

United Steelworkers



Building Power

USW

Merged April 14, 2005



February 14, 2006

Dear Members of USW Local 831:

You are hereby notified that Election of the following officers will be held by Secret Ballot on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 and Wednesday, April 5, 2006 from 5:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. both days at the Goodyear Danville, Va. Plant. Run-off Elections, if necessary, will be held Tuesday, April 11, 2006 and Wednesday, April 12, 2006. Absentee Ballots will be permitted if any member whose work requires them to be more than fifty (50) miles away from the polling place during the time of election, if they are prevented from appearing at the polls because of service in the armed forces or vacation. The request for such absentee ballot must be received within (7) days or more in advance of the election in writing to the chairperson of the election committee which is: Linwood Saunders, 285 Shady Grove Road, Providence, NC 27315 Phone: (336) 388-5537.

President
 Treasurer
 (2) Guards

Vice-President
 Financial Secretary
 (3) Trustees
 (1) Policy Committee Member
 (4) Division Chairmen (1 per Division)

Recording Secretary
 (1) Guide

Fraternally Yours,

Danny M. Barber
 Danny M. Barber, President
 USW Local 831

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FEBRUARY 8, 2006

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Officers were present. Total members present were 84. The name of Sandra Tanksley was drawn for the attendance prize. She was not present; therefore, the attendance prize for March will be \$20.00.

Earl Guill led opening prayer.

Following roll call of Officers the January 2006 Minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's report read and approved.

Jack reported on a bus tour to Charleston, S.C. May 23, 24 and 25. If interested call or see Jack to make reservations. Trips will now have seat assignments according to first one to sign up and pay the deposit. First deposits received will get first choice of seats.

Willie Fitzgerald, Vice-President, announced help is needed to sell stew at assigned locations. New locations are the two Goodyear stores - Mt. Cross Road and Piney Forest Rd.

The hot dog sale at Goodyear Store - Mt. Cross Rd. will be in March.

Marie Marlowe gave a report on teams signed up to prepare lunches.

Door prizes won by the following for oil, lube change from Goodyear Service Store on Mt. Cross Rd. or Goodyear Store on Piney Forest Rd.: Tom Master, Jim Chatten, Raymond Hurley and Nancy Guill.

Fifty-fifty won by Lola Howerton.

Members enjoyed a lunch of Brunswick stew.

Motion made to adjourn by Linda Rucker. Seconded by Dianne Hyler. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Guill, Secretary

**Welcome To New Members Who
Joined Wednesday, February 8, 2006:**

Louis and Thelma Moorman



PENSION & INSURANCE

By Greg Gammon

■ BUDCO VERIFICATION PROCESS

The Goodyear Benefits Solution Center has been experiencing a very high call volume from individuals whose dependants were removed from coverage because they did not successfully satisfy Budco. Ineligible and dependants that were incomplete were removed from coverage on 1/18/06, as well as those of non-responders.

If anyone can verify the status of an ineligible dependant, they should contact the solution center for help. The number to call is (1-800-334-9395). If you previously received an incomplete letter from Budco and know what document(s) to send, you do not have to call. You must submit the document and Budco's last letter to the solution center requesting your dependant to be reinstated. Attaching Budco's letter will ensure that the solution center knows what the documents are for. Do not use the "Notice of Change in Family Status" form for dependant audit responses.

Whenever possible, include the Budco status letters to identify what the documents are for. If additional documentation is received in a timely manner and satisfies the documentation requirement, dependant benefits will be reinstated with no lapse in coverage. This applies to those who were incomplete as well as those who were non-responders but you should reply soon! Until they are successful, coverage will be terminated. Over 11,000 dependants have been removed by using the Budco audit.

■ COLE VISION CARE

The corporate level at Walmart has decided to leave the Cole network. Participants who go to Walmart vision centers for exams, glasses, and etc. will have to file their claims by paper and the provider is "non-participating" under the plan. This means that participants are responsible for all charges and will be reimbursed according to the schedule of benefits.

■ AREAS OF INTEREST

Family Status Change - If there is a life changing experience in your life such as a birth of a child, adoption or you have gotten married; you have 31 days to add those individuals to your policy. It is your responsibility to add them by filling out a family status change form. You can fill one out at the union hall, or it can be done at the plant.

EOB's - Members visiting the union hall to inquire about an outstanding bill(s) should always bring the explanation of benefits (EOB) with them. These EOB's are very imperative because they state what your responsibility is to the bill. Please, never discard any EOB's that you receive. These bills help us to keep up with your deductibles, coinsurance amounts and annual out of the pocket maximums.

**Benefits Solution Center
1-800-334-9395**

February Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on February 9, 2006 with President Danny Barber and Vice President Terry Trull presiding. These were the highlights of the meeting.

