

# Thanks

By Tom Spears, Local 3000 President

Wow, time certainly changes things. Ten days ago we were making preparations for a certain strike that the Ford management team would force on us. Today, we have a tentative agreement that looks like it will be ratified by the membership. Hats off to everyone involved, from President Gettelfinger, to the UAW-Ford Department, to our national negotiators.

Evidently, the message I was presenting on the website was indeed the same message being given by the negotiators at the bargaining table. The workers at Ford had given enough, and now it was time to give the workers their appreciation. The tentative agreement is definitely patterned off of the other two auto agreements, but concerns that many members were expressing at GM and Chrysler were addressed by the UAW-Ford team.

The numbers are still being tabulated, but at AAI the vote of approval came in at 88%. Exact numbers are reflected elsewhere on this website. Our figures were sent from the Local to ensure they were timely and added to the national tabulation. I am glad AAI Chairperson Dave Deboodt, Bargaining Rep Larry Stewart and myself had the foresight to have a plan in place, and the courage to get everything scheduled, so that the membership had time to review the package and attend an informational meeting with the proper members of the UAW-Ford Department present to take questions prior to the vote. Thanks to everyone that assisted in getting out the information.

We sent the final results to Vice President King and to Ms. Wendy Fields-Jacobs, the administrative assistant. My thanks to everyone that came out to vote on the tentative agreement, and especially those that recognized the difficult position the leadership was under in conducting this set of negotiations.

I would also like to commend the chairman and bargaining committee at AAI for the plan to have all the elected and appointed reps on the floor explaining any questions to the membership. Everyone did a fine job communicating the agreement to the members.

In addition, I would like to thank our webmaster, Phil Hollifield, for his efforts in keeping the website current, and especially would like to show my appreciation to our newly elected Election Committee that gave their own time to count the votes on Saturday. This clearly shows what can develop when everyone is pulling the rope in the same direction.

We have received some disturbing news from the Johnson Controls Units-Rockwood and Taylor. It appears that the reductions announced at Chrysler after ratification will have a major impact on their respective workforces after the first of the year.

At the Presidents and Chairs meeting I asked the specific question, if any discussion at the Ford table included this same action. President Gettelfinger replied that all the top

officers were in the room and that major action was not a topic. There may be a particular model suffering downturns in orders, but no mass plan across the board.

Here is hoping that our vote will be the norm throughout Ford.

Solidarity forever!