

# REPORTER

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OCTOBER 2009

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** by Scott Godshaw

## Strattec Membership Ratifies Contract Modification and Extension

The membership at Strattec ratified a contract modification and extension on Thursday October 8th. This was a concessionary contract proposal to keep jobs in Milwaukee. This is how it all came about:

On Tuesday morning Sept.22nd, I received a call from Dean Orley asking if I could attend a meeting at Strattec the next day on Wednesday afternoon at 1p.m. He didn't state what it was about. I was already informed by Grievance Rep Milton Dawson about the meeting. On that Tuesday evening at approximately 9:15p.m., I received a call from Ernie Dex, our International Rep. He stated that Kathy Scherbarth, Strattec Vice President had contacted him a few weeks earlier stating that Strattec was considering moving their operations out of Milwaukee unless there were some serious concessions. He had stated to her the policy of the USW is to be able to view their books if we are to even consider concessions. She said they will do that. So Ernie had someone from the International office in Pittsburgh contact Pat Hansen,

Strattec CFO, for the necessary information. Also involved in this was a confidentiality document that needed to be addressed. One of the reasons Ernie said he did not contact me sooner until Tuesday evening was because that confidentiality paper was not completed as yet. He did inform me that he had already set up meetings with Strattec and the Bargaining Committee for Thursday and Friday Oct.1st and 2nd.

The committee did meet with the company on Wednesday afternoon September 23rd. They went through the presentation that was given to the members on Friday September 25th. They did not give any proposals at that time regarding exactly to what extent the concessions they would be looking for. They did go through that presentation on October 1st and told us what they felt they needed to stay in Milwaukee.

They stated even if the members do vote in a contract modification and extension, that some jobs, approximately 24, still will be leaving Milwaukee in calendar year 2010.

They also stated that if this concessionary contract was not ratified that the jobs would begin moving out of Milwaukee on October 15th and everything would be completely out of Milwaukee by June of 2011.

Many issues were discussed across the table and we attempted to counter all their proposals. We did go through all the contract changes in the company's final proposal with the membership at the ratification meeting.

The members knew they were faced with a difficult decision. They had the summary in their possession on Monday afternoon October 5th and viewed the final contract language on Wednesday that was going to be presented on Thursday at the meeting. Each member was instructed to vote what was best for them and their families. A large majority voted in favor of the contract and for now, the jobs will remain in Milwaukee excluding the 24 jobs. This cer-

**Continued on page 4**

### December Membership Meeting

Sunday  
December 6, 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.



**ASK YOUR LAWYER**  
by Thomas Flanagan  
*Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, S.C.*

### RECENT CHANGES IN AUTO POLICY PROVISIONS

The 2009 Budget Bill made the following consumer friendly changes in the provisions of auto insurance policies issued in Wisconsin.

Eliminates reducing clauses in auto policies. Insurance companies will no longer be able to deduct the amount of insurance carried by a negligent driver from the uninsured/underinsured coverage purchased by the injured policyholder. This change makes sure injured drivers or passengers can access the full amount of insurance they have paid for when they need it.

Prohibits anti-stacking provisions in auto policies for uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage except the policy may limit coverage to three vehicles. In 1995, the Legislature limited coverage to one uninsured and/or underinsured policy, no matter how many policies the owners of multiple vehicles paid for. This change allows injured policyholders to recover uninsured/underinsured coverage on policies they have paid for, up to three vehicles.

The above changes will first apply to motor vehicle policies issued or renewed on or after November 1, 2009.

If you have any 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](http://www.previant.com). Listen to the "Previant Legal Line" on Saturdays at noon on WTMJ radio 620 AM.

### 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 And don't forget to listen to the "Previant Legal Line" every Saturday at noon on WTMJ radio 620 AM.**

## USW News:

### USW Lauds Brown-Slaughter Bill That Would Strengthen U.S. Industrial Global Competitiveness

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United Steelworkers (USW) today lauded new legislation introduced by U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and U.S. Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY) that would support our nation's workforce and strengthen the competitiveness of American industries globally, while enhancing the administration's ability to reduce foreign trade barriers. The Reciprocal Market Access Act, which looks to reform the process by which goods are exchanged between the U.S. and other countries, is cosponsored by U.S. Sen. Kay R. Hagan (D-NC).

