

REP RTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PACE LOCAL 7-232

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JULY-AUGUST 2003

Joe Chambers Retires

by Al Olivares

Long time Union activist and Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Joe Chambers retired on July 1, 2003. That date puts an end to thirty years of Union service that is second to none. It all began for Joe on a cold day in February of 1973, when he began his employment for Briggs & Stratton. His first position at his new job was a potman in Die Cast on 124th St. He then opted to go on to piece-work in Die Cast. Joe's last position before his calling to a full time Union position was once again a potman in Die Cast where he served as the Die Cast steward. In January of 1982, things changed for Joe when he won a hotly contested and aggressively campaigned election for Trustee defeating Adeline Johnson, 775 to 600. Once in the position of Trustee, which is an Executive Board position, the presence of Joe Chambers was strongly felt.



"I would like to thank all of those people who continued to support me throughout the years."

This was only the beginning for Joe. In the position of Trustee he cultivated and matured his skills as an officer of the Union. He realized his true Union niche while serving his third term as Trustee by defeating Rob Johnson, 561 to 459 for Financial Secretary/Treasurer. With that victory, he succeeded Jim Henry who held that position for twenty-two years. Once Secretary, Joe began the long and grueling process of modernizing the Local's financial records from, at the time, standard paper to a cutting edge computer based format in 1987. From then till now, Joe's hunger for knowledge was insatiable. He would spend hours upon hours designing and writing programs to make the Local more efficient and effective.

While interviewing Joe for this article, I realized that the local is not just losing a Financial/Secretary, but we are losing a friend whose knowledge base on all aspects of the Union function is incomprehensible. He could actually sit down and explain to you the very beginnings of organized labor and take you step by step, while naming prominent leaders, through the stages of our Local being organized in the late thirties. I was

absolutely awestruck with the way he was able to recall all of these important events and explain them with the passion and excitement of a man who truly devoted his life to helping the Local as a whole and the individuals who make up the Local. When I asked Joe what he will miss the most when he retires, he replied "feeling that I could help people". He truly does reflect the sincerity of that statement.

As the interview continued, Joe told me of all the great times he enjoyed representing our Union at Legislative Conferences and the conventions held by the International. He enjoyed attending these conferences and letting our voice be heard via him at the podium speaking the issues and addressing the Board with pride and dignity. He also spoke of the bad times too, such as, when the Paperworkers International put the Local in trusteeship in 1997. Of course that did not deter Joe from fighting the good fight. He continued on right down to the day of his retirement.

In closing, I would like to offer this final quote from Joe Chambers, Financial/Secretary Treasurer.

"In this past thirty years, I have witnessed a lot of changes. The first ten years were good, Unions and workers were respected. We, as a Union, were able to gain more on a regular basis. The last twenty years were much more difficult, with the constant struggle to reduce the loss of jobs and protect as much as we could for our members. I had an opportunity to work with and make friends with many leaders both in our Local and the broader Union community. I will always treasure those experiences.

I fear the foreseeable future for workers as they will continue to face many challenges. I hope the future leaders of our Unions are able to get the support they need to obtain and maintain the rights and protection workers deserve."

Joe would also like to thank all of those people who continued to support him through out the years. We, in turn, would like to thank you Joe, for everything you have done and the benefits we will enjoy from all of your hard work in the years to come. My friend, your absence will be deeply felt and even though the position will be filled, you can never be replaced.

GOOD LUCK JOE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Scott Godshaw***“Labor Day- a time to celebrate our important holiday.”***

I can't believe how fast this year is going. September is right around the corner and with it comes Labor Day, a time to celebrate our important holiday. The celebration is known as LaborFest and as always, the gathering begins at Zeidler Union Square Park with a march down to the Summerfest grounds. The grounds will be fresh off Harley-Davidson's 100th Anniversary Celebration hence the theme this year "The Party Continues". The march once again will be led by the roar of the Harleys, followed by classic cars and labor people from all sectors. Labor Day celebrates American workers and their work with Unions taking the lead in these celebrations. Membership has approved the purchase of t-shirts commemorating this event for anyone that participates in the march. So join us on September 1, 2003 Labor Day; our holiday, to show off your worker pride, your Union pride. Please call the Union office (414) 463-7425 to reserve your shirts for you and your family.

