putting your address into the search box at this web site: [www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/illinois-house/](http://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/illinois-house/)

Union contracts provide some standards for pay equity. The seniority system in union contracts are there to take favoritism and nepotism out of the promotion and benefit process. Unfortunately UAW Auto Contracts over the past decade have enshrined another type of inequity. Next year we will be considering another contract offering. Let's organize ourselves to push back against expanded use of temporary workers and long paths to full pay and benefits. These developments have not been family friendly. They've been corporate friendly.





# Local 551 Wrestling CHAMPIONSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA!!





**Motorcycle Committee  
Annual Bike Blessing  
&  
Music Video  
by Robert Allen**



# Ford Abandoning Auto Market Segment Short Sighted Strategy Could Be Devastating

By Scott Houldieson

Anyone who has worked in or paid attention to the automotive manufacturing business knows we are in a very cyclical business. Profits for the Detroit Three have been on an upward trend and a high plateau since 2009. Ford profits over the last nine years have averaged \$5.824 billion per year. From 2006 to the middle of 2009 Ford lost \$30 billion. Since that time Ford made \$51 billion.

On Wednesday April 25th Ford CEO Jim Hackett announced that "Ford will shed most of its North American car lineup as part of broad plan to save money and make the company more competitive in a fast-changing marketplace." The changes include getting rid of all cars in the region during the next four years except for the Mustang sports car and a compact Focus crossover vehicle. The decision, which Hackett said was due to declining demand and profitability, means Ford will no longer sell the Fusion midsize car, Taurus large car, CMax hybrid compact and Fiesta sub-compact in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

In 1985 Ford launched an innovative new sleek designed car model: The Ford Taurus. The new look was in stark contrast to the boxy car designs the company had relied upon. The new model was a savior for Ford. The company was in financial trouble at the time. The Taurus went on to become the best selling car in North America from 1992 to 1997 when Ford redesigned the sales champ. In the late 1990's, with gas prices at a historic low, Ford switched it's focus from cars to full size trucks and SUV's.

Around the turn of the 21st Century gas prices began to rise substantially. By 2006 they had hit \$4.00 per gallon. It's no coincidence that this is when Ford began bleeding red ink. Over reliance on Trucks and SUV's left Ford in a tight spot.

Since the recovery began in 2009 Ford was focusing on flexible manufacturing. This allowed us to build full size SUV's and full size cars on the same assembly line. Similar innovations were taking place at other facilities. This flexibility allows the company to nimbly respond to changes in consumer demand.

Abandoning an entire market segment will leave Ford flat footed when consumer tastes change. Ford will have to start from scratch to try and recapture lost market shares. This quarterly profit driven strategy is short sighted. It will set Ford up for catastrophe potentially worse than we experienced from 2006 to 2009.

