

It's All About The Kids...

Cub Scouts Enjoy Our Grounds

The area Cub Scouts again this year came to Local 831 looking for fun, food and friendship during their annual summer camp. This is the fifth year that our local has provided their grounds for the benefit of the children in our area. "This is a small thing we can do for the betterment of our community, many of these kids are children of our members," stated President Danny Barber. Local 831 has worked hard to show community leaders that we are and will always be a good citizen of the community. The kids enjoy many craft projects, games and learn how to shoot bows & arrows as well as BB guns. The Scouting leadership expressed their appreciation of the use of the grounds as well as the hospitality they receive.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

- The REAL Economic Story
- Attention Women of Steel!

PAGE 3

- July Membership Meeting Minutes
- Local Workers Locked Out

PAGE 4

- Editor's Column
- Job Growth Not Keeping Up With Demand

PAGE 5

- Questions & Answers

PAGE 6

- COPE Report of Virginia Budget
- COPE Report of 2004 Virginia General Assembly

PAGE 7

- B.F. Goodrich/ Michelin on Strike
- Pension & Insurance

PAGE 8

- August Calendar
- Condolences
- Retirees
- Flashback

The REAL Economic Story

Since January 2001, we have lost a net 2.9 million private sector jobs, including 2.8 million good manufacturing jobs. The few jobs created in recent months are not enough to employ the people entering the job market for the first time, much less to make a real dent in unemployment.

In their place, we're adding lower-wage jobs that provide few if any benefits. Much of the manufacturing capacity, which gave us jobs that paid well and came with good benefits and built and sustained our middle class, has moved to China. Now we are exporting white-collar, high tech jobs, too.

The wealthy have benefited from massive tax cuts from the current administration. Corporations get tax breaks encouraging them to move jobs overseas and help from government in avoiding paying overtime. Government policies have created a \$500 billion deficit, while still shortchanging working family programs, with more huge deficits to come. Such policies will result in a burden on our children and on today's workers when they try to retire.

The Bush administration is spending 87 billion for reconstruction in Iraq while ignoring the many needs here at home. Bush is proposing unworkable tax credits that will at best help only a fraction of the 44 million uninsured Americans gain health coverage, but 13 million Iraqis will receive health care access from, that's right, U.S. taxpayer dollars. The "No Child Left Behind Act" has not been adequately funded and no funds have been allocated to modernize U.S. schools, but the latest rebuilding funds include \$90 million for Iraqi schools.

Americans feel that jobs that pay well and offer good benefits are vanishing. Many decent jobs today require a college education, but financially strapped states are cutting tuition aid and raising tuition costs while parents aren't able to save for college costs. Homes and health care are harder and harder to afford. And many of our children will have to take up the burden of caring for us when we can no longer work. "Every single job I've had in the last 20 years has gone offshore - to Canada and Mexico. We need a President in office who will stop this immoral corporate greed that puts profits above working Americans. Or maybe I shouldn't even say 'working Americans' - because, more and more, we are not working. If these immoral companies continue what they're doing, we will lose our middle class, our backbone - and our nation will go down." - Patricia Richards, a former UNITE, UAW and PACE member, Jackson Mich.

ATTENTION WOMEN OF STEEL! Women Can Make A Difference

As Election time draws near, Local 831 Women of Steel would like to encourage all of our ladies to get out and vote in the upcoming election. This is a very critical election year for the working people, women especially. They had to fight a little harder to pave their way in the workforce. Although they say men and women are



Local 831 Secretary, Brenda Miles poses with District 8 Director, Ernest R. "Billy" Thompson and Janice Smith, Women of Steel Coordinator. Their group spearheaded a drive to collect funds to be donated to a child with cancer during the District 8 "Summer Institute." they collected over \$800. Great work ladies!

equal, we know that it took a lot of hard fights, changes in our laws, etc; to get us where we are today. It seems like every time you open the newspaper up to read, more jobs are being lost to foreign countries. Dan River Mills Inc. recently announced another layoff of 300+ salary and union jobs. Something has to be done to save these American jobs for our future generation. Women play a big part in the workforce as opposed to the old days when they stayed home to take care of the family. Now, with the rising cost of healthcare benefits, cost

of living etc., it takes two incomes to keep the household running. Just think, if all of our women took 5 people out to the polls this November, what a difference this could make. Not only is it your right to vote, it should be your duty to vote. Saving American jobs will be a major issue during this election, so don't wait until your job goes overseas before you decide to make a stand. Let's show how strong we are and what a difference we can make by doing our part as union sisters. UNITED WE STAND!



"If you don't think your vote counts...
just count the number of jobs this country has lost."

