



**UAW Local 31
Executive Board
President**
Jeff Manning
Vice President
George Ruiz
Recording Secretary
Dedire Hawkins
Financial Secretary
Donna Birks
Trustees
Kathy Belshe
Norma Raya
Keith Shelton
Sgt. At Arms
Charles Hall
Guide
Cindy Crable
Shop Chairman
John Melton
Retiree Rep.
Jack Yunghans

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LOCAL 31 NEWSLINE

March 2011

Kansas City, Kansas

Volume 14, Issue 2

Union Membership Hit Hard by Recession

Recent union membership gains have been completely erased by the effects of the recession.

Union membership dropped for the second straight year in 2010, to 14,715 million members, or 11.9 percent of all workers – down from 12.3 percent in 2009 – according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report released January 21. Every sector, demographic group and region have been affected by the declines.

Cutbacks in hiring and layoffs by employers responding to the recession helped slash union membership by 1.3 million in the last two years, twice as much as all the gains unions made in 2007-08. Hit especially hard were the three most-densely unionized sectors: manufacturing, construction and local government. As a result, just 6.9 percent of private sector workers are now unionized, and 36.2 percent of public workers.

This may help explain why public sector workers have become the favorite targets of budget-cutting political leaders across the country. According to an analysis by Ben Zipperer, a senior research associate of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, public sector

unionization declined at all levels of government, dropping from 37.4 percent in 2009 to 36.2 percent last year, while state and county cutbacks reduced the membership rate at the local governmental level from 43.3 percent in 2009 to 42.3 percent last year.

And while the number of unionized federal government workers held steady in 2010, the growth of the federal workforce – fueled partly by half a million non-union temporary Census workers – meant that union membership among federal workers actually declined from 28.0 percent to 26.8 percent.

Construction, one of the most unionized sectors, bore the brunt of the decline in both overall employment and union jobs, with union membership dropping from 14.5 percent to 13.1 percent in 2010, largely because of the recession's impact on non-residential construction, which is more heavily unionized than the residential sector.

While unionized workers held steady at 13 percent in private education, union membership in health care dropped from 7.5 percent to 6.9 percent last year, and union membership in the retail sector also

fell, from 5.3 percent to 4.7 percent. Union jobs in manufacturing, which have been falling dramatically in recent years, dipped slightly to 10.7 percent from 10.9 percent in 2009.

The drop in union membership affected just about every kind of worker: unionized men declined from 13.3 percent of the workforce to 12.6 percent last year; women declined slightly from 11.3 percent to 11.1 percent, and most ethnic groups also saw declines, except for Latinos, whose membership rate remained roughly the same at about 10 percent.

States in the Northeast and Midwest saw the largest drops in unionization, with the membership rate in Illinois declining from 17.5 percent in 2009 to 15.5 percent last year. New York remained the most highly unionized state in 2010, despite its rate falling from 25.2 percent to 24.2 percent. However, California – where Latinos have been vigorously organizing – increased unionization from 17.2 percent to 17.5 percent, and the state's rate was higher in 2010 than it was in almost all years since the mid-1990s.



UNION MEETING NOTICE

The next monthly Regular Executive Board and Membership Meetings will be held Saturday March 19, 2011 (always the 3rd 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

**March 15, 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

Brothers and Sisters,

Local 31 is made up of over 60 different UAW Locals all coming together and forming one UAW Local 31. When issues like in Wisconsin come up we must stand together and address them. I am asking all of you to call on behalf of anyone who works under a collective bargaining agreement. Governor Walker and his staff need to hear from us.

Thank you to the Civil and Human Rights Committee for a very nice celebration of

Martin Luther King and Black History Month. The monies raised will go towards a scholarship fund. More information will be coming soon. Thanks to all the volunteers who took time to bake the cakes and prepare the dinners. Everyone I talk with always say how much they appreciate the celebrations.

I hope everyone made it through the snow storm of the century; let's hope that spring is just around the corner.

As always, if you need

anything that I can help with, do not hesitate to call the hall.

The next Union meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011. The executive board meets at 1:00 pm followed by the regular membership at 2:00 pm. At the regular membership meeting we will be electing the Election Committee to serve a three-year term.

May God Bless and Keep
You Always,

Shop Chairperson's Report

Sisters and Brothers of Local 31:

We currently have 78 grievances in the procedure - 6 being discharges (all Document 8 cases) and 2 terminations.

Due to the Wentzville plant adding additional jobs, four of our members that transferred from Wentzville will be offered the opportunity to return. On behalf of Local 31, I would like to thank these members for their help and wish them good luck.

We are STILL experiencing some issues on the 2

weeks of "SUB or Unemployment" for the January downtime. I know everyone has been more than patient and we hope this is fixed IMMEDIATELY.

Profit sharing has been announced and will be paid on the week ending for the March 20 payroll. - Remember that the formula is based on an hourly rate with a maximum of 1850 hours.

