

# REPORTER

UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 2-232

## Thousands Stand in Solidarity with Machinists at Manitowoc Cranes

Article from the Wisconsin AFL-CIO Web Site

The Municipal Baseball Field on Grand Avenue in Manitowoc was filled with thousands of Wisconsin-ites today, but there was no game in sight. Instead an estimated 3,500 Wisconsin-ites stood in solidarity with the Fighting Machinists of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (I.A.M.A.W) Local Lodge 516 who are on strike at Manitowoc Cranes.

Teachers, snow plow drivers, fire fighters, steelworkers, boilermakers, operating engineers, laborers, letter carriers, truck drivers, custodians, nurses, bricklayers, electricians, painters, community members, faith leaders and workers from both the public and private sector stood in solidarity with the striking members of the I.A.M.A.W Local Lodge 516.

"This is not about wages or benefits," said Ben Elizondo of the Machinists Union. "This is about management wanting total power. It's a sad thing when the company pushes you out at a time of the year when people

are suppose to be coming together. "A life-long union machinist at Manitowoc Cranes, J.C. Schultz has been a Machinist for over forty years.

"I'm a journeyman machinist. I started my apprenticeship when I was 17-years-old with the union, and I celebrated my 61st birthday this week on the picket line. They are not going to break the union, not in the great state of Wisconsin," says Schultz. "This fight is about our children and our children's children and the kind of society we want to live in. A society where worker's have the right to union representation."

Nearly 200 men and women have been on strike at Manitowoc Cranes since November 15. At issue, is non-economic contract language which would have zero impact on productivity and instead bust the worker's union. The language, which the worker's have voted overwhelmingly to reject, would backhandedly destroy the union and the worker's ability to have a voice on the job.

On Saturday, December 10, thousands braved the cold and gathered on a chilly Saturday afternoon for a

solidarity rally. After the rally, thousands marched to the Manitowoc Cranes plant gates to join the picket line.

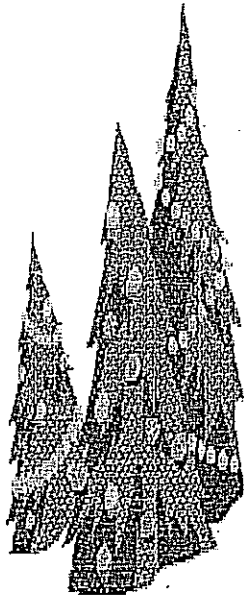
The Gunderson Brothers made the journey from Madison to show their support. Members of AF-SCME Local 60 and Teamsters Local 695 the Gunderson's are second-generation union. "We are here to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Machinists union. This sort of attack affects us all. It's no surprise that Gov. Walker's union busting is moving to the private sector. We need to support the Machinists here and recall Walker."

Reverend Neil Piepenburg opened the rally with a prayer for the workers and for the community. "This is not just a political issue. This is a moral issue and a faith issue. When the voice and the rights of one are sacrificed for the voice of another, there is no justice," said Rev. Piepenburg.

"This is what having a union is all about," explained Phil Neuenfeldt, President of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO.

### Special points of interest:

- **Front Page: Walker's Union Busting moving to the private sector. Support the Machinists and Recall Walker!**
- **President Jesse Edwards Report on Page 2**
- **Membership Meeting RECAP on Page 3**
- **Recording Secretary, Gloria Smith looks forward to a New Year on Page 3**
- **USW Local 207L in Findlay, Ohio locked out by Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. Story on Page 3.**



## Thousands Stand in Solidarity with Machinists at Manitowoc Cranes continued .....

Continued on Page 2

"Having a union is about having the strength of your co-workers. It's about working people supporting each other and standing together in solidarity. Having a union is about having a voice at work and having the

strength to improve your workplace.

Manitowoc Cranes has no right to try to cripple the worker's union and we are here to stand with them in their fight for justice."

"Today working people from Manitowoc and from across Wisconsin chose to come together to say:

an injury to one is an injury to all. We are here to stand together to support the strikers at Manitowoc Cranes. We hope that management and the workers can sit down together and continue negotiations so we can get back to work and get back to making a first-rate product that is exporting worldwide," said Russell Krings, International As-

## President's Report by Jesse Edwards

### Briggs

#### Coils

The Generator department was under staffed because of an unexpected increase in production due to the storms out east. The Coil department daily transferred 5 production workers to the Generator department. Then, Coils recalled retired production workers to replace the transferred production workers. As of today Generators and Coils are both working overtime.

#### Open Jobs

You should watch the bulletin board for open jobs. Due to previous job openings and retirements at the end of the year the company has been posting for open jobs.

#### Bereavement

If you have bereavement during the Christmas holiday, you have to take it immediately after the holiday period. You can't punch in at work and then take bereavement. If you punch in, you will

forfeit your bereavement leave. If you are eligible for one day or three days, you only have to call once.

#### Holiday pay

To be eligible for holiday pay if you are active, you must work the day before and the day after the holiday. Unless you are on an authorized leave such as vacation or sick leave etc., then you have to work in the half of the month where the holiday occurs.

#### Retirees

Good luck to all Retirees. May God Bless you all and I wish you well.

Too Vicky Gorecki, thank you for all of your hard work and many years of dedication to the Union. We wish you well. Take care!!

#### Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of the USW Local 2-232 members.

#### Strattec

(Aurelio) Al Mesa has been appointed Grievance Rep. until Diane Neely's return to work. Al has already started

working on different issues and is he's doing a good job.

#### Discharge

At this time the Union has one discharge which Al is working on.

#### Production

Strattec is still busy and the Company continues to look for more work.

