

REP RTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USW LOCAL 2-232

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APRIL 2007

President's Report by Scott Godshaw

Edwards Declared the Winner Dawson Wins at Strattec

At Briggs, Jesse Edwards was declared the winner of the Second Shift Grievance Rep Election when Dennis Clark received his former job rights transfer back to Third Shift. The Executive Board had determined that since Clark was no longer on the shift, he would be taken off the ballot.

At Strattec, Milt Dawson won the Grievance Rep election over Al Olivares by a vote total of 102 votes to 84 votes. The position was open due to Incumbent Grievance Representative Karl Schneider choosing not to run because he is eligible to retire this year.

Edwards, a production worker in the coil department, will begin serving his sixth term as the Briggs Second Shift Grievance Rep.

Dawson, former steward and currently a pieceworker in the plating department, will of course be serving his initial term.

Once again, the Strattec membership had an excellent turnout. Congratulations to those that participated and also congratulations to those that took the time to vote. It is your right to vote. Use that right!

Briggs

At Briggs, there was a layoff in Department 765. They temporarily eliminated the labor grade 21 truckers and also cut back a labor grade 25. The committee met with the company on March 27th and we were informed that the 6 jobs in the slitter building will be eliminated by shutdown along with an additional 13 more jobs from the south end.

Pension Mailing

All members that already have 30 years of service or are 55 years old should have received a mailing from Mercer regarding their pension. If you have not received this or if you have any other pension questions, please contact Mercer at 1-800-685-6474. You are now able to sign up for a survivor option for your pension. Prior to negotiations in 2005, if you had an option in place and then changed prior to retirement, you would be assessed a percentage charge penalty. That penalty is now waived as you are allowed to change your option prior to retirement without the penalty. Once you start receiving your pension, no changes are allowed.

June Membership Meeting

Sunday
June 3, 2007
9:30 a.m.

Frank Monreal's El Matador
9155 W. Bluemound Rd.
IMPORTANT BUSINESS

- Reports of Officers, Grievance Representatives and Committees
- Discussion and action on any other proper business for this meeting.

Notice:

There will be a
Steward Training Session
on Wednesday April 18, 2007
at the Union Office
8500 W. Capitol Dr.
The times are noon for
2nd shift
3:00p.m. for 1st shift and 3rd
shift can attend either session.
All stewards are expected to
attend.

Bargaining Committees



Scott Godshaw
President

Briggs



Dan Badzinski
Gr.Rep 1st / 3rd



Jackie Goodwin
Gr.Rep 1st / 3rd



Jesse Edwards
Gr.Rep 2nd



Karen Clark
Recording Sec.

Strattec



Milt Dawson
Gr. Rep



Dennis Nowak
Barg. Comm.



Al Olivares
Barg. Comm.

Membership Information

March 2007

861 Members in Good Standing

614 in Briggs & Stratton Unit

247 in Strattec Unit

March Dues Payments

527 Dues Paying Members at Briggs

223 Dues Paying members at Strattec

750 Total Dues Paying Members

(Difference reflects members off work for lay-off, illness or other reasons)



Tuesday
April 3, 2007

USW District 2 Spring Conference "Making the Difference"

by Allen Evseichik and Chuck Porter

We had a positive and pleasant experience at the USW District 2 Conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin on March 17th and 18th. The day began with a warm welcome from the Oneida Nation and their ceremonial tribute. Following their presentation, there were a number of informative speakers. Jon Geenen, who is currently the director of the USW District 2, which includes Wisconsin and Michigan, spoke about "Making THE Difference." This included the topic regarding the merger of PACE Region X with the District 2 Steelworkers. The response from Union members made it possible for them to fight and win the Goodyear strike. Jon also talked about how important it was to have the union members out supporting their candidates. Other speakers informed us of the importance for all union workers to work hard, stay focused on the future, and to keep a positive attitude in the daily work environment.

A guest speaker, Jim Hightower, who is a national radio commentator, writer, public speaker, and the author of "Thieves in High Places" (which was available for purchase), talked about different topics which all centered around the theme, "They've stolen our country and it is time to take it back." Example: President Bush taking care of his friends in "high places", such as Exxon Mobile, who is one of his campaign contributors, and Exxon's CEO to be exact, who makes 144,000 dollars a day. Jim also discussed how important it is for citizens to continue to help support their Democratic candidates in the House and Senate. Another topic that Jim covered was the importance of continuing to move forward and stay focused on the task at hand.

