

Officers Sworn In

Newly elected and reelected officers and representatives were sworn in at local 831 Union Hall on May 11, 2006 at the May union meeting. Swearing the officers and representatives in was District 8 Field Representative Eddie Robitson. Officers sworn in were: President Danny Barber, Vice President Terry Trull, Policy Committee Member Gloria Gravely, Financial Secretary Dana Dixon, Recording Secretary, Brenda Miles, Treasurer David Payne, Guide Danny Barker, Guards byron Taylor and Wayne Dickerson, Trustees Becky Inman, Bennett Gobble and Greg Gammon. All officers elected serve on the local's Executive Board.

Representatives sworn in included: Division I Chairman Jimmy Newcomb, Division II Chairman Irving Lawson and Division III Chairman Jeff Dixon. Division IV Chairman Butch Robertson was sworn in early due to vacation.

"I would like to congratulate all of you on your elected positions. This has always been a top-notch organization that compares to none. Its members and leaders make this local great," said Robitson

In addition to the swearing in of the newly elected officers and representatives, President



Danny Barber presented out-going Financial Secretary William "Stick" McLaughlin, who is retiring, an award for his loyal service to Local 831. Others receiving recognition awards from the President were former: Division I Chairman Jeff Coleman, Guide Ricky Austin, Trustees Gloria Gravely, David Payne and Sylvester Mayo. Former Treasurer Dana Dixon also received an award for his service.



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May 10, 2006

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present except George Stewart and J.C. Hudson. There were 89 members present.

Minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report were read and approved.

President Dodson explained the rules for the \$50.00 drawing for members who worked the "Hot Dog Wagon" at the Good-year tire sales. The name of Earl Guill was drawn for working the Piney Forest Store sale and Erma Osborne's name was drawn for working the Mt. Cross Road Store. Each was given a check for \$50.00.

The attendance prize was \$40.00 and the name of Lynette Stewart was drawn. Since she was not present the jackpot will be \$50.00 for June.

Gloria Gravely gave a brief report on the proper way to complete the beneficiary forms, which are being mailed to all retirees.

Guest speaker Martha Flanagan, AARP representative, showed a film on SCAMS and gave a brief talk. Also, Linda Rhue, Edward Jones representative, and Chris Durham with Primerica gave informative presentations.

The drawing was held for the raffle tickets sold during the Goodyear tire sale. The name of Harper Williams was drawn and he was awarded a set of tires from Goodyear Tire Store on Mt. Cross Road.

Door prizes were won by the following:

- Oil, lube and filter change from the Piney Forest Store won by Betty Durham and Ed Buckner.
- Oil, lube and filter change from the Mt. Cross Rd. Store won by Phil Scott and Charles Denny.

J. J. Davis won the 50-50 drawing.

Charles Denny and his cooking staff prepared an enjoyable lunch. Thanks to all who prepared the meal.

Motion was made by Vice-President Willie Fitzgerald to adjourn. Seconded by Earl Guill. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

Retirees are Mobilizing for Results

ReUNION's effort to mobilize the retirees and others in Danville has been deemed successful. Joy Randolph, ReUNION Coordinator for our area reported that attendance was a little lighter at both the 7:30 AM & PM events, however participation for the 11:00 AM event was great. In all we had approximately 125 in attendance for the events.

Ike Gittlen was the keynote speaker. Gittlen brought a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the lack of Affordable Health Care all over our country. Statistics show that 46 million in the U.S. have not coverage at all while 47 million are under insured. ReUNION is funded by the steel industry and those attending any events do so without any cost. ReUNION is non-partisan and encompasses three major issues: Affordable Health Care, Retirement Income We Can Count On and Fair Trade Laws That Can Be Enforced.

ReUNION quickly let you know they do not have the answer. They are not supporting any current legislation. What they are pushing is to get average American citizens to write their legislators and simply ask them to take a look at these issues. At this time too many smoke screens are being thrown up to keep citizens minds off the real issues and keep them occupied with Iraq and immigration while health care, retirement and trade slips right by. By skirting these issues, Congress is not doing anything for the people they represent.

Everyone in attendance filled out postcards to mail to their respective legislators after they heard "Health Care 101—The Road to Health Care For All" for Gittlen. His presentation showed examples of soaring cost and what contributes to it as well as barriers that need to be changed and where we can help.

