

# REPORTER



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USW LOCAL 2-232

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AUGUST 2006

President's Report by Scott Godshaw

## Two members tie for Grievance Representative at Briggs

In the election for the 1st and 3rd shift Briggs Grievance rep position, two members, Jackie Goodwin and Dennis Clark, tied in the vote.

Due to the tie, a run off election will be held at the Union office at 8500 W. Capitol Dr. on Wed. August 9, 2006. You will be able to vote between 6a.m. and 8 a.m. or between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.

This grievance rep position opened when Greg Weber retired on July 1st. The member that wins this election will fulfill the rest of Weber's term. The term will end when we have the next election for Grievance reps which will be held in March of 2007.

### Contract Books

Also at Briggs everyone should have received a contract book from your facilitator on Thursday July 27th. If you didn't receive one, ask your facilitator for one. The company will supply you with a contract book. It was called to my attention that some

contract books had wrong numbering of pages. If you notice your contract book is in error, see Laura Flees in personnel to exchange your book.

### Strattec

At Strattec, we had an arbitration case on July 20th. This was a policy grievance where Strattec closed down the whole building on January 2nd. The arbitration went as well as it could, but you never know how an arbitrator is going to rule. We should have an answer by November.

The CSI - Continuous Service Improvement is in full swing. We recently brought in a safety woman to Strattec that used to work for PACE but now, of course, is working for the Steelworkers. She and another safety person from the International checked out the service area and have referred us to an ergonomic specialist that also works for the Steelworkers.

## October Membership Meeting

Sunday  
October 1, 2006  
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:

Due to a tie at the membership meeting, there will be a Run-off Election for the 1st and 3rd shift Grievance Rep position at Briggs

Voting will take place  
Wednesday August 9, 2006 at  
the Union office  
8500 W. Capitol Dr.  
between 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.  
and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The candidates are:  
1) Jackie Goodwin  
2) Dennis Clark

## Good bye to Die Cast at Briggs

by Scott Godshaw

At Briggs, we once again said good bye to another good old friend, the Die Cast Department. The Die Cast Department had been the heart and soul of Briggs for many, many years. The last production was completed on Friday June 23, 2006. As has been reported, an outside Die Cast company, Legget and Platt, will be casting all the parts for Briggs & Stratton. Legget & Platt built a new facility in Auburn, Alabama to be close to the Briggs plant there. Here's to everyone that has ever worked as a member in die cast. Here's to your work ethic, your perseverance, your dedication and your ability to work in extreme conditions. Die Cast, you will be missed.



## Notice:

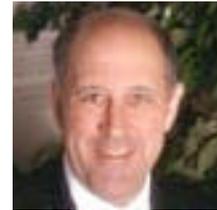
**There will be a Steward Training Wednesday August 23, 2006 at the Union office 8500 W. Capitol Dr. The times are noon for 2nd shift 3:30 for 1st shift and 3rd shift can attend either session.**

## USW Local 2-232 endorses Governor Doyle

Membership approved the motion of endorsing Governor Jim Doyle for his re-election campaign. The election will be held on Tuesday November 7, 2006. It is imperative that the governor be re-elected.

The governor has been a friend to labor and the labor movement certainly needs the Governor to be re-elected.

Jim Doyle was sworn in as the 44th Governor of Wisconsin on January 6, 2003. He is the first Democratic Governor of Wisconsin in more than 16 years.



Governor Doyle has proven to be a strong leader, working in a bipartisan way to get Wisconsin back on track.

When he took office, Governor Doyle inherited a \$3.2 billion deficit – the largest deficit in Wisconsin's history. Governor Doyle faced the challenge head on and balanced the budget while holding the line on taxes. As a result, state taxes as a percentage of income are now the lowest in 34 years.

Now Governor Doyle is working to move Wisconsin forward – creating jobs, expanding access to health care, and most importantly, investing in Wisconsin's future.

When Governor Doyle took office, the national economy was deep in recession and Wisconsin was no exception. Through his "Grow Wisconsin" agenda, Governor Doyle has worked hard to put our state in the position to create jobs again.

