

MAY 2004  
ISSUE 5  
VOLUME XXX  
USWA LOCAL 831

# The Informer

Representing Workers of Goodyear Tire and Rubber/Servitex/Goodyear Service Store/URW 831 Credit Union

## Rapid Response Coordinator Visits Local!

State Coordinator for Rapid Response, Dale Bare recently visited Local 831 to review our processes for Rapid Response. Dale met with COPE Committee Members Byron Taylor, Beverly Hedrick, Ted Fitz, Delta Williams, Jeff Yarbrough and Lyn Saunders on May 6, 2004 and Local 831 retirees on May 12, 2004. Dale is responsible for all USWA locals that are involved in Rapid Response in the state of Virginia. He also encourages locals that are not involved to get involved.

Dale, who is married with five children is very passionate when it comes to legislative issues that effect working people. Dale has worked for Yokohama Tire, which earlier was Mohawk Tire for 25 years. He has worked as a tuber operator, tire-builder and has worked in shipping. Dale is proud to say that he has been a union member the entire time. "This union gives me a voice but I must exercise that voice," said Dale. When asked in a few words what Rapid Response is Dale replied, "It is a grass roots communications program that educates our members on labor issues only! It is important to let working people know how their representatives feel about labor."

Part of Rapid Response is when our members contact their representatives through letter writing, telephone calls or e-mails on how they feel about labor issues. Dale commented on how when a Senator gets five or more letters on an issue how they get their staff together immediately to see what's going on. This shows us how effective this part of Rapid Response is. The other part of Rapid Response is simply educating people how their representatives feel about labor issues. "It's not about guns, abortions or other issues, it's about the backbone of this country, it's about working people and the issues that effect them," added Dale.

Some of the facts! More than 44 million Americans today have no health insurance. 18,000 will die this year due to lack of health care. 9.2 million American children are uninsured. The Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA) is the latest version of NAFTA that has been negotiated in secret and will bring certain devastation to the countries of the Western Hemisphere. This 34-country agreement will extend to 800 million people. The U.S. has lost more than 3 million manufacturing jobs since NAFTA and FTAA will cost us even more jobs in the U.S. Right now, China and Japan are exporting 58,000 tires a month to the U.S. COPE Committee Member Ted Fitz had this to say, "It comes down to our legislators and the President of the United States to stop this landslide of jobs leaving our country. The buck stops there! It's not about the people anymore it's about the money."

After viewing our processes on how we communicate to our members through Rapid Response here at Local 831, Dale stated, "When I go to Locals that are involved in Rapid Response, I must evaluate them and grade them. The highest grade I can give to a Local is 4 but after seeing the processes here I must give my first 4+. I have never visited a Local that was as organized in this program as Local 831. It is obvious that the leadership and its members are very competent. This Union is a first class organization, all of you should be proud!"



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May 12, 2004

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present except George Stewart and Nancy Chaney. There were 66 members present.

Opening prayer was by Ed Hamlett followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Jack read a report from the Alliance for Retired Americans regarding legislation to allow Americans to fill prescriptions in Canada or other countries. Join the Alliance's discussion forum on drug pricing and reimportation at [www.retiredamericans.org/discussions](http://www.retiredamericans.org/discussions). Share your views, ask questions and find out what others are saying. Kenny Stevens will represent our district in Florida on May 17 & 18 at the Regional Conference.

Dale Bare - State Coordinator for Rapid Response was the guest speaker. He is going from local to local asking that members write a note to Congress regarding the prescription bill.

Ron Hoover - USWA Coordinator for Goodyear advised that the dues check-off would take effect soon. Members will be notified as to the effective date.

Marie Marlow reported on the lunches at the business meetings. She advised that we would have a fish fry in July prepared by Charles Denny and his crew.

Door prizes were won by the following: Free oil and lube change from Perry Bros., Piney Forest Rd. won by Pete Romano and Dianne Blair. Free oil and lube change from Gold Adkins of the Goodyear Service Store, Mt. Cross Road won by Freddie Anderson and J.J. Davis.

John Fry won the 50-50 drawing.

Motion made to adjourn and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Nancy Guill**, *Secretary*

## Third International Women's Conference Held

The International Women's Conference was held for the third time in Washington D.C. from May 1st through May 5th 2004. Attending the conference were women from all over the United States, Canada and the



Virgin Islands who belong to unions. Attending from our Local were: Women of Steel, Charlotte Wright, Joyce Holland and Brenda Miles who also served as a facilitator for one of the workshops. Washington was chosen because of the upcoming Presidential election. The conference was started three years ago by the International Union because of the strength and numbers women now have in the work place. This year's theme was "Building Political Power."

