

July 20, 2011

Update on forum to “Make the Case for Equal Pay”

The Autoworkers Caravan is sponsoring a forum to document the effects of two-tier on Saturday, August 13.

Googlegroups will not let me send the leaflet for the forum as an attachment, here is the link

https://sites.google.com/site/votedowntiers2011/documents/Forumflyer_Final_LaborDonated.pdf?attredirects=0&d=1

A meeting was organized for members of Local 869 at Chrysler Warren Stamping. This local has been friendly to our efforts—about 40 shirts have been sold to rank and file members as well as union officials. However, besides Alex Wassell and myself, the only members to attend were one skilled tradesman and the union president, who came towards the end. It was a good testing of the waters and what we can take from it is that many workers are still either afraid or apathetic or both, so we will have to work to get people to the forum and the turnout may not be large despite the fact that it is a very hot issue in the plants. So far we have gotten almost 20 responses to the survey and the two things that are unanimous are that ending two-tier should be a priority and a commitment to vote no if it doesn't.

A letter appealing for participation in the forum, the survey, and the anti-two tier leaflet was emailed to many of our contacts.

We have collected a number of eloquent written statements and have got some speaking commitments, and we still have a few weeks to go. Here is a projected scenario:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. In person, written, and hopefully video documentation
3. Results of the survey
4. Some prepared talks, about 5 minutes: two tier as a human rights issue; the broader issue of tiers (such as U.S. workers vs. workers in other countries, employed vs. unemployed, etc.); history of the spread of two-tier contracts; it's possible to fight and win
5. Additional testimony (to accommodate those whose work or other schedules affect when they can speak
6. Pass the hat.
7. Small group discussions on strategy (with the number of groups depending on the number of people there, each group would be 12-15, all on the same basic topic)
8. Report back and wrap up.

Here is a list of tasks that need to be done in advance of the meeting (please volunteer)(the first four are what's most needed now, the others can be done closer to the event)

1. News releases. Suggest we get one out to coincide with the start of negotiations and/or second

quarter profit results. A follow up release close to the date of the meeting.

2. Collect more survey responses
3. Get out the leaflets—could be combined with doing interviews at plant sites
4. Line up more speakers and testimony
5. Get the event posted on SoS and Factory Rat, if they are willing
6. Organize the survey results and prepare a presentation
7. Organize the written testimony and prepare for presenting
8. Same with video
9. Organize table items—literature and merchandise, sign in sheets, etc.
10. Finalize the agenda and make copies
11. Reminder emails and calls

This list is the tasks for the day of the event:

1. Take care of refreshments
2. Set up—be there at 1:00
3. Moderators for three main sessions and small groups
4. Clean up after
5. Welcome table—one or two to sign in people to speak and to be added to contact list
6. Shirts, etc. sales
7. Hand out agenda
8. Take notes
9. Video
10. Readers for written testimony
11. Present survey results
12. Bring, set up sound

This is what we have so far for testimony:
in person:

Local 600

local 9

local 412

local 1112

local 3000

local 503

Written:

Delphi, W. NY

Chrysler Transport

Local 23

Video

Local 869?

Survey results (we need more, we have fewer than 20)

In solidarity

Martha Grevatt