

REPORTER

President's Report by Scott Godshaw

Nominations postponed until March

We were unable to proceed with the nominations and recording secretary election at the January membership meeting because proper notification was not given out via mail because our data base is down. Notification for such events will now, and in the future as well, be in the Labor Press that is mailed to each member's last known address.

The notification of the current nominations and election will be in the February issue of the Labor Press. The membership meeting will be held on Sunday March 1, 2009 at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Road in Milwaukee. At this meeting we will have the nomination and the election for the position of Recording Secretary. The vacancy was created when Karen Clark retired on January 1st. We will also have the nominations for the positions of Trustee at Large, Strattec Grievance Rep, Briggs Grievance Rep and the 2 Briggs

Bargaining Committee positions at this same meeting. The primary election (if necessary) will be held on Friday March 13th. The general election will be held on Friday March 20th. The voting will once again take place in the plants (with company approval) and at the Union Office on 8500 W. Capitol Drive as well. The exact locations at Burleigh have not been determined as yet.

Service Division

At Briggs, in the Service division, the bargaining committee met with the management there and the Human Resources Department. We were introduced to the woman from an outside firm that will be doing the training for diversity for every member at Service.

Briggs has sent out a letter to every member that is been out there for some time with the status of

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March Membership Meeting

Sunday
March 1, 2009
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.
- Nominations for Trustee at Large, Strattec Grievance Rep, Briggs Grievance Rep and 2 Briggs Bargaining Committee Members
- Nomination and Election for Recording Secretary

NOTICE:

Nominations will take place at the March Membership Meeting for Trustee at Large, Strattec Grievance Rep, Briggs Grievance Rep and 2 Briggs Bargaining Committee Members. Nomination and election will also take place at the March Membership Meeting for Recording Secretary

President Report Continued from Page 1

layoff with limitations. Those members needed to respond to Briggs before January 31, 2009 with an update of their restrictions or just respond letting Briggs know there is no change in their restrictions.

I had reported in December at the membership meeting that approximately 35 people had signed up to retire on January 1st. We had several cancellations and the final count was 21 people retired from Briggs on January 1st.

Strattec

At Strattec the layoffs continue. An additional 14 people were laid off on January 9th. I was out at Strattec to make sure the senior people were able to bump down accordingly to the proper classification. There are senior people out on involuntary layoff that will be called back by seniority. They will be brought back no later than 6 weeks. The 6 weeks began on January 5th because everyone with seniority was considered active on December 22nd in order to be eligible for holiday pay. Strattec, as I reported at the membership meeting, paid everyone holiday pay even if they did not work in the 2nd half of the month.

Retirement

I officially retired from Briggs & Stratton on January 1st. I, however, will continue on as the President of USW Local 2-232 until the end of my term, which is March of 2010. The International Constitution allows me to stay on, although retired. And the Executive Board approved it. I will not be able to run again next year.

I will be at the office 3 days a week. Although my schedule tentatively will be Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, it will be flexible.

Third Stage

We had a third stage grievance meeting at Briggs on January 6th which was postponed from December 19th due to weather. We took in 3 grievances, one was for a discharge for attendance.

We have a third stage grievance meeting scheduled at Strattec on Thursday February 12, 2009.

President Barack Obama

After watching the inauguration of our 44th President, Barack Obama, I reflected about the moment. I truly believe electing the first African - American President of this great nation is the single most significant historical event of my lifetime. It shows how our country has progressed. The color of his skin does not matter. President Obama is definitely THE right man to lead us out of the hardship of our economic stress that we have endured recently. He has the intelligence, the fortitude, the knowledge, the strength, the compassion, the leadership and the belief of the people to be successful in bringing this once proud nation back to respectability, not just domestically but globally as well.



USW News

“Make Our Future Work”

Pittsburgh – The United Steelworkers (USW) today announced a massive economic renewal mobilization campaign, Make Our Future Work, which taps into the record-breaking level of election activism and answers President Obama’s call to “pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.”

The campaign calls on the union’s 1.2 million active and retired members to mobilize around the USW’s economic renewal plan, which focuses on resurrecting American manufacturing as the foundation for the nation’s economy.

The announcement comes the same week as the historic inauguration of President Obama, who was endorsed by the Steelworkers and has made fixing the broken economy a top priority. During his speech, Obama said: “The state of the economy calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act — not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth.”