"We need to take action now to rebuild our economy by ensuring that American manufacturing can succeed globally," said USW International President, Leo W. Gerard. "More than ever, it is critical that our trade negotiators enforce rules to ensure our industries can compete fairly and that we address our ballooning trade-deficit."

The Reciprocal Market Access Act would instruct U.S. trade negotiators to eliminate foreign market barriers before reducing U.S. tariffs. This bill would also provide enforcement authority to reinstate the tariff if the foreign government does not honor its commitment to remove its barriers. The U.S. market is currently recognized as one of the most open markets in the world, but American industries face many obstacles when competing abroad due to non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in key markets, which unfairly limit access.

"American workers deserve a level playing field," said Gerard. "We need trade policies that create opportunities and allow our manufacturing industries access to new markets."

The new legislation would address this problem. Currently, tariff and non-tariff barriers are largely separate and self-contained, meaning that tradeoffs are tariff-for-tariff and non-tariff-for-non-tariff. The tariff-cutting negotiation process does not provide U.S. trade representatives the flexibility needed to exclude sectors that do not receive mutually beneficial trade concessions. The result is that a tariff can be reduced or eliminated without securing the elimination of the real barrier or barriers that deny market access to U.S. manufacturers' exports.

"Eliminating U.S. tariffs without the elimination of non-tariff barriers provides full advantage to our competitors by allowing them to also protect their home markets," said Gerard.



# Laborfest 2009





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

tainly was a bitter pill to swallow but again members chose to attempt to keep their jobs here in Milwaukee.

**Briggs**

At Briggs, the new work that will be coming in, should be up and running in January. The original number of jobs was to be approximately 40-50 jobs. That number is now tentatively over 100 new jobs. New people will need to be hired. There are still some details that need to be worked out concerning these jobs. Exactly what the classifications and/or labor grade is still undetermined at this time. We look forward to making this product a very successful one here at Burleigh.

**Health Risk Assessment**

Here is the HRA schedule for the active hourly employees at Briggs. For those employees who cannot attend these sessions, they will be instructed to schedule a "nurse only" visit during normal clinic hours. The schedule for this year's HRA's is as follows:

**Burleigh**

Wednesday November 4

5:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Thursday November 5

5:00 AM to 10:00 AM

1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Friday November 6

5:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Employees will receive instructions in this week's mail on how to schedule your appointment. Questions should be directed to Lori Wavra at 414.256.5188 or at wavra.lori@basco.com.

**Medical Insurance Informational Meetings**

There will also be voluntary informational meetings regarding medical insurance. You can attend one of these meetings but not during working hours.

Those dates and times are as follows:

BP Cafeteria 11/4/2009 1:30 - 2:15 pm

BP Cafeteria 11/4/2009 2:30 - 3:15 pm

MFDC 11/5/2009 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Also regarding medical insurance, the rates are out and there is only a very slight increase in the High Deductible plan and the PPO plan. There is a slight decrease in the EPO plan. The reason for the decrease in 2010 for the EPO plan is it now will carry a 10% cost for any medical services up to \$750 a year for a single or up to \$1500 a year for a family. The 2010 Open Enrollment will be from November 2 through November 16.

**Worker Comp**

I was informed from Rick Kante that Corvel will now be administering the Worker Comp for Briggs & Stratton. Briggs will still be self-insured.



## Briggs Retiree Club

I am extremely happy to announce that since our last newsletter, we've gotten 10 new members that joined our club. That truly means that the news is getting out that we do have a great time rejoining with our former co-workers. Remember there is always room for more of you to join us.

October is the month that we start playing Bingo every second Wednesday of the month. And our meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at the Schwabenhof on Silver Spring Drive.

Every Tuesday, also at Schwabenhof, we have our Sheepshead tournament. Play begins at 1p.m. and prizes are awarded at each table, absolutely free.

