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USWA LOCAL 831

The Informer

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

Communications Vital to Unions

The United Steelworkers Press Association's 20th Biennial Conference took place in Nashville, TN. on August 28-31, 2004 with delegates from 12 districts participating in different levels of training to better educate themselves as Editors of their local newsletters.

Delegates registered and attended a getting acquainted session for communicators on Saturday, compliments of District 9 Director Connie Entrekin, who also opened the conference Sunday morning welcoming all delegates and informing them that an educated membership is the best membership you can have.

President of USPA Ucinda Sims talked about the 45 million people that are without Health Insurance and the 4.3 million people that have fallen into poverty since W. Bush has been in office. Jim Coleman, USPA Secretary-Treasurer introduced guests and the course agenda that consisted of speeches, break out classes on Basic Writing, Photography, Color Enhancing and Fontage, Basic Layout & Design, Websites, Headlines, Search Engines and more. Classes began each morning at 9:00am until 4:30pm and provided delegates with information on how to enhance and communicate the news that happens within their local as well as the community

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The Ray Pasnick award winners accepting for Local 1023, Yokohama in Salem Virginia was Eric Angel (small locals), Dana Dixon, Local 831 (medium size locals) and P.C. Choo from Local 1998 (large locals).



Local 831 Education & Publicity accepts two awards I-to-r, Danny "Tree" Travis, Danny Barber, Gloria Gravely, Dana Dixon and Gerald Dickey (Editor of Steelabor)

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Local Donates to Randolph Fund

"Salvation for race, nation, or class must come from within. Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted. Freedom and justice must be struggled for by the oppressed of all lands and races, and the struggle must be continuous; for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationships." — A. Philip Randolph

Philip Randolph (1889-1979) was one of the countries foremost labor, civil rights and human rights leaders. He devoted a lifetime of effort to the struggle for social and economic justice for all people. Local 831 has donated \$100.00 to the A. Philip Randolph Memorial Fund. "This organization has been fighting for the advancement of trade unions and for civil rights since it was founded in 1965, our local is proud to donate this small amount to the foundation, stated Vice President, Terry Trull.



September 8, 2004

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present. There were 61 members present.

Prayer was led by Juanita Edwards, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Juanita Edwards, tour coordinator, reported on a trip to New York City on November 24 - 27 to view the Macy's Parade on Thanksgiving Day. She also has more trips she is working on. See Juanita if you have a special tour you would like to have her consider.

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

Willie Fitzgerald has been approved as the delegate to attend the SOAR International Conference in Las Vegas in April 2005.

Dues check-off discussed. See Earl Guill for form to sign up for dues to be automatically deducted from pension checks monthly.

Soar members are requested to provide e-mail addresses to the Board so you can receive news quicker.

Brunswick stew will be at the next meeting on October 13. Workers are needed to prepare the stew. Call Jack if you can provide assistance in the making of the stew.

Byron Taylor reported on voter registration campaign. A Harley-Davidson or \$10,000 in cash will be given away if you are a registered voter and have signed the official card, which will enter your name for the drawing. See Kenny Stevens for the card to sign.

A motion was made by Paul Marlow and seconded by Donald Haymore to send Kenny Stevens to Charleston, West Virginia to attend the Rapid Response Conference.

Drawings won by the following: Raymond Parks and Mary Reese each won a free oil, lube, & filter change from Perry Bros. on Piney Forest Rd. Paul Marlow and Kenny Stevens each won a free oil, lube and filter change from Goodyear Service Store on Mt. Cross Rd. Fifty-fifty won by Ronnie Payne who kindly donated it to Soar treasure.

Meeting adjourned.

Nancy Guill, Secretary

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Communications Vital to Unions

and the labor movement. Local 831's *Informer* was mentioned in several classes and speeches pertaining to meaningful picture taking, labor issues and examples of what a union paper is really about.

Lynn Agee, PACE General Council and assistant to the President was one of many guest speakers at the conference. PACE/Steelworkers has teamed up to form a Rapid Response Network which has kicked off the largest voter registration drive in the history of PACE or the Steelworkers. International

Headquarters for PACE is located in Nashville and delegates were able to tour the facility and talk with the International President, Executive Board members, Communications department and more.