Governor Doyle has now signed into law virtually every major piece of legislation called for under "Grow Wisconsin" – including financial modernization legislation, tax reforms to help manufacturers pay the rising costs of energy, a bill to increase venture capital available to Wisconsin's entrepreneurs, the single sales factor tax reform bill which repealed the tax penalty on companies that create jobs, and the most aggressive regulatory reform in the Midwest.

From funding the BioStar initiative to expanding access to technology zone tax credits, Governor Doyle is capitalizing on Wisconsin's leadership in research, biotechnology, and stem cells, and laying the foundation for a vast expansion in high tech jobs.

# Membership Meeting Recap

by Karen Clark

The membership meeting was held on Sunday July 30, 2006 at Frank Monreal's El Matador at 9:30 a.m. sharp.

Under application for membership, 13 new members were welcomed into the Union. Two members, Antonio Smith and Gary Miller, were present and sworn in as new members.

Betty Burmester gave the Trustee report for May and June and Ross Winklbauer gave his Financial Secretary Treasurer combined report and stated there were 798 members at Briggs and 269 members at Strattec for a total of 1,067 dues paying members in May and 802 members at Briggs and 265 members at Strattec for a total of 1,067 dues paying members in June.

## Communications

We received a thank you from the SHARE program for our donation of \$100 for their freezer repair campaign.

We received a thank you from Local 484-Airplane Mechanics for our \$75 donation.

The Executive Board's recommended motions that passed are as follows:

- Send up to 5 members to the USW Leadership Training in Merrville, Indiana to be held September 17-22nd.
- Send a \$50 donation to the Milwaukee County Labor Council to help offset the cost of the Union Label booth at the Wisconsin State Fair. Volunteers are also needed at the booth. Call 414-771-7070 if you are interested.
- Send \$125 to the Labor Press for the placement of our ad for the Labor Day issue of the Labor Press.

## Reports of Officers

President Scott Godshaw reported on the Micro line, Service division, the Coil department and the possible wrong page numbers in the new contract books at Briggs.

Regarding Strattec, Scott reported on the recent arbitration case and CSI.

Labor Day was reported on by Scott, primarily encouraging members to participate in Laborfest.

He also reported on the upcoming Steward Training that will be held on Wednesday August 23rd.

And finally Scott reported that Financial Secretary Treasurer Ross Winklbauer officially retired on July 29, 2006, however, due to our USW constitution, Ross is allowed to remain as our treasurer until

his term is over. Scott also reported that Ross will continue to pay Union dues and thus still maintains the right to vote.

Ralph Schwieger gave the Strattec report. He reported on the problem with the \$750 lump sum bonus regarding your vacation calculation. He reported on vacation problems in department 77. He also reported on hiring new people and Die Cast scheduling problems.

## Business

An election was held for 4 delegates for the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO convention to be held in La Crosse, Wisconsin on September 25-27. 6 members ran and the 4 delegates that were elected will be Jesse Edwards, Ralph Schwieger, Bettie Burmester and Al Olivares. Dennis Nowak and Chuck Porter will be the 2 alternates.

There was an election for the first and third shift Grievance rep position. Jackie Goodwin and Dennis Clark were nominated and both accepted the nomination. The election ended in a tie vote.

A motion was made and passed to endorse Governor Doyle in his bid for re-election.

A motion was made and passed that the next membership meeting will be held Sunday October 1, 2006. Once again the membership meeting will be held at Frank Monreal's El Matador at 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. in Milwaukee at 9:30 a.m. sharp.

## Membership Information

### August 2006

957 Members in Good Standing  
677 in Briggs & Stratton Unit  
280 in Strattec Unit

### July Dues Payments

777 Dues Paying Members at Briggs  
261 Dues Paying members at Strattec  
1038 Total Dues Paying Members  
(Difference reflects members off work for lay-off, illness or other reasons)

# Strattec Corner

by Al Olivares

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

As all of us are aware, this summer is absolutely grueling. So please be careful and if you are having a particularly hard time, please see your work group leader as soon as possible. Safety is of the utmost concern for all of us!!!!!! As far as ongoing things at Strattec De Milwaukee everything is pretty much status quo. The new business that the company has spoke of is still, to the best of my knowledge, on its way to implementation. However, there are some questions arising as to where the actual manufacturing will take place. As far as I know, nothing is guaranteed for the Milwaukee facility. I know that pretty much stinks for us if they choose to, or are directed to do it elsewhere. We can only hope that the cards fall in our favor and we can maintain our survival.

