

# UAW LOCAL 1268

## SPECIAL ISSUE



# STAND UP 2023



## WE ARE BELVIDERE

On July 7, 1965, the first vehicle, a Plymouth Fury, rolled off the line, it was the start of the Belvidere Assembly Plant. Then on March 3, 2023, 57 years and 7 months later, vehicle number 11,719,918, a Jeep Cherokee rolled off the line and forced the remaining 1,350 workers at the plant to make hard decisions and face an uncertain future. Along with another estimated 731 people from eight suppliers that produce parts or provide services for the plant were also affected, and even workers from non-union suppliers, which causes a trickle effect to our communities.

The companies that were part of our amalgamated local, our 1268 brothers and sisters, that were majorly affected by the plant idling are Units 2-Adeint, 4-Android, 5-syncreon, 7-Oakley, 8-Grupo Industries, 13-HydroChem, 14-syncreon II, and 15-Piston. The part suppliers had to take severance packages, with no offers of transfers, no

call back rights, or no SUB and healthcare. They're done.

Eight months later, Belvidere made history. A shut down plant gets product, a mid-size truck in 2027. The community will get a boost with jobs with an EV battery plant and a mega parts HUB. This wouldn't of happened without those who were called to STAND UP in solidarity and fight. Members of 1268 did what they could to support the strikers, from donating items to grilling food or just standing on the strike line with them.

We continue to be an amalgamated local, our units include 1-Belvidere Assembly, 9-SBM Management, 12-Boone County Clerks, and 13-Boone County Clerks and Recorders.

This special edition is to highlight UAW 1268 Solidarity and to share glimpses of our past year with hopes for the future.



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UAW LOCAL 1268

MATT FRANTZEN

PRESIDENT

What a roller coaster ride we've been on...

It has almost been a year since Corporate came in on December 9<sup>th</sup> and told us they were moving up our idling date from June to February. We sat through Exit meetings and TRA meetings, which laid out our potential future. Members were offered some sort of package to walk away. We had around 1200 people take one of the packages. Not because they wanted to but felt there was not any other option. Around one thousand members remained in Belvidere on layoff, with the hopes that something would be done to appreciate the work our members have performed over the years and the legacy our retirees had built. We did not know what the future held for us; we just knew that we were going to have to make sure we stayed relevant during our idled time.

What did staying relevant mean? Early on, it meant that we needed to keep our story in the news, speak with any political official that we could reach and stay in constant contact with our International Reps and Negotiators. President Fain put me in contact with his communications team. This opened up even more news outlets throughout the country. Now, we had the ability to get our story out nationwide. I truly believe that this is what led President Fain to ask me to meet with President Biden in June. When I met with President Biden, he knew who I was, where I was from and the local, I represented. He asked what was going on at the plant and what he and his team could do for us. After our discussion, he said he would get into our situation and make some calls. Whether he did or not, I will never know. I believe that he did though.

As time progressed, the International Union introduced the Stand-Up Strike. In Belvidere, there was a very slim chance that we would get called into a strike, being that we were idled. Our members were ready though. We had members attend several locations that were on strike on their own time and expense. Several members visited Toledo, Naperville, and Milwaukee on multiple occasions. There were members that made the trip to Minnesota, Orlando, Atlanta, and Denver to show support and thank them as well. It helped these striking locals put a face on Local 1268 and who they were helping & fighting for.

The membership wanted to do more.... On October 6<sup>th</sup>,

we had a Solidarity Celebration at the plant to have pictures taken of our membership to send out to the striking Locals to show our thanks and appreciation for what they were doing for us. We had hundreds of members show up. There were members of the community, other local unions, State Reps, Congressmen, the Mayor of Belvidere, Regional Director Brandon Campbell along with his staff, all in attendance. This was by far the best turnout by the membership that I have seen in years. It was an event I was proud to be a part of.

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, I was scheduled to have a conference call with the International Union, National Negotiators, and the rest of the Chrysler Council. I had to delay the Membership Meeting while this conference call took place. It was during this conference call that we got the official word from VP Rich Boyer that Belvidere had been saved. It was an emotional moment for everyone on the conference call and for VP Boyer himself. He had told me Belvidere was not closing under his watch. He held true to his word to this local and accomplished something that had not been done before. After the conference call, we still had a Membership meeting to conduct. After going through regular business, I was able to lay out some details about the tentative agreement. When I got to the portion for Belvidere, the place erupted. To see the membership's reaction to the news that we had been saved. We had people crying, laughing, texting family members letting them know that they didn't have to move, texting members at other locations letting them know they get to come home. It was a memorable moment to see the stress fall off the shoulders of our membership. You could feel the relief come across the Hall.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, we had our vote on the tentative agreement taking place and President Biden coming to town. In attendance for the President Biden event, we had our members, UAW President Shawn Fain, UAW VP Rich Boyer, Regional Director Brandon Campbell, Governor Pritzker, Mayor Morris, Congressman Foster, State Rep Vella, State Rep Stadlerman and many members of the community.

I had a chance to speak with President Biden before everything started. He remembered our conversation we had in Chicago back in June. He told me he knew he was going to see me again. He asked if the membership was happy about what was going on in Belvidere. I told him we are, and he will get a chance to see it in a few minutes. Once the event started, everything went perfectly. All the speakers gave great speeches that were well received by those in attendance.

*Continue on page next page*

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**  
**MATT FRANTZEN**  
**UAW LOCAL 1268 PRESIDENT**

Later that evening, the polls closed on the tentative agreement vote. The membership had taken their last step to secure their future by ratifying the tentative agreement by over 80%.

