



All
Things
160

Honored in 2019 for Outstanding
Achievement by The Local
Union Communication Association

President's Praise

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Our Local first embarked on what would be a 40-day strike some 12 months ago. Our current UAW Local 160 Members and recently retired UAW Local 160 Members will forever be encapsulated in the UAW-GM labor history books as one of the longest labor strikes in UAW-GM contract negotiations history.

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, UAW Vice President Terry Dittes ordered some 900 nationwide UAW-Aramark Members to the street, including 500 UAW-Aramark Members at Local 160. In less than 24 hours, September 16, 2019, Vice President Terry Dittes made the same proclamation to 48,000 UAW-GM Members across America, including approximately 1,425 UAW-GM Members here at the Warren Technical Center (WTC).

The strike was on!

Although rumors of a strike had been circulating for weeks prior to September 2019, not many could have forecasted the lengthy 40-day strike we had to endure.

Like a tsunami washing over our worksite, Local 160 Members were suddenly washed to the other side of the property fence line. There loomed an ominous feeling about being outside the fence line looking in, especially at night, as large bright lights blazed across the desolate Warren Tech Center complex. Members were hopeful, fearful, and, in some cases, tearful.

A fair contract is all we wanted and ever expected. But rising insurance co-pays, building automobiles in America, and temporary workers' language had ruptured contract talks. The fight was on; quite possibly a fight many of our Members had never experienced.

As the strike took hold onto our worksite, Members turned to Local 160 as the only resource they had. They needed answers on health care, dental and vision coverage, co-pays, strike pay, therapy and doctor visits, strike duty days and times, gate locations, strike duty changes due to family schedules, and, to a much higher degree of importance, questions on cancer treatment payments and scheduled surgeries.

As President of this great Local, I encountered dozens of personal issues our Members had to deal with during the strike.

October 2020

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One Member in particular came to me at the onset of the strike wanting direction on whether he should continue his scheduled plans for heart surgery. The operation was scheduled just days after the strike began. We investigated and passed on the information he needed.

Another Member came to the Local to see me on whether he should keep his plans to travel to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for scheduled cancer treatments. He, in fact, had waited six months to get on their schedule at that clinic. We retrieved the information he needed to make a conscious decision for him and his family.

And yet another Local 160 Member in the first two days of the strike was fighting for custody of his children and the hearing was taking place that very week. No income coming in would not bode well for his custody battle. Together we reviewed his options for the best possible outcome.

These conversations and many more went on daily. This strike was evolving into much more than just picket duty.

Through it all, I met with business agents representing outside contractor unions scheduled to work at WTC through the strike. They committed to me that as long as we stayed strong at the 14 WTC gates, then they would continue to honor our strike. As they put it, "they would be fearful of going through the strike lines." Our members absolutely stayed strong at gate entrances, and those agents kept their word as well.

And through it all, as our savings evaporated, our kitchen cupboards became less crowded, and our GM health care coverage was temporarily cancelled, one constant stayed above all.

We as a Local remained united.

For 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, our van drivers, benefit responders, kitchen workers, Union Hall officials, elected and appointed Members, phone bank supporters, food bank organizers, strike pay team, health coverage team, and so many more made sure that this

Local was there for our Members.

Our Members navigated through land mines of life altering issues and decisions during the strike, and, in total crisis mode, this Local, this Leadership, and our strong Membership body remained united as one for these 40 days and 40 nights.

In Solidarity,

David Small

President of UAW Local 160



Members Of The Month

It is likely that one of the first people you met during your first 90 days at General Motors was your Benefits Representative, and, ironically, he or she will probably be one of the last people you will see when you retire and leave General Motors. The Benefits Reps are the ones who provide us with information during some of the most vulnerable times in our lives and we believe that the advice given is trustworthy and reliable.

With that said, the "Members of the Month" listed in this article, who everyone should already be familiar with, are our UAW-GM Local 160 Benefits Representatives:

Danny Velardo

Bruce Gawronski

Charlie Cole

Alternate - Rick Perna

Alternate - Frances Prater

Danny Velardo started out as an Alternate Benefits Rep in 1988 and was appointed to permanent status in 1999; giving him a combined total of 32 years experience as a Benefits Representative. Danny, with his infectious laugh, is a Metal Model Maker by trade and his home plant is MTS.

