

Return Service Requested

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and collective bargaining...”

Martin Luther King Jr

Hello everyone! I thought I would add an update in this month’s newsletter regarding UAW leadership changes that will be forthcoming.

In late November, cherry picked UAW leaders from around the country flew into Detroit to select what’s known as “The Reuther Caucus” slate at the national headquarters, Solidarity House at the request of International. The caucus, which UAW Local 74 was not invited to attend, gives itself the most power in the organization. Delegates to the UAW Constitutional Convention vote in new leadership but for the past seven decades, the Reuther Caucus's nominee has won election as union president. The caucus also customarily determines the other winners elected at the Constitutional Conventions held every four years.

The Reuther Caucus slate is topped with UAW Region 5 director, Gary Jones, as the pick for president succeeding the retiring Dennis Williams. UAW President Dennis Williams was elected in 2014 and will turn 65 in 2018, which would bar him from re-election. Jones is joined on the slate by current UAW Secretary-Treasurer Gary Casteel, who is seeking re-election. Also worth noting is Region 9’s Terry Dittes has been slated by the caucus as Vice President of Ag Imp. Dittes is currently serving as interim VP until the constitutional convention in June. Former Ag Imp VP, Norwood Jewell, retired at the end of 2017.

In our Region 4 news, Shop Chair Toby Munley and I were invited and attended the region’s leadership conference at the beginning of January at the regional headquarters in Lincolnshire, Illinois. A Reuther Caucus was held at the conference and current Region 4 Director, Ron McInroy, was selected to be our nominee for director at the convention in Detroit. I look forward to working with Director McInroy in the future to improve democratic process in our union and to help get policy makers elected to office that actually stand with labor.

In solidarity,
Chris Laursen
President UAW Local 74

Ladder Injury Statistics

- More than **90,000 people receive emergency room treatment** from ladder-related injuries every year
- Elevated falls account for almost **700 occupational deaths** annually
- These deaths account for 15% of all occupational deaths
- OSHA believes 100% of all ladder accidents could be prevented if proper attention to equipment and climber training were provided
- Over the last 10 years the amount of ladder-related injuries has increased 50%
- According the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 50% of all ladder-related **accidents were due to individuals carrying items as they climbed**
- The most common type of ladder-related injury, with 32%, is fractures

4 Main Types of Ladder Accidents

1. Selecting the Wrong Type of Ladder

One thing to consider when selecting an appropriate ladder is the ladder’s weight capacity. Each ladder is designed to support a maximum weight limit and if the climber exceeds that limit the ladder could break and cause the user to fall or become injured.

2. Using Worn or Damaged Ladders

Damaged ladders are extremely dangerous as they can easily break while being used and cause serious injuries.

3. Incorrect Use of Ladders

While using a ladder **always maintain 3 points of contact** with the ladder to ensure stability. Also, never attempt to reach for something while on the ladder.

4. Incorrect Placement of Ladders

Make sure that the ground you place it on is level and firm. Ladders should never be placed in front of a door that is not locked, blocked, or guarded. A good practice to ensure a ladder is secure is to always have a helper support the base while a ladder is being used

UNION REPORTER

The Executive Board

President Chris Laursen
Vice President Danny Shaver
Shop Chairman Toby Munley
Committeeman 1 Billy Weinhold
Committeeman 2 Matt Pickrell
Committeeman 3 Trent Francis
Recording Secretary Ron Hall
Financial Secretary Jeremy Breckenridge
Trustee's Jeremey Barker
Jason Ewing
Tim Pickrell
Sgt. at Arms Abe Elam
Guide Mike Shaw
Retiree Chairman Stephen Tews

Dates and Times

Plan to attend!

Steward Council
1st Thursday of each month - 1:00 & 3:45 p.m.
Retiree Executive Board
2nd Monday of each month - 11:00 a.m.
Retiree Co-op Dinner
2nd Monday of each month - 11:45 a.m.
Local 74 Pension Board
2nd Friday of each month - 3:30 p.m.
Executive Board
1 day prior to the Membership Meeting - 3:45 p.m.
Membership Meeting
3rd Wednesday of each month
7:15 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:45 p.m. & 5:45 p.m.
Women's Committee
2nd Monday of each month - 5:45 p.m.
Labor Action Committee
3rd Monday of each month - 6:00 p.m.

UAW Local 74

Management "Guidelines"



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UAW Websites To Visit

IUAW-www.uaw.org
Region 4-www.region4.uaw.org
Local 74-www.uawlocal74.com

Please visit these websites and see what your Union has to offer.

Union Hall 641-682-0897
Deere Direct 1-888-432-3373
Deere Direct Retired 1-800-213-3373
United Healthcare 1-888-533-3731
United Healthcare Vision 1-800-638-3120
United Healthcare Dental 1-800-996-7518
Optum Rx Prescription Drugs 1-800-797-9794
Mental Health/Substance Abuse 1-888-533-7311
Fidelity Investments 401k 1-800-354-3427
Hyatt Legal Services 1-800-821-6400
John Deere Pension Benefits 1-844-689-7833

UAW Local 74 is an Amalgamated Union Representing John Deere Ottumwa Works, Monroe County Iowa Sheriffs Department, Albia Iowa Police Department, and the Albia Iowa Streets and Sanitation Departments.

A Piece From Solidarity Magazine

Stronger Together: The Thread That Ties Us Together

It's not easy to define "union." Some reference collective bargaining and the improvements to wages, benefits and working conditions we make through negotiations. And for some, being organized is about fully appreciating the power of political action as, after all, everything we gain at the bargaining table can be wiped out at the ballot box. Others will describe the positive social change we are able to affect in our communities through our unions.

All of those descriptions are accurate. But there is also a thread that winds through all of them: the simple notion that we are stronger when we stand together and help one another. Gains at the bargaining table happen because the employer doesn't question our resolve to stand together. We've seen what happens when officials who support worker rights get elected (and what happens when politicians who don't ascend to office). And the very heart of social change comes from our mandate to stand in solidarity with those who are vulnerable and in need.

Brothers and Sisters!

Don't forget to attend the February 5th caucus at your precinct.
Changes start here. Now. With us.

24th Annual Junior Achievement Snow Bowl

John Deere Ottumwa Works is sponsoring bowling teams to raise money for Junior Achievement. Each team must consist of 5 employees/retirees. Team members are asked to get donations for Junior Achievement in Wapello County. Prizes are given, depending on how much money bowlers raise. Junior Achievement at the Ottumwa High School helps teach kids principles ranging from economics to budgeting to entrepreneurship.

24th Annual Junior Achievement SNOWBOWL

Saturday, 24 February 2018

Champion Bowl, Ottumwa IA

If you are interested in participating please contact Tony Floden or Russ Herschleb to get your packets today and get your team signed up!!