

**July 2021**



**ALL  
THINGS  
160**

## **President's Praise**

**I will never forget the first night of the Detroit News/Labor Union Strike 26 years ago this month.**

**Wanting to show my support for union brothers and sisters involved in the Detroit News Strike, I made my way up Mound from my place of employment, the Warren Tech Center, the evening of July 13, 1995, expecting the ordinary. It was anything but that.**

**I parked across from the sprawling News facility and made my way across Mound to one of the entrances, picking one entrance randomly. As I joined the group that had taken a foothold on blocking the entrance, I stood shoulder to shoulder with someone I somewhat recognized. It was not until a supporter shook his hand and called out his name did I ascertain who this union brother was. It was Steve Yokich, the then Union President of the International UAW.**

**I witnessed arrests that night, scuffles with Detroit News security, smoke bombs being hurled, and so many star nails tossed onto entrances and, unfortunately, onto Mound Road.**

**But the one vision that has stayed with and inspired me for years is that of UAW International President Stephen Yokich (UAW International President 1994-2002) there on the front lines of a bitter labor dispute - a President who, among many other accomplishments, led the union to some of its most lucrative contracts with Detroit's Big Three automakers.**

**Your "All Things 160" Newsletter will be covering that strike in detail this month and continuing into the next edition.**

*In Solidarity.*

*David Small*

President of Local 160



## **MOMENTS IN LABOR HISTORY** **Detroit Newspaper Strike of 1995–1997**

Tension between the unions and management of Detroit's two primary newspapers had been building for several years. Management attempted to force out the unions by trying to switch from employee distribution to independent contractors. The unions claimed management was engaging in unfair labor practices. It is believed that management provoked the strike and had been preparing for several years. The owners had been planning as early as 1989 to significantly change the existing labor agreements with the unions.

On July 13, 1995, about 2,500 members of six different unions went on strike after management indicated it would not discuss recent labor practice changes by Detroit News publisher, Robert Giles. The unions included The Newspaper Guild and the Teamsters, along with the pressmen, printers, and Teamsters working for the "Detroit Newspapers" distribution arm. The papers lost approximately \$100,000,000 (equivalent to \$161,214,760 in 2020) in the first six months of the strike.

The newspapers continued to publish during the strike and aired commercials depicting “People Behind the Paper.” The strikers published a competing weekly newspaper, the Detroit Sunday Journal. The newspapers hired replacement workers, spent approximately \$40,000,000 (equivalent to \$64,485,904 in 2020) on private security, and provided the police department in Sterling Heights, Michigan - where a production plant was located – with \$1,000,000 (equivalent to \$1,612,148 in 2020). Striking workers traveled the United States to draw attention to the conflict and pressure corporate boards of directors of advertisers in the two newspapers. In the winter of 1996, 27 strikers were arrested for blocking Gannett Company’s Port Huron, Michigan printing facility for the USA Today regional edition. The company switched printing of that edition to a more secure facility in Toledo, Ohio. In September 1996, columnist and strike supporter, Susan Watson, was terminated from the Detroit Free Press for participating in a sitdown strike at the Detroit Free Press Building.

The unions ended their strike on February 14, 1997. Following the strike, management indicated they would not fire any of the replacement workers, and would only hire strikers as positions became available. By April 1997, only 200 of the 2,000 striking workers had been rehired.

The National Labor Relations Board ruled in 1997 that the newspapers had engaged in unfair labor practices. But the newspapers appealed, and the federal courts reversed the NLRB ruling in 2000.

The unions remain active at the papers, representing a majority of the employees under their jurisdiction.

Ten years after the strike, the newspapers had still not recovered the lost

circulation from the strike. There is a lot to be learned from every moment in labor history. Some people consider the Detroit Newspaper Strike as a loss. However, if we learn from this event, we can better prepare for future fights to win what is right for the working class. In the coming editions of “All Things 160,” we will explore more about the Detroit Newspaper Strike. Stay tuned.