In eleven months, this membership came together to do anything we could to help save our future. During that time, we strengthened our own solidarity amongst our local. We created a network throughout the corporation with our UAW Brothers and Sisters. We took an active approach to do what we could to be relevant in the eyes of our UAW leadership, the UAW membership, and the public. You should be proud of what happened here at Local 1268 in Belvidere.

We were down, but we were never out. Thanks for sticking together to put Local 1268 in Belvidere on the map.

**WE ARE BELVIDERE!**

In Solidarity, Matt Frantzen,  
 UAW Local 1268 President



The 2023 STAND UP strike lasted 46 days with close to 50,000 members on the picket line out of 146,000 members who collectively fought for wages, job security, and ending the tier system. The strike also gave the non-union car plants the UAW BUMP in raises.

**BELVIDERE ASSEMBLY PLANT**

**VEHICLES BUILT**

1965-2023

Dodge Polara/  
 Plymouth Fury  
 1965-1968

Chrysler Town  
 & Country  
 1968-1977

Dodge Omni/  
 Plymouth Horizon  
 1978-1987

Dodge Charger  
 L-body  
 1982-1987

Chrysler New Yorker  
 1988-1993

Dodge Dynasty  
 1988-1993

Chrysler Imperial  
 1990-1993

Chrysler New Yorker  
 Fifth Avenue  
 1990-1993

Plymouth Neon  
 1994-2001

Dodge Neon  
 1994-2005

Dodge Caliber  
 2007-2012

Dodge Dart  
 2012-2016

Jeep Compass  
 2007-2016

Jeep Patriot  
 2007-2016

Jeep Cherokee  
 2017-2023



1965-Plant opens making Plymouth Fury



May 7, 1993-The last Chrysler Imperial built



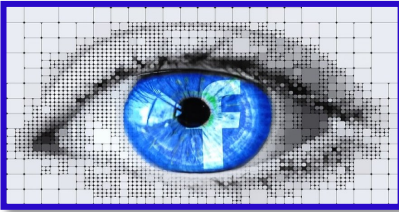
July 28, 2010-1,000,000 compact vehicle built



May 7, 2012—The first Dodge Dart rolls off the line



March 3, 2023—The last Jeep Cherokee rolls off the line and the plant goes in to idle status



UAW 1268 MEMBERS SHARE  
**VEHICLE #11,719,918**  
 ON THAT LAST DAY IN MARCH

**Dawn Slagle Rogers** is at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 1h · 🌐

Our last Cherokee built. Sad Day

**Jamie White** is feeling hopeful at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 5d · 🌐

Last day of production for some of us at the Belvidere Assembly Plant. It's been a whirlwind of 16 yrs with many ppl that I wouldn't change for the world. I'm sad but looking forward to see where Stellantis has me going next in my transfer. I'm hoping the best for all of my Belvidere family.  
 1268 Strong 🙌

**Bridget Nix-Loos** is at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 1d · 🌐

Well Chrysler you've been good to me for 17+ years. Walked the last time through the turnstile at 12:14 pm today. I'm going to miss my coworkers. Hopefully all or some of us get transferred together.

**Irene Wojciechowski Todd Armato** is with Mani HR Manigault II and 9 others at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 19h · 🌐

So I couldn't do this yesterday because it was way too emotional for me. To tell the truth, it doesn't seem any easier today.  
 My last day at Belvidere Assembly. So many friends that I have made through my years there. I know that some of them I will see again, but too many that I won't. But I hope for all of my friends, the other workers that I don't know, and for myself, that we will get through this. Positive thoughts and prayers for better things ahead. I shall miss you all!!!  
 For any that I didn't tag or just missed, please tag yourself in the comments so that I have everyone's name.

**Dre Owens** is at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 Feb 21 · 🌐

The last day in body shop!!! N the last car running on line!!!!

**Dave Anderson**  
 18m · 🌐

The first and last cars to be built at Belvidere Assembly.  
 It's been a hell of a ride!

**GlennMerilee Underwood** is at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 Feb 28 · 🌐

Yesterday was my last day at work & it was definitely a sad day! Chrysler made my family and i a very good living for over 24 years, and I met my amazing, hard working, caring husband there too! Now on to the next adventure where ever that might be, the unknown sucks right now but we will make the best of it!! I have met some great friends along the way! I have had some great supervisors, and awesome stewards and committeemen. I thank all of you for being there for me!!! 🙏❤️

**Dawn Parker-Simms**  
 2m · 🌐

My Grandpa started Chrysler in 1965, my dad followed in 1970 and then I followed in 1999. I met (and divorced) my husband there. I raised 2 wonderful children during my time there. I met (and buried) my best friend there. I met people whose paths I would never have crossed if it weren't for chrysler. There are so many memories of good and bad times. I wouldn't change it for the world. It has brought me to the place I am at now and I am forever grateful to chrysler for being good to my family. The unknown is what scares me. I am not big on change. As all of us fellow Chrysler employees embark on our next adventure, I wish you all the best. Thank you for the friends that became family. I am not saying "goodbye" I'll leave it with "until we meet again" 💜💜

**Belvidere Assembly**  
 11,714,918  
 Vehicles  
 1965 - 2023

**Tony Withers**  
 9h · 🌐

That's a wrap.