Everyone should have applied for ALL vacation hours (40 hours of VR optional) - the manpower committees are working on get-

ting the disposition out to all members.

You can reach the Shop Chair at (913) 573-7776 in the plant or (913) 342-7330. To reach your respective Zone Committeeperson, call (913) 573-7420 or (573) 7790. The next union meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2011 at 2:00. Plan on attending.

Be Safe and
Buckle Up.

Your Shop Chairperson

UAW LOCAL 31 1ST & 3RD SHIFT GOLF LEAGUE Begins Thursday, April 7, 2011 Tee

Times begin at 3:30 League lasts 18 weeks
\$80 + Green Fees
& Cart Fees

Sunflower Golf Course
Swope Memorial Golf Course More info on the
website at
www.local31golfleague.com

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

UNION BENEFIT OFFICE
(913) 573-7421

WORK CENTER
(913)573-7420 (913)573-7790
UNION HALL (913) 342-7330
ATTENDANCE CALL-IN
800-222-8889

Vice President's report

To My Brothers & Sisters of Local 31:

Thank you for the cards and phone calls wishing me a speedy recovery of my fractured left knee. At home, just like at work, you never know when an accident can happen, so take that extra time for safety. I wish I would have!

The beginning of this year wasn't the best but

we'll make due and I'm hoping to return to work by the middle of March. I miss working with the membership on daily issues and helping when possible. So if I can be of any help, please feel free to continue to call the Union Hall and leave me a message or send me an e-mail george.ruiz@gm.com (I can read them from my home).

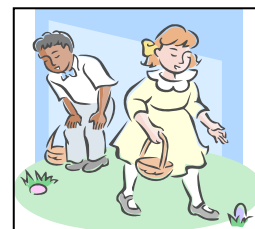
Remember that the next union meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011. Every Union meeting is informative and it will be especially important for you to become more involved and educated about what is happening during the coming months.

See you soon,

George F. Ruiz



Carol Thompkins, Bobby Lowe and Carol's guest

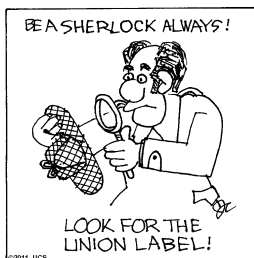


Union Label Committee

Upon the request of UAW Local 31 President Jeff Manning, I Vicki Hale, along with fellow team member, Dave Robertson, have been asked to revive and renew the information flow and activities of Local 31's Union Label Committee. This committee helps to emphasize the importance of supporting those goods produced in union shops by union members, under union-won working conditions. It also increases our members' awareness of those products produced under non-union conditions and by anti-labor manufacturers. The International UAW does not have a Union Label Department, but works closely with the AFL-CIO Union Label Department in Washington, D.C. By purchasing Union-made goods and services we preserve the interests of today's working families and uphold our commitment to good value, quality service and cost-savings that union members deserve. By continuing to purchase

union-made / American-made goods and services, we STRENGTHEN AMERICA and UNIONS.

After much discussion, we have decided to write our first article about something that is near and dear to many of our members' hearts – Beer. When considering your next purchase of beer, why not



buy union made? Most all major brands of beer and ales in the United States are produced by four unions. The (IAM) International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, (IBT) International Brotherhood of Teamsters, (UFCW) United Food and Commercial Workers and the (UAW) United Automobile, Aerospace and Agri-

cultural Implement workers of America. For your next consideration and purchase of beer or ale, listed below are the **UAW** beers produced in America. Hamm's, Hamm's Draft, Hamm's Light, Henry Weinhard's Private Reserve, Henry Weinhard's Blue Boar Pale Ale, IceHouse, Leinenkugel's, Mickey's Malt, Mickey's Ice Miller, Miller Lite, Miller Genuine Draft, Miller Genuine Draft Light, Miller High Life, Miller High Life Light, Miller Lite Ice, Milwaukee's Best, Milwaukee's Best Light, Milwaukee's Best Ice, Olde English 800, Pabst, Red Dog, Sharp's (non alcoholic)

For a comprehensive list of Union-Made beer, please log onto www.GetitUnion.com

UAW Local 31 Union Label Committee
Vicki Hale
Dave Robertson

Local 31
Easter Egg
Hunt

Saturday,
April 16

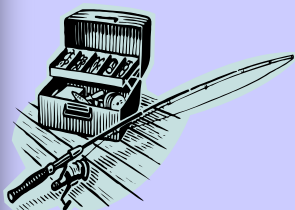
1:00 pm to 3:00
pm

UAW Local 31
Union Hall

For kids up to
age 12 of
Active and
Retired
members.

Rain or Shine.

Sponsored by the
Recreation
Committee:
Libby Dantzler
Kristine Shumate
Boo Harris
D.A. Thomas
Larry Davis



2011 BASS CLUB

This season will begin on
SUNDAY, MARCH
20

7:30 am – 3:00 pm
Lake Ozark
Gravois Mills Ramp
Meeting at 7:00 am
1st Tournament Fee
\$105.00

Extra \$5.00 to the
pot for Fisherman
of the Year and Big
Bass of the Year
Entry Forms and
Rules are available
at the Union Hall.
Call Jack Walton
for more informa-
tion
@ (913) 299-8623.

