

Thanks NAFTA, CAFTA and China Trade...

Dan River, closed but forever etched in our hearts

The last several weeks have been memorable for both good and bad reasons. We (Danville) have lost a once great industry and community leader. As Dan River has closed-- a new door opened in Danville. The Community-wide Employment Summit was organized through a collective effort of area business, chamber of commerce and labor. What began as an idea of United Food & Commercial Workers Local 400 quickly gained momentum and support. A huge list of partners availed and the planning began. On Friday, April 7th an expected crowd of approximately was

1,000 began gathering and quickly turned into 2,400. John Fisher moderated the event. Speakers included John Hamlin, mayor of Danville, Kate Berger, chair of Pittsylvania Board of Supervisors, Michael Duncan, general manager of EIT, Leroy Jones, shop steward of UFCW 400, Pat McGhee and Apostle Lawrence Campbell. The main



speaker of the day was Governor Tim Kaine. Governor Kaine spoke with confidence that Danville was truly in the midst of a turnaround. "When you can assemble a group like this of workers looking for work, industries looking for workers and community leaders pursuing new employers—the end result will be positive," stated Kaine. "When you add labor in the mix, UFCW 400 and USW Local 831 you have a well rounded effort," added Kaine.

Local 831 sent representatives Brenda Miles and Dana Dixon to pass out invitations to our upcoming ReUNION event scheduled for April 27th at 7:30 am, 11:00 am & 7:30 pm on the topic of Affordable Health Care. "The overall event was a highly motivational and rewarding event for everyone. I've never seen so many people with such positive attitudes toward finding employment," stated Dixon. Local 831 was actually represented in other ways as well. One of our amalgamated units, URW Community Credit Union was on site to help with financial information and another unit, Alsco (formerly Servitex) supplied the linens for the event. Additionally Local 831 donated (5) \$50 Kroger gift cards as door prizes.

These workers both UFCW Local 400 members and the management team left behind from what our legislators call fair trade is absolutely disheartening. Our thoughts, prayers and support go with these workers, our friends, our neighbors and our families.



Pavilion sits empty!



For Sale

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APRIL 12, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except J.C. Hudson. Ninety-two members were present.

Opening prayer was led by Jack Dodson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The name of Patsy Crawford was drawn for the attendance prize. She was not present, therefore, the May total will be \$40.00.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

The picnic and Braves ballgame will be July 13 at Dan Daniel Park, oven #17, at 4:30 p.m.

A one-day trip is planned for August 10th to Abingdon, Va. to see the play "The Philadelphia Story" at the Barter Theatre. This is a story of a spoiled daughter of the Philadelphia Lords who was divorced soon after her marriage and is now engaged to a successful young coal tycoon. Call Jack Dodson at 434-792-0043 for reservations. Cost is \$68.00 per person for members and non-members is \$73.00 per person. Seating will be assigned in the order that payments are received.

George Stewart read the "Universal Health Care Resolution" report from Jim Center stating the resolutions passed at the last International Conference. One of those resolutions dealt with promoting Universal Health Care. Kenny Stevens made a motion to accept the proposals. George Stewart seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Joy Randolph, ReUNION Coordinator, gave a report on "Affordable Health Care, Retirement Income We can Count On, and Fair Trade Laws That Are Enforced". There will be meetings at the Union Hall on April 27 with guest speaker Ike Gittlen, USW International, and everyone is cordially invited.

Door prizes won by the following:

1. Oil and lube change from Goodyear - Mt. Cross Store - J.J. Davis and Jim Chattin
2. Oil and lube change from Goodyear - Piney Forest Rd. - Charlotte Haymore and Wilson Scott
3. 50-50 won by Paul Southard.

Welcome to new member Patrick Brogan.

We send our sincere condolences to the family of Hobart Boyd.

Motion made to adjourn by Draper Fuquay and seconded by Raleigh Adkins. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

■ SOCIAL SECURITY AWARD

All employees who retire from Goodyear and are awarded Social Security due to age or disability from the Social Security Administration are required to notify the company by sending a copy of your award letter to The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. At that time, if you are drawing the supplement (kicker) or a double pension, it will be stopped. This will keep a retiree from being over-paid by the company. You cannot double dip, which means being paid either a kicker or double pension from Goodyear while drawing Social Security for that same time period. Bring a copy of your award letter by the Union Hall or take a copy to the plant. Goodyear will notify you if you are over-paid and will recoup any monies owed to the Company.

