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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA

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March 31, 2020

## BARGAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

Shop Chairman – Rich LeTourneau

Zone Committeeman 1<sup>st</sup> Shift – TBD

Zone Committeeman 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift – Steve Turner

Zone Committeeman 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift – Tony Cantasano

Shop Committeeman – Dave Poor

Shop Committeeman – TBD

Shop Committeeman – Chris Phillips

- UNEMPLOYMENT/SUB UPDATE

Yesterday I received a call from State Senator JD FORD. He is working diligently with the Indiana unemployment office to assist with our claims. Moreover, I spent an hour on the phone this morning with lead claim investigator from the unemployment office. I along with your benefits reps have talked to her several times last week and she is working hard on our behalf. Her name is Cheryl Williams and she has the entire spread sheet with every UAW 2209 member on it. They are reviewing every single claim that has been filed.

We are fielding many issues so let's address **Issue number one**. With or without a waiting week it takes a minimum of 13 days to a maximum of 21 days to process the first claim because you are filing in arrears. They assured me they are doing everything they can to speed that process up for us. They are processing 62,000 claims this week which is normally 3,000 at this time of year.

**Issue number 2.** If you still have a yellow, triangle that is good and means your claim is being investigated. If you have a red triangle you filled something out wrong as it pertains to unemployment, not sub. We are unique and a little more complicated because we have a UAW GM negotiated sub benefit and most employers don't have to pay this. Sub is paid by General Motors not the state and they do not care about that info, get your unemployment done right first that is the main thing.

**Issue number three.** How do I fix the red triangle or anything other than green or yellow? Here are several options I was given by Cheryl this morning. Email your last 4 digits of your social security number along with your first 3 letters of your last name to [www.unemployment.in.gov](http://www.unemployment.in.gov) or call 800-891-6499. She told me that if you do not get an

answer it is recording anyhow and they will call you back. They currently have 800 lines going into the unemployment office and the system crashed yesterday. If you are not making any progress using these steps please send the above info to your benefits reps or myself and we will use our direct line to get your claim fixed. Again if it's still yellow don't send anything yet, it is being processed. Keep in mind you may get a couple checks in one week, once they get caught up. In closing, **remember we are all facing unchartered waters here.** We've been in contact with the unemployment office well before anyone was even on lay-off. By working together and supporting each other we will get through this. **It's not how you conduct yourself in moments of comfort and convenience; it's how you stand up in times of challenge and uncertainties.** Not everyone is built for this kind of stress, and that is why we do, what we do. If you feel the need to post something on FB that is only going to add more stress on to those that don't need it, **STOP** count to ten and text it to me, I can hack it, the membership doesn't deserve that! Together we will fix your issues one at a time. Thank you for your continued patience. We will continue to stay in contact with the unemployment office and update you accordingly.

Rich LeTourneau

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