



The Informer

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

Saving U.S. Jobs and Plants

The United Steelworkers have proved their point to the International Trade Commission (ITC) for a tariff remedy. The Trade Commission has moved forward on the union's Section 421 petition ruling by a 4-2 vote that a surge of low priced consumer tires from China is harming the domestic industry. This import surge has caused major job losses and plant closures in the United States.

All four commissioners who found that Chinese imports caused market disruptions voted unanimously in support of recommending the President impose tariffs for three years on imports of Chinese tires that have been found to cause market disruption to the domestic tire industry. The trade commission recommended the President impose tariffs of 55 percent ad valorem (the value of the item) in the first year, 45 percent in the second year and 35 percent in the third year, in addition to any other applicable tariffs.

"Our domestic industries cannot survive unless our government enforces the trade laws designed to curb and dissuade anti-competitive practices that cause market disruptions," stated USW International President Leo Gerard.

The President, who made a campaign pledge to ensure that China complies with its obligations to the U.S. under international trade agreements, will make the final determination on imposing trade relief. The USW filed a petition with the ITC on April 20 that sought relief under section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974. Section 421 is a temporary country-specific safeguard that China agreed to as part of its bilateral trade negotiations with the United States leading to its 2001 membership in the World Trade Organization.

The USW petition claimed that imports of consumer tires from China increased from

Continued on page 6

Role Of The Strike And Defense Fund

Since its inception in 1968 the Strike and Defense Fund has been a valuable asset in achieving collective bargaining victories. For the past 10 years the Strike and Defense Fund has paid over \$350 million in benefits. These benefits are valuable in letting the members know that they have someone to walk with them through the hard times of a strike.

On November 1, 2008 the maximum paid per striker per week was raised to \$175. The increase to \$175 is accredited to the increase in dues (from 1.3% to 1.45%). Members were concerned also with the lack of health insurance during the 2006 strike. Included in the \$175 will also be the opportunity to purchase health insurance during a strike if needed.

While most of the focus is on the benefits that the Strike and Defense Fund pays out to the striker, the Strike and Defense Fund plays a critical role in supporting strategic campaign activities. Through the building power program, members' solidarity is built well before contract expiration and a strong message is sent to the company that the workers are united and will fight to achieve a fair settlement. This is frequently critical in reaching a collective bargaining agreement without a strike.



In 2006, the Strike and Defense Fund helped Local 831 members during a three month labor dispute.

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Contract Extension Deadline Is Midnight August 15, 2009



JULY 10, 2009

SOAR picnic was held at Dan Daniel Park on July 10, 2009. Meeting will resume on August 12, 2009 at the Union Hall at 11:00 AM.

Car Title Lending

A panel of legislators looking into ways to regulate the virtually unregulated car-title loan industry found themselves unable to make a decision on the predatory loan practice during a meeting last month. The seven members opted to study the matter further and reconvene in September.

Car title lenders, who typically charge 300 percent to 350 percent annual interest, operate under various laws in about half the states. Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia ban them or limit interest rates to those allowed on consumer loans. In Virginia, interest rates on those loans are capped at 36 percent.

But not for the car-title lenders. In Virginia, they fall under the state's open-end credit law, which allows them to charge whatever they want as long as they don't charge finance charges or other fees for the first 25 days of the loan.

The lenders charge up to 350 percent annual finance charges and if the borrower falls behind, the lender repossesses the vehicle. The lender then sells it at auction or charges the borrower costly fees to get it back.

The most obvious solution to bring the predatory loan practice under control would be to cap the interest rate on the loans at 36 percent annually. But the legislators put off the issue for further study this summer.

A vast corps of lobbyists for the loan industry has contributed some \$1.1 million to legislators since 2002 with the hope that new state laws won't threaten their sumptuous profits. The car-title loan industry is so unregulated, in fact, that nobody knows how many lenders operate in Virginia or how many loans they issue each year.