Later in the afternoon, there was a vote for the changing of the bi-laws in order to merge with the USW District 2. The outcome was a overwhelming majority "yes" vote.

Later in the evening, there was a key-note speaker, Leo Gerard, who is the USW International President. He spoke on how great it was to see the Democratic governors win in Wisconsin and Michigan and in the House and Senate. Leo also noted how all of the hard work from the different locals and a specific individual like Ralph Schwieger can make a difference on the election campaigning. Leo stated how special the merger is and how strong the determination of District 2 is in moving forward. Leo also discussed how President Bush is using the "fast track" to get different documents passed through

Congress quickly, and that it is necessary for us to change that by getting our candidates elected in the House and Senate.

We learned about a bill that is being passed to stop retailers such as Wal-mart from buying from "sweat shops." Leo is looking forward to working with Jon Geenen and the other directors and locals.

The conference closed with a Rapid Response Report, which was presented by Paul Footit, District 2 Coordinator and Tim Waters, National Director. The conference ended with the USW Emergency Response Team, Allan Mc Dougall, who is the current coordinator. The purpose of the Emergency Response Team is to investigate all fatalities and catastrophic injuries, to assist families and co-workers, and to provide follow up counseling.

Another informative speaker was our very own Secretary Treasurer Ross Winklbauer. He gave a brief presentation about an illness that has symptoms similar to Parkinson's called Manganism. The study focused on Manganese fume exposure connected to welding and ways to minimize the risks with proper safety procedures. We then watched a 20 minute video that highlighted 4 people suffering with this tragic disabling disease. It was stressed that once symptoms set in, they could be irreversible.

The whole conference was a wonderful, eye-opening experience. We learned how important it is for everyone to continue to strive for team work, to stay positive, and keep moving forward.

In Solidarity,

Allen Evseichik & Chuck Porter



Photos by Ralph Schwieger

Strattec Corner

by Al Olivares

Spring is in the air Sisters and Brothers and with the coming of spring and the departing of winter, our hopes rise with the temperature.

In punch press, the new machine appears ready to go. The floor was recently refinished and I believe it is just a matter of time before it punches out orders.

In the Die Cast area, we eagerly await the new business, which we were told we were awarded. Hopefully that will be soon. We would all love to see that increase in volume. Another positive thing is the increase in new hires. Other than that, we are putting along pretty much status quo.

I would like to take the time to thank our new former Grievance Rep Mr. Karl Schneider. Karl did an exemplary job of fulfilling his duties during his tenure. While at times the position of grievance rep became absolutely stressful, Karl managed to rise to the occasion and come to a resolve. It was those particularly stressful moments that Karl kept the committee on task and well-informed. Many people within our ranks had varying opinions of Karl, however, I personally have seen Karl give 100% of his body, mind and soul to the labor movement and to his members. Karl, you taught me a lot and it was an honor to serve with you on that committee. I doubt in my lifetime, will I meet another Union Brother that was so dedicated to the Labor Movement and a beacon of Unionism. Thank you Karl for your service.

I also want to thank my stewards for doing such a fantastic job. I personally want to thank Dan Turk and Tony Pipia, my stewards on second shift. I am not trying to slight any of the other stewards, but second shift is my home shift and I work side by side with these two gentlemen and they are doing a superb job. Keep up the good work guys.

In Solidarity,
Big Al Olivares

Briggs Retiree Club

It is time to write my second article of the year for the Reporter. I hope you all had a chance to read the last issue. You can find a copy of the Reporter on the Union's website; www.pace7232.org, pick one up at the Union Office on 85th and Capitol Drive or get one at our meetings.

Remember, you must be a paid up member to attend any of our events. Dues are \$24 a year. Please call our Financial Secretary Erma Gorecki or Dolores Higgins.

We want to thank Briggs & Stratton for their yearly help and also a special thanks to Local 2-232 for allowing me to put my write up in the Reporter. Thanks to both.

All of our events are held at the American Legion Post #449 located at 3245 N.124th St.

Doors open at 11a.m. and our events start at noon on the second and third Wednesday of every month. Free Bingo is held on the second Wednesday and our regular meeting is held on the third Wednesday. Please bring your birthday or anniversary treats on this day. Door prizes will also be given. On Tuesdays, there is card playing at 1p.m and prizes will be given.

On Wednesday April 18th, we will have our Pancake Brunch. Doors open at 11a.m. and we serve at noon. Contact Delores Higgins (414-873-7121) if you will be attending.