STEWARDS ELECTIONS

Steward elections have been completed at both companies. The Executive Board had instructed the grievance reps. to bring their recommendations with the understanding they were to combine departments wherever feasible. We understand that the cost of extra stewards is minimal, however with the sensitive nature of super seniority ever present we feel the number of stewards we ended up with is fair and still gives everyone proper representation.

Just a few notes on steward elections:

A steward election posting will be up a minimum of 48 hours. If you will not be present for your steward election and you wish to run, you can turn in an acceptance of nomination to your grievance rep, however, there are not any absentee ballots. Nominations and elections are always held the same day. If there is a need for a run off election, where a candidate did not receive over 50%, it will be held the same day, time permitting. If it does not permit, a runoff election will be posted. If there is a tie, another election will be run again to eventually determine a winner.

I would like to congratulate all the stewards and look forward to working with you. A steward training will be held at Monreal's El Matador on Wednesday September 10, 2003 at noon for second shift and 3:30 p.m. for first shift. Third shift can attend either meeting. Each steward will receive a letter with all the information. It's imperative for all stewards to attend. An informed steward is an effective steward.

STRATTEC

In our last issue of the Reporter, we had reported that we were going to be involved in a mediation process for the first time since it became part of the contract in 2001. We met with a federal mediator and the company to try and resolve an outstanding grievance regarding the company's inability to allow a machine repair man the right to bump a tinner. The process went well except the company insisted on a mid-contract language change that they were unable to secure in negotiations. There was no way we could entertain that hence the grievance now has been voted by the Bargaining Committee to arbitrate.

Also at Strattec, there was a layoff in die cast due to the

economy and orders being slow. The ten that were laid off were all voluntary. On the flipside, service is busy, hours have been extended and two people have been added to second shift.

We had a third stage grievance meeting with Strattec on Wednesday June 25, 2003. There were two discharge grievances discussed. As of this writing we have not received an answer.

BRIGGS

I would like to thank Briggs for the Summerfest event, however, I still believe that every employee should receive the same amount of tickets regardless of status. Whether, industrial or sick leave, an employee should still be considered and if they are unable to attend the employee appreciation then a family member could represent them.

We have received updated versions of WARN notices. In M-8 and die cast, some dates have changed.

I would also like to thank The HIRE Center for presenting informational meetings for the upcoming layoff members in the cafeteria on June 10th and 11th. The HIRE Center also assisted us in filing a petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance with the U.S. Department of Labor. No word from the Labor Department as of yet.

As a result of the plant shutdown, deductions for insurance and flexible spending account were changed for July only. Contributions were doubled and deducted from the first two payroll checks July 3rd and July 10th. No deductions will be taken from the July 17th or 24th payroll checks. Normal deductions will resume in August.

The Bargaining Committee had approached the Company about doing a 3 year retirement incentive as they did for their salary people at the end of 2001. Jeff Mahloch eventually replied that Briggs and Stratton is not considering a retirement incentive of this or any other nature at this time.

RETIREES

I would like to congratulate all the recent retirees and wish them all the luck in their future endeavors.

Which brings me to this : I would personally like to congratulate Joe Chambers on his retirement as our Financial-Secretary/Treasurer. And I would like to thank him for everything he has meant to this Local over the years.

For those of you that have not worked closely with Joe, you do not realize the extensive knowledge he possesses including EVA, Productivity Reward, Retirement Multiplier, Labor Laws(just to name a few) and the computer itself. Joe taught me how to layout our newspaper so our members will still receive the information without skipping a beat. Good luck to you Joe, thanks again and as I said at the membership meeting, with all due respect, someone will succeed you but never replace you.

NOTE: Ross Winklbauer has been appointed by the Executive Board to fill in as Financial-Secretary/Treasurer until the election on Sunday August 10, 2003 at the membership meeting.

