



# The Informer

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

## Questions Remain Unclear On Health Care Reform

**Washington** - With lawmakers home for their August recess, a fierce battle has broken out over what precisely is in the mammoth health-care bills being pushed by congressional Democrats. Here is a look at a few of the most contentious parts of the legislation.

**Q: Does the legislation include provisions to encourage senior citizens to commit suicide?**

**A:** No. This has become one of the most misleading, inflammatory claims made in the health-care debate, advanced repeatedly by conservative commentators and Republican lawmakers working to stoke fears among seniors.

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) recently suggested that the Democratic health care bill would “put seniors in a position of being put to death by their government.” There is no such provision.

The House bill would give seniors on Medicare the option to sit down with a doctor for an “advance care planning consultation” every five years to discuss options should they become seriously ill or unable to make medical decisions. Topics could include the development of a living will and directives for care.

“These are important discussions everyone should have so they are fully informed and can make their wishes known,” Dr. J. James Rohack, president of the American Medical Association, said in a statement. “It’s plain, old-fashioned patient-centered care.”

The provision is endorsed by the AARP.

**Q: Will the government start paying for abortions?**

**A:** That’s unclear.

Neither House nor Senate versions of the health care legislation contains any requirement that federal funding be made available for abortions.

Claims that tax dollars will be used for abortions, as a television ad from the Family Research Council contends, are premature and somewhat misleading.

But the legislation is short on many details. Depending on how future regulations are written, it is possible that some women who receive federally subsidized insurance could buy plans that cover abortions.

Under the most popular Democratic proposals, millions of Americans would buy their insurance in a new, highly regulated marketplace in which private insurers and the government would offer a choice of health plans. Many of those people would qualify

for federal aid to defray the costs of at least part of their premiums.

It appears unlikely that the government would require the plans in this marketplace to cover abortions. In fact, one version of the legislation explicitly prohibits such a requirement.

But some private insurers in the exchange may cover abortion services. If a woman who receives public subsidies for her coverage selects one of

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## Scouts Invade Local 831

Area Cub Scouts descended once again to use Local 831’s grounds as the headquarters for their annual summer camp held during the month of June. Smiling faces were looking forward to fun activities, good food and lots of Cub Scout friends. This is one of numerous years that the Cub Scouts have taken advantage of the Local’s facilities to help the Cub Scouts, as well as our own members children. Local 831 always strives to show community leaders that we are, and always will be, a good citizen of the community. The children of today are our leaders of tomorrow and what better way to help than to lend our facilities to these kids to learn crafts,



sportsmanship skills and other character developing activities. The Scouting leadership expressed their thanks to Local 831 for use of the grounds as well as the hospitality that they were shown while they were here.

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**AUGUST 12, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except Nancy Chaney. There were 89 members present.

Opening prayer led by Rosa Farmer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The name of Paul Southard was drawn for the attendance prize. He was not present. Next month's total prize will be \$80.00.

The Minutes were read and approved. President Dodson asked for discussion on the proposal made by the Board. It read as follows:

"All Soar members must attend a minimum of five regular membership meetings during the year for eligibility to receive prizes or gifts at the Christmas parties. Members dues must be paid-up-to-date."

After much discussion, President Dodson asked that all in favor of this proposal stand. Fifty-six stood in favor and thirty-three stood opposing. The proposal will take effect on January 1, 2010.

Door prizes won by the following:

Oil, lube & tire rotation -  
Goodyear Piney Forest Store  
- Bobby Powell

Oil, lube & tire rotation -  
Goodyear Mt. Cross Road  
Store - Raymond Parks  
50-50 Drawing - Jesse  
Hawker

Motion made by Kenny Durham to adjourn seconded by Juanita Edwards. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Nancy D. Guill**, Secretary

# PENSION & INSURANCE

By Rick Austin

**FULL-TIME STUDENTS** - If you have a dependent that is 19 years of age or older and enrolled as a full-time student, you must submit documentation from the school showing they are enrolled in at least 12 credit hours. You must also provide proof of financial responsibility for this dependent by providing your latest tax return or paperwork showing you support the dependent. Please bring your paperwork to the Union Hall and we will be glad to fax it to the Goodyear Benefits Solution Center for you. This must be received by August 31, 2009 or the benefits will terminate.

**MEDCO** - Starting October 1, 2009-Covera-HS, a drug that treats high-blood pressure and chest pain will be removed from the formulary list. This change is occurring because a generic version will be available.

