

REPORTER



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USW LOCAL 2-232

VOLUME 27, NO.2

MARCH 2006

Godshaw Re-elected Newcomers Evseichik and Porter elected to Executive Board

The elections for Executive Board positions of President, Vice President and Sergeant at Arms were held on Friday March 3, 2006.

Incumbent President Scott Godshaw defeated Bill Vian 395 votes to 209 votes to remain as President. This will be Godshaw's second full term at the helm of the Local.

Al Evseichik, the Chief Steward from Strattec, defeated Ron Bober, Steward from Dept. 735 2nd shift, for Vice President 316 votes to 279 votes.

Chuck Porter, from Strattec, defeated Incumbent Sergeant at Arms Dennis Clark by a narrow margin, 306 votes to 291 votes.

All Executive Board positions are 2 year terms.

The Executive Board consists of President Scott Godshaw, Vice President Al Evseichik, Financial Secretary - Treasurer Ross Winklbauer, Recording Secretary Karen Clark, Briggs Trustee Betty Burmester, Strattec Trustee Ralph Schwieger, Trustee at Large Vicky Black, Sergeant at Arms Chuck Porter and Guide Debbie Curro.

Winklbauer, Karen Clark, Burmester, Schwieger and Curro were unopposed and thus elected by acclamation at this year's January membership meeting held on January 15, 2006.

Vicky Black's Trustee at Large position is up for election next year as it is held the opposite year of the rest of the Executive Board positions.

Pictures of the whole Executive Board can be found on page 2 of this issue of the *Reporter*.

May Membership Meeting

Sunday
May 21, 2006
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.

NOTICE:

An election will be held at the May membership meeting May 21, 2006 for one Grievance Rep position from Briggs Burleigh-Menomonee Falls 1st and 3rd shift.

Executive Board



Scott E. Godshaw
President



Al Evseichik
Vice President



Ross Winklbauer
Fin. Sec/Treasurer



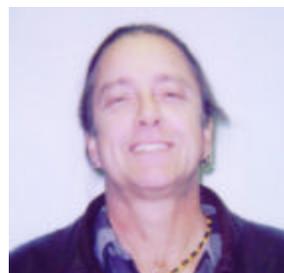
Karen Clark
Recording Secretary



Betty Burmester
Trustee



Vicky Black
Trustee



Ralph Schweiger
Trustee



Chuck Porter
Sergeant at Arms



Debbie Curro
Guide

Letters from your new Executive Board Members

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of Local 2-232 who took time from their busy schedules to vote on March 3, 2006. I especially want to thank those members who supported me in my election for vice president. I will strive to keep the best interest of the Local in my mind and actions at all times.

Sincerely,
Allen Evseichik

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you that voted in the last election. Voting is one of the simplest ways of making your opinion known. Thanks to all of you that voted for me. I really appreciate all of your support. Also a big thanks needs to go out to Dennis Clark for all the years of service he has given, and I'm sure will continue to give to this union. Remember it's always easier to sit back and criticize others. No one has a crystal ball. I am new to this, but believe all the elected officials in this union are doing what they feel is in the best interest of all members.

In Solidarity,
Your Sergeant-at-Arms,
Chuck Porter

Election Results

President:

Scott Godshaw - 395
William E. Vian - 209

Vice President:

Al Evseichik - 316
Ron Bober - 279

Sergeant at Arms:

Dennis Clark - 291
Chuck Porter - 306

Milwaukee HIRE Center Dislocated Worker Program

816 W. National Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53204

The Dislocated Worker Program, which is operated out of the Milwaukee HIRE Center, provides services to workers who have lost their jobs due to mass layoffs or plant closings.