Most of those who oppose the industry's practices believe the solution lies with bringing the title lenders under laws that regulate other consumer loans that are capped at 36 percent annual interest. The recommendation would go to the 2010 General Assembly session. Meanwhile, the car-title lenders continue to prey unabated on the poor.

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Rick Austin

BENEFITS DURING STRIKE - Your medical benefits will continue for 90 days, during this period you must continue to pay your monthly premiums. You can get the payment coupons from the union hall or the local's website. There is a possibility of getting some additional insurance through the Steelworkers Strike & Defense Fund, but at this time we have not received any information about this. Dental benefits will stop at midnight of the day we go on strike, the reason being there is not any COLA being put in to pay the premiums. However you will have three dental services available to you for 90 days, endodontic (root canals, crowns not covered), periodontic (gum disease), and oral surgery. If you need to know how much you owe for your premiums contact the Goodyear Benefits Solution Center at 1-800-334-9395.

401K - If you have a loan through the 401K you will need to contact them to set up your payment. After 90 days your loan will be considered in default if you have not made any payments. If you elect to get a loan through your 401K you must do so before we go on strike. You can contact JP Morgan at 1-800-345-2345.

OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE - You must continue to pay your premiums to keep your optional life, you can contact them directly to set up payment or they will bill you quarterly. Your status will change from active to strike status but there will be no lapse in coverage. If there is surplus money in your cash fund account, it can be used to pay the employee's premiums only. You can contact Minnesota Life at 1-800-660-2584.

A & S - Benefits will continue to be paid for anyone who had a claim in process before going on strike.

WORKER'S COMP. - Benefits will continue for employees out of work receiving Temporary Total, benefits will stop for anyone on light duty receiving Temporary Partial benefits, due to Virginia Workers Compensation Law that states you must be working to receive them.

Annual Picnic Raffle And The Winner Is ...

The sixth drawing for the annual picnic raffle for a \$250 VISA card was held at July membership meeting. And the winner is Ricky Miles. 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.



July Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on July 9, 2009 with Vice President Tim Brown presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Ronald Williams followed by pledge of allegiance.
- Roll Call of Officers.
- Recording Secretary Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the June regular membership meeting. They were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for July was approved as read and it contained the following:
 - Send two Women of Steel to Roanoke to the Banquet of Roses on October 3, 2009

and purchase a ½ page ad for \$100.00.

- Nominations for the 5th RPIC in Pittsburgh, PA on September 20-23, 2009, to be held at the August 13, 2009 Union Meeting. Vote to be held on Aug 20, 2009 at the Hall 5:30am- 4pm.
 - Accept seal bids on P&I desk.
- Financial report was given by Greg Gammon and was approved as read.
- Motion to accept one new member.
- P&I Report was given by Rick Austin (see P& I report).
- Election Committee Report was

given by Jimmy Davis.

- Tanya Easley and Laurin Gravely won the 50/50 raffle.
- Ricky Miles won the \$250.00 Picnic Raffle Visa Card.
- The name of William Lee Short, Jr. dept # 1524, cc# 6506 was drawn for the attendance drawing. He was not present. The door prize for August will be \$75.00.
- Conference Call: Danny Barber discussed the Company's Proposal via conference call from Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held on August 13, 2009.

GM Leaving Bankruptcy As Smaller, Greener Company

DETROIT – The new General Motors is about to roll off the assembly line as a leaner, greener model, maybe even a profitable one too. Before this bankruptcy GM was one of the most powerful automakers.

On Thursday July 9, 2009, a bankruptcy court order allowing GM to sell most of its assets to a new company went into effect. The troubled company emerged from bankruptcy protection July 10, 2009. They are cleansed on massive debt and burdensome contracts that would have sunk it without federal loans.

Yet despite massive cost reductions, experts say GM must produce vehicles that people want to buy, and change its image from a limbering bureaucracy that makes gas guzzlers to one on the cutting edge of efficiency and quality.

Under plans that CEO Fritz Henderson announced on July 10, 2009, GM will cut another 4,000 white-collar jobs, including 450 top executives. The company still employs 88,000 people in the U.S. and 235,000 world-wide.