**COBRA** - Anyone on layoff that has not received a COBRA packet needs to contact the Union Hall at (336) 388-5537 and we will call and request that a packet be sent to you. You can also contact the Goodyear Benefits Solution Center at 1-800-334-9395 to request a packet.

**VEBA COB CHECKS** - If any retiree has a COB check from VEBA returned to them from the bank due to a lack of funds, please mail the check back to VEBA. They will reissue you a new check and pay any fees charged to you by the bank.



## Happy Labor Day to all the workers.

Did you know that the first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on, September 5 1882, in New York City. Labor Day, which is now celebrated on the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. The officers, representatives and the staff of The Informer would like to wish everyone a Happy Labor Day.

# August Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on August 13, 2009 with Vice President Tim Brown presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Dennis Saunders followed by pledge of allegiance.
- Roll call of officers.
- Recording Secretary Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the July regular membership meeting. They were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for August was approved as read and it contained the following:
  - ✓ Grievance appeal overturned.
  - ✓ Grievance appeal upheld.
  - ✓ Purchase a table for \$275 for NAACP Banquet to be held on September 26, 2009.
  - ✓ Allot \$1,000 to the Ed Steffey Educational Open.
- Financial report was given by

Bennett Gobble and approved as read. Motion to accept three new members.

- P & I Report was given by Pamela Wright (see P&I).
- Trustee Report was given by Becky Inman.
- Points of information by President Danny Barber via telephone -some movement on negotiations.
- Nominations for RPIC delegates were:

Johnnie Scott	Monica Gray
Becky Inman	Perry Adams
Greg Gammon	Jimmy Thompson
Bennett Gobble	Pam Wright
Lee Martin	Rhonda Walker
Carolyn Coles	Mark Powers
Mike Fox	Terry Trull
Robert Wall	Danny Travis

- Election Committee:  
Ricky Miles    Delta Williams  
JJ Lane

Alternates:

- Paul Tucker    Cathy Barker
- William Price and Bennie Toler won the 50/50 raffle.
- Michael Chaney (retiree) won the \$250.00 Picnic Raffle Visa Card.
- The name of Greg Gammon dept.# 2333, cc# 6976 was drawn for the attendance drawing. he was not present. The door prize for September will be \$100.00.
- Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held on September 10, 2009.

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## Workplace Harassment

Any unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct that either denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards a person on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability, that; (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance; or (3) affects an employee's employment opportunities or compensation.

Sexual Harassment- is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or verbal, written or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a manager, supervisor, co-workers or non-employee (third party).

- **Quid pro quo** –A form of sexual harassment when a manager/supervisor or a person of authority gives or withholds a work-related benefit in exchange

for sexual favors. Typically, the harasser requires sexual favors from the victim, either rewarding or punishing the victim in some way.

- **Hostile environment** – A form of sexual harassment when a victim is subjected to unwelcome and severe or pervasive repeated sexual comments, innuendoes, touching, or other conduct of a sexual nature which creates an intimidating or offensive place for employees to work.

If you have any concerns about these issues please feel free to contact any member of our Union Civil Rights Committee:

Barry Browning  
Diane Durham  
Nicole Williams  
Tony White

## R/PIC Election Results

Elections for the 5<sup>th</sup> R/PIC Conference to be held in Pittsburgh, PA on September 20-23, 2009, were held on Aug. 20, 2009 at the Union Hall from 5:30 a.m until 4:00 p.m. The results are as follows: Becky Inman, Bennett Goble, Greg Gammon, Terry Trull and Rhonda Walker.

## Annual Picnic Raffle And The Winner Is ...

The seventh drawing for the annual picnic raffle for a \$250 VISA card was held at



August membership meeting. And the winner is Michael Chaney. At the annual picnic, prizes of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 will be drawn. Each will be in the form of a VISA card. After each monthly drawing all winning tickets will be put back in for chances at future drawings. Tickets are still available and still only \$ 5.00 each.

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## Questions Remain Unclear

those plans, it could be argued that the government is helping to fund abortions.

### Q: Will illegal immigrants receive free health-care benefits?

**A:** Provisions in the House and Senate bills explicitly prohibit people who are “not lawfully present in the United States” from receiving federal aid to help them buy health insurance in the new exchanges.

Congressional Democrats have resisted Republican efforts to put tougher documentation requirements on those applying for aid, arguing that it could discourage many poor people from signing up for health insurance.

