



From The President's Desk

by Jim Wansley

As this is written the USW Goodyear-Kelly-Dunlop Bargaining Committee has recessed for two weeks and will resume negotiating with Goodyear on August 6 in Cincinnati. Michelin-Uniroyal-Goodrich just reached a tentative agreement and a decision as to whether it will be the pattern agreement for the "Big Three" tire makers will be decided by a "Nine-Man Committee" later this week.

It's hard to write an article, with developments occurring so quickly, given the time that will elapse before you get to read it. However, some things will not go out of date.

In this negotiation our solidarity will allow us to get a fair and equitable agreement. A lack of solidarity will guarantee we will fail. As in 2003 we are fighting for the survival of several tire plants. We

have to obtain job security guarantees that will cover the Tyler plant and Goodyear has been unwilling to give them.

When we get back to Cincinnati our negotiation will begin in earnest. Sherrell and I, as well as the rest of our union bargaining committee, deeply appreciate your support.

We will get out Solidarity Alerts as often as possible to keep you informed. I have been calling back and talking to our officers regularly. I would encourage you to read the Alerts and look for information from your local union officers. Rumors get a lot of people stirred up at times. Get the facts.

Again, thanks for your support and your willingness to fight for what's right for our members and retirees.

USW Announces Tentative Agreement at BFGoodrich, the Target Company for the Industry Pattern

The Union Bargaining Committee and Michelin owned BFGoodrich reached tentative agreement on a new three-year contract on Tuesday of this week. Details won't be released until the membership at the three USW local unions covered by the agreement have voted on its ratification. The Local Unions involved are: Local 351 in Tuscaloosa, AL, Local 715 in Fort Wayne, IN and Local 753 in Opelika, AL.

The French-owned tire maker was selected as the "target company" for achieving a "pattern agreement" that Union bargaining committees at Goodyear and Bridgestone-Firestone, as well as others throughout the USW Rubber & Plastics Industry Conference (R/PIC), will follow in their labor agreements.

Goodyear, Bridgestone-Firestone and Michelin-BFGoodrich are the "Big Three" tire makers which participate in the pattern bargaining process.

USW Rubber & Plastic Industry Conference (R/PIC) guidelines now require that a "Nine-Man Committee" composed of three members from each of the Bargaining Committees at Goodyear, Michelin-BFGoodrich and Bridgestone-Firestone meet, review the tentative agreement reached and determine if it will form the basis for a "pattern agreement." That meeting has been scheduled for Friday, July 28 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Also attending will be USW R/PIC Vice-President Ron Hoover and other USW

International staff, including the Coordinators for each of the three Big Three bargaining committees.

While the membership at the locals covered by the tentative agreement will decide whether or not to accept the new contract, it is the Nine-Man Committee that will decide whether it will serve as the pattern agreement for the Big Three tire makers.

The USW Goodyear-Kelly-Dunlop Bargaining Committee and the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company will recess negotiations while the tentative agreement is being considered. When the USW Goodyear Bargaining Committee returns to Cincinnati on August 6 it will receive information concerning the tentative agreement as well as the decision made by the Nine-Man Committee.

On the company side, if the tentative agreement is ratified, Michelin-Uniroyal-Goodrich officials will meet with their counterparts at Goodyear-Kelly-Dunlop and Bridgestone-Firestone and share details about the new contract.

"Pattern bargaining doesn't mean every piece of the pattern agreement will be copied exactly. It means in areas of wages, benefits for actives and retirees and overall cost to the company the "Big Three" agreements reached will be comparable. It also means, for the Union, that the goals established for all R/PIC agreements have been achieved," said USW R/PIC Vice-President Ron Hoover.

Insurance Coverage for USW Members and Their Families

Information about COBRA and Other Insurance Coverage in case of a Work Stoppage

United Steelworkers

July 2006

This information packet is designed to help you make appropriate decisions concerning your health care coverage.

