

Solidarity Movement - Who We Are

The purpose of a Local Union is to bring together the members for their common interests. The top leaders of Local 222 fail to do that in so many areas – they have lost their way.

We have poor communication, no membership meetings, two-tier contracts, constantly eroding wages and benefits, retired members left behind.

It is outrageous that we pay our President and Financial Secretary almost \$150,000 a year each, and they see no reason for restraint, even when dues income is down.

Here are some ideas for positive change. If you agree with them - join us. Be part of discussing and preparing proposals to membership meetings. Help support candidates that pledge to implement policies that will benefit all the members.

Join our
Facebook
Group



Solidarity Movement on
Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
groups/292972735372052](https://www.facebook.com/groups/292972735372052)

Bargain for Gains

- Commit to fighting concessionary and two-tier agreements. As former CAW President, Bob White said, “Workers don’t need a union to go backwards”.
- Membership-driven bargaining.
- Full disclosure of everything in the tentative collective agreement before we vote.

Better Communication

- An effective social media presence.
- Return to a monthly Oshaworker.
- Schedule union meetings when members can attend. Post the agenda and minutes.

Real Democracy

- Democracy is more than voting - it is the rank-and-file members taking control of the Local.
- The members must have easy access to all the information and make the decisions.
- Save money and increase participation by adding online voting to existing options.

Accountability

- Membership review of exorbitant salaries.
- No secret agreements or deals made behind closed doors.
- An annual Local budget presented, debated, and voted on by the members.

Solidarity and Participation

- Eliminate the bully culture.
- Action and education against racism and all forms of discrimination.
- Make sure everyone’s voice is heard, including in elected positions.

Solidarity Movement

October 4, 2021

No. 2

No Meetings = No Democracy

We have a serious problem at Local 222. The leadership at the Hall seems terrified of the membership. The last Local 222 membership meeting was over 2 years ago on Sept. 5, 2019. This is a disgrace and leadership should take responsibility, instead they blame the membership because YOU haven’t signed up.

They take no responsibility to have the Local Executive Board, Standing Committee members, and workplace reps sign up, no responsibility to have the meeting at a convenient time for all units, no responsibility to promote the meetings and explain the technology. No responsibility at all.

How can we accept this behaviour? Change is needed, and YOU, the members, can make it happen. Without meetings the leadership isn’t accountable for their decisions, they don’t have to answer questions in an open forum, and they don’t have to engage the membership.

There is no democracy without meetings. We don’t get to ask questions or raise concerns about problems in our workplaces, elections, or COVID. We can’t vote on

appeals, motions, or financial decisions. We can’t make collective decisions. Failure to hold meetings denies our DEMOCRATIC right to participate in running our Local.

If 50 members sign up we will have a quorum and the meeting should be held. Please sign up now. Our union is only as strong as the members who participate.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Please email local222@local222.ca to indicate your interest in attending, with your full name and employee ID#. Zoom login information will be emailed by 11:00 a.m. on the morning of the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: THUR. OCT. 7 at 3 PM

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De Havilland Workers on Strike

Facing plant closure, 700 workers at De Havilland Aircraft have been on strike since July 27. This battle is a prime example of how corporations have too much power over all of our lives—the opposite of democracy.

De Havilland was a component of Bombardier until it was sold to Longview Aviation in November 2018. Bombardier also sold the land that the historic manufacturing plant is situated on. When the contract with Unifor Locals 112 and 673 expired, Longview refused to commit to keeping production in Ontario. These workers deserve better.

Longview is owned by Sherry Brydson, of Canada’s richest family—the Thompsons .



De Havilland strikers

Did you know....

... that On August 8, 1980, 200 workers occupied the Houdaille stamping plant in Oshawa, renaming it "UAW Industries." to protest its closing. Workers with decades of seniority were offered a pitifully small severance package and the company reneged on their pensions. Although the occupation was technically illegal, Canadian leader Bob White convinced the International UAW to provide strike pay.

Workers facing plant closures at Beach Foundry in Ottawa and Windsor Bumper in Windsor also occupied their plants.

Workers occupied the Houdaille plant for 13 days. They held firm until they won substantial concessions on pensions, severance and medical coverage. While only the Windsor Bumper takeover successfully kept a plant open, the occupations, and the national movement that grew up around them, pressured the Ontario government to take action. It passed legislation improving severance pay,



Bob White, Canadian Director of the UAW, in front of the Houdaille plant on August 13, 1980, day 6 of the occupation.

to one week's pay for every year of service when a plant shuts down, instead of a pathetic one week’s pay for every 8 years.

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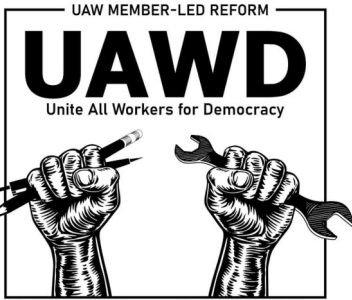
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Rank and File UAW Members Fight Against Corruption & Concessions and For Democracy

An exciting new rank and file movement is growing in the UAW – the union representing most autoworkers in the US. Local 222 belonged to the UAW until the formation of the CAW in 1985.

According to their mission statement [Unite All Workers for Democracy \(UAWD\)](#) is a grassroots movement of UAW members united in the common goal of building a more democratic, and accountable union.”



Why Was UAWD Formed?

The UAWD believes, *“the rank-and-file of our union MUST be the highest authority in the UAW—whether at our Conventions, at our Locals, at the bargaining table, or on the shop floors of our workplaces across the country.”*

The recent corruption scandal in the UAW has highlighted the need for reform – a dozen high-ranking UAW leaders, including two former International Presidents, have pleaded guilty to corruption and collaborating with corporate managers who wanted to keep union heads [“fat, dumb, and happy”](#) in order to [“grease the skids”](#) for concessions.

The UAWD points out that, *“Over the last 70-plus years of our union’s history, we have been beholden to a one-party state. That one-party—the Administration Caucus—has concentrated power in the hands of a select few. In the last forty years alone, the Administration Caucus has engaged in various partnership schemes with the very same corporations that continually cut our jobs, attempt to gut our benefits, and have outsourced countless good-paying union jobs.”*

The deals the UAW negotiate in the States greatly affect Canadian bargaining. It’s harder to make gains here when the concessions are so brutal there.

The US prosecutor investigating corruption in the UAW has mandated reforms including a referendum of all UAW members in November to decide whether to continue with a system where members elect delegates to go to Convention and those delegates elect the leaders, or have the leadership elected directly by all UAW members in good standing (One Member One Vote).

The UAWD is currently mobilizing support for “One Member One Vote” . They believe this will be a step to rooting out the corruption plaguing the UAW. There are strong feelings on both sides of this debate.

Jerry Dias announced at the Retired Workers Council that he will retire as Unifor National President next August and said “we are having discussions about the best replacement”. Whether or not you support one member one vote, the membership should be freely determining who is our next President, and not have it predetermined behind closed doors.