



Chairman's Report

UAW Local 774



Shop Chairman—Mike Grimmer

Brothers & Sisters,

8/18/2020

I know there is a lot of concern and anxiety about the upcoming layoffs here at Tonawanda Engine Plant. This is a very stressful situation for our membership to deal with and your Shop Committee is trying to keep everyone updated on the present situation the best we can. We keep getting asked for a specific number of members getting laid off, but the number is changing so frequently, that it's difficult to put an exact number on it as of today.

There are a couple of factors that are causing the number to fluctuate, which are: the numbers dropping for the new LGE daily schedule and members returning from and going out on leaves of absence. Currently we are building around 525 LGE engines per day and the line was supposed to drop to 300 per day. Late last week, we were informed the numbers are possibly dropping even more than that if some of our global customers do not put their orders in. We should know the actual re-rate number for sure very soon.

As of now, the plan is that the layoff will be effective the week ending August 30th and the remaining members will move to their new departments on Monday, August 31st. This will be a huge movement of people and will affect almost every department in the plant. All of these reductions and transfers will be in line with the provisions of our Local Agreement. Plant seniority will be used to determine the reductions. The layoff will include all our temporary members and will also cause the layoff of our seniority members with seniority up to the 9/23/2013 date. This is subject to change based on the total number of members on active status at our plant when the actual layoff takes place. General Motors is **NOT** allowed to have any temporary employees working at the plant when there are seniority members on a permanent layoff. Our permanent members will have to be called back in seniority order when there is a need for additional manpower at our plant.

Your Shop Committee proposed several initiatives to reduce the impact of this layoff, but they were all rejected due to the current business conditions. General Motors did not want to offer another retirement incentive to our high seniority members at this time. Management was not interested in doing an inverse seniority layoff this time around because this is a permanent layoff with no return date scheduled. Additionally, the company is not adding apprentices at this time which would have reduced the number of members affected as well. We were hoping that these (as well as other options) would be utilized. We are losing volume and management is cutting manpower to reduce costs here.

This downsizing will also include the reduction of 2 UAW 774 Local Appointed Representatives: **Charlie Kristich** & **Brook Faulkner**. Charlie has done multiple roles over his many years of service including GMS Co-Lead and Maximo Trainer. Brook has done an excellent job in her role as UAW Communications Representative since 2016. Their efforts and commitment to UAW Local 774 is much appreciated and will be missed. Their duties will be spread out to the remaining appointed representatives going forward.

In closing, this situation is fluid and changing on a daily basis. Your Committeepersons will have information packets available that include benefits for laid off members, seniority rights, and Appendix A Transfer information. We will be scheduling meetings at the Union Hall soon for our laid off members.

In Solidarity,
Mike Grimmer

Approved for posting:-
/s/Wence Valentin III ,President
UAW Local 774



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