On Wednesday May 20th, we will have our luncheon and bingo. You will be getting a card in the mail. Please fill it out and return it with a stamp on it as stated as soon as you can.

Please remember our sick and shut-ins; including Elaine Lahti, Diane Bowen, Marcy Gocel, and Ruth Brylski.

Until next time, take care and stay healthy. Hope to see you all at our 2007 events.

God Bless,
Francis Capello
Corresponding Secretary
262-251-7514

Wednesday April 18, 2007
Pancake Brunch
at noon at the
American Legion Post #449
3245 N.124th St.

Join the
Briggs Retiree Club
today call Erma Gorecki
262-781-8951
for information



ASK YOUR LAWYER

by Thomas Flanagan

Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, S.C.

2007 WORKER'S COMPENSATION RATES

The maximum temporary total disability rate in 2007 is \$777 per week. Temporary total disability is paid while a worker is off from work and healing from an injury. It is two-thirds of his or her gross weekly wage. It is not taxable.

The maximum permanent partial disability rate in 2007 is \$262 per week. Permanent partial disability is paid when the doctor has released the injured worker from active medical care and has set a percentage of disability. The amount of permanent partial disability one receives is dependent upon the part of the body that was injured and the percentage of disability given at that part of the body according to a statutory formula.

Local 2-232 Legal Clinic

Do you have legal questions or problems facing you or your family? Have you suffered a major personal injury? If you have, or if you have any other legal problem, Local 2-232 is providing free legal consultations with lawyers from the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman at the Local 2-232 Union office, 8500 W. Capitol Dr. Legal clinic hours: 1:00P.M. to 4:00P.M. First Monday of the month. Call for an appointment 414-463-7425.

LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

April 2007

Volume 28, Issue #2

LOCAL 2-232 UNITED STEEL, PAPER AND FORESTRY, RUBBER, MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
Representing employees of Briggs & Stratton Corp. and Strattec Security Corp.

Office 8500 W. Capitol Dr.

Phone 414-463-7425 Fax 414-463-7638

e-mail -office@pace7232.org Website- www.pace7232.org

Hours 7:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Monday through Friday

The information contained herein is of informal nature and is not intended to be final and authoritative.

Editors: Scott Godshaw, Ross Winklbauer, Al Olivares
Officers: President: Scott Godshaw Vice President: Al Evseichik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ross Winklbauer Sr. Recording Secretary: Karen Clark, Trustees: Ralph Schwieger, Vicky Black, Bettie Burmester Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Chuck Porter.
Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Dan Badzinski, Jesse Edwards, Jackie Goodwin, Karen Clark
Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Milton Dawson, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares

Membership Meeting Recap

by Karen Clark

The membership meeting started promptly at 9:30 sharp at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. in Milwaukee and was chaired by Vice President Allen Evseichik in the absence of President Scott Godshaw.

Due to the lack of a quorum, reports could be given but no business could be transacted at this meeting.

Ralph Schwieger, read the trustee report and Ross Winklbauer gave his Financial Secretary/Treasurer combined report for the months of January and February. Ross stated there were 527 dues paying members at Briggs and 263 dues paying members at Strattec for a total of 790 dues paying members for January. He also stated there were 535 members at Briggs and 226 members at Strattec for a total of 761 dues paying members in February.

Communications

- We received a thank you from United Way of Waukesha.
- Volunteers are needed at the Hunger Task Force

Reports of Officers

Vice President Allen Evseichik read the President's report and started by congratulating Milt Dawson on winning his election as the Strattec Grievance Rep. Also at Strattec, the Strattec Recognition Committee will be having a Strattec Employee Appreciation Day at State Fair on Saturday August 4, 2007, during State Fair week. The committee has met with the company regarding bringing young people in from the Agape Outreach Program to get them exposed to the manufacturing environment.

At Briggs, Allen reminded people that the 2nd shift Grievance Rep election was cancelled due to Dennis Clark receiving his former job rights transfer to 3rd shift. He then stated that Jesse Edwards was declared the winner and congratulated him on his 6th term in that position. Also at Briggs Allen reported on the cutback in department 765, the pension mailing that went out last week and also commented on the 1000 hours for retirement.

Danny Badzinski reported on mufflers and the WARN notices issued for May and June. This was part of the 38 jobs that were scheduled to leave by July. He also reported on the different survivor pension options.

Milton Dawson expressed his thanks for being elected grievance rep and appreciated the warm welcome he received from the joint board. He also gave updates on Strattec.