**Ramona Simmons**  
 Reels · Mar 1 · 🌐

Last Jeep Cherokee rolling out of 9190 in Belvidere Assembly plant. Great friendships, family, Union Brothers and Sister was made here. Many emotions as this plant "Idles" and OUR future is "halted". Sad sad day for Belvidere Plant and ALL other plants that assisted us in making parts for the Jeep Cherokee. THANK YOU ALL!! Hopefull for new vehicle to keep our Brothers & Sisters here. Much love everyone ❤️

**Alex Lerma** is at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 Feb 27 · 🌐

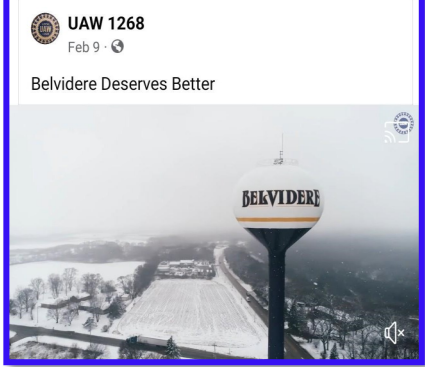
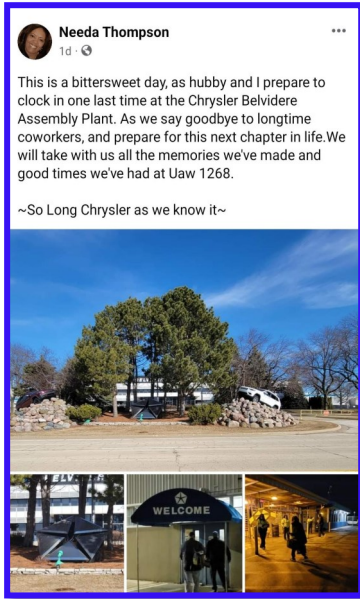
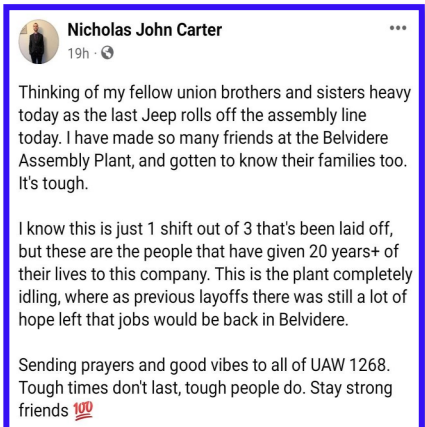
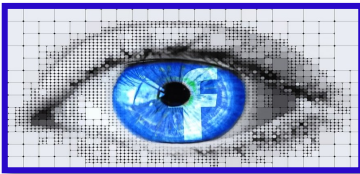
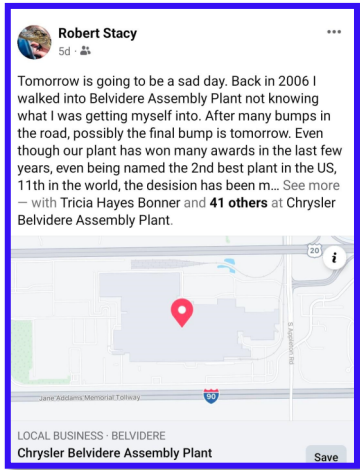
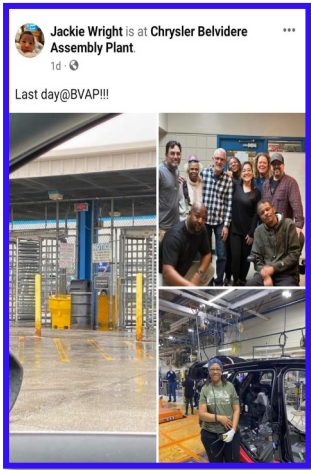
Saying goodbye to my work family, hopefully will meet again, I am going to miss everyone I've ever worked with.

**Mary Bingenheimer** is at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 Feb 28 · 🌐

Worked on last car today. So many memories of my 26 years, and met some great people through the years. I wish nothing but the best to all my Brothers and Sisters of UAW Local 1268 units who are affected by car # 11,714,918 rolling off the line. ❤️

**Catherine Marinaro** is with Jennifer Eby-Renner and 2 others at Chrysler Belvidere Assembly Plant  
 18h · 🌐

The end. So very sad.



## UAW LOCAL 1268 UAW FLAG REPLACED



On September 7, UAW Local 1268 leadership and members gathered to replace our UAW flag that was found missing and flies in front of Belvidere Assembly Plant.



UAW 1268 President Matt Frantzen met with some of our remaining workers to raise a new UAW Flag after speaking a few words to the members.



UAW LOCAL 1268

JOEY SZAKALSKI

VICE PRESIDENT

No Deals = No Wheels!

I have always been proud to be a part of the UAW. Watching this Local, during our time of need, just took it to another level. Yes, our Leadership had GREAT ideas; but they would have meant nothing if not supported by the membership. And support we did! The moment the news came out about the #StandUpUAW, the phones started ringing. Members, both active and retired; reaching out asking "What can I do?" Members donated not only their time, some gave everything from water to wood; even monetary donations were made to some of the smaller locals. There was never a problem getting our membership to come out and support whatever event that was taking place. Whether it was one of our community food drives, or our pet food drive, or our winter coat and gloves drive, or our toys drive for the kids. Did not matter. The Volunteer sign-up sheet was full. That's what happens when you care!

