



# The Informer

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

## "Ya gotta do what ya gotta do"... **STRIKE!**

On Thursday, October 5th, 2006, at 1:00pm Local 831 and all other unionized tire manufacturing facilities owned by Goodyear in North America were called out on strike by the United Steelworkers of America. After months of unfruitful negotiations and contract proposals full of concessions presented by Goodyear a 72 hour notice was given and an October 5th deadline established. As the deadline loomed Goodyear workers were hopeful a resolution would be found but instead found themselves in the middle of a media frenzy in local newspapers, radio and television. And, in the end, Goodyear's "Cut and Gut" strategy had forced the Steelworkers to call a strike.

*Continued on page 4*



## Al Weed Supports Striking Workers

Around 10:00 am on October 10, candidate Al Weed, who is running against Virgil Goode for the House of Representatives, visited the picketers at the main entrance of the Goodyear-Danville plant. Local union leaders including President Danny Barber were on hand to hear what Mr. Weed had to say about the strike and other matters of importance. Local 831 would like to thank Mr. Weed for taking the time to come out and for showing his support for our striking members. Below is transcript of his speech to striking Steelworkers.



I proudly stand in full support of the Goodyear workers. They are demonstrating the courage of American unions and the importance of the American worker.

This is about more than the bargaining points being discussed in Cincinnati. What is at stake are the rights of all American workers to claim their fair share of productivity increases. George Bush- who is running the most anti-union administration since the turn

of the century-claims our economy is strong. Corporate profits are growing, and the salary gap between CEOs and workers is expanding.

It is immoral that this wealth is not shared with those who do the hard work that make it possible.

The men and women of Goodyear are willing to put their jobs on the line not only for themselves but for all American workers. We must provide access to quality, affordable healthcare for all. We must provide honest wages for an honest days work. We must provide for a secure retirement. These are simple and fair requests,

and I stand with the workers and demand that they be met.

What is most impressive is the dedication and support of these men and women to each other, to previous generations of employees, and for those coming up. This is so different from the "What's in it for me," mentality that so characterizes the economic policies of the

*Continued on page 2*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 2

- SOAR Meeting Minutes
- Pension & Insurance

### PAGE 3

- October Membership Minutes
- Strike & Defense Fund Committee Meets To Set Benefits

### PAGE 4

- Editor's Column

### PAGE 5

- Questions & Answers
- Unionism... the Time is Now

### PAGE 6

- Union Picnic Rolls Right Along As Planned
- Owners Of Small Business Stand With Strikers

### PAGE 8

- November Calendar
- Condolences
- ICEM Union Supports Strike Against Goodyear
- Voting Influences Government Decisions



OCTOBER 11, 2006

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present.

Prayer was led by President Jack Dodson and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The name of Preston Coles was drawn for the attendance prize and he was not present. The award for November will be \$100.00.

Telephone contact committee - twenty members signed up to work on a committee to call members when it is important to contact members between meetings.

President Dodson discussed the Christmas invitation that will be mailed out in November and the importance of sending a response promptly if a member plans to attend the luncheon along with the \$10.00 per person registration fee. This fee will be returned when the member attends the luncheon.

Gloria Gravely gave a report on the negotiations between Goodyear and the Union.

The drawing to award members who worked the tire sale was made and the names of **Ming Tosh and Bernice Moon** won from the Goodyear Mt. Cross Rd. store and **Irma Osborne and Nancy Chaney** won from the Piney Forest Goodyear Store.

Door prizes won by the following: Oil and lube change from Goodyear Mt. Cross Rd. - **Betty Durham & Victor Moon**

Oil and lube change from Piney Forest Rd. Store - **Clyde Farmer & Richard Terry**

Fifty-fifty won by **Donald Haymore**  
Juanita Edwards made a motion to adjourn and Nancy Chaney seconded.

All members present enjoyed a delicious bowl of Brunswick stew made by the SOAR members.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Nancy Guill**, Secretary

# PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters,

Please take the time to read over these important notes of interest concerning your benefits during a strike.

**MEDICAL BENEFITS-** Your medical benefits will continue for 90 days. All Medical Premiums must be paid to the Atlanta, Georgia address listed on the coupons that are available at the Union Hall. October and November premiums are due now. Single coverage (\$21.00) and Family coverage (\$63.00). Please send in the amounts that you owe to keep your premiums current through November 30, 2006. The Goodyear Benefit Solution Center phone number is 1-800-334-9395.