■ David Payne opened up the meeting with prayer. It was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers, all were present except Gloria Gravely.

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

■ Financial secretary William McLaughlin presented the January finances and they were approved as read.

■ Executive Board report for January was approved as read and contained the following:

- Motion to hold nominations at the March 9, 2006 Union Meeting following regular business (see front page). Election committee will consist of (6) members and (2) alternates from the 7:30 a.m. meeting and the 7:30 p.m.

- Motion to donate \$500.00 to IBB Local 484.

- Motion to send the President, Financial Secretary and Treasurer to a LM2 Meeting to be held in Nashville, Tennessee from March 6-7, 2006.

- Motion to send the President and the Policy Committee Member to the Spring Interim Meeting to be held March 26-31, 2006 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

- Motion to donate \$100.00 to the Brendan Borek Fund in memory of URW International Vice President Joe Johnston.

- Motion to send the Financial Secretary and Treasurer to the LM 990 Seminar to be held February 28, 2006 in Roanoke, Va.

- Motion to rent a Smartlight Billboard in Piedmont Mall for a one-year contract for a fee of \$200.00 a month.

- P&I report given by Greg Gammon (see P&I report).

- Wayne Dickerson gave a report on Civil Rights. He reminded everyone of the need to observe, not to be the police. He also encouraged everyone to be professional when addressing issues and to keep good notes.

- David Payne and Sylvester Mayo gave the trustee report. An audit was conducted on January 24, 2006 and the books were in order.

- Byron Taylor commented on the 2006 General Assembly.

- Dennis Saunders thanked everyone for allowing him to attend the Safety Conference in Tyler, Texas. He also warned members of the danger of electricity and reminded everyone not to tamper with electricity if you are not authorized.

- Points of Information were given by President Danny Barber:

- If you go out of work, beware that you are being watched.

- Upcoming negotiations are going to be very serious.

- Veteran members need to educate the younger people.

- Dennis Saunders and Harry Hughes won the 50/50 drawings.

- Shei Light cc#6390 dept.2421 name was drawn for the attendance drawing. She was not present. The March door prize will be \$600.00.

- Motion to adjourn. The next meeting will be March 9, 2006.

\$\$\$ Overpayment Alert \$\$\$

If you worked during any of your vacation periods or were paid any pay during a week where you were on vacation, such as holiday pay or a shortage you most likely have paid too much for your medical and/or your recreation association dues. During the week of March 18, 2005 refunds were given for the 2004 year. When that was done, the year to date total was affected, therefore to know exactly how much you paid, you must add up all your stubs in which the \$3.00 or \$9.00 was deducted. Once you have this information, take it to Marion Purnell or someone in the Human Resources department. Refund requests must be turned in by February 28th.





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AlSCO Elects Steward



Kathy Adams of AlSCO will serve her first term as shop steward. Her alternate who was not available for the picture is Linda Womack. Kathy also serves on the Civil Rights Committee at the local union.

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Union!
BE INVOLVED**

USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

285 Shady Grove Road
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USW District 8 • www.usw831.org

■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

■
Janet Gwynn & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



EDITOR'S COLUMN...

"Follow the lead"

As it gets closer to July 22, 2006 (contract expiration date) we must prepare ourselves for whatever might prevail. Naturally everyone would hope that we would not have to strike Goodyear, but we must be prepared to do so if the need arises. Early in the negotiating process, a vote will be held to give our negotiators the right to call a strike if necessary. It's always important to have a good positive vote—this gives our negotiators power at the negotiating table. Without a positive "right to strike" vote their hands would be tied. The vote itself is just a symbolic move—the real strength lies in the fact that you can support that vote with action and stand united across the country.



Over the next several months, as members, we can help our negotiating team by preparing our finances so that we will be in a stable financial position. You can do that by putting back that tax refund, paying a couple payments ahead or dropping a few extra dollars into your savings.

In 1976, the union (then URW) struck for four months to give you the COLA you now receive (\$14.037). Can you imagine working for your job wage level with no COLA? While at the time those four months were a devastating period for the members who chose to stand their ground—it has definitely paid off for them and continues to pay for us today. If you ask any of those members, they will tell you it was worth it. As we move closer to this contract expiration we must also prepare mentally for what may come. The older members know what to expect, for the younger folks—it's just like dancing; all you have to do is *follow the lead*. Talk to the experienced people, they can give you an idea of what to expect. The main thing is that, if we have to strike—we need 100% participation. If you know people who are not union members, urge them to join today. While we enjoy a local union with 98% membership, we just can't settle for that, we need everyone on board.

My granddaddy always told me to prepare for the worst and you can rejoice if it's anything less and that is exactly what we must do.

Dana Dixon, *Managing Editor*

NOTICE

USW Local 831 is accepting proposals for consideration for our Master and Local Contract Negotiations.

