

preparing for negotiations

Dianne Feeley Jul 24, 10:41 am

Dear SOSers,

The traditional handshake between UAW president & the Big Three representatives will occur later this week, signaling the official opening of negotiations for the 2011 contract. We have a number of materials that you can order for plant distribution that outlines what we as autoworkers need. They are based on these 5 priorities:

- * Equal Pay for Equal Work--eliminate tiers.
- * Make all temps permanent.
- * Reinstate COLA.
- * No more plant closings. Reopen & convert shuttered plants to produce green jobs.
- * Full disclosures & rights to ratify contract changes--no rushed votes.

A number of you have distributed the Fightback flyer, and some have asked for stickers with the five demands. Here's what we have on hand, all union printed:

1. Fightback flyer signed by 20 autoworkers
2. Sticker listing the 5 priorities (5-1/4 x 2-3/4)
3. No 2-tier flyer
4. No 2-tier flyer with back side advertising a forum vs. 2 tier scheduled for Saturday, August 13 at 2PM in Detroit.

I'm attaching a low-resolution version of the August 13 rally because the high-resolution version is too big for the list. However if you prefer to get a copy and print it out, please send me a note and I can either send you a version to take to a union printer, or one that has labor donated on it. Please specify which you need.

We also sent out a survey about 2 tier and hope that you can fill it out and send it in to the email or snail mail addresses listed. You can find the survey up on Factory Rat, SOS and AutoworkerCaravan web sites. Nick Waun wrote a blog for the Labor Notes website and a number of the materials are linked to the article, including the survey.

It looks like the companies are determined to press ahead for more concessions and particularly want more 2-tier workers. Despite huge profits they have stated that they don't intend to restore COLA and would like further health care concessions. The bones they offer are a signing bonus and the promise of profit sharing but we know throwing a little bit of money our way doesn't begin to address the problems autoworkers face!

Looks like we have to keep the discussions inside the plants and outside going! Got to put pressure on the UAW negotiators!

In solidarity,

dianne

http://www.xpdnc.com/files/relatednewsandreports11/AutoworkersForum_lowres.pdf

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