**DELTA DENTAL** – Your Dental benefits terminated on October 5, 2006. There are 3 services that Are Covered during the 90 day period of benefits and they are:

- Endodontic (Root Canals) Crowns are NOT payable
- Periodontic (Treatment of Gum Disease)
- Oral Surgery

**OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE-** You must continue to pay the premiums through Minnesota Life. You may contact them by calling 1-800-660-2584 if you need to do so, however, they will bill you quarterly once Goodyear notifies them to change the status from Active to Strike. In the meantime, your coverage will not lapse.

**EMPLOYEE SAVINGS (401K)-** If you have an existing loan with JP Morgan, please contact them directly at 1-800-345 -2345 to set up payment arrangements. Your loan will be in Default after 90 days if there has been no payment made. Once this happens, any money not repaid will be treated as income and will be subject to penalties. J P Morgan will not bill you. You must contact them directly. They will continue to send out quarterly statements on your account.

**ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS (A&S)-** A&S Benefits will be paid for anyone who had a claim in process before going on strike. The Company is taking the position that they will not honor any claims after 1:00 pm on October 5, 2006. The Union's position is that benefits are extended for 90 days after a strike and Accident and Sickness benefits are a part of the Medical Benefits, therefore benefits should be honored during that period. So, as you can see by the different positions of the Union and Company, the A&S Benefit will be an argument even after the strike.

**WORKERS COMPENSATION-** Benefits will continue for employees who are out of work on Temp. Total. NO benefits will be payable to a person who was working light duty and receiving Temp partial benefits because once that employee goes on strike, you forfeit your Temp. Partial benefits. Under Virginia Workers Compensation, a person has to be working in order to receive Temp Partial benefits.

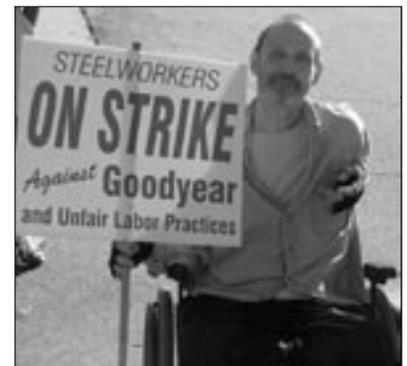
Continued From Page 1

## Al Weed Supports Striking Workers

Bush Administration.

I am working hard in my campaign to stand up for those who are working hard for their families. I will continue this fight in Congress.

Globalization has brought economic benefits, but our government and American businesses have yet to deal with the consequences. I thank the men and women of the USW, especially the members of 831 for standing up. Their strength and dedication are noble. I call on Goodyear to meet their demands and get these mothers and fathers, sons and daughters back to work. While it may not be easy to do the right thing, there is no other option.



# October Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on October 12, 2006 at Danville City Auditorium with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting.

■ John McCain opened the meeting with prayer. It was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers.

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

■ Motion to send Greg Gammon to Workman's Comp. Seminar on Dec. 1, 2006 in Richmond, VA.

■ Motion to approve ad for newspaper announcing union meeting change .

■ Motion to purchase a 4 drawer file cabinet.

■ Motion to allot \$1,200 for strike preparations.

■ Motion to uphold grievance appeal committee decision.

■ Motion to suspend with regular business for the purpose of discussing the contract.

■ Motion to suspend third reading of by-law proposal vote and grievance appeal.

■ President, Danny Barber

presented the proposals to membership and entertained questions from the floor.

■ Policy member Gloria Gravely presented P&I proposals.

■ Dennis Wilkins won 50/50 drawing.

■ The name of Clarence Stephens cc1349, dept.2431, was drawn for the attendance drawing. He was not present. The November door prize will be \$125

■ Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be November 9, 2006.

## Strike & Defense Fund Committee Meets To Set Benefits

The Strike & Defense (S&D) Fund Committee has been trained and has been meeting to determine the strike benefits that would be made available to Local 831 members.

On Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, the committee met with District 8 Financial Auditor, Larry Eanes to finalize plans.

To provide a little history on strike & defense funds consider these points:

• The Steelworker S&D has approximately \$150 million in their fund.

• The International Union will send \$100 per member, (based upon a 3-month average of dues paying members) to our local after the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the strike.