■ COB REIMBURSEMENT

There were quite a few people who did not receive their first quarter reimbursement on the first paycheck in April. The Solution Center has received numerous calls on this subject and have informed P&I Rep that anyone who turned a COB form in for 2006 and were not paid, will get the first quarter pay on Thursday's check. Keep in mind that COB forms have to be updated every year in order to receive the 50% reimbursement amount. If you feel you were not paid and are due the reimbursement, please contact the Solution Center or call Gloria Gravely at the Union Hall.

■ WORKERS COMPENSATION

If you are injured on the job, make sure you report the accident to your area manager and file an accident report in the plant hospital no matter what the nature of the injury is. You may feel that the accident is minor at that time and the next day it has flared to something big. Make sure that you report the accident the day it happens in order to protect your rights under Workers Compensation. It may be days before you feel the full effect of being injured on the job. Be specific about your accident when reporting it and have all the facts. If your accident claim is denied under Workers Compensation, contact the Pension and Insurance Representative at the Union Hall to see what your rights are.

■ OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

There are some new features added with the Optional Life Insurance. Minnesota Mutual is the carrier and the features are:

- New hires can elect 300% of coverage (no statement of health)
- Terminal Illness Benefit that applies to both basic and optional life insurance. If employee or spouse has less than 12 months to live, they can obtain 100% of their coverage in advance of the death if they apply.
 - (tax may or may not apply)
- Participants can continue coverage up to age 100 by paying applicable premiums.
- Website available (www.lifebenefits.com)

April Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on April 13, 2006 with President Danny Barber presiding. These were the highlights of the meeting.

■ Butch Robinson opened the meeting with prayer. It was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers, all were present.

■ Recording Secretary Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the March meeting. They were approved as read.

■ Executive Board report for April was approved as read.

■ Financial reports for the months

of February and March were given by William McLaughlin

■ Pension and Insurance report was given by Gloria Gravely (See P&I report)

■ Relay for Life will be held June 2, 2006 at the Danville Pittsylvania Fairgrounds with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

■ Linwood Saunders gave both election reports. Saunders read a letter of protest submitted by Gary Coleman. The Election Committee recommended denying the protest. Motion by Johnnie Scott to uphold the recommendation of the election committee. Motion passed.

■ Points of Information were given by President Danny Barber

■ Serious upcoming negotiations

■ Pension funded at 65.1%

■ 3.2 billion debt due in 2010

■ 4 plants on the market to be sold

■ Goodyear's obligation to pension is \$500-\$700 million in next year

■ The 50/50 drawing was won by Mark Powers and Mike Eanes

■ The attendance drawing for May will be \$675.00. Wayne Gusler 2541/2367 was not present.

■ Motion to adjourn. The next meeting will be May 11, 2006.

Elect **Adam J. Tomer (I)** (Danville City Council)

On May 2nd voters will select the Danville City Council. Adam J. Tomer came to the union hall to speak with our COPE committee. "He shares the views of working men and women and the COPE committee feels he would be a new voice to represent the citizens of Danville," stated Byron Taylor.

All members are urged to get out and vote on May 2nd.



New Officers And Representatives Elected

On April 4, 2006 the polls opened at the Goodyear employee entrance at 5:30 am for the purpose to elect officers and representatives of USW Local 831. The polls remained opened until 8:30 pm on April 5, 2006. Positions to be elected included: Vice President, Treasurer, Policy Member, Guide, Recording Secretary, Guard (2), Trustee (3), Division I Chairman and Division III Chairman. The office of President and Financial Secretary were unopposed as well as Division II and Division IV Chairman.

On April 11 and 12, the polls were again opened for a run off election for the office of Recording Secretary and Guide. Below are the results of the election after all polls were closed on April 12, 2006. President - Danny Barber, Vice President - Terry Trull, Recording Secretary - Brenda Miles, Financial Secretary - Dana Dixon, Treasurer - David Payne, Guide - Danny Barker, Guard (2) - Byron Taylor and Wayne Dickerson, Trustee (3) - Becky Inman, Bennett Gobble and Greg Gammon, Division I Chairman - Jimmy Newcomb, Division II Chairman - Irving Lawson, Division III Chairman - Jeff Dixon and Division IV Chairman - Butch Robinson.

Thanks go out to all union members who took time to come out and vote. Congratulations to all of the officers and representatives that were elected.