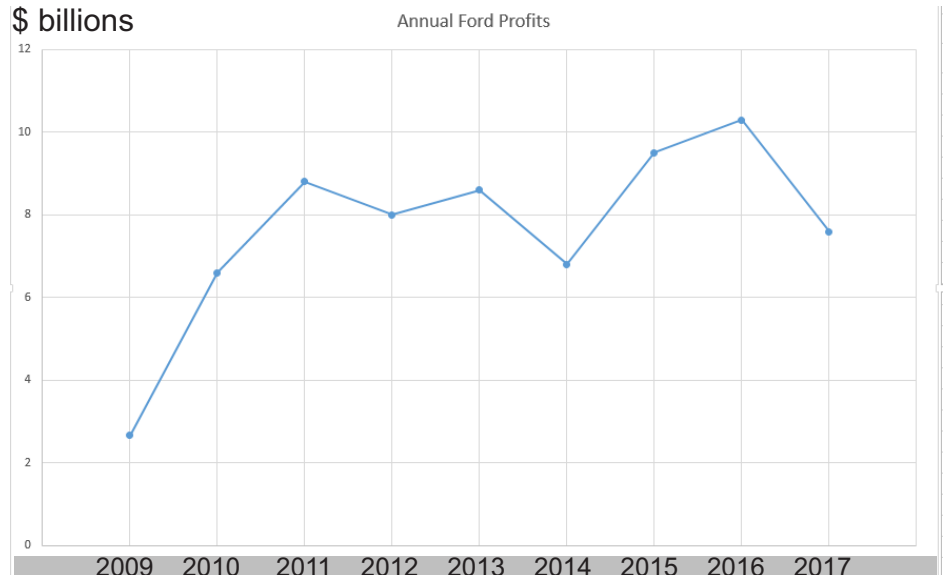
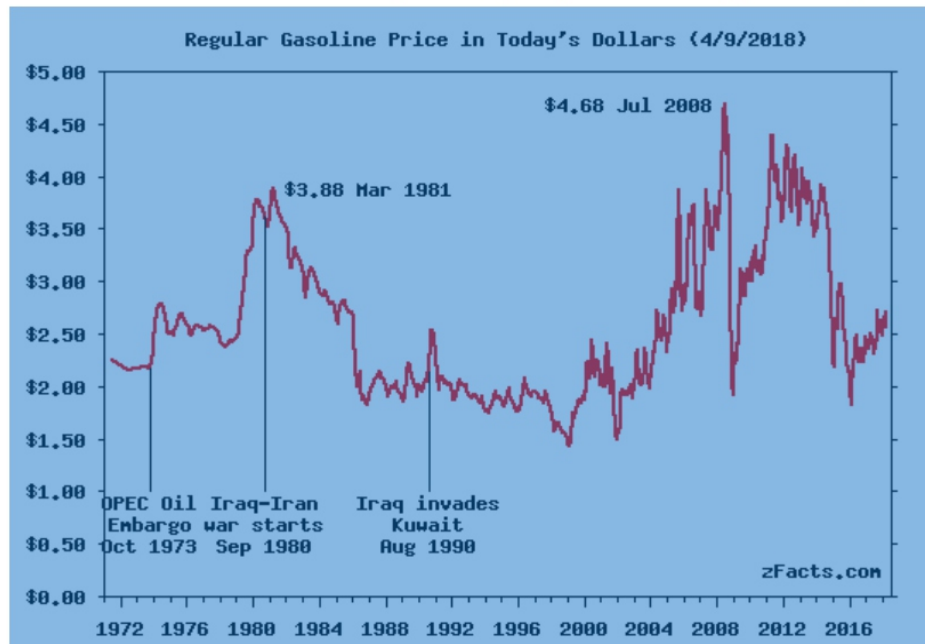
As usual this decision will negatively impact the workers in Ford North American factories. We will pay the highest price while board room executives will have

their golden parachutes to soften their landing.

There's still time for Bill Ford to reverse this decision that could ultimately put the company, that his Great-Grandfather built, in the dust-bin of history. Let's hope the Ford's do the right thing.

Source: [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com)  
[www.apnews.com](http://www.apnews.com)  
<http://zfacts.com/gas-price-history-graph/>

## Gas Price History Graph (historic prices)





**UAW Local 551 Recreation Committee is proud to announce: UAW Family Picnic Discount Days at Six Flags Great America July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>. Discounted tickets will be made available online including our Local 551 union discount code. Details coming soon.**



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Visit [www.uawford.org/eec](http://www.uawford.org/eec) for details



WJEDT/EEC flyer 2018 krtj/opak/522af/td

**Chaplaincy Chat**

*When Life Seems Ungrateful*

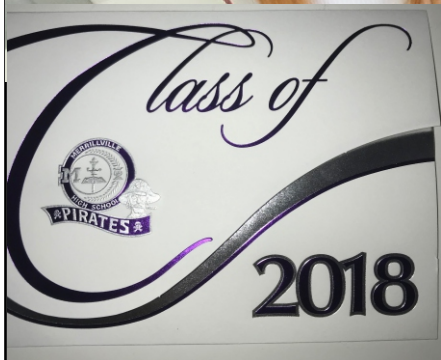
Life can seem ungrateful, and not always kind.  
 Life can pull at your heartstrings, and play with your mind.  
 Life can be blissful, and happy and free.  
 Life can put beauty, in the things that you see.  
 Life can place challenges, right at your feet.  
 Life can make good, of the hardships that we meet.  
 Life can overwhelm you, and make your head spin.  
 Life can reward those, determined to win.  
 Life can be hurtful, and not always fair.  
 Life can surround you, with people who care.  
 Life clearly does offer, its ups and its downs.  
 Life's days can bring you, both smiles and frowns.  
 Life teaches us to take, the good with the bad.  
 Life is a mixture, of happy and sad.

So.....  
 Take the life that you have, and give it your best.  
 Think positive, be happy, let God do the rest.  
 Take the challenges, that life has laid at your feet.  
 Take pride and be thankful, for each one you meet.  
 To yourself give forgiveness, if you stumble and fall.  
 Take each day that is dealt you, and give it your all.  
 Take the love that you're given, and return it with care.  
 Have faith that when needed, it will always be there.  
 Take time to find the beauty, in the things that you see.  
 Take life's simple pleasures, let them set your heart free.  
 The idea here is simply, to even the score.  
 As you are met and faced with, Life's Tug Of War.

