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USWA LOCAL 831

The Informer

Representing Workers of Goodyear Tire and Rubber/Servitex/Goodyear Service Store/URW 831 Credit Union

VICTORY IN HIGH POINT!



Gathering for a quick photo before heading off to the Thomas Built Bus plant gates are union members and supporters from the Triad and Southern Piedmont Central Labor Councils including members from CWA Local 3607-Greensboro, IAM Local Lodge 2444-Winston-Salem, USWA Local 850-Charlotte, Teamsters Retirees, UAW 5285-Gastonia/Cleveland, NC, along with organizers from the national AFL-CIO & NC State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Ray Riffe

United Auto Worker's Year-Long Effort Prevails Over Onslaught of Anti-Union Groups

On Thursday, March 18, workers at Thomas Built Buses in High Point selected the United Auto Workers as their collective bargaining representative through a card check process. Under a card check, 50 percent plus one of the unit who want union representation must sign a card and turn it into a neutral third party for verification. Strong support and participation in the campaign came from UAW Local 5285 and the new UAW locals in Cleveland and Gastonia. Our state federation and its affiliates in the Triad supported the campaign with a press and community outreach program. We conducted two public events, a rally and a huge press conference last year, to support organizing efforts at Thomas Built. Furthermore, over 30 local union members of the Triad and Southern Piedmont Central Labor Councils assisted UAW on a plant gate leafleting campaign. As part of that campaign,

union members greeted plant workers as they exited the plant and provided them with a letter of support from the NC State AFL-CIO and its affiliates. Congratulations to the 1,100 workers at Thomas Built Buses for taking this first step towards a Voice @ Work! We appreciate your leadership and the stand you made for workers' right to organize a union in the workplace. Workers were able to prove that they will vote their interest when allowed to do so free of threats and intimidation from employers. During the organizing campaign, UAW faced hostile opposition from the High Point Chamber of Commerce, the National Right-to-Work Foundation, and the Greensboro-based Piedmont Associated Industries just to name a few. The victory at Thomas Built Buses proves that workers can overcome the misinformation and pressure of the Chamber of Commerce and other anti-union forces in our communities.

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April 14, 2004

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present except George Stewart.

Opening prayer was by Billy Hedrick followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Treasurer's report read and approved.

Kenny Stevens gave a report on a meeting he attended in Pittsburgh for all International SOAR Board members. Lynn Williams was reinstated as President replacing George Becker who stepped down for health reasons. He also stated that bills for dues have been sent out for the 2nd quarter of this year and will be sent quarterly as they come due. Kenny reports that SOAR now has 57,000 members in the United States and 7,000 in Canada. Kenny has been elected to represent the Steelworkers in the State of Virginia in the Alliance for Retired Americans. He will attend the Southern Regional Conference on May 17 and 18 in Florida.

Charles Denny informed those present about several things to be on the alert for regarding insurance. Also, Benny Toller gave an informative talk regarding insurance. If you have any questions, see Charles or Benny.

The Goodyear tent sale will be May 17 -21. Volunteers are needed to help at the concession stand. Call Willie Fitzgerald if you can help.

Kenny Stevens won the raffle for a set of Regatta or Wrangler tires. Gold Adkins of the Goodyear Service Store, Mt. Cross Rd, donated the tires.

Door prizes won by Raymond Parks and Eddie Cox for an oil and lube change from Perry Bros.

Myrtle Fitzgerald and Madeline Davis each won an oil and lube change from Goodyear Service Store on Mt. Cross Rd.

Fifty-fifty won by Joe Danko.

NOTICE: There will be no business meeting at the Union Hall in June. On June 22 at Shelter #17, Dan Daniel Park, there will be a picnic at 5:00 followed by the business meeting. Then we will enjoy a Braves ballgame. So plan now to attend the picnic and the ballgame.

Motion made to adjourn and seconded.
Motion passed.

Nancy Guill, *Secretary*

308,000 New Jobs . . . But What Kind?

The Bush Administration reacted to the March jobs report from the Labor Department with rosy statements about a strong economy and forecasts of more good news ahead. And, after all, it is about time. Mr. Bush has been predicting strong job growth for the past three years, and he finally got one month where he apparently doesn't have to make excuses.

But is the Labor Department's report of 308,000 new jobs in March really as positive as the administration's spin would have us believe?

