

## Social Security Age Increases

Starting in 2003, the age at which Americans qualify for full benefits will rise above 65 for the first time. That means Americans are expected to work longer. Higher income Americans will also see their Social Security taxes rise starting this year. For Social Security beneficiaries-32 million retirees, 7 million survivors of deceased workers and 7 million disabled workers will get a 1.4 percent increase, but that will be eaten up by an increase in medicare coverage. The average retiree's check will only rise to \$895 a month or \$1483 for a couple. This is not enough to live on, even though it does help keep your head above water. Don Silver, author of "Baby Boomer Retirement" says that most people spend and do not save, and seem to think that things will just work out. In other words Social Security benefits are not enough alone and people need to save for their retirement. Workers can find out what benefits they'll get by monitoring the Social Security statement they receive about three months before a birthday. If you don't get a form you can ask for one at the Social Security Administration web site, [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), or calling 1-800-772-1213.

### Older retirees

In 2003, the retirement age for receiving full Social Security benefits begins a gradual increase from 65 to 67. The increase was approved in 1983.

If you were born in ...	... then your full retirement age is
	Years and months
1937 or earlier	65 —
1938	65 and 2
1939	65 and 4
1940	65 and 6
1941	65 and 8
1942	65 and 10
1943-1954	66 —
1955	66 and 2
1956	66 and 4
1957	66 and 6
1958	66 and 8
1959	66 and 10
1960 or later	67 —

SOURCE: Social Security Administration AP

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Above: Union member Ed Clark gets his sign ready for marching. Right: Several NAFTA protesters show up for rally at the mall. The protest was led by the Council of Conservative Citizens.

# Newspaper Workshop held in Nashville, Tennessee



Communications Coordinator, Dana Dixon talks to group about the effects of NAFTA and other trade deals on jobs in the steel industry and with Goodyear.



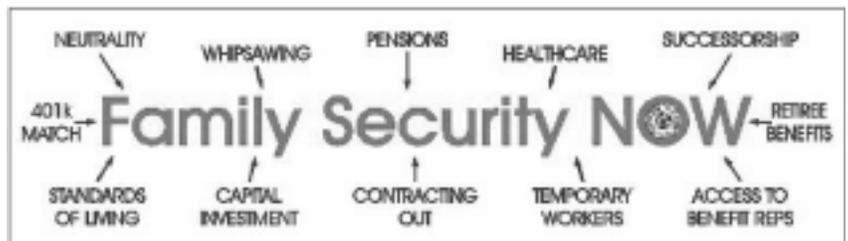
From March 3rd until March 6th members of local 831's education and publicity committee attended a newspaper workshop in Nashville, Tennessee. The members are : Gloria Gravely, Dana Dixon and Danny Travis. The four day workshop was designed to help communication committees be more effective in communicating to it's members. There were 28 people attending including 4 instructors. All were members of the United Steelworkers of America and represented a vast array of industry and service organizations. Classes were held from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Studies included correct writing skills, layout design, arranging a story, headlines, and the legalities of producing a union paper. On the last day of the workshop students received hands on computer training.



## Various media came to hear about opening day of negotiations.



Byron Taylor talks with a WDVA representative about his press packet.



Family Security Banner



March 12, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All officers present.

Opening prayer was by Jack Dodson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved.

Jack presented checks to 19 members who traveled to Atlantic City representing reimbursement on profits.

Bryon Taylor, Local 831 Coordinator-Contract Action Team, gave a report on contract negotiations which start March 13.

Kenny Stevens reported on International Soar activities.

Thanks to those who prepared lunch this month. It was enjoyed by all.

Drawings:

- Breakfast at Short Sugar's won by James Burnett.
  - Oil & Lube Change won by Joe Price and George Waller.
  - 50-50 won by Archie Glass.
- Archie donated a portion of the winnings back to the Soar Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Nancy Guill**, Secretary

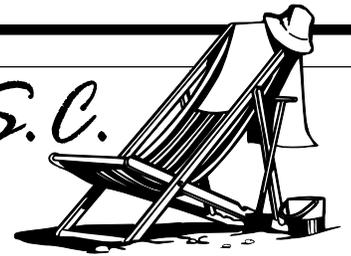
**Retirees...**

*you are needed...  
attend your Soar meetings and  
keep informed.*

**To Stay Informed on  
Master Negotiations  
go to  
[www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org](http://www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org)**