# AMERICAN MADE

## 4TH OF JULY



**Fiesta Americana  
Stars Dinnerware Collection**  
At Bed, Bath & Beyond



**Lawn Chair USA  
Old Glory Classic**  
\$69.99



**Dirty Bags Cornhole  
Jersey Guy  
"American Bear" Board**  
\$349.00



**The Liberty Flagpole  
20ft Aluminum Flagpole Kit**  
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**White House Gift Shop  
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\$12.95



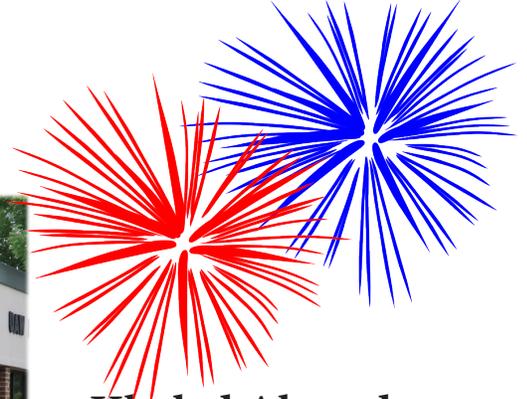
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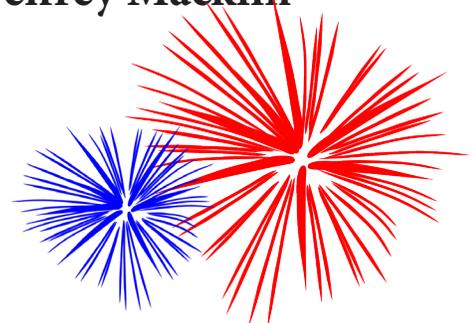
# Welcome to our new Local 160 Members!

*This month we welcomed 15 new Local 160 Members.*

Welcome, Brothers and sisters,  
to the UAW Local 160  
Family and to the  
General Motors Global Technical Center.



- Khaled Ahmed
- Paige Pleasant
- Rebecca Zwolinski
- Michael Carter
- Armando David
- James True
- Jack Wortinger
- Joseph Gabarino
- Harry Lesnik
- Richard Siecinski
- Thomas Timon
- Mitchell Young
- Michael Buttigieg
- Buddy Jones
- Jeffrey Macklin



# Education Corner

## Enhanced Employee Application Process

During the 2019 National Negotiations, the Joint Parties agreed to improvements that create a more transparent Appendix A process. These improvements enhance the method in which employees make application for job transfer opportunities.

Beginning June 21, 2021, the company will be filling all openings using the Enhanced Employee Application process. All previous applications were closed effective June 14, 2021. It is highly recommended that GM Unit members sign up for notifications to your preferred location(s) and register for email and text message notification so that you can be informed as soon as an opening is posted for the location of your interest. You will now apply directly to the posted Job Transfer Opportunities as they become available. The posting will be open for ten calendar days. This is the application period. You may cancel your application at any time during the application period, which is prior to the closing date and time as per the timestamp on the job posting. If you are eligible and selected for transfer, you are required to report to the new location.

- The preferred method of communication is email and text messaging. Paper notification remains an option for report to work letters only.
- Employees will not have the opportunity to refuse the applied for job after the ten-day application period expires; thus, employees selected for transfer to work will be required to report to the new location as per their report to work letter.
- Employees not qualifying for transfer will remain eligible to apply for future openings, without a hold period.
- Please log into the Employee Placement System through Socrates or by going to [eps.gm.com](https://eps.gm.com), using your GMID and established password to gain access. Once you log onto Socrates, you click on “Personal”, then find “Career” in the dropdown menu. Below “Career” click on the link “Employee Placement System” and follow the instructions.
- If you have any questions regarding the process please reach out to Richard Prentiss (UAW/GM Joint Training Representative) @ 586-986-7358. If Rich is unavailable, you may contact Angela Bia-Shock (UAW/GM Joint Activities Representative) @ 586-215-3531.
- The Job Transfer Opportunities will also be posted on the board next to Rich Prentiss’ office located in the Link Building around the corner from HR.



Dear Rosie,

Is the GM Global Tech Center going to have the Annual Car Show, and is Local 160 going to have the Annual Local 160 Picnic?

-Rev Ray

Dear Rev Ray,

Because of the amount of time, energy, and resources it takes to plan both of these events, while the situation with COVID was still unknown, it was decided that, in order to keep all members safe, they will be cancelled this year. We are so excited to have safe and fun events back in 2022!

