

## The U.S. Needs an Industrial Policy

*The Wall Street Journal (Opinion) Mr. Hofmeister, former president of Shell Oil Company, is founder and CEO of Citizens for Affordable Energy, and author of "Why We Hate the Oil Companies: Straight Talk from an Energy Insider," due out in May by Palgrave Macmillan. "The rest of the world actively promotes its core industries. It's time we did too."*

Much is being said about the terrible financial returns and lack of economic growth in the "lost" decade that began the 21st century. Why should anyone be surprised?

As a nation we've been driving toward this no-growth plateau for several decades. As manufacturing has shrunk, we've honored the gods of "rationalization," "restructuring," and the almightiest of all, "globalization." Core industry after industry has orchestrated its own decline, facilitated by short-term managerial reward systems.

The next decade could see negative growth thanks to our foolhardy fondness for "free market" philosophies that tell us it's OK to export all our jobs. The U.S. is down to four world leading industries: entertainment, out of Los Angeles (heavily indebted to Democrats); information technology, out of the Bay Area (likewise); energy, out of Houston (heavily indebted to Republicans); and financial services, out of New York (indebted to both parties). That's it, folks. We're otherwise second- or third-rung suppliers across the range of manufactured products—except for biotech, a small industry—and we can still (mostly) feed ourselves. Even aerospace has suffered.

Let's acknowledge the parasitic legal industry's role in eroding America's manufacturing strength. Some argue that the U.S. leads in innovation and entrepreneurship.

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### Former Local 831 Union Leader Succumbs

William "Stick" McLaughlin died on April 25 at age 63. He spent his entire career serving his local union as Shop Steward, Division Chairman, Recording Secretary and finally, Financial Secretary, before his retirement in 2006. Mr. McLaughlin held the position as financial secretary for 11 years.

He was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church where he served as Finance Secretary, Vice-President of the Male Chorus and a member of the Trustee Board. At his funeral, President Danny Barber spoke about his friend.

"He took his job as financial secretary very

serious. You definitely better have a receipt if you expected Stick to pay out any money from the local. He was a friend you could count

on and he would do anything he could to help someone," said Danny Barber.

"If you were telling Stick a story, he would always stop you and ask, 'what's the rest of the story?' One of his most famous quotes was, 'If you ain't selling gas, take down the sign.'" stated Recording Secretary Brenda Miles.

Local 831 sends its most sincere condolences to Stick's family.



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The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except Nancy Chaney and George Stewart. There were 103 members present.

Opening prayer led by Kenny Durham followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The name of Patsy Wyatt was drawn for the attendance prize. Since she was not present the amount for the next drawing will be \$60.00.

Jack Dodson asked for an amendment to the motion made at the Board meeting to purchase a television for a raffle. Kenny Stevens made a motion to amend the motion to read that a purchase be made for a raffle and the winner announced at a later meeting. Wyatt Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New members welcomed: Jeff and Clarice Coleman, Donnie and Susan Holley, and Danny and Sylvia Johnson.

Brenda Scarce gave a report on bus tours. She asked for suggestions for tours and announced she is planning a trip in December to Bear Creek, N.C. to tour the Fruitcake Factory and a show at the American Theatre in Selma, N.C. Call Brenda at (434) 727-7158 or (434) 489-3705 for details.

Door prizes won by the following:

Oil, lube and filter change - Piney Forest Goodyear Store - George Waller.

Oil, lube and filter change - Mt. Cross Goodyear Store - Ernest Cassidy

50/50 - Betty White.

Motion made by Donald Haymore to adjourn seconded by Bethel Wilson. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Nancy Guill**, Secretary

# PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

## HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

One of the major changes under the Health Care Reform Bill is concerning young adults being able to stay on their parent's healthcare plan until the age of 26. This change is set to take effect this year (2010), however, there may be provisions in the bill for people who are under a collective bargaining agreement that may affect this change. These provisions are being reviewed and the final outcome will be communicated to everyone as soon as the information is relayed. Currently, many healthcare plans drop dependents from coverage when they turn 19 or finish college.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN 2011 under Health Care Reform

(Continuing breakdown year to year on Health Care Reform)

1. Medicare provides 10 percent bonus payments to primary care physicians and general surgeons.
2. Medicare beneficiaries will be able to get a free annual wellness visit and personalized prevention plan service. New health plans will be required to cover preventive services with little or no cost to patients.
3. A new program under the Medicaid plan for the poor goes into effect in October that allows states to offer home and community based care for the disabled that might otherwise require institutional care.
4. Payments to insurers offering Medicare Advantage services are frozen at 2010 levels. These payments are to be gradually reduced to bring them more in line with traditional Medicare.
5. Employers are required to disclose the value of health benefits on employees' W-2 tax forms.
6. An annual fee is imposed on pharmaceutical companies according to market share. The fee does not apply to companies with sales of \$5 million or less.

