

REPORTER

UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 2-232

Raising Men Lawn Care Service stops at Briggs



Rodney Smith Jr. (far right) from Raising Men Lawn Care Service stopped in Milwaukee on his 50 state tour cutting lawns for the needy in every state in America. The local made a donation to Raising Men

Lawn Care and President, Jesse Edwards, acting Recording Secretary, Valerie Lee, Bargaining Committee members, Eric McCrory, Stan Quezaire and Grievance Representa-

tive, Erica Jackson met with Rodney. Briggs & Stratton has provided the equipment for Rodney's epic quest. For more information, check out Rodney's web site, weareraisingmen.com.

Special points of interest:

- 2nd Annual Solidarity Social this Saturday, June 17th, at Brown Deer Park, Area 7, starting at 12 noon and going till 7pm. Volleyball @ 2pm, Union Speakers @ 3pm, Raffle @ 4pm. Don't miss it!!
- Meeting Recap by Valerie Lee on page 4.

President's Report by Jesse Edwards

Moment of Silence

The local union held a moment of silence at the May 21, 2017 membership meeting for Steven P. Pharris who

passed away on April 2, 2017 and Robin Decker who passed away on April 21, 2017.

USW Convention 2017

The USW Convention was held April

10 - 13, 2017.

The theme for the convention was The Power of Unity. On day one, President Leo Gerard addressed the 3,000 delegates present.
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President's Report continued.....

One of the things he talked about was how our founders risked everything to win the rights that all of us enjoy today. President Gerald also talked about the power of unity, the power of our activism, the power of standing strong, shoulder to shoulder, militant if necessary.

Also on day one, our own Valerie Lee, read the very first resolution from the main stage at the convention and on day three, she also spoke from the floor on the resolution about the Next Generation and did a great job.

Ralph Schwieger was scheduled to speak on a resolution before the delegates called for the question and ended the debate.

I also spoke on a resolution from the floor in regards to education.

At SEIU, NLRB Charges

A member who quit after giving an 11 day notice didn't receive the vacation payout because he didn't give a two week notice before quitting. The union grieved it but didn't arbitrate the grievance and the member filed charges against the union. The union withdrew the grievance because of

lack of merit. The NLRB has ruled the evidence failed to establish that the union violated the National Labor Relations Act.

At Strattec,

Gloria Smith

On April 3, 2017, Recording Secretary Gloria Smith returned to work with restrictions and we welcome her back with open arms. "Welcome back Gloria". She will return to her Recording Secretary duties when she is released with no restrictions.

Retiree vacation payout

The union recently discovered that Strattec, when paying out vacation pay for retirees, it was prorated based on the number of months you worked instead of the amount of hours worked. Thanks to a retiree who notified the union, this practice has stopped and active members and retirees are paid vacation pay based on hours worked during the vacation year.

Arbitration Award

In September, the union filed an arbitration case asking for lost wages of \$35,000. The union received the decision and the arbitrator has ruled against the union. We will continue to fight hard for your rights, however, arbi-

tration is binding.

New Plating Line

The plating department has been running production at full capacity and the company has decided to purchase a new plating line and it's a \$4 million investment. The company plans to start production in January 2018 and the new line could allow the company to bring in work that's currently outsourced.

Die Cast Department

In Die Cast, the company has purchased a 600 ton Frech machine. At this time, some sample parts are currently being run and production is expected to start soon.

Stamping Department

In the stamping department, the company has purchased a 630 ton press machine. This machine will be more efficient, make quality parts and save on downtime.

Shut Down

Strattec will not have a vacation shutdown this year. However July 3rd, 2017 will be a no point, no pay day or you can take a vacation day.

Tim Reiter

Grievance representative Tim Reiter has been assigned to the next genera-

President' report continued.....

tion committee.

At Briggs,

Jobs Upgraded

The bargaining committee has agreed to upgrade the Store Keeper job which was a labor grade 13 to a Group Lead job, labor grade 11. The committee also agreed to a labor grade 18 for the test and repair job on the assembly line.

Briggs BVA

The BVA payout for the Power Products Division was .65hr and the payout for Engine Components and Home Stand by Division was .14hr. It was paid out on May 18, 2017.

Briggs Contract Negotiation

At Briggs, the contract expires July 31, 2017. The union has sent a letter to the company and the company has sent a letter to the union both indicating a desire to bargaining a new contract. We are currently in the process of submitting dates to start negotiations.

Assembly Department /Pressure Washers

A Pressure Washer line on first shift was shut down as of Monday, May 15, 2017. The company stated it's been a cold wet spring and orders are down. Then, on June 5, 2017 the

Pressure Washer line run rate was reduced to about half staff and at this time all permanent workers are still working. The company also stated the snow season should start after the vacation shutdown on July 17, 2017 and production is expected to increase.

Tractor Assembly

On Monday May 22, 2017 the Tractor line started running at a slower rate while building the Dual Tractors. Because of the cut back in production, no permanent workers will be laid off at this time. Some workers on the tractor line will be transferred to the pressure washer line.