Jesse Edwards leads Convention delegation

At the June membership meeting held at Monreal's El Matador on Sunday June 22, 2003, four(4) delegates were elected by membership to attend the PACE International Convention to be held in Las Vegas on August 18th through August 22nd. Jesse Edwards led the voting with 33 votes, followed by Mike Merrill 27 votes, Vicky Black 25 votes and Dennis Nowak and Ralph Schweiger tied with 20 votes each. Ralph Schweiger graciously chose to forego any tie breaker ritual and allowed Nowak to be the delegate. Schweiger will remain the first alternate. The following is the summary of the election:

- 1) Jesse Edwards 33 (delegate)
- 2) Mike Merrill 27 (delegate)
- 3) Vicky Black 25 (delegate)
- 4) Dennis Nowak 20 (delegate)
- 5) Ralph Schweiger 20 (alternate)
- 6) Greg Weber 17 (alternate)
- 7) Karl Schneider 17 (alternate)
- 8) Donn Stewart 14
- 9) Richard Clark 8
- 10) Nancy Lesniewski 4
- 11) John Nalepinski 4
- 12) Dennis Clark 2
- 13) Dan Koehler 1
- 14) Brenda Zabel 1

Notice:

According to our by-laws, Article XV, Section 6, an election will be held at the Membership Meeting on Sunday August 10th, 2003 9:30 a.m. at Frank Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. to fill the vacancy of Financial-Secretary/Treasurer. If any Executive Board vacancy is created by the election for Financial-Secretary/Treasurer, an election for that office would also be held at the same meeting.

Compensation may be owed for hearing loss

There have been many inquiries made regarding compensation you may be owed for hearing loss sustained during your employment.

If you have a hearing loss and it is work related, you are entitled to compensation if the amount of loss can be proved through an audiogram. An audiologist, known as an ear, nose and throat specialist (ENT), usually performs these tests. There are a few procedures you must follow to process your claim. By doing so, this will alleviate delays in compensation payments you may be entitled to receive.

You must be out of employment for seven (7) consecutive days before you obtain a hearing test. It may be helpful for the doctor performing the test to review the prior hearing tests taken during your employment. Have a doctor send the results of the hearing test to :

Wisconsin Workers' Compensation
Division
201 E. Washington Ave. Room C-100
P.O. Box 7901
Madison, WI 53707-7901

As soon as all information is received, your claim will be reviewed and you will be notified if you have a compensable loss of hearing.

BRIGGS

If you belong to one of the EPO Insurance plans, you must go through your selected health care facility and pay the co-pay required. This does not preclude your right to go to an ENT outside that facility. However, you will be responsible for the full cost of the exam, if you wish to do this. For those of you that have PPO Insurance, hearing exams are not covered.

You can obtain the prior hearing tests by contacting the workers compensation department at Briggs (414) 259-5378. It can take a while to retrieve the test, so request these tests as soon as possible.

If a hearing aid is recommended as a result of a compensable loss, you should again contact the workers compensation department at Briggs at (414) 259-5697.

STRATTEC

If you belong to a PPO Plan, a hearing test in your network is 90% covered, you would pay 10%. If you go out of network, it is 70% covered, you would have to pay 30%.

If you need to obtain prior hearing tests or if a hearing aid is recommended as a result of a compensable loss, you should contact Tom Kiepczynski, safety manager at Strattec at (414) 247-3567.

Strattec Corner

By Bigg Al Olivares

Hello Brothers and Sisters, here we go again. The Company has offered some areas voluntary layoffs due to lower order amounts. Layoffs are never a good thing. In other news, we just recently held steward elections. I would like to take this time to thank all of those who ran and those of you that were elected. I'm sure many of you heard about the other machine being moved from 90. Unfortunately, the Company felt that this machine would be better served at the S.C.A facility in Juarez, Mexico. As far as the Union knows, there are no more jobs scheduled to leave Strattec de Milwaukee. On the brighter side, there is still a chance that Magnesium Die Casting will be brought to our facility. Nothing is guaranteed, but a chance is better than nothing. Also, the amount of members on layoff is getting smaller so hopefully that trend will continue.