Henderson also described how GM will streamline its management structure to become profitable again. Sections of GM not moving to the new company will become part of the "Old GM", a collection of assets and liabilities that will be eventually sold to pay creditors.

Chinese Tire Makers Seek New Customers

Chinese tire makers already are looking for other exports markets since the U.S. International Trade Commission ruled in favor of a Steelworkers petition to restrict tire imports from China.

Africa is No. 1 on the list, several of the manufacturers said. Shandong Linglong Rubber Co. Ltd., commenting before the ITC's decision, said it will have to look to new markets" if the U.S. imposes quotas.

In 2008, Linglong exported 3 million tires to the U.S., an executive said. Aftermarket and contract tire maker Hangzhou Shunyuan Tire also is aiming at Africa, where it annually exports about 500,000 tires.

The Tier 2 and Tier 3 tire makers seem to be the most affected by the situation because they have been

providing many of the cheaper tires sold in the U.S.

Chinese tire exporter Sinotyre International Co. also is looking at alternative markets in anticipation of the quotas.

The ultimate decision – which will be made by President Obama will have an impact on Sinotyre, said General Manager Steven Cui. "We are keeping close contact with our people in North America, just waiting the news."

"If North America is so difficult and the Europeans also want to make more tests for us Chinese, we will have to export more tires to Africa," said Cui. Last year Sinotyre shipped 2 million tires to Africa and the firm is planning sales promotions to further sales on that continent.

UPDATE

Union members please update your contact information at the plant as soon as possible due to the contract deadline. Union members that would like to add their e-mail address to the e-mail list please contact Mike Fox @ mfox@ usw831.org

Temporary Transfer Training Checklist

Have you ever been asked to go to another area of the plant to work? If so, what did you do? The majority of employees just go to whatever job they are asked to go to. I think we all want to do what we can to keep our plant running and profitable. We all know there is a right way to do the different jobs in our plant and there is also a right way to be moved. That's what we are going to talk about today.

If you are being moved to a job you have not been certified on or you have been off of a job you have done for an extended period of time, a Temporary Transfer Training Checklist should be filled out on that employee. If you have never seen or heard of this Temporary Transfer Training Checklist let me tell you how it works.

When you are moved, the area manager should have a Temporary Transfer Training Checklist waiting for you. A qualified employee who works on the job you are being transferred to should be assigned to you. Hopefully the qualified employee is a labor trainer.

The qualified employee will check off the tasks on the check sheet which includes: review job work instructions, safety, ISO and any special instructions. There is also a place for any comments the trainer or

EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Through Our Blood It Runs

The ongoing economic tailspin has put the middle class, our country's backbone, in peril. Rising health care cost, home foreclosures, stagnant wages and shrinking retirement plans are all taking a huge toll.

To revive the economy and rebuild the middle class in the long term, we need to empower workers and enable them to bargain for better wages and benefits. We salute our representatives that are in negotiations trying to achieve a fair and competitive contract. Our situation is, by far, not an easy one for the economy plays a very important part in it.

We have placed reliable people from our union and entrusted them to do what is best for all of us. The agreement for a 28 day extension with a new deadline being August 15, 2009 is one decision that our representatives have made for us. We must trust them because the Union believes we can reach a new labor agreement that is fair and equitable to all of our members. Our job in each local is to build unity, solidarity and stand behind the decisions that our negotiating team makes.

If you look up the word solidarity in Webster's dictionary it defines it as: a union of interests, purposes, or sympathies among members of a group; fellowship of responsibilities and interests. Yet the word retains a specific moral force. I remember how I felt when I saw the word from a union paper that read "In solidarity." I felt, at once, a generous invitation to fellowship, and a moral call to arms. The banding together of laborers for one common cause. Solidarity is the foundation of the labor movement, the most powerful tool that we have. It makes us successful, so we can prevail. There is no power that can stop our forward march when we join in the solidarity of human brotherhood. Solidarity requires allegiance and loyalty; you must choose which side you are on. Solidarity is most often born during a crisis and reveals itself most fully when tested. What we recall is the profound solidarity of our feelings of togetherness when tested on 9/11, when tested by Katrina, when tested during the strike of 2006. We must show solidarity now for through our blood it runs. For an injury to one is an injury to all. This is going to be a tough ride, but we must endure the ride and stay together in SOLIDARITY!