Stock options update

Last month a listing of everyone that had not completed their grant agreement was posted on the bulletin boards. Only 50% of those listed have responded. Of those responding, only 10% have picked up, completed and returned the agreement. It is very important that members do this, without the completed agreement—you have no stock options. Today, the stock options are worthless, however, some day before 2010 they may be worth something. Members are urged to complete the agreement as soon as possible.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

Here at USW Local 831 there are opportunities to serve your union by volunteering to serve on one of its committees. Every three years, after the election of representatives and officers, the President accepts letters of interest from union members who would like to serve on one of the committees that is offered at Local 831. Committees offered at Local 831 are: Education and Publicity, Picnic, Civil Rights, Women of Steel, Cope, By-Laws, Membership & Development and Skilled Trades.

If you would like to serve on one of these committees, this is what you should do. Submit a letter to President Danny Barber requesting your desire to serve by May 31, 2006. President Barber, will review and consider all applicants for each position, and by authority of his position recommend to the Executive Board his choices. If the applicants are approved by the Executive Board, final approval of those that were selected will go before membership in June for final approval. Remember, those who are already on a committee must also re-apply. Don't forget, the deadline to submit your letter is May 31, 2006!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Goodyear-Danville's First Retiree Passes

James Sparks was the first official retiree of the Danville plant. He was born on January 14, 1915 and passed on February 2, 2006. Mr. Sparks wore his blimp watch he got for retirement with pride. He worked for 10 years and 10 months and retired in 1980. During his lifetime, he served as a Commander of the American Legion and played baseball for many years. One of his proudest moments was throwing out the first pitch for a Danville Braves game. He was a charter member of the Danville Life Saving Crew. James Sparks leaves behind a wife of 23 years, Sybil.

EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Interesting facts provided by Goodyear



Rarely do any working stockholders ever attend the Goodyear Annual Meeting of Stockholders held in Akron—for the simply reason—they are working to keep this company afloat. I'm sure that if they could get by, we would never know some of the facts they must provide according to law. I'm also sure that these facts are quite disturbing for local plant management as well as they are for union members. Here we go.....

- Robert Keegan had an annual salary in 2005 of \$1,083,333.00 not including the bonus of \$3,000,000.00. Additionally, Goodyear provided him with other compensation of \$52,615.00, which included a personal home security system valued at \$37,194.00. The annual report also list a long-term incentive of \$1,181,540.00. That would amount to a total compensation package of \$5,317,488.00 excluding the SARs.
- Other officers, Richard Kramer, Jonathan Rich, C. Thomas Harvie & Joseph Gingo had a combined payout of \$4,859,500.00. This includes salary, bonus and long-term incentives.
- There were 642,563 shares of Underlying Security Options/SARs distributed among the top five officers.
- Approximately 696 "key" employees, including all executive officers will participate in the Performance Recognition Plan for plan year 2006.
- Michael Wessel, the Steelworkers choice for the Goodyear Board was re-elected along with all others running.
- The issues to be voted on during the annual meeting were approved or disapproved as requested by both Goodyear and the International Union.
- Goodyear made significant contributions to the pension plan, however, it is still under funded. They also paid a large sum of money on the debt, which also remains much higher than most would consider financially stable.

In closing, the Board of Directors seems to have great confidence in the top five leaders. We (the entire team) have made great strides toward improving the overall Goodyear picture, but don't think that a good 2005 will end all of Goodyear's woes. Everyone will be needed to complete this turn-around. I just hope the highly compensated will continue the turn-around without trying to make it on the backs of the workers. Our salaries are quite small in comparison, if cuts need to be made—let's start at the top.

Employees of the Danville plant have really stepped to the plate for our plant. This continued effort would be needed to secure more capital money for our plant. When money is coming into the plant, our future is much brighter.

Managing Editor, **Dana Dixon**

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■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

■
Janet Gwynn & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



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

Questions & Answers

When do master negotiations begin?

Master negotiations with Goodyear and the United Steelworkers will begin on June 9, 2006 in Cincinnati Ohio. Before the actual negotiations begin, representatives from the 12 locals who fall under the master agreement will begin meeting starting on May 30, 2006. The purpose of these meetings, which include all Presidents and Policy Committee Members from all 12 locals, is to formulate proposals to present to Goodyear for the new master contract.

