

The Roots of New Directions

In the Spring of 1986, 125 Region 5 local union leaders and activists who felt a sense of personal frustration over the direction of our union, formulated a series of resolutions which constructively questioned some of the current policies and strategies of our union. They issued a call for New Directions, drafted then Region 5 Assistant Director, Jerry Tucker, and mounted an election challenge for the Directorship of the Region.

At the UAW Convention in Anaheim, California the International refused to seat Jerry Tucker, the legal winner of the Region 5 election. Instead they installed the incumbent, ordered Tucker to take his protest "outside" the union, and after two years and hundreds of thousands of dues dollars spent defending the illegal '86 election, were ordered to conduct new elections by a Federal Judge.

In September of 1988, Jerry Tucker won election to the International Executive Board. The Region 5 election scandal was a shocking example of how far our union has drifted from its democratic traditions.

NDM Growing Fast

In 1989, Jerry Tucker, seeking re-election as the only New Directions IEB member, was joined by Detroit area local President, Don Douglas who launched a New Directions campaign for the Directorship of Region 1-1B. The Tucker and Douglas candidacies produced massive violations of Federal Law and our Constitution by the International Union leadership. They seem to prefer exposing our union to the courts than allowing the rank-and-file membership to pick its own leaders.

Illegal tactics won't stop the movement for New Directions. The tidal wave of smear tactics, buyoffs and other dirty tricks used by the Administration Caucus won't halt our growth. We are standing up for our rights and we are taking our message to the membership. We have taken stands at the Constitutional and Special Bargaining Conventions for better contracts and increased democracy since 1986, indicating the extent of membership concern over the state of our Union.

"Real internal democracy and leadership accountability are the indispensable cornerstones of union progress. Workers must act in concert and not in competition, guided by a policy of concern for each other, dealing with management based on our own agenda and under the banner of solidarity."

UAW Region 5 Director and
New Directions Co-Founder, Jerry Tucker

"The important thing is to affect negotiations. When the history of the UAW is written, New Directions will be one of the major chapters."

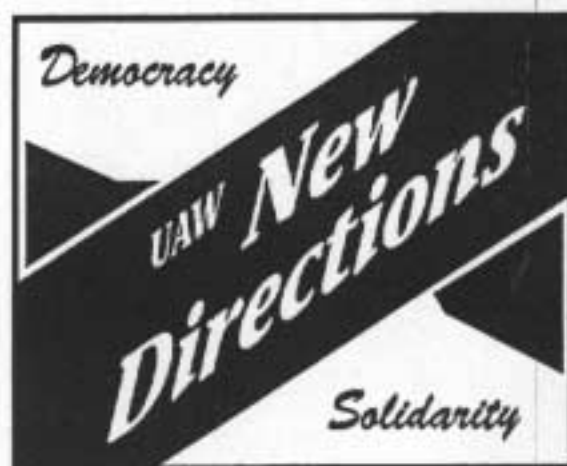
Don Douglas
Local 544 President
New Directions leader,
Region 1 - 1-B Director candidate

"You have issued a call for New Directions. But you have done something more than that, you have sent a signal that business as usual is not good enough. That the rank-and-file must be heard and, that the union belongs to all of us. I support the movement for New Directions in the UAW."

UAW pioneer and co-founder,
Victor Reuther

The UAW New Directions Movement is committed to the restoration of Democracy, Leadership, Accountability, and Solidarity through rank & file involvement in our Union.

**Join
New Directions
To:**



- **Rebuild Our Union**
- **Strengthen Our Contracts**
- **Reestablish Democracy**

New Directions

UAW Members United For:

Democracy • Leadership • Accountability • Solidarity

Our Union

For over half a century our union has held a prominent place in North America. We have been in the forefront of wage and working condition improvements. We have faced and overcome incredible challenges, but we have also made great progress. Today that progress is threatened by new corporate tactics which divide us and pit us against one another. We are losing our jobs, our wage and benefit protections, and clearly we are losing the respect of our membership.

Our Democratic Heritage

Our unions' strength has always existed within a framework of internal democracy, leadership, accountability and solidarity. For many years we were the envy of other unionists. Now there are some who would set these principles aside in favor of an alliance with the very forces which fought our progress every step of the way.

A Decade of Challenges

In the last decade our union faced tough, new challenges. Dramatic economic changes and aggressive corporate attacks resulted in lost jobs, wages and working conditions. We experienced:

- Outsourcing
- Whipsawing
- Lost wages
- Speedups
- Erosion of Classifications
- Weaker contracts and grievance procedure
- Set backs in affirmative action

Some have argued that these concessions were necessary to save jobs. Have concessions worked? Not for UAW members: since 1978 over 180,000 auto

jobs have disappeared. Our "temporary" concessions became a windfall for management and a tightening noose around our necks. Why hasn't our International Union been more aggressive, creative and insistent on defending our conditions? They say: "There's nothing more we can do". Those of us who support the call for New Directions believe that answers can be found through the application of basic union principles and an open democratic debate.

The Stakes Are High

The stakes are high for our union. We can follow the business-as-usual road, losing more and more of our collective strength and hard-won gains or we can commit ourselves to policies, programs, and strategies of revitalization, rebuild our democratic traditions, and restore the power of our union through membership solidarity and leadership accountability.

What We Stand For:

New Directions is a grassroots movement within the UAW. We stand for democracy, accountability and solidarity. We believe our union can regain its strength and social commitment, that the UAW's tradition of responsible service can be restored.

We are committed to rebuilding our union from within. We are from all sectors of the union — Auto, Parts, Ag-Imp, Aerospace, Public sector, Clerical — pulling together for the benefit of our total membership. We are not for pie-in-the-sky solutions or for returning to some mythical "golden age of unionism". Our fight is for the future of our union. Our goal is to rebuild the UAW's strength and commitment, and return it to membership control. To do this we need you.

Join And Get Involved

If you agree with our goals, we hope you will join us. We don't have "flower funds" to draw on, political favors to call in or a cozy relationship with management to turn to. We are a membership organization, depending on the hard work and financial support of UAW members to build our movement. Your yearly dues of \$30, and any additional support, will help to build a democratic organization which can bring a much needed new Voice to the rank-and-file UAW membership.

NDM Membership Form

New Directions Member / Supporter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State or Province _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Region # _____

Company _____ Local Union # _____

Auto Aero Ag. Imp. Parts Office

____ \$30 membership fee - for one year's membership & subscription to *Voice of New Directions*.

____ \$15 for spouses; retirees, & UAW members who gross less than \$12,000 a year.

Check or money order Cash

I Want to Help Build NDM

- I pledge a monthly donation of
 \$15 \$10 \$5 Other _____
- I want a bundle of *Voice of New Directions* to distribute to co-workers. 100-\$8
- Call me about setting up a meeting in my area.

Return this membership application to:

New Directions
P.O. Box 6876
St. Louis, MO 63144