Starting with the raising of our new UAW Flag in front of the Plant, the remaining members all coming out to watch was just another example of our solidarity and of our unity. We all understood what the raising of that flag meant. That flag represented a lot more to us than what was just written on it. That flag represents our blood, sweat, and tears we have given, it represents the hard work and dedication we've shown day in and day out to the UAW and the Belvidere Assembly Plant. That flag also represents all the sporting events and school activities we had to miss, weddings and funerals we could not attend, due to their mandatory overtime. Our work ethic and our commitment has been finally rewarded and should have been. I truly believe that Belvidere has some of the best workforce in the country, and I felt like Stellantis was playing the game with their best players on the bench. We do need to recognize the Politicians that showed up and supported us that day. They too understand the importance of the Belvidere Assembly Plant, and what the side effects would be for the Community and the state, if we went away.

That was just the start of the journey. Next came the bus trips. You wouldn't think that a bus filled with over 20 people, and with some members coming with car loads of passengers could make that great of a difference, but the effect was profound. The way Local 1268 lifted these striking workers' spirits was just amazing to see. We made sure they knew how appreciative we were of their sacrifices, and that as soon as we get the tap on the shoulder, we are

ready to join the fight too. Every facility we visited, could not wait for our arrival, and hated to see us leave. We had other locals calling and asking if we were coming there too. Wherever the bus did not go, our members just drove themselves. Their own time, on their own dime.

In the beginning, there were all kinds of reports about how 1,500 Stellantis workers are going to be losing their jobs in Belvidere. We all need to remember that the number is actually around 5,000. It sickened me to see how many families were being torn apart, or about to be torn apart; because of having to move to a different state with very little choice. None of that good! I definitely understand what they would have had to go through. I had to experience that firsthand myself. I am so glad that most of our Brothers and Sisters will have an opportunity to come back home, and that MANY of our members will not to go through the process of leaving their family. I have always had faith that a product was coming to Belvidere. How can it not? We have just about every accolade an Assembly Plant can have. We are the leader in the least absenteeism, in seniority, and by far the leader in quality. We have all seen the huge quality banner hanging inside our Plant. #2 in North America, #3 in all of the Americas, and #11 Globally. We made it awful hard for corporate greed to ignore that. What was also a huge factor, this hasn't been said in a while, was our International Union Leadership. President Fain and Vice President Boyer, along with the International Bargaining Committee; is exactly what the UAW has been missing for a while now. From day 1, it was told to me that they would not accept ANY contract that did not have product in Belvidere in it. Their commitment to us never wavered, and our THANKS cannot be put into words, would not do it justice. They will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

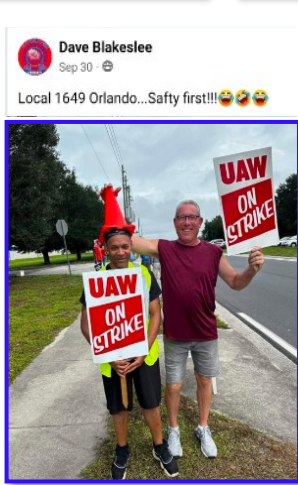
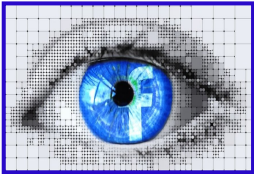
After getting the great news of a product coming to Belvidere, it was now time to celebrate. Regardless of Political affiliation, it was still pretty cool that a sitting President came to our town, to celebrate us. It was an amazing day for all, and an experience I got to share with my daughter Jersi as well. Once in our lifetime experience, and something we will never forget. Still wondering how they let me in though.

Just want to finish by saying what an honor it is to be your Vice President. It means a lot to me that you would elect me, have faith in me, during our most crucial time. THANK YOU!

In closing...My family, my wife Beth and my daughter Jersi; would like to wish my Local 1268 family a Happy and Healthy year in 2024!

In Solidarity,  
Joey Szakalski  
UAW Local 1268 Vice President

Some photos shared on UAW Local 1268 Facebook group from the strike lines.



UAW 1268 MEMBERS PREP STRIKE SIGNS READY FOR THE CALL

UAW Local 1268 members were not called to Stand Up, but we were ready! Strike duties were assigned and members came down to the hall on Thursday, September 14 to assemble signs.

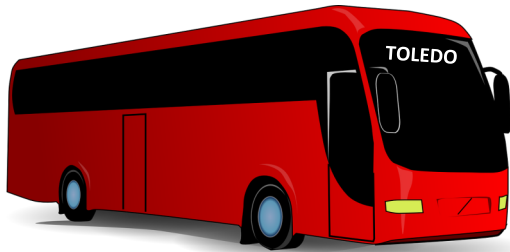


# UAW 1268 STANDS WITH TOLEDO JEEP

## UAW LOCAL 12

UAW 1268 members took a bus to Toledo, Ohio on Monday, September 25 and returned on the 26th to support our striking UAW 12 Brothers and Sisters. Many members also drove their own cars.

The group was met on arrival by former UAW 1268 members who have transferred to Toledo.



## DEPARTURE

Departure photo credits rrstar.com



## ARRIVAL







## UAW LOCAL 1268

# STACEY DAHLE

## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The idling of the Belvidere Assembly Plant before contract talks had me and I'm sure every member worried and anxious about what would happen with our jobs and of course (especially) for our families. We waited seven months to find out what the final status of Belvidere Assembly Plant will be. In the end, Belvidere received products, not just a vehicle, but a EV battery plant and a PDC plant. The October Membership was the place to be, as the members patiently waited for our 1268 leadership to return from a call with President Shawn Fain and Vice President Rich Boyer to start our meeting and end the meeting with great news for Belvidere.