Election of USPA Officers was held and 6 out of the 13 positions will be held by rubber workers. Three locals are from the Goodyear chain, Local 831, Danville, VA, Local 745, Freeport, IL. and Local 746, Tyler, TX.

The Awards Banquet and ceremony recognized and rewarded locals in categories such as, The Mike Enos award for best web site, The Editor of the year, best organizing, civil rights, safety & health, best original cartoon, best picture, best legislative and finally The Ray Pasnick Award for best overall paper. Presenting the awards were Denny Longwell, USWA District 1 Staff Rep. and past USPA President; Gerald Dickey, Editor of Steel Labor and Jim Coleman. Local 831 won best legislative award and The Ray Pasnick award for best overall paper; this is the second year in a row The *Informer* has won this category with publication between 1000 to 2000 members. Another local out of Salem VA., Local 1023 Express, Yokohama plant won The Ray Pasnick for publication under 1000 members and for over 2000 the award went to The Steel Drum, Local 1998.

Congratulations go out to all of the award recipients and to all Editors; everyone is a winner. Denny Longwell said a phrase that sums it all up, "if it is to be, it's up to me", to educate and communicate to your union brothers and sisters.



*Aaron Hudson talks about good use of color and graphics using the *Informer* as a good example.*

Membership turns down By-Laws Change

The By-Laws committee met on June 29, 2004 to discuss a by-laws change. Six members in good standing with the local union submitted the by-laws change. The by-laws proposal stated: Union members may only serve on one committee at a time as long as other union members had written letters to the President requesting to serve on a committee.

The by-laws committee understands this proposal to mean, that no union member can serve on no more than one committee as long as there are union members that have submitted letters to the Union President wishing to be appointed to a committee.

There were three readings of the proposal to membership at three consecutive meetings and a vote was taken on the third meeting. The by-laws committee recommended to membership that no change be made. Membership voted by a large margin not to accept the change of the by-laws proposal.

September Membership Meeting Minutes

USWA Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on September 9, 2004 with Vice President Terry Trull presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting.

■ David Payne opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers, all were present except the following: President Danny Barber, (out of town on union business) William "Stick" McLaughlin. (vacation)

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

■ Executive Board report for September was approved as read and contained the following items.

- Donate \$100.00 to the A. Philip Randolph Memorial Fund
- Send the picnic committees bid for concrete back to the committee for details
- Send 7 women of steel to the WOS council meeting at Local 9428 in Blairs Va. on September 17, 2004
- Motion to pay for registration fee and one room for the retirees to send two people to the Rapid Response in

West Virginia

• Motion to allow Doves to use the union hall on October 30, 2004 for a comedy show fund raiser

■ There was no Financial report given due to BB&T not sending the bank statement

■ Pension & Insurance Representative, Benny Toller gave the P&I report to membership (see story in this issue)

■ Ted Fitz and Linwood Saunders gave a COPE report on the AFL-CIO conference and the up-coming Presidential election

■ Gloria Gravely, Dana Dixon and Danny (Tree) Travis gave the report on the 20th biennial USPA conference that was held in Nashville Tenn. The Education & Publicity committee also presented to membership the awards the "Informer" won at the conference. Prizes to be given away by Local 831 at the Ed Steffey Memorial Golf Tournament were also shown to membership.