Besides the workshops, there were many guest speakers who shared their views on the role of women in the work place and the power and responsibility they have. Guest speakers included: USWA President, Leo Gerard, former Governor of New Hampshire and now National Chairperson for the John Kerry campaign, Jeane Shaheen, International Secretary Treasurer, James English, Professor Margaret Fonow from Ohio State University, USWA Canadian National Director, Kenneth Neumann and New York Senator, Hillary Clinton. Speakers spoke on the importance of the upcoming election, improvement of health care and taking back our jobs.

Health Care statistics show us that between 2000 and 2002 family health care cost rose by a staggering 50%. On employment, 85,444 Americans lose their jobs every day. 14.7 million are jobless, underemployed or have given up looking for work. 4,227 people file for personal bankruptcy daily. 6.8 million people are working but are still below the poverty level (eligible for food stamps).

Since Bush took office 43.6 million jobs have been lost, 2.8 million of those jobs were in manufacturing. In industries where jobs are growing, workers make 21% less than the workers made in the jobs that were lost. Corporate profits are up by 25%. Bush's tax cuts yielded \$100 or less to more than half of the taxpayers while the average millionaire received \$96,634 in tax breaks! Outsourced jobs exceeded insourced jobs by 4 million. Whether you are anti Bush or pro Bush, these are the facts.

On May 4th 2004, over 550 women lobbied on Capital Hill in Washington for improved health care, jobs and the Employee Free Choice Act. and urged women from all over the United States to register and get out and vote. An alarming fact tells us that 22 million women did not vote in the last election.

We need a President who is concerned about jobs in America. We need incentives to employers who stay in America and penalties for those who send jobs abroad. We need trade policies that are fair and equitable and to stop the trade deficit of 500 billion dollars annually. Finally we need to stop outsourcing more jobs than the ones insourced. We need Women to vote!!!!

## Attention Retirees

Local 831 issues a pen & pencil set to anyone who retires with 25 consecutive years as a member of Local 831. Additionally, if you reach the 30-year milestone (consecutively) you also receive a USWA watch. After you retire, please stop by the hall to be presented your gifts from your local union.

# May Membership Meeting Minutes

USWA Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on May 13, 2004 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

■ Ronald Williams 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 April meeting. They were approved as read.

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

- Motion to send the Education Committee including President Barber to the USPA Conference in Nashville, August 29-31.
- Thank-You received from the

Providence Fire Department for the donation of \$500.00.

- Mike Baker will attend the USWA Safety Training at Linden Hall. There will be no cost to the local.
- Reject two request for donations. These two were for individuals groups that did not represent the community.
- Motion to hold a vote for one hour after each union meeting regarding the Delta Dental contract.
- Motion to send two COPE members to the AFL-CIO Convention in Williamsburg, August 19-21, 2004

■ Financial Secretary, William "Stick" McLaughlin presented the financial report for April and it was approved as read.

■ COPE committee member Byron Taylor gave a report on the recent

Rapid Response training held at Local 831. (See Rapid Response story in this issue)

■ Brenda Miles gave a report on the National Women's Conference held in Washington, D.C. (See story in this issue).

■ Motion was made to move into the special meeting for the purpose of discussing the Delta Dental contract. Pension & Insurance Representative Benny Toller and Alt. Gloria Gravely presented the information and the polls were open for the vote.

■ Tony Harris and Mike Baker won the 50/50 drawings.

■ Jimmy Isaac's (cc#4138, dept. 2541) name was drawn for the attendance prize. He was not present. The attendance prize for June will be \$100.00

■ Motion to adjourn, motion carried!

## Member Chatter

Last month, Plant Manager Carol Goodwin held plant-wide meetings with all employees to bring everyone up to speed on Danville's ticket and imports hurting the tire industry. We asked some of our leaders for their opinion on those meetings.



**Wayne Dickerson**, Executive Board Member

*I feel it was basically a pep talk. We know our jobs, but we could always do a little better. Carol provided some good information on jobs going overseas, this is where we must get our politicians to side with working people.*



**Byron Taylor**, Executive Board Member

*The meeting was very informative, however I find that the numbers presented were an unrealistic example. We've been told for years we need another 1 1/2 banburys, now someone has decided we have enough. Everyone needs to be concerned about foreign competition; the real answer to foreign competition is in our hands.*



**Dana Dixon**, Treasurer

*I agree we could improve the Danville plant, but real change can only happen if management will start maintaining our equipment. Upper local management needs to step to the plate and do what is right for Danville. Using an outside contractor to determine our bottlenecks is not necessary, just ask the workers. We deal with the issues everyday.*

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



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### Member Business Of The Month

Any member with an outside interest can have their business card published free of charge for one month. This month's member business is Edward Pinkard. Ed works on shift D in maintenance.

