

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

## Letter to Local 600 list from Vince Vincentini, Local 600 M&C - T Unit

This No vote should not be confused with a rejection of the UAW or its leadership. The membership clearly understands that without a union we would not have even had an opportunity to vote. When the management of the non-union transplants decide that it is time for them to take a pay cut or reduction of benefits it just happens. No voice! It is also important to know that there is no law requiring a vote of the membership to ratify a contract agreement. It is our UAW constitution that gives us that right. We are very fortunate that our predecessors fought to bring the UAW to Ford.

We find ourselves in the position we are in today because unfavorable trade laws and the fact that we have not been able to organize the transplants. We need to recapture the auto industry. This will not happen until the public realizes that the middle class was built by the labor movement. When we speak to our friends, family and neighbors we need to tell them of the good things that unions bring to the nation.

I am proud to be a member of the UAW and I know you are too. There was a large turnout for this vote but the job has just begun. Apathy and cynicism are the enemy of justice. Don't think that voting is the end. Attend your union membership meetings. Help guide our union. Show up at rallies. Pay attention to politics. Listen to the advice of those who look out for working people.

Regardless of whether you voted Yes or No, now is the time all of us to stand together as one. Please use your energy to build upon this great union foundation that we were so fortunate to inherit.

In Solidarity,

Vince Vincentini

(Please feel free to use my name when you send out this comment on your list. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.)