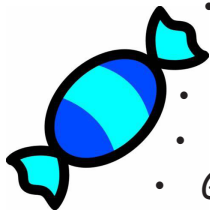
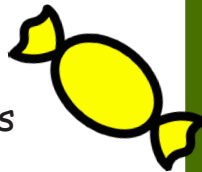
Bruce Gawronski started out as a Benefits Representative back in 1981 and is very popular with the retirees, holding the record of receiving the most calls to the Local Union Hall in one day before he was relocated to the Link Building (he still receives calls at the Local to this day). Bruce is a Wood Model Maker by trade, and his home plant is Design. Charlie Cole was our second shift Benefits Rep, who recently retired.

Both Rick and Frances are the Alternates and fill in for Danny, Bruce and Charlie when needed. Rick is an AI and is out of GA. Frances is a Metal Model Maker from Design. With everything this Membership has gone through in the last year (a strike, the Coronavirus Pandemic, and a mass exodus of employees through retirements - and Danny's favorite, a new GM computer system called "Workday"), these Reps have been called upon to go above and beyond their everyday Benefit Rep functions. For example, during the strike, they were at the Union Hall daily, making sure our Members had health insurance and putting Members' minds at ease with answering questions pertaining to some difficult situations. Then, once the strike was over and a contract was ratified, our Benefits Reps were called upon to start the retirement packages for all who qualified for the attrition program. Next came the COVID-19 pandemic, throwing our world into chaos and sending most non-essential workers home and onto unemployment, including most of our Membership, a Membership who, for the most part, was not familiar with calling MARVIN or going on a computer every two weeks to file for unemployment. While most of us were off, getting things done around the house, soaking up the sun, waiting on hold with UIA for hours, Danny stayed at work. He answered calls from the Membership daily; calls from Members who panicked every time we saw PUA pop up on our unemployment screens or when we were wrongly asked to sign up for MI Works and wanted to know why we weren't getting a paycheck for weeks, even months. He did this all while still answering questions about healthcare, sick leave, retirement, etc. A couple of months later, Rick agreed to come back off layoff to help Danny with the overwhelming amount of issues and workload and more employees signing up for retirement after they got a taste of life without driving to GM every day for a few months. While the majority of us stayed home in isolation, our Benefits Reps were still working for us, with the possible exposure to coronavirus themselves. They even went out of their way by calling our members to make sure our issues had been resolved or gave us reminders of things we needed to do in order to help unemployment run smoothly, to make sure we were getting our money. And they do all this for the Membership without asking for anything in return. Even when someone goes up to thank them, they are quick to say, "Just doing my job." And a great job they do! Thank you, Danny, Bruce, Charlie, Rick, and Frances. This is why we nominate our Local 160 UAW-GM Benefits Reps as our members of the month. But in reality, they really deserve to be called "Employees of the Year" because they are always focused on making sure our Members are taken care of 365 days a year, even after we retire. They are always available, they bring so much knowledge and compassion to their jobs, and they deeply care about providing a quality service to each and every one of us. Danny and Bruce, if you are reading this, you can't retire till we do!

American-Made Halloween

Union-Made Candy!

- Hershey Kisses
- Kit Kat Bars
- Jolly Ranchers
 - Clark Bar
 - Thin Mints
- Ghiradelli Chocolates
- Laffy Taffy
- Baby Ruth
- Butterfinger
- Candy Corn
- Licorice
- Jawbreakers
 - Doritos
- Pecan Sandies
 - Rold Gold
 - Cheez-it
- Lay's Potato Chips
- Vanilla Wafers
- Chips Ahoy!
 - Oreos
- Nutter Butter
- Vanilla Wafers
- Graham Crackers



Fiesta Halloween Dishware

Your Halloween party guests will be asking all about the Fiesta Halloween themed plates you serve those appetizers on! Fiesta Halloween Dishware is colorful, fun, and made in West Virginia.