# Myrtle, Beach, S.C.

May 12,13,14,15, 2003



**Features:**

- Round trip transportation, via chartered motor coach
- Ocean front accommodation for three nights at SPRINGMAID BEACH RESORT
- Three breakfasts, three dinners, one picnic lunch
- Brookgreen Gardens with guided tour of the Sculpture Gardens
- Creek Excursion Boat ride aboard "The Springfield"
- One Live Show
- Free time at Broadway At The Beach, Outlet Shopping and time to enjoy the beach

**Members**

Tour Cost (per person)  
 \$278.00 Double Occupancy  
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**Non-Members**

Tour Cost (per person)  
 \$288.00  
 \$352.00

**For More Information:** Jack Dodson 434-792-0043 or Kathy Hamlett 434-685-1688

**Emergency Cancellations:** All monies cheerfully refunded except for tickets and services that we are unable to obtain a refund.

**May 12, 2003** 8:30 a.m. - Depart from USWA Local 831 Union Hall

**May 15,2003** 7:00 pm. - Arrive in Danville, VA

With sign up a-Deposit of \$50 is due.

April 4, 2003 Balance is due

Please remit coupon below with payment to: **Jack Dodson** 1296 Little Creek Road Ringgold, VA 24586

**Myrtle Beach May 12-15, 2003**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Room with: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Please check:  Smoking  Non-Smoking

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Full Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless SOAR or any associates from any and all claims, losses, liabilities, injuries, or damages. ( We are not responsible for weather conditions).  
I have read and understand all conditions of this tour.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **(Right-to-Work) Laws Hurt More Than Unions**

Some people know that right to work laws weaken and depress wages. But did you know that these laws reach far beyond wages, and hurt communities? Right to work states make it illegal for workers and employers to negotiate union security clauses even though once a group of workers vote on a union, the union must represent everyone, whether they pay dues or not.

•In "right to work" states 21 percent more people are without health insurance than those free bargaining states.

•"Right to work" states spend \$1,699 less per elementary and secondary pupil than other states.

•The poverty rate is 12.5 percent higher in "right to work" states compared to other states.

• The rate of workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in "right to work" states.

## Reserves Have Rights!

If you're a reserve component service member called to active duty, you are protected by a law that can save you some legal problems and possibly some money as well .

Under the provisions of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, you may qualify for any or all of the following:

- Reduced interest rate on mortgage payments.
- Reduced interest rate on credit card debt.
- Protection from eviction if your rent is \$ 1,200 or less.
- Delay of all civil court actions, such as bankruptcy, foreclosure or divorce proceedings.

If you are a reserve or know any reserves you may contact the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act at their legal assistance office and unit. You may also contact them at <http://www.dod.gov/specialsreliefactrevision/>



### USWA Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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Providence, NC 27315-9477  
(336) 388-5537 • FAX: (336) 388-5009  
USWA District 8 • [www.uswa831.org](http://www.uswa831.org)

■  
**Danny Barber**  
President and Editor

■  
**Dana Dixon**  
Managing Editor

■  
**Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis**  
Associate Editors



# Editor's Column

I found an interesting article in the Local 1155 News. Their VP issued a list of things to do for the 2003 negotiations. A number of his points are valid for us as well and a few are modified to fit our needs.

- Be prepared-get yourself ready to tell the company "We want a contract with wages, dignity and work rules we can live with."
- Talk this over with your spouse-Educate your family about what's going on. Let them know that a strike could take place. This will prevent surprises in the future.
- I know there is not much time, but save all you can. Pay payments ahead. Plan your work and work your plan!
- Talk to your shop steward and CAT Organizers. They will have the most up to date information.
- Check and confirm all rumors. There will be a whole lot of misinformation coming from the company. Don't spread the rumors, let them die.
- Offer suggestions. Your input has played a vital role in mapping out proposals for these negotiations.
- Be Informed! Attend your union meetings, rallies and participate in gate hand billing. There is a place for everyone to become active.
- Most importantly, carry on as usual. Most contracts are settled without a work stoppage. We can, if we stick together, get a contract that will protect our workers, secure our jobs and put Goodyear back on stable ground.

During these negotiations, we need to be united in our efforts and continue to show our solidarity to management. On the designated days (will be posted) wear your shirts and wear your buttons everyday. Tell Goodyear, your area manager, business center manager or any one that will listen - We want a fair and equitable contract that we can live with.

