



The Informer

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

Negotiations Begin

Goodyear and the United Steelworkers of America began negotiations on Monday, June 8, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The negotiations began with the recession as a backdrop and job security a key priority. The USW International Policy Committee worked all week in final preparations for Master Negotiations with Goodyear. On June 8, the union and company met jointly to exchange initial proposals.

USW International Vice President Tom Conway, who chairs the negotiations for the union, and Goodyear COO Rich Kramer both made opening remarks to the union and company committees. The committees will remain in Cincinnati before resuming joint negotiating sessions. The contract, which expires every three years, covers about 10,300 Steelworkers at seven Goodyear plants in the U.S. The contract deadline is July 18.

The Steelworkers have said that job security would overshadow other issues in the contract talks. The plants involved are Buffalo,

NY; Fayetteville, NC; Gadsden, AL; Topeka, KS; Union City, TN, and Danville VA.

The Steelworkers struck for three months in 2006 in a walkout that ended when the Akron-based company and Pittsburg-based union agreed to create an independent health-care fund to pay for union retiree health benefits. After three months, Goodyear finally agreed to a one-time payment of 1 billion into the VEBA fund. The agreement also led to the closing of the Goodyear Tyler, Texas plant.



Enormous turnout of local strike voters causes traffic jam.

Commission Urged to Stem China Tire Imports

United Steelworkers International President Leo Gerard has asked the U.S. International Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. to give the U.S. tire industry a "fighting chance" to survive the waves of low priced and unfairly traded imports of consumer tires flooding the domestic market from China.

Gerard and other USW officers are on the trade petition that seeks to stem those imports and rebuild the domestic industry. Members of Congress also testified and dozens of tire workers from affected

plants sat in the hearing room.

Senators Robert Casey and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and other Democratic lawmakers argued before the commission that the case is a chance for President Barack Obama to chart a new course for U.S. trade policy.

"It is my hope that the Obama administration will go in a new direction and enforce the trade laws," said Robert Casey.

Sen. Sherrod Brown said: "An affirmative



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JUNE 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except George Stewart. There were 108 members present.

New members welcomed by President Jack Dodson are:

- James and Brenda Davis
- Samuel and Mary Lee Fitzgerald
- Hubert Lipscomb
- Hugh and Sandra Logan
- Sylvester Madden
- Juanita W. Turner

Opening prayer led by Juanita Edwards followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The name of Deborah Carter was drawn for the attendance prize. She was not present so the prize will be \$70.00 at the next drawing.

Reading of the Minutes and the Treasurer's report was suspended so the guest speaker, Jack Casparriello, would have more time to speak.

The following won a free oil, lube and filter change for working the hot dog sale in May:

John Hall and Junior Scott - Mt. Cross Road Goodyear Store.

Diane Hyler and Lynn Stewart - Piney Forest Road Goodyear Store.

The Danville Soar Chapter extends an invitation to all the recently retired Goodyear workers to join us at the monthly meetings. We meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Union Hall. Following a short business meeting we enjoy a prepared lunch while visiting with our co-workers and friends.

REMINDER - The July meeting WILL NOT be at the Union Hall. We will have a picnic at Oven #17 at Dan Daniel Park at 4:00 p.m. on July 10. After the picnic members will be given tickets to enjoy a Braves ballgame.

Door prizes won by the following: Oil, lube and filter change from Piney Forest Goodyear Store - Nat Brown and from the Mt. Cross Rd. Goodyear Store - Jerry Snead.

Freddie Stroud made a motion to accept the resolution to protect retiree pensions insured by the P.B.G.C. and to investigate the possible misuse of funds to insure pensions. Wayne Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Motion made by Kenny Durham to adjourn. Seconded by Raymond Hyler. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Rick Austin

DELTA DENTAL - In 2007 we voted to restore 16 cents back to our existing COLA due to a surplus of money in our Delta Dental account. This would take our contribution from 48 cents to 32 cents for year one and two with the third year increasing to 40 cents. On July 1, 2009 we will start the third year so the rate will increase to 40 cents, it is an increase but keep in mind it is still eight cents less than we were paying before this agreement was voted in. Please keep in mind that the COLA that goes toward your dental benefits, allows our retirees to receive them without having to pay a premium. The new Delta Dental contract will be negotiated the following year after the master contract is ratified.