■ Mike Baker, chairman of the union safety committee, gave his report on the Health & Safety Symposium that was held in Pittsburgh, Pa. (See *Safety Story on Page 7*)

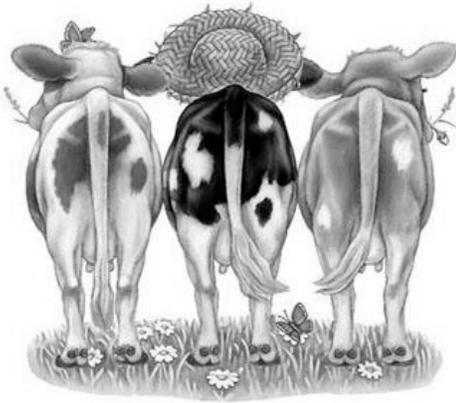
■ Vice President, Terry Trull gave these points of information:

- Arbitration for September re-scheduled
 - President Barber in Pittsburgh meeting with The Maynard Group
 - Spoke on the arbitration case which was won dealing with overtime
 - Handicap & reserve parking in the Goodyear parking lot. You must have a Goodyear handicap sticker displayed in windshield. Violators will be towed at owners expense
 - FMLA is running high at the local plant. Look for changes
 - Union picnic scheduled for October 2, 2004. If you are scheduled to work on this day and would like to attend the picnic, you must give management a 48 hour notice
 - Vice President Trull entertained questions from the floor
- Butch Robinson and Brenda Miles won the 50/50 drawing. Donovan Garland, dep. (1524 c.c. 5430) name was drawn for the attendance prize. He was not present. The October attendance prize will be \$175.00
- Motion to adjourn, motion carried.

a word to the wise

Several topics were covered at the September membership meeting. Many times, people have stated, "you should have told us." So, for those not in attendance, these topics were discussed:

- FMLA, Family Medical Leave Act was established to help people in need to handle certain medical and family situations without the threat of losing their job. It is reported from Goodyear that they suspect that some people are fraudulently applying for FMLA and they are checking some of the claims.
- Can you afford to be towed? The Danville plant has to provide a mandated number of handicapped parking places for handicapped individuals. It is also their responsibility to monitor these spaces for violations. Additionally, there are a number of parking spaces that are reserved and for visitor parking. Goodyear has stated that they will cease putting the orange stickers on cars, however, starting immediately, vehicles parked illegally will be towed. One such individual has reported that the towing bill was \$75 and he also had to pay a \$50 storage fee per day. If you are parking illegally, be prepared to suffer the consequences.
- PPE, personal protective equipment is provided by Goodyear and mandatory. Eye protection and hearing protection are not voluntary. **You must comply.** Safety shoes are on a volunteer basis. Shoe certificates are given each year for safety shoes. Members are encouraged to use them.
- Absenteeism has been on the rise in our plant for months. We have new management officials that have indicated that they are going to handle the people that are frequent offenders.



Cow Tracking

Is it just me or does anyone else find it absolutely amazing that the U.S. government can track a cow born in Canada almost three years ago, right to the stall where she sleeps in the state of Washington, and determine exactly what that cow ate. They can also track her calves right to their stalls, and tell you what kind of feed they ate.

But they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around in this country, including people that are trying to blow up important structures in the U.S.!

Maybe we should give every illegal alien a cow as soon as they enter the country.

EDITOR'S COLUMN...

We could all learn a lot from the Olympics

I am an avid spectator of the Olympics and I've learned a few things from the games that could apply to everyday life for workers, industry, and pretty much anything that involves people.

The first thing I've learned ... when you get this many countries together and put them in competition, every nation sends the best they have and when they are put on a level playing field, the United States hold their own in most any sport. When you take a look at our workers, I think the same can be said. The problem in this area still remains we don't have a level playing field. If every country would support the environmental protections as we do, the safety of workers like we do and the concept of providing workers a living wage, like we do. No one could beat us. It is amazing that the Olympic committee realizes that the only fair competition is the competition that provides the same rules for everyone. Every team has the same time to train, the same officials to judge, and the same number of people on the team.

At the 2004 Summer Games, the United States walked away with 103 Medals, 35 Gold, 39 Silver and 29 Bronze. When you look at some of our competition in the industrial world, they are not even close. China had 63 medals, Mexico had 4, and Chile had 3. Even our more comparable industrial competitors, Germany had 48 medals and Japan had 37 medals. You see, the Olympics have taught me that when we level the playing field, there 'is no country that can top the American worker, just like our proud Olympians from the United States. Hundreds of countries, thousands of athletes, one set of rules and we conquered the competition.