Not according to The King Report, a daily newsletter on investing and the economy, which said Monday that, "We have never seen such a grossly misinterpreted Employment Report in our 30 years in this biz."

The Report then cites "no nonsense economist, ex-Fed official and investment adviser (at Van Hoisington Management), Lacy Hunt," who found that "of the 308k jobs created, 296k are temporary or part-time jobs! Let us repeat and let's be very clear, almost all jobs created in what is heralded as a great employment report are part-time jobs."

The Report adds that, "People want full-time but can't find it. Lacy opines that Congress did not renew unemployment benefits so many people took whatever they could get. This accounts for the surge in people entering the workforce."

Following the Bus

On March 24, 2004 51 people-one from every state and the District of Columbia are leaving from St. Louis as part of an eight-day Show Us the Jobs Bus Tour. They will stop in some of the cities and towns that have been hit the hardest with job losses. They will tell their stories of how America's job crises have affected them and their families and their communities.

Sponsored by the AFL-CIO and Working America (a union for nonunion workers), supported by hundreds of community organizations across the country.

You can follow the bus by logging on to <http://www.showusthejobs.com/>.

- * Meet 51 faces of America's job crises and read their stories.
- * See highlights from the day's bus tour.
- * Download a map of the Show Us the Jobs route.
- * Speak out on jobs and the economy.
- * Get the real facts on America's job crises.
- * Tell President Bush the nation needs good jobs staying and more good jobs coming.



Upper Management Training

An Indian walks into a cafe with a shotgun in one hand and a bucket of buffalo manure in the other.

He says to the waiter, "Me want coffee."

The waiter says, "Sure coming right up." He gets the Indian a Tall mug of coffee, and the Indian drinks it down in one gulp, picks up the bucket of manure, throws it into the air, blasts it with the shotgun, then just walks out.

The next morning the Indian returns. He has his shotgun in one hand and a bucket of buffalo manure in the other. He walks up to the counter and says to the waiter, "Me want coffee."

The waiter says, "Whoa, We're still cleaning up your mess from the last time you were here. What the heck was all that about, anyway?"

The Indian smiles and proudly says, "Me training for upper management position. Come in, drink coffee, shoot \$@ #*, leave a mess for others to clean up, and disappear for rest of day."

April Membership Meeting Minutes

USWA Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on April 15, 2004 with Vice- President Terry Trull presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Benny Toller opened the meeting with prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.
- Roll call of officers, all were present except President Danny Barber (Union Business)
- Recording Secretary, Brenda Miles presented the meeting minutes from the March meeting. They were approved as read.
- Executive Board report from the April meeting was approved as read and contained the following items:
 - Motion to send the Safety Committee to the 2004 Health & Safety Symposium in Pittsburgh, PA.
 - Motion to accept the Danville Braves package for \$2,500 (Sign, program, tickets, etc.).
 - Thank You Letter from the Salvation Army.
 - Motion to donate \$500 to the Providence Fire & Rescue Spring Fling.
 - Motion not to accept the sponsorship

of the VA. Carolina Classic Chevy Club to benefit the Oak Grove Residential Care.

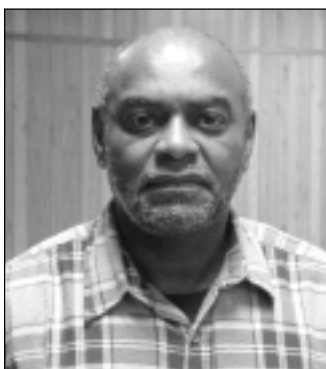
- Motion to send Top Officers and Representatives to the 2004 Summer School to be held in Blacksburg, VA.
- Motion to purchase posters and stickers for \$100 in recognition of Workers Memorial Day on April 28, 2004.
- Motion to donate \$1,000 to Project Access.
- Motion to purchase an ad in the Pelham Summer-fest for \$50.
- Motion to donate \$1000 to Relay For Life to benefit the American Cancer Society.
- Motion to reject an employees request to join the union.
- Motion to send President Danny Barber to Nashville, TN. for the Delta Dental Negotiations.
- William (Stick) McLaughlin gave the Financial report for the month of March and it was approved as read.
- Benny Toller, Pension & Insurance Representative gave the P&I report, which can be found in this issue.
- Brenda Miles, Co-chair of the

Women of Steel, reported on the Relay For Life event which will be held May 21-22, 2004 at the Danville Fairgrounds. Sign-up deadline is April 20, 2004 to receive a T-shirt (donation of \$10).