In case of a work stoppage the Goodyear hospital/medical/surgical, dental and vision coverage will continue under Letter I of the P&I Agreement for 90 days following the termination of the Labor Agreement, even if a new Labor Agreement has not been reached. This continuation is contractual and Goodyear continues to pay their contribution for the coverage but you will also have to make your monthly premium.

continued on page 2

continued from front page

According to Goodyear's practices, if you are interested in continuing coverage after 90 days under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), and you elect COBRA coverage within the appropriate time period, you will be responsible for the payment of your COBRA health coverage payments retroactive to the first day of the work stoppage. You will also have a third option of electing to participate in the USW Emergency Medical coverage program.

GENERAL:

If there is a strike, you and your dependents will be eligible to continue your identical insurance (i.e., medical, drug, vision, dental, etc.) coverage under COBRA.

Under COBRA you and your dependents are generally entitled to continued medical coverage for up to eighteen (18) months after the date of a "qualifying event" (I.E., loss of hours due to the strike, etc.). This qualifying event is the trigger for setting a series of deadlines that control when and to what extent employees and dependents are entitled to continue medical coverage.

Within fourteen (14) days of the *qualifying event* the company must provide a notice to all employees and dependents as to their eligibility for COBRA coverage. Then, Goodyear's policies require that within sixty (60) days of the notice letter you must notify Goodyear of your intent to elect individual or family COBRA coverage and you must make all back COBRA payments from the qualifying event at that time.

The payment includes the full cost for the applicable medical program(s) and an additional 2% (for a total of 102% of the actual medical plan premium costs). The company requires that these payments be paid retroactive to the date of the qualifying event.

To determine if you should elect COBRA coverage, you should contact your local Benefit Representative at your Local Union to find out which COBRA payment applies to you and to help you in determining whether COBRA coverage is right for you and your dependents.

For this reason, it is important that members or their families with serious medical conditions or who know they will require ongoing medical services or drugs elect the COBRA continuation coverage.

USW EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROGRAM:

There is a third alternative for health care coverage if you are involved in a work stoppage. The USW offers Local Unions involved in a work stoppage the opportunity to enroll in a limited insured program of coverage through Blue Cross and Blue Shield. This coverage is the USW Emergency Medical Program.

This program has covered thousands of other Steelworkers during other work stoppages. The benefits available are not as comprehensive as those provided under the negotiated Goodyear/Dunlop/Kelly-Springfield P&I agreements of those provided pursuant to COBRA.

Brochures describing the USW Emergency Medical Program, prepared by Blue Cross and Blue Shield, will be sent to the Local with additional information. At the appropriate time USW and Blue Cross & Blue Shield will provide each Benefit Representative with the applicable monthly premium costs of the plans available in your area.

The membership must vote to participate in the USW Emergency Medical Program. If the membership decides that the Local Union will participate in the USW Emergency Medical Program, everyone without duplicate coverage will automatically be enrolled in the Program and provided with Blue Cross & Blue Shield identification cards.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Further information will be made available on COBRA continuation coverage and the USW Emergency Medical Program. If the ongoing circumstances in negotiations warrant more detailed descriptions of these options, meetings will be held to explain the options and answer any questions you may have.

CAN I USE MONEY FROM MY 401(K) TO HELP MAKE IT THROUGH A STRIKE?

Questions and Answers about the Goodyear Savings Plan United Steelworkers July 2006

Q: Can I withdraw funds from my 401(K) savings accounts during a strike?

A: Yes, but only under certain conditions. If you are over the age of 59 ½, you may withdraw funds.

Q: Can I withdraw pre-tax contributions to the 401(K) Savings Plan?

A: Distributions of pre-tax 401(K) plan contributions can only be made to employees upon retirement, death or termination of employment. Distributions of pre-tax account balances are generally NOT available to active employees. But, if you are age 59 ½ or older, you may receive a distribution from your 401(K) account, but you will have to pay regular income taxes on any distribution made.

Q: If I take money out of my 401(K) account, can I repay those pre-tax contributions at a later date?