Trio of Skeleton 9" Luncheon Plate



\$28⁹⁵



UAW Local 160 Strike





2019 Labor Day



Estimated Upcoming Workload

CCO plans to pick up in October with the start of a new program leading to possible overtime for several months. MTS is to remain steady with work. GA's workload is winding down with the anticipation of picking back up the first of the year. Materials workload is dropping due to salary furloughed across campus (Due to COVID-19). Design remains steady with the possibility of overtime. Maintenance remains steady.

subject to change.



A Quick Word From Your VCAP Committee

Greetings, Local 160 Sisters and Brothers! As if the last 12 months haven't been crazy enough with our strike and a global pandemic, it's also election season.

I am aware that our Membership is more politically divided than it's ever been. We are a reflection of our great nation after all. But I'd like to draw your attention to a very hot topic; the protests for Black lives and social justice. I'm positive we all have different views on the events going on in the last six months or so, but I'm asking you all to go back to this time last year when it was us in the streets out in front of our work place. We took a stand against a giant multibillion dollar international corporation that was looking to give us less than we deserved as loyal employees! Let's not get distracted. Looting and vandalism is NOT protesting and shouldn't be lumped in with those doing it properly. Look closely at political leaders condemning those exercising their First Amendment rights. If you look at it, a strike is a protest at its very core. If something is unfair or unjust at work we strike! We weren't Republicans or Democrats out on that strike line. There was no color out on that line either. We went out on strike against GM and Aramark as a Union - one Union united together. That's how we won! This country needs more of what we showed the world last year! Support people that support us workers! Before you vote, check your UAW-endorsed endorsed candidate list.



In solidarity,

Jaron Garza
V-Cap Chair

Federal Government Executive Order Regarding Deferred Employee Payroll Tax (GM)

You may have heard about the Federal Government's recent Executive Order on Deferred Employee Payroll Tax for qualified employees. The following note and Q&A are intended to clarify GM's position on this topic.

Like most other employers, GM will continue to withhold and remit the payroll taxes required by law and not be implementing this voluntary program. Given the short-term nature of the order (taxes reduced in 2020 but needing to be repaid by April 1, 2021), along with the complexities introduced in implementing this change, we do not believe it to be in the best interest of our employees.

-GM statement from Socrates

Welcome New Members!

With all the retirements that have taken place within the last year, we are happy to say that the Global Technical Center has added 26 new GM hourly employees within the last nine months. Welcome Brothers and Sisters to UAW Local 160 and to the General Motors Global Technical Center.



- Scott Berzonsky
- David Bupte
- Brian Chaney
- David Chevela
- Chance Culp
- Scott Defrank
- David Duberg
- Paul Elizondo
- Robert Gawecki
- Robert Maison
- Santiago Martinez Jr
- Alexander Meszaros
- Justin Miller
- Marc Mitchell
- Christopher Papp
- Dan Penny
- John Petroi
- Lisa Robertson
- Gerald Saunders
- Joseph Schulte
- James Schultz Jr
- Michael Shrodes
- Justin Siemion
- Roger Solomon Jr
- Tracy Tedder
- Michael Woody

AskRosie



Dear Rosie,

When can we expect Membership Meetings to start back up?

-Questioning Quinn

Dear Questioning Quinn,

Membership Meetings will reconvene when the state indoor restriction of 10 or more in attendance is lifted. As of this edition, only schools, casinos, workplaces, airports, and other incidental gatherings are exempt from the state restriction.

The International UAW would also have to be officially notified.

In Solidarity,

Rosie



American-Made Product Of The Month

Relax at home on Halloween this year with a sweet tasting Michigan-made wine from Leelanau Cellars called Witches Brew.

Witches Brew from Leelanau Cellars captures the spirit of shorter days cooling into spooky nights. Serve this spiced wine warm to fill the twilight with cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg to dispel the chill of the season, or chilled for a unique refreshing red.

\$6.99

Support Union Workers by shopping
at Kroger and Meijer



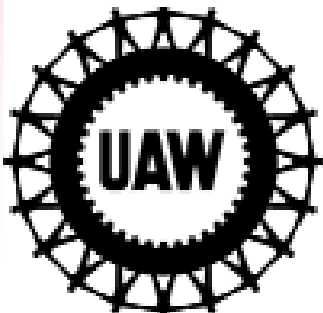


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