



UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Contract negotiations will be here before you know it—we are now just over nine months away. We will begin our contract preparations next week, so please keep an eye out for our contract surveys. The surveys will be distributed on **Monday, July 6**, and we ask that you return them to your shop steward or committee person by **Friday, July 10**. Your input is critical and will help shape our priorities at the bargaining table.

Mark Colangelo, John McCabe, Dave Shaffer, and I recently attended the **39th UAW Constitutional Convention** in Detroit. One topic many members have asked about is our union dues. As many of you know, several conventions ago our dues were increased from two hours of pay to two and a half hours of pay to build the UAW International Strike Fund to **\$850 million**. That fund provides strike pay and benefits to members while they are on strike.

At this year's convention, the majority of delegates unfortunately approved increasing the Strike Fund target from **\$850 million to \$1.3 billion** before union dues will return to two hours of pay. In addition, weekly strike pay was increased from **\$400 to \$550 per week** for each striking member.

I would also like to congratulate all of the shop stewards who were elected to their positions. On **July 29**, our newly elected stewards will attend a grievance handling training conducted by the UAW International Education Department. This training will help ensure they are well prepared to represent our membership.

Lastly, on **July 17**, you will receive a **\$ 0.37-per-hour Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)** negotiated as part of our current agreement.

As a reminder, our General Membership Meetings are suspended for the summer and will resume in **September**.

In Solidarity,

Jim Rugh

President, UAW Local 1069