



The Informer

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

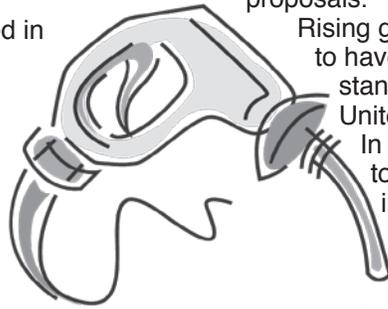
Gasoline Prices Hurting Americans

U.S. President George W. Bush used a White House press conference in May to trot out his familiar litany of right-wing proposals ostensibly intended to address rising gas prices and the growing economic crisis facing millions of Americans.

The proposals are all designed in one way or another to increase the power of the oil companies, even as these conglomerates have begun posting record profits for the first quarter of 2008. Bush proposed opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling, increasing incentives to companies for refinery construction, and blocking new regulations and emissions targets for domestic energy producers.

Bush sidestepped questions on his administration's position on a limited proposal, advanced by Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican candidate John McCain, for a summer moratorium on the federal gas tax. Such a

move would have only a marginal impact on gasoline prices. Bush said there was no "magic wand" to deal with gasoline prices, and he blamed Congress for blocking previous energy bills that included some of his proposals.



Rising gasoline prices are beginning to have a major impact on the living standards of millions of people in the United States and internationally.

In the US, prices in early May topped \$3.60 a gallon, a record in inflation-adjusted terms and more than 21 cents above the price just two weeks before. The price for diesel fuel, used in trucks, tractors, and other vehicles, was at a record \$4.20 a gallon.

According to a poll conducted on behalf of the Kaiser Family Foundation, 44 percent of the American population now cites the price of gasoline as a "serious problem"—more than any other economic concern. Those earning the least predictably feel the effects most keenly. About 63 percent of those with

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Members Chatter

What are you doing about the high gas prices?



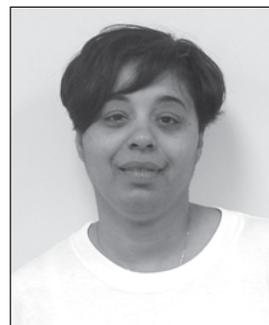
Amy Ragsdale
"D" shift Wire Calendar
"I don't eat out often and I work overtime when it's available."



Joshua Moyer
"D" shift Tubers
"I avoid North Carolina (their prices are more expensive) and buy gas at Sam's Club (better prices)."



Tommy Barber
"D" shift Shipping
"I drive less, I have three vehicles and I drive the one that is best on gas."



Yolonda Lovin
Bias Bead Room 3rd shift
"I just stay at home and spend more time with my kids. I just hate the prices."

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May 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Willie Fitzgerald. All Board members present except Jack Dodson and George Stewart. There were 64 members present. Opening prayer led by Raymond Parks followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The name of Harold Cobbs was drawn for the attendance prize and since he was not present the prize will be \$70.00 at the next meeting.

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

Brenda Blackstock, Clinic Administrator for the Danville Community Based Outpatient Clinic, Department of Veterans Affairs informed veterans of the primary care services available in Danville. For information contact Brenda at 434-710-4210.

John Zelinski represented AARP'S driver education and safety course. Soar will announce at the June meeting the dates for the classes. After taking the class members will receive 10% off auto insurance. Members must sign up with the local Chapter to participate.

Benny Toler reported on the negotiations with VIBA since the last meeting.

The following each won a \$25.00 cash award for working the "Hot Dog Wagons" during the Goodyear Tire Sale:

Mt. Cross Store - Sue Chatten and Bernice Ferguson

Piney Forest Store - Larry Pifer and Wadie Fitzgerald

Door Prizes won by the following:

Oil, lube and filter change - Piney Forest Store - Gene Ferguson and Raymond Parks.

Oil, lube and filter change - Mt.

Cross Road Store - Ed Robertson and Billy Poole

Fifty-fifty won by Frank Howerton.

Motion made to adjourn and seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

V.E.B.A.

On April 11, 2008, a hearing was held in Ohio, concerning the status of the Voluntary Employee's Beneficiary Association (VEBA). After much discussion and testimony, Judge Adams told the Company and Union officials of his serious concern for the current and future retirees. In the hearing Judge Adams instructed both sides and their legal teams he required additional information before his decision would be rendered. You can learn more about the hearing and the "VEBA" at <http://www.Goodyear-veba-settlement.com/>.

