



The Informer

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

Strike Continues for Local 831... Negotiations Resume... Donations Roll In

As the strike enters its third month, it's unclear how long it will last. Hopes have been high for a return to the bargaining table and now that has happened. Both sides agreed to reconvene in Pittsburgh on Monday December 18, 2006. More details will be forthcoming.

In the background there are many things going on. There are picket lines to be maintained with food, wood and other supplies. There are volunteers working daily at the union hall. There is almost never a dull moment, at the local, as people and activities buzz around all day long.



Christmas spirit on the picket line

Picket rosters, scab lists and the job board are favorite stops for visiting members. In support of our cause, donations have started to come in to our local from other locals, businesses and even individuals.

On Sunday November 12, 2006 a caravan of 9 trucks and vans representing locals from Salem Va, Roanoke Va, Radford Va, Lexington Va. and West Va. rolled into the local's parking lot. They were bringing food and monetary donations from numerous locals in and out

of state. Additional volunteers unloaded and

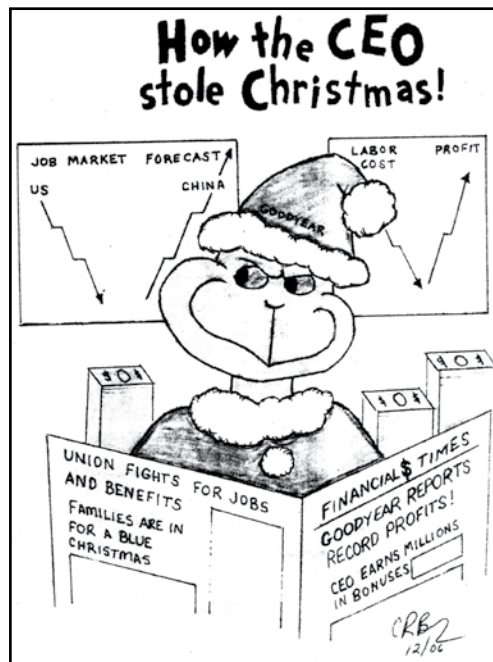
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Sizzlin' Grills Feeding the Local

Ever wonder who is responsible for some of the food events on voucher pickup day? Well, on at least one occasion, the fine folks from Western Sizzlin' on Riverside Drive in Danville were responsible for feeding the masses. Donating their equipment and time, owner Charles Mantooth assisted by grill master Jimmy Davis prepared hamburgers and cheeseburgers for hungry union members. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by the local and members should remember businesses like this when we get back to work. Patronizing businesses that have been supportive of the strike is a great way to show your appreciation for their kindness.



Charles Mantooth and Jimmy Davis cook for the local



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

- SOAR Meeting Minutes
- Pension & Insurance
- Gotta love it!

PAGE 3

- Special Membership Minutes
- The Salvation of American Jobs On This Thanksgiving

PAGE 4

- Editor's Column
- Report Card Out On Healthiest States

PAGE 5

- Questions & Answers
- Union Turns To Youtube To Send Message
- We're All In This Battle

PAGE 6

- Gerard Retaliates With Own Letter
- Christmas Parties Scheduled for Dependent Children

PAGE 8

- January Calendar
- Condolences
- Retirees



December 13, 2006

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

Opening prayer was by Billy Hedrick followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the December 6 Board meeting read and approved. A motion was made to dispense of any further business.

President Dodson read a letter regarding the FUND FOR KIDS for the Goodyear workers who are out on strike. Members attending the Christmas lunch donated \$1,635.00 and the SOAR 8-UR1 Chapter donated \$500.00 to the fund which made a total of \$2,135.00 which was presented to Local 831 to be used for the kids Christmas.

Eddie Robtison, International District 8 Representative asked each SOAR member to help on Saturday, December 16 in distributing flyers at the two Goodyear Tire Stores - Mt. Cross Rd. and Piney Forest Rd. protesting Goodyear's stand on retiree's benefits.

Gloria Gravely, Insurance representative, reported on the COBRA letter sent to members regarding dental insurance.

A motion was made to adjourn and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

Gotta love it!

Recently, one of our union members ran into an off duty police officer who had been working at the picket line. As they were having a conversation, the officer told this union member a little story about one of the temporary workers (SCAB). The officer said that while observing the picket line a scab pulled up beside him and asked the question, excuse me officer, where do the scabs park? His reply, go through the picket line they will direct you!!!!