July Membership Meeting Minutes

USWA Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on July 8, 2004 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

■ Courtney Dixon opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers, all were present.

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

■ Executive Board report from the July meeting was approved as read and contained the following items:

- Motion to allocate up to \$1,000 for the Ed Steffey Memorial Education Open.

- Motion to send Pension & Insurance Representative and the Alternate, to the Joint Benefits Conference in Akron, Ohio.

- Motion to send President Danny

Barber and Benny Toller to the Interim Meeting in Longboat Key, Florida.

■ Financial Secretary, William "Stick" McLaughlin presented the financial report for June and it was approved as read. Stick also read the name of the rejoining member and a motion was made to accept, motion carried.

■ Pension & Insurance Representative, Benny Toller addressed the following items:

- Drugs not covered by spouses drug plan.

- EOB,s

- Delta Dental

- Workers Compensation

- See Pension & Insurance Report for details on these items.

■ Dana Dixon, Communications, reported on the history of the Local and Rapid Response being featured in the Pace Steelworkers Alliance.

■ Wayne Dickerson, Civil Rights chairman, reported on classes that

committee member, Kathy Adams attended at Summer School on Sexual Harassment and your Rights.

■ Benny Toller gave a By-Laws report on a proposed By-Laws change that was presented to the committee. It will be read at 3 meetings and voted on in the 3rd meeting.

■ President Danny Barber gave these points of info:

- Explained why HB Maynard and the Lean Manufacturing Groups are in the plant.

- Wage and Hour Act of Va., Judge has issued an injunction for 90 days.

■ Ricky Miles and Roger Dockery won the 50/50 drawings.

■ W.T. Smith Dept 4040 cc#2386 name was drawn for the attendance prize. The member was not present. The August attendance prize amount will be \$150.

■ Motion to adjourn, motion carried.

Local Workers Locked Out

Workers at the DanChem plant in Danville, represented by the United Food & Commercial Workers of America Local 400 have been on strike for since January. At risk has been the amount they pay for healthcare. The company had wanted them to pay as much as \$200 per week. With no possible solution in site, they chose to strike the company. That strike ended talks for months. A few weeks ago, the union came back with a proposal to increase their portion of the healthcare at approximately \$ 100 per week. Apparently, that wasn't enough for the company. They have now taken the work stoppage to another level; the company has decided to lock out all employees. What happens from here is unsure. If you know any of these union members, let them know, we stand behind them in their battle with DanChem.



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



617A • Piney Forest Road
Danville, VA 24540

434-793-1090

Toll Free 1-866-871-1040

**Support Your
Local Union,
Attend A Union
Meeting - Be Involved**

Job Growth Not Keeping Up With Demand

The economy needs to grow by a minimum of 150,000 new jobs monthly just to keep with population growth. But in June, however, only 112,000 jobs were created and the number of unemployed rose by 45,000, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is reporting.

The Bureau said manufacturing lost 11,000 jobs last month, bringing the total manufacturing jobs loss under President Bush to 2.7 million.

The government also said that the number of unemployed remained unchanged at 8.2 million and the unemployment rate did not change. The unemployment rate of 5.6 percent is as high as in November 2001, when the recovery began.

In the 12 months since the "jobs and growth" tax cut went into effect in July 2003, the Bush administration has missed its target of new jobs by 2.2 million, the Economic Policy Institute said.

California led the states with the largest number of new unemployment claims filed for the week ending June 19, the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration reported.

There were 6,006 new unemployment claims filed in California, followed by 4,341 in New Jersey. Other states with large numbers of first time claims were Michigan, Massachusetts, Texas, Connecticut, Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Ohio, and New York.

USWA Local 831 CREDENTIALS

285 Shady Grove Road
Providence, NC 27315-9477
(336) 388-5537 • FAX: (336) 388-5009
USWA District 8 • www.uswa831.org

Danny Barber
President and Editor

Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Your Right, Your Duty to Vote!

Voting is perhaps, one of the most important privileges we have as Americans. It is not only our privilege it is our duty! Men and women have suffered and died for this basic right and yet some individuals still choose not to exercise their right to vote. Voting means that you have a say, a voice, in who is elected to office or what laws are passed or not passed. Some may feel "Oh it's only one vote how much difference can that make." A plenty!! Through our great history in the United States, there are numbers upon numbers of elections that were decided by that one vote. Not only elections but also laws that to this day are in place. So you see, that one vote can make a difference in determining who is elected or what new law will or will not be passed. In any account, you have expressed yourself on how you feel, win, lose or draw and therefore, did your duty as an American citizen.