**Roadmap To Success In Skilled Trades**

Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) UAW Rep Sean Brown





Congratulations to Amara Hester daughter of Robin Evans-Bailey (PreDelivery B Crew). Amara is graduating from Merrillville High School this May. Amara competed in the Miss Teen Indiana Pageant on April 15th and placed in the top ten. She was first runner up for Most Photogenic. Amara will compete in the nationals this summer in Orlando.

**Local 551 Informer Newspaper Committee**  
Scott Houldieson  
Miles Warren Jr.  
Paulette "PJ" Hyneman  
Tony Puente II  
Sean Martin  
Vicky Gossett  
Kellie Banks



Congratulations to Dominique Gardner daughter of Derrick Gardner (A Crew Paint Dept). Dominique is graduating from Georgia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. Here's wishing you the best of Luck with your future endeavors Dominique!

1985 - .65 cents  
Today - .80 cents



41 more years and we are expected to close the gender pay gap.

#TalkPay  
#EqualPay  
#20PERCENTCOUNTS  
WOMEN FOR ACTION



Congratulations to Faith Strong daughter of Yolanda Murphy (TDM). Faith is graduating from Thornwood High School this May. Faith plans to continue her education at Roosevelt University this fall. She will be studying for her degree in Political Science.

Class of 2018



Congratulations to Zariya Young daughter of Lamar Young (B Crew Trim) granddaughter of Martha Corbin retiree. Zariya is graduating from South Cobb High School in Atlanta, Georgia this May. Zariya plans to continue her education at Alabama State University this fall.



**Scott Houldieson Local 551 Vice President & Vicky Houldieson A Crew Paint Dept. proudly announce the engagement of their son Scott Houldieson Jr. to Edith Boiquaye. The happy couple will marry on September 1, 2018 at Friendship Botanical Gardens in Michigan City**



**Congratulations to Kathy Conner! After a 30 year career with Ford Motor Company Kathy has joined the ranks of retired UAW members. Looking forward to seeing Kathy at their Retiree Chapter events!**



**Jeff Pelozas son (A Crew Trim) Armon Pelozas and his high school team the Merrillville Pirates took 2nd Place in the Indiana High School bowling tournament. Congrats Armon and the Pirates!**



**Brad and Kim Klopfer (A Crew Chassis) are proud to announce the wedding of their daughter Jessica to Austin Cotner. The happy couple were married July 7, 2017 before family and friends including Jessica's brother Jacob Klopfer (Welder Final Maintenance Days)**



**Cooper Klopfer Son of Jacob and Amanda Klopfer (Days Final Maintenance) Grandson of Kim Klopfer (A Crew Chassis) just celebrated his third birthday. They grow up so incredibly fast!**

*In Remembrance Of Loved Ones Lost*

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sadie R Bristow           | Ernest Valentine (Retiree)   |
| William G Houldieson      | Greg Yankaway (Retiree)      |
| Vivian Turner             | Efrian Galindo (Retiree)     |
| Mildred Jackson (Retiree) | Matthew Rocheleau            |
| Henry Mitchell (Retiree)  | Dorothy Vaughn (A Crew Trim) |
| Nettie L Couch            | Janet Cameron (Retiree)      |
| Judy E Yates              | Dorothy Pryor                |
| Lowell Hederson (Retiree) | Marvin Mackey (Retiree)      |
| Tom Summers (Retiree)     | Robbie Jackson               |
| George Vaughn (Retiree)   |                              |

## May 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16 Retiree Chapter Meeting Noon	17	18	19
20 Union Meeting 2:00pm	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day UAW Paid Holiday	29	30	31		

## June 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Retiree Chapter Pot Luck at Noon	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Union Meeting 2:00pm Father's Day	11 37th UAW Constitutional Convention Detroit, MI	12	13 Retiree Chapter Meeting Noon	14	15 Summer Begins	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## July 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Independence Day Paid Holiday	5	6	7
8 Annual Local 551 Family Picnic @Hidden Lake	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Union Meeting 2:00pm	16	17	18 Retiree Chapter Meeting Noon	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

U.A.W. Local 551  
13550 S. TORRENCE AVE.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60633  
Phone (773)646-1472

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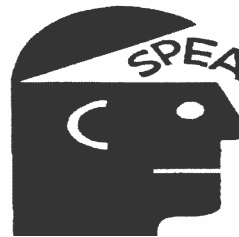
RETURN SERVICE  
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**Attend Union Meetings!**

**Democracy Only Works When You Participate!**

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**SPEAK YOUR MIND**

AT THE NEXT  
UNION MTG.

**UAW Local 551 Annual Family Picnic  
July 8, 2018 @ Hidden Lake Park  
Merrillville, Indiana  
Lots of Family Fun!!!  
Look for details soon!**