• Local 831 is required to set aside 10% of those funds for "special needs."

• Local 831 can distribute the remaining funds only in the form of vouchers and/or checks to third parties. No checks can be made to members.

• Talks have begun with some local financial institutions. Most all echo the same tune. If someone has good credit history with them and comes in to work out an extension prior to getting 30 days in arrears, they are most likely going to get an extension. The key to getting this treatment is based upon your previous history of paying. Some institutions require that you have had the loan at least a year before allowing an extension.

The Local 831 S&D Committee has determined that benefits will be payable in the form of a grocery store voucher in the beginning and look at other options if

the strike progresses. Members will receive a postcard with the information on how and when to pick up your S&D benefits.

The committee asks everyone to please be patient and ask for their cooperation in completing the necessary paperwork in order to get S&D benefits. Following USW guidelines, members must fill out paperwork with their needs outlined on it. We recognize that everyone has a need for food!



Continued From Page 1

*"Ya gotta do what ya gotta do"...* **STRIKE!**

It was about a year ago, at the union's monthly meeting, that President Danny Barber began to sound the alarm that upcoming negotiations had the potential to get ugly and he asked membership to start preparing for what may be a long haul to get a fair contract. Fast forward to October 5th, 2006, at approximately 1:00 pm Local 831's CAT Coordinator, Dana Dixon, received the call that no agreement or extension had been agreed upon and that the strike was on go. The Danville Police were present to keep order and the local media was there to get the story. With local union leadership making a sweep of the plant to make sure all were out, Local 831's membership exited the plant in an orderly, incident free manner and made their way to the awaiting media circus. Some stopped for brief comments to the media while others just made their way to the parking lot. The picket line was established right away as workers walked out Goodyear's doors and straight to the picket line. The union's picket line is maintained 24/7 and all members are reminded to keep up with their picket responsibilities as a united front is critical to our success. Solidarity rocks! Local 831 is very proud of how it's members have handled themselves during this dark time. As of this writing, the strike is still in effect with no talks scheduled in the near future.

## USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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■  
Danny Barber  
President and Editor

■  
Associate Editors  
Danny Travis, Mike Fox, Sandra Hairston

■  
Communications Coordinator  
Dana Dixon



## EDITOR'S COLUMN...

### *The rest of the story*

Every time I turn around there are politicians that are now in office and that have been in office for a while telling me how good everything is. Well, I don't see it and I think a lot of people are not seeing it! Our jobs are being outsourced every day due to free trade, health care has skyrocketed and is estimated to continue increasing, corporate greed is at a all time high (we can relate) and thousands of illegal immigrants are crossing the border and all our government can think of is to build a wall. That's just a few of the problems I see, now here is the rest of the story!



There are 45 million Americans that don't have health care. Millions more are underinsured, with only temporary or seasonal coverage. Most Americans cannot afford \$500.00 to \$1000.00 per month for health care. In 2003 alone, 1.4 million Americans lost their health insurance even as health insurers and pharmaceutical companies earned record profits. Medicare premiums increased over 17 percent in 2005 and are expected to rise in the near future with prescription drugs prices soaring at double the annual rate of inflation.

Bankruptcies, corporate financial scandals and consolidations have left millions of workers hard-earned pension savings threatened or entirely lost. The number of Americans covered by a defined benefit pension plan has fallen by half in the last 20 years. About one-third of retirees receive more than 90 percent of their income from Social Security, but the system faces dramatic shortfalls in the decades to come. Billions have been borrowed from Social Security for other purposes and an estimated \$990 billion is projected to be diverted through 2008.

America has lost over 2.7 million well paying manufacturing jobs since the year 2001. Manufacturing jobs are not the only jobs being lost in our country. New Economy jobs in technology, communications and health care are also being outsourced, cutting off the opportunity to move up the career ladder. Unfair trade agreements and bad trade agreements are increasing the rush of jobs out of our nation.

Family income in America has dropped steadily since the year 2000, falling an average of \$1,535, even as the cost of living increases. The personal debt against income ratio increased almost 16 percent since 2000. For the past four years, productivity has gone up, while median income has declined.

As you can see, we have some serious problems facing US and it is time too address and fix these problems. Here's the deal, absolutely issues such as abortion and gun control are important but so are jobs, health care, energy costs, outsourcing of jobs and all of the above and something or someone needs to address them.