“After witnessing such hope this week, I’m convinced more than ever that we must once again become a nation whose economy thrives on making things and creates wealth through middle class prosperity,” said USW International President Leo W. Gerard, who attended the inauguration on behalf of the union at the invitation of the president.

“President Obama has made it clear that he wants our nation to have an economy that delivers on the promise of America. Our union is heeding his call – we’re ready to work,” Gerard said. “Our plan pushes for meaningful, sustained solutions that put people back to work. It promotes infrastructure investment and green jobs that help solve our energy problems, demands that we spend tax dollars on products with domestic content, and supports allowing workers to freely join unions to help boost our middle class.”

The 10,000-plus Activist Corp who participated in the recent political campaign season as well as thousands of other activists involved in the union’s Rapid Response, Women of Steel, Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees and other programs will mobilize locally and nationally to help fight for legislation, including the Employee Free Choice Act. The proposal allows workers who want a union - instead of employers to choose how they want to organize and collectively bargain for a better life.

Union members in every state will be working to educate co-workers and their communities about the USW plan, push for government solutions at the local, state and federal levels and participate in rallies, hand-billing, lobbying and other events.

1/20/2009 History is being made on this day

by Ralph Schwieger

History is being made this day, January 20, 2009. We have made it through 8 plus years of hell! We will be paying the price through 2009 and well beyond for having George Bush rule over this country for two terms. I hope and pray that we can recover from the worst President in our history. Only time will tell but I do believe that if anyone has a chance to save this thing, Barack Obama can do it! I hope you all were able to see the inauguration and even if you didn't vote for Barack Obama, you have to admit this is a special person that will have to move mountains to return the United States to its role as a beacon of hope for the world.

As President Obama said in his inauguration speech, "We are ready to lead, once more."

He went on to say, "What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship. This is the source of our confidence - the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny."

The old saying goes, Freedom isn't Free. Obama can not do this all on his own. As President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." USW Local 2-232 and the Labor Movement needs YOU to get involved and serve your fellow Americans and the country!

Please do not just turn the page and forget about President Obama's call to action. The first step is just to read the newspaper this Local makes available to it's membership and YOU have done that!!

Congratulations! The next step is to take an hour or two on a Sunday morning and attend our Membership Meetings. An informed membership makes us strong and aware of the issues of the day that require action. Next, consider running for Steward or Executive Board and Bargaining Committee positions. The majority of the current Board and Committee members have high seniority and could retire at any time. We need to see some fresh faces step up and run for open positions. If you might be interested or have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at the Union office.

In Solidarity,
Ralph E. Schwieger
Financial Secretary Treasurer



ASK YOUR LAWYER

by Thomas Flanagan

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

2009 WORKER'S COMPENSATION RATES

The maximum temporary total disability rate in 2009 is \$808 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 2009 is \$282 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.

If you have questions about worker's compensation, personal injury or social security disability, feel free to call the Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman law firm at 414-271-4500 or toll free at 1-800-841-5232. See our website at www.previant.com. Also please listen to the "Previant Legal Line" on Saturdays at noon on WTMJ radio 620 AM. live legal call-in show. (We may not be on the air if the Brewers, Packers, Bucks or Badgers are playing early on Saturday afternoon.)

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.**

Briggs Retiree Club

The Board and Committee wish everyone a very Happy New Year! On Sunday December 7th, we had our annual Christmas dinner at Alioto's.

We would like to thank our Local Union for their contribution for our Christmas dinner and also for putting our newsletter in the *Reporter*.

We would also like to thank Briggs & Stratton for their yearly support.

Remember you must be a paid up member to attend our events. Our dues are still only \$24 a year.

At our November meeting, the members by a majority standing vote, chose to have the Schwabenhof as our meeting place for 2009 with the exception of our Christmas Party which will once again be held at Alioto's.

On Wednesday January 14th, Bingo was cancelled because of the extreme cold temperature. On Wednesday January 21st, we had our first meeting of the year. At this meeting we had nominations for our officers. The Board which includes: President Bob Johnson, Vice President Delores Higgins, Financial Secretary Treasurer Erma Gorecki, Recording Secretary Doris Reinke, Corresponding Secretary Sherry Kent and Sergeant at Arms Geri Kunda, were all unopposed and thus unanimously elected.

The 2009 calendar of events will be arranged as soon as possible.

All new retirees are welcome to join our club. You will see some of your old friends and maybe meet some new ones.