## Federal Budget Deficit Hits Record

The federal budget deficit hit an all-time high for April as the government kept spending to aid the recovery while revenue fell sharply. The Treasury Department said this month that the April deficit soared to \$82.7 billion. That was significantly higher than last year's April deficit of \$20 billion and the largest imbalance for that month on record.

The government normally runs surpluses in April as millions of taxpayers file their income tax returns. However, income tax payments were down this April, reflecting the impact of the recession, which has pushed millions of people out of work.

Total revenues for April were down almost eight percent from a year ago. The Obama Administration forecast in February that the deficit for this year will hit an all-time high of \$1.56 trillion, surpassing the \$1.4 trillion set last year.

## Big Business Opposes Buy America

You think American business would have loudly cheered "Buy America" steel provisions of the \$800 billion plus plan to pull the U.S. economy out of the Bush Recession. But in fact, using American tax dollars to stimulate production and jobs here at home appears to be the last thing that globalized American business really wants.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable, the National Foreign Trade Council and several other top U.S. business groups jointly asked leaders of Congress to stop efforts to create U.S. jobs with U.S. taxpayer money.

In a letter, they whined that "Buy America" rules could violate international agreements and prompt trade retaliation from foreign countries.

Buy American requirements, which restrict the spending of government funds to U.S.-made products, date back in some form to the Great Depression. Trade agreements, however, have limited their applicability by providing exceptions for small projects, steep price differentials or product availability.

Many of the multinational companies objecting to "Buy America" long ago shuttered manufacturing plants in North America and moved them to China and other lower-wage locations. So, whose interest are they promoting?

It was bad enough when financial institutions and corporations promoted low-wage production in China to the detriment of American workers. Now they want to direct our tax dollars to do the same.

# May Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on May 13, 2010 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Linda Polk followed by pledge of allegiance.
- Roll Call of officers.
- 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:
  - Executive Board action April 28, 2010
    - Send the President to the President Meeting to be held May 24-25, 2010 in Cincinnati, Ohio.
    - Send two Time Study Representatives to Cincinnati, Ohio from May 24-26, 2010.
    - Send the Share Plan Representative (Ricky Austin) to Cincinnati, Ohio from May 25-27, 2010.
  - Grievance Appeal - Motion to uphold Grievance Committee.
  - Motion to pay gas mileage to Mark Powers and Delta Williams for attending Western Labor Council meetings.
  - Motion to allow Mark Powers and Delta Williams to serve as delegates for the Western

Labor Council.

- Motion to send one Safety Committee member to the USW Health & Safety Environmental Conference to be held October 3-8, 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Motion to send two COPE Committee members to the AFL-CIO Conference to be held Aug. 12-14, 2010 in Williamsburg, VA.
- Motion to move the June Executive Board meeting to June 1, 2010 and the June Union meeting to June 3, 2010.
- Motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Danville Life Saving Crew for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Golf Tournament and provide golf shirts for the participating team.
- Motion to send 2 Women of Steel to the 2010 Women of Steel Conference to be held October 17-20, 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Motion to renew the Certificate of Deposit for \$50,000.00 with a 2yr. bump up rate of 1.85%.
- Motion to move \$60,000 from Money Market to Unit Investment Trust Fund for 5 years and pays off at 5.85%.
- Motion to send 4 people to the FMLA Conference to be held July 15, 2010 in

Raleigh, NC (P&I, Alternate, Vice President, 1 Division Chairman).