Working people can help themselves tremendously by voting this November for representatives that will bring these important issues to the forefront and do something about them. This November give someone a chance to help us that has not had the opportunity. Some of the one's we have now have had ample time to show us what they can do and it ain't pretty.

**Danny (Tree) Travis**, 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.

## How long do my benefits continue during a strike?

During a strike most benefits continue for 90 days. Healthcare, prescription drugs and vision care continue for the full 90 days. At the end of the 90 day period, employees have the option of enrolling in Cobra as a healthcare option. At the end of the 90 day period, Goodyear will provide information to sign up for Cobra coverage. There will be a 60 day window of opportunity to sign up for this coverage. Delta Dental coverage ceased on the day the strike began. Certain dental procedures are grandfathered in and will still be paid. Please check with your P&I representative for details. Keep in mind that premiums for healthcare as well as optional life premiums are the employees responsibility to keep current.

## Unionism...

### *The Time Is Now!*

As of this writing we are at war with our employer, The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Make no mistake that it is, in fact, a war. A war of wills, a war for our families, a war for the working men and women of America. We have united for a cause we believe in. That cause is our standard of living. We are the middle class. A class of people that has been steadily eroding as companies move jobs overseas and attempt to cut the wages and benefits of the remaining American workers. Workers in the textile industry, steel industry, the autoworkers, the airlines and the list goes on. Promises forgotten turn into big profits for the companies. The executives of these companies are then overcompensated at the American workers expense. Hold your heads up with pride that you are willing to say NO to these tactics! Enough is enough.

The time is now to support the union effort, as well as each other, in any way we can. There are many ways to contribute to the cause. Food, water for coffee, firewood is always welcome and/or needed on the picket line. When I pulled my early morning picket a guy pulled up and handed us a box of biscuits. I don't even know who it was but it was greatly appreciated. Tell a co-worker about that job you heard about that just wasn't for you. Have that yard sale you've been meaning to. Sell that extra car or other replacable luxury. It will generate extra cash to tide you over. Call your creditors early on to see if they can provide some relief with your finances. All these things will help



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us stay out one day longer than Goodyear. I wish that all of our membership were 100% ready to weather this storm but that's not reality. So we must do the best that we can. We must stay stong and united. We must win this war. It is far better to try ,even if one fails, than to succeed in doing nothing.

**Mike Fox**, Associate Editor

# Union Picnic Rolls Right Along As Planned

Despite the cold weather, sprinkles of rain and of course the fact that Union members are on STRIKE, this year's picnic rolled right along as planned.

Smiles, friendly faces and great spirits of thousands plunged through the gates at the Carrington Pavilion to enjoy great food, activities, games, rides and fellowship with one another.

This year there was a new addition to the picnic with the Blood Mobile. There were 23 people to donate blood for URW Local 831; Mike Loftis, John Fry, Barry McCubbins, Danny Lewis III, Sylvester Mayo, Ralph McCubbins, Nancy Walker, Rodney

Raines, Suzanne Pruitt, Frankie West, Vicky West, Phyllis Hankins, Robert Ragans, Debra Simmons, Timmy Adkins, Keith Kessie, James Patterson, W.R. Miller, Ruedell Miles, Becky Inman, Watson Buntin, Darlene Holcolms, and Rodney Raines.

There were plenty of children out all bundled up for the weather still enjoying the rides, kid prizes, magic show, balloons and music on the stage. The adults enjoyed the children activities as well especially the train ride.

Cookies, cakes and pies, oh my! This years Women of Steel bake sale added a lot of sweetness to the day. Raising over \$600 from the bake sale, these funds go toward the 2007 Relay for Life event that the Women of Steel participate in annually.

Other additions to this years picnic include visits by the Ashboro Wire Plant employees who also assisted us at the



picket line, Union Supplier Inc, with Jamie Callwell, owner, Craig Haven, Secretary from Alpharetta, GA, Democrat representative for Congress, Al Weed and Danville City Councilman, Adam Tomer.

Again we would like to say thank you to all volunteer participants. Local 831 solicit any and all comments, suggestions and prayers.

