



general motors retirees association llc

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Retirees Form General Motors Retirees Association

Detroit, Mich. (April 24, 2009) – General Motors retirees and their families announced the creation of the General Motors Retirees Association (GMRA), a national advocacy organization devoted to the preservation of pension, health care and other benefits earned by GM retirees.

“For decades, GM retirees assumed their hard work would allow them to earn a secure retirement,” said John Christie, a retired GM engineer and President of GMRA. “Today, when the Obama Administration says that GM will need to clear away old liabilities to survive, we’re afraid that we are the old liabilities.”

“While we long trusted that GM would be there for us, we now realize that we must make Congress and the Administration aware of the sacrifices we retirees already have made,” said Christie.

GMRA was created in March 2009 to focus specifically on the fair representation of retiree interests, including those salaried retirees not already represented by the United Auto Workers. GMRA collaborates with the National Retirees Legislative Network (NRLN), an organization also working with retiree organizations for Chrysler, Ford, and Delphi.

GMRA will respond to allegations that GM employees somehow are responsible for the current problems at General Motors.

“As a group, GM retirees didn’t contribute to GM corporate strategies or compensation policy,” said Christie. “Instead, GM retirees have lost raises and benefits for many years as part of GM’s attempts to address financial challenges.”

Since its formation, GMRA has been building its nationwide membership base and organizing its volunteers, even as the possibility of a GM bankruptcy increasingly has threatened the financial security of GM retirees. “The phone never stops ringing,” said Karen DeOrnellas, Director of Communications for GMRA.

“Today’s announcement of GMRA’s formation coincides with the first and only meeting ever scheduled between the White House Automotive Task Force and representatives of salaried retirees,” said Christie. “We are grateful for the leadership of Jack Dickinson, a long-time GM retiree organizer and a friend of retirees and of GMRA. Jack is representing GM salaried retiree concerns at today’s meeting.”

General Motors has almost 500,000 retirees in the United States, including surviving spouses. Of those retirees, about 116,000 are GM salaried retirees or their surviving spouses not represented by discussions with the UAW. GM retirees live throughout the United States and contribute to their communities as volunteers and taxpayers.

In a fashion consistent with the interests of retirees, GMRA is committed to the health and vitality of General Motors and its business model.

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