Local who are covered under the master agreement include: Akron, Ohio, Gadsden Alabama, St. Mary's Ohio, Lincoln Nebraska, Topeka Kansas, Danville Virginia, Marysville Ohio, Union City Tennessee, Sun Prairie Wisconsin, Fayetteville North Carolina, Buffalo New York and Tyler Texas. All 12 local contracts expire on July 22, 2006. These negotiations are only between Goodyear and The United Steelworkers. Other tire companies such as Bridgestone/Firestone and Uniroyal/Goodrich will have their own negotiations with The United Steelworkers in different locations. A target selection committee will be held probably sometime in June to select a target company. For more information on the bargaining locals, you can visit the GKD web site at www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org

Steelworkers Seek Support in Medco Lockout

After months of making unreasonable demands during contract negotiations, Medco Health Solutions locked out about 500 members of the United Steelworkers and USW Local 675 at its mail order pharmacy in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 5, 2006. More than six million union members and their families are covered by one of the firm's prescription plans, which accounts for more than 25 percent of Medco's total client base.

Medco says it will use "temporary employees and additional supplemental staff" to fill prescriptions at the Las Vegas facility, one of Medco's three main dispensing pharmacies.

"Due to the risks of having inexperienced replacements filling mail-order prescriptions through Medco, I am strongly recommending that people consider filling their prescriptions at a retail pharmacy whenever possible until this dispute has been resolved," USW President Leo Gerard wrote in a letter to other unions.

"If Medco does not soon end this illegal lockout—which we believe puts the lives of millions at risk—we need to let Medco know that we will be actively seeking other prescription plan providers."

During negotiations, Medco illegally retaliated against employees for participating in solidarity actions and unilaterally changed employee benefits. The National Labor Relations Board has issued a complaint that will go before an Administrative Law Judge.

To help end the lockout, call or write to Medco Health Solutions CEO David Snow, requesting that the company end the lockout and negotiate in good faith. Address letters to: David Snow, CEO Medco Health Solutions, Inc. 100 Parsons Pond Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417



Pay now or pay later

By Union Training Coordinator, Ronnie Crane

Over the next few months, I will be writing about the different areas of training. We will talk about topics such as, what is

certification and qualification. We will also discuss why documentation is important and the reason we need qualified labor trainers. This month I would like to discuss the importance of training.

There use to be a commercial about the fram oil filter that said, "Pay me now or pay me later." I believe we are always going to pay for training or the lack of it. If we don't give the time and resources to train, it will drive the cost of every indicator up that we strive so desperately to bring down.

Lack of training affects safety, quality, production and yes,

even attitude. If we are constantly moving trainee's and not giving them the opportunity to be trained, then they feel no one cares if they learn their jobs or not. On the other hand, if we allow our trainee's the opportunity and time to be trained, they will feel important to the process. Training time would also be reduced. This benefits the trainee and the business. I truly believe this is what everyone wants.

To the trainers, training coordinators and managers who have a role in training, I would like to ask you this question. If we don't care about training, who will? When someone says to you, training sure does cost, just say to them, it sure does. Do you want to pay now or pay later!

Benefits Solution Center
1-800-334-9395



Relay for Life is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on June 2, 2006 at the Danville Pittsylvania Fairgrounds. There will be games, karaoke, food, prizes but most of all it will be a great time to raise money for a cure for a disease that has stricken so many of our families. Come out join us for this great event. If you are fortunate enough to be a cancer survivor please contact

Brenda Miles at the union hall to sign up and join in the survivor walk. Others that can be contacted are Charlotte Wright, "A" Banbury, Cathy Barker, "D" #7 tuber, April Blackwell, "C"

Shears, Monica Gray, "B" Apexers, Sandra Hairston, "A" Unisteel Tireroom, Lisa Spicer, "D" Apexers, Pamela Wright, "C" Shears.

A 26-piece BBQ set is being raffled off on the day of the relay. Tickets are only \$1.00 each. Join us for this great event because we really need a cure and cancer does not sleep.



Ceo Pay Raises Narrowed In '05 Survey

NEW YORK, March 20 (Reuters) - Pay increases for U.S. chief executives in 2005 rose at their lowest rate in four years, according to a preliminary survey of proxy filings published on Monday.

The average annual compensation for a CEO rose 11.3 percent last year, a sharp drop from 30.2 percent in 2004, and only a slight increase over 9.5 percent in 2002, said the survey, released by research company, The Corporate Library.

The survey was based on data made available in 554 company proxy statements filed through March 13.

"Compensation increases for CEOs, while far exceeding those for other employees, have dropped from the heady levels found in last year's survey," said Paul Hodgson, senior research associate at The Corporate Library.