SERVICES

- Vocational Retraining** - Attend classes to update your current skills or retrain in a new career. The Dislocated Worker Program provides funding for tuition and books. Child care and transportation assistance are also available.
- On the Job Training** - Funds are available to reimburse your new employer up to 50% of your wages while you learn a new skill or trade.
- Job Search** - Assistance with your job search efforts, resume development and cover letters. Attend the "Job Seeking Skills" class to ace your interview and learn how to conduct an effective job search. Participate in our Job Club and use our Employment Resource Center.
- Basic Skills** - Strengthen reading, math, and basic computer skills through individualized, small group or classroom instruction.
- MATC Learning Lab** - Use the on site learning lab to study for GED or High School Equivalency exams and employer tests; improve your basic skills and typing.
- Career Planning** - Determine your best career moves through vocational assessments, individual guidance and testing.
- Special Training Projects** - Training programs can be built around the needs of our participants.
- Bilingual Services** - Spanish/English case managers can help participants with limited English skill, including our computerized ESL lab.

MATC Learning Lab

- GED study
- Typing tutors
- Computer tutorials
- Basic skills
- Skills assessment
- Math/reading classes
- Job Club**
- Network with job seekers
- Get job connections
- Find community resources
- Featured speakers/topics

Resource Room

- Open to general public
- Job leads
- Internet connections
- Word processing & printer
- Fax & copy machines
- Employer research
- Telephone

For more information call the Milwaukee HIRE Center at
(414) 385-6920



The membership meeting was held on Sunday March 19, 2006, at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. at 9:30 a.m. sharp.

Communications

There will be A Day Of Unity. It is a march on Thursday March 23, 2006 . The march against laws that want to destroy our human dignity. We encourage all to attend. The march will begin at 1027 S. 5th St. in Milwaukee.

There will be a workshop about The Hidden Katrina; to take place on Saturday May 6, 2006 at Laborers Local 113 Union Hall located at 6310 W. Appleton Avenue. It starts at 8 a.m. with a continental breakfast. There is a \$15.00 registration fee in which you will be reimbursed by the Local if you choose to attend. We encourage all to attend. It is a very worthwhile event. If you have any further questions regarding this event, feel free to contact the service at 414-771-9830.

Motions by the Executive Board that passed:

- Send \$50.00 to the Special Olympics, for all their hard work they put into this great cause.
- Send a \$75.00 donation to the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association. Our fellow union brothers and sisters are in need of our support.

Reports of Officers

President Scott Godshaw thanked members regarding the election and reported on issues at Strattec, including an ERISA Law Letter of Understanding, the Service Division and the need for members to work together. He also reported on Briggs motor sports engine, Service Division, tool room WARN notice, Dave Debaets conference call and retirement issues.

Jesse Edwards reported on Coils, Die Cast, FSA, retirement, vacation and job postings.

Greg Weber reported on plating, mufflers, other components and hiring.

Karl Schneider reported on the work ethic of people in the Service Division at Strattec.

"Can't we all just do our best to get along. It would make our job so much nicer," Karl stated.

Our next Membership Meeting will take place on Sunday May 21st at Monreal;s El Matador 9155 W. Bluemond Rd. at 9:30a.m. Hope to see you there.

Dear Fellow Union Members: I would like to thank you for nominating and electing me as your recording secretary. I hope to make you all proud.

In Solidarity,
Karen Clark

Strattec Corner

by Al Olivares

Spring is in the air Brothers and Sisters and with the changing of the seasons, so come the winds of change. In our case, however, the changes that come this way are not as positive as we would like them to be. As of now, we only have one voluntary layoff hanging out there. Of course, we would rather have none. We would all much rather see new hires and new work flowing in. Unfortunately, the automotive industry, in itself, is not affording us this option. For the most part, the Big 3 are consolidating their facilities and resources in order to remain dominant, competitive players in the game against the ever-growing import threat. Add this with the ever increasing cost of fuel and we have ourselves quite a predicament.

A few years ago, we would have never imagined the deck stacked so unfavorably against us. As expected, we remain diligent and optimistic.

Optimistic? You may ask. Well, we have to hope that the company folks here that want continued employment, are out there hustling and staying on the grind bringing in, at least, opportunities of new work. This would have direct positive effects in the Milwaukee facility. My personal opinion is that these parties are out there putting in work. I would like to thank them and wish them the best of luck. Sadly though, I believe even the best efforts made by these individuals could be thwarted by our arch nemesis, Corporate Greed!

