



REGION 2B UPDATE

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If you haven't seen, your IEB has invested nearly 40M in the organizing department. The goal is to get as many OEM plants organized as possible. This will give every member more power at the bargaining table. It is also about giving more workers a voice. This aligns with the goal of supporting some independent unions that are gaining traction in Mexico. If you didn't know, Mexicans working in the auto industry have seen their wages fall over the last decade. Not only do we want to support workers in their fight for dignity in work, but also stop the race to the bottom. Moving jobs to Mexico has not slowed and 75% of the auto manufacturing in Mexico is imported to the USA. This does affect American workers because greedy companies will exploit labor in the cheapest market, we aim to stop or slow this as much as possible. Recognize, my votes on the IEB reflect the best interests of all the members in our great union.

While there are many contracts currently being negotiated, there are a few that have been ratified since my last update:

- Local 1588 at Bodycote Thermal Processing. Thanks to the local bargaining committee for all their hard work with a special thanks to Region 2B servicing representative Tim Meadors.
- Local 2289 at Icon Metal Forming. Thanks to the local bargaining committee for all their hard work with a special thanks to Region 2B servicing representative Tom Wright.
- Local 12 at Toth Industries. Thanks to the local bargaining committee for all their hard work with a special thanks to Region 2B servicing representative Tricia Geiger.

Working on getting great contracts is the never-ending work that is always happening. Another never-ending area of importance is education. The Region 2B deadline for our free Online Academy is March 1st. This is open to all members. It is important and a great first start for those that want to get involved and better understand why your union is important. This leads to every single member. The union is the membership. We elect those that represent us. You can be the change you want to see; it just takes knowledge and hard work. Get involved, be involved, our union doesn't work when our members don't participate.

We have also been holding training on a variety of topics at different locals across the region. Check with your local leadership and find out where you can get involved. Just because you pay dues, doesn't mean someone else is going to make it all happen. I pay for a gym membership, but if I don't use it actively, I cannot expect results.

REGION 2B HEADQUARTERS

For those that don't know, our headquarters have been closed for some time. There was a mold issue that we inherited and are addressing. We will be moving to a new location later this year. If you need assistance and call the region, please leave a message and we will get back to you. If no one answers the phone directly, that is because there is no one physically there, but our staff is still working, just from another location.

VCAP

VCAP is a voluntary contribution to the regions Community Action Program. This generates money for political candidates as well as for community support. Our regional CAP Councils work hard to screen candidates that support working families. They put in a lot of volunteer time to make sure our members know who is supporting labor and who is not. I want to personally thank those that donate and ask those that do not, to consider donating just \$5 a month. This money is also used to support programs in your communities. Things like women's shelters, food banks, other charitable organizations that help lift our communities. If you want to help working families and other less fortunate in your community, consider making a voluntary contribution to VCAP.

Finally, as we end Black History Month, we move into Women's History Month. Understanding history is important so we don't repeat past mistakes. Depending on your age, try and talk with your mother or grandmother about what it was like. My mom explained to me how she couldn't take the same classes as the men when she went to college. Now, this was in the 1950's and a lot has changed but we should never want to turn the clock back on human rights. I know I have lived in a great period where I could share bathrooms and water fountains with anyone. Where my daughters can become anything they want and don't have to be landowners to vote. My point is that we need to try and understand that our freedoms were not free, they were fought for by past generations. My hope is that we better understand the past struggles so we can continue to fight for human rights. Nothing great ever came easy. God bless,

In solidarity,



Dave Green
Director, UAW Region 2B