



# LOCAL 31 NEWSLINE

August 2011

Kansas City, Kansas

Volume 14, Issue 8

**UAW Local 31 Executive Board President**  
George Ruiz

**Vice President**  
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**Recording Secretary**  
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**Financial Secretary**  
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**Sgt. At Arms**  
Keith Crowell

**Guide**  
Veronica Boyd

**Shop Chairman**  
John Melton

**Retiree Rep.**  
Jack Yunghans

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## UAW Hopes to Sign deal with Foreign Automaker by End of 2011

*(from Automotive News)*  
DETROIT (Reuters) July 19, 2011 – The UAW is talking with several foreign automakers about representing their U.S. plants' hourly workers and could see a deal by year end, top union officials said recently.

UAW President Bob King has staked his reputation and the union's future growth on winning votes to represent workers at foreign auto plants, which are predominately in the southeastern United States. He declined to say how many or with which companies the union is negotiating. "To our pleasant surprise a lot of companies have agreed to confidential discussions with us. What they'll lead to, I don't know," King said in a telephone interview.

"Some days I'm worried,

some days I'm frustrated. Are we putting too much hope into these discussions? I don't know, we're continuing them and we feel like we're making some progress," he added.

The UAW in the past has repeatedly failed to organize workers at the U.S. plants of such automakers as Japan's Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co, and Nissan Motor Co. The importance of attracting workers at nonunion plants will be underscored when the UAW opens negotiations for new four-year labor agreements with U.S. automakers General Motors co., Ford Motor co., and Chrysler Group LLC next week. King hopes the talks with Detroit automakers, which begin on Monday at Chrysler, will persuade foreign companies and their Workers of the

UAW's "21<sup>st</sup> century approach."

Union officials previously said they were talking with employee representatives for VW over organizing workers at the automaker's new plant in Chattanooga, TN. While not identifying any of the companies, UAW secretary treasurer Dennis Williams said this week, the union was making "great inroads" in its organizing efforts. "You're going to see before the end of the year a campaign or a plant being organized," he said.

*(to see the full article, go to [www.autonews.com](http://www.autonews.com))*



**UAW International marching for Jobs and fairness.**

## Feds Investigating Union's Charge in Delta Vote

The National Mediation Board (NMB) says evidence exists that Delta Air Lines interfered with its flight attendants before and during their vote last year on whether to unionize, and it will investigate the charges.

The Association of Flight Attendants (AFA-CWA) had filed charges against the airline on behalf of Delta flight Attendants following the union's 9,544 – 9,216 vote loss in November.

In announcing the NMB deci-

sion to investigate, AFA President Veda Shook said, "Delta management's misconduct in this election was blatant and persistent – from daily emails to a barrage of misinformation sent in slick brochures to homes, to encouraging flight attendants to vote on company computers, where they could be monitored."

Shook also said flight attendants got calls to their homes from supervisors, co-workers,

even in the lobbies of layover hotels.

Shook said AFA would fully cooperate with the investigation and urged Delta management to stop its delaying tactics.

AFA had represented several thousand Delta attendants for several decades before the airline merged with Northwest in 2008; some 20,000 attendants at the merged airline were eligible to vote.



### UNION MEETING NOTICE

The next monthly Regular Executive Board and Membership Meetings will be held Saturday, August 20, 2011 (always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday). The E-Board meets at 1:00 pm followed by the Regular Membership at 2:00 pm. **IF PRODUCTION IS SCHEDULED FOR THAT SATURDAY, MEETING TIMES WILL BE POSTED IN THE PLANT THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.** (Retirees may call the Union Hall for meeting times.)

### RETIREE MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

11:00 am

The regular retiree meetings are held on the third Tuesdays of each month except for July and August. The meeting begins at 11:00 am followed by a potluck lunch. Please bring a large covered side dish. Spouses are welcome.

## President's Report

To my Brothers and Sisters of Local 31:

Once again, let me say thank you for giving me the honor to represent you as your President. It will be a trying job at times, but I know I have the best membership in the nation to give me a hand when needed, and that is what we must do to make our Union stronger this year and for the future.