- Executive Board Action May 4, 2010 to reimburse the Safety Committee \$41.70 per quarter for cell phone usage. Cancelled pager service.
- Financial report for the month of April was given by Greg Gammon and was approved as read. Motion to accept 3 new members.
- P&I report given by Gloria Gravely (see P&I).
- COPE Committee report given by Mark Powers.
- Trustee report given by Becky Inman/Pamela Wright/Greg Glass.
- Shop Steward School report given by Jeff Dixon.
- A memorandum was read by President Barber concerning the company using laid off members for summer vacation relief.
  - A vote was taken to accept the memorandum as read. The vote passed unanimously.
- Sean Poole/Rhonda Walker/Harry Brooks won the 50/50 raffle.
- The name of Rodney Barker, dept#1524, cc#4551 was drawn for the attendance drawing. He was not present. The June door prize will be \$325.
- Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held on June 3, 2010.

## United Steelworkers 2010 Rapid Response Conference

The United Steelworkers 2010 Rapid Response Conference was held on May 4-5 in Washington, DC. Good Jobs, Green Jobs, This is a Blue green Alliance. This conference has grown from . . . 500 to 1000 to over 3000 this year. "We fight for good jobs, safe workplaces, corporate accountability, fair trade laws that protect and secure our current jobs, family and community supportive wages, secure retirements, health care for all, new jobs in a green economy and rights for workers everywhere. That's why we're Steelworkers!" stated Leo Gerard, USW International President.

Speakers included Nancy Pelosi - Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ed Schultz - Television and Radio Host, Hilda Solis - Secretary of Labor, Jim

English - Former USW International Secretary-Treasurer, Charlie Kernaghan - Executive Director, National Labor Committee and Tom Conway - USW International Vice President.

More than 1,000 USW Rapid Response activists and other union members rallied on Capitol Hill, thanking lawmakers who voted for health insurance reform and vowing to work hard for them come election time. "We thank these members for their courage and we dare anyone to run a campaign to repeal health care for working families, seniors and other

Americans who so desperately need it. We dare them to take away fixing the "donut hole" that forces retirees to choose medicine over food or take away health care for adult kids who want to go to

*Continued on page 4*



## Annual Picnic Raffle And The Winner Is ...

The fourth drawing for the annual picnic raffle for the \$250 VISA Card was held at the May membership meeting. And the winner is Todd McCrickard. At the annual picnic, first place prize is a 4 day Carnival Cruise to the Bahamas, second prize is a 4 night - Pigeon Forge (1 bedroom cabin w/hot tub) and third prize is a \$500 VISA Card. After each monthly drawing all winning tickets will be put back in for chances at future drawings. Tickets are still available and still only \$5 each. The annual picnic will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2010 the gate will open at 10 am, lunch will be served from 10:30 – 2:30.



*Continued from page 3*

### Rapid Response Conference

college,” stated Gerard.

The COPE Committee talked to Congressman Perriello on issues that effect Workers rights, Coal miners, Trade with China and issues surrounding currency manipulation. Also, that OSHA hasn't been updated since 1970 (40 years). We need his vote on the “Protecting America’s Workers Act.” (PAWA) HR 2067 and S 1580. It will raise OSHA’s Civil and Criminal Penalties for Job Safety Violations.

#### COPE Committee

## USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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■  
Danny Barber  
*President and Editor*

#### Editors

Mike Fox - *Managing Editor*  
Danny Travis - *Senior Writer*  
Sandra Hairston - *Associate Editor*  
Michael Scott - *Associate Editor*

■  
Mike Fox - *Communications Coordinator*



# EDITOR'S COLUMN...

## Moving Forward

With all that we have been through in this and recent years, it is beyond debate that we are still dealing with the effects of an economic recession. Unemployment is still high, the job market is still down, and our jobs are still attached to a reduced ticket.

Most media outlets report that our economy is now in recovery. While I hope they are right, my personal opinion is that we still have much ground to make up. The stock market continues to inch itself up week after week for the most part, indicating an upswing of the economic pendulum. I fear the light at the end of the tunnel may be a train of more hardships bearing down on us. Either way, it really doesn't matter to us here at Goodyear Danville. The truth is that our future and livelihood is detached from the performance of the stock market. It is tied to our own efforts to carry out our jobs to an extent that is agreed upon as not only possible, but expected. This is mostly due to Goodyear's move to be totally customer driven. They no longer want just 9,000 tires, they want only the tires that the customers are asking for, with no over-production. It should be pointed out, however that production is impossible without the necessary resources. I understand the general mood that lingers within the plant. It's a mood of disappointment, dissatisfaction, and even anger. We work for a company that has gone out of its way to send a message that says, “none of you are worth the money you're making.” That message was all but shouted in each of the last two contracts, but those same contracts should teach us that we are guaranteed nothing. The only gains we can achieve are the ones we stand together and fight for. I came to work for Goodyear for the same reasons everybody else did. Now I see the generation that fought for all of those reasons disappearing into retirement, which they deserve. I just hope the next generation, the majority of the workforce in the plant right now, can carry on as well. We should commit ourselves to rejecting any sense of complacency. We need to send a message that says we are serious about what we do, and we can do it better than anyone else, including our sister plants. Once our leadership gives us the resources we need, and gets out of the way, we can send that message loud and clear.

