



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

SHAWN FAIN, *PRESIDENT* • MARGARET MOCK, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*
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ATTN: Members of the Michigan State Legislature

On February 11, we honor the courageous auto workers who stood up to corporate greed in the historic 1937 Flint Sit-Down Strike. For 44 days, General Motors workers endured the full-throated force of corporate greed. They faced constant threats on their lives and families and even real violence. But these auto workers had no choice but to endure – their entire livelihoods were at stake.

The GM workers recognized 88 years ago that their strongest tool to leverage against even the most formidable of forces was solidarity. With a united rank-and-file, workers held the line – until they won. This resilience led to a wave of workers organizing for decades across industries. Today, union members like auto workers in the UAW make better wages and have better healthcare, retirement, and time-off benefits than non-union counterparts.

That’s why every February 11, we celebrate “White Shirt Day” to honor the legacy of the Flint Sit-Down Strikers and the better world they showed us was possible. Every anniversary, UAW members wear white shirts to carry on the struggles and gains of the working class. The white shirts are meant to send a message that the workers who build the cars deserve the same respect and dignity as those in corporate offices.

Today, the stakes are still high for working-class people, families, and communities. Corporate greed is still rampant, with even more power over our politics and government. Executives cut record bonus checks for themselves and increase the aggression on union-busting tactics as workers struggle to afford rent and groceries. Corporate lobbying for billionaire class interests with secret back-room deals are now the norm in Lansing.

It’s time for Michigan lawmakers to confront the question: **which side are you on?** Do you stand with corporations trying to buy influence for a harmful, anti-worker agenda? Or do you stand with working-class people you were elected by and for? It can’t be both.

This February 11, stand with UAW members by sharing a White Shirt Day commemoration. **Share a “white shirt selfie”** with your answer: ***How do you honor the legacy, courage, and victories of the 1937 Flint Sit-Down Strikers by fighting for the working class today and every day?***

But the Flint Sit-Down Strikers didn’t win by waiting for change—they acted. White Shirt Day is more than a symbol – it’s a commitment. **If you stand with UAW members on February 11, we need your commitment to concrete action fighting for working people in Michigan, including to:**

- **Guarantee strong wages and labor protections** for every worker to earn a fair living.
- **Strengthen healthcare affordability**, access to critical and preventative medical care.
- **Enhance retirement security** to give workers comfort of one day retiring with dignity.
- **Promote a healthier work-life balance** so workers have time to tend to their real lives.

- **Hold corporations accountable** when they take tax breaks but leave workers behind.
- **Combat divide-and-conquer tactics** seeking to pit communities against one another.

Michigan's over 350,000 active and retired UAW members are ready to fight alongside elected officials who fight for the working class. Now is the time to show them whose side you're on.

******Send your public commemorations of White Shirt Day to Art Reyes at areyes@uaw.net by the end of day on February 11******