Financial Secretary Report

I hope everyone is keeping a watch on what's happening in Wisconsin and Ohio with the teachers' union. Just in case you are not aware, the Governor of Wisconsin wants to cut the budget, which is probably necessary, but it's the way that he is going about it. The teacher's union understands that they will have to probably take a pay cut and pay more for their out-of-pocket health care cost. The protest is because the governor wants to eliminate the bargaining rights of the teachers. In other words, get rid of their union.

Some of you are probably thinking, "Well what has the union done for me, so why is that a big deal?" As UAW members, we have had to take some concessions to keep our companies in business. But how many of you have talked to members of your families or friends who work for a non-union company and hear the stories of how people got laid off without the use of seniority rights, no health insurance, unsafe working conditions, and you better not complain or you are the next one out the door. If you think it's bad as a seniority union worker at GM Fairfax, what would it be like without the union? Remember how you felt when you were trying to get your 90 days, or just ask one of the temps in the plant how they feel.

My experience was before the union won the right

for members to pick jobs by seniority. I worked in the paint department on the sealer line with about 40 other workers, no automation. We had the right to pick our area, but the supervisor had the right to pick our job. If you weren't one of the chosen ones (and I wasn't because the supervisor didn't like the fact that I didn't laugh at his jokes and the only conversation we had was about the job. He said I had a "bad attitude", imagine that). Your job was bending over and reaching to put sealer in the car or the trunk. Local 31 went on strike in May 2008 for 3 ½ weeks because one of management's demands was to go back to management assigning jobs without regard to seniority.

Well, this protest in Wisconsin is only the beginning of things to come. Right here in Kansas with the newly elected Governor and so many conservative Republicans being elected last November, the anti-worker bills are flowing. There is a bill in the State House, (#2130) to stop payroll deductions on voluntary political contributions from members of unions (our CAP Program). The legislatures who support this bill say that the members can come to the hall and pay in person. This would stop the voice of labor to protect workers, because this voluntary contribution is used to help support candidates who support working family's issues. Another bill that's in Topeka

is another "Weaken Worker's Comp" bill. Now mind you, Kansas already has one of the worst Worker's Comp bills in the country. Another bill that will be coming out will be to repeal the minimum wage bill that was just passed in 2009. Kansas also had the distinction of having the lowest minimum wage (\$2.65) until it was raised to the federal level under the past democratic governor.

After the November 2010 elections, there are now 13 states with the so-called "Right to Work" bills in progress, including Missouri.

There is a major force out there now to get rid of and silence the organizations that protect worker's rights (UNIONS) and if we just think that we are okay because we are working, remember that there are about 4,000 of our UAW brothers and sisters who are still on lay-off and have run out of benefits and sub-pay. Some of these members are holding their breath every time Congress fights to extend the unemployment benefits.

Get involved, VOTE, Call your Congressman and stop standing on the sideline like this can't happen to you! That wave of gloom is coming our way. When people don't work, they surely don't buy cars!

Remember this quote:
"IF YOU DON'T STAND FOR SOMETHING, YOU WILL FALL FOR ANYTHING."

Donna Burt

Chaplaincy Committee

Spiritual Ways to Reduce Stress
 An Angel says, "Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it does not happen, you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice." Pray.
 Go to bed on time.
 Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
 Say No to projects that will not fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
 Delegate tasks to capable others.
 Simplify and unclutter your life.
 Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
 Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
 Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; do not lump the hard things all together.
 Take one day at a time
 Separate worries from concerns. If a situation were a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you cannot do anything about a situation, for-

get it.
 Live within your budget; do not use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
 Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
 K.M.S. (keep mouth shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
 Do something for the Kid in You every day.
 Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
 Get enough rest.
 Eat right.
 Get organized so everything has its place.
 Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
 Write down thoughts and inspirations.
 Every day, find time to be alone.
 Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Do not wait until it is time to go to bed to try to pray.
 Make friends with Godly people.
 Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
 Remember that the shortest bridge

between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus."
 Laugh.
 Laugh some more!
 Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
 Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
 Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
 Sit on your ego
 Talk less; listen more.
 Slow down.
 Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
 Every night before bed, think of one thing you are grateful for that you have never been grateful for before.

Author unknown

The Chaplaincy
 Committee
 Herb Taylor, Sr. Chaplain
 Mike Flores
 Tracy Payne
 Joetta Thompson
 Retiree Chaplain Mary Green

Veteran's Report

In honor of February being Black History Month, we would like to remember the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military airmen, at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism. They came from every section of the country, with large numbers coming from New York City, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. Each one possessed a strong personal desire to serve the United States of America at the best of his ability. To learn more about these brave Veterans,

please visit the following special web site: www.tuskegeearmen.org

There is new research on the Burn Pits, both in Iraq and Afghanistan. If you are a Veteran or know a Veteran who served in one of these theaters of operations, please visit their special web site, www.burnpits360.org to find out more and to join the burn pit registry. They are gaining ground on getting these Veterans their service connected disabilities. If you have any questions, feel free to call a member of the Veterans' Committee or any Service Organization Representative.