A: Generally speaking, no. So, decisions about withdrawing *pre-tax* money contributions from your 401(K) savings plan account should be made only after carefully considering your own financial needs and retirement plans.

Q: Can I get a hardship withdraw during a strike?

A: Yes. But only if you qualify for a hardship withdraw.

Q: Is there any other way I can obtain funds from my 401(K) account during the strike?

A: You can also access funds by taking out a new loan from your 401(K) account balance. But, like all 401(K) loans, it must be repaid.

Q: How can I repay my loan if we are on a strike?

A: While we are on strike, you obviously cannot repay a loan by payroll deduction. So, if you have an existing or new loan, you must make repayments by a personal check. A loan must be repaid in a period between twelve (12) and fifty-four (54) months.

Q: Are there any restrictions on the size of the loan I can receive?

A: You can only take 50% of your account balance up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Q: How do I apply for a loan?

A: Contact JP Morgan by phone at (800) 345-2345 or on their website at savingtoretire.com.

Q: If I already have a loan from my 401(K) account, can I take out another loan or repay my loan and then take out another loan?

A: Yes, but you can only have two (2) loans at any one time.

Q: If I have an existing loan, do I have to continue repaying the loan during the strike?

A: Yes. If you have a loan from your 401(K) savings accounts outstanding you must continue to repay your loans by personal check rather than payroll deduction. If you fail to make the required repayment within 90 days of the due date, your loan may be declared in default, with your remaining principal treated as a distribution subject to income taxes and a 10% tax penalty.

Q: Where can I get more information on how to apply for a loan or distribution?

A: For more information see the Goodyear Savings Plan Summary Plan Description or call your Local Union Benefit Representative. You can also obtain information about account balances, fund options and withdrawals by calling the telephone access number at (800) 345-2345 or going to the website savingtoretire.com.

Thousands Rally Nationwide VS. Bush NLRB's Anti-Worker Rulings

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Chanting, waving signs and vowing to defend their rights as workers against GOP President George W. Bush and his National Labor Relations Board, thousands of unionists marched nationwide against anti-worker NLRB rulings.

The protests, from July 10-13, culminated in a march of more than 1,000 people on the board's office building in downtown Washington. Chants in D.C. included "No justice, no peace", "What's disgusting? Union busting", "Labor Board unfair, George Bush unfair" and "We don't hire, we don't fire." Twenty other marches were in cities coast to coast, including Chicago, Buffalo, Oakland, Calif., and Portland, Ore.

In Chicago, protesters signed a mass letter to the NLRB, created by the Chicago Federation of Labor. In Oakland, more than 700 people, led by California state fed Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski and the California Nurses Association, marched.

Demonstrators protested the pending NLRB rulings on the three *Kentucky River* cases, one each involving the Steel Workers, the Boilermakers and the Auto Workers. The rulings will let the Bush-named board redefine who is a "supervisor," not covered by labor law, and especially which nurses—and other workers—are supervisors. Marchers also demanded public hearings on the cases, but NLRB said no on July 13.

The AFL-CIO, which led the marches, and Change to Win, whose unions supported the D.C. march, contend the NLRB can use the *Kentucky River* cases to rule that nurses are supervisors and to broaden the definition of "supervisor" so much that 8 million workers would lose federal labor law coverage. They would face management manipulation, intimidation and firing with no protection, either by unions or from the law.

The Economic Policy Institute said that besides 843,000 registered nurses, other workers at risk include 400,000 computer systems analysts, 152,000 electricians, 124,000 LPNs, 99,000 machine operators, 92,000 assemblers, 77,000 mechanics, 70,000 pharmacists, 50,000 guards, 44,000 freight handlers, 43,000 college teachers, and 24,000 editors and reporters. Not all are unionized. All would lose labor rights.

