

Conference Call Minutes 30 June 2011

Dianne Feeley Jul 5, 8:41 pm

From: Dianne Feeley
Date: Tue, 5 Jul 2011 20:41:53 -0400 (GMT-04:00)
Local: Tues, Jul 5 2011 8:41 pm
Subject: minutes from auto conference call 6/30/11/fightback flyer

Dear SOSers,

I'm sending the minutes from our last phone call and attaching the Fightback flyer. This version has "labor donated" on it, but we reordered 2,000 more from the union printer. I'm picking them up tomorrow so if you need some, please let me know. I will also be picking up 3,000 small stickers that have the 5 priorities listed. Several people have ready placed orders for them. Earlier today I sent out an article by Bernie Woodall that I think is a good summary of where we stand as the UAW leadership prepares for the negotiations. We need to be talking with coworkers about what we need!

Would also like to comment on American Axle's announcement tat it would close the Detroit plant (where only 250 are currently working) next February, when the contract runs out. AAM told the workers that the plant would close if they didn't take deep concessions; and workers said NO. So AAM will send the work to Colfor in Ohio (top wage last I heard was \$14.25 an hour), to Three Rivers (where there's 3 tiers) and Mexico (where I think workers are making about \$8-10 a day). Most workers at the Detroit facility feel that AAM wants to get rid of the current workforce and find people willing to work for \$10 an hour.

In solidarity,

dianne

Minutes from Auto Conference Call, 6/30/11
Chair: Martha
Notetaker: Dianne
Present: Dianne, Frank, Judy, Martha, Nick, Ron

Next meeting: Thursday, June 21st at 7 PM
Conference phone number is 641-715-3620, code is 441958#.

Agenda:

1. Fightback Flyer with 20 names. We printed up 5,000 copies and Dianne has mailed and arranged to deliver to a number of autoworkers. Nick pointed out that after coworkers read the leaflets, they folded them up to take home, which we all agreed was a good sign.

We have about 500 leaflets left, which is less than we have requests for. We have recovered the cost of printing and mailing and have about \$40 over, which we could use to print up a smaller run.

Ron agreed to contact Brett H and Dianne will call Debbie to find out if they need flyers.
Motion: to print up 2,000 more. Dianne will implement. All for.

2. Draft of next flyer, which will be focused on two tier. We have a couple of different drafts. Martha agreed to produce a version that knits them together and send out for review to other members of the subcommittee. Subcommittee consists of Martha, Nick, Frank & Dianne

Agree to send out final draft for comment and review.

3. Questionnaire re Two Tier: We have received some responses to the questionnaire. Would be important for each of us to take responsibility to have five coworkers fill out and return the questionnaire. Dianne will send it out again.

4. Two Tier Forum: Martha, Frank & Al are the subcommittee working on the meeting, which is now scheduled for Saturday afternoon, August 13, 2-5PM. The forum will be "Making the Case for Equal Pay" and will be held at St. John the Baptist Church, 2371 Woodstock Drive, Detroit. (Seven Mile near Woodward area)

The first hour will be testimonials about the impact of 2 tier on the workers and coworkers. Some of the testimony may be taped and played. We will also report on the questionnaire. Next half hour will take up cases where workers have won or lost on this issue. (For example, the musicians from the Detroit Symphony did not agree to two tier in their last contract.) This will be followed by small groups to brainstorm on how to fight back. Last part will be a sum up of tasks.

Discussion:

- Have a list of people/videos that can be used for the first hour but also have greeters as people come in to meeting so that we find others who would give testimony even if we didn't know them beforehand
 - Good to have light refreshments, esp. cold drinks (need to bring water coolers?)
 - Worried that 3 hours is too long and encouraged subcommittee to consider streamlining
 - Have in mind what can come out of the meeting such as further distribution of questionnaire and ability to post videos (made beforehand, as well as videos from testimony on August 13)
 - Consider going to a nearby restaurant where people might go afterward
- Suggestions will be taken back to subcommittee for further discussion and implementation.

5. Production of materials: Tentatively agreed to produce 5,000 flyers against 2 tier. Approximately 2500-3000 will have a second side advertising the August 13 forum. Nick agreed to work on producing the flyer.

We will also have 3,000 stickers with the five contract priorities next Tuesday.

- Equal Pay for Equal Work – eliminate tiers.
 - Make all temporary workers permanent.
 - Reinstate the Coast of Living Allowance (COLA).
 - No more plant closings – Re-open & convert shuttered plants to produce green jobs.
 - Full disclosure & right to ratify contract changes – no rushed votes.
- These are small stickers. We have orders already for them and can sell 100 at \$8 plus postage.

We have approximately 750 No 2 tier buttons that are available for fifty cents each.

We have only 11 T shirts left. Suggest that Frank develop a list of what we should reorder. We'd like to have them available at the August 13th meeting.

6. Next meeting: Thursday, June 21st at 7 PM
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