As Local 1268 was not called to Stand Up, that didn't stop us from going to show our support for those who were. I joined other 1268 brothers and sisters by joining Naperville PDC, Local 1178, and Milwaukee PDC, Local 75, by standing on the line, bringing much-needed supplies and support. I cooked a few lunches, walked, and talked with many members. Quite a few of those members were once 1268 members who had transferred, and I made some new friends as well.

I thanked them for standing up for us and was thankful to have a chance to be part of the historic STAND-UP strike.

The brotherhood and sisterhood each time left me empowered, and grateful. The international leadership had a vision and wisdom in how we struck, and the membership had the courage to see it through.

I also serve as UAW 1268 Chaplaincy Chair, our committee prayed for our leadership, the local, and our plant. Our committee has unfortunately had to attend visitations and funerals for 1268 members who have passed or lost a loved one.

The committee has also been serving in local churches, from doing this we were able to make some contacts with Northern Illinois Food Bank and have been holding pop-up distribution at our union hall. The Community Service Committee collected other items in need, school supplies, coats, gloves, and scarves. The Paranormal Committee did an outstanding job collecting pet food for the furry family members in need. Thank you to everyone who volunteered or just hoped the event was a success. The September, November and December events were a remarkable success. The hard work of many can be felt, not just by the community but also by our volunteers as well, we are all a part of that. Please consider joining us at the future Northern Illinois Food Bank Pop-Up on Jan. 6, Feb. 3, and Mar. 2.

In Solidarity,  
Stacey Dahle  
2nd Vice President

## UAW LOCAL 1268

# RETIREE CHAPTER

## SHOWS SUPPORT



UAW 1268 Retirees showing their support at the October 27th Retiree Chapter meeting.



**SERVING THE COMMUNITY**  
**NORTHERN ILLINOIS**  
**FOOD BANK POP-UP**  
**DISTRIBUTION**

We may have been down, but we were not out! The local continued to serve the community, by hosting Northern Illinois Food Bank Pop-Ups at the union hall on September 9th, November 1st and December 9th.

In 2024, the hall will be hosting distributions on January 6th, February 3rd, and March 2nd. Please consider volunteering to represent UAW 1268 in the community for those in need, in the upcoming distributions.



In September, the Community Service Committee collected school supplies, and donations from sponsors. A huge thank you goes to Anderson Dodge, Kunes, Wild Cherries and American Legion for their monetary donations, and to our 1268 members who donated supplies.



For the November distribution, Community Service collected coats, hats, scarves and mittens and the Paranormal committee collected over \$5,000 in pet food, with sponsors from Bark On Mulford, Ricky's Rascals, Wholesome Petz Pet Supplies and Puppy Pizzas for Dogs.



And on December 9th, the Community Service collected diapers, wipes and adult briefs from our members for the community.



*Thank You*  
*Volunteers*



# UAW 1268 STANDS WITH NAPERVILLE PDC

UAW Local 1178

Many 1268 members went and supported UAW 1178 Brothers and Sisters in Naperville. Our members went and cooked lunches, brought firewood and walked the picket line showing our support and thanking them for answering the call to STAND UP for us and all members of the big three.



# UAW 1268 STANDS WITH MILWAUKEE PDC UAW Local 75

Many 1268 members went and also supported UAW 75 Brothers and Sisters in Milwaukee. Our members dropped off supplies and walked the picket line showing our support and thanking them for answering the call to STAND UP.



UAW LOCAL 1268

**MICHELLE OROPEZA**

RECORDING SECRETARY

It's been a really rough time when Belvidere started cutting shifts. Starting with C crew that got cut in 2019, then B crew in 2021. If you were very close to the bottom on the seniority list, and not knowing if you were going to be here a week to couple of months, was very stressful every time they started cutting more and more employees. It made you wonder if you were going to be next or if it was going to get to your number, being in that bottom 100 is a very scary feeling of the unknown and if your life going to change.

Then when they finally decided to "idle" Belvidere, they came out with the news on my birthday. What a happy birthday that was, but I did not let it ruin my day because we all knew that that day was coming, the signs were on the wall. But we did not want it to be true, it is very scary with not knowing if Belvidere would end up opening back up or not, if you were going to have to uproot your family.

I had just had a baby that same year and not knowing if I was going to raise my child in the town that I grew up in or if we were going to have to relocate to a new state and have to leave all family behind if I wanted to continue with my career in Chrysler. I think about my union brothers and sisters that already had to leave and relocate and how this company just divided everyone throughout the United States.

I do not want to take this time to talk about me and how it

really affected me and my family. I want to talk about everyone that was still holding on to the hope that we would open back up and even the ones that did take the option not to return home. How we truly had little time to make such a big decision when it did come to you. Seeing so many families struggling, not just Unit 1, but our other units (suppliers) that do not get the same benefits as Unit 1. The options to relocate or go to school or try to be able live off unemployment and SUB till they found other work that was even close to what they had. Quite a few members ran out of unemployment and SUB in September, and many more before then, depending on when you were laid off. It hurt seeing members coming in the doors of the union hall asking for help or where to get help.

As so many things have happened to so many families in all the situations, everyone has a different story. The ones with medical issues that just need the insurance alone wondering where they were going to turn to even get help. Not every unit gets health care like Unit 1 when they leave. These last couple of years have turned our community upside down. But as we close 2023 and go into 2024, we have hope again with the news of Belvidere Assembly opening not just with an assembly plant, but a parts depot and a battery plant. That also means with an assembly plant we possibly would need supplier plants also. What this could really mean for our community is a lot. I want everyone to know as your Recording Secretary I am still here to help, I'm also out on lay off, but I still am willing to help whenever I can. My door is always open.

