

UAW Presidential Candidate Gary Walkowicz

Letter To UAW

(delivered on first day of Con. Convention 6-14-10)

To our fellow UAW delegates, to our union brothers and sisters,

We are delegates from Ford who opposed the concessions last fall. We organized in our plants calling for a "No" vote. Ford workers voted down the concessions agreed to by the current leadership.

We believe this overwhelming "No" vote shows that the membership wants a radical 180-degree change in direction by our union. We believe that it should be the business of this convention to start that change by reasserting and going back to some basic union principles:

Refuse concessions!

Our lives, our standard of living, our prospects for the future have been seriously damaged by years of concessions given to incredibly wealthy corporations. We have lost raises, bonuses, COLA, holidays, break time, pensions and much more. We cannot give in to company demands every time they cry poor. They lie, as Ford workers realized! **PREPARE NOW TO MAKE A FIGHT TO RECLAIM WHAT WE LOST!**

Don't turn our backs on the next generation, our own children!

Previous generations fought to ensure their children would live as well or better than they did. All these two and three-tier wage agreements destroy what our parents and grandparents fought for. **CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION TO OUTLAW ANY PERMANENT TWO-TIER WAGE SYSTEM! FIGHT TO GET RID OF TWO-TIER WAGES!**

Don't ever break promises to retirees!

People who worked for 30-plus years were promised full health care and a pension they could count on. Those promises have been broken. We must fight to protect pensions and hold the companies to their promises. **FIGHT TO RESTORE EVERYTHING TAKEN FROM RETIREES!**

The membership must have full control over every step in contract changes.

Contracts should not be re-opened or re-negotiated without first having a vote of the membership. Our top leadership should not be able to negotiate local agreements over the heads of local presidents and bargaining committees. The membership should see the exact language on all changes.

The policy of the union must be based on what the workers need and deserve, **PERIOD!** And that's constitutional!

We would like to talk to our fellow delegates about the future of our union. We invite you to a meeting at 5:00 p.m. today (Monday), Cobo Hall, Detroit Zone, Level 3, Rooms 20-21.

Signed:

Ford delegates: Locals: 600, Gary Walkowicz, Nick Kottalis, Cathy Abney, and (alt) Dewayne Jackson; 892, Debi Muncie; 2000, Mary Springowski; 3000, Jeff Hodges and Steve Porkarski.

Supported by delegates from: 686, Andy Pella; 699, Dean Parm and (alt) Jeannie Castell; and 733, Rodney Childs.

Also supported by: Gregg Shotwell, co-founder Soldiers of Solidarity; Jerry Tucker, former Director Region 5; Bob Weissman, former President Local 122; Pete Kelly, former President Local 160; Ernie Hite, 4-time delegate 663; Wendy Thompson, former President Local 235; and Judy Wraight, former Exec Board, Dearborn Tool & Die.