Sandra Hairston, Associate Editor



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moved employee may have.

You may be thinking why should I worry about this form? I am only going to be there for one night and I did this job three years ago. Filling out this form protects everyone; I will give you some examples. If you have an accident and OSHA had to investigate, and nothing is in your folder to show you have been trained on the job, then we have trouble. If any changes have been made since the last time you worked on the job, and we don't let you know, then we have trouble. The Temporary Transfer Training Checklist was developed to take away the trouble and is good for 30 days.

The next time you are moved, tell them you are going to take away the trouble, get me the Temporary Transfer Training Checklist form. Remember, if you don't understand it, you don't sign it.

Ronnie Crane

Union Training Coordinator

Questions & Answers

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

Why aren't there any articles concerning 2009 negotiation in *The Informer*?

Because the negotiations change daily, and *The Informer* is only printed once a month. By the time the informer is distributed the negotiations information may have been changed.

The Current Situation

Making sure every American has access to high quality health care is one of the most important challenges of our time. The number of uninsured Americans is growing, premiums are skyrocketing, and more people are being denied coverage every day. A moral imperative by any measure, a better system is also essential to rebuilding our economy -- we want to make health insurance work for people and businesses, not just insurance and drug companies.

THE SOLUTION

- **Reform the health care system:**

The need to take steps to reform our system by expanding coverage, improving quality, lowering costs, honoring patient choice and holding insurance companies accountable.

- **Promote scientific and technological advancements:**

Being committed to putting responsible science and technological innovation ahead of ideology when it comes to medical research. To believe in the enormous capacity of American ingenuity to find cures for diseases that continue to extinguish too many lives and cause too much suffering every year.

- **Improve preventative care:**

In order to keep people healthy and provide more efficient treatment there is a need to promote smart preventative care, like cancer screenings and better nutrition, and make critical investments in electronic health records and technology that can reduce errors while ensuring privacy and saving lives.

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Safety: Just A Thought

The Goodyear Danville Plant has been here for over 40 years and after being here for awhile I have a better perspective of the Danville Plant and how we operate. It is always encouraging to talk with our older team members (years of service) and get their views on how we are doing and what direction they think we are headed in. It is somewhat painful to listen to their comments about the younger workforce (me being a member of that group) and how we don't take PRIDE in keeping Goodyear Danville the best of all the tire companies.

A lot of topics were covered that are vital to this plant's success; housekeeping, production, quality and the one that we drive the most "Safety" was one of the main areas of concern. Too many people are getting hurt was the response echoed by many and that's something that never happened in the past, having the large volume of accidents and injuries that we are incurring.

When you see the PRIDE that our older brothers and sisters have in doing the job it's hard to believe that out of eleven tire plants within the Goodyear chain we rank tenth in overall safety. Something is very wrong with that statistic. How do we correct the problems that we are having? First of all we need to make a personal commitment to do the things that will ensure our own safety and then we need to really start looking out for the people that work in our core groups and in our departments. The greatest resource that we have in this plant is our people and it is time that we step up and take on the challenge of putting this plant back on top once again. When we improve our Safety everything else will follow. To the younger workforce here in the plant, ultimately the future of this plant will be put into our hands and we will be able to control the outcome. We must follow the precedence that has been established so proudly before us.

Safety will take this plant to the top once again when we all do our part and take the direction that we need to be on. Let's continue the legacy set before us and be responsible for our own personal safety!

Dennis Saunders
Safety Committee

Swine Flu Vaccinations Likely in Fall

WASHINGTON - Vaccinations against swine flu are likely and probably will begin in mid-October, assuming soon-to-start studies go well.