At least this particular scab knew what he was! Remember, once a SCAB, always a SCAB!

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

Please take the time to look over the different Insurance Agencies that offer Short Term Healthcare. You can contact any one of these Agencies for an individual or family policy. This may be a cheaper route to go instead of doing the COBRA enrollment. Make sure you check out the type of coverage these plans offer before signing up for them. You can check with your Car Insurance to see if they write healthcare policies. There are a lot of options out there but you have to take the time to see what best fits your needs. Below is a list of Agencies that may be able to meet your needs.

■ **Sellers Insurance Agency**Contact Judy Barham
434-822-1025 4972-A Riverside Drive Danville, VA. 24541

■ **Kristina Scott**..... Licensed Independent Agent
(434-728-1361 Cell) (434-792-3077 Home)
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield—Shenandoah Life—Mutual of Omaha

■ **Moore Insurance Agency** Contact Richard L. Moore, Manager
2276 Franklin Turnpike, Suite 123 Danville, VA 24540
(434-836-6876) Office (434-203-0956) Cell

NOTE: Richard Moore was at the Union Hall Monday, December 18 and Tuesday, December 19, 2006 to talk to union members who were interested in buying short term or family policies to avoid paying for the COBRA Insurance. Please take the time to meet with him or one of his agents for a quote on what a policy would cost. This may be a way to save yourself some money and have Insurance until you return to work. Once you go back to work the Insurance would start immediately.

***Social Services:** There are some services that may be offered thru the Social Services such as Medicaid Insurance for children who do not have any coverage and there is limited income in the home. Go by the office and speak to a member services representative to see if they can assist in helping you or your children.

***Free Clinic of Danville** Check with the Clinic to see if you can receive services there for free or a nominal fee. Financial Screening will be done for new patients. They do accept people with Chronic illnesses, but you must go thru the screening process. The phone number is (1-434-799-1223) Check the Information Board at the Union Hall for all Insurance info.

COBRA Reminder: If you have serious health conditions that may require you to keep insurance with no break in coverage, COBRA may be the way to go for these employees and or dependents. Remember if it is two people, you can do single coverage only on both enrollees. The cost would be \$343.00 each instead of paying the family rate of \$946.00. If you do not have health problems you have the option of waiting up until March 4, 2007 to send the enrollment form to Goodyear. Then you will have another 45 days to send the money for all back premiums. This means you would have to send 4 months of premiums to be covered with no break in coverage. This gives you a little playtime before having to send any money. Please weigh all your options.

Optional Life Insurance Minnesota Mutual sent premium notices out to any one who may owe a premium on their optional life Insurance. Please send the premiums back into Minnesota Life to avoid your life Insurance from canceling. If you feel you have money in your cash side fund to pay the premium owed, then you can call them at 1-800-660-2584 and request them to do that. Make sure you check with Minnesota Life.

401-k Loans Please make sure that arrangements have been made to pay back any 401-k loans that you may have. If you do not pay on your loans, they will be in default and the balance on the loan will be treated as income and you will have to pay taxes on this money. The (90) day period ends January 3, 2007, so please take care of this. You may call them directly at J. P. Morgan (1-800-345-2345).

Special Union Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held a special union meeting on December 9, 2006 at the Union Hall with President Danny Barber presiding.

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

■ Members of the United Steelworkers (USW) union's bargaining team presented a "solidarity" tour enabling members to directly address their negotiators regarding the 10-week strike of Goodyear. The main topic of discussion was insurance.

The team was visiting all 11 locals nationwide.

■ There were 50 gift cards given away for Rock-Ola.

■ Motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The next union meeting will be January 11, 2007.

The Salvation of American Jobs On This Thanksgiving

At noon on November 21, 2006 Local 831 started its rally with the theme being "The Salvation of American Jobs On This Thanksgiving." With the street being blocked off because of the heavy traffic, as far as you could see up and down Industrial Avenue many union members and friends parked their cars and walked to the Bibleway Cathedral for the rally.



