

SPEEDWAY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT #297

DATE: 9/09/04

NEW CAR DISCOUNT VOUCHER

A recent announcement has been made that every ACTIVE member of the AFL-CIO or affiliated Union (this includes UAW) should soon be receiving a new car discount certificate as part of the "Building America" campaign. The voucher will be mailed to your home in the amount of \$500.00 and is to be used toward the purchase of a UAW/GM North American made vehicle. The voucher may be applied to your purchase in addition to any employee discount, rebate, or other incentive currently being offered and **MUST** be used by the Member. Family members are not eligible to use this certificate. For full details, read the information included with the certificate.

NATIONAL AGREEMENT DISTRIBUTION

Any Member who did not receive their copy of the 2003 UAW/GM National Agreement that was passed out at the plant gates last week can obtain a copy through their District or Alternate Committeemen OR by stopping by the Union Work Center.

KINGS ISLAND DISCOUNT EXCHANGE TICKETS

Kings Island is offering special "end of season celebration days" discount exchange tickets to UAW Region 3 Members. The coupons are valid October 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31, 2004. The regular admission price to Kings Island is \$42.99/person but the exchange rate will entitle Members, families and friends to be admitted for only \$19.99/person. Children 2 and under are free. Each discount exchange ticket admits bearer and party (limit six). To obtain your exchange tickets, see your Elected Bargaining representatives or stop by the Local 933 Union Hall.

ABSENCE FROM THE PLANT

I will be absent from the plant next week (Sept. 13th – 17th) while attending the National Safety Congress meeting in New Orleans, LA. Local 933 President Allen Harris will also be in attendance along with members of the Local Union Health & Safety Committee including our Ergonomic and Industrial Hygiene Tech. representatives. During this period, Zone #3 Committeeman Gary Stonehouse will be carrying my pager.

REPORT FROM THE SUB COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the week of August 30th, I attended the UAW/GM Sub Council Meetings in Chicago, IL. One meeting included all Chairmen and Presidents along with UAW Vice-President Richard Shoemaker and his staff. I had the opportunity to discuss our critical need for additional manpower with representatives of the International Union citing the large number of recent retirements and extremely strong product schedules as major factors for our needs. In addition, it was explained that our manpower shortages were not only resulting in restricted movement of Members from one job to another (no backfills), it was also creating some situations of unnecessary scheduling of Plan A overtime. The International Union assured me they fully understood our predicament and would hopefully be working with the National Employment Placement Center in an effort to provide us some relief within the next few weeks. Unrelated to manpower, some interesting facts were shared during the Sub Council Meetings. Here are just a few I thought you might like to know:

1) As of July 2004, GM North American Operations has reported mid-year earnings of \$779 million as compared to \$630 million at the mid-point of 2003. 2.) Currently, the average incentive on GM vehicles is \$4,600. 3.) Based on J. D. Powers quality reports/rankings, six (6) of the top 15 auto plants producing vehicles in North America are General Motors plants. 4.) As of January 1, 2005, all Suggestion Plan awards can be deferred to Personal Savings Plan (PSP) accounts. 5.) \$7.9 million dollars are being contributed into GM PSP accounts on a weekly basis. In addition, \$3 million is being paid on a weekly basis to satisfy PSP loans.

Breakdown of all active GM-UAW retirees (or surviving spouse receiving pension benefit)

<u>Total #</u>	<u>Years of age</u>
91	over 100
5,898	90-99 years
45,802	80-89 years
89,432	70-79 years
104,780	60-69 years

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