COLA Withholding Will Be As Follows:

2006	2007	2008	2009
.488	.324	.324	.409

MEDICAL PREMIUMS - Anyone that was laid off or out of work for any reason in 2008 and 2009 should have received a delinquent premium letter from the Goodyear Benefit Solution Center. You are responsible for any medical premiums that you missed during the year, if you disagree with the amount they say you owe, bring your letter to the union hall and we can dispute the amount and get a breakdown of your yearly payments. If you can't pay the full amount you can request to be put on a payment plan, please do not disregard this notice, you do not want to lose your insurance for lack of payment.

COBRA - Do not forget if you are on layoff and want to keep your insurance after your 90 days are up you must fill out the COBRA forms. They must be returned within 60 days of the date listed on your COBRA letter to be eligible. Also some of you may be eligible to receive the 65% subsidy to help with those COBRA payments. If you have any questions feel free to contact the union hall.

Annual Picnic Raffle And The Winner Is ...

The fifth drawing for the annual picnic raffle for a \$250 VISA card was held at the June membership meeting. And the winner is Kevin Francis. 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.



June Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on June 11, 2009 with Vice President Tim Brown presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Derrick Carter followed by pledge of allegiance.
- Roll Call of officers.
- Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the May regular membership meeting. They were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for June was approved as read and it contained the following:
 - Two COPE members were sent to Washington D.C.
 - Randy Pidcock used Hall on May 17, 2009.
 - Purchase full page ad for Pelham Fun Fest .
 - Sponsor 10th Annual Danville Life Saving Crew Golf

Tournament \$1,000 and shirts for participating team.

- Sponsor Gods Pit Crew Fun "D" Fest for \$500.
- Financial Secretary Greg Gammon will be sent to Newport News on August 12-13, 2009 for Nova Software Training.
- Uphold grievance committee ruling on Grievance Appeals.
 - Appointed to the COPE committee: Pete Morton
 - Appointed to the By-Laws committee: Wesley Childress
 - Appointed to the picnic committee: B.J. Moore
 - Appointed to the Skilled Trades committee: Scott Wallace
 - Publicity & Education (trial basis): Andre Womack & Janel Coleman.
 - Allot \$ 3,355 to repair the

roof at Union Hall.

- Strike Vote June 16, 2009 Notify laid off members by mail/ phone.
- Financial Report given by Greg Gammon was approved as read.
- Motion to accept four new members.
- P&I Report was given by Rick Austin (see P& I report).
- COPE Report by Mark Powers
- Tamala Jones and Henry Stowe won the 50/50 raffle.
- Kevin Francis won the \$250.00 Picnic Raffle Visa Card.
- The name of Chris Webster dept.# 2431, cc# 5403 was drawn for the attendance drawing. He was not present. The door prize for July will be \$50.
- Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held on July 9, 2009

Continued from page 1

Commission Urged to Stem China Tire Imports

decision by the Commission, followed by relief by the president, would signal that our government intends to enforce these rules to curb and dissuade anti-competitive practices.

The USW filed a petition with the ITC on April 20 that seeks 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.

When Congress passed Section 421 in 2000, it did so because of the concern that, during China's continued transition from non-market economy to a more market-based economy, distortions and state intervention would result in rapid surges of exports that would irreparably harm U.S. industries.

Recently the ITC found that the Chinese imports are harming U.S.

companies. The final determination on imposing trade relief will be made by President Obama, who made a campaign pledge to crack down on China's unfair trading practices.

Gerard told the ITC that the union has used every tool to save the consumer tire industry from total collapse including contract concessions, wage increase deferrals and improved productivity.