Compensation among chief executives of companies listed in the Standard & Poor's 500 Index rose by a median of 3.7 percent, the survey said.

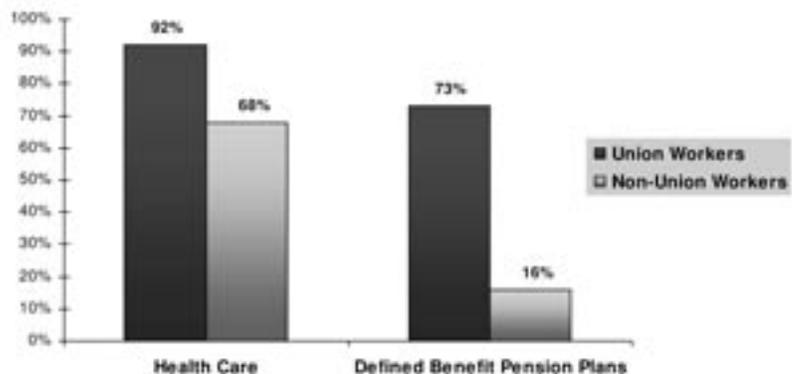
Hodgson said the survey's figures contain a high proportion of lower-paying industries.

"If pay levels are lower in the companies that have reported during this period, it is also possible that the lower pay growth in this survey is not reflective of pay growth trends in the larger universe," he said.



March 30, 2006

The Union Difference: Retirement & Health Care



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey: Employee Benefits in Private Industry in the United States, March 2005.

Union members have strong advantages over non-union workers, especially when it comes to having health care coverage and defined benefit pension plans. Ninety-two percent of union members have access to health care through their jobs and 73 percent have a defined benefit pension plan.

These gains are made at the bargaining table. The tens of thousands of workers who are denied their right to organize each year will never have the opportunity to bargain for these benefits. And the more workers go without health care and defined benefit pensions, the more our employers put pressure on us to give it up.

Please take action on the Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 1696 and S. 842) if your local has not already done so.

New EFCA Cosponsor this Week: Rep. Walsh (R-NY-25)

Questions about the Action? Call Rapid Response toll-free at 1-866-203-4960.

USW Rapid Response • (412) 562-2291 • <http://www.uswr.org>

TIRES & WHEELS

On Sale!

All tires and wheels are on sale!
Wheel rep's will be on site 2 Days.
May 1 - 6

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). You must have coupons in hand. The Payroll deduction option has been discontinued by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

Buy a \$1.00 Raffle Ticket from SOAR
for a chance to win a set of tires!
 Refreshments will be served.



URW Credit
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 434-792-1022

Your Unionized Goodyear Store!

It's Time to Get Our Rights Back

Each time a worker is fired for trying to form a union, each time a worker is discriminated against or harassed for standing up for his or her rights on the job, and each time an employer stalls and fights against a first contract; our strength is weakened bit by bit. As a result, all working Americans suffer.

The Employee Free Choice Act will restore our rights and go a long way towards leveling the playing field for workers. It is currently gaining ground in the U.S. Congress. We need to get a strong majority of Congress to cosponsor the EFCA, and then get this legislation enacted into law!

The members of the Cope Committee will be circulating petitions thanking and asking for continuing support in order for working men and women to continue to have working rights to each of our Senators, Representatives that are supporters and not yet supporting The Employee Free Choice Act.

The Cope Committee will be circulating petitions.
 Thank you, **USW Local 831 Cope Committee**

DREAMING UP THE IDEA RETIREMENT

IS YOUR JOB. HELPING YOU GET THERE IS OURS

It's simple, really. How well you retire depends on how well you plan today. Whether retirement is down the road or just around the corner, if you're working towards your goals now, the better off you'll be.

Preparing for retirement means taking a long-term perspective. We recommend buying high-quality investments and holding them because we believe that's the soundest way we can help you achieve your goals.

At Edward Jones, we spend time getting to know your retirement goals so we can help you reach them. To learn more about why Edward Jones makes sense for you, call or visit your local investment representative today.



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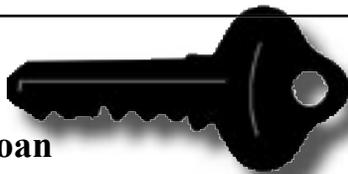


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- Convenient pre-approval
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*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rates may vary according to credit history and may change without notice.