# Owners Of Small Business Stand With Strikers

Owners of a small business on Main Street in downtown Danville, support the current strike against Goodyear. Owners, Lisa Reynolds and Sharon Snead have every reason to support striking workers; both of their husbands work at the Goodyear-Danville plant. The name of their business is called "In Good Taste." Sharon Snead is the wife of Jack Snead and Lisa Reynolds is the wife of Aubrey Reynolds. Both husbands are NG operators.

"I know we have more at stake with the strike because our husbands work there, but every business has some at stake for the mere fact that these people are not working which means they will be limited in their spending. So, this affects everyone in the community to some degree. It disturbs me how some of the local business's and people in the community have not stood up to support these striking workers," said Lisa Reynolds.

The ladies have put a sign up in front of their business to show support of the strike and wish other business's would do something too. The very attractive store has about anything you would want for a sweet tooth and they also offer an express lunch, which features the Mid Town chicken salad. Other selections in their store include; custom cakes, brownies (best in town), coffee and smoothies. The girls also sell gift baskets and serve coffee.

Their hours are Tuesday-Thursday 7:30am -4:00pm, Friday 7:30am-5:00pm and Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm.



"If the strike lasts too long we may have to run 24 hours a day seven days a week," laughed Reynolds.

"We will also be actively involved with the strike by picketing. I wish all family members of striking workers would get involved. Businesses in our community need to support these workers in keeping what they have so the money can be sent back out in the community. The less people make, the less they can spend," commented Snead. The girls will give a 15 percent discount to all striking workers with a purchase. Members must show their I.D. badge in order to receive the discount.

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. Remember, for every Goodyear tire sold:

**\$\$\$ goes toward your wages**

**\$\$\$ goes toward your retirement**

**\$\$\$ goes toward your medical benefits**

**\$\$\$ goes toward your families benefits**



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## ICEM Union Supports Strike Against Goodyear

The International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions support the strike by North American rubber workers against Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

"We call on our affiliated trade unions to send messages of support to the Steelworkers in North America," said ICEM general secretary Fred Higgs. "We also call on trade unions in the rubber industry, particularly Goodyear plants in Central and South America, to monitor their inventories and production to ensure that they are not undermining the USW's strike action."

*We Send  
Our Sincere  
Condolences To*

Chris Apple, Travis Barfield,  
Gary Coleman, Janel Coleman,  
Sean Goode

## Voting Influences Government Decisions

The USW Local 831 Committee on Political Action (COPE), will be discussing basic legislative issues over the next few months. One of the jobs of the COPE committee is to inform the local membership on political issues that affect them so they can make educated decisions when elections take place. It also helps the membership by being more involved with the legislative process by contacting their elected officials about issues that affect the members working conditions and their employment.

The voting record of your representative and his/her response to your e-mails and phone calls give the member a much clearer idea of how your representative will support you on future issues.

One of the most critical ways that individuals can influence governmental decision-making is through voting. Voting is a formal expression of preference for a candidate or proposed issue.

The COPE committee will track the voting records of the State Legislators throughout the General Assembly and publish those records on labor issues.

The time has come that the members of USW Local 831 tell their representatives that if they are not willing to support workers rights, workers will not support them. VOTE Nov 7 for the candidate that supports YOU!! —COPE Committee Chairman, **Mark Powers**

**U.S.W. Local 831**  
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<b>NOVEMBER 2006 CALENDAR</b>						
October AC <b>29</b>	BD <b>30</b>	BD <b>31</b> <b>HALLOWEEN</b>	AC <b>1</b> SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	AC <b>2</b>	BD <b>3</b>	BD <b>4</b>
BD <b>5</b>	AC <b>6</b> Exec. Board Mtg. 7:30 AM	AC <b>7</b> Election Day GO VOTE	BD <b>8</b> SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	BD <b>9</b> Union Meeting 7:30 AM 7:30 PM	AC <b>10</b>	AC <b>11</b>
AC <b>12</b>	BD <b>13</b>	BD <b>14</b>	AC <b>15</b>	AC <b>16</b>	BD <b>17</b>	BD <b>18</b>
BD <b>19</b>	AC <b>20</b>	AC <b>21</b>	BD <b>22</b>	BD <b>23</b> Happy Thanksgiving  Holiday	AC <b>24</b>  Holiday	AC <b>25</b>
AC <b>26</b>	BD <b>27</b>	BD <b>28</b>	AC <b>29</b>	AC <b>30</b>	December BD <b>1</b>	BD <b>2</b>