

President's Report



In the last issue of Vanguard, I stated that I was cautiously optimistic about being through the worst of this recession. Whether we are through the worst yet or not, things are looking better for us at Ohio Assembly. We have orders coming in with more expected. We were tentatively scheduled to work ten Fridays and although two have since been cancelled, we still have six Fridays tentatively scheduled with no down weeks forecasted at this time.

For years Ford, GM and Chrysler got all the negative news media attention and were spotlighted over recalls. During that same time Toyota, Honda and other importers or transplants somehow quietly averted recalls with dealership repairs and very little, if any, media attention. I

by Tim Donovan

wouldn't wish ill on anyone and certainly wouldn't want anyone else hurt or killed in a defective car, but to watch Toyota squirm as they undergo congressional hearings, to see their sales and market share drop and see their once-coveted reputation tarnished almost seems like poetic justice.

The 2010 Census will be mailed out to all of us by March 17th. The census not only tells the government how many and where all of us live, but it also affects our political representation in Congress. It also directs the allocation of billions of dollars in governmental funding, which can affect our state and local economies for the next 10 years.

Regardless of your location, your community cannot afford to lose any potential funding so please be sure to complete the form and return it as directed. If you do not respond to the census before April 1st, a census worker will visit you at your home to gather your information.

Unit 1 Report



There have been many things going on at the plant. The company wants to increase the JPH from 32.5 to 33 JPH. This is being done because Dearborn wants to increase the capacity to decrease the overtime requirements at Ohio Assembly. Paint and Body will not be experiencing any increases in line speed.

Our plant has won the Presidents Quality Award for Warranty within the best of the fleet focused assembly plants. We have also won two President's Safety Awards. Our plant is one of the leaders in quality and safety within our segment. We need to always be trying to improve on our quality. Congratulations for another job well done.

We have begun to work some Fridays. I would like to apologize for all the changes taking place with this schedule. I am just telling the membership the updates as soon as I get informed of them by the company. The good news is that we have no down weeks scheduled for the first half of the year. As for the second half of the year I have not been informed of any down weeks yet. The schedule for overtime is always a tentative schedule and can change at any time (as we have seen).

We have been receiving some good Econoline orders and are expecting to be receiving more throughout the year. We have a couple of 500 unit orders and are waiting to here from one of our customers on an order between

by Nick Gallogly

5,000 and 7,000 units. With many businesses curtailing on their spending last year and finding out they have more money to spend this year and a fleet that is one year older than they were planning on. They are in need of revitalizing their fleets, which is good for us at Ohio Assembly.

We are trying to create a better working relationship with the company. Over the past couple of years the company has drifted off thinking they could do whatever they wanted to our brothers and sisters, violating our national and local agreements without proper procedures being used. The National UAW has been at our plant to remind the company that we have contracts and when a violation of that contract occurs it will be addressed in a timely manner beginning with the district committee person and the supervisor of the area. It is no longer acceptable to just send everything to Labor Relations.

We need to stay on our elected officials in Washington about the need for Health Care Reform. Our employers have already begun to take away some of our health care benefits. As our retirees numbers increase there is a greater need for better care, not having to pay more for less care. Even though the USA is a leader in many areas we seem to have fallen behind in taking care of our elderly. There is something wrong when you work all your life trying to establish a retirement and then finding out that it isn't enough because of changes in the government standards. These changes are usually not in our favor either. So make sure our voice is heard in Washington as well as at the local levels too.