They are also still finding new evidence to support Gulf War Illness for

Veterans of the first Gulf War, as well as Agent Orange findings for Viet Nam Veterans. If you think you have a medical condition connected to one of these two instances, please talk to a Service Organization Representative.

In solidarity,
 The Veterans' Committee
 Gerald Provost
 Todd Dix
 Bob Dyché
 Reggie Threat

Inside Story Headline

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Hello Sisters and Brothers,
WHITE SHIRT DAY-We'd like to thank everyone for wearing their white shirts on February 11th for the purpose of the 1937 Flint Sit-Down Strike and for showing management our strength and unity. As part of the celebration, we served bowls of beans & cornbread (at no charge) in the plant. We thank our local union for purchasing the food items for the beans and cornbread servings, and greatly appreciate the donations of cornbread from our sisters in the plant.

VALENTINE'S DAY - On February 13 & 14 the Women's Committee distributed red heart suckers and informational shower cards on self-breast examination to our UAW Sisters as a way to show our gratitude and appreciation for their support, sisterly love and to be a part of any and everyone's breast cancer prevention.

SOCIAL SECURITY INFO. In the month of March, the Women's Committee will be at the doors to distribute pamphlets to our UAW Sisters on "What Every Woman Should Know about Social Security." This pamphlet contains factual and useful information pertaining to women from ALL states. We encourage our Sisters to please take the time to read through the pamphlet.

SPRING FLING PARTY - As an exhale from the winter blues, the Women's Committee will sponsor a Spring Fling party as a fundraiser on

March 26, at the Union Hall from 8:00 pm - 1:30 am. We will have a DJ, good music, dancing, socializing and chicken wings will be available. All UAW Sisters and Brothers in good standing are welcome to attend. BYOB Donation is \$5 and we're asking sisters to bring any personal care items for women. A portion of the proceeds will go to a local Women's Shelter. Come jam with us!

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON - in celebrating Women's History Month, the Women's Committee cordially invites our Sisters of UAW Local 31 as well as our Local 31 Brothers to attend the Annual Women's Luncheon. This year, we are sponsoring a "Big Hat Brunch" with a theme as **Am I My Sister's Keeper?** We have invited Connie Leak from the International Women's Department to be our guest speaker. The luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at the Argosy Casino, 777 NW Argosy Parkway, Riverside, MO 64150. Sisters, as this is a "Big Hat Brunch", this is the time you can wear your favorite church, sassy, western, attitude, classy or any other hat of your choice to this casual - to - dress attire event. You may also have the pleasure to bring along an adult family or friend as your guest to enjoy this **Am I My Sisters' Keeper** experience. The total amount for buffet style meal is \$29.61 (amount includes all taxes and gratuity); however, the local will pay half for members and Local

31retirees. The adjusted cost for Local 31 members/retirees is \$15 and \$29.61 for your guests. The menu is a Country Buffet:

- Tossed Green Salad*
- Homemade Potato Salad*
- Fresh Fruit Tray*
- Country Fried Chicken*
- Country Pot Roast with Potatoes & Vegetables*
- Whipped Mashed Potatoes/Gravy*
- Corn Cobbettes*
- Dinner Rolls/Butter*
- Assortment of Freshly Baked Fruit Pies*
- Coffee and Iced Tea*

We plan to have a variety of vendors on site for you to browse and shop around at your convenience. *Event will start on time, so please come early to allow time to browse and shop at the vendors. If you are interested in a booth to sell items from your business, crafts, hobbies, baked goods, etc., you are more than welcome to have a booth. The non-refundable fee for a booth as a Local 31 member/retiree is \$10 and non-member's fee is \$25. We're asking you to please RSVP with payment for you and your guest by March 18 to the Local 31 Union Hall or to any committee member. Come join us in meeting new friends and catching up with old friends.

*~Am I My Sister's Keeper~
Women's Committee
Robin Harris
Charlotte Dickey
Teena Taylor
Summer Small*

2011 BIG HAT BRUNCH		
Member's Name _____	\$15 for meal	/ \$10 booth
Guest Name _____	\$29.61 for meal	
Non-member for Booth _____	\$25.00	
Total amount paid:	cash _____	or check _____ \$ _____

Who Will Control Our Wages



Larry Davis

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I had the opportunity to attend the leadership conference for Region 5 from Jan. 9 – 12, 2011. I would like to first thank the membership and executive board for that opportunity.

