

Hearts Opened Wide for Katrina Victims



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Virginia Women of Steel meet in Danville

Six Virginia USW Local Unions met in Danville to learn how to organize their own Women of Steel (WOS) committees in their locals.

Some of the locals in attendance already had their committees established and their presence greatly helped the others to understand why WOS committees were important and how they could help in their locals. The locals in attendance were:

- USW Local 400 from Richmond representing workers at Alcoa.
- USW Local 831 from Danville representing workers at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Goodyear/Gemini Service Store, AlSCO Linen

Services and URW Community Federal Credit Union.

- USW Local 1014 from Danville representing
- Continued on page 3*





SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present. There were 74 members present.

Opening prayer was by Juanita Edwards followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The name of Linda Lacks was drawn for the attendance prize. She was not present. The total amount for October will be \$60.00.

It was announced that the local union representatives advise SOAR members not to take any action on the Medicare insurance plan for prescription drugs until it is thoroughly studied by your representatives. See Gloria Gravely for more information.

Jack Casparriello, SOAR International Representative, will be the guest speaker in the October meeting. October is also the month for our fund raising Brunswick stew. Members are asked to come early to help with the stew and to call Jack Dodson if you can help cook the beef or chicken.

ALL members are asked to participate in this fund raising event.

SOAR members are encouraged to sign up for dues check-off. See Earl Guill, Treasurer, for more information.

George Stewart gave a report on the National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. that Kenny Stevens and Myrtle Fitzgerald attended to voice our opposition to privatization of Social Security. We need to write our congressmen and senators and tell them to vote no on privatization of Social Security.

Door prizes won by Diane Hyler and Willie Fitzgerald - free oil and lube change from Goodyear Service Store on Mt. Cross Rd. and by Randolph Mayes and Raymond Parks for a free oil and lube change from Perry Bros. on Piney Forest Road.

Fifty-fifty won by Kenny Barbour.

Draper Fuqua made a motion to adjourn seconded by Kathy Hamlett. Motion passed.

Members enjoyed a lunch of fried fish, hushpuppies, french fries, potato salad and dessert.

Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success.

If you are retired and not a member of SOAR, you are invited to attend a meeting and become a member. Dues are \$12.00 per year and \$3.00 for the spouse. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at the Union Hall starting at 11:00 a.m. Lunch is provided.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

Job Well Done, Brother Toller

September 1, 2005 is a day that everyone from Local 831 will remember. That is the day that Benny Toller officially started his retirement. Benny began his career at Goodyear on September 2, 1969 as a U-2 tire builder. Benny will enjoy the retirement life with wife Rozenia, his two daughters and son. Highlights of his career are:

- * Became alternate shop steward in 1970, in the mid-1970's he moved to shop steward

- * In 1977, he was elected as Division Chairman for Division III

- * In 1988, he was elected as Local 831's International Policy Committee Member which also allowed Benny to represent our



Toller presented with framed picture at Local 831 by President Barber as VP Trull looks on.

local during Master Negotiations

- * After Nat Brown's retirement (1999), Benny assumed the role as Pension & Insurance Representative

- * Other Local 831 roles have included Chairman of the Bylaws Committee and Managing Editor of the Informer

"I would like to thank Goodyear for providing my family with the standard of living we've enjoyed and I want to thank each and every union member of this local for the support over the years. Local 831 is by far the best local in the organization," stated Brother Toller.

When asked about memorable events or people, Toller pointed out two individuals and one major event. "Jack Dodson was very supportive to me over the years as we worked closely. It was Jack who encouraged me to run for the Policy Committee job. One other is our current President, Danny Barber. President Barber and I may have disagreed a few times but we were never disagreeable. I have the utmost respect for Danny. You just don't know the job he does until you've been at Master Negotiations with him. Local 831 should keep him President as long as he is willing."

President Barber stated numerous times during Benny's retirement presentation about his friendship and working relationship with Toller and his confidence and commitment to work with Toller.

"There is no doubt, the event most memorable to me is the strike of 1976. Sisters and Brothers, this strike is what provides for us today. The word Solidarity was born during this set of negotiations and its' strike. I must add, upcoming negotiations are going to test the Solidarity and you must remain strong and you must continue to trust your leaders in these times, the same as you have myself," added Toller.

September Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its' regular membership meeting on September 8, 2005 with President Danny Barber presiding. These were the highlights.

■ Sylvester Mayo opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers, all were present except Byron Taylor and Ricky Austin. Both were excused.

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

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

■ Motion to send the President and Vice President to the Presidents meeting to be held September 12, 2005 in Roanoke Va.

■ Motion to send the President and Policy Committee Member to the Fall Interim meeting to be held Oct. 23-28, 2005 in Nashville, Tennessee.

■ Per-recommendation of the President to appoint Gloria Gravely to the Pension & Insurance Committee.

■ Motion to accept the appointment of Gloria Gravely to finish the term of Policy Committee member.

■ Motion to move the October executive board meeting to October 10, 2005.

■ Motion to hold a gate collection for the Katrina Hurricane Relief

Victims and the Local union will match the collection for not less than \$2,500.00. The funds will go to the Steelworker Charitable and Educational Organization.

■ Motion to donate a flower for a deceased active union member, not to exceed \$75.00.

■ Motion to select three election committee members and three alternates and one voting machine operator at the September 8, 2005 union meeting for the November 22, 2005 vote for International Officers.

■ Financial Secretary William McLaughlin, read the financial report for August and it was approved as read.

■ Pension and Insurance Representative, Gloria Gravely gave the P&I report to membership.

• See P&I Report in this issue

■ Sandra Hairston and Harry Hughes gave a picnic report

• Picnic to be held October 15, 2005. Raffle tickets still available

■ Civil Rights report given by Wayne Dickerson

■ Terry Trull reported on the Ed Steffey Education Open that will be held September 30, 2005.

■ Safety Committee member Dennis Saunders, reported on the Safety Symposium that was held

■ COPE report given by Mark Powers and Delta Williams on the up-

coming Governors race.

■ President Danny Barber presented Benny Toller with a picture of USW Local 831 and of the Danville plant for his 36 years of service.

■ 50/50 drawings were won by Sandra Hairston and Becky Inman

■ Donnie Davis was drawn for the attendance prize. He was not present at the meeting. The October attendance prize will be \$500.00.

■ Motion by Brian Shore to go into a special meeting for the purpose of nominating International Officers

■ Motion by Jeff Dixon to accept the following nominations:

• Leo Gerard International President

• Jim English - International Secretary Treasurer

• Tom Conway - International Vice-President (Administration)

• Fred Redmond - International Vice-President (Human Affairs)

• Ernest R. "Billy" Thompson - Director District 8

■ Selection of Election committee • The following names was drawn and they did accept.

• Steve Howell, William Starkey, Pamela Wright Alternates: Kathy Adkins, Johnnie Scott And Harry Hughes

■ Motion to adjourn, motion carried.

Continued from page 1

Virginia Women of Steel meet in Danville

ing workers at the Corning plant.

• USW Local 1853 from Martinsville (former PACE local) representing workers at J & J Southeast Containers.

• USW Local 8888 from Newport News representing workers at Newport News Shipyard.

• USW Local 9428 from Chatham representing workers at Times Fiber.

• Two other area locals were identified and one of the attending locals has agreed to find out information about them so that they can be included in future training. They represent workers at



Smurfit Stone in Martinsville and Roanoke.

After a brief welcome overview of Local 831 from Communications Coordinator Dana Dixon, President Danny Barber welcomed the visiting locals. Brenda Miles, WOS Virginia Coodrdinator, led this training session. Topics for discussion included:

- Why a Women's Committee
- Effective Communications, presented by the USPA
- Getting to work,

how to start your committee

- Becoming a leader within your local

"This seminar was wonderful. The whole group had energy and knowledge to share. It has helped to boost my enthusiasm about the union and the need for WOS," stated Delenna Jones of Local 1014.

"The presentation by Dana Dixon on communication was most helpful. Any local who did not understand the need for some type of publication should have certainly gotten the answers," stated Cindy Boyd from Local 8888.

Bonita Peyton from Local 1853 added, "This has been a very educational and enjoyable learning session. Now I have to go back to my local and get a fire started in our women."