In Solidarity,  
Michelle Oropeza

UAW Local1268 Recording Secretary

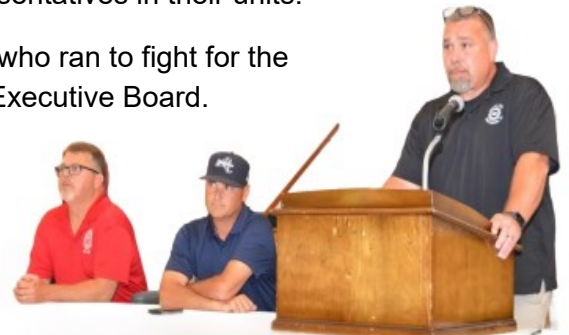
UAW LOCAL 1268

**GENERAL ELECTIONS**

JULY 11, 2023

UAW Local 1268 had their own change in leadership in 2023. Our General Elections were held on July 11, 2023. With the uncertainty of Unit 1- Belvidere Assembly Plant and UAW 1268, there were 22 members that decided to run for a position on the executive board, with determination to fight to keep the big plant open. Along with the Board, Units 1, 9, 12, 13 and 16, elected their union representatives in their units.

Congratulations to all who won positions and thank you to all candidates who ran to fight for the plant and our local. Please see back page to see your UAW Local 1268 Executive Board.



2nd Vice President Stacey Dahle, Vice President Joey Szakalski and President Matt Frantzen

**SOLIDARITY**  
**WE ARE BELVIDERE**  
**PHOTO SHOOT**

UAW 1268 members and family came out for a Solidarity Photo Shoot.

The area's democratic politicians along with Belvidere Mayor Clint Morris, Region 4 Director Brandon Campbell and Rockford United Labor President Sara Dorner also spoke to the members.



**Congressman  
Bill Foster**



**Representative  
Dave Vella**



**Congressman  
Eric Sorenson**



**Senator  
Steve Stadleman**



**Representative  
Maurice West**



**Belvidere Mayor  
Clint Morris**

RON AND MARY FREIGO

# SOLIDARITY

ROAD TRIP

Ron and Mary Freigo head to Florida a couple times a year to visit Mary's father. This year on their way down they swung by several PDCs, in Georgia and Florida, that were called to Stand Up. In Georgia, they spent the night and arrived early and enjoyed the area so much they pretty much stayed the whole day appreciating the area, and said the strikers were so welcoming and appreciated that they stopped by to show support for them.

They didn't just visit Stellantis members on strike, while traveling through Kentucky, they also stopped to support UAW Local 862 in Louisville, Kentucky. The local represents the Kentucky Ford Truck Plant & Louisville Ford Assembly Plant.

Along their travels, wearing their UAW Local 1268 "We Are Belvidere" t-shirts brought up a conversation in a newly unionized Starbucks. They talked with the store's union rep. who then gave Ron and Mary a discount on their breakfast. Solidarity was everywhere during the Stand Up Strike.

Ron also joined in on the Toledo Bus Trip in September.

Thank you Ron and Mary for representing UAW Local 1268 and supporting the Stand Up strikers in different areas of the country.



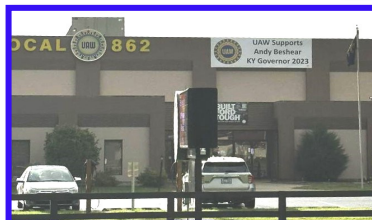
## ORLANDO PDC- UAW LOCAL 1649



## ALTANTA PDC-UAW LOCAL 868



Toledo, Ohio



Louisville, Kentucky



# FIGHTING FOR BELVIDERE ASSEMBLY PLANT IN VIDEOS

Thank you to our members who participated in these videos in sharing our story. Videos can be found on YouTube.



Belvidere Deserves Better



Justice For Belvidere



These Workers Made History



MORE PERFECT UNION



## TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

# ROLL OUT

## MEETING

The tentative agreement roll out was held Tuesday, November 7 at Tebela Towers in Cherry Valley.

Members asked questions, shared their frustrations and had a chance to meet IUAW's President Shawn Fain and Vice President Rich Boyer along with all the negotiators.



UAW LOCAL 1268

MIKE MOE

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!!

This may have easily have been the most whirlwind year of my life. I cannot tell you how happy I am to see it end on such a positive note. Belvidere is coming back!! I do not consider myself a pessimist, but I am a realist. Six months ago, I was certain that I would be relocating in order to get my 30 years of service in. In the history of the Big 3 auto manufacturers in America, no plant has ever come back from the dead under the same ownership. I am proud to watch Belvidere become the first. This is an epic, historical event. The magnitude of which cannot be understated. It is such an important event that the President of The United States came to Belvidere to celebrate with us. A lot of historic firsts happened to close out our year.

It took a huge team effort for Belvidere to be saved. The thanks start with our National Negotiating Team, our International Vice President Boyer, and our International President Shawn Fain. The interpersonal relationship between them and our local President Matt Frantzen absolutely helped us get here. Our membership also played a huge role whether they were on the picket line or just visiting one. Through rallies and solidarity events we stood together and showed the companies we were not going to back down. But we also have a contingent of local and national politicians who stood with us and put pressure on the executives behind the scenes.

For the first time in history a sitting US President walked a picket line. As publicly as is possible, he announced to the world exactly who he stood with during this fight of our lives. This next part is a direct challenge to those who just

rolled their eyes..... where was your Party? Name one member of your Party anywhere in this entire country who made the same statement. Who was not afraid to show that they stand with the working-class members of this country and not the corporate interests now crying about how the price of vehicles will have to go up to pay for our raises because they have to keep their profit margin. Never mind how vehicle prices have skyrocketed over the past three years while the CEO's and Executives have received record compensation, and the companies did billions in stock buy backs just to inflate the worth to the ones who own it.