- Vice-President Terry Trull gave these points of information:
 - Lead Hand process has begun and each Division Chairman spoke on their prospective Business Center.
 - President Danny Barber attending the Delta Dental talks in Nashville, TN. and the vote membership will make when the committee chooses the best option to bring back to membership.
 - Workers Memorial Day, the Safety Committee will be giving out stickers in honor and memory of workers who have been injured and killed on the job.
- Howard Wood and Jerry Harris won the 50/50 drawing.
- Jerry Oakes' name was drawn for the attendance prize. He was not present. The attendance prize for May will be \$75.00
- Motion to adjourn, motion carried!

Member Chatter

What are your thoughts on the economy? Is it getting better, worse or remaining flat? Why is it?



Jessie Lampkin

1523 C shift

"It's getting worse." Why? "The situation of no jobs and the way prices keep increasing."



Harry Brooks

2431 D shift

"It seems to me its only getting worse." Why? "While visiting Rocky Mount, N.C., we saw so many job losses and plant closings it was sad and that was only one town. It's like that across the U.S."



Barry Austin

2541 D shift

"It is definitely getting worse!" Why? "Because we have a President that does not care about working people."



Cathy Barker

2431 D shift

"Worse!" Why? "With everything going overseas how can it be anything but worse!"

Tax Season may be over for this year, but we'll be back



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Oops, we missed something!

During the night meeting of membership for the month of February, a motion was made to contract out the union picnic to reduce cost. The motion was seconded and voted on during that meeting. Since the morning meeting had already concluded prior to the motion, the vote had to be held at the morning meeting for March. The vote was held and the outcome was 2 in favor and 58 against and 2 did not vote. We're sorry for omitting this issue. Any time a motion is made at the second meeting that action is not complete until the next month's morning meeting.

USWA Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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USWA District 8 • www.uswa831.org

■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

■
Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



EDITOR'S COLUMN

Truly Blessed!

Through the years working for Goodyear -Danville and being a member of Local 831 I have always felt blessed to have the great benefits for my family and myself but I never realized how great they were until a tragedy hit my family. I know we have taken some hits on our benefits due to several factors, rising numbers of retirees -vs- workers, escalating drug costs and even the high cost of new innovative medical procedures but we still have some of the best insurance that is available due to our union.

I had a first hand experience when my wife of 25 years suffered a heart attack and had to have open-heart surgery. Scared, frighten, concerned for her well-being? Absolutely! Worried about the hospital bill? No! That's because I am a very fortunate person to have great insurance. All I had to do was to focus on her and her recovery and believe me that was enough! Do you know the price of five days in the hospital and open-heart surgery?

The next time you're with a friend that works for a different industry, ask them what kind of insurance they have, odds are yours is a lot better. My friends, the maximum that I will have to pay the hospital, doctors and all the procedures that saved my wife's life is \$1000.00. I will gladly pay! On a more personal note I would like to thank everyone in the plant for their prayers for my wife and me. It worked!!!
Danny "Tree" Travis, Associate Editor



Local 831 Treasurer Dana Dixon presents a check to the Providence Fire Department (\$500) for their Spring Fling. Accepting on behalf of the Providence Fire & Rescue is Captain Johnny Hodges and David Folley.

Questions Answers

If anyone has a question for *The Informer*, please submit it to Dana Dixon, Gloria Gravely, Danny Travis or your Division Chairman.

In our new agreement, I get two opportunities to cancel overtime after it is posted. If I choose to not show up, is that considered as one of my opportunities or do I have to notify someone?

You are correct that each employee gets two opportunities to cancel overtime after the posting of the scheduled work list. Prior to the sign-up sheet being taken down, you can cancel as much as you like, however, after it is removed (11:00 am on Wednesday) you have only two official opportunities. Those opportunities can be utilized by notifying the appropriate person that you will not be able to fulfill your obligations to your overtime. If you choose to just not show up, it may be counted as a no report. Your two times are per calendar year.

As a suggestion, keep in mind that special school events and other issues of that nature arise from time to time. It would be advisable to hold these opportunities for something of that nature.

So, how is the market today?