USW Local 831 President Danny Barber welcomed the opportunity to host the event and is proud to be a part of the learning experience for any District 8 Locals.

Update from Goodyear facilities Organizing Efforts Proving Successful

Neutrality wins fifth Goodyear plant. It's "Union Time" for Goodyear Tire & Rubber employees in Social Circle, Ga. About 130 members have been added through the terms and conditions of a card-check neutrality clause in the Master USW-Goodyear Agreement. The Social Circle Plant produces tread for retreading truck tires. They mix the rubber, extrude the tread and cure the tread, but they don't apply the tread to tire carcasses at that facility. This is the fifth facility to join the USW since the start of 2004.

In other locations:

- At Asheboro, they have elected a negotiating committee and have begun meetings within the local union. Official negotiations will begin with the company (Goodyear) the week of September 19th.
- Last year, we lost an organizing campaign in Spartanburg, SC by only a few votes. No decision has been made on when to return for another campaign. The agreement allows a campaign each year.

Organizing efforts prove successful when the employees have legitimate concerns and the union shows they care and can help. There has never been a campaign won where the union just decided to come in, all victories come when the employees feel mistreated.

USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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Providence, NC 27315-9477
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USW District 8 • www.usw831.org

■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

■
Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Do you have a disaster plan?

Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot of discussion about what failed with the Hurricane Katrina. Was it the city of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana or the U.S. government that is to blame? Depending on whom you talk to, that determination varies. Without pointing fingers and jumping to conclusions, we need to do what we can to help the victims. Many family members of people from that area are busy trying to find their loved ones and help develop plans for them to start over. There are hundreds of children; some who can't even talk that have yet to be connected with family members.

I know we are not in a region that would normally be a target for many types of natural disasters; however, we should all develop some type of plan. We should all have some type of landmark or central location to try to meet in case of disaster. We should know when to prepare and how to prepare. Getting the necessary food and water to the right locations as well as getting other critical items there. If you live in flood prone areas, do you have floatation devices? Do you have ladders to escape an upper floor in case of fire?



Over the next few days, gather your family up and discuss what to do if a particular disaster occurs. Goodyear and USW Local 831 representatives collected for the Katrina victims on September 9 & 16. Your contributions were great. There is

no doubt; we have some of the most caring people in the world-right here in the Danville area.

Dana Dixon, Managing Editor

Goodyear Sets Meeting Dates on 401k

The Danville plant and Local 831 have set the following dates and times for the open meetings with officials from J.P. Morgan. These meetings will be held at the Goodyear Lakehouse and spouses are invited. No one will be paid for the meetings.

October 18th, (Tuesday) 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm & 7:30pm

October 19th, (Wednesday) 7:30 am, 11:00 am & 1:30 pm



Each meeting will be approximately 45 minutes. By attending, you will learn first hand about J.P. Morgan and how to make changes to your plan.



Jeff Dixon,
Division III Chairman

Questions & Answers

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

I was absent on medical leave and returned to work on July 18th. Will I get holiday pay for July 4th?

That answer can be found in Article VI (1) (c), page 29 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and it states: (c) Employees who leave work pursuant to either an approved sick leave or a leave of absence for disability due to pregnancy, or who leave the employment of the Company to enter the Armed Forces, up to thirty (30) calendar days prior to a holiday, or who return to work after either an approved sick leave or a leave of absence for disability due to pregnancy, or are reinstated from the Armed Forces within thirty (30) calendar days of a holiday, shall be paid for such holiday.

If payment does not take place, contact you Business Center Auditor or shop steward.

Thanks from Liberty Tax

The cell phone collection for our service men & women has been going great. We've collected more than anticipated and want to thank everyone who has made a contribution. We've shipped off one shipment and are getting another ready. Local 831 has, as always played a major role in this drive.



On another note, if any union members are interested in learning how to do individual taxes, we are offering a free class. There will only be a small fee (\$72.00) for books and materials. Classes will be held both day and night. For more information or to enroll, stop by the office at 617A Piney Forest Road, Danville or call (434) 793-1090 or (434) 548-5649.