**Dana Dixon**, *Managing Editor*

## PENSION & INSURANCE

Life Insurance and Survivor Income Program consists of:

- Basic Life Insurance
- Optional Contributory Life Plus Insurance
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance
- Transition Survivor Income Benefits
- Bridge Survivor Income Benefits

All of the above programs are provided under a group insurance policy, except for the transition and bridge survivor income benefits. The company pays the entire costs of the Basic Life Insurance, Accidental Death and Dismemberment as well as Transition and Bridge Survivor Income Benefits.

You may elect Optional Contributory Life Plus Insurance coverage at your own expense. If you are enrolled for Optional Contributory LifePlus Insurance, you may also elect coverage for your spouse and children.

The amount of Basic Life Insurance is \$40,000. You may elect to purchase 400%=\$160,000, 300%=\$120,000, 200%=\$80,000, 100%=\$40,000, or 50%=\$20,000 respectively, of your Basic Life Insurance through optional Contributory Life Plus Insurance.

If you are on leave of absence, including sick leave, you may, while covered for Basic Life Insurance, continue your Optional Contributory Life Plus Insurance coverage by paying the appropriate month premium directly to the insurance carrier, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

# Questions & Answers

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

## I recently heard on the news that I was making \$40 per hour. Where did the news source get their numbers?

During the news release provided by Local 831, the question was asked about the average wage. Local 831 gave a wage of approximately \$20 per hour. On the 11:00 pm news (WSET 13) the figure they used was \$40 per hour. The reporter stated that he got that figure from Goodyear and it was wages and benefits. While those figures may be true, you should realize that in addition to our wages, the other cost would be benefits for all workers as well as retirees.

## A Solitary Rower

The American and the Japanese corporate offices for a large multi-national corporation decided to engage in a competitive boat race. Both teams practiced hard and long to reach their peak performance.

On the big day they felt ready. The Japanese team won by a mile. Afterward, the American team was discouraged by the loss. Morale sagged. Corporate management decided that the reason for the crushing defeat had to be found, so a consulting firm was hired to investigate the problem and recommended corrective action.

The consultant's finding: The Japanese team had eight people rowing and one person steering; the American team had one person rowing and eight people steering.

After a year of study and millions spent analyzing the problem, the consultant firm concluded that too many people were steering and not enough were rowing on the American team.

So, as race day neared again the following year, the American team's management structure was completely reorganized. The new structure: four steering managers, three area steering managers and a new performance review system for the person rowing the boat to provide work incentive.

The next year, the Japanese won by two miles. Humiliated, the American office laid-off the rower for poor performance and gave the managers a bonus for discovering the problem."

**Sounds Familiar??**

## Rules for Investing

in Today's Stock Market

Edward Jones

Hershel Stone - 836-4717

Chris Eastwood - 791-2595



URW 831 MEMBERS  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Your local Goodyear (Gemini) Tire Store is proud to become part of the USWA Local 831 Informer. Each month we will offer some type of special for the workers of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Our workforce at the Mt. Cross store is unionized and is represented by the USWA Local 831.

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450 Mount Cross Road  
Danville, Virginia  
**434-792-1022**

**Cornerstone Complete Care**  
**793-0700**

# March Membership Meeting Minutes

USWA Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on March 13, 2003 at 7:30 am & 7:30 pm with Vice President Terry Trull presiding. These are the highlights of those meetings:

■ Pledge of allegiance followed by Ronald Williams with the prayer.

■ Roll Call of Officers, all were present except President Barber who is at negotiations..

■ Recording Secretary Brenda Miles read meeting minutes from February 13, 2003 and they were approved as read.

■ Executive Board minutes were read and approved and contained the following:

o Purchase Solidarity buttons and tee-shirts for all members.

o Purchase furniture for lobby and conference room and a fireproof file cabinet.

o Motion to deny sponsorship for the Virginia Carolina Classic Chevy Car Club. The club has no longer sponsors the Hatcher Center.

o Motion to purchase a package from the Danville Braves for 2003.

o Motion to send Brenda Miles to a District 8 Training & Review session on

April 3-4, 2003.

■ William "Stick" McLaughlin presented the February financials and they were approved as presented.

■ Pension & Insurance alternate, Gloria Gravely talked about retirement. If you retire on or after May 1, 2003, you will assume the new contract.

■ Dana Dixon reported on the March 13, 2003 Press Conference held at the union hall at the night meeting. Six media sources attended. Dana read the statement that was released to the media.

