

# REPORTER

President's Report by Jesse Edwards

## Briggs Sends Letter

The union received a letter on May 13, 2010 stating the company was ready to start contract negotiation for a successor contract. In addition, the retiree's insurance option would be changing. The retirees currently have 8 options. This would change to two options effective January 1, 2011. You will have the option of the High Deductible plan or the Standard PPO plan. The people who retired before August 1, 2006, according to the contract, should have insurance at the same level of benefits paid by the company for 10 years or age 65. The company claims the pension plan document allows them to change your retiree insurance. The company's position is when the contract expires July 31, 2010, they can make these changes. The union is reviewing all information related to this matter at this time.

### Frank Monreal's El Matador

The membership meetings have been held at Frank Monreal's El Matador for the last several years. However, as of June 2010, it will be sold. Ralph Schwieger and I are looking for a place to hold membership meetings. The next membership meeting will

be held at the union office at 8500 W. Capitol Drive LL 101. We will explore other locations for future meetings.

### Working Shutdown

The company posted two notices regarding working shutdown. All of department 700 is scheduled to work and departments 105 and 771 will be scheduled on a limited voluntary basis. The other posting states all departments will have limited production during the shut down period based on current demand. You should check the posting in your department to confirm if your department is working. Any one who wants off should schedule vacation.

### Power House

The members working in the power house as of May 16th will be working three eight (8) hour shifts. They were working 12 hour shifts. No one will be laid off because of the change in schedule.

### Bargaining Committee

At the May membership meeting, Vicky Gorecki was elected to the Briggs Bargaining

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## July Membership Meeting

Sunday July 25, 2010  
9:30 a.m.

Union Office - 8500 W. Capitol  
Dr. LL 101

### IMPORTANT BUSINESS

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

## NOTICE:

Nomination and Election will take place for the Trustee At Large at the July Membership Meeting which will be held at the Union Office 8500 W. Capitol Dr. July 25th at 9:30 a.m. Any Executive Board vacancy caused by this election will be filled by another election at this meeting.

**President's Report continued from page 1**

Committee. Alexander Hendrix and Vinith Inthisane also ran for this position. Thanks to all who participated in this election. Vicky was the At Large Trustee for many years.

**Election**

At the next regular membership meeting there will be an election for Trustee At Large. You have to have one year of seniority to run for a position in the union. To be elected to this position you can work either at Briggs or Strattec. The next regular membership meeting is July 25, 2010.

**Productivity Reward**

Your productivity reward check is due June 9, 2010.

**Vacation Check**

If you receive the lump sum for your vacation check, it is due on Wednesday June 16th.

**Arbitration**

The union has one discharge grievance schedule for arbitration June 14th.

**Strattec**

A third stage grievance meeting was held on March 25th with the intent of resolving 4 grievances. Since the third stage grievance meeting the Bargaining Committee has voted to arbitrate one of these grievances. The union has requested a panel and is currently waiting for a date for the hearing.

**Production / Strong**

The company stated production is forecast to be strong for the rest of the fiscal year. They have hired some new employees and are in need of Stamping and Die Cast Setup. The union also requested that the company honor transfers from within the plant. In department 54 they are working 7 days per week. Any body qualified to work in this department can work.

In Solidarity,  
President Jesse Edwards



Ralph Schwiieger and Jesse Edwards meet with Senator Russ Feingold (center) at USW District 2 Conference in Appleton in April.

## House Jobs Bill & Promoting American Jobs

by Richard Trumka

AFL-CIO President

**House Jobs Bill**

We are profoundly disappointed and angry with representatives in Congress – Democrats as well as Republicans – who refused to support health care for the unemployed and job-saving critical aid to cash-strapped states in the original version of H.R. 4213, the Promoting American Jobs, Closing Tax Loopholes and Preventing Outsourcing Act of 2010.

Earlier this week I described a vote on this bill as a chance to back up rhetoric for jobs with action. We are in a jobs emergency—a national crisis. Millions of lives are in ruins and children are being condemned to poverty. Excuses from their elected representatives are of no help to them. As I said to members of Congress, if you're not for this bill, you're not for jobs. Working family voters will not forget who sided with them and who did not.

We recognize how hard Speaker Pelosi worked to pass the bill with its original elements. The Senate should approve the extension of unemployment insurance passed today by the House as soon as it returns from the Memorial Day recess, and the House should now move quickly to restore health care benefits for the unemployed and aid to states to maintain jobs and vital services.

**Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act**

It's crunch time for putting Americans back to work. Members of Congress often talk about jobs: Now they have a chance to back up their rhetoric with action.

This week Congress intends to vote on a jobs bill that cracks down on tax loopholes for millionaire hedge fund managers and on corporations that ship our jobs overseas. This jobs bill will put Americans back to work by repairing our crumbling infrastructure; stemming public sector layoffs in the states; encouraging more bank loans to small business; extending unemployment benefits and health benefits for the unemployed through the end of this year; and providing over 300,000 summer jobs for unemployed youth.

If you're not for this bill, you're not for jobs. Period.

And please, no more excuses about the budget deficit—unless and until you're willing to make Wall

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## Vicky Gorecki Elected to Briggs Bargaining Committee

Vicky Gorecki was elected to the Briggs Bargaining Committee at the May Membership Meeting. Vicky will fulfill the rest of the term vacated by the election of Dean Wegner to Grievance Rep. She currently was the Trustee at Large. She has also served this Local as a steward and Grievance Rep.



### 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, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman at the USW Local 2-232 Union Office on 8500 W. Capitol Dr.

- 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 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, 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 USW Local 2-232.

**Legal Clinic Hours:**  
**1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**  
**First Monday of each month**  
**Call for an appointment: 414-463-7425**

#### Trumka continued from page 2

Street pay its fair share to bring down the deficit. The people who are always saying "no" to jobs because of the deficit are often the same people who voted to squander our hard-earned budget surpluses so they could shower undeserved tax breaks on rich people during the Bush years. Apparently, spending money on rich people is perfectly okay, but investing in jobs for working class Americans sets off alarm bells.

It's time for members of Congress to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. Vote for jobs. Now.



### ASK YOUR LAWYER

by Thomas Flanagan

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

#### YOU'RE INJURED AT WORK. NOW WHAT?

Whether you will be treated fairly when you are injured at work is largely determined on the date of the injury. In general, worker's compensation insurers view claims skeptically and will transform any misstep into a basis to deny a claim, or prematurely suspend benefits. To put yourself in the best position to be treated fairly, we recommend that you follow these five rules:

1. Report every injury. Do not attempt to determine whether the injury is serious enough to report. The condition may become serious at a future date and failure to report may defeat a right to compensation.
2. Report the injury on the date it occurs, or when you first notice symptoms. Any delay in reporting the injury can create a basis for denying the claim.
3. Seek medical treatment immediately. As with a late report of injury, a delay in seeking medical treatment will provide the skeptical worker's compensation insurer a basis to deny the claim. In addition, failure to obtain early medical treatment can make it difficult to prove a causal connection between the injury and later disability. "Maybe it will get better" are dangerous words in connection with a work-related injury.
4. Obtain treatment only from your personal physician, or from a physician in whom you have trust. An injured worker may retain the services of any medical doctor, chiropractor, podiatrist or psychologist licensed in Wisconsin. An employer cannot restrict an employee to a healthcare provider or clinic chosen by the employer except in certain unusual emergency situations. We recommend against submitting to treatment by the "company doctor" or at the "company clinic".
5. Give both the employer and your physician an accurate and detailed description of the injury or condition. As much detail as possible, including date and time, should be reported. Full details of the occurrence should be included. Actual symptoms or complaints should not be minimized. Decisions on compensability or permanent disability may be influenced by initial reporting.

If you have questions on worker's compensation, personal injury, or social security disability, please feel free to call 414-271-4500 or toll free at 1-800-841-5232. See our website at [www.previant.com](http://www.previant.com).

# USW members making green light bulbs, pushing jobs

by Doug Cunningham  
Workers Independent News

USW members are making green light bulbs and pushing jobs. Doug Cunningham from Workers Independent News brings us this report about how USW members are being green, helping Sylvania sell light bulbs - and keeping USW brothers and sisters working.

The next time you're shopping for environmentally friendly light bulbs the United Steelworkers would like you to take a look at Sylvania Super Saver halogen bulbs. Union workers make them in the USA at a Pennsylvania plant. They're available at Lowe's, Menard's, online through Sylvania and at many BJ Wholesale Club stores in the Midwest. The USW's Barry Mortimer says these bulbs are very important to the USW and is a mercury-free alternative to compact fluorescent bulbs made in China.

[Mortimer]: "The compact fluorescent is almost strictly made in China and if someone doesn't develop something within the United States, the whole country could end up totally dependent on a foreign country for their lamps. So yeah, this is very important to us."