The next meeting will be Sunday June 3, 2007.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6 - Good Friday Holiday

April 8 - Easter Sunday



May 13 - Mother's Day



May 28- Memorial Day



June 3- Membership Meeting

June 14- Flag Day



June 17- Father's Day



July 4 - Independence Day



Grievance Rep Reports

Strattec Security

by Milt Dawson

I would just like to thank all of my Union Brothers and Sisters who came out to vote on March 2nd. It shows that apathy has no place amongst our membership. And it shows a wonderful interest in our Union process. Also my respect goes out to my opponent, Mr. Al Olivares. I have nothing but praise for his effort.

As your newly elected Grievance Representative, I can assure you that I will always handle myself with the utmost of integrity and dignity at all times when dealing with management as it concerns your business. I also take great comfort and pleasure that Scott Godshaw, our Union President, came out to the plant immediately to congratulate me on my win and to offer his complete support and confidence. For that, I thank him. Let me also say that the gentleman that held the rep position prior to March 2nd, Karl Schneider put in a lot of years fighting for your rights, knowing that it was a thankless job. So, Karl, I would just like to say thanks.

To all my Union Brothers and Sisters, I say thank you. To our Executive Board and fellow Joint Board members, I thank you for the warm reception at the March 23rd meeting.

I would like to let you know that I will always command and demand nothing less than total respect from management for you and myself. I will deal with management with the knowledge that yes, this is a two way street. However, at every level, at every turn, I will defend your rights that we have fought hard for over the years. No matter who you are, whether you like me as a person or as a grievance rep, this is not the point. The point is that you pay union dues and I was elected to do a job, not to do you a favor. But rather, I am here to represent you, not to judge you because an injury to one of us is an injury to all of us.

Finally, I would like to give a report on my brief time as your grievance rep. First of all, there will be no plant shutdown in July this year. In a meeting with Greg Minue, he advised me of this fact. He also informed me that the company is looking at doing some diversifying away from just auto related items, possibly manufacturing parts made from plastic for different industries was one change.

Also, the ADAC job (the one that requires you to put a small orange piece in a small hole in a part) will be moved to Mexico because the company claims the work can be done down there much cheaper.

On the side of representation, we had a grievance where the company feels in their opinion a less senior person can be put on a job for training because the less senior person is just faster at learning the job, although the senior person requested the training first. I am dealing with this.

In Solidarity,
Milton Dawson

Grievance Rep Reports

Briggs & Stratton First & Third Shift

by Jackie Goodwin & Dan Badzinski

OSHA visits Briggs

On Friday February 23rd, the safety department called me to meet with them and OSHA. The issue was a hazard regarding the Dock 8 area. The hazard description read, "Stop signs, where there is heavy traffic, have been removed and there have been several near misses." Safety claimed that stop signs were turned, not removed.

Since meeting with OSHA, the company has made the dock area all way stop signs. The company went around and informed all the employees that they must obey all stop signs and they have to sign a paper stating that they have been warned. All should be aware of this.

Tool Room

WARN notices have been sent out to members of Department 735, tool room. The tool room will be permanently reduced by approximately 9 jobs on April 30, 2007.

Mufflers

Paul Marceau, manager of the muffler area, stated that the members in those areas have been working overtime. They are currently on schedule to eliminate the mufflers around May and June of 2007.

In Solidarity,
Danny Badzinski

Spring Conference

On March 17th and 18th the 2007 District 2 Spring Conference was held in Green Bay. I attended this conference along with Ross Winklbauer, Karen Clark, Bettie Burmester, Jesse Edwards, Ralph Schwieger, Chuck Porter and Allen Evseichik. In the opening of the conference, the Oneida Nation welcomed us with the many flags and songs of their language. Discovering the history of the Oneida Nation and hearing of their trials and tribulations that are similar to Unions was very interesting.

We heard from Congressman Steven Kagen, M.D., who ran for Congress because he wanted to make a difference. As a doctor he had heard from patients that could not get better because they could not afford the medication to do that. He felt something was wrong with this picture and stated if he was elected into office, he could make a change.