I know some people will not like the tone of this editorial. To be honest, I feel uncomfortable writing it because I strongly feel like Goodyear's leadership in Akron created this mess of problems on their own. Nonetheless, we need to pause and read the writing on the wall. At the end of the day, we are but a drop in the bucket of a multi-billion dollar corporation. But there is no reason that we can't rise to the top once again, if we have the support and means supplied by our employer, to meet the goals set before us. With the excellence that has been associated with Goodyear Danville in the past, we will have no reason to worry about our jobs. And for those of you that don't know, as of today, we have every reason to worry about our jobs.

**Michael Scott**, Associate Editor



# 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 should I do if I have a disabled vehicle in the plant parking lot?

At some point in our careers most of us have either seen or had the misfortune of having a stranded vehicle in the parking lot. While you may think it will go unnoticed this is not the case. All you have to do is come by on a Sunday and it becomes evident that some vehicles may be inoperable. And if we see it, the security guards see it as well and are obligated to report it. This may lead to the vehicle being towed and the owner liable for towing and storage fees. Please notify the gatehouse if you have a stranded vehicle so the guards will know who it belongs to and can work with you regarding its removal.

## Just Thinking

On the way home from work the other day I was thinking about some of the moves that interrupted the training that day. Now, don't take this wrong, I understand we have a business to run. I know we cannot train if we don't sell tires. What I don't understand is why most of the moves we make are with our trainers and trainees. The question I always ask, "What would you do if you did not have a trainer or trainee to move?" "What other options would you explore?"

Do we look at our 1052 people, overtime, or do we look for convenience: They are right here I'll just move them. A lot of the time we are training our trainees to do two jobs. The one they should be learning and the one we are putting them on. And I love it when a manager says, "I'm in charge." So, in other words, I will do whatever I want. Wrong! The trainees belong to the training department until certification. As a training department we need to investigate and make sure our trainers and trainees are not being abused. There are plenty of times after checking I have found out the department had plenty of labor, and made the moves for convenience.

With the summer coming and employees going on vacation we need to get our trainees trained. Believe it or not, everyone would be better off. At a time when we are struggling to make our ticket and reduce waste, doesn't it make sense to try to get our people trained? Would not a well-trained and confident workforce benefit us all?

When training is interrupted, our cost goes up and we get back to thinking "they don't care if I get trained or not." No doubt training affects every indicator we have. So wouldn't it be to our advantage to do everything in our power to leave our trainers and trainees alone? To let us do our jobs so our trainees could do their's? Wouldn't it be nice if we just thought a little more before we acted? I don't know, maybe I just think too much!

**Ronnie Crane**, Union Training Coordinator

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# The U.S. Needs an Industrial Policy *Continued from page 1*

If so, where are the jobs and value creation?

It wasn't always this way. For the first three decades after World War II, the U.S. led the world in manufacturing. From mining to materials to mechanical, electrical and electronic products, from textiles to footwear, autos to airplanes, furniture to food, U.S. manufacturing filled our households with self-made products and elevated the standard of living for most to unpretentious comfort.

Services grew out of the successful manufacturing base because we had it. Prosperity seemed endless until we started "rationalizing," shipping jobs overseas to build supply chains

that enlarged growth prospects everywhere but the country of origin.

And while the U.S. worshipped the free market, especially unrestrained freedoms to cut labor, the rest of the world didn't. Other countries saw the wisdom of protecting jobs and people. They erected barriers and social programs that hardly exist in the U.S., while adding government-sponsored manufacturing incentives.

Services are just as vulnerable to the free labor market, only it's called "outsourcing." America needs manufacturing jobs for skilled, semi-skilled and low-skilled citizens. We need their wages circulating in the economy for sustained growth.