After being convicted of voting in the 1872 Presidential election, pioneer for women's rights, (when women did not have the right to vote) Susan B. Anthony delivered the "Stump Speech" in 29 postal districts of Monroe Co. (New York State) in 1873. Part of her speech read: "It shall be my work this evening to prove to you that in thus voting, I not only

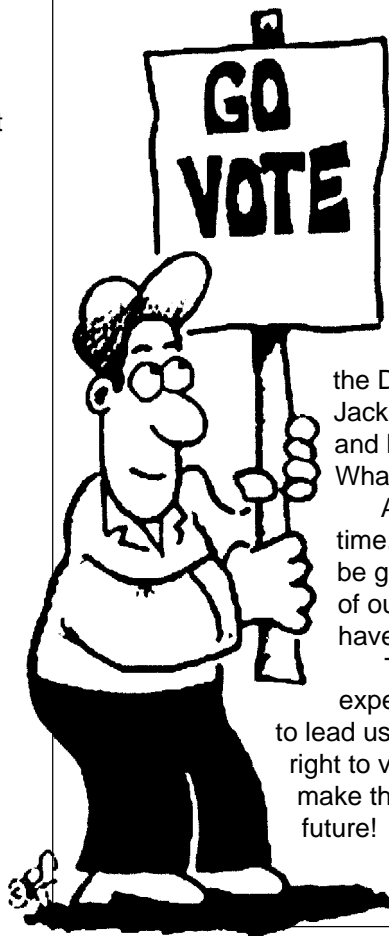
committed no crime, but, instead, simply exercised my citizen's rights, guaranteed to me and all United States citizens by the National Constitution, beyond the power of any state to deny." It would be another 47 years before women would have the right to vote in the United States. The 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote was added to the constitution on August 18, 1920. After all of this how could any women in the 21st century not exercise her right to vote? When our forefathers were putting

the Declaration of Independence together, Andrew Jackson made the comment that only the wealthy and landowners should have the right to vote. What's up with that?

Anyone who is not registered to vote still has time. A COPE committee member of our local will be glad to get you signed up. Approximately 73% of our members are registered. Our goal is to have 100% registered.

Today we live in times that we have never experienced; it will be important whom we choose to lead us in the days ahead. Please exercise your right to vote in the up-coming elections, your vote may make the difference on how we are to live in the future!

Danny (Tree) Travis, Associate Editor



Questions Answers

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

If I am out on funeral leave, what do I do to guarantee payment?

After a person is out on funeral leave they should ask their area manager for a funeral leave claim form. After filling this form out it should be returned to the area manager who then will submit it for proper payment. The payroll dept. on a monthly basis does an audit to see that the form is on file, if not, payroll sends a letter to the appropriate business center to notify the employee to get the form filled out and turned in or their pay is taken out of their next check. So, if you have not filled out and submitted your form to management, you could have your funeral leave pay taken back.

2.79% 2 YEAR SHARE CERTIFICATE



"These days it's just hard to tell. No one really knows what the market will do.

When asked what I look for when saving money, I look for a higher rate of return but with a shorter lock in period. I don't want to have to lock in my savings for five years when the rates might get better."

—Lyn Farley, Member Services Manager



539 Arnett Blvd.
Danville, VA 24540
434-793-1278
www.urwfcu.org

The "Bump-Up" 24 Month Share Certificate requires a \$5000 minimum deposit. Other certificates require a \$500 minimum deposit. Rates are subject to change, other terms available. 5 Year Share Certificate rate is 4.00% with an Annual Percentage Yield of 4.07%. 2 Year Share Certificate rate is 2.75% with an Annual Percentage Yield of 2.79%. Annual Percentage Yields as of 07/07/2004. Interest is compounded and credited monthly on the average daily balance in the account(s). Early withdrawal penalties may apply.

Your savings federally insured to \$100,000

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration,
a U.S. Government Agency

Will You Be Able to

Retire on Time?

When it comes to retirement, the last thing you want is an unpleasant surprise. Edward Jones is offering free retirement plan reviews to help you answer key questions:

- How much will you need to retire with security?
- How long will your retirement savings last?
- Does your current IRA offer the earning power you need?
- Are your 401(k) investments well diversified?
- Are you taking advantage of increased IRA contribution limits?

**Don't take chances with your retirement security.
Call today to schedule a free, no obligation review.**



Hershel M. Stone
Investment Representative
2276 Franklin Turnpike
Danville, VA 24540
(434) 836-4717



Chris R. Eastwood
Investment Representative
1295 South Boston Road
Danville, VA 24540
(434) 791-2595

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

COPE Report of Virginia Budget

Virginia lawmakers approved a new state budget Friday, May 7, 2004, bringing to an end a 115-day struggle over new taxes and spending. For Governor Mark R. Warner, passage of the two year, \$59 billion budget assures a legacy of sweeping new investments in public services.