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**Danny Barber**  
President and Editor

**Dana Dixon**  
Managing Editor

**Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis**  
Associate Editors



# EDITOR'S COLUMN

*I'm sure most of you have heard the country music song by Dierks Bentley, "What was I thinking?" On more than one occasion I've done things and wondered later, "what was I thinking." Now I know it's not only Dierks and myself that can say that.*

## Think about this....

In April of 2004 the DANA Corporation added a new Director to their Board of Directors. That new director was Samir Gibara. After the several years of leadership (I say it loosely) he gave to Goodyear, how could anyone in their right mind appoint him as one of their directors unless they wanted to be directed out of business? What were they thinking?

In recent months, several good qualified salary people have been laid off by Goodyear-Danville while many others with less experience and knowledge have been promoted. The loss of some of this valuable experience has already bit Goodyear. It was rumored that we had an electrical problem only days after one of the engineers was let go and Goodyear called upon him to help with the problem. What were they thinking to let such valuable people go, better yet, what was he thinking to help out a company that told him he was no longer needed?

During the 2003 negotiations, one of the key issues for the Danville "Toolkit" talks was extending the time period you must remain on a job to 18 months for current employees and 36 months for new hires. At the same time, management very hastily moves people from job to job, business center to business center and from production to quality and quality to production. Experience is a very valuable tool, not always, but many times, a person who has years of experience can and will make better decisions. We now have people getting moved before they settle in from the last move. If the real reason for extending the time a person must stay on the job to 18 and 36 months was to lower training cost (as they claimed), why don't they adhere to their own suggestions? What are they thinking?

What were they thinking?  
**Dana Dixon, Managing Editor**

## Please help today!

Please tell ten friends to tell ten today! The Breast Cancer site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota of donating at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman .

It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "donating a mammogram" for free (pink window in the middle). This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammogram in exchange for advertising.

Here's the web site! Pass it along to people you know

**www.thebreastcancersite.com**

# Questions Answers

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

## What is the new daily vacation formula?

The number of open weeks not already scheduled weekly will be divided by 2. If that number is .5 or greater you round up to the next full week. That determines how many daily's can be granted for that given week. Ex. If 6 weeks are available and only 2 people are on weekly that leaves 4 open weeks. When you divide by 2 that equals 2 daily's each day of that given week.

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## Bush Rejects China Petition

By rejecting the AFL-CIO's petition on workers' rights violations in China, President George W. Bush sent a clear message "that he will not stand up for America's workers," federation President John Sweeney said. The petition, filed March 16, made the case that China's frequent violations of workers' rights give that nation an unfair trade advantage that has cost more than 727,000 U.S. jobs. The petition called on the Bush administration to take immediate action to impose trade remedies against China. "America's workers need a president who will stand up for American jobs and international human rights," Sweeney said. The petition was filed under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which has been used extensively to protect corporate interests. This is the first time Section 301 was invoked to protest a nation's labor practices. For more information, visit <http://www.aflcio.org>.

## Voter Registration

Anyone who needs to register to vote can see one of the COPE committee members or stop by the union hall. Voting is not only a right you have as a citizen of the United States, it is also a duty. Our troops are currently fighting for the freedoms we enjoy; we should show our respect to them by participating in those freedoms. This year will be a critical election year for working men and women. With the jobs losses, outsourcing, rising health care cost and legacy cost relating to retirees, we must support those candidates that support our issues. Your COPE committee will keep membership up to date on the issues at the union meetings and through the many forms of communication of Local 831. Voter registration forms are now available and you can also register online at <http://www.uswa831.org/1legislative.htm> or <http://www.iwanttovote.com/>