Please submit your proposals to your Division Chairman or at the Union Hall.

- Proposals must be signed by (5) members in good standing
- Proposals must be submitted by April 1, 2006 @ 12:00 p.m.

USW Local 831 Negotiating Committee

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

Questions & Answers

Am I required to go into an electrical panel?

If you are not qualified to do so—the answer is no.

Article XI Safety and Health, (h) 1 states: No employee shall be required or permitted to work under conditions with which may tend to be unsafe or injurious to his health or safety and the safety of others.

Article XI Supervisors working, page 125 states: Supervisory employees shall not perform any work ordinarily be done by bargaining unit except for emergencies, inventory, trouble shooting and demonstrating methods or operations.

In summary, if you are not a maintenance employee or supervisor, you do not have to go into an electrical panel—in fact, you are urged not to.

Dennis Saunders, USW 831 Safety Committee

Local 831 Supports Veterans



Vice President Terry Trull & President Danny Barber present Veterans Memorial Representative Dave Newman with a check for \$5,000 from USW Local 831 in honor of its' 600+ veterans.

Members Chatter

What are the issues that concern you about the upcoming negotiations?

Editors Note: The current contract with Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company expires July 22, 2006.



Carolyn Brooks
Dept. 1523, B Crew

No flex scheduling, protecting COLA, maintaining our insurance as is and absolutely no outsourcing of jobs.



Horace Beck
Dept. 1524, C Crew

Maintaining retirement and job security, actually our overall benefit package.



Shelby Totten
Dept. 4040, C Crew

For the local contract I have a strong disagreement with the way company select jobs are done. If we must have company select, those employees selected should come from the area the company select job is first. We also have too much management buddy-buddy stuff with some employees.



Jeff Morris
Dept. 2541, C Crew

Job security is my biggest issue. Maintaining a good insurance plan ranks high as well.

USW Local 831 & Goodyear Support the March of Dimes



Front row, l-to-r are Jean Jefferson, Norma Gray, Donna Eades, Pam Meeks, Back row, Brenda Miles, Dana Dixon, David Payne, Monica Gray



Presenting matching checks for \$250 each are Terry Trull for Local 831 and John Rhodes for Goodyear. Alex Vardavas (center) emceed the event.

If you want to stay up-to-date on contract negotiations, submit your email address to Local 831. Send email to ddixon@usw831.org.

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Trade Deficit Up 91% in 5 Years

Millions More Manufacturing Jobs Given To China

The U.S. Department of Commerce released the latest figures on the trade deficit at the end of last week. We hit an all-time high of \$726 billion for 2005. This year, the biggest imbalance is again with China. We are importing \$202 billion more than we are exporting to them, which is a 24.5 percent increase from 2004.

What does a skyrocketing trade deficit mean for workers?

The trade deficit is the difference between our nation's imports and exports. As imports rise and exports dwindle, U.S. jobs in manufacturing take a hard hit.

ESTIMATES SHOW \$1 BILLION IN NEW TRADE DEFICIT MEANS 10,000 JOBS LOST.

Year	Trade Deficit	Manufacturing Employment
2005	-\$726 billion	14.2 million
2004	-\$618 billion	14.3 million
2003	-\$495 billion	14.5 million
2002	-\$421 billion	15.3 million
2001	-\$363 billion	16.4 million
2000	-\$378 billion	17.3 million

91% Increase in the Trade Deficit

Over 3 MILLION Lost Jobs

Why do a majority of our elected officials seem uninterested in addressing this crisis?

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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.

Kenneth Lipford Dept. 2541 RTS

The February issue of the Informer is dedicated in memory of Nelson Stroud, a past Associate Editor of the Informer.

Brother Stroud passed on December 24, 2005. Our belated condolences go out to his family.

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Darrell Smith, Sean Stockton, Tanya Stockton, Winfred Tate, Jerry Thacker, Lamonica Thomas, Thomas Underwood, Hobart Wann, Deborah White, John Allen Wilkerson and Jackie Wilson.

Condolences to the family of retiree Calvin Doss

U.S.W. Local 831

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 2006 CALENDAR						
February BD 26	AC 27	AC 28	BD 1 SOAR Executive Board Meeting 1:00 PM	BD 2	AC 3	AC 4
AC 5	BD 6 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM LM2 School in Nashville	BD 7	AC 8 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	AC 9 Nomination for Officers Union Meeting	BD 10	BD 11
BD 12	AC 13	AC 14	BD 15	BD 16	AC 17	AC 18
	R/PIC Policy Meeting Pittsburgh, PA					
AC 19	BD 20	BD 21	AC 22	AC 23	BD 24	BD 25
BD 26	AC 27	AC 28	BD 29	April BD 30	AC 31	AC 1
Spring Interim Meeting						