David Wilson sings to the crowd

The rally started promptly at noon with Rev. John M. Fisher as the master of ceremonies. The opening prayer was led by Rev. Tommy Williamson, retiree. The Scripture reading followed with Rev. Eugene Lipscomb reading the Old Testament followed by Pastor Steve Wright (retiree) with the New Testament. Opening remarks were sparked by our president, Danny Barber, stating that we must worry about retirees and Tyler, Texas. Fight the fight and that this fight is about American jobs across this country not just Local 831. We have lost many industries in this area and "Enough is Enough." We must make a conscious effort to buy American products and support our local business.

Next members were favored by song from Danny "Tree" Travis and Ms. Paula Coleman. Janice Smith, the Women of Steel Coordinator, encouraged everyone to stick together and "this too shall pass." Kevin Johnson, USW Goodyear Coordinator stated that, "the company's greed has overcome their common sense. Recording artist, David Wilson minis-

tered members with another song of inspiration talking about Unity. James Leaman, President Virginia AFL-CIO thanked everyone for taking a stand by voting in the November election and urged everyone to ask everyone you meet the question, "Who's side are you on?" Ron Hoover, USW Exec. Vice Pres. R/PIC reinforced to all that, "We are winning the strike." Fred Redmon, USW Vice Pres. Of

Human Affairs stated that, "We are right, they are wrong, we will win and they will lose."

There was just a little break from all of the great speakers. Members had some humor

for their souls by Robbie Hunt giving everyone tips on how to save on their light bills, stretch their food and that he will see them at Food Lion and when they get back to work. Next, Leslie Byrne delivered greetings from Senator Jim Webb who visited members several times on the picket lines stressing that they are fighting for a future. James Andrew, Pres. NC AFL-CIO explained that this is their fight also and that members are blessed being on the right side. James also presented Local 831 with a check from North Carolina AFL-CIO. "We are going to win, because Steelworkers never quit," stated Richard Trumka, Sec. Treasurer AFL-CIO. He also extended a thanks to officers of Local 831 and the entire membership from Leo Gerard, president of USW. "Stick with the union and we will win."

A solidarity message was given by Elder, Larry Campbell, co-pastor of Bibleway Cathedral stating that the time has come for them to stand up and be heard. "Stand and stand on truth and stand together. Clos-

ing prayer was delivered by Rev. Anthony Ferebee, pastor of Greater Triumph Baptist Church. After being enthused, motivated and rallied members all gathered that the educational building to receive their gift cards for Food Lion and a thanksgiving turkey. United Steelworkers Local 831 would like to thank you for joining them in this celebration of thankfulness and a unified force to stand together once and for all for what remains of American jobs.

Continued from page 1

Strike Continues

sorted the multitude of grocery items. Grocery boxes were distributed to union families with 3 or more children later in the week. In addition to the groceries there were cash donations of over \$4,000 from this caravan of union angels.

On Thursday December 14, 2006 the local was visited by representatives from Local 82162 IUE-CWA. President Red Adams, Vice President Dean Lugar and Administrative Chief Steward Jeff Moran presented our own Vice President Terry Trull with a donation of \$1500. Special thanks to Local 82162 for their donation. There have been so many donations made at the union hall and picket line that they can not all be listed, however a sincere thank you from the local and it's membership to all businesses and individuals who have so generously contributed to the strike cause.



Red Adams, Local 82162 IUE-CWA President

Union Says Prediction Wrong

A J.P Morgan Securities analyst, Himanshu Patel told the Associated Press in late November that he thought a key date for the labor dispute between the USW and Goodyear would be January 3 because that is the day striking workers are set to lose their medical benefits.

"The facts are that the real cut-off date is in mid April," said United Steelworkers International Vice President Tom Conway.

COBRA Legislation gives you 60 days to make a decision to continue your health care coverage and then another 45 days before you have to make a payment. Conway criticized Patel for making a series of financial projections concerning the strike such as Goodyear's ability to maintain its inventory for four months with reduced production levels, when other news outlets had reported shortages weeks earlier.

"Patel's willful ignorance causes him to grossly underestimate our resolve and our ability to impact the company," Conway said. "We want Goodyear to stop stone-walling and return to meaningful negotiations."

NEXT VOUCHER DAY

The next day that vouchers will be issued will be January 2nd/3rd, Tuesday & Wednesday. The card amount will change from \$75 on Food Lion to \$80 and from \$20 on gas to \$30.

USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN...

All I want for Christmas....