As I write this, the company is holding a corn roast for all of the employees. Now, in typical fashion I am hearing the usual grumblings about how some people will not go, and others are claiming that the company is wasting our EVA etc...etc...blah blah blah. My opinion of that is why not just take it for what it is, a picnic. I am not always the most optimistic person, and we all have our days with our crabby pants on, but for crying out loud, STOP WHINING and enjoy the dang picnic! What's the big deal? Just because the company is hosting it and you choose to attend that makes you a bad Union brother or sister? Hell no it doesn't!!!!!! We can all walk around here and be resentful about things, and some of us with good reason, but that will not solve our current issues. Mainly our own survival! Like I said, don't get me wrong, I am nobody to preach, I have my bad days too, where I just sit there and whine up a storm, but at the end of the day I have to get paid and the job has to get done, a very simple equation. I am sure some of you are calling me all different kinds of names at this point, and to you folks, you have your right to your own opinion. In turn, I have that same right. All I am really trying to say is, if you think that the company is acting improperly, then let us try to be the more dignified individuals and show them that we can be a class act. By that I mean, do not pitch a fit about a corn roast picnic!!!!!! They could have very easily done nothing at all, and the

same group of whiners would be crying that the company SHOULD have had a picnic. Just goes to show you that some people are never satisfied and love to hear themselves boo hoo about everything. Let's not get caught up in all the trivial things, but keep our eye on the bigger prize, keeping Strattec De Milwaukee going with our members as employees.

That's it for me, Brothers and Sisters, so enjoy the rest of summer and be safe. Remember, if you are the ones disagreeing with my thought process or just flat calling me a brown noser or something to that effect, please feel free to talk to me and ask me why I think this way. I will be more than happy to share with you the things I have learned about these processes since I took office in our local Union as a Bargaining Committee member. Here is my e-mail address for those of you who are not comfortable with personal encounters.  
southsidebigal@sbcglobal.net  
Please feel free to contact me. I will try to respond back as soon as possible.

In solidarity,  
Big Al Olivares

## Join us on Labor Day



## Labor Fest

**Monday September 4, 2006**  
**Call the Union office today**  
**414-463-7425 to order your**  
**free t-shirt for participating**  
**in the Labor Day March**

# Grievance Rep Reports

## Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

### Vacation

Effective August 1, 2006, if you are scheduled to take a vacation day you must take the vacation day unless you cancel at least two working days prior to the scheduled vacation day. You can come to work without canceling a vacation day once, after that you will be sent home. If you cancel a vacation day, the member who requested that day prior to May 1st. will be given the first opportunity. Vacation requested after May 1st, will be on a first come first served basis.

### Attendance

If you are subpoenaed to go to court in a matter in which you are not a party you will not get a point. Verification is required. If you are eligible for a three day bereavement and leave work early you will not get a point for that. Verification is required.

### Voluntary Layoff

If you are on a voluntary layoff and you want to remain on the voluntary layoff, you would need to inform personnel prior to the July shutdown or the Christmas shutdown. If you are returning to work the company would bump you back in, within 6 weeks following the July shutdown or the Christmas shutdown.

### Disability Benefits

Your disability benefits increased to \$340.00 per week effective August 1, 2006. You need 6 Months of seniority to be eligible.

### H.R.A.

The Health Risk Assessment is currently being done at this time. These are the remaining dates: August 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 9th. Please check the main bulletin boards for the best time for you to attend. If you need an appointment please contact Lori Wavra (414) 256-5188 (or ext. 5188).

### Pension

If you retire on or after August 1, 2006 and you have a hiring date of 12/31/79 or prior you will receive a lump sum payment of \$25,000 upon your retirement.

### Retirees

Congratulations to all retirees, good luck with what ever you choose to do with your next career. God bless you.

In Solidarity,  
Jesse Edwards

## Briggs & Stratton First & Third Shift

by Dan Badzinski

### Micro line

This is the latest information on the micro line. It is going to run until approximately the end of August and then it will be going down for tooling changes. When the tooling changes are ready, some time in November, it will tentatively go up again.