Another lesson I've learned from the Olympics... when you pick your very best people, success is inevitable. In each and every one of the events that we and any other nation participate in, one common rule applies.... the very best is selected, not for race, religion or sex, but the best in that sport. Olympians are picked from previous competition, in order to advance to the Olympics, they must be able to excel in their event, get along with fellow athletes and love what they do.

The final lesson is.... the manner in which athletes are able to truly become a team. Never do you see someone who constantly says, "I" or "me", they always speak of how the team achieved this medal or how much respect they have for their fellow competitors. They are truly admirable people, competing in the greatest competition of them all.

You see, I think if we applied some of the same ideas that govern the Olympics; the American worker could also be the Gold Medal winner.

The Law of Win/Win says, "Let's not do it your way or my way; let's do it the best way".
Greg Anderson

It is through cooperation, rather than conflict, that your greatest successes will be derived.
Ralph Charell

When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die.
Eleanor Roosevelt

Dana Dixon, Managing Editor

USWA Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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USWA District 8 • www.uswa831.org

Danny Barber
President and Editor

Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



Questions Answers

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

If I need a shop steward, what should I do?

If you are in the plant and you want to see a shop steward, you must make your request to either an area manager or lead hand.

If the shop steward is not available, the alternate will come and represent you. In a case where the shop steward and alternate are not available, you must request to the area manager or lead hand a steward from another area of the plant. If you do not get representation in a timely manner, contact the Union Hall at 388-5537.

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—Lyn Farley, Member Services Manager



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Committee Renews Focus on Organizing

The Local 831 Membership Development & Organizing committee met on Friday, September 10, 2004. At this meeting, the first order of business was to appoint new leaders. Antonio Harris was selected as the Chairman, Harry Brooks will be the Vice-Chair and Barry Austin is the new recording secretary. The committee has several new members, they are highlighted by an asterisk beside their name.

The committee reviewed the board that lists all non-union people at the Goodyear plant. There was also discussion on the non-union people at Alsco, (Servitex) and URW Community Federal Credit Union. Each member of the committee will be contacting a targeted group of individuals about joining. They will also discuss their reasons for getting out and/or not joining originally. A new system of charting these names has been developed. Our District 8 Organizing Director, Freddie Stroud has dropped off the charts and the committee is busy completing them. If you are a non-union employee, we want you as a member. It is only with numbers that we are able to succeed in negotiations with these companies.

Members of each committee will be submitting articles to our newspaper throughout the year. This is being done to keep membership abreast of their activities and upcoming events.

Their next meeting is October 6, 2004 at 7:00 a.m.



The Membership Development & Organizing Committee pictured above are l-to-r *Carolyn Coles, Ricky Miles, Dennis Saunders, *Antonio Harris, *Tony Powell, Stuart Lovelace, Barry Austin, Henry Stowe, *Harry Brooks, Linwood Saunders & Jimmy Newcomb, not pictured is Chris Apple



The committee reviews the non-union board for corrections

USWA Local 831 Picnic

Where: Local 831 Union Hall,
285 Shady Grove Road, Providence, NC

When: October 2, 2004

Serving time: 10:30-2:30

Prize drawings: 3:00

Free toys for active members children 12 and under.

Marlo the magician will perform for the kids, horse & pony rides, the train rides return and as always the moonwalk

We still have tickets for the Hawaiian trip raffle. Trip includes transportation, accommodations and \$2,000 spending money. Second prize is \$500.