I was in Detroit with our chairperson the last week of June to vote on the International Resolutions. President Bob King and Vice President Joe Ashton spoke about the importance of the upcoming negotiations and what we all must do to insure our future. They asked all of the presidents and chairpersons to go back to their locals and get the membership ready to get active in organize more units and

rallying against the elected officials that are trying to take our union rights away. I will be out on the plant floor speaking to everyone about what we can do to help this cause.

Our Local Union picnic will be held on Saturday, August 6 from noon until 4:00 pm. Volunteers are still needed, please call or go by the Union Hall if you're interested in signing up.

We are also planning to have our annual Labor Day float and celebration at the Liberty Memorial. I know that many of our members will be out of town during that time, so I am asking now to see if we will have enough members interested in it to make it worthwhile. Please call or stop by the Union Hall to let us know. This has always been a great activity for our

union members and a way to interact with other unions in Kansas City.

Our next Union Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 21, due to the fact that the plant is scheduled for production on Saturday. If that changes, we'll go back to Saturday. Remember that this will be the meeting where the committees are elected. Again I want to remind you that if you decide to run for a committee, please be dedicated to the committee; don't run if you don't expect to volunteer some time and be active at the Union meetings and functions.

If I can be of service to you, please call and leave me a message at (913) 342-7330 or send me an email at [george.ruiz@gm.com](mailto:george.ruiz@gm.com).

In Solidarity,

*George R. Ruiz*

## Vice President's Report

Sisters & Brothers,

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable July shutdown, spending time with family and friends, or just getting things done at home is always worthwhile when we have time off work. There are plenty of activities going on before our next scheduled time off that will be August 29 – September 9, 2011.

July 18 – Local negotiations open.

July 27 – National negotiations open.

July 30 – Production Saturday

August 6 – UAW Local 31

Picnic - noon – 4pm

August 14 – Chaplaincy Dinner

– 2pm – 5pm

August 20 – Production Saturday

August 20 – 21 – KC Air Show (Wheeler Air Field)

August 21 – Local 31 Membership Meeting – 2pm

September 17 – Local 31 Membership Meeting – 2pm

Sept 24 – Production Saturday

Elections for Standing Committees will be held at our August 21 Membership Meeting. These Committees of our local are the tools

through which the policies and programs of the UAW are put to work. Those who serve on a committee are the dedicated members whose contributions of time and efforts will help build a better union. In turn this will preserve and improve a better way of life that our members and their families have worked so hard for. So please plan on attending and getting involved.

If you need to contact me, please leave me a message at the Union Hall, (913) 342-7330.

*As Ashton*

## Chaplaincy Committee

### CARING IN THE WORK-PLACE

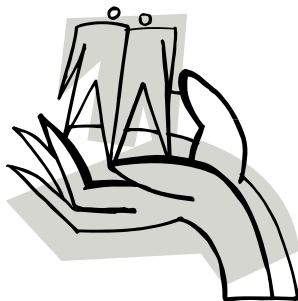
#### “I RECEIVE IT”

The theme for this year’s chaplaincy prayer dinner is – “I RECEIVE IT.” It is so easy for us to help others and give generously most of the time. We will give the shirt off our back to others, but find it hard to receive help from someone trying to be a blessing to us. We can hinder a person’s blessing by not receiving their gifts of love. Think about it. All we have to do is say—“I receive it” and be blessed. You may not want help or need it, but please allow the person to get their blessing.

We need to understand the spiritual principles of giving. We *give when we receive because the more you give – the more you receive.* That’s the spiritual blessing from God. It

is more blessed to give than to receive. *Give and it shall be given unto you.* But you must receive it and allow God to pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

The bible instructs us to



remind everyone to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. Proverbs 4:10 reads, “*Hear, O my son and receive my saying; and*

*the years of thy life shall be many.*”

We look forward to seeing everyone at our prayer dinner on August 14 at the Local 31 Union Hall. Dinner will be served at 1:30 pm with an inspirational program to follow. We are asking for a donation of \$10.00 to help support future educational and training programs. If you are unable to attend you can be a blessing by making a donation that will be used to enhance our outreach with the community.