Thanks again,
Carolyn Grace

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Steffey Golf Tourney slated for September 30th

For the fifth year in a row, Local 831 will be participating in the Ed Steffey Memorial Golf tournament. This year, our local will be giving away a golf bag, golf balls and a money clip to some lucky golfers. Education & Publicity Committee members Dana Dixon and Danny Travis will again set up at hole #2 to let our community know that Local 831 supports education in our area. Each golfer that passes by hole #2 will receive divit tools engraved with Local 831.



Thirteen years ago, Plant Manager Ed Steffey started this tournament with all proceeds going to education. Last year there were 38 teams that participated. The tournament has raised over \$185,000 for classroom projects in grades K-12, as well as scholarships and other projects at Averett University and Danville Community College.

Local Union Picnic Offers Fun And Fellowship

If you enjoy having a good time and talking too old and new friends, the local union picnic is the place to be. This year, the picnic will be held for the first time at the Carrington Pavilion on Saturday, October 15, 2005. All union members and their immediate family are invited. Serving time begins at 10:30am and ends at 2:30pm. There will hotdogs, hamburgers, fish and chicken, so come hungry. Last year, snow cones were a big hit so they will be available again this year.

Be sure to save room for dessert! This year the Women of Steel will be sponsoring a bake sale to benefit the 2006 "Relay for Life." If anyone would like to contribute to this worthwhile project please do so. Bring your special cake or pie on the day of the picnic to be sold for this cause. You can also pre-order if you know of a special cook.

For the first time, a D.J will be on hand to play your favorite music. There will be rides for the kids and Mario the Magician will entertain between 12:00 and 1:30pm. Active members will receive four tickets upon arrival and retired members will receive two tickets. Tickets will not be available after 3:00pm. Drawing for prizes will begin at 3:00pm. If you are scheduled to work on the day of the picnic, you must give a 48-hour notice to management if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!!

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PENSION & INSURANCE

BUDCO DEPENDENT AUDIT

- Amnesty Phase ended August 22, 2005 with 2,300 names being removed from the Healthcare plans. COBRA letters have been sent out to everyone who removed a dependent from their insurance.
- If someone was removed in error, you can call Budco's customer service line after September 12, 2005 to make any changes.
- Verification Period starts September 12, 2005. Mailings should have arrived at the homes by this time. If you do not receive one, please contact Budco to let them know. Everyone will be required to send the necessary documents that are requested. A list of these documents will be included in the mailings.
Note: If you do not remove ineligible dependents from your coverage, or you do not provide the required documents to verify that your dependents are eligible, the following actions will be taken:
 - They will remove ineligible or unverified dependent(s) from Goodyear medical or dental health care plans, effective July 11, 2005. (Full-time Students effective 8-31-05)
 - You will be required to repay the total cost of all medical and/or dental claims the ineligible or unverified dependent(s) incurred.
 - They may take any necessary disciplinary action.
- **EVERY ONE MUST REPLY TO THE SECOND MAILING!!!!**

SAVINGS PLAN

- Final statements from Hewitt will go out August 19, 2005 covering up to the period of 7-31-05. J. P. Morgan will be sending out statements showing value at the beginning of August thru the end of the 3rd quarter.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

- Packages will go out to Active/Retirees around October 15, 2005.
- Dates of Open Enrollment are October 31 thru November 13, 2005. This is the opportunity to make any changes to your insurance elections.
- Anyone who opted out needs to do nothing.
- COB Forms **MUST** be filled out every year for COB Reimbursement.
- Flexible Spending/Daycare Accounts must be updated every year to continue in the plan.
- You will be able to go on line to update COB, FSA/Dependent Daycare.

DISABILITY PENSION RETIREMENT

- If you retire on a Disability Pension and you are awarded Social Security Disability benefits, after two years you must enroll in Medicare Part B. Social Security will automatically send you a letter on enrolling and you must notify Goodyear. Failure to do so will result in penalties with Social Security and your Goodyear benefits will be paid as secondary.
- **SIMILARLY, YOUR DEPENDENTS SHOULD ENROLL IN MEDICARE WHEN FIRST ELIGIBLE.** You will be reimbursed \$50.00 monthly by the Company for the Part B premium for Medicare for the Retiree and dependents that are eligible for Medicare.