50/50 tickets will be on sale all day long

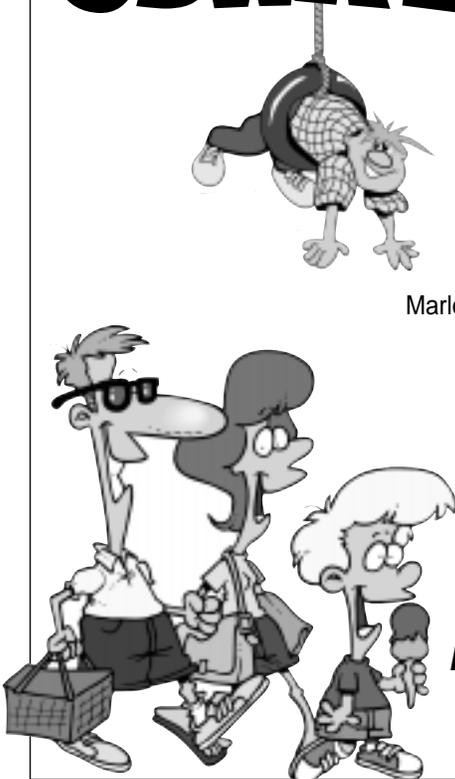
**All members, retirees and immediate families are invited.
There is no cost to attend!**

Prizes

Set of tires, computer, cash and much, much more

Food

Hamburgers, hot dogs, fish, chicken, baked beans, slaw, potato salad & drinks



Safety Symposiums held in Pittsburgh

The week of August 21 through the 27, 2004 was a busy week for the members of the safety committee for local 831. Members include; Mike Baker, chairman of the committee, Al Medlin, James Coles and Dennis Saunders. There were two safety symposiums, R-PIC, (Rubber, Plastics, Industry Conference) which is a carryover from the rubber workers and the Steelworkers Safety Symposium. The R-PIC was a joint symposium with management participating from other locals, while the Steelworkers were just for union committee members.

The Steelworkers symposium was from August 21 through August 25, 2004. This is a biannual event with only Steelworkers participating. President of the Steelworkers, Leo Gerard was the keynote speaker at the event. Some of the classes given were, Proper Accident Investigation, How to Hold Proper Safety Meetings and the Function of Good Safety Meetings. Mike Baker, who is the safety advisor for the Steelworkers for District 8, facilitated four classes. They were; Hazards in the Workplace, Machine Guarding, Powered Industrial Vehicles and Political/Environment Safety.

The R-PIC is an annual event and it was held August 25 through August 27, 2004. This was their 40th symposium on safety. John Sellars, Executive Vice President for R-PIC was the keynote speaker at the event. The safety committees, all from Goodyear locals met prior to discuss an agenda before meeting with Mike Porter who is head of Global Safety for Goodyear. Many concerns dealing with safety in the plants were presented to Mr. Porter, who promised the group a quick response for their concerns. The Danville Safety Committee also taught one class at the symposium on "Proper Communication for Safety."

Thank You!

A huge thank you to all the employees, families and friends who made our September Tire Sale a success! We are pleased to be able to provide sales where the instant rebate can be used as well as payroll deductions. The sales staff and unionized workers of the Goodyear-Gemini Mt. Cross Road Store appreciates your continued support.



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PENSION & INSURANCE

- Accident and Sickness Disability Benefits (A & S)
When you are out of work on A & S, a Medical Doctor must have you out. A Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant cannot approve your being out of work to be eligible for A & S. Make sure you file your claim on time.
- Be sure that your current home address is on file with Goodyear. The Open Enrollment information packets will be mailed to your homes soon.
- Family Status changes must be received within 31 days of the change. This consist of the following:
 - *Marriage
 - *Birth of a child, adoption etc.
 - *Divorce
 - *Death
- Report all changes to the Goodyear Medical Benefits Department. If they are not received within the time frame, you may have to wait until open enrollment to get coverage on dependents.

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.

- Donald Gryder
- Carlton Jones
- Patrick France
- Gary W. Robertson
- Tommy Adams

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Keith Adkins, Barry Austin, Robbin Barksdale, Ed Davis, Wayne Dickerson, Mac Guy, Dennis Howard, Kenneth Main, Farley Martin, Delrick Mooreman, Curtis Walters, Harvey Wilson, Leon Wilson, J.O. "Buck" Womack, The Family of Rodney Spicer and Retiree Lester "Zeke" Walters



November 2nd

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCTOBER 2004 CALENDAR						
September BD 26	AC 27	AC 28	BD 29	BD 30	October AC 1	AC 2 Union Picnic Starts 10:30 AM 
AC 3	BD 4 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	BD 5 Arbitration	AC 6	AC 7	BD 8	BD 9
BD 10	AC 11	AC 12	BD 13 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	BD 14 Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM	AC 15	AC 16
AC 17	BD 18	BD 19	AC 20	AC 21	BD 22	BD 23
BD 24 Halloween Trick or Treat 31	AC 25	AC 26	BD 27 Mini - Arbitration Ben Miller - Mediator	BD 28	AC 29	AC 30

Informer Election Extra

Election time is nearing, are you ready?