Local 31  
Chaplaincy Committee  
Joette Thompson  
Mike Flores  
Tracy Payne  
Mary Green, Retiree Chaplain  
Herb Taylor, Senior Chaplain

### FAIRFAX OPEN HOUSE DATES ANNOUNCED

*Employee/Retiree day,  
September 21  
Public Open House,  
September 22  
Watch for more details in the future.*

### From the Desk of Donna Birks, Financial Secretary:

Reminder – Cell phone numbers have recently gone public. To block your cell phone from receiving calls from telemarketing companies call 888-382-1222 which is the National DO NOT CALL list. It only takes a minute of your time and it will block your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable two week time off. During the upcoming weeks off (August 29 – September 9, the Union Hall will be open (except to celebrate Labor Day on September 5).

## Women’s Committee

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

The Women’s Committee welcomes everyone back from their 2 week vacation and hopes everyone enjoyed their time off. Looking ahead, we will have 2 additional weeks off coming up at the end of August and the first week in September where those who are eligible will receive SUB and unemployment.

**STAY COOL** – In the current temperatures, we encourage everyone to drink plenty of fluids and try to stay cool on these steamy hot days.

**PUB CRAWL** - August 4 – Tickets for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “SUMMER SOUL PUB CRAWL”

are now available. This year’s proceeds support the Stevenson/Lusk Memorial Scholarship, which supports local students who attend Penn Valley Community College and the Beta Lambda Educational Institute. Look on kcalphas.com, or call (816) 921-6161 for advanced tickets and line-up details.

**MISSOURI TAX FREE WEEKEND** – for back to school supplies and clothing runs from **August 5 – 7, 2011**, and applies to the following items:

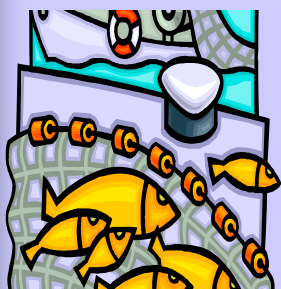
~**Clothing under \$100 (per item)**  
~**School supplies under \$50(per item)**

~**Computer software under \$350**

~**Computers/computer equipment under \$3,500**

Keep in mind, as well, that not all cities and counties in Missouri participate in the annual tax-free weekend event, so we encourage you to check with your local government or call the stores in your area to make sure.

**KEEP COOL!!**  
**LOCAL 31 WOMEN’S COMMITTEE**  
Robin Harris  
Charlotte Dickey  
Summer Small



### BASS CLUB RESULTS

JULY 17 TOURNAMENT

POMME de TERRE

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Gary Woodring & Chris Woodring 10.73 lbs.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Terry Close & Joe Hastings 7.81 lbs.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

David Bishop & Rich Atkins 7.70 lbs.  
Big Bass – Chris

Woodring – 3.04 lbs.

**NEXT TOURNAMENT:**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**  
**TRUMAN STATE PARK**

6:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Contact Jack Walton for Information

@ (913) 299-8623.

## Detroit Plant Closing Called “Corporate Greed Gone Amok”

Calling it “another example of corporate greed gone amok,” UAW President Bob King blasted American Axle and Manufacturing (AAM) for closing its Detroit plant after wringing concessions from workers. The company announced the closing in late June.

“The UAW is angry about AAM’s decision to close its Detroit plant after our members made real sacrifices to

make the plant competitive and viable,” said King.

“Our UAW members found dramatic cost savings to make the Detroit plant competitive, and instead of assigning enough work to keep the facility open and profitable, AAM is running from Detroit,” added UAW Vice President Cindy Estrada.

UAW Local 22 President George McGreggor said the UAW agreed to make significant changes to keep the plant open. “In recent negotiations, the Union agreed to additional concessions and a long list of

AAM demands to eliminate contract language, modify work rules, and give the company flexibility to institute alternative work schedules. AAM reacted to this by announcing the closing of the Detroit plant.”

The UAW said that it remained ready to discuss specific product opportunities and the economics of those opportunities with AAM in an effort to find a way to keep the Detroit site open past February.

## UAW MO Kan Federal Credit Union



The Credit Union would like to show our appreciation for our members. In August we will be giving tokens of our appreciation when a member stops by the Credit Union. On August 19, Costco will be here with

free cookies all day and the Credit Union will be grilling and handing out cold drinks. If your child or grandchild has a Coin Club account, when they visit in August, the Credit Union will let them pick out a gift.

The UAW MO-KAN Federal Credit Union appreciates our members help in

keeping the true philosophy of Credit Unions alive and kicking.