Sheepshead tournament is played every Tuesday at noon. Bingo is always the 2nd Wednesday of the month and starts at 11a.m. Our meetings start at noon and doors open at 10:30a.m., always the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

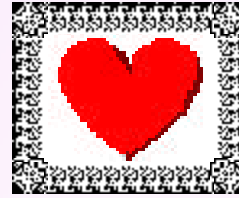
Please contact Sherry Kent at 262-781-4151 if you are aware of any members' illness. Please leave your name and telephone number and the full name of the person that is ill.

Faternally yours,
Doris Reinke, Recording Secretary
Bob Johnson' President

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14 - Valentine's Day



February 16 - President's Day



March 1- Membership Meeting

March 13- USW Primary

Election (If needed)

March 17- St. Patrick's Day



March 20- USW General Election



April 10- Good Friday

April 12- Easter



Membership Meeting Recap

by Tameka Smith

Our membership meeting started promptly at 9:30a.m. at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. in Milwaukee.

Scott Godshaw presided over the meeting and since there was not a quorum at 9:30, International Rep Ernie Dex started the meeting by giving a report on the current job market in America. He gave facts and figures on the unemployment rate and foreclosures as well.

Dex had stated, "Hopefully Obama, after being sworn in, things could pick up."

He also reported on the Employee Free Choice Act and distributed flyers to be signed to send into Senator Kohl's office.

When International Rep Ernie Dex was finished, we had a quorum and we were able to conduct a meeting and business.

Trustee at Large Vicky Gorecki gave the Trustee's report for the months of June through November.

Ralph Schwieger gave the Financial Secretary Treasurer report also for the months of June through November.

Communications

We received Thank You's for our donations- from the following:

- The needy family
- Community Services Committee

• Strattec Retirement Club
Executive Board Recommended Motions that passed were as follows:

- Send \$50 to the Wisconsin Labor History Society for our annual dues
- Send 2 members to the Women of Steel Conference to be held January 23rd at MALC.

Reports

President Scott Godshaw reported that the election for Recording Secretary and the nominations for the respective positions could not be held as our data base at the office is down and proper notification was not sent out. He also reported on the layoffs at Strattec, the diversity training at the Service division at Briggs, the Briggs insurance cards, the letter Briggs sent to members laid off with restrictions and that 21 members had retired on January 1st.

Milt Dawson reflecting on International Rep Ernie Dex's report, offered insight on the foreclosures. He also updated us on the layoff situation at Strattec and that the layoffs and leveled off now. He also stated there were several salary people let go. Most notably, 2 Work Group Leaders (foremen) were gone. One was on 2nd shift and the other one was on third shift.

Dean Wegner reported that 141 people had been hired at Briggs since August. Most of those hires were for members that retired.

LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

February 2009

Volume 30, Issue #1

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, Al Olivares

Officers: President: Scott Godshaw Vice President: Al Evsechik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Schwieger Recording Secretary: Tameka Smith Trustees: Chuck Porter, Vicky Gorecki, Nancy Copeland Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Stanley Quezaire

Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Jesse Edwards, Tameka Smith, Dean Wegner

Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Milton Dawson, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares

Union Dues Paid for 2008

Briggs \$43.86 X 7 months = \$307.02
\$44.40 X 5 months = \$222.00
Total = \$529.02

Strattec \$42.97 X 7 months = \$300.79
\$43.22 X 5 months = \$216.10
Total = \$516.89

Membership Information

December 2008

650 Members in Good Standing

439 in Briggs & Stratton Unit

211 in Strattec Unit

December Dues Payments

404 Dues Paying Members at Briggs

203 Dues Paying members at Strattec

607 Total Dues Paying Members

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

The Employee Free Choice Act

USW Local 2-232 has joined the battle to help pass the Employee Free Choice Act. Letters to Senator Herb Kohl were distributed at the membership meeting and at the gates as well urging him to enact the Employee Free Choice Act. The letter also stated how crucial this legislation is as far as protecting workers' rights and freedom to choose a union and bargain without management intimidation.

Workers wanting to form a union in this country routinely come under attack from anti-union employers – and the union-busters they hire – who use heavy-handed and oftentimes illegal tactics to derail organizing campaigns. The more employers are allowed to get away with these tactics, the more we are all hurt, especially when it comes to our jobs. We can see this every day as the fight for decent wages, secure benefits and job security becomes tougher and tougher. It will not get better until our freedom to form a union is restored.