**I received this email from USW President Leo Gerard:**

I spoke with a company representative from the St. Mary's plant yesterday. She told me that the Halogen Super Saver sales at Lowes have far surpassed expectations. Lowes stores are considering making an end aisle display of our bulbs in all stores. According to my source this is a marketing strategy that Lowes reserves for products which sell very well and usually increases the volume of sales. This in my opinion is very good news. The success of this lamp in my opinion can be contributed to all our Union Brothers and Sisters who have worked very hard to get the word out about this Union made product.

I would like to take this opportunity, on the behalf of the Brothers and Sisters of Local 1001, to thank those who have diligently went and made a point to buy American made products. Thank you again for all your help.

I have since spoken with Matt Gontarz, Wellsboro plant manager, and he has confirmed that the first week of the product launch, Lowes is reporting 22,000 units sold. They expect these numbers to

## Briggs Retiree Club

Hi Everyone,

Once again we had a successful luncheon at the Schwabenhof . I am very pleased to announce we have new members that have joined our club. This is a great thing because it keeps our club going on for a lot more years. If you know of any retirees that would like to join, please encourage them and have them call Erma Gorecki 262-781-8951 for information.

As a reminder you must be a paid up member in order to attend any of our functions. The cost is still only \$ 24.00 per year. Our business and social activities are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at the Schwabenhof located at N56W14750 Silver Spring Drive in Menomonee Falls.

Bingo is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

On June 16th and July 21st, we will have our picnic and also bingo starting at 10:30 a.m. There will be refreshments and door prizes and the cost is only \$5.

There is a sheepshead tournament every Friday at the Schwabenhof. Play begins at 11 a.m. Raffle tickets are sold at all events, 3 for \$1.00.

If you are aware of any members who are sick please contact me, Sherry Kent at 262-894-7775.

Thank you and God bless you,

Sherry Kent

Corresponding Secretary

## Join the Briggs Retiree Club

today for information call

**Erma Gorecki**

**262-781-8951**

go up as there has been very little advertisement on the product release and as I mentioned before Lowes has realized the potential with the product and are strategically placing them throughout the stores.

Barry Mortimer  
USW Local 1001

# Membership Meeting Recap

by Tameka Smith

The membership meeting was held Sunday May 16, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. in Milwaukee.

### Application for Membership

One new members was accepted into the local and were sworn in by President Jesse Edwards. His name was Dan Navarette.

### Trustee Report

Vicky Gorecki gave the Trustee Report for the Months of February and March.

### Financial Secretary Treasurer Report

Ralph Schwieger gave the Financial Secretary Treasurer Report for the Months of February and March.

### Communications

The Executive Board recommended motion that passed was to send \$50.00 to the family of Leroy Baker who was killed on the job.

### Steward

Gail Leet from Department 719 was sworn in as the new steward of that department.

### Election

Vicky Gorecki was elected to the Briggs Bargaining Committee at this May membership meeting.

### Report of Officers

President Jesse Edwards reported on receiving the letter regarding the up coming contract, the change in retiree insurance, working shutdown and an upcoming Arbitration at Brigg's. At Strattec he reported on the recent third stage and that production is strong.

Milt Dawson reported on being understaffed at Strattec. He also reported on overtime issues, and mandatory overtime for Saturdays.



# LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

June 2010

Volume 31, Issue #3

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: Jesse Edwards, Ralph Schwieger

Officers: President: Jesse Edwards Vice President:

Al Evseichik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph

Schwieger Recording Secretary: Tameka Smith

Trustees: Chuck Porter, Nancy Copeland Guide:

Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Stanley Quezaire

Briggs Bargaining Committee:: Jesse Edwards,

Tameka Smith, Dean Wegner, Vicky Gorecki,

Lorenzo Payne

Strattec Bargaining Committee: Jesse Edwards,

Milton Dawson, Joe Wentz, Al Mesa

# Membership Information

May 2010

610 Members in Good Standing

412 in Briggs & Stratton Unit

198 in Strattec Unit

May Dues Payments

394 Dues Paying Members at Briggs

185 Dues Paying members at

Strattec

610 Total Dues Paying Members

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14- Flag Day



June 20 - Father`s Day



July 4 - Independence Day



July 25- Membership Meeting

September 6 - Labor Day



## USW USW NEWS

### “The Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010”

Leo W. Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers (USW), issued the following statement on the far reaching financial reform bill passed late yesterday by a vote of 59 to 39 – ‘The Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010’ (S.3217).