The budget is bolstered by \$1.4 billion in tax increases and includes a record \$1.5 billion in new aid for local public school and millions for programs weakened by a soft economy. Key provisions include a 3% raise for public employees, effective November 25, and a 2% increase for some of them next year, as well as enhanced salary increases for state troopers and sheriffs' deputies. Pay raises for teachers are expected to be carved out of the gush of state money to schools.

The Virginia sales tax will rise a half penny to a nickel on the dollar. Cigarettes will go from 2.5 cents a pack - the lowest in the nation - to 30 cents over two years. The increases are partially offset by tax relief, including income tax breaks for poorer Virginians as well as elimination of the sales tax on groceries.

COPE Report of 2004 Virginia General Assembly

When the 2004 session of the Virginia General Assembly began on January 14, 2004, USWA Local 831 had members of the COPE Committee there to observe. The COPE Committee followed a number of bills that were of interest to many working men and women of the Danville and Southside areas. Many of these bills dealt with unemployment compensation, minimum wage, and "living wage" provisions. Representatives of the COPE Committee met with local representatives while in Richmond, Virginia. A tally was kept of their voting record so union members will know who supports labor.

The following are just a few of the bills followed by the COPE Committee and their status:

HB 505

Unemployment compensation; allowable earnings. Increases the amount of wages that a recipient of unemployment benefits can earn, without having such benefits offset by the amount of wages from \$25 to \$100.

Support: AFL-CIO

Status: Failed

cause for the employee's resignation or misconduct). Under current law, if an employer does not terminate an employee immediately after the employee gives notice of his resignation, but eventually terminates him prior to the specified resignation date, the employer is fully liable for payment of unemployment compensation benefits. The measure permits an employee to obtain up to two weeks of benefits if he gives a two week notice of resignation, is terminated on that basis, and faces a two week delay in starting his new employment.

Support: AFL-CIO

Status: Passed

body may establish "living wage" provisions without approval of the General Assembly. Any "living wage" ordinance previously adopted by a local governing body that did not receive the approval of the General Assembly shall be considered void.

Support: AFL-CIO opposed.

Status: Carried over.

SB 22

Labor; minimum wage. Establishes the state minimum wage at \$6.50 per hour. Under current law, employees are required to pay a wage not less than the federal minimum wage and a training wage prescribed by the Fair Labor Standards Act. The federal minimum wage presently is \$5.15 per hour.

Support: AFL-CIO

Status: Failed

SB 428

Minimum wage. Provides that no public body may require the payment of a minimum wage that exceeds the Federal Minimum Wage to the employees of an employer, or his subcontractor, contracting to provide goods or services to the public body.

Support: AFL-CIO opposed

Status: Failed

SB 290

Local "living wage" provisions. Provides that no local governing

SB 194

Unemployment compensation benefits; termination before resignation. Provides that where an employee gives notice of resignation, and the employer subsequently terminates him effective prior to the date specified in the resignation notice, the employer shall be liable for a maximum of two weeks of benefits (absent a finding of good

CUMULATIVE VOTING RECORD FOR AREA POLITICIANS

| NAME | % Right in Committee | % Right on Floor |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Ward Armstrong (D) | 63% | 93% |
| Clark Hogan (R) | 0% | 33% |
| Robert Hurt (R) | 0% | 33% |
| Danny Marshall (R) | n/a | 17% |
| Charles Hawkins (R) | 23% | 29% |
| Roscoe Reynolds (D) | 60% | 84% |

B.F. Goodrich/Michelin on Strike

Members of Local 677, United Steelworkers of America on strike against Michelin Corporation (B F Goodrich plant) in Kitchener are fighting unheard of cutbacks and concessions that affect 1,123 workers and all future retirees.

"The wage rollbacks and benefit cutoffs are the start of the race to the bottom which is the corporate agenda as they attempt to outsource our good-paying Canadian manufacturing jobs offshore. Michelin is attempting to take the so-called global economy and the many trade deals and use it against our members to get concessions, even though these are the very people who built the company to the profitable plant that it is today," says Local 677 president Marty Warren. "Michelin wants a 20% wage cut, no retiree health care insurance for newly hired workers, caps on medical care, drugs and dental care. If you are close to retirement the company wants a lifetime cap of \$15,000 on health care expenses and no drug coverage after age 65."