If you didn't make it to this event, please do so when the next one rolls around.



Ike Gittlen presents the facts and figures.



Attendees complete postcards.



Free meals for attending.

May Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on May 11, 2006 with President Danny Barber and Vice President Terry Trull presiding. These were the highlights of the meeting.

■ Doug Jones opened up the meeting with prayer. It was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers, all were present.

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

■ Financial secretary William "Stick" McLaughlin and Dana Dixon presented the April finances and they were approved as read.

■ Executive Board report for April was approved as read and contained the following:

- Send the ICD Committee to the ICD Conference in Pittsburgh, June 28-30.

- Send the President & Newspaper Committee to the 40th Annual Biennial

Conference, August 13-16 in Pittsburgh. The committee will also submit newsletter articles for the contest.

- Donate \$1,000 for the Life Saving Crew Golf Tourney.

- Donate \$1,000 to Project Access's Annual Fund Raiser.

- Donate \$1,000 to Relay for Life.

- Purchase the updated financial & grievance software from Nova Software.

- Donate \$100 to Feed the Children through the IronAzz motorcycle.

- Send President Barber & Policy Member Gloria Gravely to negotiations and provide transportation as necessary.

■ Training report by Ronnie Crane. Reminded everyone to work safely, and the influence we have on new hires. As a reminder, if training people be honest when certifying.

■ P&I report given by Gloria Gravely. She reminded everyone to be sure to do the paperwork for Minnesota Mutual.

■ Women of Steel report given by

Charlotte Wright. Reminder to everyone that tickets, luminaries, and the raffle for the barbecue set is still underway. The event is set for June 2, 2006.

■ Trustee report given by Sylvester Mayo and Becky Inman. Reported the books were found to be in order.

■ Points of Information were given by President Danny Barber

■ Read Master Proposals to membership.

■ Installation of Officers and Representatives with Presentations of Awards to: William "Stick" McLaughlin, Jeff Coleman, Ricky Austin, Sylvester Mayo, Gloria Gravely, Dana Dixon and David Payne

■ Robert McCowan & Donald Loftis won the 50/50 drawing.

■ Door prize for \$675 went unclaimed, because W.E. Wingate 1110/5662 was not present. The June drawing will be for \$700.

■ Motion to adjourn. The next meeting will be June 8, 2006.

831 Retirees Rally for Conti Workers

Our Local Union SOAR Chapter 8-UR-1 loaded up and headed for Charlotte on May 6th in an effort to bring attention to the facts surrounding the proposed closure of the Continental/General tire plant. Just a few short years ago, Conti closed its' Mayfield, KY plant and now has the mindset that one of the last two tire plants it has in United States is meeting less than its desired profitability. Workers for Local 850, community leaders and other union workers gathered in support of the workforce with what seems like little if any progress made. Conti has now moved its closing date to June of this year, a move that is seen by most as an attempt to convince workers to take the huge pay cuts that Conti has proposed. Local 850 has made offers to increase profitability by upgrading their equipment and eliminating unnecessary levels of management but Conti insist that they need wage cuts from hourly to survive.

Thank you to the retirees that participated. Keep your eyes and ears open for more on this struggle.



Ohio Seeks Better Wage

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Advocates of a hike in the minimum wage are looking to Ohio this fall as a barometer of how the issue might play nationally - and they think it will play well.

"I think Ohio will be a very big testing ground for this proposition," said John Podesta, a former Clinton chief of staff now working for the liberal Center for American Progress that's behind Ohio's minimum wage ballot issue.

The proposed Ohio ballot measure - also supported by union groups, a coalition of liberal churches and legislative Democrats - seeks to raise Ohio's minimum wage to \$6.85 an hour from the federal minimum of \$5.15.

Podesta said victory in Ohio this November could add to a "growing momentum" nationally in favor of higher minimum wages that backers hope might spark congressional action. He worked for Clinton when the federal minimum wage was last raised in 1997.