Region 5 Director, Jim Wells gave the delegates information to bring some things back to our membership about the UAW organizing the trans-national automakers (Toyota, Hyundai, Kia, etc.). The main point that Director Wells emphasized was that if these transplants are not organized, our wages, benefits and lifestyle that we are accustomed to are at stake.

Did you know that the goal of these trans-national automakers is to drive our wages down? It's possible because they control 67% of the market share and the Big 3 (General Motors, Ford and Chrysler) control only 33% - down

from when the Big 3 controlled 79% in the early 1970's.

At the Constitutional Convention the delegates voted to take \$25 million out of the healthy strike fund and use it for necessary organizing. Our newly elected UAW President, Bob King, and the Executive Board have a plan in place to organize the trans-national automakers. Phase I of that plan has had over 100 UAW organizers in the State of Mississippi to provide information on how and why it is important to organize. These workers want a union, but they are afraid of the company. The company is already using intimidation and scare tactics to keep them from organizing. This goes back to the 1940's when Ford said that it would be over his dead body that there would be a union in his company.

Walter Reuther, the 4th UAW International President, said that in order for the UAW to be a successful union, all auto companies must be organized. In spite of the Ford THUGS who were hired by Ford's company to keep the UAW out, as you can see, the UAW

under Reuther, was successful in organizing the Ford Motor Company - because none of us are as strong as all of us.

Phase 2 of the plan causes us to banner local trans-plant dealerships to stand out in front and pass out literature of how they violate their employees' human rights and their labor rights – rights to organize.

My Brothers and Sisters – for this plan to be successful, we must have each member do their part. This is just like strikers on the picket line- if there are few strikers; there is no POWER to succeed. United We Stand – Divided We Fall. Trust me, if this organizing drive does not succeed, our wages and benefits will be determined by the trans-national plants in the United States.

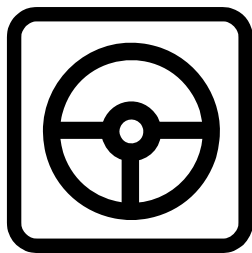
I say to you now – It's time to come together as a Union. Phase I is already being implemented – stay tuned for Phase 2 notification from the International for the local union's involvement. It's up to us, WHO WILL CONTROL OUR WAGES!

Korea Trade Pact Splits Labor

A labor movement usually united against free trade deals split over the Korea U.S. Free Trade Agreement announced by President Obama in early December. The United Auto Workers and the Food and Commercial Workers supported the agreement, while the AFL-CIO, Steelworkers, Communications Workers and Machinists all came out strongly against it.

"In both the United States, and South Korea, workers

continue to face repeated challenges to their exercise of



fundamental human rights on the job," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, "especially freedom of associa-

tion and the right to organize and bargain collectively."

The UAW called the new pact a dramatic step toward changing from a one-way street to a two-way street for trade between the U.S. and South Korea," adding that "These changes represent an important opportunity to break open the Korean market for U.S. businesses and workers and boost American manufacturing jobs, particularly in the automotive sector."



Retiree Recreation

RETIREE RECREATION

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Retiree Recreation Committee is excited to announce the upcoming events scheduled for this year. We have had to make some revisions from the green sheet that was available at the February retire meeting. Please keep in mind that these events fill up FAST, so get your reservations in quickly!

JAMESPORT. This quaint Missouri town is hosting an Amish handcraft auction and city-wide garage sale on Saturday, **April 16th**. This trip will cost each person \$7.50 and lunch on your own, a small price for a fun-filled day. Participants will meet at the union hall and board a bus at 8:00 am. Call Clint Simmons at (816)505-7111 to put your name on the list. Payment is due now.

PRAIRIE BAND CASINO. A BUS WILL TAKE US TO THIS BEAUTIFUL CASINO ON Thursday, **April 28th**. The trip is free except for any contributions you make once there! Buffet lunch included. 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. Call Jack Yunghans at (913) 328-0872 to put your name on this list.

THE IMPROV COMEDY CLUB @ Zona Rosa. A Saturday matinee lunch and comedy magic show, tentatively scheduled for **May 21st** at 1:00 pm. Cost is \$35 per person, guaranteed fun. Self-driven. Call Clint Simmons at (816) 505-7111 to put your name on the list. Payment due now.

WARSAW. The annual UAW Southwest Regional Meeting and Fish Fry will be held on Thursday, **September 22nd**. This trip will be free for members, leaving from the union hall by bus at 7:00 am. Call Clint Simmons at (816) 505-7111 to put your name on the list.

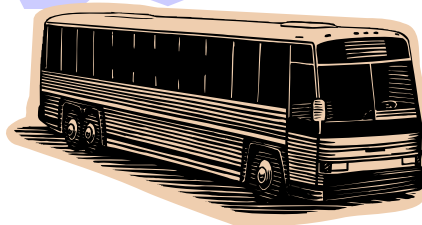
THE NEW THEATRE RESTAURANT.