MINNESOTA LIFE BENEFICIARY REMINDER

Please read the following Company Article that has been ran in the plant newsletter concerning the importance of having a beneficiary on file with Minnesota Life. It only takes a few minutes of your time to update such a valuable piece of paper that will protect your family at your time of death.

WHO GETS THE MONEY? KEEPING YOUR BENEFICIARIES CURRENT.

Who receives the proceeds of your group life insurance benefit? If you didn't designate a beneficiary, or haven't checked it lately, don't be so sure. Over time, events such as marriage, divorce, the birth or adoption of a child, remarriage and death may dramatically change the intent of how you wanted the money paid.

Here's an example. An employee who enrolled for group life insurance at his company assumed that the plan's 'order of priority' would properly distribute the life insurance benefits to his spouse, then to his three minor children. Several years later, he divorced and then remarried, but didn't change the beneficiary designation on his policy. When he passed away, the benefits went to his current spouse instead of the children from his first marriage whom he wanted to benefit.

Having a life event is a good time to re-evaluate your life insurance coverage and to update your beneficiaries. Checking them regularly, such as during Goodyear's annual benefits enrollment, is a good idea, too – not only for life insurance, but also for your retirement benefit.

To review or change a beneficiary for your group life insurance benefit with Goodyear, go to www.lifebenefits.com using the User ID and password issued by Minnesota Life. If you've previously visited the site, your password will be the one you created after you first logged on.

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Gasoline Prices Hurting Americans

incomes of less than \$30,000 said gasoline prices were a serious problem.

In a country where the automobile is the primary and often only available means of transportation, it is not uncommon for a worker to have to fill his or her gasoline tank several times a week, compounding the impact of any price increase and putting a severe dent in household budgets already strained by rising food and other costs.

In some parts of the country, gasoline prices are soaring much higher than the national average. In San Francisco, California, average prices topped \$4.00 a gallon over the weekend. The statewide average was \$3.91.

In Europe, prices are sharply higher as well. In England, where regressive taxes make up much of the price, gasoline is close to £1.10 per liter, or about \$10 a gallon.

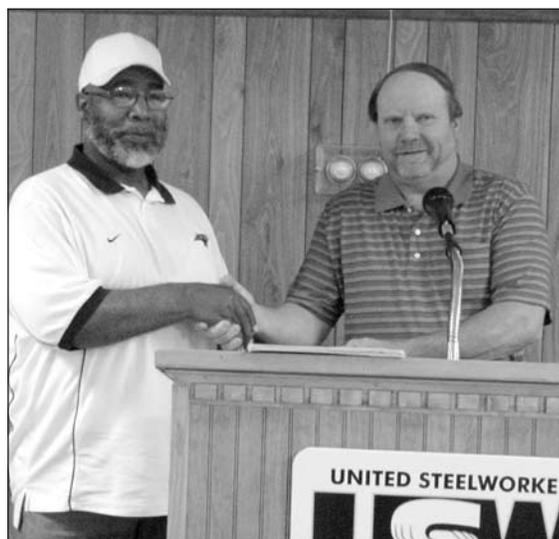
In the US and in England, many independent truckers are unable to turn a profit off hauling goods, as the cost of filling a tank with diesel can now exceed \$1,200. The cost of transport often exceeds truckers' pay. On May 5, about 100 truckers staged a protest in Washington, while dozens converged on London. Independent truckers staged slowdowns and stoppages throughout the country at the beginning of the month. Within this context, the position of the Bush administration is essentially to do nothing.

May Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on May 8, 2008 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Doug Jones followed by the pledge of allegiance.
- Presentation to Doug Jones for 30 years of service with a watch, pen and pencil set.
- Roll Call of Officers.
- Recording Secretary Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the April regular membership meeting. They were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for May was approved as read and it contained the following:
 - Send President and five delegates to Roanoke, VA on May 22, 2008 for Strike and Defense meeting.
 - Send two COPE committee members to the 35th AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention August 14-16, 2008 in Williamsburg, VA.
 - Sponsor the 9th Annual Golf Classic.
 - Rent sharp copier.
 - Send President and Policy Member June 2-6, 2008 in Cinn., OH.
 - Move June membership meeting to June 5, 2008.

- Executive Board action – to purchase CD for \$50,000.
 - Financial report for the month of April was given by Greg Gammon and approved as read. Motion to accept one new member.
 - P & I report given by Gloria Gravely (see P & I).
 - Relay for Life report given by Charlotte Wright.
 - Spring Interim meeting report given by President Danny Barber.
 - Points of Information— New Hires, Target Zero, Upcoming convention.
 - Johnny Hodges and Stuart Lovelace - won the 50/50 drawing.
 - The name of Richard Walker dept.#7315 cc#2431 was drawn for the attendance drawing. He was not present. The June door prize will be \$550.
 - The name of Barry Sides, non employee, was drawn for the picnic raffle.
 - Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held on June 5, 2008.