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Bush/Cheney Supplier Violates Import Ban

The official merchandise Web site for President George W. Bush's re-election campaign has sold clothing made in Burma, whose goods were banned by Bush from the U.S. last year to punish its military dictatorship.

The merchandise sold on www.georgewbushstore.com includes a \$49.95 fleece pullover, embroidered with the Bush-Cheney '04 logo and bearing a label stating it was made in Burma, now Myanmar. The jacket was sent to Newsday as part of an order that included a shirt made in Mexico and a hat not bearing a country-of-origin label.

The Bush merchandise is handled by Spalding Group, a 20-year-old supplier of campaign products and services in Louisville, Ky., that says it worked for the last five Republican presidential nominees.

Ted Jackson, Spalding's president, said, "We have found only one other in our inventory that was made in Burma. The others were made in the U.S.A." He said the company had about 60 of the fleece pullovers in its warehouse, and that a supplier included the Burma product by mistake.

Bush campaign officials did not return calls seeking comment. The imports are potentially an issue because outsourcing has become a hot political topic in the election.

Bush last July signed into law the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, saying "The United States will not waver from its commitment to the cause of democracy and human rights in Burma."

Violators of the import ban are subject to fines and jail, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

Burmese textile workers earn as little as 7 cents per hour, according to the National Labor Committee, a human rights group.

"If it is true, it is very contradictory because the sanctions were imposed by the Bush administration," said Bo Hla-Tint, a spokesman for the Burmese government-in-exile in Washington, D.C.

Spalding, which works exclu-

sively with Republican candidates at both local and national levels, tries to order American-made products, Jackson said. "Our first effort is always to source things from the U.S., but not a lot of garments are made in the U.S. Friday," he said. He said all embroidery is done in the United States.

The Bush-Cheney fleece pullovers were imported to the United States by Denver-based Colorado Trading & Clothing. President Jeff Schmitt said Thursday the pullovers were included in one of the last shipments brought in from Burma last year before Sept. 1, when the import ban went into effect. "It's a terrible irony" that the Burmese jacket landed at Newsday, he said.

Schmitt said Colorado Trading employs an agent in Asia who conducts checks of factory conditions.

Human rights watcher Charles Kernaghan, director of the National Labor Committee, said the slip-up showed a lack of conviction on the administration's part. "Given the debate about outsourcing, it's amazing that the campaign would be selling stuff made in the most brutal country on earth, known for things like child labor and sexual slavery," he said. "It shows a crude indifference to this issue."

The National Basketball Association recently vowed to stop selling Burmese-made sweatshirts after a campaign by the NLC.

Last week, Newsday ordered a hat, T-shirt and fleece pullover or jacket from both the Bush and Kerry campaign stores. The Bush merchandise - which totaled \$81.85 - arrived this week. The Kerry products, worth \$62, have yet to arrive because the fleece jacket was on back order, according to Financial Innovations, the company that licenses and sells Kerry merchandise on the Web site www.kerrygear.com.

The campaigns receive no profits from the merchandise because of federal election regulations.

The Kerry merchandise was made in the United States, according to Mark Weiner, the president of Financial Innovations. The company, whose employees belong to the Communications Workers of America Union, sources most of its merchandise from union factories.

"It's becoming more difficult to find American-made union product, especially in textiles, but you just have to look. We pay more money for them, so we make a smaller profit margin," said Paul McConnell, Financial Innovations' vice-president.

Source: Newsday



Local 831 has a random selection of fleece pullovers and wind shirts in various colors and with various union logos. While supplies last you can get one of these for \$15.00. And they are American made!!!

PENSION & INSURANCE

* There are still 1,100 Retirees and 1,800 active employees who have not sent their COB Forms back to Akron throughout the Goodyear chain. If you received a letter from Akron saying they do not have one on file, fill it out and send it back so that your spouses claims will be paid

* Letters will be sent to all active and retirees that are on a maintenance medication and buying it at a retail drugstore, if you have had at least two scripts filled at retail this year, you will get a letter. A 1-800# will be with the information. This is being done to give you the opportunity to save money by getting your prescriptions thru the mail-order at Express Scripts.

* **Family Status Change** - Should be reported to Goodyear within 31 days.

* **Flexible Spending Account** - Danville has 43 employees enrolled.

* **Dependent Daycare** - 5 employees enrolled.