As we look ahead, the current

Democratic majority is locking the government's incisors into the neck of two of our four industries: energy and financial services. The antihydrocarbon and antinuclear crowds are making it virtually impossible for the producers of 93% of the nation's core energy to expand or grow (coal, oil, gas and nuclear) while helping venture capital friends in Silicon Valley expand 2%-3% of our energy base (wind, solar and biofuels) with virtually free taxpayer money.

How long Houston can hang onto world energy leadership is being actively discussed in, yes, Houston. The financial services industry, in the aftermath of its inexcusable greed

## Shop Steward School

On Friday, April 23, 2010 an education and training workshop was held at the union hall for all elected stewards. The day started with a welcome and opening remarks from President Danny Barber. "The shop steward is the backbone of any local union," stated Barber and after some initial discussions with the group the prepared agenda for the day was attended to.

Topics covered were the changes to the Master agreement (specifically the new discipline policy), the changes made from the local supplemental agreement and instructions on how to investigate a possible grievance and fill out fact sheets and proper grievance writing. Later, the stewards had to take a test on finding certain articles and violations, and writing out their answers while learning how to use their contract books to find the answers.

Other covered topics were distribution of work (OT) and work rules, HIPPA Laws, A&S Benefits, FMLA, etc. P&I Rep., Gloria Gravely covered pension and insurance while EAP Rep., Courtney Dixon covered the alcohol/drug testing such as post accident and just cause and how the steward can help. Time study engineers, Jimmy Davis and Johnnie Scott informed the group about the MOST system and the standards being implemented in the plant. Greg Gammon and Brenda Miles presented the group with a power point presentation about Local 831 and some of the information that is shown to potential new members as new hires.

The shop steward school and the curriculum was prepared and presented by the Grievance and Negotiating Committee which includes:

President Danny Barber,  
Vice President Tim Brown,  
Policy Member Gloria Gravely, Division I Chairman Jimmy Newcomb, Division II Chairman Mike Fox, Division III Chairman Jeff Dixon and Division IV Chairman Scott Wallace.

This much needed education and training tool should help your elected stewards better perform their job in representing you the membership.



## The U.S. Needs an Industrial Policy *Continued from page 6*

and manipulation of trust, is about to get regulated in ways that will drive it to impotence, sending the core strength of yet another historic U.S. industry elsewhere. Where? Probably not Europe, or Japan. More likely it's China.

So then there will be two. Two world-leading industries in the U.S., entertainment and information technology. For how long? Entertainment is ever more virtual and universal. China, Korea, India and Japan are after Silicon Valley's infotech dominance day after relentless day. And those countries

create the government policies that help and protect those efforts.

The administration is worried about jobs in the run-up to the fall elections. Every incumbent should be. Where to stimulate job creation should be as obvious as the cosmetic smile on an elected official's face: manufacturing. Go where we've been.

Since government is involved anyway, let's shift it from disablement to enablement. Create manufacturing incentives like other governments do. Lower repressive corporate tax structures, accelerate depreciation, defer income and inventory taxes,

tax abate existing and new jobs, pay for worker training, incentivize new, and the conversion of former, manufacturing sites.

We've never systematically used government incentives to help U.S. industry compete across the board. It's time we did, like everyone else. Use the unspent hundreds of stimulus billions to create millions of competitively priced manufacturing jobs in America. We've never had more people available, ready and willing to work. Let's practice the "globalization" we taught everyone else.

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# 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.

**Danny Johnson**

Dept.# 1110 CC# 3174

**Kevin Karnes**

Dept.# 1524 CC# 5892

*We Send Our Sincere Condolences To*

Marsha Blackwell, Lewis Bryant, Jr., Lonnie Dixon, John Farrish, Thomas Fitzgerald, Richie Jones, Kenneth Lipford, Robert Long, Ernest McCain, Thomas Mimms, Curtis Paul, Lynwood Pope, David Rodgers, Timothy Russell, Joseph Shaffer, William Smith, Carl Turner, Archie White.

To the families of retirees:  
William "Stick" McLaughlin and Laurin "Roy" Webb.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JUNE 2010 CALENDAR</b>						
		<b>1</b> Exec. Board Meeting 7:30 AM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Union Meeting 7:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Relay for Life Carrington Pavilion	<b>12</b>
District 8 Summer School June 6 - 10, 2010 Blacksburg, VA						23rd Biennial
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Flag Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
23rd Biennial USPA Conference Pittsburg, PA						
<b>20</b> Father's Day	<b>21</b> First Day of Summer	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			