## Senate To Bush: Stop Your O.T. Pay Grab

U.S. workers won a major victory and handed President George W. Bush a stinging defeat May 4 when the U.S. Senate voted to guarantee that workers now eligible for overtime pay will not lose their overtime pay protections despite new regulations issued by the Bush administration April 23. The new rules, which redefines who is eligible for overtime pay, are due to go into effect in late August unless Congress acts to stop them. On a 52-47 bipartisan vote, senators approved an amendment to the Foreign Sales Corporation tax legislation (S. 1637) to allow updates to the Fair Labor Standards Act's rules that expand overtime pay eligibility while ensuring no workers currently eligible for overtime pay lose it. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney called the Senate's action a "common-sense decision. There is simply no reason for the Bush administration to slash a single worker's overtime pay, especially in this economy, when middle-income families are already so hard pressed." The vote came after nearly two weeks of an intense Bush administration spin operation to paint the new regulations as an expansion of overtime pay eligibility. "The Bush administration's final rule is a frontal attack on the 40-hour workweek, and it is bad economic policy. My amendment guarantees that workers will not lose their right to overtime pay," said Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), the amendment's sponsor. The U.S. House of Representatives could vote on the measure soon. Passage would force President Bush to either sign or veto the legislation. Sweeney urged the House to "support the Harkin amendment and reassure all working Americans that their rights to overtime pay will be protected." Visit <http://www.aflcio.org> to take action to save overtime pay.

## ✓ DO BUY

### 2004 CARS AND TRUCKS BUILT BY UAW MEMBERS

#### CARS

Buick LeSabre  
 Buick Park Avenue  
 Cadillac CTS  
 Cadillac DeVille  
 Cadillac Seville/STS  
 Cadillac XLR  
 Chevrolet Cavalier  
 Chevrolet Corvette  
 Chevrolet Malibu  
 Chrysler Sebring  
 Dodge Neon  
 Dodge Stratus  
 Dodge Viper  
 Ford Focus\*  
 Ford GT  
 Ford Mustang  
 Ford Taurus  
 Ford Thunderbird  
 Lincoln LS  
 Lincoln Town Car  
 Mazda6  
 Mercury Sable  
 Mitsubishi Eclipse

Mitsubishi Galant  
 Oldsmobile Alero  
 Pontiac Bonneville  
 Pontiac Grand Am  
 Pontiac Sunfire  
 Pontiac Vibe  
 Saturn Ion  
 Saturn L-Series  
 Toyota Corolla\*

#### VANS

Chevrolet Astro  
 Chevrolet Express  
 Chevrolet Venture  
 Chrysler Town & Country\*  
 Dodge Caravan\*/Grand Caravan\*  
 Ford Econoline/Club Wagon  
 GMC Safari  
 GMC Savana  
 Oldsmobile Silhouette  
 Pontiac Montana

#### PICKUP TRUCKS

Chevrolet Colorado  
 Chevrolet S-10  
 Chevrolet Silverado\*  
 Chevrolet SSR  
 Dodge Dakota  
 Dodge Ram\*  
 Ford Explorer Sport Trac  
 Ford F-Series\*  
 Ford Ranger  
 GMC Canyon  
 GMC Sierra\*  
 GMC Sonoma  
 Mazda B Series  
 Toyota Tacoma

#### SUV'S

Cadillac Escalade\*  
 Cadillac SRX  
 Chevrolet Blazer  
 Chevrolet Suburban\*  
 Chevrolet Tahoe  
 Chevrolet Trail

Blazer EXT  
 Dodge Durango  
 Ford Escape  
 Ford Excursion  
 Ford Expedition  
 Ford Explorer  
 GMC Envoy XL  
 GMC Envoy XUV  
 GMC Yukon/Denali  
 GMC Yukon XL\*  
 Hummer H1  
 Hummer H2  
 Isuzu Ascender  
 Jeep Grand Cherokee  
 Jeep Liberty  
 Jeep Wrangler  
 Lincoln Aviator  
 Lincoln Navigator or Mazda Tribute  
 Mercury Mountaineer  
 Mitsubishi Endeavor  
 Saturn VUE

\* Note: Vehicles marked with an asterisk are produced in more than one country, but all models made in the United States are assembled by UAW members. To be sure the vehicle you are buying is assembled in the United States, check the window sticker, which will list the location of final assembly, and the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), which is attached to the driver's side of the dashboard. A VIN beginning with "1," "4" or "5" means the vehicle was assembled in the United States.

# Committees Selected

President Barber with approval of membership has selected the Local 831 committees for this election. Listed below are the committees as approved by membership on May 13, 2004.