During Organizing Campaigns:

- 25% of private-sector employers illegally fire workers for union activity,
- 75% of private-sector employers hire anti-union consultants or union-busters,
- In an overwhelming number of organizing campaigns, employers force employees to attend mandatory anti-union meetings with their supervisors,
- In 32% of cases where employees win a union election, they still have no contract two years after the election.

It is Time to Fix Our Broken Laws

The Employee Free Choice Act levels the playing field:

Employers will no longer be able to dominate the process of forming a union -- Because the EFCA allows for "card check" (allowing workers that want a union the ability to sign cards in order to show their support), employers are denied the extra time they need to intimidate workers into voting no.

Ensures a first contract through mediation and arbitration if necessary -- Employers will no longer be able to stall bargaining for years in order to "bust" a new union!

Provides tougher penalties for law-breaking employers -- The EFCA ensures that penalties have teeth rather than the slap on the wrist we see today.

The Employee Free Choice Act passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 241-185, and while it gained a majority of support in the Senate, it fell short of the votes needed to stop the Republican filibuster.

Grievance Rep Reports

Strattec Security

by Milt Dawson

Grievances

A grievance was filed regarding normal scheduled shift start times and a grievance was filed concerning the non-contractual practice by the company to have salary employees perform bargaining unit work.

Layoffs and Callbacks

The company has advised the union that at the time of this writing, they do not foresee any more layoffs at this time. In the company's words, things have sort of flat-lined or bottomed out, and that the work schedule level has been a little more consistent. But of course, that can always change. Call backs are in the near future, with the first layoffs being called back starting February 2, 2009.

President Barack Obama

America has elected a president that really understands the working man and woman, a president that is a true friend of labor. Unions worked long and hard, working to raise resources, providing workers to help hammer out the result of this day. USW LOCAL 2-232 played a big part locally and state wide in helping to elect, President Barack Obama. Congratulations to one and all!

In Solidarity,
Milton Dawson



Grievance Rep Reports

Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

H.R.A.

The members who participated in the health risk assessment should have received their lump sum payment on January 29, 2009, the last paycheck in January.

Safety

One of our members got their finger caught in a machine. When the machine went through the cycle it stopped. If the machine didn't stop, this injury would have been much more severe. In this case the member didn't lose any limbs. Whenever you are working with heavy equipment, machinery, etc. always think safety first.

Hiring

At the time of this writing, the company is still hiring people. Welcome all new hires, after 60 days of seniority you are eligible for the lowest cost option insurance plan. After 6 Months, you are eligible for free dental and vision.

Coils

The Coil department had their state of the business meeting on January 23, 2009. The employees were told production looks strong through March. Layoffs are not decided at this time. They will be adding a stator line. This will give them 6 lines. Four lines will run two shift and two lines will run three shifts. They currently have 22 operators. The stator lines will become cells. The company is also considering eliminating the model 9 riveter. If the riveter is eliminated this would become a one operator job.

In Solidarity,
Jesse Edwards

Briggs & Stratton First & Third Shift

by Dean Wegner

Briggs Hiring

Unlike other companies, where workers are losing their jobs left and right, Briggs has been hiring. 140 people, total, have been hired since August of 2008. Most of the people hired have been to replace retirees, however, some have been hired to added positions. If you know of someone looking for a job, they must apply on-line at www.basco.com or come to door W-12 and use the computer there. If you come in person, help is available. You must attach a resume to your on-line application.

Service

The Service Division is working 9 hours a day and Saturdays as well. Service orders remain strong. You will continue to see more and more service parts coming into the Burleigh plant. This is due to the Service Division moving out of the Roundy's warehouse. All the service parts from this warehouse will be re-located to Burleigh.

Membership Meetings

I am please asking all members to come to the membership meetings. Not only is it very important to attend but it is your chance to be heard and voice your opinion. A quorum is needed in order for us to conduct any business. So again, please make every attempt to attend.