Doug Jones was on hand at the May membership meeting and received his Steelworkers watch from President Danny Barber. Brother Jones is retiring after 30 years of service from the Danville plant. Doug and his wife, Vernell have three children and four grandchildren. He says that he will enjoy some traveling since he is now retired. Local 831 and its members wish Doug health and happiness in his retirement years.

AFL-CIO Endorses HR 676

The Philadelphia Council of the AFL-CIO has endorsed HR 676, single payer healthcare legislation introduced by Congressman John Conyers (D-MI). This is the one hundred and fourth central labor council to endorse the Conyers legislation.

Pat Eiding, who before becoming Council President was Business Manager of Asbestos Workers & Insulators Local 14 had this to say: "Forty seven million uninsured people in America is an embarrassment. We need to find a better way to do health care in this country. HR 676 would provide coverage to all Americans without shifting the burden onto individuals – which is a key element in any form."

The Philadelphia Council represents over 150,000 union members in the nation's sixth largest

city and has over 100 affiliated local unions in the private, public, building and transportation sectors. Jim Savage, president of USW Local 10-1 and a vice president of the Philadelphia Council introduced the endorsement resolution.

HR 676 would institute a single payer health care system in the U.S. by expanding a greatly improved Medicare system to every resident. The legislation would cover every person in the U.S. for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services, dental, mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation, vision care, chiropractic and long term care.

HR 676 would end deductibles and co-payments. It would save billions annually by eliminating the high overhead and profits of the private health insurance industry and HMO's.



The 2008 Relay For Life will be held on May 30, 2008 at the Car-rington Pavilion at 6:30 pm with the survivor's walk to kick off first. All survivors and caregivers are encouraged to participate. The Women of Steel will be having a 50/50 drawing on May 23, 2008. You may purchase a ticket from any member of the Women of Steel. Winner of the April 25th drawing was Terry Trull.

Help us to Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back!

Some Wise Proverbs In Honor Of Our Mothers And Fathers

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: {9} For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. **(Prov 1:8-9 KJV)**

A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. **(Prov 10:1 KJV)**

A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother. **(Prov 15:20 KJV)**

(Prov 19:26-27 KJV) He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach. {27} Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness. **(Prov 20:20 KJV)**

(Prov 23:22-25 KJV) Harken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. {23} Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. {24} The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. {25} Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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■
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Mike Fox Danny Travis Sandra Hairston
Managing Editor Senior Writer Assoc. Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Communications Coordinator



EDITOR'S COLUMN...

The Real Cost Of Oil



With summer approaching we can all expect to continue paying a high price for oil products. Gasoline is a big daily drain on our personal wallets. We all love to drive and

it is getting more expensive by the day. There will soon be the annual increase they blame on increased expenses for summer gas formulation. With pump prices nearing the

4 dollar mark the implications are far reaching and clouded with uncertainty. The current economic situation further clouds the future as individuals and companies alike struggle to absorb the spikes in energy prices. Most sectors of the economy are still struggling after forecasts of a turnaround by the Bush Administration. It's just not happening. What does all this mean to the Goodyear worker besides the price of a gallon of gas? The reality of it all is that everything is going to go up in price. Food, transportation, goods and services will all increase, further eroding the working man's buying power. Consumers will continue to put off purchases, as will businesses. The trucking companies are already idling trucks and

raising their transportation fees to compensate for increased energy costs. Soon, if not already, tires will be pulled from idle trucks to service those still running the road instead

of buying new tires. Tire inventories will continue to climb to new record levels. Higher raw material prices and decreased demand will spell a tough road ahead for Goodyear

and it's employees. What I'm getting at is that we are not rollin' along with business as usual as some chose to believe. We have a storm on the economic horizon and if it happens to

coincide with our upcoming contract next year, the results may be disastrous. We must be prepared. I once again strongly advise all who are reading this to prepare themselves

for the worst. Please start planning today if you have not already. It's kind of like health and life insurance, you can not afford to not have it.

For me the strike of 2006 drove home the point that our work environment is fast changing and will never ever be the same. Our future success as a union and a company depends on how well we adapt to these changes. And what about the changes coming this winter when heating oil and LP gas soar higher than ever?

Seniors on a fixed income freezing to death, people losing jobs across the board, an economy on the brink of a meltdown, that's the real cost of oil.