Again there appears to be a bit of confusion on management's part. It seems there are some management personnel that feel they can do bargaining unit work when they deem it necessary. Wrong! It reads in the contract under "Work Jurisdiction" very clearly when the management personnel is allowed to partake in such activities. So, if any of you see management doing Union work please feel free to ask your steward to question these actions and find out if they are within the parameters of our contract. Remember if you question your boss personally on his or her actions, to do it with professionalism and respect. There is no need to "blow up" or get yourself in any kind of disciplinary action. If they are doing our work, they are in the wrong, not us.

Until next time

In Solidarity,

Bigg Al Olivares

NOTICE:

Steward training will be held at Frank Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. on Wednesday September 10, 2003 - 12 noon for 2nd shift, 3:30p.m. for 1st shift (3rd shift stewards can attend either session) All stewards are expected to attend.

LOCAL 7-232 REPORTER

August 2003 Volume 24, Issue #6
LOCAL 7-232 PAPER, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL, CHEMICAL AND ENERGY WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

Representing employees of Briggs & Stratton Corp. and Strattec Security Corp.

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Hours 8:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Monday through Friday

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

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Officers: President: Scott Godshaw Vice President: John Nalepinski, Secretary-Treasurer: vacant
Recording Secretary Tom Bishanell, Trustees: Ross Winklbauer, Ralph Schwieger, Vicky Black, Guide: Greg Weber, Sergeant at Arms: Dennis Clark.
Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Mike Merrill, Barb Schuller, Jesse Edwards, Tom Bishanell
Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Karl Schneider, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares

Membership Meeting Recap

by Tom Bishnell

The membership meeting was held on June 22, 2003 at Monreal's El Matador, 9:30 a.m. sharp.

Newly elected President Scott Godshaw presided over the meeting. A motion was made and passed to change the order of business to accommodate the election for delegates to the International Convention in Las Vegas. A motion was also made and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Ralph Schweiger read the Trustee Report. Joe Chambers, who will be retiring at the end of June, gave his Financial-Secretary/Treasurer Report for the last time. He stated there were 1310 members at Briggs and 359 members at Strattec for a total of 1669 dues paying members in May. A motion was made and reluctantly passed to accept the report as read. It was an attempt to give Joe Chambers one last hassle before his career as Financial-Secretary/Treasurer ends.

Scott Godshaw then announced it was time to pass out the ballots for the delegate election. Fourteen candidates were nominated. In ballot order they were Dennis Clark, Richard Clark, Dan Koehler, Jesse Edwards, Dennis Nowak, Nancy Lesniewski, John Nalepinski, Donn Stewart, Vicky Black, Brenda Zabel, Mike Merrill, Greg Weber, Ralph Schweiger and Karl Schneider. Ballots were then passed out and while the Election Committee counted the ballots, Godshaw started with the President's Report.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Scott Godshaw stated that at Strattec the Union went through a mediation process for the first time since it became part of the contract in 2001. It involved an unsettled grievance where the Company didn't allow a machine repairman to bump down in his department to a tinner. No agreement had been reached and Strattec insisted on a mid-contract change regarding language they were unable to secure in negotiations. The grievance has been voted by the Committee to arbitrate.

Scott was introduced by Karl Schneider to Harry Stratton and John Cahill. He told them both that it would be nice to see some growth in our Milwaukee facility. Approximately 10 members, all voluntary, are getting laid off in die cast due to slow auto sales. Some magnesium jobs are currently getting bid on. Service was very busy, however, and will add two employees on second shift. There will be a third stage with Strattec on Wednesday June 25, 2003 and there were also two discharge grievances.

At Briggs, in their Menomonee Falls plant, DC 3 members were unable to get a week of vacation. It has now been settled with management. Members may have to select the more difficult jobs from the floater pools so least senior people from another area can work the flow/item pick area. Godshaw commended the Union brothers and sisters who stepped up and wanted to help each other by voting this unanimously into place.