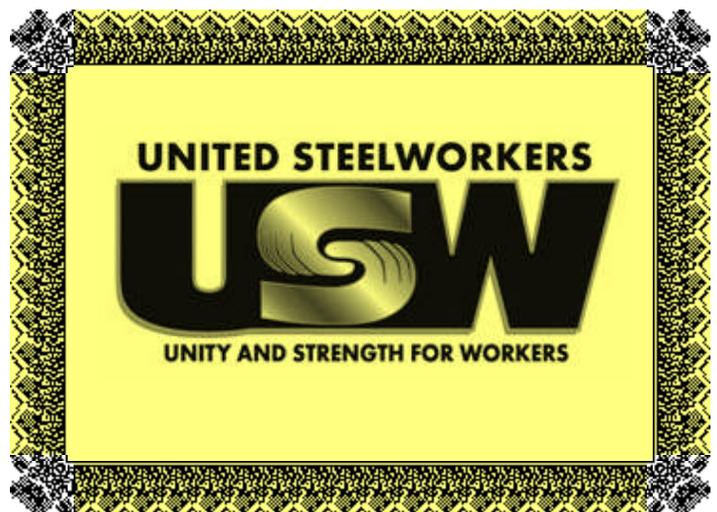
“The Senate took a huge step for the millions of working families who have lost their jobs, their homes and their savings at the hands of big Wall Street banks. While this is a true victory over the hoards of Wall Street lobbyists, the legislative fight to make this law is not over yet.

“In upcoming conference negotiations between the Senate and House, the legislation still needs to be strengthened, especially for derivatives trading, private equity and hedge funds. These financial instruments make up the shadowy banking system that contributed most to the nation’s near total economic collapse affecting working families and their employers.

“The USW supports the efforts of Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Russ Feingold (D-WI) to strengthen regulation in critical areas. Wall Street will surely keep pushing to weaken reform, but congressional leaders must fight just as hard to put an end to banking and finance acting as a gambling casino. We must get our financial system back to investing in main street and creating jobs.

“We urge the Senate and House leaders to pass this historic financial reform quickly.”

For a copy of the USW’s detailed letter to the U.S. Senate on the financial reform bill click here or on this link: USW supports ‘The Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010’ (S.3217.)



# Grievance Rep Reports

## Strattec Security

by Milt Dawson

The union here at Strattec has had many issues to deal with in the last two months or so. I can honestly say that our union President, Jesse Edwards, has been hands on when it comes to these very important issues and how they directly affect you. He has been out to the plant on numerous occasions to get directly involved in discussions with management, and to talk to the workers about questions or problems they may have. Also, he gives strong support to me and our Bargaining Committee members, and we greatly appreciate it.

Some of the issues that are being dealt with as of this writing are:

1. Overtime coverage, depts. 54 and 71.
2. Understanding of how department 50 inspectors are assigned and how transfers (temp. & daily, bumping) are handled.
3. Half day vacations days, and how they apply to mandatory.
4. Hiring and training (which is the responsibility of the company)
5. Re-evaluation of the testing for set-up.
6. Quality of products and customer satisfaction.
7. Low worker morale and its cause and effects.
8. Communication and transparency.
9. Management professionalism.
10. Two way respect .
11. Company taking all input, suggestions and ideas seriously from workers.
12. Survivor surcharge fee (going to arbitration)

These are just a few things or issues that are being taken up at this writing. There are many more. I'm only giving these just to show the many issues that your Stewards, Bargaining Committee, our union President and myself deal with on a daily basis.

In Solidarity  
Milt Dawson

## Briggs & Stratton

by Dean Wegner

### New Smoking and Tobacco use Policy

Effective July 1, 2010, Briggs & Stratton Corporation will make all its Wisconsin Facilities, smoke and tobacco free. That means all of Briggs & Stratton, including the parking lot. This is a State of Wisconsin passed amendment and Clean Air Act. The Company will sponsor a wellness program. Any employee, who completes the smoking cessation classes offered at our onsite clinic by 12/31/10, will be reimbursed the full cost of the program. You can contact Michelle Lang at 414-774-4629 to register.

### 5-S

The plant is looking very clean. Machines are getting painted and new signs are going up. It's looking very organized and this is a very big improvement. I would like to thank all the hard working personnel, company and union coming together to get too the level that we are at. Keep up the good work.

### Grievances

I am working on three second stage grievances.

- 1. Bereavement Policy
- 2. Overtime on a Saturday
- 3. Harassment from a Manager

### The Stand-by Generator

The new work is up and running. The area is fully staffed with two lines operating.