## Picnic Committee

Harry Hughes  
Jerry Harris  
Ted Fitz  
Steve Howell  
Pamela Carter  
Ricky Miles  
Ralph McCubbins  
Sandra Hairston  
Barry McCubbins

## Safety Committee

Mike Baker  
James Coles  
Al Medlin  
Dennis Saunders

## Organizing Committee

Jimmy Newcomb  
Henry Stowe  
Barry Austin  
Stuart Lovelace  
Tony Powell  
Carolyn Coles  
Linwood Saunders  
Dennis Saunders  
Ricky Miles  
Antonio Harris  
Harry Brooks  
Chris Apple

## By-Laws

Benny Toller  
Julie Irby  
Charlie Lea

## Women of Steel

Brenda Miles  
Charlotte Wright  
Joyce Holland  
Cathy Barker  
Monica Gray  
Lisa Spicer  
April Blackwell

## Civil Rights

Wayne Dickerson  
Dorothy Jones  
Kathy Adams  
Scott Davis  
Darryl Blackwell

## COPE

Byron Taylor  
Ted Fitz  
Jeff Yarbrough  
Linwood Saunders  
Mark Powers  
Delta Williams  
Beverly Hedrick

## Education

Dana Dixon  
Gloria Gravely  
Danny Travis

## Time Study

Johnnie Scott  
Jimmy Davis  
Jimmy Newcomb

## Skilled Trades

Bobby Short  
Dennis Hawker  
Mark Powers  
Frankie Reynolds  
Becky Payne  
Butch Robinson  
Fred Overby  
Barry Bridgen

## Contracting Out

Div. IV Chairman:  
Butch Robinson  
Mary Ann Davis  
Jeff Harris

## Plant Training Committee

Carolyn Brooks  
Clint Waller  
Ronnie Crane

# Balloonist Lost

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am."

The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist. "I am", replied the woman. "How did you know?"

"Well, answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything you've delayed my trip even more."

The woman below responded, "You must be in management." "I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is, you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

# Summer

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- Inspect Battery Terminals & Conditions
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selling4u@adelphia.net



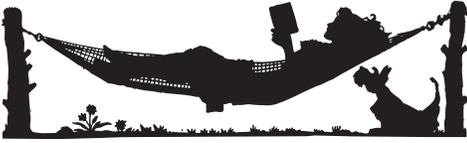
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# Union Safety Committee

If you have a safety problem that is not being addressed by the Company, please contact one of the following:

- |                        |                      |                  |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Mike Baker</b>      | B Shift              | Crew Maintenance |
|                        | Phone 793-9630       | Pager 766-4043   |
| <b>James Coles</b>     | 1st Shift            | Fabric Calendar  |
|                        | Pager 797-6933       |                  |
| <b>Al Medlin</b>       | 1st Shift            | #4 Tuber         |
|                        | Phone (336) 694-6749 |                  |
| <b>Dennis Saunders</b> | 3rd Shift            | Final Inspection |
|                        | Phone 797-3466       | Pager 791-7071   |



## RETIREES

Congratulations to the following retirees. We wish them much success in their future endeavor's and hope they can fully enjoy their union negotiated retirement benefits.

- Ralph Potter 10-15-73
- Jimmy Isaac 10-27-72
- Ed Buckner 7-8-67
- Tommy Law 1-3-77
- Kenny Garrison 10-25-71

## We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Ronnie Boyles, Alfred Brown, Ulysess Cannon, Brian Collins, George Lipscomb, Bobby McCain, Dale Williams, John Wilson, James O. Womack, Kim Simpson, Family of Retiree Larry Evans

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JUNE 2004 CALENDAR</b>						
May AC <b>30</b>	BD Memorial Day <b>31</b> Plant Holiday (T) (C)	June BD <b>1</b>	AC <b>2</b>	AC <b>3</b>	BD <b>4</b>	BD <b>5</b>
BD <b>6</b>	AC <b>7</b> Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	AC <b>8</b>	BD <b>9</b>	BD Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM <b>10</b>	AC <b>11</b>	AC <b>12</b>
AC <b>13</b>	BD <b>14</b>	BD <b>15</b>	AC <b>16</b>	AC <b>17</b>	BD <b>18</b>	BD <b>19</b>
<b>Summer School Blacksburg, VA</b>						
BD Father's Day Don't Forget <b>20</b>	AC <b>21</b> Summer Begins	AC <b>22</b> SOAR Meeting at Dan Daniel Park 5:00 PM	BD <b>23</b>	April BD <b>24</b>	AC <b>25</b>	AC <b>26</b>
AC <b>27</b>	BD <b>28</b>	BD <b>29</b>	AC Delta Dental Contract Expiration Date <b>30</b>	July AC <b>1</b>	BD <b>2</b>	BD <b>3</b>
BD <b>4</b>	AC <b>5</b>	AC <b>6</b>	BD <b>7</b>	BD <b>8</b>	AC <b>9</b>	AC <b>10</b>