Unionists in D.C.'s protest included members of the Laborers, the Teachers, IBEW, The Newspaper Guild/CWA's Washington-Baltimore local, AFSCME, the Bricklayers, the Office and Professional Employees, the AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees, the Painters, the Seafarers and AFG. Mine Workers, some dressed in Army fatigues, came from six locals in buses from the coal mines of Southwest Pennsylvania, led by UMW President Cecil Roberts.

"You deserve a middle class life. You deserve health care you can afford. You deserve a pension you can count on. And to win all these things, you deserve the freedom to join a union," stated AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson, who led the marchers with a giant banner, to NLRB's headquarters.

"You know that, I know that, but George W. Bush, the Bush Department of Labor and the Bush NLRB have a different idea" she said on NLRB's front steps. "For five years, they've declared war on working families like us."

Bush's NLRB "is the most anti-worker, anti-collective bargaining, anti-union board in the 71-year history of the National Labor Relations Act, and it's time we stopped him," declared AFL-CIO Organizing Director Stewart Acuff.

"We want to be able to say who is or who is not in a supervisory position and the NLRB is trying to take that away from us," Chavez-Thompson added. "This *Kentucky River* decision is one more way of taking away our rights" as workers. She promised unionists would not take the rulings lying down, but would keep marching, and voting, to overturn Bush and his allies.

Two nurses also talked about the practical impact of the board's pending rulings. California Nurses Association Secretary-Treasurer Martha Kuhl said unions protect nurses "against the power of big corporations... and make no mistake, health care is administered by big corporations."

Sandra Falwell of the D.C. Nurses Association said "nurses know the difference" between being a supervisor or not, as do hospitals and patients, but not the NLRB. "I don't have the right to hire and fire," Falwell commented. She added that for nurses, "The NLRB should be declared hazardous to your health."

"We know Jesus marched for justice, Gandhi marched for justice, Martin Luther King marched for justice, John L. Lewis marched for justice, that Moses marched for justice," Roberts preached to the crowd from the NLRB's front steps.

Then he drew laughter and cheers by adding: "Moses didn't send Pharaoh an e-mail or send him a fax. Moses went to see Pharaoh—and we're here to see Pharaoh."

After the D.C. marchers arrived at NLRB headquarters, 10 leaders, including Acuff, Roberts, AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer William Lucy and Falwell, blocked its front doors, planning to be arrested for peaceful civil disobedience. When police refused, the 10, with police cooperation, strode to the middle of the adjacent busy intersection, and inked arms, awaiting the paddy wagons. But police decided not to arrest them at all, one officer told PAI. The D.C. march ended peacefully.

Press Associates, Inc. (PAI)

Goodyear Benefit Information

FULL TIME STUDENTS

All Full Time College Students are set to terminate on 8-31-06 unless additional information is provided to Goodyear - ACS prior to that date. Therefore, please remember to complete a new Full Time Student form (FTS) for Fall 06/Spring 07. A copy of the student's class registration will need to be attached as well as proof of financial payment for the classes and/or books.

Forms can be obtained in the foyer between HR/Benefits and the Dispensary.

If you have any questions on this, please contact Terry Murtha-Zea for assistance, Ext. 502.

LIFE INSURANCE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN TURNING 19

Life Insurance terminates for dependent children when they turn 19. If interested, you may purchase a converted policy for the dependent by personally contacting the Life Insurance Carrier (Minnesota Life 1-800-660-2584).

VISION PLAN - COLE MANAGED VISION

(Administrated thru EyeMed)

2006 started a brand new 24 month period for you and your dependents to have your eyes examined. You can have one examination during this 24 month period. You will need to use your Goodyear ID card for your vision examination. A list of In-Network providers can be obtained in the foyer between the HR/Benefits and the Dispensary.

Diabetic medical eye exams are required yearly. These type exams are filed through your Medical Plan, therefore, it is essential that you follow the guidelines of your medical plan.

Company Wants to “Fix” Goodyear by Attacking American Employees and Retirees

(Cincinnati) - Your Bargaining Committee presented Goodyear with proposals that will allow the Company to continue improving it's over all condition, keep all of our North American facilities open and also allow our members and retirees to maintain an **American standard of living**. “We will accomplish all three things. None of the three will happen if the Company gets what it's asking for with it's **Cut & Gut** proposals, said USW Goodyear Coordinator Kevin Johnsen.