It's almost that time. The time of year that some cherish and others dread. The Christmas season is upon us yet again. This year things are different though. We are in the midst of the fight of our union lives. I don't think that Christmas will be the same for any of us this year. We all are suffering a certain amount of holiday stress compounded by the stresses related to the strike. Financial pressure, family pressures and the overall buzz of the season can cause us to overlook the real meaning of the season. Don't get me wrong, I'm not preaching religion, just the reminder that this is the season for caring, sharing and all those warm fuzzy things that make us human. There may not be as many presents under the tree or some may even choose to put the celebration off until the strike is over. One thing is certain to be under the tree for all union members and that is dignity and self respect. We have walked the picket line in rain and cold. We have worked countless hours for the cause of the membership. We have rallied together in places all across this country for our cause. We have taken a stand on issues that others have stuck their heads in the sand when confronted with. We have given each and every working American a present of immeasurable value. We have stood up for them and ourselves when others would not. We are the Union. The Mighty, Mighty Union.

With that said, I personally implore each and every Local 831 member to hold the line. If you have thought of crossing the picket line and returning to work, DON'T. You have made it this far, keep going. We can see the finish line from here, the goal is in reach. Keep the gifts of dignity and self respect for yourself. I know that these sentiments will not pay the bills or put food on the table but they will pay off in the long run. As for me, All I want for Christmas.... is for no one else to cross the line.

Mike Fox, Managing Editor



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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.

What are my insurance options come January 3, 2007?

January 3, 2007 is a date that is on the minds of many, if not all, striking union members. The day our company sponsored insurance expires. There are several options available.

- See if you can be covered through your spouses employer. This is likely to qualify as a "life change" event allowing you to enroll.
- There are many insurance companies that offer short term health care plans designed to bridge coverage gaps just like this situation. Check with your automobile or homeowners insurance carrier to see if they can offer coverage.
- Enroll in Cobra coverage. Although premiums are high, this coverage may be for you if you have pre-existing or ongoing medical issues. We all have 60 days to enroll in Cobra from time of coverage lapse and another 45 days to actually pay the premium. Coverage is available on an individual basis or family coverage if needed. Please consult with the local's P&I office for specific details regarding your situation.

All union members are encouraged to check out these coverage options while there is still time.

Union Turns To Youtube To Send Message

The United Steelworkers are turning to the popular video-sharing site YouTube to question the safety of Goodyear tires being made while 12,000 union workers in the United States and Canada are on strike.

"Obviously it's getting a lot of attention. There is a big audience out there that gets that information. It's instant communications," said USW spokesman Wayne Ranick.

The YouTube posting suggest that replacement workers during a strike can lead to unsafe tires. The ad is head-lined, "Are Goodyear tires safe?" and ends with a screeching car crash and the question, "What tires do you plan to buy?"

Since the strike started, Goodyear has been making tires at some of its North American plants with non union and temporary workers as well as some managers.

To gain access to the popular YouTube, go to their website and type in Goodyear strike in the search bar. There are other related videos as well, such as former Senator of North Carolina John Edwards supporting the strikers and their cause. In his video, Edwards talks about how beneficial the union has been to his own family. There is also a video on YouTube showing the rally in New York in protest of Goodyear. Ronnie Crane and Tim Brown were in New York November 28, 2006 through December 2,

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2006 representing Local 831. Ronnie and Tim were there to educate and raise awareness in Nascar circles about Goodyear using temporary workers and the consequences suffered when Bridgestone /Firestone used this practice. Anyone remember the Explorer roll overs? On the video, Danville Mechanic and Union member Tim Brown, shares his view on the strike. Visit this, site and share it with as many people as you can!

We're All In This Battle

"We're all in this battle together," said Retiree George Stewart. Stewart, like all retirees knows what is at stake with the labor dispute between Goodyear and the Steelworkers and the retirees are doing things to help. Last month the retirees (SOAR) gave \$1,200.00 to the strike fund and then this month gave another \$2,135.00 to help buy Christmas gifts for striking workers children.

"Right now, there is an urgent need. There are about 1,800 children that may not have anything for Christmas because of the strike and we want to do our part in helping to provide gifts for these children," stated President of SOAR Jack Dodson. Dodson also reminded SOAR members to help out on the picket lines and anything else they can do. "Remember", Dodson said, "United we stand divided we fall." **THANKS RETIREES!!**

Gerard Retaliates With Own Letter

Last month, Goodyear Vice President of North America John Rich, wrote a column in the Register & Bee that seemed to have the workers interest at heart. Steelworkers President Leo Gerard submitted his own letter to the Danville paper in which he explains the real truths about this struggle Steelworkers are undertaking.