Yes, even the most noble of efforts can be stopped by the pursuit of excessive profit. No longer does Corporate America care about the quality of the product, the well being of its workforce or the future of the greatest country in the world. Their actions and crooked political influence are making middle class Americans the number one spot on the endangered species list.

When is enough enough with you people? You say the Union people are greedy and unreasonable. More or less, you consider us expensive overhead. You say we damage or hinder the capability to be competitive in a global economy. Well, you know what? Look at your wages, benefits packages, bonuses and countless other perks. You, Corporate America, are the problem, not us. You continue to take and take with total disregard for the people that got you there. Man, for crying out loud, all we want is a little slice of the pie. You guys are out there spending more on a vacation than most of your

employees make in a year.

Yes, you may be owners or CEOs but what makes you so much better? I know for a fact that all of Corporate America was not necessarily born with a silver spoon. Yes, some of your Mothers and Fathers were hard-working middle class Americans that just wanted better for you and your kids. I don't think they thought you would mutate into such heartless green-eyed monsters.

Don't get me wrong, all hard work deserves its due. But at what cost? If you don't know, I will tell you. Millions of jobs and lives have been just brushed away for the lust you greedy mongrels have for money. Reality check Mister, don't forget where you came from! And here is a quick history lesson for you; Our ancestors, for the most part, came to this country for a better life. Others were forced here or were here and pushed out. None the less, we are all here now and we are not going to let you force us to move from this country. We love it here and we'll endure this temporary oppression. Our voice may be falling on deaf ears but I'll tell you that this country and its people have a unique way of being heard. Just ask the British how things happened back in the 1770s. I would hope it would never come to bloodshed or violence. However, revolutions wear many faces. Things will not change in our lifetime but things will change. Our forefathers sought to it that we would always have inalienable rights and we will utilize them. So, do us all a favor Corporate America, get your head out of your butts and help us help you make this country better for all of our kids, not just yours!

Sorry Brothers and Sisters, I did not focus on our immediate status at Strattec de Milwaukee. I just feel sometimes you have to address issues at their root. For those of you that were expecting an article solely about the ongoings at Strattec, I again apologize for any inconvenience. This column, as long as I am the author, is an editorial. From time to time, the subject matter will change. For those of you who feel I may be just beating the drum per se, the drum needs to be heard time and time again.

For my next article in the next issue of the Reporter; Spring Factory Fashion for '06: Green Jackets, the New Sportcoats? Glove options for different occasions; Safety Glasses-What's hot? What's not? Until next time Brothers and Sisters, keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for those stars.

Grievance Rep Reports

Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

Coils

The union has been informed that in the Coil department; the Cut Saw, Secondary Dial and the Primary Winder jobs are scheduled to be eliminated in June 2006. The current plan is to purchase the coils already assembled from Phelon. The jobs eliminated are expected to be through attrition.

Die Cast

The Die Cast department has 77 members working there currently. The plan was to eliminate the department by July 2006. At this time they are a month to 45 days behind schedule. The union was told that the work would be extended until September 2006, and because of this delay some members' transfers are being held up.

FSA

For our members who had a Flexible Spending Account last year in 2005. If you have money left in the account the deadline for filing a claim is March 31, 2006.

Retirement

If you plan to retire under the current contract Mercer must receive your intent to retire form on or before March 28, 2006 and your retirement date would be on or before July 28, 2006.

Vacation

To be eligible for a full vacation check you will need a total of 1600 hours worked between April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006. To be eligible for a partial vacation check you will need at least 600 hours. Also, if you have pay as you take it, or if you receive the lump sum and you want to make changes, you have to make those changes the month of April. If your department is working during the vacation shutdown, the company has to post it by April 1st.

Job Posting

The company has been posting open jobs. If you are interested in a open job you can see Laura Flees in personnel or monitor the main bulletin boards. Once the company starts the hiring process to fill a job, they will not honor a transfer.

V. P.

Vice President Dave Debates plans to meet with the LED members sometime in June.