#### Safety/Cold

A number of members complained to the Union, "it's cold in here."

The cold air that's coming in through the new system is being investigated. The Union plans to work with the Company and have that resolved soon.

#### Christmas

This year during the Christmas period you will be off work December 26, 27, 29 and 30th. The company will not work December 28<sup>th</sup>. You can take a vacation day or take the day off with no point and no pay.

## Scrooged by Cooper Tire: Help Locked Out Workers

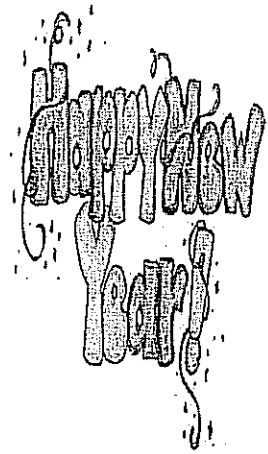
Right after Thanksgiving, on November 28, 2011, Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. locked out 1,050 members of **USW Local 207L in Findlay, Ohio**. These men and women offered to stay on the job as contract negotiations moved forward, but the company refused and kicked its longtime workers to the curb.

The company wants to cry broke, but workers say it is greed – not need – that is driving the company's cam-

paign against workers. In 2008, when Cooper Tire was losing money, workers gave up \$31 million in pay and benefits concessions to help their employer stay alive. But now that the company is raking in hundreds of millions of dollars in profit – and handing corporate executives millions of dollars in raises and bonuses – workers simply want a fair deal that recognizes their sacrifice. But Cooper Tire won't hear it.

Now, with its longtime workers barricaded out of the plant, the company is trying to make its tires with a crew of out-of-state, inexperienced temporary replacement workers. Workers say the corporate greed is flat-out wrong, and they need our support to keep up the fight for a fair contract.

Please visit the USW Web Site, [www.usw.org](http://www.usw.org) to sign the petition asking Cooper Tire to end the lock out.



## By Recording Secretary, Gloria Smith

As the year of 2011 is coming to an end, I personally would like to thank our President Jesse Edwards for his dedication to the Labor Movement and being a beacon of Unionism for all of us. To the Board and the Committee, I thank you all for being on one accord. We all represent this Local

and as we enter into 2012, I hope to see our strength and unity grow more and more. Together we are strong and **TOGETHER ONLY**. This has been an educational year for me as the Recording Secretary and I look forward to the New Year. Just want to thank each and every one

of you for giving me the opportunity to record our Union Business. May your Holidays be Joyful and filled with Peace.

In Solidarity,  
Gloria Smith

## Local 2-232 Legal Assistance

Do you have 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 Previat, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman.

Milwaukee 414-271-4500

Waukesha 262-549-6300

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP

### By Recording Secretary, Gloria Smith

The membership meeting was held on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 9:30 am, Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Road.

Vice President Allen Evseichik presided over the meeting.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

The Executive Board recommended and a motion was passed to send The Women of Steel Committee

to the Women of Steel Conference on January 13, 2012.

The Executive Board recommended a motion that passed to send \$50.00 each to the families of AD Barnes and Allen Bangart. These two USW Members were killed on the job. We also gave a moment of silence for the families at the membership meeting.

#### TRUSTEE REPORT

Chuck Porter gave The Trustee Report for the months of September and October of 2011.

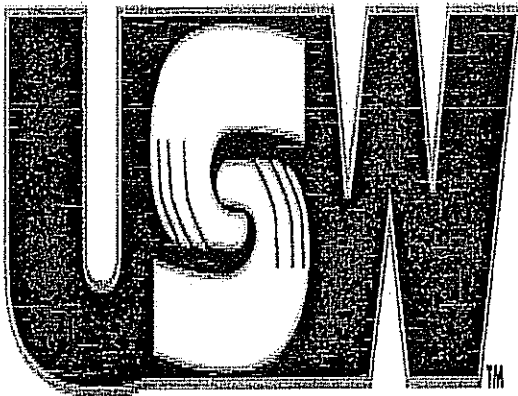
#### FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT

Ralph Schweiger gave The Financial Secretary Treasurer Report for the months of September and October of 2011.

Unity and Strength for Workers



# UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

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Local 2-232 UNITED STEEL, PAPER AND FORESTRY, RUBBER, MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

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Hours 7:00am – 4:00pm

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: Jesse Edwards Vice President: Al Evseichik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Schwieger Recording Secretary: Gloria Smith Trustees: Chuck Porter, Yolanda Turner, Erica Jackson Sergeant at Arms: Stanley Quezaire Guide:Denni Walczyk Briggs Bargaining Committee: Jesse Edwards, Dean Wegner, Vicky Gorecki, Lorenzo Payne Strattec Bargaining Committee: Jesse Edwards, Diane Neely, Joe Wentz, Aurelio Mesa

## "The Grapes of Wrath"

When the family arrives in California, there's no work. Just tents and hungry, hopeless people. A young man leaving the Hooverville they've just joined laughs ruefully at them: "They say they's three hundred thousan' us folks here, an' I bet ever dam' fam'ly seen them han'bills." "If they don' need folks,"

asks Tom Joad, "what'd they go to the trouble puttin' them things out for?" "Look," the young man says, "s'pose you got a job an' work, an' there's just one fella wants the job. You got to pay im what he asts. But s'pose they's a hundred men. S'pose they's a hundred men wants that job. S'pose them men got kids,

an' them kids is hungry. S'pose a lousy dime'll buy a box of mush for them kids. S'pose a nickel will buy at leas' somepin for them kids. An' you got a hunderd men. Jus' offer 'em a nickel -- why they'll kill each other fightin' for that nickel."