2001

Dear Member:

The year 2002 would prove to be a relatively quiet year in contrast to the horrific events of September 11, 2001. The fact that the membership had approved an early 54-month contract in November of 2001 allowed for 2002 to move along without any major distractions.

JANUARY

The new Design Tech category went into effect for 126 Senior Design Specialist.   
The new leadership position of Super Chargeman for two bargaining unit members was implemented.   
International UAW CAP conference held in Washington, DC.

FEBRUARY

Twenty union participants took part in Union Councillor Training provided by the University of Connecticut Labor Education Center.   
Six engineers volunteered as tutors to assist MDA-UAW Maine Maritime Academy students with their course work.   
The company embarked on a "War-on-Cost" program with the implementation of four lean/sigma 6 process review committees. The thought may be good, but the direction seemed to be aimed at bargaining unit work.   
21 newly appointed or reappointed committee chairpersons were announced.

MARCH

The Joint Technology Committee upscaled review of new design browser technology (PORTAL). Company acknowledges important of committees' role.   
State of Connecticut Comptroller Nancy Wyman addressed our General Membership at our quarterly meeting at Ocean Beach Park.   
Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) and UAW Local 571 negotiation committees reach agreement on a new contract; ratification was almost unanimous.

APRIL

Election for four delegates to the 33rd International UAW convention took place.   
"School-to-Career" program got up to full speed with the appointment of a union Labor Liaison coordinator for Electric Boat.   
Wind and rain could not keep over 100 people from attending Worker's Memorial Ceremonies held at Washington Park.

MAY

Official contract signing ceremonies took place.   
After a photo taking session, 320 skilled trades applications sent to the Region 9A UAW for processing.   
Contract put "on-line" for first time.   
Union President and company officials meet with the Secretary of the Navy.   
Scholarship Selection Committee met to select winners.   
Bruce "Zeke" Zalaski, UAW Region 9A CAP Council President and candidate for state representative, addressed the Executive Council who made personal donations to his campaign. (Zeke won his election). 

JUNE

Twenty-nine Class of 2001 Apprentices have formal graduation ceremonies. Ed Faubert selected outstanding MDA-UAW apprentice.   
Bargaining unit mentors selected to work with "School to Career" summer interns.   
Six $2,000.00 scholarships awarded to students of bargaining unit members who are Christopher M. Antoszek, Christa L. Cozzolino, Amanda E. Nadeau, Dawn M. Pedro, Tracy L. Rappoport and Sarah M. Servidio.   
Ninety-six Engineering Assistants chose to enter bargaining unit.   
Optical Tool category extended to design tech.   
United Way campaign kickoff held at Seaman's Inn.   
Local 571 delegates attended the 33rd UAW Constitutional Convention. A new UAW President, Ron Gettelfinger, was elected.

JULY

Annual picnic held at Lake Compounce Theme Park.   
Company/Union Area Steering Committee held a two-day offsite to access direction of joint relationship.   
Local 571 volunteers participated in United Way Day of Caring at the Pequotsepos Nature Center.   
Two additional Design Major Area Team Leaders elected; total now three.   
All bargaining unit members with recall rights remaining were recalled.

AUGUST

Maine Maritime Associate degree program extended to include '92, '93, and '94 apprentice graduates.   
Company notifies union that they will be asking bargaining unit retirees to return to work temporarily to assist with workload spike.   
Representative Richard Gephardt visited area in support of candidate Joe Courtney and met with Local 571 leadership.   
Recently retired UAW President Steve Yokich passed away.   
Top bargaining unit wages increased over $2.00 in first year of new contract. 

SEPTEMBER

A Retirement Seminar, provided for by the Union with assistance from the company benefits department, was held at the Groton Motor Inn; over 130 attended.   
The first 100 UAW Skilled Trades Cards and pins were distributed.   
The General Membership, at the September meeting, passed a motion that "returning retirees voluntarily pay one hours dues per month with the money going into the Retirees Fund."   
The 8th annual Golf Tournament was held at Cedar Ridge Golf Course.

OCTOBER

The Benefits Department announces that beginning in January Rhode Island residents health care benefits provider will change from Colonial Cooperative Care to UNIPRISE (United Health Care).   
Local 571 members volunteer their time to assist with the "Gemma Moran Food Bank" weeklong food drive.   
Officers and members volunteer time to assist with Connecticut and Rhode Island state and federal election campaign drives.   
Company put on dinner and gave blazers to employees with 40 years of service, many of whom are Local 571 members.   
Local 571 Leadership attended the Courtney/Simmons debate.   
Four new MDA-UAW Super Chargemen selected; total now six in bargaining unit.

NOVEMBER

The MDA-UAW Local 571 Veterans Committee and volunteer members held their annual "Poppy Drive" on Veterans Day; $1,745.00 donated.   
Semi-annual UAW General Dynamics Council meeting held. Corporate office provided defense budget visions under new federal administration.   
Joint Technology Committee gave presentation to Innovation Directors, Managers and Grievance Representatives on policy and guidelines for use of Technological Product Data.   
Holiday Dinner Dance held at the Mystic Marriott; 500 attend.

DECEMBER

Turkeys given out to all employees.   
Due to new contract enhancements, 11 bargaining unit members able to take early retirement.