In Solidarity,
Jesse Edwards

Briggs & Stratton First & Third Shift

by Mike Merrill & Greg Weber

Micro Line

The Micro Line was originally scheduled as a start up engine in Milwaukee. It was earmarked to be relocated somewhere else once the volume got larger. That never happened, and the line is losing money on each engine produced. There are two (2) players being considered for the relocation of the Micro Line. We were only told of one of the players, and that would be Leggett and Platt. Leggett and Platt isn't just a die cast facility, they also do some assembly at one of their plants. The company is looking at a couple months down the road before announcing where the Micro Line will relocate to. They estimate that it will be relocating somewhere near the end of the calendar year.

Plating

The Model 20 pistons and service are being looked at being done in China. China would then be doing the casting, machining and the plating, as a cost reduction. As is all cases, the company is looking at where they are competitive and what they can still do here cheaper. If we aren't competitive, then we will lose more work.

Mufflers

The pork chop and Intek mufflers are still high volume. Again, we need to be competitive in costs to keep work here.

Other Components

SED is interested in Tappets. I know this sounds like a broken record, but we are told constantly, if we can't stay competitive, we will have it outsourced. The area where Die Cast is, that area will be picked up by corporate as far as overhead costs. That way our floor space there won't raise the overhead to other areas, and drive the cost of production parts up in other areas.

Hiring

Hiring still seems to be slow yet. So in order to keep some areas going in the near future, the company may need to contract back some retirees to keep some departments running. If that's not possible, they will look at outsourcing to keep their business going. As of March 14, 2006, there were 215 employees signed up to retire for July 1st.

In Solidarity,
Greg Weber and Mike Merrill

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14 - Good Friday Holiday

April 16 - Easter



May 14- Mother's Day



May 21 - Membership Meeting

May 29- Memorial Day



June 14- Flag Day

June 18- Father's Day

LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

March 2006

Volume 27, Issue #2

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, Ross Winklbauer, Al Olivares

Officers: President: Scott Godshaw Vice President: Al
Evseichik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ross Winklbauer Sr.
Recording Secretary: Karen Clark, Trustees: Ralph
Schwieger, Vicky Black, Betty Burmester Guide: Debbie
Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Chuck Porter.

Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Mike Merrill,
Greg Weber, Jesse Edwards, Karen Clark
Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Karl
Schneider, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares

President's Report by Scott Godshaw

A Thank You and Congratulations

I would like to thank the membership for your continued support in re-electing me as your President.

I would like to congratulate the new board members; Vice President Al Evseichik and Sergeant at Arms Chuck Porter on winning their elections.

I would also like to thank Dennis Clark for his many years as a representative of this Union.

I would also like to congratulate the candidates that participated and all those that voted in this election. You have the power and your voice is represented by your vote.

At Briggs, the motor sports engine will be coming to Burleigh. Originally the company had stated the 2 jobs would be salary positions. The Bargaining Committee had put a proposal together after we had seen their job description of what the complete job would entail. We realized that it would not be just an assembly job but a more complex day-work job. It was agreed upon that the 2 positions would be labor grade 10. Production will begin in April, although it will only be about 10 units a day.

The Bargaining Committee met with Dave Debaets via conference call on Tuesday March 14, 2006 to receive an updated State of the Business report. He will give membership his State of the Business sometime in June.

At Strattec, we have several issues going on. I have been at Strattec more than usual lately. We are attempting to save the jobs in the Service area. We will be utilizing WMEP which is Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Their motto is "Giving manufacturers the tools to succeed". With the employees in the area doing the best job possible as we expect and continuing to ship quality parts, we hope this venture will be successful and to keep the Service area in our Milwaukee facility.

Other issues I need to remind everyone that we all need to work together. Everyone needs to respect their co-workers. If you are having a problem, let your steward or your grievance rep know immediately.

I would also like to thank the Election Committee, co chaired by Al Belanger from Strattec and Vicky Black from Briggs, for a job well done. The election committee members that worked this election were Jan Trott and Dorothy Evans from Strattec and Mike Perz, Lloyd Djordic, Gwen Janowski, Linda Stein, Debbie Lokker, John Langford and Greg Weber from Briggs.

