

2025 Financial Officers Conference

I wish to thank the membership of UAW Local 211 for sending me to the 2025 Financial Officers Conference in Atlanta GA. The conference was from March 9-14.

President Shawn Fain was one of the first speakers and he gave us an update to what is going on within the UAW. President Fain brought to our attention how tirelessly the International EBoard works to put the membership and the middle class first. Fain stressed how the stand-up strike took everyone by surprise and that the International will "Fight like hell for our members and leave a better UAW for the future generation."

When the International was negotiating with the Big 3, it not only affected union workers but the non-union workers also. The IEB created the Department of Bargaining Strategies specifically for this reason. The International board refuses to settle for lump sums- wage increases for all is the goal. Holidays, time off with their families and benefits are the goals while negotiating. "Time off with family isn't a luxury, it's a right."

President Fain gave us an insight to some of the bargaining strategies, one was to bring some of the members to the table to let management look them in their faces and give the members the opportunity to speak.

The International Board wants to expand how they negotiate. "We have to change how we do things. It won't happen overnight. When the working class stands together, we win all of the time."

Volkswagen in Tennessee is securing their first contract right now. The UAW has organized several Ultium Battery plants recently. During negotiations we ask the CEOs to take cuts, well we are the CEOs of your local. The buck stops with us.

"Members pay dues as an investment to themselves and this union" was a statement from President Fain. After this he spoke on trade laws that have adversely affected union members. 33 years later there were 90,000 factories shut down. That is 1,800 per state, thousands of communities are ruined.

Fain spoke about corporations and the greed that continues to happen. No matter how many jobs get shipped overseas, it is never enough. The tariffs will be passed on to the consumer. The decision to do this is made by the corporations that choose to make these items overseas. This also makes the profits increase for the companies thus making stock buy backs possible. The corporations are still able to do this even with record breaking contracts. The UAW will continue to support those that support us and will urge them to fix the broken trade system.

The UAW organizing plans have not changed. “We need to organize like hell” is what President Fain stated.

“The days of complaisance are over in the UAW. When administrations are attacking the Department of Labor and the NLRB, it hurts us.

Margret Mock welcomed us to the conference and told us that “we are here to arm you with the tools to help you with the job of protecting the sacred dues dollars.”

Nina Turner gave a very inspiring speech. Reminding us of what it is to be part of a union and that we cannot allow them to separate us from each other. The struggle is forever, and we are in the struggle. Nina stated, “Each generation must advance and keep the lead. If we all are not free, then nobody is free.”

Union Plus was part of the opening session. Check out the discounts available to union members. Union members that signed up with them received grant money during the stand-up strike, more than 250,000 members.

There is a new department within the UAW, the Membership Department. This department will be focusing on how to make LUIS work better and track members' addresses. The focus on keeping members' addresses updated was stressed. We are trying to work with the various companies and their payroll departments to make sure we have up to date information as far as addresses.

The Vendor and Trademarks class was very informative. If anyone is using the wheel for personal gain, that is trademark infringement. You must get permission to use the copyrights for the UAW wheel. We have a list of vendors that have been approved to use the wheel. If anyone needs a copy I have them. The process was explained to us on how vendors are vetted to be approved. I have all the paperwork that was passed out.

On the last day of the conference, Director Green informed us that there are some new classes being formed of the online academy. The regional offices are not finished yet, they are hoping for August. More organizing is going on with casinos and nurses. The biggest thing we need to do right now is get the membership engaged.