COORDINATOR’S CORNER

By Luis Vazquez

Recently, UAW LUDLs have been active across many grants received by the UAW, and in addition, a few have been active outside of our grants. This illustrates the versatility and skills of UAW’s LUDLs, and the strength of the LUDL program in general. Last year, a number of LUDLs participated in a Fall Protection Train-the-Trainer, with LUDLs then actively trying to recruit their own workplaces to utilize the Fall Protection training. The Fall Protection TTT was supported by funding from federal OSHA. LUDLs have helped to teach Bloodborne Pathogens and Communicable Diseases training through grants provided by the State of Michigan (the CET program) for the past few years. This year, UAW is a recipient of a grant from federal OSHA, targeting the subject of Metal Working Fluids (MWF), and a Train-the-Trainer program for this grant was held the week of February 8–11. During the TTT, LUDLs helped hone down the draft curriculum, and worked on agendas for 4-hour and 8-hour MWF training programs. Those LUDLs trained will once again try to recruit their own workplaces and those Local Unions within their regions needing assistance with Metal Working Fluids.

The International Chemical Workers Union (ICWU), the Steelworkers (USWA), and UAW partnered together to apply for a US Department of Transportation grant, to teach DOT rules and regulations, and a Train-the-Trainer program will be scheduled for sometime later in the spring or early summer. A few UAW LUDLs are certified OSHA instructors, and regularly present courses offered through the Great Lakes Regional OTI (OSHA) Education Center at Eastern Michigan University. A few of our bilingual LUDLs have been asked to participate in an upcoming Hispanic Worker Occupational Safety and Health Conference being jointly sponsored by OSHA and NIEHS. This past November, LUDL Steve Mitchell participated in a workshop offered during the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting entitled “Research by the Rank and File: The National Labor College H&S Program”.

All of this activity says so much about what our LUDL program has been able to accomplish in developing people to become leaders in the workers’ occupational health movement. These activities inspire us to continue providing some of the best Health & Safety training available. Even in these lean times with resources stretched to their limits, the UAW’s LUDL program is proving itself to be a valuable asset.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY APRIL 28, 2010
METALWORKING FLUIDS/TRAIN THE TRAINER
HELD AT UAW/GM TRAINING CENTER, DETROIT

By Eric Johnson
UAW Local 475, Region 1C

The UAW Health and Safety Department was awarded a two year grant in Metal Working Fluids. The grant runs from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2011 and is funded with $248,643.

A MWF/TTT was held in Detroit February 8th through the 11th. I was anxious to learn more about MWFs and the effects they have on our bodies. I worked 12 years with MWFs and up until now, really didn’t know too much about them. I knew they weren’t the greatest for you, but never gave much thought to the long term effects. I knew certain workers would break out and get dermatitis, some worse than others. I never did have a reaction to it.

Since I didn’t get dermatitis, I figured why wear gloves? I’ve seen workers wear air monitoring equipment but didn’t give it much thought because I didn’t get dermatitis. I was given a refractometer to check the coolant but didn’t check it too often because I didn’t get dermatitis.

Through the week, sitting in class and trying to take in all the information, I realized I should have listened and paid closer attention to my co-workers during those 12 years of dealing with metalworking fluids. Just because I didn’t get dermatitis and another worker did should have told me something. When I saw the air monitoring units, it should have dawned on me that the fluids which we were working with are harmful. But, I couldn’t see it as I didn’t get dermatitis. When my eyes would become irritated from the fluids I would tolerate it because when I got out of work everything was better. When my car and clothes reeked of coolants, it should have told me “Something smells fishy.”

I realize now that proper training and education would have promoted a better awareness of MWFs for my fellow co-workers and myself in the facility in which I worked, but it also may have prevented the death of David Ferguson.

Note: UAW member David Ferguson was diagnosed with HP in 2001. Debilitated and without work, he took his own life in 2006.
Karen King and Judy Daltuva had the honor of introducing John Rupp Jr., Assistant Director, UAW Education/Health & Safety Department, as a speaker in the University of Michigan’s Occupational Health and Safety Series. Students in the class come from the disciplines of public health and industrial and occupational engineering. John’s topic was “Case Studies: Serious and Fatal Incidents: Implications for Safety Engineering.” John had the students’ attention from his first slide which stated, “16 workers die per day.” He told the group that from 1973 to 2009 the UAW experienced 521 deaths of members, adding that skilled trades are at greatest risk, with 43% of fatalities although only 15% of the UAW workforce.

The knowledge of hazardous materials would allow workers to protect themselves from harmful materials that could affect their health. The purpose of this study was to test the hypothesis that new employees of a large manufacturing company in the Midwest were largely unaware of their legal rights as they apply to hazardous materials information, their exposures to hazardous materials, and employee rights to chemical and exposure information.

The subjects were 38 new employees and members of United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) Local 974. The anonymous subjects were queried using a paper and pencil questionnaire completed at two different new employee orientations conducted at the union hall on a single day. All of the participants understood the importance of knowing the signs and symptoms of exposure to the hazardous materials they worked with.