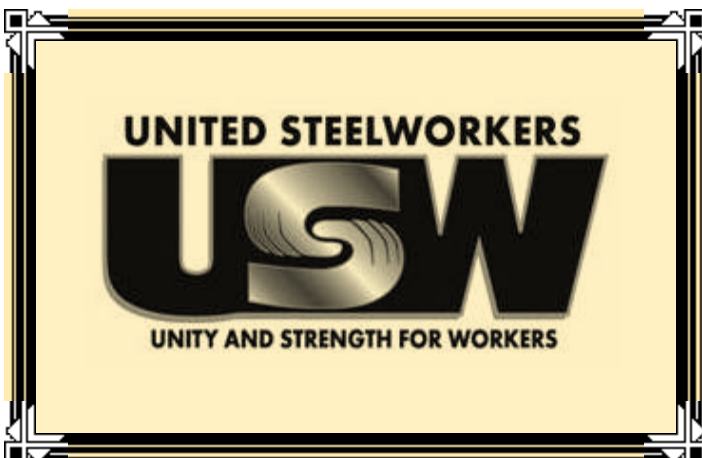
Retirees

I would like to take this time to say good luck and congratulations to all of our recent retirees. And here is a reminder that you, the Briggs retiree, can join the Briggs Retirement Club. The cost is only \$24 a year. The club has many social events. For example, picnics in summer, the Christmas party in December, the monthly meetings, Bingo and sheepshead tournaments every week. Please contact Erma Gorecki at 262-781-8951 for information regarding joining the Briggs Retiree Club. See some old friends and meet some new ones.

Winter Blues

Has winter got you down? Think green grass, flowers and a warm breeze lightly hitting your face. Remember spring is right around the corner. It begins on March 20th and that will be here before you know it. Stay warm until then.

In Solidarity,
Dean Wegner



Wellness Corner “You can’t live without it”

Are Three Squares a Day the Only Healthy Way? What is the healthiest eating pattern for you?

by Shara Aaron, MS, RD and Monica Bearden, RD

Three square meals is the eating pattern you’re taught from childhood. But is three really the ideal number of times you should eat every day? Not necessarily. In fact, for some people, eating five or six times a day keeps blood sugar more even and can help with weight control.

What Is a Mini Meal?

It is important to differentiate the mini meal from nutrient deficient, high carbohydrate, high fat snacks. A mini meal should be well balanced, containing fiber, protein, and small amounts of fat—the combination of which has been shown to be more satiating, leading to longer lasting hunger satisfaction. In contrast, people who snack on sweet, fatty foods consume more calories and have a higher likelihood to be overweight. For example, in a study of normal weight adults, one group instructed to eat an after dinner mini meal of cereal with low fat milk reduced their total intake of calories and lost nearly two pounds in four weeks. This was compared to very little weight loss in the control group who was told to eat their usual after dinner snacks. The researchers speculate that the more balanced mini meal of cereal and milk enabled participants to have better portion control and reduce intake of other higher calorie snacks.

A mini meal should consist of a wide variety of foods from several of the food groups (see below). This also ensures an adequate intake of nutrients including vitamins and minerals.

Suggested Mini Meals Nutrients

6 oz low fat yogurt; ¼ cup raisins; 2 Tbs peanuts Calcium, Iron, Protein, Vitamin E, Monounsaturated fats

½ whole wheat pita, 2 Tbs hummus, 1 slice roasted red pepper; 1 piece low fat string cheese Fiber, Vitamin C, Calcium, Protein

1 Whole wheat English muffin, 2 oz canned tuna fish, 1 oz muenster cheese melted on top; ½ cup baby carrots with light dip Fiber, Protein, Omega-3 Fatty Acids, Calcium, Vitamin A

Finding an Eating Pattern That Works For You

Everyone’s needs are different based on physiology and lifestyle. Finding an eating pattern that gives you the nutrients and energy you need is key to a healthy and active life. If you currently eat three meals a day but find you go into a mid-morning slump or mid-afternoon food delirium, smaller more frequent meals may be right for you. Or, if you find yourself constantly hungry and grazing throughout

the day, three substantial meals with fiber, carbohydrates, protein, and a small amount of good fat may be what you need. When deciding to try a new eating pattern, make sure to stay on the new schedule for at least two weeks to let your body adjust. It is also important that whatever schedule you choose that you try to maintain a consistent eating pattern. The successful members of the National Weight Loss Registry, which include those who have maintained an average weight loss of 15 pounds for over five years, report eating breakfast regularly and maintaining a consistent eating pattern on weekdays and weekends.

This article is from the Aurora Health Care website:
<http://www.aurorahealthcare.org/yourhealth>

Resources:
American Dietetic Association
<http://www.eatright.org>

MyPyramid.gov
United States Department of Agriculture
<http://www.mypyramid.gov/>

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