Safety Symposium Held

From August 21st through the 25th members of the Safety Committee along with President Danny Barber attended a Steelworkers Symposium on workers health and safety. Safety Manager Ron Knight and Division A Trainer, Chuck Cunningham also attended. The event was held in Orlando, Florida. Members of the safety committee include, Chairman Mike Baker, Kathy Adkins, James Coles and Dennis Saunders.

Some of the classes taught during the symposium were: Ergonomics, Accident Investigation, Emergency Response, Robotics in the workplace and Harassment and Violence in the workplace. Mike Baker and Ron Knight taught some of the classes. "We received valuable information that will enable us to do our job more proficiently," stated Adkins.

The four subjects from the theme "No One Gets Hurt," were the highlights of the week. The four subjects are: Leadership, Ergonomics, Behaviors and PM Compliance. The Management team from Goodyear, talked about the strategy in using the four subjects and what they felt was needed to become a world-class organization in safety. "They took time to listen and respond to the different questions that we had. They told us that they were here to support us in any way to make our plants safer," commented Adkins.

TIRES & WHEELS

On Sale!

All tires and wheels are on sale!
Wheel rep's will be on site all week.

September 26-30

During this sale only, Goodyear Plant Employees will be given an "instant rebate" using their current coupons. The rebate is as described on these coupons, except the rebate will be instant (no need to mail it in).

The Payroll deduction option has been discontinued by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

Buy a \$1.00 Raffle Ticket from SOAR
for a chance to win a set of tires!
Refreshments will be served.



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Kaine Calls on Oil Companies to Hold Prices

Calls for Temporary, Voluntary Hold During Period of Uncertainty

Vinton - Lt. Governor Tim Kaine today in a press conference called on oil companies to hold their prices steady, in light of the national tragedy and epic devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, and the uncertainty that exists about gasoline supplies.

"Virginia's economy depends on the gasoline that fuels our cars to get us to work every morning, take our kids to school, and to keep our businesses going," said Kaine. "I call today on our oil companies to do their civic duty and volunteer to hold gas prices steady while we work to determine the scope of the damage to Gulf Coast refineries and distribution lines. Americans are pulling together to respond to this crisis, and the oil companies should do their part with us."

Kaine noted that two major supply lines to Virginia have been damaged by the storm. One has resumed limited service, and both lines are likely to be brought back on-line

soon. Shortages, like that reported at a station yesterday in Waynesboro, and the rationing occurring in the Tri-Cities are thought to be temporary situations.

"At a time when the oil industry experienced an increase of \$26 billion in net income last year, I call on them to match the sacrifice of citizens who are already paying over \$3.00 a gallon for gas," Kaine said. "I encourage other state and federal officials to join me in this call for an act of patriotism by America's oil producers."

Kaine also talked about the important steps the Commonwealth has taken in response to the price increases, including making it easier for truck drivers to deliver petroleum and other essential goods to and through the Commonwealth, working to lift regulations on the sale of gas to expand supply, and instructing the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to monitor the marketplace for price gouging.



Millions of people from the Gulf Coast are suffering from Hurricane Katrina's devastation. They desperately need water, food, medical care and shelter. **URW Community Credit Union** has set a goal of \$10,000 to donate to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief effort. That's just \$1 per member. We ask for your support to reach our goal by Oct 20, 2005, International Credit Union Day.



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**What have you
done for your
Union Lately?
Attend A Meeting,
Be Involved, and
Make A
Difference!**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCTOBER 2005 CALENDAR						
September BD 25	AC 26	AC 27	BD 28	BD 29	AC 30	October AC 1
AC 2	BD 3	BD 4	AC 5	AC 6	BD 7	BD 8
Rubber & Plastics Industry Conference			Abitration with Goodyear			
BD 9	AC 10 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	AC 11	BD 12 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	BD 13 Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM	AC 14	AC 15 Local 831 Picnic 
Abitration with Goodyear						
AC 16	BD 17	BD 18	AC 19	AC 20	BD 21	BD 22
BD 23 <hr/> 30	AC 24 <hr/> 31 Halloween	AC 25	BD 26	BD 27	AC 28	AC 29
Interim Meeting in Nashville						