

Mike Parker for Delegate #2

The corporations are assaulting our rights, wages, benefits, and futures.

- Caterpillar and Delphi wages are trying to cut wages nearly in half through the use of two tier and bankruptcy threats.
- In Toledo, Chrysler will be "manufacturing" with the entire body shop and paint shop outsourced in addition to more sub-assemblies.
- GM now insists that getting out of the "construction business" and "janitor business" is a requirement for any new model.
- Retirees can no longer count on pensions and benefits

What is Convention Delegate

Five delegates represent Local 1700 at the UAW International Conventions. This June the *Constitutional* Convention meets in Las Vegas and takes up issues of structure, policy, and political action .

Next year the same delegates will represent you at the *Bargaining* Convention which establishes priorities for the national contracts.

We cannot defend our jobs and futures at SHAP if they are lost everywhere else. Right now we are in a race to the bottom with an endless process of giving concessions to beat the competition. In this race workers everywhere will be the losers while top management laughs all the way to the bank with their bonuses. We have to stop the race. First we have to change the priorities of the International Union from partnership with management to defending us. Second, we have to organize the unorganized autoworkers.

Both of these require that we change the union so that once again "We are the union." We will not convince unorganized workers to join us so they can get a real voice at work until we can demonstrate that members have a real voice in our own UAW.

There will be four real issues at this convention.

1. Support for the Delphi workers who say enough is enough --it's time to fight back.

2. Support for those at Ford, GM and Chrysler who say that the union owes it to all members that it will hold the companies to their promises to retirees.

3. Support for changing the system so that International President and all Executive Board members shall be directly elected by the membership.

4. Support for the right of members to see the full contract a week before voting on it. Would you buy a car or agree to an operation if you could only see the "Highlights" or could not get a second opinion?

Before you vote for any delegate, find out if they will publicly commit themselves on these issues. Are they willing to stand up at the Convention and speak and be counted?

I ask for your support

- I pledge to work hard for these four issues.
- I believe a strong union depends on membership involvement, good information, and solidarity against all attempts to pit us against each other.
- I try to look for the best in people and do not spread hurtful information about union sisters and brothers.
- I believe I have shown a commitment to these values not just at election time but throughout the year.
- I pledge to provide you with a report of the conventions that goes beyond the official hand-outs and highlights.

I can be effective as your delegate to the Convention.

Mike Parker

Say NO to Chrysler Demands on Health Care

Chrysler is demanding that the UAW give the same concessions in cutting retiree and active member health care as the union agreed at GM and Ford. The concession contract barely squeaked through at Ford and there are a lot of questions about the voting process. Increasingly union members understand that these concessions are designed to cap the companies' health care costs and shift all future increases to the retirees.

There are many reasons why we should reject these demands.

1. We owe it to the retirees and to those who will retire that they can count on their benefits and count on active workers to protect the retirees from raids on their benefits.

2. Giving concessions to Chrysler is not solving the healthcare problem--it is just shifting the problem to us. If we take concessions it just encourages other companies to demand more so *they* can be competitive. Let the company start campaigning for a national health care plan if it wants to level the playing field internationally.

3. We are already contributing substantially to maintain the principle of fully -paid health care for those in need. DaimlerChrysler workers have given the company \$2.13 per hour in COLA diversions and skipped COLA at the beginning of contracts to contribute toward health costs. That is between \$4000 and \$5000 per year that each of us is already contributing toward company health care costs.

4. Unlike GM and Ford, Chrysler has a much higher employee-retiree ratio, has been profitable, and is increasing market share.

5. We owe it to our brothers and sisters at GM and Ford to refuse these concessions. Indeed the future of the UAW is at stake here. When Chrysler workers first took concessions in the 70's and 80, GM and Ford workers took far fewer. This gave us, at Chrysler, the leverage to regain in future contracts what we lost. If we give these concessions now, in a company that does not need them, we are sending a message to GM, Ford and non union workers that we need to organize: the UAW is giving up on ever getting back decent health care for its retirees and its members. ***Solidarity means pulling each other up--not dragging each other down.***

"The process will be similar to negotiations carried out with General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co., Gooden said. Unlike Ford and GM, DaimlerChrysler is doing well financially, but he said the company wouldn't be penalized for its success. 'We're approaching it the same way we did Ford and General Motors,' Gooden said."

-- Detroit Free Press, February 3, 2006

We can stop this if our local union leaders say NO at the Chrysler Council. Or we can stop it if it is put to a vote of the membership. But we must stop this race to the bottom now.