Summerfest tickets will be distributed in the shop again with only active members receiving the full 5 tickets and \$15.00 Briggs bucks. The Union attempted again to get the full allotment for members on layoff, sick leave or industrial. They agreed to give only two tickets and \$15.00 Briggs bucks to members laid off after December. Scott stated that the Union has received several revised WARN notices. Die cast employees previously scheduled for layoff can still work through shutdown. With the assistance of The HIRE Center, a petition was filed for Trade Adjustment Assistance. Scott then reminded members that insurance deductions will change for July only. Approximately 160 members have been signed up for retirement through July 1st. They now can walk in the plant on their last day.

Godshaw stated the Union received an answer from Jeff Mahloch and no retirement incentive would be given at this time.

Steward elections are pretty much done at both companies and we feel the number we ended up with is fair and gives proper representation. A time and location for steward training is pending.

Jesse Edwards reported that M8V has a revised 60 day WARN notice with eliminations occurring August 2nd. The V-Twin will go from a run rate of 1000 down to 500. The R & B is being disassembled and sent to Statesboro for Model 28's. Model 9's production was increasing and 2nd shift will stay the same. Edwards stated Tool & Die in Die Cast were not being allowed to take their tool boxes home. This he had corrected and they will now be allowed to take their tools home. Jesse made note that bereavement needs to be called in at the time of death or burial and he congratulated all the employees who would be retiring this month.

Mike Merrill reported on the Micro Line. They received an order for 960 engines from a South African Co. that had to be out before shutdown. The Company is optimistic that by the end of the year there will be an increase in orders for the start of the spring season. The Outboard Line was shutdown last week due to a lack of purchased parts. They have been running the camouflaged motor for the last 3 weeks and it looks very nice. They have 5000 surplus standard black motors the Company hopes to move in the month of July or the run rate might be reduced. On June 16th in M3 the Company will add a third shift in the cover cell. Mike ended by wishing everyone a good vacation.

COMMUNICATIONS

A Solidarity Rally for the Tyson Food strikers will be held on Sunday June 22, 2003 at the plants main gate in Jefferson from 1:30- 2:30 p.m. The workers there have been out on strike since February 28th.

The Milwaukee County Labor Council and St. Benedict's Community Meal Program will be feeding the homeless Sunday June 29th at St. Benedict the Moor, 1015 N. 9th St. Volunteers and(or) cash donations are needed.

The Milwaukee County Labor Council is looking for help on this years LaborFest. As usual it will be held on the Summerfest grounds Monday September 1st. Volunteers are needed for setting up and running the daily festivities.

Executive Board recommended motions that passed were as follows:

- Send a \$100.00 donation to PACE Local 7-0852 on strike against Milwaukee Dustless Brush since March 10th.
- Send a \$50.00 donation to PACE Local 5-0550 on strike against the U.S. Enrichment Corporation since February 4th.
- Place a \$110.00 ad in this years Milwaukee Labor Press, Special Labor Day Edition.
- Purchase 125 t-shirts for anyone participating in this years LaborFest parade from our Local. This yearly event keeps drawing more participants as word has gotten out at how much enjoyment one has.

Scott Godshaw closed the meeting by presenting Joe Chambers, who is retiring July 1st, with a plaque commemorating his many years of dedicated Union service.

The election results for delegates to the International Convention then came in with Jesse Edwards, Mike Merrill, and Vicky Black receiving the first 3 spots. Dennis Nowak and Ralph Schweiger were tied for the last spot. Ralph, in a class move declined, allowing Dennis Nowak to attend.

The next meeting will be held August 10, 2003 at Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. at 9:30 a.m.

Local 7232 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 7232 is providing free legal consultations with lawyers from the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman at the Local 7232 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 7232 may also contact the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, 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 7232.

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

Recall Dates-Briggs

(As of July 21, 2003)

Heavy machine operators September 11, 1978

Light machine operators July 21, 1977

Assembly December 19, 1977

Daywork L.G.23 September 18, 1978

L.G. 23 or less October 16, 1978

L.G. 27 September 19, 1977

106 employees on layoff

THE WORKER: ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT KILL GOOD JOBS DRAG DOWN NATION

By Randy McSorley

"Originally published in the Post Crescent (Appleton)"

It's getting so that I'm afraid to open the newspaper anymore. One day I read about jobs being eliminated in a company "restructuring;" the next, they're tearing down a building that once employed hundreds of people in the Fox Valley.