However, 60% did not know what a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) was and 75% did not know how to use the computer to access MSDS information. The results of the study suggest that the current method of teaching new employees about hazardous exposures is inadequate.

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John focused on investigations of three UAW fatalities revealing factors in the incidents which were addressed in safety regulations and consensus safety standards. Many of these factors, if changed, would have significantly altered the outcome of the incidents. John stressed to the group that health and safety professionals must have a broad knowledge of all regulations and both national and international consensus safety standards related to the operations affecting the workforce they represent. The students appreciated the case study format, visuals, recommended resources and John’s interactive presentation style.

John ended by asking the students to think about these words, “Knowing the right thing to do can often be hard. Once you know the right thing to do, it’s hard not to do it.” And, he encouraged them to take action when they see an unsafe condition or situation, even if that action is simply to report this to someone who has the ability to follow-up and address the situation.
DWEJ POSTER HIGHLIGHTS WORK WITH UAW

By Luis Vazquez

At a recent Environmental Justice Conference in New Orleans, LA, hosted by the US Environmental Protection Agency and NIEHS (held in conjunction with an NIEHS grantee meeting), a poster session highlighting efforts of organizations trying to address Environmental Justice concerns was convened. UAW and DWEJ submitted the following description of our ongoing collaborative work, which focuses on worker training issues faced by community members in Detroit attempting to make a better life for themselves.

Detroits Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ) and the International Union, UAW Education/Health & Safety Department have had an ongoing partnership for many years. This partnership has included sharing of training resources and reciprocal service on each others' Advisory Boards for specific projects.

DWEJ’s Green Jobs Training Program empowers Detroit residents to become environmental activists and pursue jobs in emerging green industries through a rigorous 16 week course, where trainees learn and practice skills, earn certifications, and qualify for jobs in construction, lead and asbestos abatement, environmental assessment and other environmental remediation.

Both DWEJ and UAW receive grant funding indirectly and directly from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). DWEJ identified a need to have qualified instruction in HAZWOPER, Confined Space Entry, OSHA Construction, and Fall Hazard Prevention. UAW is a provider of these courses to its membership, and was approached by DWEJ to be a provider of this specific training in the Green Jobs Training Program. The result of this collaboration is the UAW and DWEJ successfully leveraging the training resources, with UAW able to claim the trainees and contact hours for the training provided. All of the training provided by UAW to DWEJ trainees is evaluated by the University of Michigan, and reported to NIEHS in grant progress reports.

These collaborative efforts have led to DWEJ trainees obtaining jobs. Possible next steps will include increasing the numbers of Green Jobs Training Programs, with UAW continuing to provide top-quality training to DWEJ participants.

Kinnus Paul (Green Jobs Training Coordinator at DWEJ), Luis Vazquez, and Anne Heybey Wasciuk worked together on the 3 1/2 by 7 feet poster in December, and then had it printed at the UAW-GM CHR. Kudos to Anne for such a fine product, and hours of layout. The poster was one of a few dozen at the poster session, and received numerous compliments from the Environmental Justice Conference participants, as well as fellow NIEHS grantees and administrators. It assuredly left a great impression of what our project does best: training the workforce (and future workers) using hands-on methods.

The poster will be placed on display during the upcoming Black Lake Health and Safety Conference, and, if accepted, will be displayed during another poster session to be held at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in November.

Introducing Kinnus Paul

Kinnus R. Paul grew up on the west side of Detroit, MI, where he spent many days playing all types of sports, anything from hockey to volleyball. He attended Northwestern High School in Detroit where he earned a full scholarship to Western Kentucky University, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Business in the spring of 2004.

Kinnus is also a graduate of DWEJ’s staff in late August of 2008 as a Job Developer and now assists in the day to day activities of the current training class as well as teaching Job Readiness.

Kinnus Paul, representing DWEJ, presents a poster showing DWEJ and UAW collaboration at an Environmental Justice meeting in New Orleans.
Decades of struggle by workers and their unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. But the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remains enormous. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions more are injured or diseased because of their jobs. Remember these workers on April 28, Workers Memorial Day.

The first Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989. April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the day of a similar remembrance in Canada. Every year, people in hundreds of communities and at worksites recognize workers who have been killed or injured on the job. Trade unionists around the world now mark April 28 as an International Day of Mourning.
Cycle of Life
By Marty Winiarski
I want to let everyone know that my first grandchild was born Thursday, January 7 at 5:05 PM. His name is Alex Robert and he weighed 7 lbs. 2 ozs. and was 19 ¾ inches long. He is truly a blessing. I do plan on spending time with him and watching him grow.

As I reflect on my career at the UAW, I realize that I have been blessed to have a job that can help people and make a difference in their lives. From my first days on staff in accounting to my current position I have had the opportunity to work with a group of wonderful people. They made it a joy to come to work each day. For the past couple of years, I have gotten to know many dedicated and caring union activists. I want to thank you for your friendship and willingness to allow me to grow. As my career comes to a close at the UAW, I will have many memories with no regrets. I was able to do work on a job that I truly enjoyed and work with a great group of people in the Education/Health & Safety dept. What more could a person ask for? Also, I got to know the LUDLs and the research staff at U of M who are another group of dedicated people that have been a privilege to work with. It has been a remarkable journey and one that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Take care and remember to carry on the fight.