We have 60 seats already reserved for the upcoming season, which has not yet been announced. Please watch for information on the show and prices in upcoming *NEWSLINES*. Cost includes lunch and stage show, and should be about the same as prior shows (\$30 -35 pp). Always a wonderful time. Self-driven. Call Clint Simmons at (816) 505-7111 to put your name on the list.



BRANSON.

Back by popular demand, we have a wonderful itinerary lined up. Trip



dates are **Oct. 4 - 7, 2011** (Tues. - Fri.) This year we will stay 3 nights at the luxurious Grand Plaza Hotel, which offers a long list of amenities including hot breakfasts daily. Our itinerary includes some great shows: Noah the Musical (their final season in Branson); Three Red Neck Tenors (comedy in big-time operatic voices); the Oak Ridge Boys (we all know their songs); Twelve Irish Tenors (hugely talented group sing pop-jazz-classical) and Jim Stafford (heart-warming music and hilarious antics). Price includes the bus, hotel, all shows, dinner each evening, and as always, we'll include time for Branson shopping and stops at Lambert's and the Osceola Cheese Factory on our way home. Price per

person: Single-\$500, Double-\$360, Triple-\$320, Quad-\$300. Even with the cost of everything going up, we are able to bring you prices the same or less than last year for the same length stay. What a deal! A deposit of \$100 per person is due by April 19th to hold your spot, remainder due by August 5th. This will be a great trip so please don't delay! Call Clint Simmons at (816) 505-7111 to put your name on the list.

All events are first-come, first-served. If more than 50 people sign up, they will be put on a cancellation waiting list. All payments or deposits must be made out to "UAW Local 31 Retiree Chapter" and mailed to the Union Hall, 500 Kindelberger Rd., K.C, KS 66115, att: Clint Simmons. Please make out separate checks for each event for bookkeeping and event payment/cancellation purposes.

We obtain great group rates if we have a certain amount of people, so the success of these trips depends on YOU!! Only if we have enough participation do we proceed with the fun and the memories that each one brings. Your commitment must be made SOON in order for us to solidify plans. THANKS.

Also, please be advised that the **ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR** will be held at the union hall on Thursday, **April 7th** beginning at 9:00 am. This meeting of the area UAW locals is always very informative. Lunch will be served. This meeting is free but you must sign up. Please call Jack Yunghans at (913) 328-0872 or the hall at (913) 342-7330 to put your name on the list.



Bowling Night with UAW local 249 & UAW Local 31

Retiree's Information

By W.J. McNeal, Retiree Editor & 2nd Vice Chairman
"Faith is not about everything going ok; Faith is about being ok, not matter how things turn out."

Unknown

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 – the day after Martin Luther King Day was the retiree's union meeting. I didn't make the meeting, but Jack stated that we had about 80 retirees present. The guest was Dr. Kristy Kurtz, Audiologist from Liberty, MO. Our GM/UAW health care costs are higher and it will cost more for those who aren't covered. Get in touch with your elected congressional representatives and tell them not to abandon the poor.

The 21st Annual California Reunion for former Locals 1364, 216 and 645 will be held the weekend of April 22 & 23. This year it will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in St. Charles, MO. To make hotel reservations call 800-362-2779. Two-day tickets to the event are \$50 per person. For more information, contact Earl Traylor at (913) 894-4667, Dennis Litzey (913) 780-2710, or Joe Hall (913) 894-5757.

At the Greater KC Retir-

ees Area Council Meeting, it was announced that the Region 5 Summer School will be held from June 12 - 17, 2011 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. It was also announced that the Region 5 Spring Seminar will be on Thursday, April 7, 2011 starting at 9:00 am at the Local 31 Union Hall. This seminar will be to keep the retirees informed of the state of our union and the changes in benefits that impact the retirees. **YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT SO PLEASE CALL THE UNION HALL at (913) 342-7330 to get your name on the list by April 1.**

As for politics in Kansas and Missouri, Kansas is doing all it can to cut spending on education. Missouri is doing all it can to push the "Right to Work" (for less).

Jack went to the Local's Valentine's dance which he said was well-attended. He also went to the regular membership meeting on Sunday, February 20. He attended the Tri-County Labor Council meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2011. He stated that the meeting was well-attended by

many area unions.

FYI...In the month of January 2011 there were 5 Saturdays, 5 Mondays and 5 Sundays. This phenomenon occurs only every 823 years.

Take a few minutes and a few dollars to support our disabled Veterans. In Kansas alone we have 28,028 and the number is rising.

I also received some important ALERT information about buying auto fuel for your car/truck. The new inside job scam being used is to recharge gas/fuel on someone else's credit card after they have left the station. To stop this from being done, be sure you press the CLEAR button on the key pad after you get your receipt.

Remember that the March Retiree Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 11:00 am. Please bring a large covered dish to share.

"When you think of it, God has to be the BEST inventor of all times. He took a rib from Adam, and made a loud-speaker." J

*W.J. McNeal,
Retiree Editor*

Forgot the Salt and Pepper

Years back, the U.S. Department of the Interior used metal bands to tag migrating birds. The tags bore the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated:

"Wash. Biol. Surv."