Supporters of the fall ballot issue, which still has fewer than half the 322,000 signatures it needs to qualify for the ballot, rolled out a new study Wednesday that showed small

EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Important issues require involvement



What issues are really important to everyday working people? Is it job security, health care, fuel costs or benefits? How about all the above, plus some. In my lifetime I have never witnessed a time where working people in this country were under such attack. We seem to be getting hit at all angles and it's all because of laws that were passed by people we elected to look after us. I don't think they've done a very good job lately!

Look, I'm all for helping people all over the world if we can, but I also believe you need to take care of your own first. Working people don't want any handouts they just want an opportunity, support and a level playing field.

We have free trade but we don't have fair trade. The price of health care has probably gone up before you get through reading this column and every time I pass a gas station my blood pressure goes up. Will somebody tell me what on earth is going on! And don't tell me something can't be done, because it can.

NAFTA has proven itself devastating to working people in this country and yet representatives we elected have passed three more free trade agreements since that time! Because of the high price of pharmaceutical drugs, we have sick people not taking their medicine so they can eat. Do you know that there are 46 million people in the U.S that don't have health care? And on top of all that, every time the wind blows hard since Katrina gas prices skyrocket. Guess what, gas wouldn't be so high if our elected officials had been looking after "We the people." An energy bill that was supposed to ease energy shortages with regulations of what additives go in gasoline was timed to occur just as demand for gas peaked which is now. The new law, which went in effect in May, would have been better served until fall, when gas demand is on the downswing. We are now paying for it at the pump.

The largest weapon that working people have is in numbers. It is imperative that we get people elected that are going to work with us and not against us. Write your representatives and tell them what you think. Become more involved with your local. Attend rallies, make phone calls, do whatever you can to save the American Dream. Get involved!!

Danny "Tree" Travis

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■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

■
Janet Gwynn & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



businesses in states with a higher minimum wage actually perform better economically than those that stick with the federal figure.

"What we found was extremely consistent," said Amy Hanauer, executive director of Policy Matters Ohio and the report's co-author. "There was better performance in minimum wage states almost any way we looked at the data."

The study found that small business employment, inflation-adjusted small business payroll, small business retail employment and the total number of small business establishments have all grown faster in the 12 states that adopted a higher-than-federal minimum wage since 2003 than they did in states that kept the federal minimum.

Julie Carr Smyth, Associated Press

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

Questions & Answers

How does local negotiations compare to the master negotiations?

The differences are people and place. Master is held in Cincinnati, Ohio with representatives from all locals involved. Local negotiations are just as they sound, done locally and with local people. Local 831 will begin negotiations approximately 30 days after the ratification of the Master Contract. Negotiations are done at a neutral site with President Danny Barber, Vice President Terry Trull, Policy Member Gloria Gravely, Division Chairmen Jimmy Newcomb, Irving Lawson, Jeff Dixon and Butch Robinson. There are times that the President may call in others to help out, such as, Time Study Representatives Johnnie Scott and Jimmy Davis.

Earlier this year, members were asked to submit proposals for both Local & Master negotiations. President Barber & Policy Member Gravely will take the master proposals with them to Cincinnati while the local negotiating team will continue to review and finalize the local proposals in an effort to be ready to begin local negotiations once the Master Contract is settled.

While the union committee is designated by union position, the company will designate which representatives they will bring to the table.

Terry Trull, Vice President

Officials Gathering For Negotiations

Officials for both the United Steelworkers and Goodyear will begin descending on Cincinnati over the next several days. President Danny Barber & Policy Member Gloria Gravely will there to begin talks with other local unions during the last week of May. The union will meet with the company starting on the 6th of June. The current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) expires on July 22, 2006. At some point prior to then, each local will hold a strike vote. This vote does not mean you will automatically strike, it means you are giving your negotiators your confidence to decide if a strike is needed and giving them authority to call one if necessary.

In addition to the 12 locals in our CBA, there will also be locals from Canadian plants as well as recently organized plants attending these negotiations. Solidarity Rocks!

Want News On The Upcoming Contract?

Everyone is eager to get information around contract time and that is quite natural, after all, we all have much at stake. Times have changed, it used to be you could get a job anywhere and pretty much anytime-that is no longer. So when it comes to knowing the facts about the contract, where do you look for your information? We would hope that answer is to the local union. Local 831 has several avenues for delivering that information. First, you must know that in most negotiations, one of the first things agreed upon is a blackout of specific items. Both sides agree not to discuss specifics to the news media and to some degree to the membership itself. The biggest reason for this is every day brings about changes. Issues agreed upon today might change tomorrow.