Goodyear has once again decided to attack the very people who stepped up and saved the company from bankruptcy after years of mismanagement. And, yet again, it will be the union that brings to the table what really needs to be done, he added.

USW R/PIC Vice-president Ron Hoover stated: “We knew coming into this bargain that Goodyear would try and copy what other manufacturers are doing to their employees and retirees. The union will obtain a contract that provides those we represent, both employees and retirees, with an **American standard of living** and has Goodyear producing in our North American facilities”.

As we went through Goodyear's proposals, it became even more apparent the company intends to go beyond the “Slash and Burn” agenda it started out with in 2003. These 2006 company proposals are best described as a “**Cut & Gut**” agenda to deprive active employees of job security, employee rights, wages, pension and affordable health care and, where our retirees are concerned, to walk away from providing them with life insurance, affordable health care or anything else. AS In 2003, your USW Bargaining Committee has said, “**Not gonna happen, Goodyear!**”

* In our last ALERT we identified “Cut & Gut” company proposals aimed at our active members. This time we will share more, aimed at both actives and retirees.

- * **Scheduling of employees for up to 64 hours a week (mandatory)**
- * **Additional year of pension calculation freeze**
- * **Eliminate all double time payment**
- * **Eliminating company-furnished life insurance for retirees**
- * **Eliminating company-furnished retiree health care for all active employees currently under age 45, as well as for all future employees**
- * **Increasing medical premiums for all employees**
- * **Increasing deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums for employees and retirees**
- * **Eliminate Workers Compensation supplement (80% wage guarantee when injured)**
- * **Increasing prescription drug co-pays for employees and retirees**

*Union Sees
Company Proposals
as
“Cut and Gut”
Program*

John M. (Mickey) Breaux Appointed to be the New District 13 Director

Effective July 1, 2006, the international executive board appointed a former USW District 13 international representative, John M. (Mickey) Breaux to be the new District 13 director. John is originally from Local 13-423. Former USW District 13 Director Gary Beevers was appointed an international vice president and will head the union's National Oil Bargaining program. He replaces USW Administrative Vice President Jim Pannell, who retired July 1, 2006.

District 13 covers Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas, and there are about 50,000 members in the region. In addition to being director of this area, Breaux will chair the Boise-Cascade and Rock-Tenn councils.

Breaux is from Port Arthur, Texas, and his father, who worked at Texaco (now Shell Motiva), was a member of the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 4-23 (the predecessor to USW 13-423).

Breaux joined OCAW Local 4-23 in 1969 when he went to work at Atlantic Richfield. As a rank-and-filer, he was a member of or chaired

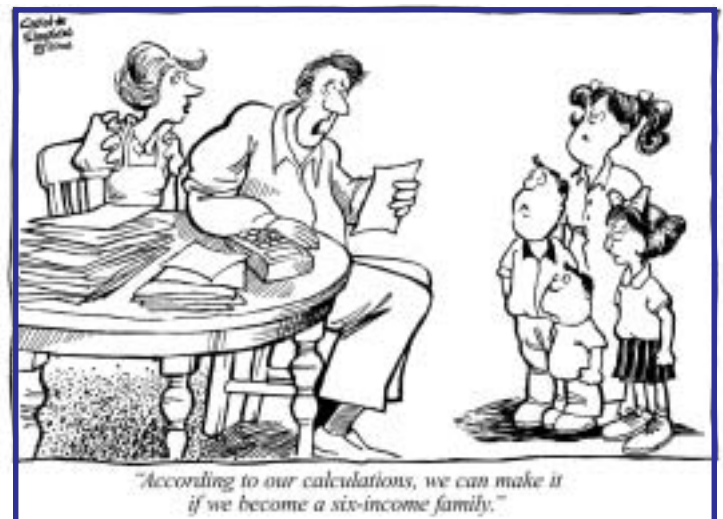
various union committees concerning subjects like negotiations, health and safety, workers' compensation, strike strategy and the United Way.