Door prizes are given out at every meeting or function with the exception of Bingo and Sheepshead. To be eligible for a door prize, you must donate \$5.00 one time per year.

Our annual Christmas party will once again be held at Alioto's on Hwy.100 and Burleigh on Sunday December 6th. Doors will open at 10:30a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.

You must be a paid up member to attend any of our functions. Dues are only \$24 a year.

Also please remember to bring in your dessert for your birthday or wedding anniversary or \$7.00 to all meetings except our Christmas party.

I would like to take this opportunity once again to welcome our new members that recently joined our club.

Don't forget, you can contact me, Sherry Kent, on my cell phone 262-894-7775 to report any sick or deceased member that you know of.

I hope many more of you are thinking of joining. It is always good to see old familiar faces from our many years spent working at Briggs & Stratton.

God Bless You.

Fraternally yours,

Sherry Kent, Corresponding Secretary

Bob Johnson, President



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

## Membership Meeting Recap

by Tameka Smith

The membership meeting was held on Sunday September 27, 2009 at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Rd.

Vicky Gorecki gave the trustees report for the months of June and July.

Ralph Schwieger gave his Financial Secretary Treasurer combined report for the months of June and July. He reported there were 384 dues paying members at Briggs & Stratton and 141 dues paying members at Strattec for a total of 525 dues paying members for the months of June and July.

### Communications

There were no communications presented or acted on at this membership meeting.

### Reports of Officers

Scott Godshaw reported on Briggs getting 70-90 new jobs in January. He did announce Laura Flees was no longer working for Briggs and that you should see Jodi in personnel for any of your HR needs. He also reported on Worker Comp changing to Corvel and also discussed the change in the EPO medical insurance plan. Scott also reported on the Strattec situation and how it came about.

Jesse Edwards reported that there is no longer a light duty department. You will be in your department and shift for your light duty work.

Milton Dawson reported that everyone has returned to work with the exception of 5 members on voluntary layoff. He also reported on a grievance and stated there still is ample overtime and encouraged people to work the overtime.

A motion was made and passed for the next membership meeting to be held at Frank Monreal's El Matador on Sunday December 6, 2009 at 9:30a.m.

## Membership Information

**October 2009**

**610 Members in Good Standing**

**399 in Briggs & Stratton Unit**

**211 in Strattec Unit**

**October Dues Payments**

**356 Dues Paying Members at Briggs**

**189 Dues Paying members at Strattec**

**545 Total Dues Paying Members**

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

## LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

October 2009

Volume 30, Issue #6

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

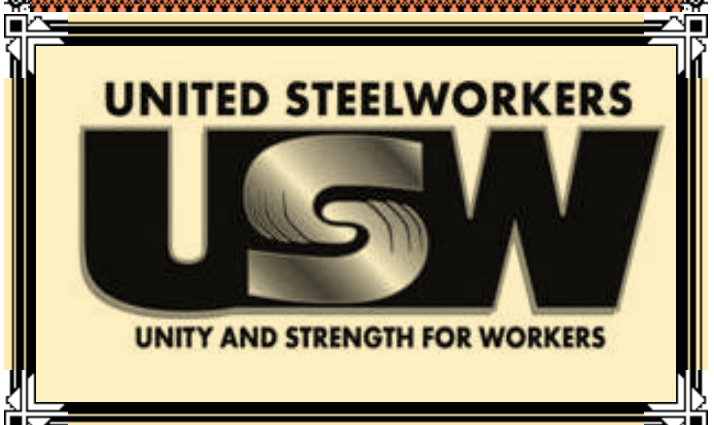
Hours 7:00a.m.- 4:00p.m.