### Service Division

Menomonee Falls Plant is bringing in 10 temporary employees to meet business demands. The company can do this according to the letter of intent in the new contract on page 89. The company said they may still need to hire at the Falls and test house.

### 2% Increase

The new contract starts August 1, 2006. On that day, we will receive a 2% wage increase to all day work rates and assembly/machine operator rates.

### Coils

In the Coil department, the new welder that replaced the old orbital machine is in and running. They are working two 8 hour shifts now.

### Retirees

I would like to congratulate all the retirees in July and August and wish them well.

In Solidarity  
Dan.Badzinski

## LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

August 2006

Volume 27, Issue #4

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.*

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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, Betty  
Burmester Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Chuck Porter.  
Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Dan Badzinski, Jesse  
Edwards, Karen Clark  
Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Karl Schneider,  
Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares

# UPCOMING EVENTS

September 4 - Labor Day



September 25-27- Wis State  
AFL-CIO Convention  
October 1- Membership Meeting  
October 9- Columbus Day



October 31- Halloween



November 7- Election Day



November 11- Veteran's Day



# Grievance Rep Reports

## Strattec Security

by Karl Schneider

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It appears the company excluded the \$750 lump sum bonus when calculating the vacation average for fiscal '07. The early position the company is taking is this was a bonus and should not be used to calculate the vacation average. Our position is the \$750 is wages for the first year of the contract and should be calculated into the vacation average. Hopefully, we can get this resolved on our own.

Vacation in department 77 is still a hot issue. People are struggling to get time off. In the meantime, there are about 100 hours of overtime per week due to increased orders. The company did, however, reduce two people because they shifted pre-packs and kitting to Mexico. More work orders are coming through the distribution warehouse, which is causing personnel problems. I plan on scheduling a meeting with the manager and Vice President Al Evseichik to get a game plan so we don't have contract violations and so we don't lose any orders.

The company has hired a few more people. Before they did that, they recalled the one member that was on voluntary layoff. One of the jobs was due to an increase in ADAC work. The rest was to replace retirees.

In Die Cast, we continue to have scheduling problems. One month we are on mandatory 9 hours a day. The next week, orders are done by Tuesday and the company is daily transferring members to different jobs or out of the department. On the plus side, however, that does allow more members to receive vacation time.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and I hope to see everyone at Labor fest.

In solidarity,  
Karl Schneider

## Election for Delegates for State Convention

The election for delegates for the Wisconsin AFL-CIO State Convention was held at the membership meeting on Sunday July 30, 2006. Jesse Edwards (16), Ralph Schwieger (16), Betty Burmester (13) and Al Olivares (10) were elected as delegates. Dennis Nowak (7) and Chuck Porter (4) were elected as alternates. President Scott Godshaw and Financial Secretary Treasurer Ross Winklbauer are automatic delegates. The convention will be held in Lacrosse, Wisconsin on September 25-27, 2006.



## Briggs Retiree Club

Our June and July picnics were enjoyed by many. Next we will have our August luncheon and bingo on Sunday August 13th.

Doors open at 10 a.m. and our activities begin at noon. Door prizes will also be given. Please bring your birthday or anniversary treats to this event as well as our regular monthly meetings.

Sheepshead is also played every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Remember, you must be a paid up member to attend any of our events. The dues are \$24 a year. Call our Financial Secretary Erma Gorecki for more information at 262-781-8951. All of our events are at the American Legion Post #449, 3245 N. 124th Street.

Our get well wishes go out to Dorothy Ledger, Adeline Johnson, Lucy Miller and Rose Ohm.

In October, we will start our regular bingo on the second Wednesday of the month. And our regular meetings will be on the third Wednesday. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the activities start at noon.

Once again, you can receive your issue of the *Reporter* at our meetings or go on the internet at [www.pace7232.org](http://www.pace7232.org). If you like, you could always stop at the Union office located at 8500 W. Capitol Dr. Suite 101 located in lower level in Milwaukee.

We are hoping to see all of the members at our upcoming events. We also encourage new retirees to join in on the fun.