OCAW President Bob Wages appointed him to be an international representative in 1996, and he then headed the Crown Central Petroleum lockout negotiations for four years. For the last three years he was District 13's coordinator for Rapid Response.

Breaux was also active in the United Way, Texas AFL-CIO and the Democratic party.



*John M. (Mickey) Breaux
Director District 13*





Contract Action Team Strategizes With Bargaining Committee In Cincinnati

USW Strategic Campaign Department Provides Training/Helps Plan Actions

While the Michelin-Uniroyal-Goodrich bargaining committee is meeting and striving to achieve a “pattern agreement,” your bargaining committee is not idle. Meetings between the USW and Goodyear resumed in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Also, your bargaining committee was joined by the Contract Action Team (C.A.T.) coordinators from each of the locals currently covered by the Master Agreement. In order for them to receive training, the USW strategic campaign department’s Mike Zielinski conducted the C.A.T. training and strategy sessions.

“Every negotiation is different. Every strategic campaign is different. What does not change is the training, preparation and degree of mobilization the Steelworker organization brings to the bargaining process. What also does not change is our determination to get a fair and equitable contract for our members. Our Contract Action Teams, focusing support back home for our bargaining committee at the table, are an important piece of any strategic campaign. They turn determination and training into action,” said Zielinski

The C.A.T. Coordinators are responsible for the mobilization of union members and retirees as necessary at each location. The Coordinators are: Jim DiFalco & Rick Nixon ,Akron, OH. Bren Riley, Gadsden, AL. Kathy Kluczynski, Buffalo, NY. Rick Niekamp, St. Marys, OH. Gary Schaefer, Lincoln, NE. Terry Luttjohann Topeka, KS. Joe Wyatt, Tyler, TX. Sandra Hairston & Dana Dixon, Danville, VA. Jeff Watson, Marysville, OH. Willis Hicks, Union City, TN. Mark Pratt, Sun Prairie, WI. and Mike Price, Fayetteville, NC.

Stay informed about the contract negotiations status by visiting these websites!

www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org

United Steelworkers website

www.goodyearnegotiations.com

Goodyear website

Democrats Vow to Stop COLA Increases for Congress until New Minimum Wage Legislation is Passed

Led by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), House Democrats have pledged to block congressional pay raises until a minimum wage increase is enacted. In front of television cameras, Reid scoffed at Republicans for refusing to assist those at the lowest wage levels.

Under current law, cost-of-living increases for lawmakers occur automatically. To halt these raises from taking effect, lawmakers must proactively pass legislation.

Still fuming over the two proposed minimum wage bills which were turned down last week, Democrats in the Senate have agreed to stand by Reid in blocking the congressional Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). This provides sufficient support to prevent GOP leaders from overcoming filibusters on various bills.

Three million more Americans are in poverty today than when

President Bush first took office. Today, more than 34 million people live in poverty, including 12 million children. The buying power of the federal minimum wage is currently at its lowest level in 51 years.

In the nine years since the federal minimum wage was last raised, Congress has voted itself nine pay hikes totaling nearly \$35,000 a year, while a full-time minimum wage worker’s annual pay has not budged from \$10,712. In mid-June, the Republican-led House cleared the way for a \$3,300 pay raise that will increase their salaries to \$168,500.

The Washington lawmakers appear to be completely out of sync with state legislatures and public opinion as twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have already enacted minimum wages above the \$5.15 federal level and another eight have planned ballot initiatives scheduled for the November elections.

Local 746L Members Featured in USW @ Work



As reported in the May Stretch, Jim Clark, (right), Turk Gorkman, (left) along with Freddie Werhmann, Ed Moore, Dino Robinson, Freddie Young and Joe Wyatt traveled 17 hours in April and joined hundreds of fellow union members to show their support for the USW brothers and sisters at the Continental tire plant in Charlotte, N.C.