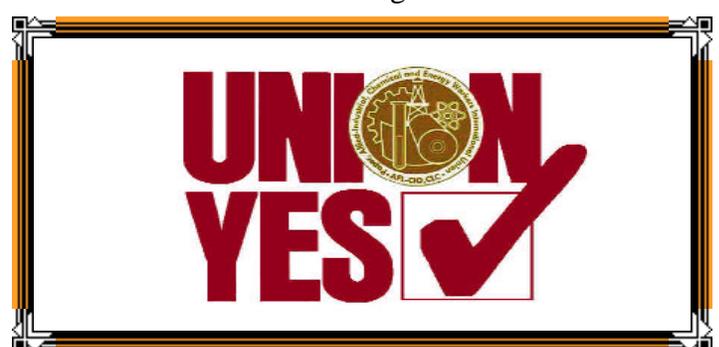
### Service in the Slitter Building

The new racks are up and service is moving stock from the Die Cast area the "new area". The racks are very high and that will make the stock area very efficient.

### Service

At the Service Department, Mr. Harlow is bringing temps in for the summer. There will be about 11 temps. This will help our members get vacation time.

In Solidarity,  
Dean Wegner



## Wellness Corner “You can’t live without it” Lower Your Blood Pressure--Without Drugs by Nancy Stedman

By changing her diet, improving how she handles stress, and sleeping more, Rosa DaGraca lowered her blood pressure to a healthy level—in just 40 days.

**ROSA DAGRACA, 56 HER GOAL:** Lower blood pressure, without medication **START:** 140/90 **FINISH:** 128/70 **YEARS YOUNGER:** 3

A few months ago, ROSA DAGRACA looked like the poster woman for good health. The daughter of Portuguese immigrants, she grew up in Newark, New Jersey, eating a Mediterranean diet—plenty of fish, soups, beans, rice and olive oil—and as an adult she continued to make smart food choices. When the corporation she works for as a merchandising planner opened an on-site gym nine years ago, Rosa started exercising there every work-day at six AM. The svelte divorcée also walked or ran each Saturday and Sunday.

Yet when More first caught up with Rosa, she acknowledged a few health problems in her life, such as an abundance of stress. “I can get 200 e-mails a day at work,” she said. “On days like that, my heart starts racing. Sometimes I’ll notice that my fists are clenched when I’m driving.” Because there’s so much she wants to accomplish—this is a woman who worked two jobs for 12 years to put her son, Patrick, through school—she slept only five to six hours a night. And all that exercising? Turns out you can have too much of a good thing. (More on that later.)

Over the past six or seven years, Rosa’s blood pressure crept up to 144/90, with an occasional spike to 154/90 (120/80 is considered a healthy score).

Because high blood pressure, aka hypertension, greatly increases the risks of kidney disease and stroke, among other concerns, her physician prescribed a medication to bring her numbers closer to normal. The drug caused no obvious side effects, but Rosa stopped using it; she wanted a more natural approach. Which is just what Roberta Lee, MD, medical director of the Continuum Center for Health & Healing in New York City, came up with when Rosa joined More’s antiaging program.

### **STEP ONE: MANAGE STRESS BETTER**

As a mind-body expert, Lee suspected that reducing Rosa’s stress level would also lower her blood pressure. Under the doctor’s direction, Rosa learned how to calm down on the job by visualizing her “happy place” (she imagined a beach) or leaving her desk and walking around the building. Lee also pre-scribed daily sessions on a biofeedback machine

called Resperate. Not a cheap gizmo (it sells for \$290 on amazon.com), the machine analyzes your breathing patterns and guides you, through aural and musical cues, into slowing down your breathing.

Preliminary evidence suggests that using it daily for 15 minutes can significantly lower blood pressure. Rosa ended up working with the machine four to five nights a week. Over the past six or seven years, Rosa’s blood pressure crept up to 144/90, with an occasional spike to 154/90 (120/80 is considered a healthy score). Because high blood pressure, aka hypertension, greatly increases the risks of kidney disease and stroke, among other concerns, her physician prescribed a medication to bring her numbers closer to normal. The drug caused no obvious side effects, but Rosa stopped using it; she wanted a more natural approach. Which is just what Roberta Lee, MD, medical director of the Continuum Center for Health & Healing in New York City, came up with when Rosa joined More’s antiaging program.

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## Healthy Corner

Briggs employees

**Health-Link 1 -888-228-7672**

**Patient Care-Helping you through the  
healthcare maze. 1-877-344-7474**

Strattec Employees

**United Health Care**

**Health care problems or questions, call  
toll-free 1-1-866-827-9025**