But the agency suspended its system after it received the following letter:

"Dear Sirs, while camping last week I shot one of

your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and I want to tell you it tasted horrible."

About Your Benefits

BENEFIT INFORMATION
UAW BENEFIT OFFICE
(913) 573-7421

Retirees Only

These Changes will actually increase the weekly take-home pay of a retiree.

This bulletin is to advise you of a number of tax form changes and 2011 tax withholding changes for Defined Contribution (DC) and Defined Benefit (DB) plan participants who will be receiving a 1099 Series Tax Form. 1099 Series Tax Forms are applicable only to retirees or deferred vested participants, surviving spouses, and beneficiaries who are receiving pension benefits.

1099 Series Tax Form:

IRS's intent is to remove full SSN and use only last four from the 1099. Fidelity is in process of adopting this change. All other forms will continue to use full SSN#. Beginning January 12 Fidelity will begin emailing participants with valid e-mail addresses as to when tax forms are available for printing via NetBenefits.

Hardcopy tax forms will continue to be mailed by applicable due date.

Tax Withholding Change

As of Jan.1, 2011, the optional Making Work Pay Credit withholding adjustment will no longer be



part of the Federal withholding tables. The impact to many people receiving qualified recurring payments will be that their Federal withholding will be reduced by a maximum of \$33.40 for single and \$50.00 for married status.

In addition to the Making Work Pay Credit change, there are also Federal tax changes that will impact withholding. The expectation is that these changes will show up in the 2/1/ or 3/1/11 pension payment. Some state withholding amounts are linked to Federal withholding. Since Federal withholding will be changing for some people, their state withholding might change slightly.

Based on a preliminary analysis of the 2011 Federal tax tables,

some people, their state withholding might change slightly. Based on a preliminary analysis of the 2011 Federal tax tables, some people who never had withholding will see it for the first time because the starting point for withholding is lower in 2011 than it was in 2010. Other people will see slight increases or decreases which is similar to what happens every year. Participants are responsible for withholding enough money from their payments to meet their tax obligation. If participants have concerns with the change to their withholding, they can request changes to their elections to meet their individual tax needs by contacting 1-800-489-4646.

UBR Benefit Rep
913-573-7421

1st UBR Craig Dumortier

UBR Cheryl Millican

2nd UBR Bobbie Dunnell

UBR J.D. Hogan

3rd UBR Sandy Martinez

Alt Shawana Woods

Leeds UBR Bob Fiscus

816-455-0200

Worlds of Fun & Oceans of Fun

Local 31 and Worlds of Fun have partnered up for Summer of fun for your family. Plan now to get the best prices on regular admission tickets and season passports.

Gold Season Pass:

- Valid for guests 48" or taller
- Unlimited access to WOF and OOF
- Parking
- \$96.72 (includes tax)

Sale ends 4/15/11

Gold Junior/Senior Pass:

- Valid for guests under 48"; also for guests age 62 and older (ages 2 & younger are free)
- Unlimited access to WOF and OOF + Parking
- \$75.23 (includes tax)

Sale ends 4/15/11

Regular Admission

48" & taller = \$32.23

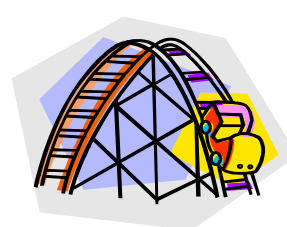
48" & under = \$23.63

(or over 62)

Under age 2 are free

Call the Union Hall @ (913) 342-7330 to find out how to access to Corporate Partners website. THESE ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ON THE WORLDS OF FUN WEBSITE - WE DO NOT HAVE TICKETS

AT



ETS
THE
UN-
ION
HALL.

*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*

STANLEY HOHMAN

Joined: June 1962
Retired: May 1991
Dept. 40
Died: November 11, 2010

CHARLES E. ROBERTS

Joined: Feb. 1950
Retired: Feb. 1980
Dept. 50
Died: December 2, 2010

ELDIN T. GOLUBSKI

Joined: June 1949
Retired: July 1979
Dept. 41
Died: December 5, 2010

LEO HILL

Joined: June 1953
Retired: Sept. 1981
Dept. 19
Died: December 5, 2010

LESTER OSBORN

Joined: Jan. 1963
Retired: March 1993
Dept. 41
Died: December 6, 2010

DARRELL MORGAN

Joined: June 1979
Retired: August 1994
Department 15
Died: December 9, 2010

WILLIE D. HOWELL

Joined: November 1964
Retired: November 1991
Department 50
Died: December 13, 2010

JOHN F. HELM, SR

Joined: June 1953
Retired: 1982
Department 30
Died: December 14, 2010

FRED E. STEWART

Joined: April 1967
Retired: June 1991
Department 11
Died: December 2010

LARRY J. CRAVEN

Joined: December 1961
Retired: March 1993
Department 50
Died: December 19, 2010

JOHN W. SOPCICH

Joined: November 1971
Retired: July 1981
Department 40
Died: December 26, 2010

SPENCER LAWRENCE

Joined: August 1968
Retired: January 2000
Department 41
Died: December 30, 2010

LESLIE J. KINGSLEY

Joined: April 1976
Retired: October 2005
Department 50
Died: January 2, 2011

LOUIS H. NELSON

Joined: June 1952
Retired: March 1982
Department 17
Died: January 7, 2011

IRWIN J. HOLLAND, JR.