Politicians in Madison are trying to force cities to cut essential services. Politicians in Washington are giving the wealthiest Americans tax breaks while forcing service cuts on everyone.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that 9 million workers were officially unemployed in May. That is the highest number since 1993. While some jobs get created, more are lost.

Last month, a net 17,000 jobs disappeared. Even more disturbing is the fact that 53,000 manufacturing jobs were eliminated in May alone. Since July 2000 America has lost 2.6 million manufacturing jobs that have added the greatest value to the economy. These are the jobs that made America great.

The BLS reports that we lost 3.1 million jobs since George W. Bush took office. According to the Economic Policy Institute, that is a bigger job loss than any other recession since World War II.

"From a standpoint of the growing ranks of unemployed, the president's tax cuts of 2001 and 2002 may have padded the pockets of the very rich, but they failed to create jobs," says AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. "More of the same medicine in the form of his 2003 tax cut will not put people back to work."

Although the official number of unemployed workers in May is 9 million, that number does not include 5 million working part-time because they cannot find full-time work and another 1.4 million discouraged people who have stopped looking for work altogether.

The rate of workers exhausting their unemployment compensation benefits rose in April to 43 percent, the highest rate since April 2001.

It is a mistake to think that nothing can be done about the poor economy, that is simply a force of nature, a storm that must be endured. The economy is a creation of human beings, subject to the rules and dynamics that we impose on it.

As long as economic policies discourage the creation of good jobs, there will be fewer good jobs. As long as tax policies reward the wealthy and take services away from American citizens, we will suffer from a loss of government services. As long as we believe that we can do nothing about the runaway greed that is crippling the economy, we will be correct.

The economic policies in effect right now take away good jobs and vital services while piling riches upon the wealthiest Americans. This is not a healthy economy.

How much lower can we go? In 10 years, will America's economy resemble Mexico's or Korea's? Or will we wake up and insist on responsible economic policies?

That's what keeps me reading the newspaper.

Randy McSorley joined Thilmany Paper in 1973 and has been a union activist since 1976. He is the Fox Valley Area Labor Council secretary, and on the organizing and affiliations committees. He also has held paperwork union positions. Call 920-766-4627 or rjmcSorley@mac.com

Grievance Rep Reports

Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

M8X

Department M8X received a revised 60 day WARN notice. It is now expected that the job elimination will occur on August 2, 2003 when approximately 23 jobs will be eliminated. The reason given for the job elimination is because the V-Twin machining production will be cutting back from 1000 per day to 500 per day. The Company stated to the members at a department meeting that the Cams will be outsourced after this fiscal year which is June 30, 2003. The Company also stated to the members that the counterweights would be done by September 2003. The R& B is currently being disassembled and it will be sent to Statesboro, GA to machine the Model 28 Flywheel. The Company plans to staff the department with 26 operators, 16 set up and 2 supervisors until further notice. We were given notice that 2nd shift staffing would stay the same. Currently the Model 9's are in high demand. They have been working 10 hour shifts and Saturdays to keep up with high demand. They also asked for volunteers to work the 1st week of shut down.

DIE CAST

The Union had a major dispute with the Company on June 18, 2003 in department 135 Tool Room. The employees involved are Tool/Die makers. They are tentatively scheduled to be laid off on June 26, 2003 so some of them wanted to take some of their tools and tool boxes home. The Company told them NO, at this point the members called the Union and I went to investigate the issue. Keep in mind chances are these members have every right to take their tools home. These tools belonged to the members and were not the Company's property. Then after more heated discussion with the Company, they finally agreed the members were right and they were allowed to take their tools home.

LAYOFFS

The Company also informed the Union that a total of 122 people would be laid off on June 26, 2003. The employees affected should have received a WARN notice. There will also be a layoff in Die Cast on July 25, 2003 and again on August 15, 2003.