Mike Fox, Managing Editor

Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer. **(Prov 28:24 KJV)**

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their

mother. **(Prov 30:11 KJV)**

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **(Mat 10:37 KJV)**

Questions & Answers

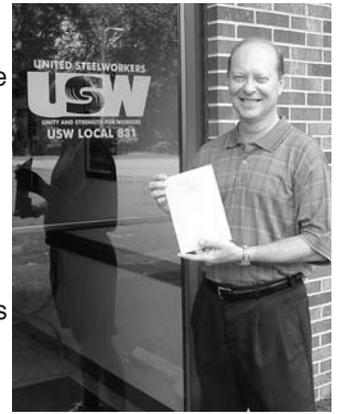
If anyone has a question for The Informer, please submit it to Danny Travis, Sandra Hairston, Mike Fox or your Division Chairman.

What happens if a new hire goes on strike with less than 3 years seniority?

New hires as well as established employees continue to accrue seniority while on an authorized strike.

Annual Picnic Raffle And The Winner Is . . .

The fourth drawing for the annual picnic raffle for the \$250 VISA or Gas Card was held at the May Membership meeting. And the winner is Barry Sides, non employee. At the 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, but selling fast.



Career Development Center Summer Class Schedule

Classes for the Summer Session are scheduled to begin June 3, 2008. Each class will meet for five weeks: one day each week for two hours. Registration forms may be picked up at the Career Development Center and returned no later than May 23, 2008.

KEYBOARDING/BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS

A & C Crew

8:30 am – 10:30 pm

Thursday – June 5
Tuesday – June 10
Thursday – June 19
Tuesday – June 24
Thursday – July 3

B & D Crew

8:30 am – 10:30 pm

Tuesday – June 3
Thursday – June 12
Tuesday – June 17
Thursday – June 26
Tuesday – July 1

1st Shift

6:00 –8:00 pm

Thursday – June 5
Tuesday – June 10
Thursday – June 19
Tuesday – June 24
Thursday – July 3

MICROSOFT WORD

A & C Crew

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Thursday – June 5
Tuesday – June 10
Thursday – June 19
Tuesday – June 24
Thursday – July 3

B & D Crew

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Tuesday – June 3
Thursday – June 12
Tuesday – June 17
Thursday – June 26
Tuesday – July 1

1st Shift

6:00 –8:00 pm

Thursday – June 3
Tuesday – June 12
Thursday – June 17
Tuesday – June 26
Thursday – July 1

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A & C Crew

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Monday – June 9
Wednesday – June 18
Monday – June 23
Wednesday – July 2
Monday – July 7

B & D Crew

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Wednesday – June 11
Monday – June 16
Wednesday – June 25
Monday – June 30
Wednesday – July 9

1st Shift

6:00 –8:00 pm

Monday – June 9
Wednesday – June 18
Monday – June 23
Wednesday – July 2
Monday – July 7

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

A & C Crew

8:30 am – 10:30 pm

Monday – June 9
Wednesday – June 18
Monday – June 23
Wednesday – July 2
Monday – July 7

B & D Crew

8:30 am – 10:30 pm

Wednesday – June 11
Monday – June 16
Wednesday – June 25
Monday – June 30
Wednesday – July 9

1st Shift

6:00 –8:00 pm

Wednesday – June 11
Monday – June 16
Wednesday – June 25
Monday – June 30
Wednesday – July 9

If I Were A Terrorist

- If I were a terrorist I wouldn't use planes and bombs to kill people, (that would be too risky, because I might get caught or killed or both).
- Real terrorist get results, then they lay the blame where it can't be found.
- I would foreclose on millions of homes (just kick folks out of their homes).
- I would devalue the dollar (so the price of everything would go up).
- I would outsource their jobs so they couldn't find work.
- I would move factories to foreign countries (all good paying factory jobs).
- I would make health care difficult to get (let insurance companies get away with murder).
- I would make education unaffordable (terrorist don't like having educated people around them).
- I would listen to their telephone calls.
- I would monitor their e-mails (and use that to really stick it to them).
- Then I would give myself a big ole tax cut, sit back in luxury and watch them fight over the crumbs.

We live in the United States of America (Thank you, Jesus) and the people that represent us would never-ever let them get away with that, would they?

Memorial Day History



Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil war dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil war soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order # 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of

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INTERIM MEETING REPORT

The USW Goodyear/Kelly/Dunlop Policy Committee met with Goodyear officials April 13-18, 2008 in Denver, Colorado to discuss items of concern in the interim from both parties. These meetings are conducted in the spring and fall of each non-contract year.