No matter what happens with the legislation, undocumented immigrants will almost certainly still be able to obtain care in emergency rooms, a major burden in some parts of the country.

### Q: Will the government ration care?

**A:** This is almost impossible to say, although if the legislation passes there may be less “rationing” than there is now.

Under the nation’s current system, private insurers and the federal government put a variety of limits on what kinds of medical procedures, imaging and drugs they will pay for.

Millions of people with pre-existing conditions face even more limits, as private insurers refuse to sell them policies.

A cornerstone of the Democratic health-care overhaul is a larger role for the government in introducing more standards

# EDITOR’S COLUMN...

## Memor of a Rubberworker

Once upon a time, in a place that seems really far away, I agreed to go to work for a company that goes by the name of Goodyear. The namesake is derived from a man named Charles Goodyear. Charles was an entrepreneur of the day who happened to stumble across a process that he called “vulcanization”. Well, we all know the rest of that story.



When I joined the Goodyear workforce I was filled with pride and anticipation to be a part of this elite organization. I was working at “the” place to be employed in the small town of Danville. I followed the standard procedure of buying a hat and coat with the Goodyear brand proudly displayed. I wanted people to know that I was a part of something big, something to be proud of. I became in essence “Mr. Goodyear”.

Fast forward, about five years, to the day I got hurt on “my” U2 tire machine. I soon found out that the machine I thought was mine was not. I was just another replaceable part, an extension if you will, of the tire machine that I called mine. The luster was beginning to fade and fade quickly.

Fast forward to the fall of 2006, the romance was long gone and the true colors, not the blue and yellow, of Goodyear shown brightly as droves of replacement workers filed past our picket line. But I was filled with pride as I remembered the members who came before me. Members who fought valiantly to obtain the wages and benefits that we all support our families with. We proudly upheld the tradition and in the end resumed our rightful place as the workers who made Goodyear Danville great. It was at this time in my life that I realized that I was forever changed, I was now “Mr. Union Member”.

A couple more years have passed and now my employer has my head pressed against the ground with a boot shod with a Goodyear welted sole. All the while expecting to look down and see me smiling back up at them. Well, it’s not going to happen. A line has been drawn and I’ve been dared to cross. Good faith negotiation seems to be out the window and a new day is dawning for labor in this country. “Protect our good name” has been replaced with “kick em while you think you have them down.” For good or bad, things are ever changing and our plant and local will never be the same.

**Mike Fox**, Managing Editor

## USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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Mike Fox     Danny Travis     Sandra Hairston  
*Managing Editor     Senior Writer     Assoc. Editor*

Mike Fox  
*Communications Coordinator*



to the system to regulate coverage and expand information about the most effective treatments.

Both House and Senate bills would prohibit insurers from denying coverage to anyone with a pre-existing condition, thus eliminating one form of rationing in the current system.

The legislation would also give the federal government the authority to set minimum benefits levels that insurers would have to offer in order to sell policies in the new exchanges. That could mean more coverage for millions of individuals and many small businesses that currently are shut out of the healthcare system.

Most controversially, the bills would fund more research into the comparative effectiveness of various drugs and medical procedures.

The legislation does not dictate that the research be used to limit coverage of any procedures.

And many doctors and other health-care experts see this kind of research as critical to

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# Questions & Answers

If anyone has a question for *The Informer*, please submit it to Danny Travis, Sandra Hairston, Mike Fox or your Division Chairman.

## If I am temporarily transferred to another job, what will I be paid?

As stated in article VIII section 9(a) of the contract book. An employee will be paid his average hourly earnings, his job wage level or the job wage level or rate of the job on which he is placed, whichever is higher.

## Feds Outlook Better On Economy

The Federal Reserve delivered a vote of confidence in the economy, saying it would slow the pace of an emergency rescue program as the recession appears to be ending.