BEREAVEMENT

If you have bereavement during the vacation shut-down, you should call in the bereavement at the time of death or burial. You have to call in on the day you want to start your bereavement and you only have to call one time. You will accumulate the vacation that's not used. You have to submit proof to the Timekeeping department within 10 days following your return to work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RETIREES, I wish you well.

In Solidarity,
Jesse Edwards

Strattec Security

by Karl Schneider

Brothers & Sisters,

At Strattec we did generate a positive EVA this fiscal year and the company is in the process of calculating the payout. This information will be released at the August 1st FINOPS meeting.

The next opportunity for you to recall yourself from a voluntary layoff is from August 1st to August 15th with a return date of September 2nd, seniority permitting.

After being out on voluntary layoff and you wish to return to work but do not have the seniority to do so you should notify the company between September 3rd - 15th to come back involuntary. The company then has 6 weeks to call you back under plant wide lay off language.

Members are having difficulties getting vacation days approved. I will get with the stewards and management in the areas affected by this to try to resolve the issue.

I want to remind everyone to mark their calendars for Laborfest. If you plan on marching in the parade you should call the local at (414) 463-7425 to reserve your t-shirts.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the recent retirees of Local 7-232 that worked at both Strattec and Briggs & Stratton. You earned it and I hope you enjoy it!

In Solidarity,
Karl Schneider

Membership Information July 2003

1827 Members in Good Standing
1,425 in Briggs & Stratton Unit
402 in Strattec Unit

June Dues Payments

1,290 Dues Paying Members at Briggs
367 Dues Paying members at Strattec
1657 Total Dues Paying Members
(Difference reflects members off work
for lay-off, illness or other reasons)

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 10th- Membership Meeting
August 18th-22nd PACE International
Convention

September 1st - Labor Day-
Laborfest at the 
Lakefront

September 10th- Steward Training
September 21st - Membership Meeting
October 13th- Columbus Day
October 19th -Membership Meeting
November 11th- Veteran's Day
November 27th-Thanksgiving
December 7th- Membership Meeting
December 24th-January 1st -Christmas
Holiday
January 2, 2004 -Return to work

August Membership Meeting Sunday

**August 10, 2003
9:30 a.m.**

**Frank Monreal's El Matador
Lower Level**

**9155 W. Bluemound Rd.
IMPORTANT BUSINESS**

- Election for Financial-Secretary/Treasurer
- Reports of Officers, Grievance Reps and Committees
- Discussion and action on any other proper business for this meeting.

Briggs Retiree Club

On August 17th, we will be having another Luncheon and Dance, also at the American Post 449 at 3245 N. 124th St. Doors will open at 10 a.m. with lunch at noon and dancing to follow. Each member will also receive two drink tickets. Door prizes will be given and raffle tickets will be sold 3 for \$1.00. Fun for all! Cards will be sent to each member- Remember to put a stamp on one side and mail it back if you will attend.

You must be a paid up member to attend any of our events. Please call Erma Gorecki (262) 781-8951 for more information. Dues are \$24.00 per year or \$12.00 for 6 months, Jan.-July and Aug.- Dec.

Our get well wishes go out to our members Diane Bowen, Delores Goetz, Ruth Brylski. Our sympathy to the family of Penelope (Penny) Calabrese who has passed away.

Sorry our Reporter is not delivered to each one of us anymore, but you can get it on the internet at www.pace7232.org. You may also pick one up at the Union Office located at 8500 W. Capitol Dr. We may also have some available at our upcoming events.

Please try to attend the events, they will be important. Until next time, have a great summer!

Take Care and God Bless,
Frances Capello, Corresponding Secretary
(262) 251-7514

Celebrate Labor Day at LABORFEST

with Local 7-232

Monday September 1, 2003

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Join us on Labor Day for Laborfest at the Lakefront.

Meet at Zeidler Union Square, 4th & Michigan at 9:30a.m.

March to the lakefront at 11a.m.

All those that march will receive a free t-shirt. Free admission.

There will be fun, food, beverages and live music.

Call the office today (414-463-7425) to reserve your shirt for you and your entire family.