### People Helping People.

Call us for more information:

(913) 342-0293

3254 Brinkerhoff Road  
Kansas City, KS 66115

## Congratulations Local 31 Softball Team



On Sunday, July 24 the Local 31 Men’s Softball team won 2 out of 3 baseball games by the scores of 16 -10 and 13 – 10. These great players, Kelly, Paul, Owen, Pate, Chad, Stan, Joe, Rob,

Jared, Boo, Rob, Felipe and Chuckee stunned the Local 249 team this year!

They’ve been working hard and it really showed.

Congratulations again, guys!

Any ladies who would like to get a team together to play against the Local 249 team are encouraged to

contact the Union Hall and leave a message for Chuckee Robinson. They want to get a tournament scheduled for September. Call (913) 342-7330 if you’re interested.

## Civil & Human Rights Committee

We were privileged to have the Greater Kansas City/



Leavenworth Area Chapter Ninth & Tenth (Horse) Cavalry Association Buffalo Soldiers come to July membership meeting to lead us in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. To find out more about this organization, you can visit their website at

www.BuffaloSoldiersHOA.com.

At this meeting we presented Certificates of Appreciation for helping our Committee during the past year. We would find it hard to do our job without the help of people like John Melton, Jeff Manning, Walt Wedow, Robin Harris, Dedire Hawkins, Herb Taylor, Clarence Brown, Jorge Rodriguez Carol Thompkins, Veronica Cato, Charlotte Dickey, Andre Hobson, Carol Thompkins, Omar Williams, Louise Hill, Eddie Henderson, Boo Harris, Cindy Folsom, Jack

Yunghans, Libby Dantzer and the secretaries at the Union Hall, Susan Cusimano and Jan Mammen. Others will be presented in August.

We also want to thank the entire membership for the support you've given us in our fundraising efforts during the past year.

Local 31 Civil & Human Rights Committee  
 Patricia Trevino  
 Steve Call  
 Bruce Drew

## From the Guide to UAW Members

Thank you for all of your support during the 2011 elections; I am thrilled to take on my new duty as Guide for Local 31. As stated during my campaign, I will make it a primary objective to ensure all of the necessary duties of Guide are fulfilled with efficiency and accuracy.

I appreciate all of the

UAW Local 31 members who voted. Thank you again for electing me as Local 31's new Guide.

In solidarity,  
 Veronica Boyd

Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you so much for your generous donations in the I-70 Challenge for those in need within our community. Community Service picked up and delivered all the cans to Catholic Charities on Friday, July 22, 2011.

Community Service  
 Jonna Yates  
 Misty Coghlan  
 Denise Garner

## Retiree Recreation Report

Reminders!!! If you are going to Branson in October, your trip balance is due by August 5, 2011. If you are going to the New Theatre in November, your payment is due by August 15, 2011. You may mail your check or take it to the Union Hall at 500 Kindlerberger Rd., Kansas City, KS 66115. You must make out

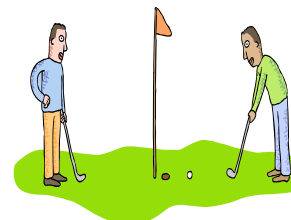
separate checks for each event for bookkeeping and cancellation purposes.

We have a full bus going to Warsaw on September 22nd for their annual UAW meeting and fish fry.

If you are participating these trips, you will receive a follow-up phone call and/or be mailed pertinent information at least a

couple of weeks prior to the event date. If you should have any questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to call Clint Simmons at 816-505-7111.

STAY COOL!  
 Clint Simmons, Recreation Committee



## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL "DAVE PETERSON CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT" SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011

Noon Check-In  
 1:00 pm Shot Gun Start  
 Cost: \$90 per player  
 (includes green fees, cart, prizes and dinner.)

Format: Four Person Scramble  
 Deadline: August 12, 2011

Sunflower Hills Golf Course  
 141 North 122<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Kansas City, KS 66012

This is a Fundraiser that will benefit United Way of Wyandotte County and the Tri County Labor Council.

**Entry Forms are available at the Union Hall.**



## About Your Benefits

### Retirees and Surviving Spouses who have **Traditional Care Only!** 1/1/2011 URMBT BENEFIT DETAILS:

#### CARDIAC REHAB

No age restrictions  
Inpatient and outpatient are allowable  
places of service, covered across  
the U.S.