So how do you get what can be communicated? There are several ways, such as:

- * Attend your union meetings. Membership meetings are scheduled on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 AM & 7:30 PM.

- * Read The Informer, our union newspaper. It is published every month usually around the 20th. It is delivered to the employee gate at the Goodyear plant, to both URW Community Credit Union locations, to Alsco (formerly Servitex) and to the Goodyear Gemini Store on Mt. Cross Road.

- * The email network for Local 831. Communications Coordinator Dana Dixon sends out emails as news becomes available. You must be signed up, to do so send an email to ddixon@usw831.org with your name, clock card # and department.

- * Web sites too! Local 831 web site will post mostly news on local negotiations while master negotiations information is shared through the Goodyear/Kelly/Dunlop Solidarity Express web site, that site is available at www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org.

- * A communications group at negotiations develops the USW Solidarity Alerts. They may be emailed and are usually posted on the GKD web site.

- * In 2003 we organized a Contract Action Team (CAT), it will be utilized as an information network again this contract. People are strategically chosen throughout the plant to deliver information as needed.

- * One last method is "Special Meetings" called by the President.

Delivering accurate and timely information is very important to Local 831. If members utilize these vehicles, they will always be in the know on issues surrounding the negotiations, both master and locally.

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Daniel Wins District 8 Scholarship

Ryan Scott Daniel, son of Ed Daniel from the Shipping department was selected by USW District 8, Scholarship Committee as one of the four recipients of the Annual



Scholarship Award. One recipient is selected from Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Kentucky. The scholarship consists of \$1,000.00 annually for a total of \$4,000.00 over a four-year period.

The young Daniel, who was named the Register & Bee's male student-athlete of the year, will graduate from Bartlett Yancey where he excelled in baseball. Daniel is fourth in his class of 199 with a grade point average of 4.326. As a pitcher, he has a record of 5-2 with an era of 1.06, 51 strikeouts and only six walks in 37 innings pitched.

His other achievements include: Academic Achievement Award in Honors English and Algebra. He was also involved in FFA, Spanish Club, Beta Club and American Legion Baseball Post 138.

In his essay, Daniel wrote of what the union had meant to not only his dad but to his entire family.

"If not for the union through negotiating benefits and a standard of living, I might not have been able to give him all that I wanted to give him. But because I had a union that looked after me, I was able to better look after him. For that I am extremely grateful," stated Father Ed Daniel.

Daniel is still undecided where he will attend college, but it's a good bet he will continue to do well. Congratulations Ryan on your accomplishments and much success in the future.

An Ugly Side Of Free Trade

Propelled by a free trade agreement with the United States, apparel manufacturing is booming in Jordan, its exports to America soaring twenty fold in the last five years.

An advocacy group for workers contends that some apparel makers in Jordan, and some contractors that supply foreign workers to them, have engaged in human trafficking. Workers from Bangladesh said they paid \$1,000 to \$3,000 to work in Jordan, but when they arrived, their passports were confiscated, restricting their ability to leave and tying them to jobs that often pay far less than the country's minimum wage.

The advocacy group, the National Labor Committee, which is based in New York, found substandard conditions in more than 25 of Jordan's roughly 100 garment factories and is set to release a report on its findings today.

In interviews this week, five Bangladeshis who used to work in Jordanian apparel factories and four who still do had similar tales of paying more than \$1,000 to work in Jordan, of 90 to 120 hours a week, of not being paid the overtime guaranteed by Jordanian law, of sleeping 10 to 20 to a small dorm room. The National Labor Committee helped arrange interviews with the Bangladeshi workers, who spoke through interpreters.

Charles Kernaghan, executive director of the National Labor Committee, which has exposed mistreatment in factories in Central America and China, said he was shocked by what he discovered in Jordan.

"These are the worst conditions I've ever seen," he said. "You have people working 48 hours straight. You have workers who were stripped of their passports, who don't have ID cards that allow them to go out on the street. If they're stopped, they can be imprisoned or deported, so they're trapped, often held under conditions of involuntary servitude."