"But all of these efforts aren't worth a dime if the market is being pulled out right from under us," said Gerard. "With a short period of relief, we can start to build a sustainable foundation for the future of the American tire industry and its workers."

USW International Vice President Tom Conway, chairman of the bargaining committee at Goodyear, said the company has warned the union since 2003 that low-cost imports were threatening its North American operations.

"Our union has made painful sacrifices to keep our companies afloat in a sea of cheap imports from China," Conway said. "We have also worked hand-in-hand with our companies to ensure they keep investing in our facilities so we can stay on the cutting edge of technology and innovation".

Ron Hoover, retiring as executive Vice President for the USW's Rubber and Plastics Industry Conference, warned the ITC that continued unfair imports will jeopardize non-profit trust funds that pay the medical bills, prescriptions and other benefits to 35,000 retirees and their families.

**Support
Your Union -
Be Involved!**



Relay for Life

The 2009 Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society was held on June 29, 2009 at the Carrington Pavillion. This is the eighth year that Local 831 has supported this worthwhile event. The Woman of Steel did a gate collection for this event.

In 2003 Local 831's Women of Steel raised \$ 4,400, in 2004- \$ 6,216.36, in 2005-\$ 7,066.97, in 2006-\$ 7,726.01, in 2007-\$ 8,009.53 in 2008-\$ 7,000.15, 2009- \$ 3,832.10, with a total of \$ 44,261.12 being donated from Local 831 for the past eight years.

This disease has probably touched everyone in some way or another. So we encourage everyone to get more involved, and get proper screening for early detection. The fight will continue vigilantly until a cure is found. The women of steel would like to thank everyone that contributed to the gate collection and they hope to have your support for the years to come. **WOS**

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EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Hold On To Your Hats

It's hard to believe, but here we are again with contract negotiations. Early in the talks, it appears that Goodyear is once again looking at saving money at the expense of their workers. You know the ones that actually make the product. Come on guys, can't you come up with something new. Every three years it's the same old thing. It looks like with all that money you big wheels make, you could actually come up with something better than the continuing assault on your employees.



In 2003 you told us that if we share in the sacrifices that we would also share in the rewards. At the time, due to poor management, Goodyear was not doing so well, so we took concessions. The company rebounded with the help of the union. When 2006 came along, the company showed its gratitude by forcing us to strike for three months. I'm a little confused, was this the reward we were supposed to receive? And you came after our retirees of all things. What a disgrace.

Do you boys in Akron sleep well at night? I know you can justify what you did with fancy lawyers and words but to attack defenseless retirees and their spouses is unacceptable. Personally, what you did in 2006 to the retirees as well as the bargaining unit employees tells me about the integrity of the ones that are running the company. You remind me of a bully at school; you prey on the weak and call it business. Call it what you like, I call it sorry.

You sit there on your mighty thrones making millions and criticize us for what we make. You say you need more from us to stay competitive but we know that whatever we give, it will never be enough. Remember this, corporate Goodyear, it wasn't the Board of Directors that made Goodyear a once great company, it was the workers. The ones you are always trying to take from, both hourly and salary.

So folks hold on to your hats, this contract is liable to be a doozie. Goodyear now has a reputation, one that rewards CEO Robert Keegan with over 38 million dollars for the past three years while trying to take away from a widow that is living on her dead husband's pension.

Danny (Tree) Travis, Senior Writer

Contract Negotiations Membership Survey (Results)

The results of the survey done by the Contract Action Team concerning issues to focus on during the 2009 negotiations are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Job Security | 92% |
| 2. Healthcare | 80% |
| 3. Wages | 70% |
| 4. Return Cola | 76% |
| 5. 401 (k) Match | 50% |

The Contract Action Team would like to thank the membership for getting the surveys back in an orderly and timely manner.

Questions & Answers

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

When is my birthday holiday?