The government will fully pay for any autumn vaccination program against the new H1N1 swine flu, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said. "We have already appropriated about a billion dollars to buy the bulk ingredients," Sebelius told a swine flu "summit" of state and local leaders at the National Institutes of Health. She said another \$7.5 billion was available from emergency preparedness funds.

President Barack Obama telephoned the NIH to tell a meeting of 500 flu officials not to promote panic — but to make sure "we are promoting vigilance and preparation." Saying the potential for a significant fall outbreak is looming, Obama said steps taken now to prepare are crucial to protect "our neighbors and our friends and co-workers."

Swine flu may have faded from the headlines but it's still sickening people here and abroad and is certain to worsen when influenza-friendly fall temperatures arrive. The federal government called together health and education officials from every state to check their preparations for the likely prospect of vaccinations and determine how they'll handle flu-riddled schools.

"I want to be clear: This summit is not about raising alarms or stoking fears. It is about being prepared," Sebelius said. "We must avoid complacency." Sebelius says no final decision has been made. But she says first in line for shots likely will be school-age children, young adults with conditions such as asthma, pregnant women and health workers.

Studies of the brand-new vaccine are set to start in early August, and the government will make its final decision once results are available. But Sebelius told officials from all 50 states Thursday to figure out now how they would deliver the shots to people who need them. The government estimates that 1 million Americans so far have been infected with the never-before-seen virus known formally by its scientific family name, H1N1.

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Saving U.S. Jobs and Plants

2004 to 2008 by 215 percent in volume and 295 percent by value. In 2008, China exported nearly 46 million consumer tires with a value of more than \$1.7 billion to the U.S., making it the largest source of consumer tire imports. While imports nearly tripled by volume during the surge period, domestic production of consumer tires declined by more than 25 percent.

During this period, nearly 5,100 U.S. tire workers have lost their jobs as a result of massive erosion in the domestic production that coincided with the massive increases in imports of consumer tires from China. About 3,000 more jobs are slated to be lost by year's end as three plants are threatened to close.

To combat this egregious trend, the USW believes that the government should impose an import quota on China of 21 million consumer tires used on passenger cars, light trucks, minivans and sport utility vehicles per year. This would return Chinese tire imports to a 2005 level and allow for an increase of five percent per year over a three-year period.

"We anticipate that the final decisions on remedies will improve domestic job security, increase production and sales and allow for investment in capital equipment to better compete in the global market for the long term," said Tom Conway, USW International Vice President.



Contract 2009

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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.

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Harry L. Hughes
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Samuel T. Martin
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John W. McCain
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AJ Meadows Sr.
Dept.# 4040 CC# 3965

Anthony L. New
Dept.# 3541 CC# 3821

William L. Poindexter
Dept.# 1330 CC# 2499

Kenneth R. Williams
Dept.# 1913 CC# 2264

Michael L. Yancey
Dept.# 1414 CC# 2205

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Michael Belue, Jason Broyles, Charles Clarke, Joe Davis,
Kenneth Gibson, Damon Guthrie, Ray McDowell, Thomas Moore,
Dwight Parker, Craig Payne, Alfonza Thompson, Michael Triplett,
Jerry Walker, Stanley Wiles

To the families of retirees
William R. Carter, Marvin C. Osborne, and Micah Reed

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AUGUST 2009 CALENDAR						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5 SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	6	7	8
Plant Shutdown Week August 3 - August 9						
9	10 Exec. Board Meeting 7:30 AM	11	12 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	13 Union Meeting 7:30 AM 3:30 PM	14	15 Contract Extension Deadline
Virginia AFL-CIO Williamsburg, VA NOVA Software Training Newport News, VA						
16	17	18	19	20 Voting For 5th RPIC 5:30 AM Until 4:00 PM	21	22
USW 2009 Health, Safety and Environmental Conference Houston, TX						
23 /	24 /	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					