Jordan's ambassador to the United States, Karim Kawar said "If there are any violations of our labor laws, we certainly take it seriously." However, one worker states he has for more than a year at the Paramount Garment Factory, worked more than 100 hours a week from 7 to midnight seven days a week. The company also, refused to pay him overtime when he did not meet production targets.

One production manager said that several times the workers had to work until 4 a.m., then sleep on the floor for a few hours, before resuming work at 8 a.m.. The workers got so exhausted they became sick and could hardly stay awake at their machines.

Mr. Saiful, who is in the United States to highlight poor working conditions in Jordan, pointed to a yellow and black fleece sweatshirt that he said his factory made. It had an Athletic Works label made for Wal-Mart, selling for \$9.48. Several Bangladeshis said there were terrible conditions at factories that made clothes for Wal-Mart and Jones Apparel. It's retailer said the policy after discovering violations, to work with the factory to improve conditions, rather than automatically withdraw their business. Wal-Mart says it gives factories a year to fix serious problems, reinspecting them every 120 days.

New York Times-nytimes.com

Fewer Workers Use NLRB to Form Unions

According to an analysis of National Labor Relations Board data by the Bureau of National Affairs, fewer workers are using the NLRB election process to organize. Instead, 70 percent of the private-sector workers who formed unions in 2005 did so through majority sign-up agreements, which help eliminate aggressive anti-union campaigns by employers and drawn-out legal appeals associated with the NLRB election process.

In 2005, there were 2,117 elections supervised by the NLRB, down from 2,361 in 2004, a 10 percent decrease. Likewise, only 63,744 workers organized through the NLRB election process in 2005, down from 84,380 in 2004, a drop of nearly 25 percent.

In 2003, there were 2,348 NLRB supervised elections in which 77,335 employees gained union representation. In 2002, the board oversaw 2,724 elections in which 81,315 workers gained unions.

Clearly, workers have learned that the NLRB election process does not adequately protect their right to form unions and bargain collectively. That's why we need the Employee Free Choice Act, which would strengthen protections for workers' freedom to choose by requiring employers to recognize a union after a majority of workers sign cards authorizing union representation.

The Staff and **Unionized workers** at the Goodyear/Gemini Store would like to express their thanks to everyone who participated in their most recent "tent sale." The sale was extremely successful.

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Press Clips of the Week

"Churches pressure Peabody to ease union entry," St. Louis Post-Dispatch Religious Leaders for Coalfield Justice met April 27 with Peabody Energy Corp. officials and presented a petition with signatures from 500 pastors, priests, rabbis and other religious leaders from across the country asking the company to make it easier for workers to organize with the United Mine Workers of America.

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 Harold Davis, James Davis, Joe Davis, Vincent Davis, Glenn Dickerson, Brantley Eanes, Ronnie Ferrell
 Anthony Fitzgerald, Caren Garen, Thomas Green, Damon Guthrie, Samuel Hairston, Sr., Brandon Hash
 Harry Horton, Franklin Howerton, Robbie Hunt, Anthony Inge, Napoleon Logan, Thomas Loney
 Johnnie Marable, Homer Norton, Jr., Eric Prunty, David Pyles, Rhonda Richardson, Victor Richardson
 Richard Robertson, Sr., Ronald Scott, Ronald Scott, Jr., Jeffrey Sirtola, Phillip Smith, Jr., Corey Swann
 Lawrence Thomas, Mike Wilkes, Jamie Younger

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.

- Paul Hancock** Dept. 2541
- Barethonie Johnson** Dept. 2541
- James Massey** Dept. 2333
- Ed Smith** Dept. 1320
- Raymond Turner** Dept. 1110
- Ed Womack** Dept. 2431

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 2006 CALENDAR						
May AC 28	BD 29 Memorial Day (T) (C)	BD 30	AC 31	June AC 1	BD 2	BD 3
BD 4	AC 5 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	AC 6	BD 7 SOAR Exec. Board Meeting 1:00 PM	BD 8 Union Meeting	AC 9	AC 10
AC 11	BD 12	BD 13	AC 14 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	AC 15	BD 16	BD 17
BD 18	AC 19	COPE Washington Response Conference		BD 22	AC 23	AC 24
AC 25	BD 26	BD 27	AC 28 Credit Union Contract Expires	AC 29	BD 30	July BD 1