■ Gloria Gravely and Danny Travis reported on the USPA Newsletter Conference they attended. Both thanked the membership for the opportunity to attend and praised our local for being supportive in our communications efforts.

■ Brenda Miles reported on the Jack Hall Fund raffle tickets. The Jack Hall fund provides support to residents of the community with dialysis needs. Tickets are \$1 for a prize of \$100 per month for 12 months.

■ District 8 Rapid Response Coordinator Ronnie Watson spoke briefly on the current struggles and the need to support candidates that support labor. He

urged members to sign up for the USWA PAF.

■ Vice President Trull provided a negotiations update. The target company will be selected in early April. Our local had arbitration set for March 14, 2003.

■ 50/50 winners were Bobby Rutherford and Linwood Saunders.

■ The attendance drawing was for \$575.00. The name drawn was Dennis Anderson dept. 1110 cc#3267. He was not present so the April drawing will be \$600.00

■ Motion by Samuel Fitzgerald to go into a special meeting for the purpose of setting and discussing the strike vote.

■ Motion by Jeff Dixon to hold a strike vote on March 20 & 21, 2003 from 5:30 am to 8:00 pm on both days. The vote to be held at USWA Local 831 union hall. Motion carried.

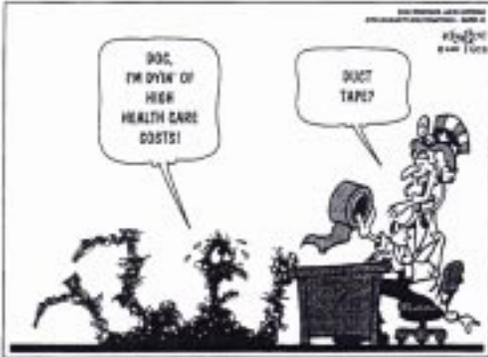
■ Vice President Trull expressed concern that everyone understands what a strike vote is and the importance of having a good turnout.

■ Motion to adjourn by Linwood Saunders.

**Hoffman Chiropractic**  
**799-4000**

# We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Keith Adkins, Darrell Bailey, Mark Boothe, Darryl Blackwell, Tommy Blackwell, Greg Clark, Ronnie Crane, William Cunningham, Jennifer Davis, Herbert Echols, Jonathan T. Ferguson, Betty Ferrell, Ted Fitz, Tonya Fitzgerald, Tim Fowlkes, Gerry Gravitt, David Greene, Roman Inge, Bernard Jonas, Dereck Jones, Rexford Keen, Kenneth Main, Gerald Marlowe, Bobby Moore, Henry Motley, Ricky E. Pritchett, Victor Robertson, Stanley Shelton, Lowery D. Smith, David Soyars, Thomas Stevens, Benjamin Stokes, Andrew Wade, Tony White, Dale Williams, Percy Wilson, Brian Womack, Alfred Younger, The Family of George Craig (Retiree)



**U.S.W.A. Local 831**  
285 Shady Grove Road  
Providence, NC 27315

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Danville, VA  
Permit No. 141



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>APRIL 2003 CALENDAR</b>						
March BD <b>30</b>	AC <b>31</b>	April AC <b>1</b>	BD <b>2</b>	BD <b>3</b>	AC <b>4</b>	AC <b>5</b>
AC Spring Forward to Daylight Savings Time <b>6</b>	BD Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM <b>7</b>	BD <b>8</b>	AC SOAR (Retirees) Meeting 11:30 am <b>9</b>	AC Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM <b>10</b>	BD <b>11</b>	BD <b>12</b>
BD <b>13</b>	AC <b>14</b>	AC <b>15</b>	BD <b>16</b>	BD <b>17</b>	AC <b>18</b>	AC <b>19</b> Our Contract Expires
AC Easter (C) Plant Holiday <b>20</b>	BD Easter (T) Plant Holiday <b>21</b>	BD <b>22</b>	AC <b>23</b>	AC <b>24</b>	BD <b>25</b>	March BD Providence Fire Department <i>Spring Fling</i> 10:00 Until <b>26</b>
BD Providence Fire Department <i>Spring Fling</i> 1:00 Until <b>27</b>	AC <b>28</b>	AC <b>29</b>	BD <b>30</b>	May BD <b>1</b>	AC <b>2</b>	AC <b>3</b>
AC <b>4</b>	BD <b>5</b>	BD <b>6</b>	AC <b>7</b>	AC <b>8</b>	BD <b>9</b>	BD <b>10</b>