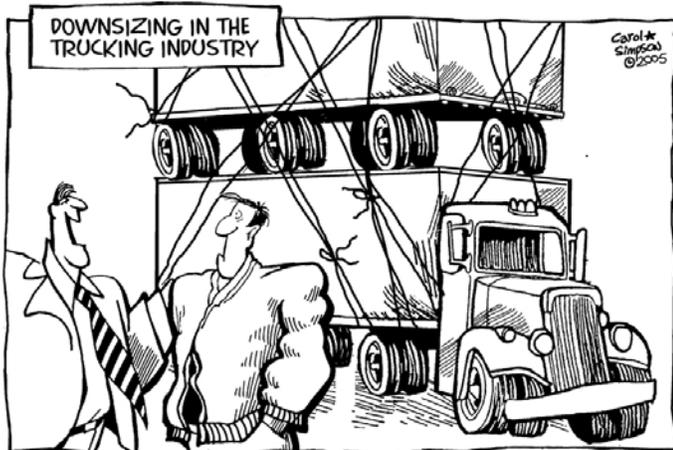
The central bank also held a key banking lending rate at a record low near zero and again pledged to keep it there for "an extended period" to nurture an anticipated recovery.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues said barometers suggest that "economic activity is leveling out." That marked an upgrade from their last meeting in June when Fed policymakers merely observed that the recession was easing because the pace of the economy's contraction was slowing. The Fed also noted that conditions in financial markets have improved further.

"I think the Fed is feeling increasingly comfortable about where the economy is going," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. For the first time in two years, the Fed is taking step – a baby step – toward unwinding the massive stimulus."

The Fed said it would gradually slow the pace of its program to buy \$300 billion worth of Treasury securities so that it will shut down at the end of October, a month later than previously scheduled. It has bought \$253 billion of the securities so far.

The program is aimed at lowering rates on mortgages and other consumer debt, a move to spur Americans to spend more. But its effectiveness has been questioned by some on Wall Street and on Capital Hill who worry that the program makes printing money to pay for Uncle Sam's exploding deficits.



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# Thanks !!!!

The last few months we have talked about a lot of different topics concerning training. This month I want to talk about our trainers and take this opportunity to thank them. These men and women take on extra responsibility with no extra pay. Our trainers are responsible for the trainees' safety, quality, production and also play an important role in developing the attitude the trainee has about their new job. Each week they are asked to fill out specific training check list sheets and comment sheets. They attend classes to sharpen their skills as trainers and report to training coordinators weekly on the progress of their trainees.

Since March 23, 2009, we have had 317 employees go through training; 240 have been certified. With 77 trainees still in training we are at 75.7% complete and over 133,000 hours have been spent training, year to date. As you can see the training department has been busy again this year.

This is where the thank you comes in. To all our trainers who have given their time and knowledge to training, we say "Thank You!" For working hard and going the extra mile to help our trainees succeed we say "Thank You!". For taking the time to meet with different groups like Developmental Dimensions Institute (DDI) to share your skills and knowledge so we can select a better workforce we say "Thank You!". For our trainers who trained employees they knew, when trained, would take their jobs and the trainer would go to lay off, a big "Thank You!!". These men and women did everything they needed to do to make sure our trainees were prepared to run the job so our plant can be successful, even though they knew when the trainees reached certification, the trainer would go to the street. What better way to show the character of our trainers and our union brother and sisters? How could anyone ever question our commitment to the future of our plant?

And now to our trainers who took the buy out. We "Thank You!" one last time for sharing your skills and

knowledge to the ones who will replace you. We know they have all the tools to do the job, I hope they will have the commitment to our plant, customers and each other that you have shown over the years. All of you are the reason our plant has endured all these years. As a wise man once said "Knowledge is Worthless, if we choose not to share it". "Thank You!" for sharing and we hope your retirement gives you everything you dreamed and hope it would.

I wish I could write the names of all our trainers, but it would take a whole page. I want to personally Thank You for making my job easier and to let you know what you do is appreciated and does not go unnoticed. Thanks!!!

**Ronnie Crane**

Union Training Coordinator

## Aspirin Promising For Colon Cancer

Score another win for the humble aspirin. A study suggests colon cancer patients who took the dirt cheap drug reduced their risk of death from the disease by nearly 30 percent.

Aspirin already is recommended for preventing heart attacks and strokes, along with its traditional use for minor pain. The new study suggests patients who already have colon cancer may benefit from taking aspirin along with surgery and chemotherapy. In a separate analysis of a subgroup of patients, only those with the most common type of tumor, those that overproduce the Cox 2 enzyme, saw a benefit.

## US Health Insurance Costs Rise Nearly Twice As Fast As Pay

The cost of health insurance in the United States climbed nearly twice as fast as wages in the first half of 2007, with family coverage costing employers around 1,000 dollars (714 euros) a month, a poll showed Wednesday. Premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance rose an average of 6.1 percent in 2007, while wages went up by 3.7 percent, the Employer Health Benefits Survey released by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research and Educational Trust showed.