As November 2, 2004 nears, are you prepared to cast your ballot for the candidates that support labor. As a labor union, it is our job to keep the membership informed as to which candidates support working men & women. We have done this in several editions of the Informer Election Extra. Though you may not feel you can support the candidate, we have provided you with the info, it remains up to you what you do with it. Local 831 retains its' position on elections. We urge you to vote whether you can support the labor candidate or not is not our primary concern. Our greatest concern is that we as members are able to fulfill the dream that many people fought for-the right to vote.

The AFL-CIO and the International Union of the USWA has publicly endorsed John Kerry and John Edwards as the next President and Vice President of the United States. Keep your mind open and tune in for the debates as the election season winds down. When issues concerning working men & women surface, pay close attention to what the candidates positions are. Which one will provide you and your family with the prosperity you need and deserve.

Up until this point we have featured mostly information on the Presidential race, below are a few of the candidates that are being supported by unions in North Carolina.

See you at the polls!

Erskine Bowles for Senate



- Will eliminate tax incentives for companies to move jobs overseas
- Will help companies provide health insurance
- Will provide more job training opportunities
- Will build on our existing assets in tourism and the military

Re-elect Mike Easley for Governor



- Partnered with Republicans and Democrats to advocate for changes to federal trade policies
- Implemented an aggressive development strategy to bring high-skilled jobs to N.C.
- Put North Carolinians to work fixing infrastructure and building a high quality transportation system for all of North Carolina

NEIGHBOR, You're in POLITICS!!!!

As you get out of bed — the mattress you have been sleeping on has contents regulated by the Federal Bureau of Standards — a Bureau controlled by Congress, **whom you elect.**

As you shut off your electric alarm or turn on your lights — remember that the rates of electricity are approved by your Public Service Commission, either elected by you or appointed by your Governor, **whom you elect.**

As you eat your breakfast, most breakfast foods are approved by the Food and Drug Administration, whose Director is appointed by the President, **whom you elect.**

As you drive anywhere, realize that your gas taxes are set by your State and Federal Officials, **whom you elect.**

If You go to school, the Teachers, Buildings and Equipment are controlled by the Board of Education, **whom you elect.**

If you go to work, Safety Standards are set by OSHA, a Division of the Department of Labor, whose Director is appointed by the President, **whom you elect.**

All City, County and State Employees are hired by Officials, **whom you elect.**

If you are laid off, Unemployment Compensation Benefits are set by State Legislators, **whom you elect.**

If you are hurt on the job, Worker's Compensation Benefits are set by State Legislators, **whom you elect.**

The roads you travel on are controlled by a Highway Commission, appointed by the Governor, **whom you elect.**

An evening of TV? Regulations of TV Channels are made by the Federal Communications Commission, whose Director is appointed by the President, **whom you elect.**

The home you are living in — the taxes are set by City, County or State Officials, **whom you elect.**

The air you breathe, the water you drink, the land around you — all are controlled by the Environmental Protection Administration, the Director of which is appointed by the President, **whom you elect.**

Flying for Business or Pleasure? The Federal Aviation Administration sets the regulations for the plane's upkeep and travel routes — the Director is appointed by the President, **whom you elect.**

Should you wind up in Court, the Judges are people whom you elect, or in Federal Court, the Judge is appointed by the President, **whom you elect.**

And, **IF you should live long enough to RETIRE**, your Medicare and Social Security Benefits are set by Members of Congress, **whom you elect.**

AND YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE INVOLVED IN POLITICS!

From Lucille Thornburgh, NCSC Board Member, Tennessee