

Mar. 4, 2012 AWC Conference Call
Chair: George W.
Minutes: Wendy T.

Present: Alex W., L. 869, Dick D., L.909, Frank H., L. 909, George W., L. 12, Judy L. 600, Martha G., L. 869, Rosendo L. 412, Scott H., L. 551, Wendy T., L. 22,

- 1) Chrysler Skilled Trades Appeal – At the Dec. 9th meeting with the UAW President's office we submitted a list of requests which we were supposed to have received answers to by the first of the year. They were not forthcoming and we had to submit the final version of our appeal without them at the end of January. We said the burden of proof was on them to show why the no vote should not have been honored.

We decided to a) start a petition campaign demanding a IEB hearing , b) request members make phone calls and send emails demanding the Int'l supply the list of requests, and c) gather written testimony concerning voting no on skilled trades issues. Judy suggested an explanation of the appeal be written up that could be distributed to Ford and GM workers.

George received a written reprimand because of the legal distribution of literature about the appeal. The NLRB ruled that the reprimand must be removed and a posting made affirming members rights to hand out union literature in non-work areas during non-work hours. Congrats to George on his victory!

- 2) Italian television was in town and interviewed a number of rank and file people through our help including four people from L. 869, two from L. 1700, and one from L. 7.
- 3) Martha recommended that we schedule a Detroit area speak-out that would highlight working conditions like workplace injuries and problems with alternative work schedules. Judy thought highlighting injuries was important – she recently broke her foot at work! George felt speed-up was also key. The work situation for temporary workers was brought up. Wendy suggested the two tier Aug. meeting format be a model and recommended April. Martha will come to next meeting with a concrete proposal and asked for volunteers to help her (Frank?).
- 4) Dianne F. will be receiving a labor/community award at the Coalition for Human Rights banquet on Sat., Mar. 24th. Frank suggested Autoworker Caravan put an ad in the program for \$30/\$35 and asked for donations to the effort. Wendy and George agreed to contribute.
- 5) One Member One Vote Committee will try to finalize a draft for a resolution by next meeting. Wendy will go through old UAW resolutions to see what has been submitted and Jerry T. has some ideas on how to incorporate spending limits on candidates.

- 6) American Axle Report – The Detroit Holbrook plant has been closed but the company has not agreed with the union on a closing agreement. At the L. 22 union meeting it was reported the union has decided to go to court. Some members felt that this was enough trusting that good results will be achieved. Others were unhappy that there was no strategy to put pressure on Dauch to settle and avoid a long process with unsure results. They wanted to hold a rally at the AAM headquarters, but the meeting was adjourned before New Business.
- 7) Frank is working with Jobs with Justice and Detroit area peace groups on a proposal for a march on May 1st that would highlight green jobs. They are reaching out to the immigrant rights and Occupy movements. We agreed to co-sponsor such an event and Frank will be participating on the planning committee as our representative.
- 8) Wendy asked if people would be interested in caravanning to Chicago for the Labor Notes Conference May 4-6th by car, van, or train. There is a special price for conference goers on Amtrack. Renting nine person vans would cost each person \$20/\$25.

Scott hopes to get a number of people from his plant in the Chicago area to come. We need to decide what we want to talk about during the UAW meeting during the conference.

- 9) The structure and organization committee consists of Martha, Frank, Peggy and Nick and they have not met yet. It was agreed that they should draft a mission statement. Nick has already been working on one. Rosendo felt structure was important and that we should have face to face meetings. Other felt this was difficult with flexible work hours forced on the present day workforce. People were happy with the Facebook page developed by members of L. 3000 in an attempt to build a local autoworker caravan group there. People felt building local groups was important and we need to come up with ideas of how to do this. Dick alerted us to L. 598's factory whistleblower radio station that takes callers every Sunday night. Factory Rat also has local union based discussion groups that get a lot of traffic.
- 10) Ford reopening petition discussion tabled to next meeting. Everyone happy it appears to have taken off like gangbusters in L. 3000

Next meeting Sun., Mar. 25th, 4:30pm