Covered groups: URMBT/GM (Group  
71436)

Cardiac Rehabilitation allowed as a covered benefit when the member has one of the following: Myocardial infarction (heart attack), Coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG), Stable Angina Pectoris-predictor

Heart transplant

Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA)

Heart valve surgery: Repair or replace diseased heart valves

Benefit Criteria: Enrollees must start cardiac rehabilitation services within 3 months of a cardiac event and complete within 6 months; is subject to cost share; Program will be limited to 3 sessions/weekly for 12 weeks (36 sessions)-If beyond 12 weeks-it will be subject to additional documentation of medical necessity required.

Phase I and II Cardiac Rehab is covered.

Phase III and Phase IV are not

Phase I: Takes place in hospital after heart attack/or major heart problem

Phase 2: Part of the outpatient program following heart attack, heart surgery, or other major heart problem. Includes supervised exercise and a variety of measurements and assessments

Phase 3 & 4: **NOT COVERED**

Typically outpatient and unmonitored. Goes on for indefinite time period and involves lifelong commitment to regular exercise. Doesn't require presence or close supervision of a therapist or physi-

cian, referred to as maintenance because it emphasizes long-term lifestyle changes. (Held at community facility or at home.)

All cardiac rehabilitation services must be performed by participating/in-network providers to be a covered benefit. Cardiac rehabilitation performed by non-participating/out-of-network providers are not covered.

Claims must be submitted by MD or DO. Non-physician services must be under direct supervision.

#### **QUIT THE NIC Smoking Cessation 1-800-775-2583**

'Quit the Nic' is BCBS's telephone based tobacco cessation and relapse program.

This program is to reduce health burden and costs associated with all forms of tobacco addiction. This 12-month program offers support from registered nurse health coaches (Mon-Fri 9am-9pm-except corporate holidays) to enrolled members become tobacco-free. BCBSM members can access Quit the Nic for more information by calling 1-800-775-2583.

#### **DIABETIC EDUCATION 1/1/2011**

- Provided by Certified Diabetes Educators (CDE) for newly diagnosed diabetics or for members whose diabetes is not controlled.

The program is intended to be implemented for both Medicare and non-Medicare members.

#### **UAW FLEX EMPLOYEES frequently asked questions:**

Q: I am a UAW Flex employee, is my prescription drug coverage changing?

A: Yes, your prescription drug coverage changed in 2011. The \$1000 annual limit for prescription drugs will be removed. Everything else will remain the same. The co-pays for retail (up to a 30-day supply) are \$7.50 for generic

and \$15 for brand medications. For mail order (up to a 90-day supply), the co-pays are \$7.50 for generic and \$15 for brand medications.

Q: Are UAW Flex-hourly employees eligible for vision benefits? A: No. Flex hourly employees are not eligible for vision benefits under the GM Hourly Health Care Program.

Q: Are UAW Flex hourly employees eligible for dental benefits?

A: No. Flex hourly employees are not eligible for dental benefits under the GM Hourly Health Care Program.

#### **Active Members for Worker's Compensation RX**

General Motors has selected Express Scripts to administer its prescription drug program for your Worker's Compensation Claim.

Please call Express Scripts if you are no longer taking medication(s) for your injury so that documentation of your medication requirements remains accurate. If you have any questions about this card, you may call Express Scripts at 866-590-5882. If you have questions about your Worker's Compensation claim in general, please contact your Sedgwick CMS Claims Examiner at 1-800-489-4646.

Your Benefit Reps are here to serve you!! Please contact the phone numbers listed below should you need assistance.

