

Minutes of the Autoworker conference call of February 12, 2012

Chair and note taker - Alex

Those present during the call: Jeff B., L. 3000, Peggy C., L. 1112, Dick D., L. 909, Martha G., L. 869, Keith H., L. 600, Ron L., L. 600, Pam P., L. 600, Wendy T., L. 22, Alex W., L. 869,

While waiting for all to join the call, people gave **individual reports**:

Peggy (Lordstown) reported her local just elected their Election Committee and will have local elections this spring

Jeff said Local 3000 still has no local contract after voting it down and there is a speed-up fight in the body shop.

Dick said no local agreement at GM Fairfax, L. 2000 (?) or at many other locals, Int'l wants local agreements to have less authority.

Wendy said AAM Contract expires Feb.25th. Company wants to close Detroit plant. Union has submitted a plant closing agreement but there is no agreement yet. The company has agreed to pay all workers 40 hours to stay home until the 25th. 100 workers out of 250 have decided to still come to work.

Alex commented that there is a growing trend to diminish local union power through national contracts.

Agenda Items:

1) One-Member One-Vote, discussion centered on the need to move forward on this issue ASAP. The consensus was that the Teamster Model is a good starting point to promote for the next constitutional convention. We like it because there is a petition campaign which involves the membership in the nominating process and it involves electing delegates to the convention for nomination. In both Teamsters and Steelworkers it is expensive to run. Want campaign reform written in proposal which allows equal monies allocated to each candidate that meets requirements. There is a "committee" in place whose job is to fashion a report and strategy to move this issue forward and report back to the next AWC meeting.

2) Labor Notes Conference, Wendy led the discussion on promoting the upcoming meeting in Chicago. Discussed the idea of promoting the conference to various local memberships/leadership. Transportation ideas were talked about. A committee will work on LN Conference promotion and report back to AWC.

3) Ron Lare asked that Keith Hall report on the idea to "reopen" the Ford Contract and demand wage increases and other improvement. A petition to demand a re-opener should be developed and circulated. There was a general consensus that this would be a good idea for education and organizing.

4) Discussion on structuring the AWC began with a range of options from elected officers to a more informal approach of an upgraded steering committee. The need for solid fundraising and finances was stressed. Peggy and Martha agreed to work on a committee with Nick that will report back. Peggy volunteered to draft some language.

The need to keep AWC teleconference meetings to 60 minutes was pointed out. Therefore there were several points on the agenda we did not get to which will be taken up at the next meeting. These were:

1) Skilled appeal update, 2) Proposal for some kind of activity to involve those we've met in recent campaigns, and 3) Report on Italian TV interview

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next AWC "meeting" set for 4:30pm on Sunday, March 4th.

Submitted by Alex

--