

Conference Call Minutes March 30, 2011

Attendees: Dianne, L. 22, Frank, L. 909, Gary, L. 600, Judy, L. 600, Martha, L. 869, Renee, L. 1112, Roberta, L. 774, Ron, L. 600, Stacey L. 467, Steve, L. 174, Thomas, L. 1005, Wendy, L. 22

1) Reports from Convention from delegate Gary Walkowicz: Once again not democratic, no local resolutions. Joe Ashton has now made clear they will trade off workers going to lower tier for individual plant job guarantees. There was a clear difference between King and us on 2-tier. They did not state which company will be the target. It would be logical for it to be Ford. They would have a hard time justifying the decision if it is not Ford. 40,000 Ford workers, only 41,000 GM workers now. We were able to make temporary employees an issue. But, they will use temporaries to get a yes vote along with bonuses. Alternate delegate Wendy Thompson: We had impact on floor with issues of 2-tier and temporary workers. Had an impact on democracy because we pushed for amending the resolution and King granted it on the issue of single payer health care. It wasn't in resolution, we pushed for amendment and got it! Also convention discussed strategy which it usually doesn't. This was good even though King's strategy is wrong on question of company-union alliance and concessions. Pushed for immigrant rights, rights for LGBT's (Lesbian, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender), and against racism towards African-Americans. Thought it was educational for delegates and they were listening. Did not mention support for Korean Free Trade Agreement – wonder why? Pushed strongly, of course, for Obama. Pushed for in-plant activity on April 4th. Discussion on reports: Company union with social conscious. Bad they don't mobilize, but good attitude on racism. Good delegates spoke from floor on LGBT rights even though International put them up to it. Union leaders pushing gloom and doom to lower expectations

2) T-shirt sales going well, may have to order some more.

3) Bob King at rally for Detroit Symphony Musicians in middle of union busting strike – good thing.

4) Report from Ryder Drivers. History – went from a true company organized union to UAW. 675 drivers in 11 states. Michigan drivers without a contract and laid-off for a year and a half. Members of UAW L. 174. Need support for informational picket starting week of April 4th at GM Poletown plant. Leaflet has been handed out to workers there. Information at website: www.swebber1.com.

wendy