The 6.1 percent rise in health insurance premiums marked a slowdown from the rate of increase last year, but also strongly outpaced inflation, running at 2.6 percent. "In 2007, the increase in health insurance premiums was about twice the rate of inflation and not quite twice the increase in workers' pay," Kaiser Vice-president Gary Claxton said in a webcast. Premiums for family coverage have surged by 78 percent since 2001, while wages have gone up 19 percent. The average premium for family coverage in 2007 was just over 12,000 dollars, with workers having to pick up part of the cost.

Workers contributed, on average, 273 dollars a month towards family health coverage packages, up from 248 dollars last year, the survey, which polled just over 3,000 public and private employers with three or more workers during the first five months of 2007, showed.

"Every year health insurance becomes less affordable for families and businesses. Over the past six years, the amount families pay out of pocket for their share of premiums has increased by about 1,500 dollars," Drew Altman, chief executive of Kaiser, said in a statement. Employers in the United States offer health insurance packages as a worker benefit. In 2007, 60 percent of US firms offered health benefits. That was down by nine percentage points on companies offering health care packages in 2000, the survey showed.

Low-paid workers were found to have the fewest healthcare options, because the small firms they tend to work for are less likely to offer coverage. The high cost of premiums was cited as a main reason firms fail to provide healthcare coverage to their employees. A survey released last month by the US Census Bureau showed that 47 million people had no health insurance in the United States last year, up from 44.8 million in 2005.

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## Questions Remain Unclear

improving the quality of care. Nonetheless, some critics say the provisions someday could allow the government to use this research to limit what Medicare or other government insurance programs would cover.

**Q: Former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin says the health-care overhaul bill would set up a “death panel.” Federal bureaucrats would play God, ruling on whether ailing**

**seniors are worth enough to deserve life-sustaining medical care. Is this true?**

**A:** Palin and other critics are wrong. Nothing in the legislation would carry out such a bleak vision. The provision that has caused the uproar would instead authorize Medicare to pay doctors for counseling patients about end-of-life care, if the patient wishes.

**Q: Does the bill advocate assisted suicide?**

**A:** No. It specifically blocks funds for counseling that presents suicide or assisted **suicide** as an option.

**Q: Should Washington be getting involved with living wills and end-of-life questions- decisions that are highly personal and really difficult?**

**A:** It already is. The federal government requires hospitals to ask adult patients if they have a living will. Or “advance directive.” If the patient doesn’t have one, and wants one, the hospital must provide assistance. The mandate on hospitals was instituted in 1992, under the Republican administration of President George H.W. Bush.

# KEEP YOUR RETIREMENT ON SOLID GROUND EVEN IF THINGS AT WORK ARE UP IN THE AIR.

Few things are as stressful as worrying about work. Because it’s easy to feel like things are out of control, it’s essential to consider any financial decision carefully. This is especially true when it comes to your retirement savings.

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# RETIREES

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

**Curtis Hughes**

Dept.#1330 CC#711

**Ronnie Fowler**

Dept.#2541 CC# 3010

## *We Send Our Sincere Condolences To*

Perry Adams, Rodney Allen, Marvin Barton, Brian Blair, Mitchell Campbell, Freeman Davis, Mark Emerson, Erick Ferguson, Timothy Fowlkes, Holly Gray, Ida Henry, William Hyler, Richie Jones, Frederick Matthews, Ray McDowell, Richard Mosel, Jeff Petrovich, Donald Plunkett, Jeremy Powell, Roscoe Reynolds Jr., Joseph Shaffer, Jerome Stephens, Benjamin Stokes, David Thompson, Kenneth Tickle, Harvey Wells Jr., Stanley Wiles, Jimmy Williamson, Jonathan Wilson

To the families of

Jerry Henderson, James Wesley Powell, and James Seamster

*This issue is dedicated to the memory of our union brother Stuart "Woody" Shelton.*

### U.S.W. Local 831

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<b>SEPTEMBER 2009 CALENDAR</b>						
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>Labor Day</b>	<b>8</b> Exec. Board Meeting 7:30 AM	<b>9</b> SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	<b>10</b> Union Meeting 7:30 AM 3:30 PM	<b>11</b> Picnic Committee Meeting 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM	<b>12</b> Fun "D" Fest for God's Pit Crew at Owens Farm
<b>13</b> Fun "D" Fest for God's Pit Crew at Owens Farm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Arbitration	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Ed Steffey Memorial Education Open Golf Tournament	<b>26</b>
R/PIC Conference at Pittsburgh, PA						
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>