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 Evseichik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Schwieger Recording Secretary: Tameka Smith Trustees: Chuck Porter, Vicky Gorecki, Nancy Copeland Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Stanley Quezairre  
Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Jesse Edwards, Tameka Smith, Dean Wegner, Lorenzo Payne  
Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Milton Dawson, Dennis Nowak, Al Belanger



## UPCOMING EVENTS

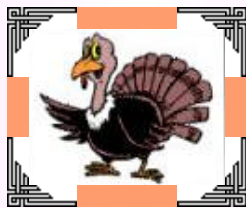
October 31- Halloween



November 11- Veteran's Day



November 26 - Thanksgiving



December 6- Membership Meeting

December 25 -Christmas Day



Janaury 1- New Year's Day



## Grievance Rep Reports

### Strattec Security

by Milt Dawson

On October 8th at the Four Points Milwaukee North Hotel, we arrived to cast an important vote. This in a lot a ways, was due to our middle age label (for the most of us at Strattec) or because of the large financial loads that some of us find ourselves under. Yes, when you have worked as long as most of us have, started families, bought homes, credit cards, cabins, cars and yes, for whatever reasons, taking care of adult children, grand children or parents that need our care for medical reasons, that vote was one that was going to determine the rest of our lives. For a company, that some of you have depended on, in some cases, better than half your life, says that if they can't get back from you, what you have worked for, for 10, 20, 30 plus years, says to you, if you don't give us this "BACK" in "CONCESSIONS" and "CONTRACT EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION AGREEMENTS" WE'RE PULLING UP STAKE AND LEAVING" .....SEE YA, DON'T WANT TO BE YA.... This Grievance Rep. isn't MAD at some Brothers or Sisters who said to me, as a Bargaining Committee member...Milt, go tell 'em to stick that trash in a place where the sun has never, ever broke through. Believe me, I understand all too well the sentiments of my fellow workers.

In all sincerity, I don't mean no harm to anyone, Company workers or Union workers, the truth be told, the Union people on that day, at that place, at that time, had the future of Company workers in our hands, as well as our own. So I hope "YOU" Company people really understand what happened that day. I want to let every Union person know that I am very proud of you for making a decision that only the future will tell us, whether or not it was the right one to make at that time in "YOUR LIFE" as an individual. Life is about making the hard choices, that's why this decision had to be made without a recommendation from the Bargaining Committee. This was such an individual vote, based on what you needed, what your family needed. In a lot of ways, it wasn't about you or me, but rather about the people in our lives that depend on us, some times we have to make decisions based on someone other than ourselves. A lot of emotions were expressed at our meeting. I always believe it's a good thing, because people need to let go at times like that, as long we are respectful to each other, which we were. Again, I was very proud, and I'm glad to be able to work with all of you each day. It's one thing that makes it worthwhile coming to work. And oh yes, getting a pay check.



# Grievance Rep Reports

## Briggs & Stratton Bargaining Committee by Dean Wegner

### Human Resources

Laura Flees is no longer working for Briggs & Stratton. Jodi Chaudoir will handle all personnel questions. Her phone number is 414-259-5406.

### Flu Shots

It is a good idea for all employees to get a flu shot. They are free. The following are the times and location:

- October 21st from 5a.m. to 10:30a.m. at the Quad Clinic
- October 22nd from 1p.m. to 4p.m. at the Menomonee Falls Plant

### Workers Compensation Claims

Effective October 1st, Workers Compensation Claim Administration Services will be transitioned to Corvel Corporation. They are a third party administrator. If you are injured, please follow your plant's policy for reporting injuries. At this writing, your temporary onsite administrator is Rick Kante. His number is 414-259-5568. He is also the Safety Director for Briggs & Stratton.

### Menomonee Falls Plant

Over Labor Day weekend, the computers were down for updates. The system was still down on Tuesday the day after Labor Day. Bill Harlow and his staff called all the employees informing them not to come into work that day. The employees should make sure the company has all the correct information including phone numbers, address and emergency contact phone numbers as well. If you need to update any of this information, see Jodi Chaudoir in personnel or call her at 414-259-5406.

### Jesse Edwards

I would like to welcome back Jesse Edwards who was out recently with an injury. He will resume his Grievance Rep position and I will go back to my Bargaining member position.

### Health Risk Assessment

In early November, the Health Risk Assessment will take place. Normally this takes place in June or August; however, the dates are based on availability of Helix, the company that performs the Health Risk Assessment for hourly and salary as well.