Take care and God bless,  
Frances P. Capello  
Corresponding Secretary  
262-251-7514

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

**Editor's note:** I would personally like to thank Frances Capello for her Retiree Club updates so I can place them in every issue of the *Reporter*.

Thanks,  
Scott Godshaw



## ASK YOUR LAWYER

by Thomas Flanagan

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

### 2006 WORKERS COMP BENEFIT RATES – THEY'VE CHANGED

As of January 1, 2006, the new workers compensation bill had not been passed by the legislature. Therefore, under the rules of the statutes, the maximum temporary total disability rate for injuries after 1/1/06, dropped to \$676.00 per week (tax free). The new workers compensation bill became law on April 1, 2006. The new maximum temporary total disability rate for the rest of this year is \$744.00 per week (tax free) for injuries after 4/1/06. An injured worker's temporary total disability rate is determined by multiplying the gross weekly wage by two-thirds. This is the amount the worker is paid up to the maximum rate.

Permanent partial disability rates are considered by the Worker's Compensation Division to be \$242.00 per week for injuries between January 1, 2006 and March 31, 2006. As of April 1, 2006, the permanent partial disability rate is now \$252.00 per week for the balance of this year (tax free).

The benefit rate that applies to an employee is always determined by the date on which the employee was injured. The date of injury controls.

## 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.

The legal clinic will not provide free representation, but will advise you on your best course of action and make the appropriate referrals to help resolve your legal problems.

The Previant Law Firm has many excellent attorneys, experienced in most kinds of legal problems.

Members of Local 2-232 may also contact the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, S.C. for a free consultation regarding all personal injury matters. Please feel free to call the number of the office nearest you. Milwaukee 414/271-4500, Waukesha 262/549-6300. Identify yourself as a member or retiree of Local 2-232.

**Legal Clinic Hours:**  
**1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**  
**First Monday of each month**  
**Call for an appointment: 463-7425**

## Wellness Corner - "You can't live without it" Warm weather and back pain: What's the connection?

### Warm weather and back pain: What's the connection?

Warm weather provides the opportunity for more exercise out of doors. Activities such as gardening, biking and tennis involve much more bending; twisting and reaching then our bodies may be prepared for.

A few aches and pains may be a normal response to doing a little too much as a weekend warrior.

Persistent aches and chronic pain especially back pain requires attention. To make your summer activities as fun and enjoyable as possible, take the time to prepare your body for the physical activity. Start by setting a realistic goal around what you want to accomplish.

- Begin by stretching before your activity
- Be aware of your body mechanics during the task and take the time to use correct form and safe postures
- Alternate your body positions and avoid fixed postures for a long period of time
- Take intermittent breaks and drink plenty of water

### Oh, my aching back!

You've taken all the precautions to prepare your body for the physical activities you enjoy, but still have nagging back pain. This is not uncommon. Persistent back pain sometimes does not have a single obvious cause. It can be a result of a combination of factors. Chiropractic, acupuncture and massage are three common treatment approaches that individuals with back pain turn to for help.

Many factors can contribute to back pain, but with your surge into summer activities it is often related to an unnoticed pre-existing condition aggravated by increased activity or a combination of problems such as inadequate fitness, the desire to do too much at one time, heavy lifting and poor posture. If you have concerns you may want to see an Aurora chiropractor to assess your spinal health. According to Dr. Eric Kirk, clinical director of Chiropractic Services at Aurora Health Care, small unnoticed spinal problems often lead to neck or back pain.

The Chiropractic Care division of Aurora Health Care offers free spinal screenings. This non-invasive, painless, 5-minute screening can identify many underlying and potential problems, which may not even be symptomatic yet. Proactive spinal health

is important for maintaining your spine through out your life.

### Stop hurting and start healing with a Free Spinal Screening

- Five-minute one-on-one time with Aurora chiropractor
- All 96 joints of the spine are assessed
- Range of motion in the neck, shoulders and spine is measured
- No patient history or body system review is necessary.

Call (888) 863-5502 or visit the internet at [www.AuroraHealthCare.org](http://www.AuroraHealthCare.org) for a convenient Aurora Chiropractic location near you.

## 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](http://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](http://www.myuhc.com)**