Ron Gettelfinger (left) with Fran and Marty

Marty and the Wolverettes, Anne, Katie and Judy

Scenes from Marty’s retirement party, February 18, 2010.

Marty and the Education/Health & Safety staff
UAW TO PARTICIPATE IN ICWU DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRAINING GRANT

By Luis Vazquez

Recently, the International Chemical Workers Union Consortium (ICWU) was awarded a training grant from the US DOT to conduct Train-the-Trainer programs and deliver DOT training to workplaces which ship or receive hazardous materials. This is a great opportunity for UAW’s Local Union Discussion Leaders (LUDLs) and joint UAW/GM/Ford/Chrysler trainers to take part in a program meant to reduce the likelihood of hazardous materials release incidents.

Both the UAW and the Steelworkers (USW) contributed to the ICWU application for grant funding, in order to form a joint partnership to carry through on training obligations once awarded funding. Further collaboration will take place with the National Labor College, and the DOT training programs delivered there through the Railway Workers.

UAW hosted a planning meeting of the DOT Training Grant partners in Detroit on February 16-17, 2010. A Train-the-Trainer program will be scheduled sometime later in the year, and will take place at the ICWU training facilities in Cincinnati, OH. A total of eight trainers and staff from each partner (ICWU, USW, and UAW) will participate in the TTT. Subsequent Regional Update sessions will take place either in Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, or at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD.

The ICWU’s grant proposal builds on each partner’s resources to immediately begin training trainers from the ICWU, the UAW and the USW in the requirements of 49 CFR 172.704. These trainers in turn will conduct DOT training at their facilities in the DOT requirements.

A list of modules for shipping/receiving workers includes:

- Identification
- Shipping papers/manifests
- Packaging
- Marking, labeling
- Hazmat table
- Record keeping requirements
- DOT Regulations (49 CFR 172.704)

For those workers with responsibility to load and unload bulk tanker cars or trailers, there already exist curriculum in the following areas from the ICWU, USW and UAW:

- Hazard Awareness
- Decontamination Procedures
- Incompatibles
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Chemical Substance Resources
- Emergency Response Procedures

UAW DAIRMER/FREIGHTLINER LOTO TRAINING

By Eric Johnson

UAW Local 475, Region 1C

During the week of Jan. 25th through the 29th, Mike Lee and I took a trip to LUDL Danny MacEachern’s worksite to facilitate a LOTO (Lock Out Tag Out) training at LOCAL 5286, GASTONIA , N.C. This was my first experience at having a hectic schedule with one class scheduled right after another.

All in all, the week was a good learning experience for the approximately 115 members/employees who attended the class and for me. I became more familiar with Freightliners P-19 Press and the dangers it presents and the class had a better understanding as to when LOTO applies.

I appreciated this opportunity, which Danny provided by working with the UAW Health and Safety Program and having his facility a continuous training opportunity for all who attended.

Calendar, continued from page 1

June 7 – 11, 2010
40 hour IER Technician - GM Tonawanda Engine, Local 774
Buffalo, NY

August 9 – 13, 2010
647/GE/2B;
30 Hour OSHA Outreach Program
Erlanger, KY

August 16 – 20, 2010
647/GE/2B
Fall Hazard Recognition
Evondale, OH

October 25 – 29, 2010
647/GE/2B
30 Hour OSHA Outreach Program
Evondale, OH

To be scheduled:
2308/MillerCoors/2B
Trenton, OH

40 Hour Ergonomic Committee
447/Electrolux/4
40 Hour IER
Webster City, IA

40 hour Technician
Schweizer Aircraft, LU 1752
Elmira, NY
Hello from Donna Swartwood. She writes, “I’m fine, just enjoying the grandkids and staying warm.”

Congratulations to Sherrod Elledge and Marty Winiarski, who both received their Safety Specialist Certificates from EMU. Many good wishes to Marty, who retired February 28, 2010, as Director of the UAW Education/Health & Safety Department.

Sherry Kraft, Kim Lane, Anne Wasciuk and Marty Winiarski, who are all new grandparents. Sherry’s granddaughter was born September 28, 2009, weighing in at 7 lbs., 11 oz. Her name is Skylin Sue Long. We don’t have details yet, but Kim has a new grandson. Anne’s granddaughter Lydia Heybey Tulchinsky was born January 20, 2010, arriving at 7 lbs. 3 oz. and 20.5 inches long. Marty’s grandson, Alex Robert Winiarski, arrived 5:05 PM on January 7, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and 19 3/4 inches long. Welcome to all these beautiful babies!

Correction: In the September 2009 of the LUDL Newsletter, in the article entitled Tour of Ft. Leonard Wood, it was stated that Dan Arden was a retired CIA Agent. Mr. Arden is a retired Special Forces LTC.

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Left to right: Marty holding his grandson, Sherry’s daughter and granddaughter, Anne’s granddaughter.