Joined: September 1946
Retired: October 1976
Department 11
Died: January 7, 2011

BILLY KILLBRETH

Joined: August, 1979
Retired: June 2003
Department 70
Died: January 8, 2011

JAMES A. RICHARDSON

Joined: April 1949
Retired: January 1982
Department 73
Died: January 9, 2011

THEODORE ELROD

Joined: November 1946
Retired: May 1987
Department 11
Died: January 10, 2011

EARL DUNCAN

Joined: January 1953
Retired: May 1983
Department 27
Died: January 10, 2011

ROBERT MORROW

Joined: November 1974
Retired: January 2007
Department 50
Died: January 11, 2011

STEVE O'KEEFE

Joined: January 1964
Retired: January 2007
Department 25
Died: January 12, 2011

HAROLD STARK

Joined: September 1950
Retired: June 1980
Department 50
Died: January 13, 2011

EDDIA L. STEWART

Joined: December 1974
Retired: May 1994
Department 15
Died: January 20, 2011

ESTELE A. WARE

Joined: May 1949
Retired: February 1979
Dept. 11
Died: January 22, 2011

LEWIS (EUGENE) DUNCAN

Joined: March 2004
From Delphi - Olathe
Active in Dept. 17-3rd shift
Died: January 24, 2011

LEON BUSTRYCKI

Joined: March 1986
Retired: January 2000
Department 43
Died: February 6, 2011

WILLIAM (BILL) KOLICH

Joined: September 1976
Active in Dept. 50- 1st shift
Died: February 13, 2011

GLENN D. TETERS

Joined: January 1948
Retired: July, 1977
Department 11
Died: February 14, 2011



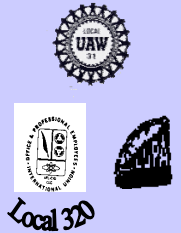
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CAP Committee

By now, everyone is aware of the situation in Wisconsin, where a Tea Party-backed Republican Governor has attacked the unions that represent most of the state's public workers under the guise of balancing Wisconsin's state budget. And as the truth is played out, Governor Scott Walker has used the budget as an excuse to exact his personal and political vendetta against unions, furthering the idea that Walker isn't truly interested in balancing Wisconsin's budget when he gave businesses healthy tax cuts, thus *increasing* his state's budget deficit. When union leaders made offers to help with financial concessions, the governor rejected them due to the fact that Walker not only wants their money, but he wants their bargaining rights as well. In other words – he wants to silence the voice of the workers.

Unfortunately, Walker's initiative spread like wildfire to other states. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Oklahoma soon had the same proposals or some sort of legislation that was aimed at nothing but crippling unions and silencing the voice of the workers.

What does this mean to us, proud mem-

bers of UAW Local 31? It means that we should raise and strengthen our guard against the anti-union politicians that want to silence *our* voices, as well as those who work for the states in which we live. Kansas, whose governor and state legislature are Republican run, stand poised to take on a similar initiative to that of Wisconsin.

And be assured that anti-union forces within the federal government are watching this very closely. They know that with a majority in the House of Representatives and a slim minority in the Senate, if they could grab the Presidency, they could very well threaten EVERY union in the United States of America with one simple goal: Silence the voice of the workers.

We, members of the greatest union in America, cannot allow this to happen. We must work harder than those who oppose us. We must remind our foes that we do have a voice, and we will use that voice to defend ourselves against all who want what we have fought, bled and died for. Unfortunately, our opposition is extremely well funded. Wisconsin Governor Walker, a political darling of the Tea Party, had literally mil-

lions of dollars in backing from the Koch Brothers Industries. The Koch's are billionaires who have never done an honest day of work in their lives, as they inherited their wealth from an oil baron. The Koch's political action does make two things very clear: the Tea Party is run by corporate interests in the U.S., and they want to silence the voice of the workers.

Please help the UAW elect union-friendly candidates to curb the Scott Walker's of the world by giving generously to VCAP. It may seem like throwing a pebble at a boulder, but millions of pebbles can break a boulder.

And please remember – the unions and workers of America DID NOT create our states and federal budget deficits. DO NOT allow any one person with a political agenda to attack us just because we are union. We are union **BECAUSE** of such people.

In Solidarity,
Your UAW Local 31 CAP Committee:
Don Marshall
Richie Martins
Veronica McLaughlin-Boyd
A.J. Shumate
Dave Barnhart