Following are some of the items discussed:

A very strong issue discussed by the Union is bill HR676 which pertains to healthcare and how the bill relates to Master Letter 44 (Public Policy Fund) of our Agreement. The Policy Committee drafted a letter of request to be sent to International Vice-President Tom Conway requesting money from the Public Policy Fund to support bill HR676. This important bill is critical to the entire nation and the policy committee feels strongly that our financial support could go along way. These Public Policy funds would also go toward the fight against foreign countries dumping cheap and unregulated tires in America that are accepted in this country but do not have the same DOT requirements as American made tires.

The Union also made a request that the Company furnish information to the Union to ensure that the Company is complying with the terms of Master Letter 53 (Job Security). The information requested includes the manning and the ticket and tonnage produced at each plant covered by this letter.

Also discussed with the company were pension delays. Currently in some cases it is taking up to ninety days from the time of pension application until the first check is received. This is not acceptable to the Policy Committee and in talks with Company officials, they agreed and pledged to investigate this issue, with intentions of correcting the delays.

There was a lot of discussion surrounding New Hires and their total benefit package and how these benefits could possibly be enhanced. Health Insurance, 401-K, and Life Insurance were among some of the topics discussed. Jim Allen, Company chief spokesman, responded

with the company's own concerns of improvement but also cited cost as a major factor. Allen agreed to review with other company officials the issues at hand and respond to the USW concerns. The Union has proposed that the improvements to the New Hire benefits package would help in the retention of these employees while also improving their quality of life.

A report was given by a USW International Representative and company attorney as to the status of the "VEBA" and a hearing that was held on April 11, 2008 by Judge John Adams. After much discussion and testimony, Judge Adams told the Union and Company officials of his serious concern for current and future retirees. In the hearing Adams instructed both sides and their legal teams to provide additional information before his decision would be rendered. You can learn more about the hearing and the "VEBA" at <http://www.goodyear-veba-settlement.com/>.

Reports were made concerning the soft tire market and any impact it could have on our industry, especially since some plants have already taken time out this year. The Union expressed concerns of possibly more time out and future work schedules along with potential demands on the SUB fund. The Company is currently making decisions surrounding future day/days out of already projected schedules.

Safety concerns were also on the agenda with special emphasis on two items:

- DOT requirements being implemented 1-01-09 requiring that DOT date codes be imprinted on both sides of a tire and how that is accomplished safely.
- The New Target Zero Safety Program was discussed. More information on this program will be forth-coming.

The Interim Meeting also included discussions surrounding specific local plant issues.

In Solidarity,
USW Goodyear/Kelly/Dunlop Policy Committee

Continued from page 6

Memorial Day History

Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)

Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

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This credit union is federally insured by The National Credit Union Administration.

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.

Dennis Anderson
Dept.# 1110 CC# 3267

Eddie Hairston, Jr.
Dept.# 2312 CC# 3042

Linwood Saunders
Dept.# 1414 CC# 0652

Barbara Shields
Dept.# 2431 CC# 4515

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Jimmy Eanes, Jr., Wilson Eastep, Karl Evans, James Gunn, Garnett Haar, Barry Hodges, Lynn Hodges, Robert Hodges, Herbert Holder, Jr., Thomas Hutchinson, Timothy Jefferson, Antonio Johnson, Danny Johnson, Ethel Johnson, Garry Kendrick, William Knight, Craig Laughorn, Charlie Lea, Paul Lea, Timothy McBride, Kevin McNeill, Worth Morrison, Erwin Motley, Bobby Powell, Jeffrey Setliff, Oscar Sizemore, Russell Terry, Jr., Jimmy Thompson, Hazel Torian, King Walters, Mike Wilkes, Ronald Williams, Arthur Wimbush, Nannie Woody.
To the family of retiree Lewis Culley.

U.S.W. Local 831

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Providence, NC 27315

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 2008 CALENDAR						
BD 1	AC 2 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	AC 3	BD 4 SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	BD 5 Union Meeting 7:30 AM 7:30 PM	AC 6	AC 7
Policy Committee Meeting Cincinnati, Ohio						
AC 8	BD 9	BD 10	AC 11 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	AC 12	BD 13	BD 14
Summer School Blacksburg						
BD 15 Father's Day	AC 16	AC 17	BD 18	BD 19	AC 20	AC 21
AC 22	BD 23	BD 24	AC 25	AC 26	BD 27	BD 28
USPA Conference Las Vegas						
BD 29	AC 30	AC 1	BD 2	BD 3	AC 4	AC 5
Constitutional Convention Las Vegas						