Briggs Retiree Club

We are definitely looking forward to spring. It will bring the beginning of new events and the end of others. April will be the end of our monthly Bingo games. It will resume again in October. Our pancake brunch will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month which is April 19th. The doors will open at 11a.m. and the brunch will be served at noon.

Remember to bring in your birthday or anniversary treats to any of our meetings, excluding our Christmas party or you can just pay \$7. Door prizes and free refreshments will be provided.

Please keep your calendar of events and check for all of our coming events in 2006.

Remember, you must be a paid up member to attend any of our events. Dues are \$24 a year. Call Erma Gorecki for more information. Remember to present your membership card at the door at our events.

On Sunday May 21st, we will have our luncheon and bingo. Doors open at 10a.m. and the activities will begin at noon. All of our activities are held at the Legion Post # 449 located on 3245 N. 124th St.

Just a reminder that sheephead will still be played every Tuesday at noon. There will not be any cash prizes during the summer months.

Please remember our sick and shut-in friends including: Nancy Bannach, Geneve Gumz, Doris Reinke, Wilbur Procher and Irene Laird. Also, our sympathy goes out to the family of Wilfred Brigham, who recently passed away.

Once again we cannot forget to thank Briggs & Stratton for all their help year-round for keeping the Briggs Retiree Club going. We would also like to thank USW Local 2-232 (formerly PACE 7-232) for putting our article in the *Reporter* and on the website. Thanks a million. The website on the internet is www.pace7232.org. If you do not have a computer, we have Reporters available at our Club's events at the Legion Post #449 . or you can pick one up at the Union office located at 8500 W. Capitol Dr.

All you old and new retirees, come join our club. Hope to see you all at our upcoming events.

Take care and God Bless,
Frances P. Capello
Corresponding Secretary
262-251-7514

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



ASK YOUR LAWYER

by Thomas Flanagan

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

2006 Worker's Compensation Rates

In 2006, the maximum temporary total disability is \$676.00 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 will continue at the 2005 rate of \$242.00 per week until a new law ("Agreed Upon Bill," 2005 Senate Bill 474) becomes effective sometime in 2006. When the new law goes into effect, the permanent partial disability will increase to \$252 a week.

Permanent partial disability is paid once 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 any questions about worker's compensation, personal injury or social security disability, please feel free to call the Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller and Brueggeman law firm at 414-271-4500 or toll free at 1-800-841-5232.

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.

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 2-232 may also contact the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, 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 2-232.

**Legal Clinic Hours:
1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**First Monday of each month
Call for an appointment: 463-7425**

Wellness Corner - "You can't live without it" What you should know about colorectal cancer

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, a good time to remind you that screening can save lives.

What you should know about colorectal cancer

Colorectal cancer is a leading cause of cancer death in this country. It can be detected early through screening tests. Thousands of lives could be saved each year through screening, yet many people who should be tested are not.

What is colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer refers to cancer of the colon or rectum, both of which make up the large intestine (or large bowel). This cancer usually starts as small benign polyps. Not all polyps turn into cancer, and those that do usually take 5 to 15 years to become cancerous. So removing small polyps early can actually help prevent this cancer.

What are the symptoms?

In early stages of colorectal cancer, there are often no symptoms. This cancer is most curable when found before it causes symptoms – thus the importance of regular testing.

When symptoms do occur, they might include:

- Changes in bowel habits
- Rectal bleeding or blood in the stool (bright red or very dark)
- Abdominal cramps or frequent gas pains or bloating
- Frequent diarrhea or constipation
- Unexplained weight loss or fatigue

Should you be tested?

Talk with your health care provider about testing if:

- You are age 50 or older
- You are at higher risk for developing colorectal cancer; for example, if you:
 - Have a personal or family history of colorectal cancer
 - Have polyps in your colon or rectum
 - Have a history of endometrial, ovarian, or

breast cancer

- Have inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis)

What else can you do?

To keep yourself as healthy as possible and decrease your risk of cancer:

- Eat a well-balanced diet and keep your weight in check.
- Exercise regularly.
- Don't smoke.
- Limit your alcohol intake.
- Discuss your risk factors with your health care provider, and have regular preventive testing as recommended for you.

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