"I was amazed by the spin-doctoring that John Rich gets away with in his public bargaining column in the Danville Register & Bee. In reality, Goodyear has only one foot in this country, and maybe only a toehold. Like other multinational corporations with wealthy executives like Jon Rich, Goodyear is just one step away from "cut and run". Rich has his multi-million dollar bonuses and health care. Why should it matter to him that workers and retirees have their health care," said Gerard.

Rich's claim that Goodyear's offer of \$660 million for an independent trust fund (VEBA) can provide decades of benefits at a level above those provided in the current contract is not true, according to Gerard. Gerard says that Goodyear's own analysis have said that it's obligation for retiree health care benefits is \$1.2 billion – twice the amount that Goodyear now offers.

Gerard further explains in his column, while Rich holds this out as a magnanimous offer, we can't take seriously a proposal to pay out 50 cents on the dollar when Goodyear stands to pocket the rest and walk away from its obligations.

If the proposed \$660 million VEBA were to maintain the current level of retiree benefits, while charging retiree premiums at the comparable level with the tire industry, the VEBA would be completely out of funds in 2013. Goodyear is not concerned about this looming tragedy, drumming retirees out of health care benefits.

Goodyear is simply looking to move on, abandoning

American communities and the employees that helped create its success as it restructures for "global competitiveness." Goodyear has invested more than \$150 million in overseas production since 2004.

Gerard also claims that the so called return to the bargaining table in November was no more than a well planned, staged performance timed to sell bonds on Wall Street.

"After accepting Goodyear's offer to come back to the table, the USW bargaining committee discovered immediately that the company was not interested in serious bargaining – only sham bargaining in the newspapers. It's very disheartening that newspapers in communities where our members work and live fell for the Rich ploy," stated Gerard.

Gerard says that Goodyear's attitude is especially galling after workers agreed to sacrifices in 2003 that pulled the company back from the brink of bankruptcy. Instead of sharing in \$228 million in after-tax profits last year, Goodyear is demanding more concessions. Company executives, meanwhile, rake in multimillion-dollar compensation packages and receive plaudits from Wall Street for their ruthlessness.

"We are deeply troubled that Goodyear has taken an anti-worker, and even anti-American, position by financing manufacturing in countries where health care is subsidized but workers rights are repressed. Instead of demanding cuts to employee and retiree health care benefits.

Goodyear should be working with the USW and the newly elected Congress to secure universal health care, which would lower cost for both employer and employee while improving the health of all Americans. It's time for Goodyear to drop the hollow rhetoric and truly invest in its workers, current and future retirees and their communities," said Gerard.

Christmas Parties Scheduled for Dependent Children

On December 21, teens of striking Local 831 members including those on A & S and Workers Comp were given the opportunity to attend a Christmas Skating Party at Skatetown on Piney Forest Road in Danville. Each dependant child age 13-17 received free admission, free skate rental, pizza and drink as well as an opportunity to win one of several door prizes. Doors opened at 6:00 pm and the party ended at 9:00 pm. Chaperones were provided.

Dependent children (age 0-12) of striking members of Local 831 including those on A & S and Workers Comp

had the opportunity to attend a Christmas party held at the union hall on December 21st from 6:15 pm until 8:45 pm.

Santa was in attendance and each child received a gift. They enjoyed face painting and a little balloon magic. There was also, drawings for larger prizes. Refreshments was provided.

These events were for the dependent children of Local 831. Both events were a success and everyone that attended had a fun time in fellowship celebrating Christmas.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

to all USW Local 831 members and your families.

May God Bless you all!

The Staff and Unionized workers at the Goodyear/Gemini Store would like to express their support for the striking Local 831 Goodyear workers and their families.



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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.

James Fuller
dept. 2431 cc# 3091



*We Send
Our Sincere
Condolences To*

Ronnie Boyles, Dana Dixon,
Jeff Dixon, Omar Grimes,
James Mayhew, Issiah Polk,
James Sparks, Keith Walton.

This issue is dedicated to the family of Wayne Hudson.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY 2007 CALENDAR						
31	1 Happy New Year	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Union Meeting 7:30 AM 7:30 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			