In Solidarity,  
Dean Wegner  
Bargaining Committee

## Briggs & Stratton Grievance Rep by Jesse Edwards

### Production

The production at Briggs has been slow, however at this time it seems to be picking up. The company stated that on the South end production is at a reasonable level. They are looking to hire 1 setup man and 1 machine attendant from the outside. Those jobs were posted but no one requested a transfer for those jobs.

In the Coil department, production is picking up also and all of the assemblers, who were on layoff and wanted to return to work, are back. Also in Coils, after a member was seriously injured, they have put some safety devices on the machines.

At the Menomonee Falls plant, at this time, business is good as well. The temporary third shift is still running. The company stated this gives them a steady flow.

### New Work

The new work at Burleigh is on schedule and it should start up in January. At this time, the number of jobs coming in, keeps going up. It seems like it will end up at around 100 jobs. At this time the company has not confirmed the job classification.

### Worker Comp

Workers Comp has been out sourced to a company name Corvel, however the company will be hiring a workers comp contact person. If you have any workers comp issues you should still go to personnel.

### Discharge

I have one discharge member that has written a grievance. I'm working on that.

### Return to work

I returned to work in September and I would like to thank the members who welcomed me back. I would also like to thank Dean Wegner, who filled in for me during my absence.

In Solidarity,  
Jesse Edwards

October is National Breast



Cancer Awareness Month

## Wellness Corner “You can’t live without it”

### When you have heart disease: What you should know about lowering your LDL cholesterol.

#### What should you know about cholesterol?

Cholesterol is carried in the blood by lipoproteins. Low-density lipoproteins, or LDL, carry most of the cholesterol in the blood. LDL is called bad cholesterol. It can stick to the walls of arteries and lead to a build-up of fatty plaque.

High-density lipoproteins, or HDL, help the body get rid of LDL. HDL is called good cholesterol. A high level of HDL is linked with a low risk for heart disease.

Triglycerides are another fat in the blood. A high level of triglycerides may damage blood vessels and increase the risk for heart disease.

#### Why is the LDL level so important?

Most people with heart disease have too much LDL cholesterol. LDL is the main cause of blockage in the arteries. To lower your risk for future heart attacks, the most important thing you can do is lower your LDL level.

#### How should your cholesterol be checked?

People with heart disease need more than a “finger-stick” blood check. You will need a blood test called a lipoprotein profile. This test will break down your total cholesterol number into HDL, LDL, and triglycerides. You will need to fast – nothing to eat or drink except water – for 9 to 12 hours before this test.

#### What should your numbers be?

The latest guidelines show that if you have heart disease:

Ideally, your LDL level should be 100 or less. Any decrease in your LDL will help decrease your risk.

Your HDL level should be above 45 if you are a male, and above 55 if you are a female.

Your triglyceride level should be below 200.

What can you do to lower your LDL?

Take medication as prescribed. Your health care provider may prescribe medications that can lower your cholesterol by changing how your liver makes cholesterol. When you start taking the medication, you will be asked to have blood work to measure your progress and to watch for side effects.

Follow a low-fat meal plan, even if you take cholesterol-lowering medication. Eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Limit fats (especially saturated fat), meats, and high-fat dairy products.

Exercise regularly. Physical activity can help lower your LDL and raise your HDL. It can also improve your heart and lung fitness and help you

control your blood pressure, weight, and stress levels. Be sure to consult your health care provider before starting a new program.

Manage your weight. People who are overweight usually have higher blood cholesterol levels than people whose weight is normal. A low-fat meal plan and exercise should put you on the right track for weight control.

#### What if you do NOT have heart disease?

If you do not have heart disease and would like information on cholesterol management, you will want to check out the following resources:

Download a tool to help you figure out your risk for heart disease and what your target cholesterol should be.

Information on cholesterol screening recommendations and what your LDL, HDL, and triglyceride levels should be.

Locate cholesterol management events or classes online.

More resources

- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
- American Heart Association

## 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](http://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](http://www.myuhc.com)**