

Name: Wayne Blanchard

Office Sought: Region 2B Director

Current Local: 1435

Employment: Stellantis Toledo Machining Plant

Years of UAW Membership: 36+

Current UAW Position(s): UAW International Union – Director of Arbitration Services Department

Previous Leadership Experience:

Local Union - Bargaining Committee, Financial Secretary, President

International Union – Servicing Representative, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Director, Administrative Assistant/Director of Arbitration Services Department

Campaign Website/Social Media (Optional): www.wayneblanchardforuaw.com

Facebook, Instagram, TikTok – Wayne Blanchard for UAW Region 2B Director

How would you strengthen support, advocacy, and resources for public sector bargaining units?

For far too long, public sector workers have been having to fight twice as hard just to get the same attention everybody else gets. That's not right. Every member pays dues, and every member deserves the same level of support. I'm making sure our public sector locals get the legal backup, bargaining support, research, and training they need to bring home strong contracts. Members don't need more talk. They need someone who can and will deliver.

How should the International Union better support public safety telecommunicators and other members working in high-stress professions?

Dispatchers don't get nearly the respect they deserve. Every shift they're dealing with people on the worst day of their lives, and that pressure doesn't just disappear when they clock out. We need real mental health support, better staffing, less forced overtime, and contracts that recognize what these jobs really demand. Looking out for the wellbeing of our members isn't optional.

Where do you see the greatest opportunities for growing UAW membership over the next four years, particularly within the public sector?

The opportunities are all around us. Folks working in public safety, higher education, healthcare, county, city, and state workers can be found throughout our communities. When people see the UAW standing up, fighting back, and winning, they want in. That's how we grow this union. By proving solidarity still gets results and opening our arms to others who are ready to fight for a better life.

What contract provisions or bargaining priorities should receive greater emphasis?

Good pay matters, but we can't stop there. We need stronger language on staffing, overtime, job security, healthcare, retirement, workplace safety, paid leave, and protecting our work from getting contracted out. A solid contract should make your whole life better, not just your paycheck.

How should the International Union assist locals dealing with understaffing, mandatory overtime, and burnout?

This is one of the biggest problems workers are dealing with right now. The International needs to step up with staffing studies, research, legal support, public campaigns, and bargaining strategies that put pressure on employers to fix it. Burnout isn't just hurting workers, it's hurting the communities that count on us too.

What additional resources should the International provide local leaders and stewards?

Our stewards are the foundation of this union. They need stronger training, quicker access to the UAW's National Departments for legal guidance, contract support, leadership development, and better communication tools. When we invest in our leaders, everybody they represent wins. As Director, I plan to make sure you've got skilled, responsive Regional Servicing Reps that are there to train, support, and have your back.

How would you improve transparency, communication, and member engagement?

Members shouldn't have to guess what's going on in their own union. Y'all deserve straight answers, regular updates, honest conversations, and leaders who pick up the phone and show

up. Real leadership starts with listening. If I'm elected, I'll hold regular meetings with our TOP Advisory Council so we're talking before there's a crisis, not after.

How should the International prioritize its financial resources?

Every dollar ought to be working for the membership. Organizing. Bargaining. Strike support. Legal help. Education. Training. Growing this union. That's where our money needs to go...into the people who make this union strong.

How should the UAW prepare members for AI, automation, and emerging technologies?

Technology isn't slowing down, but our members shouldn't get left behind because of it. We need contract language that protects jobs, guarantees retraining, and makes sure we have seat at the table before new technology changes the workplace.

What role should the International play in protecting retirement security and healthcare?

Retirement and healthcare aren't handouts. They're benefits people worked hard to earn. We have to keep fighting to protect pensions, quality healthcare, and retiree benefits for today's members and the next generation coming behind us.

What qualifications best prepare you for this office?

I've spent my whole career standing with working people, solving problems, building relationships, and fighting for better workplaces. I've been across the table from management, and I know what it takes to earn the trust of the membership. Leadership isn't about having a title. It's about showing up, putting in the work, and never forgetting who you're there to represent. I've done this job from every level: local leader, Servicing Rep, Assistant Director, Director, and now Director of the UAW Servicing Department.

If elected, what are your top three priorities?

First, make sure every local and every unit knows that Region 2B has got their back.

Second, invest in training and developing the next generation of union leaders while also engaging more members.

Third, help locals negotiate stronger contracts with better wages, better staffing, stronger benefits, and safer working conditions.

What is the greatest challenge facing the UAW over the next decade?

The biggest challenge is making sure working people don't get left behind while technology keeps changing jobs and employers keep expecting folks to do more with less. We have to keep organizing, keep growing, and keep showing people that when workers stand together, everybody wins.

Message to the Members of UAW Local 12 Lucas County 911 Dispatch Unit

To my brothers and sisters at the Lucas County 911 Dispatch Unit:

First off, I want to thank each and every one of y'all for what you do every day. Most folks will never truly understand the pressure you're under unless they find themselves calling 911. You're the first voice people hear when they're scared, hurting, or dealing with the worst moment of their lives. That takes strength, professionalism, and heart. On behalf of every one of those callers, thank you.

A lot of y'all already know my record. When there were people trying to pull your unit out of the UAW, I didn't stand on the sidelines. I stood right there with you. I fought to keep y'all in this union because I believed then, and I still believe now, that you belong in the UAW. I knew your voices mattered, your work mattered, and that we're stronger when we stand together.

If I'm honored to serve again as your Region 2B Director, you'll have somebody who will fight for you just as hard as I'd fight for any member in this union. I'm going to keep pushing for better staffing, less mandatory overtime, stronger mental health resources, fair pay, and the support your local deserves from the International.

I'm not running to make empty promises. I'm running to show up, listen, work alongside you, and get things done. At the end of the day, this union belongs to the members, and my job is to make sure every member knows they've got somebody in their corner who's ready to fight.

In Solidarity,

Wayne Blanchard

Candidate for UAW Region 2B Director