On the traditional (8) hour work schedule, your birthday holiday will be observed on Friday July 3, 2009. If you have taken your birthday holiday while the plant was on (12) hours continuous schedule, you will be off on July 3, but will not be paid for that day.

July 4 - Independence Day



On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence from Britain and Democracy was born. Every day thousands leave their homeland to come to the "land of the free and the home of the brave" so that they can begin their American Dream. The United States is truly a diverse nation made up of dynamic people. Each year on July 4, Americans celebrate that freedom and independence with barbecues, picnics, and family gatherings. We invite everyone to celebrate with us, in their on way, this Fourth of July. Happy Birthday America!

More Jobs Lost, While Spending Rises

The number of people receiving unemployment benefits has set yet another record. Retail sales rose in May, likely due to the spike in gasoline and higher auto sales, according to a report from the Commerce Department. Overall, the report showed consumers remain reluctant to spend, economists said.

"The job picture continues to be one of the most significant challenges to the economy," said Dean Curnutt, president of Macro Risk Advisors, a financial strategy firm. The number of people receiving benefits exceeded 6.8 million in the week ending May 30, the Labor Department said recently. This doesn't include about 2.4 million people receiving benefits through federal and state extended programs.

The unemployment rate jumped to 9.4 percent in May, a 25 year high, as employers cut 345,000 jobs. Some economists project the rate could near 11 percent by the middle of next year.

The huge increase in the unemployment benefits rolls is a sign that even as layoffs slow, companies remain reluctant to hire.

More encouraging was a drop in initial jobless claims to a seasonally-adjusted 601,000 last month, below analyst's expectations and the lowest level since January.

It takes commitment to achieve greatness.



URW is committed to service to our members, our neighbors, our community. When you need a financial institution, you can trust our commitment to you.



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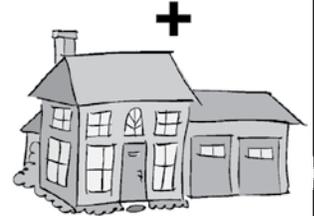


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Obama Gives Town Hall Meeting on Health Care Reform

Many Americans are struggling to make ends meet as the cost of health care goes up while others face losing insurance as businesses struggle to cover employees.

The President has vowed that the health reform process will be different in his Administration – an open, inclusive, and transparent process where all ideas are encouraged and all parties work together to find a solution to the health care crisis. Working together with members of Congress, doctors and hospitals, businesses and unions, and other key health care stakeholders, the President is committed to making sure we finally enact comprehensive health care reform.

The Administration believes that comprehensive health reform should:

- Reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government.
- Protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs
- Guarantee choice of doctors and health plans.
- Invest in prevention and wellness
- Improve patient safety and quality of care.
- Assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans.
- Maintain coverage when you change or lose your job.
- End barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions.

On June 11, 2009 President Barack Obama gave a town hall meeting in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where in his speech he was quoted to say. "...We have to provide Americans who can't afford health insurance more affordable options". That's a economic imperative but it's also a moral imperative, because we know that when somebody doesn't have health insurance, they're forced to get treatment at the ER, and all of us end up paying for it. The average family pays a thousand dollars in extra premiums to pay for people going to the emergency room who don't have health insurance. So you're already subsidizing other folks; it's just you're subsidizing the most expensive care. You'd be better off subsidizing to make sure they were getting regular checkups. We're already paying for

Certification – Qualification There Is A Difference

When employees go through training, the question often asked is, "When will I be certified?" This question is usually asked by the employee. The next question asked, and this is usually by the area manager or Business Center Manager, "Is my trainee qualified?" Most people do not know there is a difference between certification and qualification. Let's look at certification first.

Certification is teaching, giving the trainee the skills and knowledge to do a certain job. When you think about it, this is all a trainer can really do; this is your trainer's job. Your trainer does this by following a specific training checklist. When a trainee shows the trainer he / she can perform specific tasks, the trainer checks and dates this on the specific training checklist. Remember, the checklist is not checked when the trainer performs the task, only when the trainee performs the task. Certification is having the Skills and Knowledge to do the job – or How well. Now let's look at qualification.

