



R4: ACTION NOW

ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2023



THIS ISSUE

- Voter Registration*
- Jobs to Move America*
- Illinois Bills to Action*
- Missouri Voters Under Attack*
- Iowa Kids Not For Sale*
- UAW Local 997 On Strike*
- Stand Up Strike in Region 4*
- Join the Fight to Find a Cure*

CONFIRM YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS NOW!

- Visit [Can I Vote](#) and select "voter registration status".
- Choose your state. You will be taken to a page on your state's election website.
- Check to see if you are registered (30 days ahead of election for some states required).

CONTRIBUTE

- This Newsletter is the voice of *your* UAW Region 4. Local Leadership is encouraged to send in any stories that contribute positively to the welfare of Region 4 and our members. Reach out to your Servicing Representatives.

JOBS TO MOVE AMERICA

In July UAW members gathered with other Union members for the Grand Opening Event of Lion's Electric at their new manufacturing facility in Joliet, Illinois. Labor groups, workers, and Joliet and Will County community members are fighting to win a community benefits agreements with Lion Electric.

The Canadian manufacturer of electric school buses will benefit from millions of dollars in public money in addition to tax breaks. Since opening production in Joliet, Lion has been hiring workers through a temporary staffing agency, not providing adequate training, and paying wages similar to Amazon warehouses.

UAW Region 4 stands with Good Jobs Joliet Coalition calling on Lion to negotiate a CBA that ensures:

- 1). A fair process for workers to choose a union
- 2). High-quality training that allows workers to do their jobs safely, earning industry-recognized credentials
- 3). A community hiring program targeting groups facing barriers to good manufacturing jobs including women, people of color, and the formerly incarcerated.

From Director Campbell on site at the Lion facility: "United Auto Workers is committed to making all auto manufacturing jobs good jobs. As the EV transition ramps up, it's unacceptable to see these new companies like Lion Electric come in, receive millions in tax breaks, and fail to do the right thing for communities and workers."



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LABOR DAY SOLIDARITY: LU 997 PICKET LINE



UAW 249 (PLEASANT VALLEY, MO) WALKING THE LINE WITH MEMBERS AT UAW 997 (NEWTON, IA)

Local 997 President, Steve Wertz, expresses gratitude to Local 249, all the John Deere locals and the Newton community for the overwhelming support since the August 1st start of their strike at Thombert, Inc.

VOTER POWER UNDER ATTACK IN MISSOURI

Since 1820, constitutional amendments have required just a simple majority of votes cast for ratification in Missouri. This constitutional right prevented Right to Work from becoming MO law in 2018 by will of the people. In attempt to limit voter power, the MO House has recently passed HJR 43 to raise the ratification threshold from simple majority to 57 percent. This initiative is happening concurrently across the United States in Republican-led State Legislatures. Ohio just succeeded in turning down this ballot measure in a special election, securing their simple majority for ratification. The MO Senate did not pass the legislation as the May session ended, but it will certainly be back the next session for consideration. Missouri voters on alert!



IOWA KIDS ARE NOT FOR SALE

In February UAW Iowa State CAP joined union workers across the state of Iowa in Des Moines to protest the loosening of child labor laws. Efforts in several states are led by Republican Legislators to address worker shortages. Child welfare advocates and labor leaders remain concerned that hard-won protections for minors are being diminished, as according to data from the U.S. Labor Department, child labor violations have been increasing since 2015. Investigators of the Wage and Labor Division are finding more children working in dangerous jobs, including meat-packing and metal shops. Senator Nate Boulton and other Iowa CAP supported Legislators are planning to enhance education and fact sheets so that parents and employers can make better decisions about teenagers' employment in the state, revisiting state and federal laws for consistency in the next session.

ILLINOIS: LABOR FRIENDLY BILLS TO ACTION!

Bill Number: HB3129

Description: Amends the Equal Pay Act by making it unlawful for an employer with 15 or more employees to fail to include the pay scale and benefits for a position in any job posting, including with a third-party.

Action: Signed

Effective: January 1, 2025

Bill Number: HB2847

Description: Creates the Mental Health and Wellness Act. Requires insurance coverage for an annual mental health and prevention wellness visit with cost sharing.

Action: Signed

Effective: January 1, 2024

Bill Number: SB0761

Description: Creates the EMT Training, Recruitment, and Retention Task Force.

Action: Signed

Effective: Immediately. Pilot program begins July 1st, 2023.

Bill Number: HB2443

Description: Requires insurance or managed care plans must offer, for an additional premium, coverage for hearing instruments if prescribed by a hearing care professional.

Action: Signed

Effective: January 1, 2024



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STANDING UP FOR RECORD CONTRACTS:

REGION 4 UAW LOCAL 2250 WENTZVILLE, MO



2023 STAND UP STRIKE BEGAN 11 PM CST, SEPTEMBER 14, AT LOCAL 2250

Our members at Local 2250 in Wentzville, Missouri build the all new Chevy Colorado and GMC Canyon as well as the Chevy Express and GMC Savanna. These workers were called on first in the 2023 Stand Up Strike, the first strike in our Union's history at all 3 of the Big 3 Automakers. Pay is raising at a fraction of the rate that cost is increasing on these automobiles for American consumers. Record profits should mean record contracts. Region 4 stands in solidarity with our brave members at UAW Local 2250.



SOLIDARITY AT UAW 2250 STRIKE HEADQUARTERS



OCTOBER:

BREAST CANCER

AWARENESS MONTH

October is breast cancer awareness month. UAW Region 4 Education Coordinator Brad Schwanda, and our Region 4 Women's Council are stepping up again to raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society.

Join the Fight to Find a Cure!

Contribute to Brad Schwanda's Real Men Wear Pink ACS Campaign

OR purchase a Butterfly T-Shirt through Region 4 Women's Council.



Purchase our Region 4 Butterfly T-Shirt through Stephanie Fuhr in our Moline Office @ 309-764-3584

REGION 4 CAP TEAM

John Gedney, IL
Kelli Harrison, IA/MN/WI
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GET ORGANIZED!

It's important to grow our Union and connect others to our organizing resources!

UAW ORGANIZING
1-800-2GET-UAW

**FOLLOW REGION 4
ON FACEBOOK**



STRIKE SUPPORT IN REGION 4

SUPPORT BIG 3 STRIKING MEMBERS

At 11pm CST on September 14th, UAW Local 2250 was the first Region 4 Big 3 Local called on to Stand Up in the fight for fairness and equity at Ford, GM, and Stellantis. Locals 75, 125, 186, 431, 551, 722, 1178, and 2114 have since joined them on their own respective picket lines. If the automakers fail to take this seriously, more strike action across Region 4 and the entire UAW is inevitable.

A donation portal has been set up to support our striking UAW members at Big 3 facilities across Region 4, as necessary. Through this donation portal every penny of every donation is tracked and accounted for. Although most are well-intentioned, please be very skeptical of other means by which to donate to striking members of the UAW.

SUPPORT UAW 997 STRIKING MEMBERS

Our members at Local 997 have been on strike since August 1st in Newton, Iowa. Support from Region 4 locals has been incredible, as well as the local community. President Steve Wertz says the most important thing at this time is maintaining support for Strikers & their families.



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