The company also plans to build a new model tractor starting in the fall and it's a replacement tractor. The Legacy tractor orders, currently built on line 5, are strong at this time.

HSB

In the Home Stand by department the production rate is at 32 per day, down from 42 per day. In the Recon area, the company is bringing in new work, some attachments, turbo baggers etc.

FAB Department

The company has invested a few million dollars to purchase some new tube

bending machines and with these new machines, the company plans to bid on bringing in more work.

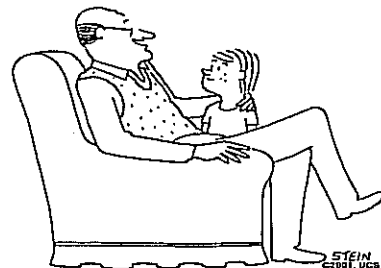
Social Event

The social event will be on June 17, 2017 at Brown Deer Park Area #7 from 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm and everyone is invited.

Briggs Vacation Shutdown

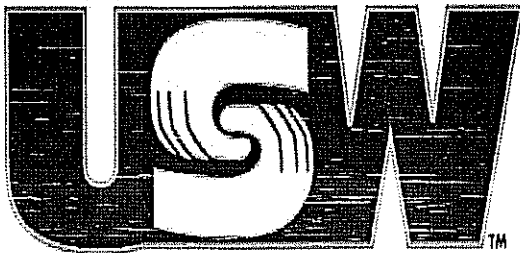
The vacation shutdown starts on July 3, 2017 – July 14, 2017. You should return to work on July 17, 2017. If your department is scheduled to work you should have been notified by April 1st. If you weren't notified by April 1st, the company can ask for volunteers to work. The departments scheduled to work are Menomonee Falls, Richard Street and Hope Street Warehouses and at the Burleigh Plant departments 105, 700.

In Solidarity,
President,
Jesse Edwards



"Always remember, my boy, early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy ...but unionize!"

UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

Local 2-232 Reporter

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Local 2-232 United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

Representing employees of Briggs&Stratton Corp., Strattec Security Corp. and SEIU Healthcare WI, Office 633 S. Hawley Road Suite 116

Phone 414-257-1041 Fax 414-257-1213

Email-office@pace7232.org

Website-www.pace7232.org

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

Editor: Ralph Schwieger

Officers: President: Jesse Edwards Vice President: Michael Henry Financial Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Schwieger Recording Secretary: Gloria Smith Trustees: Chuck Porter, Joseph Westmoreland, Valerie Lee Sergeant at Arms: Steve Jankiewicz Jr. Guide:Denni Walczyk Briggs Bargaining Committee: Jesse Edwards, Gloria Smith, Erica Jackson, Stanley Quezaire, Eric McCrory Strattec Bargaining Committee: Jesse Edwards, Gloria Smith, Tim Reiter, Joseph Wentz, Yolanda Turner

Membership Meeting Recap by Valerie Lee

The membership meeting was held on Sunday May 21, 2017 at Yatchak Hall, 633 S.Hawley Rd. at 9:30 am sharp. President Jesse Edwards presided over the meeting. Ralph Schwieger gave the trustee report for March and April. Ralph Schwieger also gave the financial/secretary treasure report for March and April.

New Members

President Jesse Edwards swore in two new members.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for two members who passed away, Robin Decker and Steven Pharris.

Communications

The executive board recommended motions that were passed by membership as follows:

- ❖ Send six members to leadership training. One for civil rights, one for safety and 4 for steward training/grievance handling. The training will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center near the Milwaukee Airport. The training will be held on June 28, 29, 2017.
- ❖ Purchase 12 t-shirts to be raffled off at the membership meetings.
- ❖ Send \$50 to St Bens to help feed the homeless.
- ❖ Send Valerie Lee to the 2017 Midwest School for Women Work-

ers "Women Rising" in Madison WI. July 16-20, 2017.

❖ Send \$50 to Rodney Smith Jr from Raising Men Lawn Care Service. Rodney is traveling to all 50 states cutting grass for the elderly, sick, veterans and the disabled.

Report of officers

President Jesse Edwards reported on the International Convention. The convention theme was The Power of Unity. Briggs & Stratton's BVA payout. NLRB Charges dismissed. Strattec's arbitration award. Strattec's retirees vacation payout. Briggs contract negotiations are scheduled to start in June. Tim Reiter reported on the shutdown on July 3rd 2017. You can receive vacation pay or no point, no pay. He also reported on the social event at Brown

Deer Park on June 17th. Erica Jackson reported on the No Comp Time Petition and collecting signatures. The Recon department will add two jobs. Travis Clark reported the warehouses are working during the vacation shutdown. The security robot is back in service and Travis is currently working on two grievances. Denni Walczyk reported on the Women of Steel community work. Lupus walk, Sock drive for Vets. Ralph Schwieger reported on Rodney Smith Jr. cutting grass in all 50 states for the elderly, sick, veteran and disabled.

Next Membership Meeting

The next membership meeting will be held August 6, 2017 at Yatchak Hall 633 S. Hawley Rd at 9:30 am.