Qualification is what the standard is for the job you are performing. Some jobs have standards you can actually measure, some do not. The ones that do not such as the Banbury's, presses, servicing, to name a few you have to measure completely by performance. Tire building, band builders and apexers you can measure by numbers as well as

performance. If you are a tire builder and the rate on the tire you are building is 100 tires for an 8 hour shift, to be qualified you would have to build 80% of that rate or 80 tires. In most cases you would have to build 80 tires for a certain period of time. One thing trainees who are certified need to remember, they have to take it upon themselves when it comes to qualification. They are going to be by themselves, they could still have a resource person if a problem should occur that didn't happen while they were training, for the most part they are alone. Qualification is – How Much.

This is the example I normally use to explain certification versus qualification. I'm your trainer and I am going to train you to run the 100 yard dash. I give you the tools you need to run the race with, uniform, shoes and a starting block. I show and tell you how to get into your stance, where and how to place your body. I cover that you do not run until you hear the sound of the gun and if you do run that's a fault, if you do it twice, you're out of the race. You now have the skills and knowledge to run the 100 yard dash. To qualify for the event, job you have to run it in 11 seconds. You take the skills and knowledge you have and work to qualify for the race. See you at the Finish Line.

Ronnie Crane, Union Training Coordinator

it. It's just that it's hidden in your premiums.

So what we're working on is the creation of something called the Health Insurance Exchange, which would allow you to one-stop shop for a health care plan, compare benefits and prices, choose the plan that's best for you. If you're happy with your plan, you keep it. None of these plans, though, would be able to deny coverage on the basis of pre-existing conditions.

Every plan should include an affordable, basic benefits package.

And if you can't afford one of these plans, we should provide assistance to make sure that you can. I also strongly believe that one of the options in the Exchange should be a public insurance option. And the reason is not because we want a government takeover of health care -- I've already said if you've got a private plan that works for you, that's great. But we want some competition. If the private insurance companies have to compete with a public option, it'll keep them honest and it'll help keep their prices down."

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 L. Blackwell
Dept.# 1430 CC# 3229

James T. Douglas
Dept.# 1331 CC# 3129

Daniel M. Everett
Dept.# 2541 CC# 3101

Samuel J. Fitzgerald
Dept.# 1420 CC# 3479

Andy L. Harris
Dept.# 1411 CC# 2806



Richard B. Ingram
Dept.# 1631 CC# 2712

Theron D. Jeffries
Dept.# 1524 CC# 3372

Hugh R. Logan Sr.
Dept.# 1420 CC# 2430

Sherman M. Pickard
Dept.# 2431 CC# 2164

Ronnie C. Sydnor
Dept.# 1523 CC# 2954

Byron A. Taylor
Dept.# 1330 CC# 2192

Juanita W. Turner
Dept.# 1420 CC# 4187

Arthur L. Wimbush
Dept.# 1411 CC# 3044

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

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

Edward Jones can help. We'll start by getting to know your goals. Then we'll sort through your current situation and work with you face-to-face to develop a strategy that can help you keep your retirement on track.

To make sense of your retirement savings alternatives, call your Edward Jones financial advisor today.



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We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

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Lane Kemp, Donald Lea Jr, Gloria Phelps, Jonathan Presley,
Kimberly Price, Kelvin Royster, Stanley Simpkins, Jeffrey Soyers,
Robert Taylor, Anthony Tunstall, Jerry Walker, Larson Walton
Monica Whipple, Jeffrey Womack

This issue is dedicated to the memory of retiree Warner "Buddy" Hudson.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JULY 2009 CALENDAR						
28	29	30	1 SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	2	3 Birthday Holiday	4 Independence Day 
5	6 Exec. Board Meeting 7:30 AM	7	8 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	9 Union Meeting 7:30 AM 3:30 PM	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Master Contract EXPIRES
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1