I am absolutely calling you out. The politicians who truly stand with working class families came out over and over again to show their support. The politicians who take the billionaire class money hid in silence, though a few were actually bold enough to go on Fox news and trash the "greedy" workers looking to bankrupt the poor companies.

This strike helped in ways not seen in decades, because the politicians all had a chance to declare to the world exactly what side they were on. Believe me, I was paying attention and keeping score. In 11 months from now, we have a major political election. I can guarantee you that as the Chairman of the Rockford UAW CAP Council, I will be putting every resource I have into ensuring that those who answered the call and stood with us when we needed them the most will be rewarded with our efforts matching theirs.

Likewise, I will be out to eliminate those who stood against the workers or simply did not have the guts to stand with us in our fight. Take this argument to the kitchen table. I plan to. I'm fired up and I'm not backing down. I have a future in Belvidere, IL and I am going to fight like hell to make sure it never gets taken from me.

In Solidarity,  
Mike Moe

UAW Local 1268 Financial Secretary



Minesha Herron drops off water for the strikers



Scott Wheeler drops off firewood in Naperville



Mike Moe, Matt Frantzen and Joey Szakalski show some of the school supply donations

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

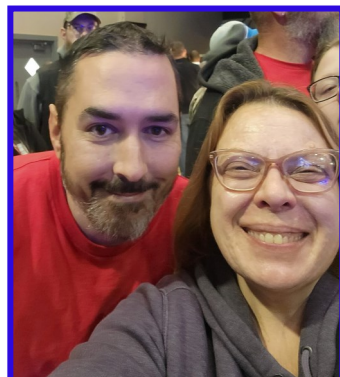
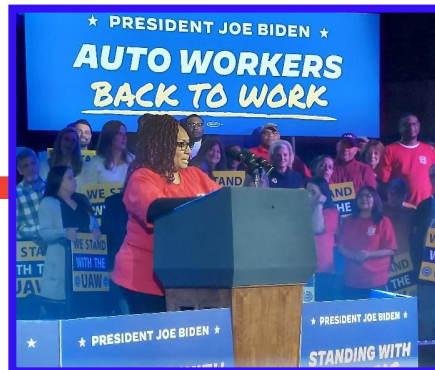
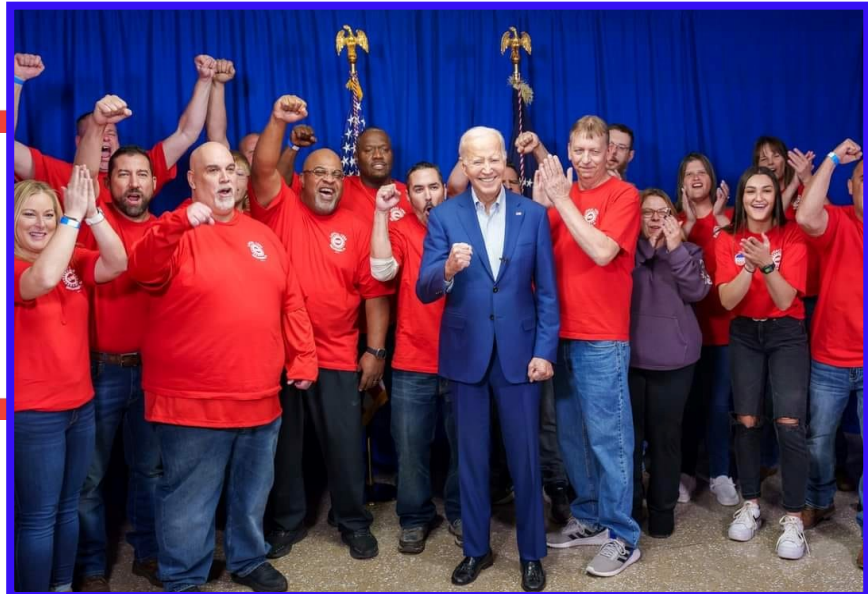
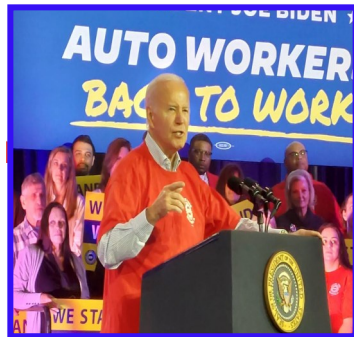
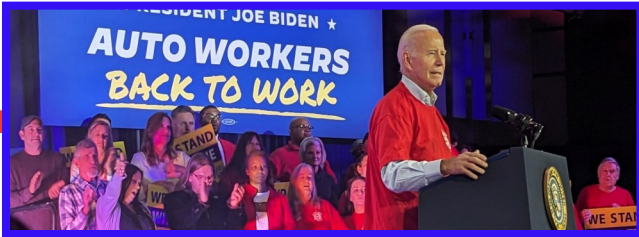
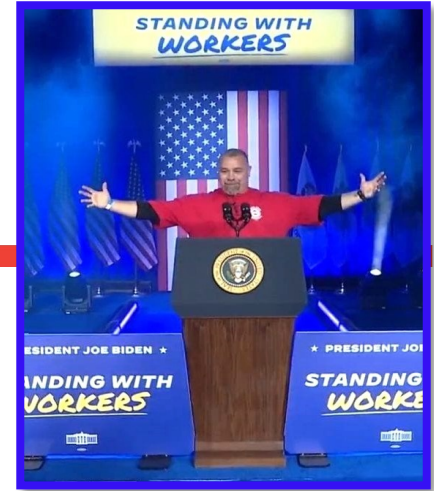
**JOE BIDEN**

CELEBRATES WITH 1268

President Biden told Matt Frantzen at their meeting in Chicago in June they would meet again, and they did!

