

Rally at the UAW Convention

3 P.M Sunday, June 13th
Hart Plaza, March to Cobo Hall
10:00 A.M. Monday June 14th
Cobo Hall

On June 13-17 the UAW will be holding its Constitutional Convention in downtown Detroit at Cobo Hall. As delegates arrive from throughout the US, Canada and Puerto Rico, we want to take this opportunity to welcome and engage them in a discussion about the direction of our union.

The UAW has been in steady decline in both size and power. Last year alone we lost a whopping 76,000 members. Over the last three decades we've lost one million members; today we are down now to just 355,200. Our entire union is smaller than the number of autoworkers working at just General Motors thirty years ago!

The gains won over decades of struggle have been almost entirely reversed. We have a two-tier work force with new workers facing drastically diminished wages, benefits and working conditions and an uncertain future at best. For the first time, retirees from the "Big 3" saw takeaways in health care benefits they rightfully believed were secure.

Something has to change. That's what tens of thousands of Ford and GM-Delphi workers said when they recently voted against more concessions: "Enough is enough!" Will their brave acts of resistance be heard and honored on the convention floor? Or will their spirit be silenced as it has been in the pages of the UAW's magazine, "SOLIDARITY"(!)?

This may be the most critical convention since the UAW's founding 75 years ago. It's time to take stock of thirty years of concessions. Many UAW members feel the balance sheet does not look good, and want to chart a new course. A number of innovative resolutions have been passed at local union meetings for submission to the convention delegates: These include:

Demand the reopening and retooling of closed plants similar to the rapid retooling in Detroit at the start of World War II, this time as part of a "green" economy to combat global warming.

Rebuild a Fighting Union to reverse the concessionary trend of two-tier wages and benefits.

Build a Stronger Union by unifying with the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) and United Steel Workers of America (USWA).

Build a More Democratic Union with one member, one vote on International officers.

Build a Union that fights for the needs of the working class - support jobs for all, the extension of "Medicare to All" (single payer health care) and oppose corporate globalization by building global solidarity.

We are asking delegates, UAW members and their families, supporters in the community and in the labor movement to join us at Cobo Hall. We urge delegates to support resolutions that can chart a new course. "Business as usual" is not an option. If the UAW is to survive, the spirit of resistance of the Ford and GM Delphi workers must prevail!!

SOLIDARITY FOREVER, FOR THE UNION MAKES US STRONG.

Auto Worker Caravan (www.autoworkercaravan.org),
Soldiers of Solidarity (www.soldiersofsolidarity.com.org)
& Factory Rat (www.factoryrat.com/factoryrat/) have initiated the call for this action. Please join us!

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