We also heard from Jim Hightower, a national radio commentator, public speaker, writer and author of *Thieves in High Places*. Hightower has had 3 decades of battling the powers that be, on behalf of the powers that ought to be. He made us laugh but he also made us think how strong the USW is, which many of you are unaware of how strong this Union has become. Yes, we as a local are smaller but the numbers and clout the USW has, would amaze you. We have to realize that we are not in this alone. We have many other locals that will help when we are in need. When Local 904L went out on strike, USW helped raise monetary donations, assisted in walking the

Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

Transfer

Some members aren't getting open jobs simply because they didn't put in a transfer request. If there's a job in the plant that you want, you should always put in a transfer. You must have 18 months of seniority to request a transfer. You also must have a good work record and good attendance which means you can't have more than 6 points on your record. If it's a former job rights transfer, it will never need to be renewed. If it's a regular transfer, it would need to be renewed every 6 months.

Vacation hours

In order to receive a full vacation check, you need to have worked 1600 hours during the vacation year. The vacation year started March 27, 2006 and ended March 25, 2007. If you didn't work 1600 hours, your check will be prorated based on the amount of hours worked. You need 600 hours to be eligible for a partial vacation check. If you are entitled to a full vacation check, you have the option of pay as you take it or receive the lump sum the third Wednesday in June. If you want to receive pay as you take it you have to sign up with human resources by May 1, 2007. If you want to make a status change you must do it the month of April. If you retire with 560 hours you will be eligible for a vacation check next year in June.

Service Division

At the time of this writing, Service has a requisition in for 11 DC 3s. Also at the Falls plant many of our members have approached the union regarding vacation days being denied. The union is in the process of addressing this issue. All members should have the right to use their vacation days. If you have a problem with vacation, see your steward.

Shutdown

The vacation shutdown starts June 29, 2007 and you should return to work on July 16, 2007. The company did inform the union prior to the April 1st dead line that no production work is scheduled to run. The company did state that department 700 maintenance would work unless you have approved vacation.

In Solidarity,
Jesse Edwards

picket line and purchased toys for the children of the strikers. The help came from all over the country. So, my brothers and sisters, there is hope for a new era for our children and us because the USW is growing. Steelworkers now represent banks, hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, warehouses, airports, mines, mills, legal clinics and many more. We have 1.2 million members and growing. That is something we can be proud of. We are the Union! GOD BLESS YOU

In Solidarity,
Jackie Goodwin (JG)

Wellness Corner “You can’t live without it” Don't Be Afraid of Colorectal Cancer Screening

by Laurie LaRusso, MS, ELS

Just talking about a colonoscopy makes most people cringe. That's probably because the idea of having a tube inserted into your rectum and colon is disturbing.

But even more disturbing for many people is the thought of getting colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is the second deadliest cancer in the U.S. and the third deadliest cancer worldwide. But when diagnosed at an early stage, before the cancer has invaded the colon wall or spread to distant sites, the chances of survival are much higher.

Still, by definition, all screening tests are performed on people who feel fine except for the anxiety they have about their future health. And while some screening tests clearly decrease the risk of dying, that is certainly not true of all of them.

What about colorectal screening? Is the unpleasant prospect of having a colonoscopy or some other equally disagreeable procedure really worth it? For many of us, the answer is yes.

Screening Recommendations

The American Cancer Society suggests that starting at age 50, men and women should be screened for colorectal cancer with one of the following options:

- Yearly fecal occult blood test (preferably the take-home, multiple sample method); or
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years; or
- Fecal occult blood test every year and flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years; or
- Double-contrast barium enema every 5 years; or

- Colonoscopy every 10 years

However, people at increased risk of colorectal cancer may need to have some of these tests earlier in life and more often. You're considered to be at increased risk if you have any of the following:

- Personal or family history of colorectal cancer or adenomatous polyps
- Personal history of chronic inflammatory bowel disease, such as ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease
- Personal or family history of other types of cancer, such as those involving the breast, ovary, uterus, and other organs

What Tests Do You Need?

For starters, you ought to at least have the yearly fecal occult blood test starting at age 50, and

you should probably consider having a sigmoidoscopy at least every five years, since most of the evidence indicates that these tests save lives. Talk to your doctor about the advantages and disadvantages of a full colonoscopy, especially if your risk for colorectal cancer is greater than average. Also consider a virtual colonoscopy. These tests may save your life.

Healthy Corner

Here are some important numbers for Briggs employees regarding your health:

Health-Link - Access to immediate, confidential, healthcare expertise.

1-888-228-7672

Patient Care - Helping you through the healthcare maze.

1-877-344-7474

www.patientcare4u.com

Here is an important number for Strattec employees regarding your health:

United Health Care

Health care problems or questions, call toll-free

1-866-827-9025

www.myuhc.com