President Biden stopped at Belvidere's Community Building to celebrate with the members the announcement of a mid-size truck coming to Belvidere in 2027.

IUAW's President Shawn Fain and Vice President Rich Boyer also made the trip back to Belvidere.



UAW LOCAL 1268

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

AMALGAMATED LOCAL

President: Matt Frantzen  
 Vice President: Joey Szakalski  
 2nd Vice President: Stacey Dahle  
 Recording Secretary: Michelle Oropeza  
 Financial Secretary: Mike Moe  
 Trustees: Dawn Tree  
           Horace Hubbard  
           Linda Montes  
 Sargeant-At-Arms: Ron Sodko  
 Guide: Ryan Schultz  
 Unit 1 Chair: Cliff Graham  
 Unit 9 Chair: Brent Walker  
 Unit 12 Chair: Boone County Clerks  
 Unit 16 Chair: Laura Bettis  
 Retiree Chapter Chair: Dave Woody

VISIT OR FOLLOW US ON

## SOCIAL MEDIA

UAW 1268

### UAW LOCAL 1268 OFFICIAL SITES ARE TITLED UAW 1268

Website: [uaw1268.org](http://uaw1268.org)  
 FB Page: UAW 1268  
 Twitter: UAW 1268  
 Instagram: UAW 1268

The private group on FB, UAW Local 1268, will be cleaned out and people no longer affiliated with UAW 1268 will be removed. You must be a member, retiree, or transfer from UAW 1268 to other locals to remain in the group.

Local 1268 has several ways members can stay informed. Members can request e-mails from Local 1268 President Matt Frantzen or for general information visit our website or social media sites.

Matt Frantzen:

[matthewfrantzen@uaw1268.org](mailto:matthewfrantzen@uaw1268.org)

Add to subject line: **Add me to email**

For members only!

After being verified, you will be added

UAW LOCAL 1268

## COMMUNICATIONS

IS EVERYONES JOB

It was a hell of a year. Although this publication is about Unit 1, Belvidere Assembly Plant's fight to stay open. We must recognize those units we lost, those are Units 2-Adeint, 4-Android, 5-syncreon, 7-Oakley, 8-Grupo Industries, 13-HydroChem, 14-syncreon II, and 15-Piston. The loss of these members has been felt, many ran for leadership roles and participated in union events, making our local diverse and strong. Our local is still amalgamated, Units are 1-Belvidere Assembly, 12-Boone County Clerks and 16-Boone County Clerks and Recorders, along with 9-SBM Management, janitorial service for Unit 1.

So now that 2023 is over, 2024 will bring a whole new set of unknowns, even with the plant being saved, opening a mega hub distribution center, which has resulted in PDC members having to relocate, the very thing we were fighting against for our members and community. And eventually a EV battery plant. And we know Stellantis has to do something for our remaining members who didn't volunteer or were forced to UAW Local 1178 PDC. What will 2024 bring?

But there were a couple firsts, the 58-year-old Belvidere Assembly Plant went from a closed plant to gaining an entirely newly built assembly plant making a midsize truck, something that has never been done before. Then the President of the United States made a stop to celebrate our plant keeping product.

There also was a lot of UAW 1268 solidarity like we never seen before. Members came out to help make signs, stand with strikers, volunteer for food bank distributions, and came together for the solidarity photo shoot. Even with the uncertainty of our future you continued to donate cash, water, and firewood for strike lines. And when called upon, you donated school supplies, winter gear, diapers for the food drives and Christmas toys for the community. Members' participation is what makes a local strong. And I hope our strength continues to grow, when members participate, it makes us stronger.

The same goes for this publication, it couldn't have been made if it wasn't for our members. Communication really is everyone's job. If you posted a picture or story on UAW Local 1268 group, I saved it! Those few days after March 3rd, 2024, going through my fb feed, I seen a few members posting about that day, as I did. I didn't know at the time why, but I felt I had to screenshot and save them. Nothing told the story as your posts did at that time.

Thank you Dawn Simms for your help, and to Dawn Rogers, who always takes great pictures for our local at events. Thank you to these members for sharing photos in emails, or on UAW Local 1268 FB group.

Justo Diaz	Teddy Whitfeild	Paula (Mike) Cross
Stacey Dahle	Chris Pope-Munger	Vonda Moore
Karla Hart	Marilyn Spradling	Joey Szakalski
Niki Cruz	Lisa Marks	Vincent Bonner
Jesus Rocha	Mary Scalzitti	Crizza DeZarn
Mary (Ron) Freigo	Dave Blakeslee	Austin James
Janette Blake	Melissa Graf	Mike Riedesel
Mike Moe	Matthew Liesch	Merilee Underwood
Kimberly McCowan	Reggie Hereford	Michelle Oropeza

I'm sure I may have missed a name or two. But thank you and continue to share photos and info, so we may continue to grow our solidarity as a local.

In Solidarity,  
 Mary Bingenheimer  
[marybingenheimer@uaw1268.org](mailto:marybingenheimer@uaw1268.org)  
 or [mrybing4uaw@aol.com](mailto:mrybing4uaw@aol.com)

