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Striking auto workers battle billionaire CEOs

By Sharon Black

Update Sept. 22 — At 10 a.m., the United Auto Workers announced a major expansion of the current stand-up strike to 38 parts and distribution sites across 20 states at General Motors and Stellantis. Both companies have remained recalcitrant.

UAW President Shawn Fain announced that the union made some progress with Ford, including eliminating wage tiers, reinstating cost-of-living adjustments, improved profit-sharing, conversion of temporary workers, and the right to strike in the advent of plant closures. There are still significant gaps on key issues with Ford, and in the end, all of the issues are interconnected. Strikes at Wayne, Michigan (Ford), Wentzville, Missouri (GM), and Toledo, Ohio (Stellantis) will continue.

In the morning livestream, UAW President Shawn Fain called on everyone to join the picket line, including all UAW members and family members, the community, and workers at large. Fain also urged President Biden to join the line. International support has been pouring in from Mexico, South Africa, Malaysia, and Italy, where Stellantis workers are on strike.

This will add 5,600 workers to the 13,000 who are already striking.

The staff at Struggle-La Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party urges our readers, members, and friends to join the picket lines in their areas.

Sept. 15 — At midnight, United Auto Workers struck the Big Three companies — Ford, GM, and Stellantis — in what is being called a "Stand Up Strike." Striking at all three companies simultaneously is a historic first for the auto workers union.

In a letter to union members and supporters, UAW President Shawn Fain announced,

"A few minutes ago, thousands of UAW members at Ford, GM, and Stellantis walked out, marking the beginning of the Stand Up Strike. UAW members at GM Wentzville Assembly, Local 2250 in Region 4, are ON STRIKE.

UAW members at Stellantis Toledo Assembly Complex, Local 12 in Region 2B are ON STRIKE.

UAW members at Ford Michigan Assembly Plant — Final Assembly and Paint, Local 900 in Region 1A are ON STRIKE.

"This fight is our generation's defining moment. Not just at the Big Three, but across the entire working class."

UAW President Fain immediately left the bargaining table to join the 3,000-plus workers at the Michigan Ford Assembly Plant. Altogether, 13,000 workers are on strike: 3,300 at Ford in Michigan; 3,600 at GM at Wentzville, Missouri; and 5,800 at Stellantis at the Toledo Jeep complex in Ohio.

The "stand up strikes" are targeted strikes which auto industry expert Jeff Schuster from GlobalData described, "One engine or transmission location

per company might be enough to shut down nearly three-quarters of the U.S. assembly plants. Two plants per company, you can pretty much idle North America."

The advantage for the union is it saves on the strike funds, giving the workers an edge in holding on longer and keeping the companies questioning where the next strike will occur.

The CEOs are ratcheting up their anti-union rhetoric, which seems to be failing — a recent CNN poll proclaims that 75% of the public side with the workers.

In a recent interview with CNN's Jake Tapper, UAW President Shawn Fain responded to the company's claims that a workers' strike would drive up car prices: "In the last four years, the price of cars went up 30%. [Automakers] CEO pay went up 40%. No one said a word. No one had any complaints about that but God forbid the workers ask for their fair share."

Fain proclaimed, "It's not [that] we'll wreck the economy. We'll wreck their economy, the economy that only works for the billionaire class and not the working class."

The question on everyone's minds is, will this strike and the "summer of strikes" be a historic turning point for workers, ending the long period of givebacks and retreats?

Tonight, auto workers and their supporters will converge in downtown Detroit.

For details on demands, see Class struggle is back! 150,000 auto workers poised to strike



Striking auto workers speaking with UAW President Shawn Fain outside the Ford Michigan Assembly Plant on Sept. 15 at the first walk out. (UAW photo Cheryl Luchak)

NATIONAL MARCH To Protect Trans Youth & Speakout for Trans Rights

Orlando ► Florida ► October 7
Orange & Anderson (near City Hall) Saturday at 12 Noon

Stop Racist Attacks on Our Communities

- Reverse DeSantis's bans on trans healthcare, restroom access, Black & Queer studies
- Stop censorship & attacks on civil liberties of teachers, students & libraries
- Hands off Pride!
- Free, legal, accessible abortions
- Demand Biden & Congress enforce civil rights coast to coast
- Expand Medicaid and SNAP
- Stop voter disenfranchisement
- Drop charges on the Tampa 5

Sign up at: ProtectTransKidsMarch.org

'I am still here': Leonard Peltier



- Not: 'For All of Mankind'
- Libya, weakened by U.S./NATO bombing, devastated by floods
- Let Cuba Live: Get Cuba off the SSOT list
- Kids deserve to read gay books!
- Solidarity with Starbucks workers
- Florida, 1951 KKK murders
- Abortion rights in Mexico

- Striking auto workers battle billionaire CEOs
- When the auto workers went on strike in 1970:
Revolutionary implications of the GM strike
- Free Leonard Peltier!
- 'I am still here': Leonard Peltier's letter to supporters
- 'AG Landry, you're a crook! Kids deserve to read gay books!'
- The Christmas night murders of Harriette Moore & Harry T. Moore in Florida
- Starbucks Worker Solidarity Day of Action
- Abortion rights advance in Mexico, while Texas wants to trap 'runaways'
- 'For All of Mankind' and other lies
- Libya, devastated by U.S./NATO bombing, unprepared for extreme storm floods
- LET CUBA LIVE: Take a stand and get Cuba off the SSOT list
- Cuba's President Díaz-Canel at United Nations: 'A new and fairer global contract is urgently needed'
- Infierno escolar en Puerto Rico
- Lola Rodríguez de Tió