UBR (913) 573-7421 OR 7422

1<sup>st</sup> Shift

Craig Dumortier

Cheryl Millican

2<sup>nd</sup> Shift

J.D. Hogan

Bobbie Dunnell

(913) 573-7480 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift

Sandy Martinez

Alternate Shawana Woods

Delphi and Leeds Caretaker

Bob Fiscus (816) 455-0200

*The Executive Board and Membership of UAW Local 31  
would like to extend their deepest sympathies  
to the families and friends of the following members who passed away recently*

**KERRY GARNER**

Joined: September 1983  
Retired: January 2007  
Department 50  
Died: January 27, 2011

**JIM HARRINGTON**

Joined: August 1963  
Retired: February 1993  
Department 41  
Died: May 14, 2011

**CALVIN MAYES**

Joined: September 1983  
Retired: November 1987  
Department 11  
Died: May 24, 2011

**JAMES C. KIRK**

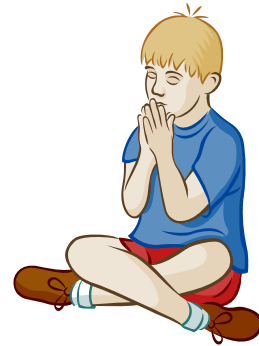
Joined: April 1966  
Retired: January 2000  
Department 16  
Died: July 10, 2011

**JAMES R.  
CARNNAHAN**

Joined: August 1969  
Retired: January 2007  
Department 41  
Died: July 16, 2011

**RAY CHASTAIN**

Joined: July 1962  
Retired: March 1993  
Died: July 16, 2011  
Department 70



## One Light Bulb At A Time

A physics teacher in high school, once told the students that while one grasshopper on the railroad tracks wouldn't slow a train very much, a billion of them would. With that thought in mind, read the following – obviously written by a very good American....

### Good Idea – One Light Bulb at a Time....

Check this out. I can verify this because I was in Lowes the other day for some reason and just for the heck of it I was looking at the hose attachments... They were all made in China. The next day I was in Ace Hardware and just for the heck of it I checked the hose attachments there. They were made in **USA**. Start looking...

In our current economic situation, every little thing we buy or do affects someone else – even their job!

My grandson likes Hershey's candy. I noticed, though, that it is marked "Made

in Mexico" now. I do not buy it anymore.

My favorite toothpaste, Colgate, is made in Mexico... now I have switched to Crest. You have to read the labels on everything.

This past weekend I was at Kroger...I needed 60W light bulbs and Bounce dryer sheets. I was in the light bulb aisle, and right next to the GE brand I normally buy was an off-brand labeled, "Everyday Value." I picked up both types of bulbs and compared the stats – they were the same except for the price. The GE bulbs were more money than the Everyday Value brand but the thing that surprised me the most was the fact that the GE was made in MEXICO and the Everyday Value brand was made in – get ready for this – **the USA** in a company in *Cleveland, Ohio*.

So throw out the myth that you cannot find products you use every day that are made right here.

So throw out the myth that you can-

not find products you use every day that are made right here. On to another aisle – Bounce Dryer Sheets – yep – you guessed it. Bounce cost more money and is made in Canada. The Everyday Value brand was less money and **MADE IN THE USA!** I did laundry yesterday and the dryer sheets performed just like the Bounce Free I have been using for years and at almost half the price.

My challenge to you is to start reading labels when you shop for everyday things and see what you can find that is **made in the USA** – the job you save may be your **own** or your neighbors!

If you accept the challenge, pass this on to others so we can all start **buying American** – one light bulb at a time. Stop buying from overseas companies!

We should have awakened a decade ago!!

**United Automobile-Aerospace  
-Agricultural Implement  
Workers of America**

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Kansas City, Kansas 66115  
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Fax #913 342.3408  
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**The First LIVE! In the Crossroads CEL-LABOR-ATION**



The First LIVE! In the Crossroads CEL-LABOR-ATION! Friday, September 2, 2011, 7-9:00 pm  
The Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA), in association with the AFL-CIO and EARTH (Equity Actors' Readers' Theatre), and members of other Performance Unions, Labor and the hundreds of thousands of working men and women it serves.  
To help kick off the Labor

Day Weekend – as a part of September's First Friday in the Crossroads – from 7 – 9:00 pm on Friday, September 2, at their location at 2018 Baltimore, M-AAA will present an on-going multi-media presentation utilizing the talents of Kansas City based members of these performers' Unions – featuring live music, video presentations, and highlighted by a stage reading – by veterans of Kansas City's own Equi-

ty Actors' Readers' Theatre – of selections from theatrical literature, screenplays, and journalism that examine the relationship between workers from all walks of life, the work they do that helps define their lives, and the role that Unions play in their lives.  
If you are a member of any Labor Union, go and wear your Union colors proudly – you will be their guest of honor!