*In Solidarity,  
Rosie*

**AMERICAN MADE PRODUCT OF THE MONTH**



**BLACK CAT  
THERE IS NO  
SUBSTITUTE.**

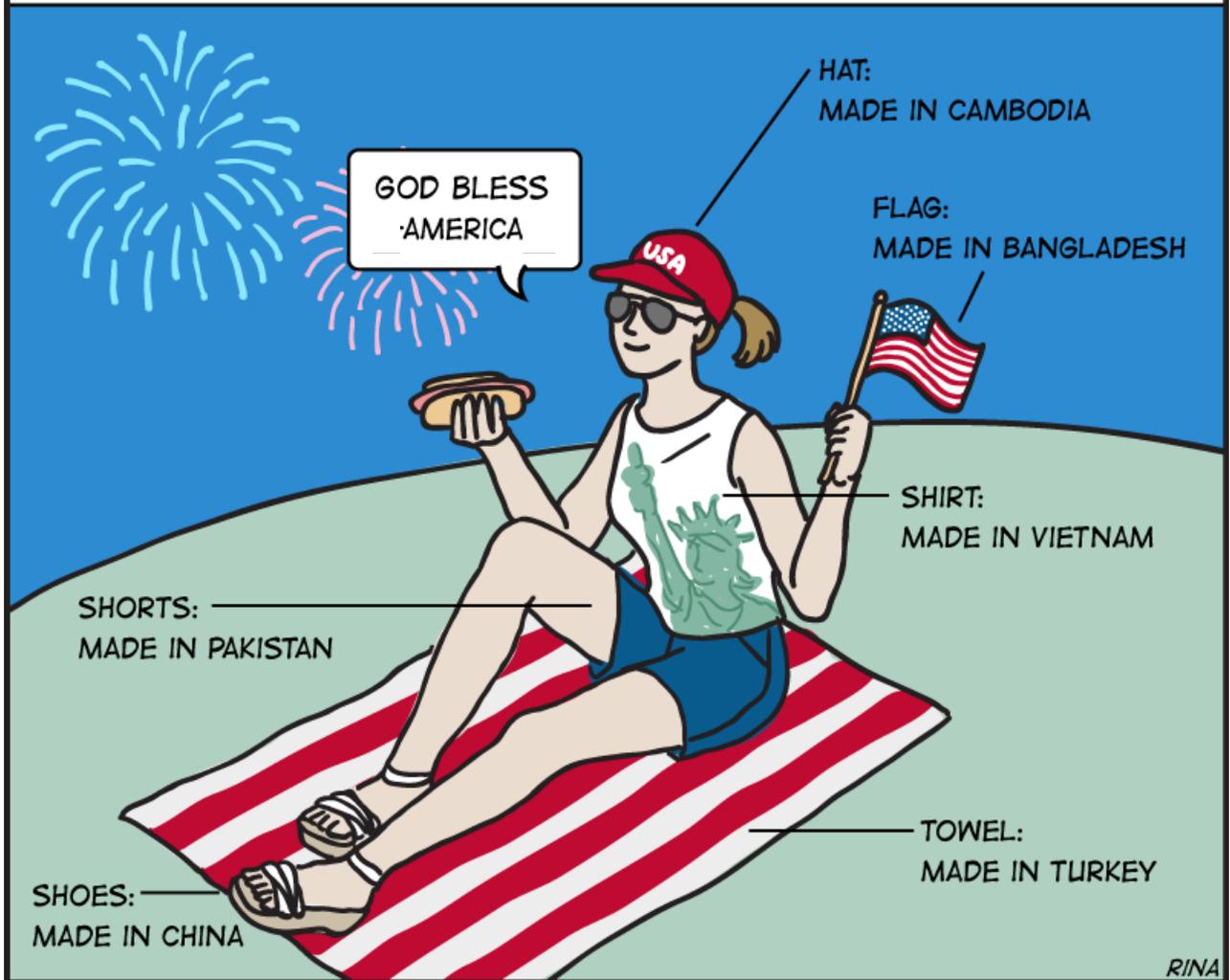
Whether it's a once a year holiday or a once in a lifetime event, make it count with the best name in fireworks since 1952.

**Support America  
while Celebrating America**

**In the US, the first July 4th celebration happened during the Revolutionary War. From that time, fireworks have become synonymous with celebrating our country's Independence Day. Black Cat is proud to be a part of this important and fun American tradition.**

**Black Cat® started in the US in the 1940's and registered with the US Patent & Trademark Office in 1952. Black Cat® is the oldest registered consumer fireworks brand in the US, and is one of the most recognized fireworks brands. From 1952 to the present, Black Cat® remains "The Best You Can Get" in consumer fireworks!**

HAPPY JULY 4TH! LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS ALL-AMERICAN HOLIDAY...



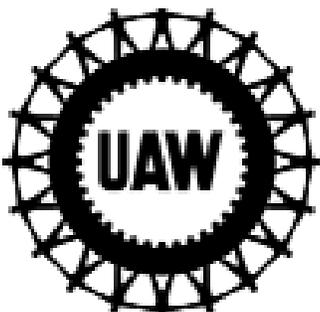
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