

TRANSPORTATION UNIT

Bill Ruber, President

SUPPORTING YOUR FUTURE?

As the Ford Motor Company celebrates 100 years as an American manufacturer of cars and trucks, it finds itself in a struggle for survival unlike any in the past. Foreign competition is constantly increasing, not only from outside our borders, but also from within. Toyota, Honda, Nissan, along with smaller players such as Kia, Hyundai, Suzuki and many others, continue to make gains in the American market, and by doing so, our own job security is put in jeopardy. The gains in market share by these foreign competitors have been made by producing quality products, great marketing campaigns, and some by what I consider very foolish decisions by our own government officials, Federal, State, and local.

What we see as a competitor, government officials see only as employers for their own community and offer very enticing packages to set up in their neighborhood (tax abatements, sewer systems, roadways) all at the expense of the American taxpayer. That's right. Our own tax dollars entice companies to set up right here. All this helps to put our competitors at a cost advantage that could very well jeopardize the future of companies that built the American economy and the standard of living that we enjoy. As long as we allow our government to give our tax money away to support foreign companies, competition in the true sense of the word will not exist. We must have a fair, equal, and most of all, a level playing field. Do you think the governments of Japan or Korea offer enticements to American car companies?

What can we do as employees and members of the UAW? Promote UAW-Ford built products to your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Where possible, remind them of the various programs that you may be able to offer, such as the A-Plan, X-Plan, etc. By promoting the products we build, you may very well protect your job, your future, and your family. We are in this together – Ford and the UAW!

REMINDER - UNIT NEGOTIATIONS ARE UPCOMING

Write down your thoughts as to how you may improve or enhance your employment. Your Committee will be holding meetings in the future needing your input for contract resolutions. Nobody knows your work area better than you. So, bring your thoughts to these very important meetings, where we will discuss and vote on what you would like to see implemented in your location.

YARD EQUIPMENT

UAW-built yard equipment is available at discount pricing at uaw.murray.com, or call 734-513-6049.

RETIREES

The Annual Transportation Unit Retirees' Luncheon is scheduled for 12:00p.m., Sunday, April 13th. Watch your mailbox or call the Committee for information. Also, remember the monthly breakfast at 9:00a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Millie's Restaurant located on West Road, west of I-75 in Woodhaven.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the families of Sam Scicluna, retired mechanic/leader, and Joe Jennings, on their passing. Our thoughts are with you.