"Then, if that's not enough, they want to attack and dissolve our Union by dividing the membership with a two-tier pay scale and future members having no retiree health care benefits. Michelin is trying the old 'divide and conquer' approach with a hope to remove the Steelworkers as the voice for working people at this plant," Warren says.

Wayne Samuelson, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour says, "members of my local and thousands of other workers have fought hard over past decades through tough negotiations and strikes to ensure they have a pension plan and benefits for their retirement. It is these workers who have built this community, not the Michelin corporation. This attack on benefits is not only an attack on these workers and their families - it's a fight for dignity and justice - not only in this plant but for the whole community and workers all across this country. This is an attack on all workers and retirees." Samuelson himself worked in this plant for many years.

"Those who are sick and the most vulnerable will suffer the most," Samuelson said. "Working 30 + years in an industrial setting takes a heavy toll on workers' health. This attack on pensions and health care benefits is shameful. It is truly a disgrace."

Ray's Golf Shop

Riverside Centre, Danville VA 24540
(434) 792-1116 Email: MPRUITT@digdat.com

Ray Pruitt

Regrip & Reshaft • Loft & Lie Adjustment

All major brands sold and traded

Merv Pruitt



Vacation

CAR CARE PACKAGE!

- Lube, Oil Change & New Filter (Up to 5 quarts of a major brand oil)
- Top Off Antifreeze & Other Fluids Under The Hood*
- complete Tire Rotation
- Check Tread Depth On All Four Tires
- Adjust Tire Pressure To Manufacturer's Specs
- Evaluate Brake Condition
- Inspect Battery Terminals & Conditions
- Examine All Belts & Hoses For Cracks & Proper Tension

* Except extended-life antifreeze.

\$19.95



Offer Good
July & August 2004
with this Coupon.

Visit our store at
450 Mt. Cross Road • Danville, VA
434-792-1022

PENSION & INSURANCE

- Drugs not covered by the spouses drug plan:
 - Have the Pharmacy put in the Goodyear drug code and process the claims.
 - If the pharmacy does not know what or how to do this, have them call the pharmacy help-line.
- **EOB's-** Please keep your Explanation of Benefits so that you can match them up with any bills you receive from your providers. It will show how your claim was paid and your total responsibility.
- **Delta Dental:** Crowns that are not seated by July 1, 2004 will be seated at the 80/20% cost as outlined in the new plan. Even if that crown was predetermined before July 1, 2004, the same applies if not seated until after this date.
- **Workers Compensation:** Make sure you report an injury as soon as it happens. BE SPECIFIC about your claim.

USWA 831 Black Satin Jackets Have Arrived!!!



L-XL - \$40.00

2XL - \$41.00

3XL - \$42.00

4 XL - \$43.00

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.

Thomas Le Master, Dept. 2415
Hired 1-20-69 Retired 7-01-04

FLASHBACK

Tool Box Talk

by Sonny Hancock

A Single Second

It takes a minute to write a safety rule.

It takes an hour to hold a safety meeting, it takes a week to plan a good safety program.

It takes a month to put that program into operation.

It takes a year to win a safety award.

It takes a lifetime to make a safe worker.

But it takes only a second to destroy it all - With one accident.

From April 1982

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Robert Arnold, Danny Davis, Linda Davis, Bedford Fitzgerald, Wayne Galloway, Willie Graves, Jerome Howerton, Freddie Martin, Barry McCubbins, Ronnie Milam, Rodney Motley, Sherman Pickard, David Pyles, Billy Runyan, Bill Scott, Linwood Stokes, Keith Strader, Lawrence Thomas
The Family of Timothy Davis Carter and Lonnie Holley

U.S.W.A. Local 831

285 Shady Grove Road
Providence, NC 27315

Return Service Requested

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Danville, VA
Permit No. 141



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-----------------|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| AUGUST 2004 CALENDAR | | | | | | |
| BD 1 | AC 2 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM | AC 3 | BD 4 | BD 5 | AC 6 | AC 7 |
| AC 8 | BD 9 | BD 10 | AC 11 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM | AC 12 Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM | BD 13 | BD 14 |
| BD 15 | AC 16 | AC 17 | BD 18 | BD 19 | AC 20 | AC 21 |
| ----- Joint Benefits Conference ----- | | | | | | |
| AC 22 | BD 23 | BD 24 | AC 25 | AC 26 | BD 27 | BD 28 |
| ----- United ----- | | | | | | |
| BD 29 | AC 30 | AC 31 | BD 1 | BD 2 | AC 3 | AC 4 |
| ----- Steel Workers Press Assoc. Biennial Conference ----- | | | | | | |