* **Express Scripts** - Coordination of drug benefits, if spouse and employees plan include their drugstore in both networks, give the Drugist both medical cards and they file accordingly. If spouse has a mail order service they must use it, then submit info. to Express Scripts to coordinate the benefits. If the spouse does not have a mail order service thru their plan, they have to get 3-30 days supply of medication and send the receipts to Susan Moore, 1144 East Market St. Dept 831 Akron, Oh.

* **Injectable Medications** - CURA Scripts will dispense all mail order injectable medications. Only a 30 days supply will be dispensed at any one time, the copay will be 1/3 of a 90 days supply.

* **Singulair Medication** - Is a medication that was developed to treat mild to moderate asthma. Now it is being marketed by its manufacturer for treatment of seasonal allergies. The question is: will "step therapy" be appropriate to steer non-asthma related utilization to more cost effective therapies? This is an alternative to consider, because less expensive medications are appropriate FIRST. When new prescription presented for Singulair, the Express Script Incomp. system searches the patient's Rx history for the past 130 days...looks for other asthma medications- if found, the prescription is filled. If no asthma medications, and no nasal decongestant combinations found, the system sends message to pharmacist "Nonasthmatic use NSA & nasal steroid first". Those who are currently taking Singulair when Step Therapy implemented, are not affected by the program. The intent is to have members with allergies use the non-sedating antihistamines rather than Singulair. Using Singulair for allergies is more costly.

TIRES & WHEELS *On Sale!*

**All tires and wheels are on sale!
Wheel rep's will be on site all week.
May 17-21, 2004**

During this sale only, Goodyear Plant Employees will be given an "instant rebate" using their current coupons. The rebate is as described on these coupons, except the rebate will be instant (no need to mail it in).

Payroll deductions allowed for this sale.



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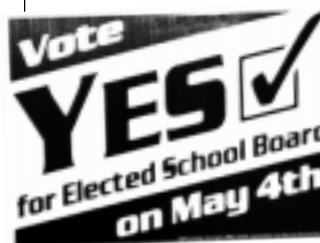


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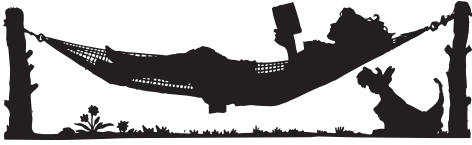
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Show Your Support!

The Danville Education Association is currently involved in a drive to make the Danville School Board be

elected. If you support this issue and would like a yard sign, call David Vernon at 792-5443 or Neal Spivey at 793-6825.



RETIREES

Congratulations to the following retirees. We wish them much success in their future endeavor's and hope they can fully enjoy their union negotiated retirement benefits.

Arthur Standfield 1-27-69 Dept. 1523

Cliff Tanksley 9-20-74 Dept. 2421

Tony Mitchell 2-11-74 Dept. 2333

Dean Duffie 7-27-71 Dept. 2415

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Herbert Adams, Tommy Adams, Tommie Adams, Thomas Blackwell, Gilbert Brooks, Jerry Claughton, Brian Collins, Eddie Crumpton, Pat Harvey, Randy Hines, Lonnie Holley, Roger Jeffries, James Jennings, Harold Jennings, Harvey Lane, Sherry Mintz, Ed Nunn, Terry Sheffield, Samuel Slade, Michael Strange, Michael Walton, Bryan Gee, Thomas Blackwell, Michael Waller, Clinton Waller, Delta Williams, Dot Thomas, Monroe Thacker Jr., Monroe Thacker III
The family of Clevan Waller (Retiree) and The family of Charles Lea (Retiree)

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 2004 CALENDAR						
April AC 25	BD 26	BD 27	AC 28	AC 29	BD 30	May BD 1
BD 2	AC 3 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	AC 4	BD 5	BD 6	AC 7	AC 8
AC Mother's Day 9	BD 10	BD 11	AC SOAR (Retirees) Meeting 11:00 AM 12	AC Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM 13	BD 14	BD Credit Union Annual Meeting 12 - 4 PM 15
BD 16	AC 17	AC 18	BD 19	April BD 20	AC 21	AC 22
Goodyear Tent Sale - Mt Cross Rd. Store			Relay For Life (Danv. Fairgrounds)			
AC 23	BD 24	BD 25	AC 26	AC 27	BD 28	BD 29
BD 30	AC Memorial Day Plant Holiday (T) (C) 31	June AC 1	BD 2	BD 3	AC 4	AC 5