Last month The United Steelworkers (USW) received notification from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that complaints were issued against Continental North America (CTNA) for unlawfully relocating its Charlotte, NC production. The NLRB charged that the company refused to provide information requested by the USW during negotiations and that it also failed to examine all avenues to reach a settlement before unilaterally implementing its "last, best and final offer."

For the complete story read the article in the latest publication of USW @ Work.



Also Appearing in USW @ Work

When Political Action Committee coordinator Michael Scarver addressed USW Local 746L in Tyler, Texas, he asked members who worked at the Goodyear tire plant to sign up for a \$1 a week political donation.

That is when local president Jim Wansley upped the ante. Wansley reminded members that the Tyler plant was narrowly saved from shut down during contract negotiations a few years ago with the help of local and state politicians. He asked them to contribute \$5 a week instead of the \$1.

Local union officers and many Local 746L members complied with the request, raising a total of \$944 a week in new money. That made Local 746L the largest PAC contributing local in District 13 and one of the largest contributors in the entire union. "When we talk about the union, we talk about PAC and the importance of the political piece in keeping jobs" Wansley said.

Everyone who contributed to the cause had their name placed in a drawing for a Harley Davidson motorcycle to be given away. Donald Belcher from Dept. 705 was the winner of the drawing for the motorcycle..



The photo and article was acquired from USW @ Work.

IMPACT

Impact is the Employee Assistance and Work /Life Program. This program, provides the employee with a one stop resource for work/life solutions. It is a confidential assistance program. Can be reached by dialing 1-800-227-6007 any time of day.

If you are an associate, family dependent, or member of the associates household you are eligible for up to 5 prepaid counseling sessions through the Impact Program. These sessions are available to each individual as specified and may be used on a per problem basis. Additional counseling services will be coordinated with your current health care plan. Call the 1-800 # for additional information.

IMPACT is in the process of sending Goodyear U.S. associates new benefit cards as a reminder of the services that are available through the employee assistance program. Associates can expect to receive their cards from either their area manager or through the U.S. mail.



Place an Ad In The Stretch!

The Stretch now has an ad section. The ads from members and retirees of Local 746L will be free for 3 lines in a column like in this article and \$5 a line after that. The ads must be for legal items, be in good taste and have a name and phone number where the information can be verified. The editor and E-Board have final approval on all ads and retain the right to refuse any ad. The ads that run for longer than one month will have to be resubmitted each month.

The Stretch is also taking advertisements from businesses or individuals for a price to help off-set the cost of printing. Again the ads must be for legal items, be in good taste and must be paid for in advance. The Stretch can not accept ads from the

travel industry, insurance companies or financial institutions due to postal regulations. All ads must be received by the 20th of the month to be put in the following month's Stretch. The pricing will be:

1/8 page	\$25.00	1/4 page	\$50.00
1 half page	\$100.00	Full Page	\$200.00

Send ads by e-mail to:

joewyatt@cox-internet.com

or by regular mail to:

The Stretch C/O Local 746L Union Hall
13642 St. Hwy 31 W.
Tyler, TX 75709

TYLER ICD UPDATE

by: Steve Day - ICD Coordinator



Mike Newsom and I attended the 15th Annual Institute for Career Development Conference in Pittsburgh. The purpose of the conference was to share information and updates from USWA workers working at locations that are currently involved in various steps of implementation of the ICD process. Due to the varying degree of knowledge from those attending the conference, different workshops were held that allowed participants to attend sessions that met their respective needs.

Approximately 250 people attended the last week's conference. Most attendees were employed by steel companies across the country and actively involved in the ICD process. Besides Tyler, Goodyear was also represented by steelworkers from Gadsden, AL; Danville, VA; Akron Local 2; Topeka, KS; Sun Prairie, WI; St. Marys, OH. Bridgestone/Firestone and BF Goodrich are also at different stages of ICD implementation and were in attendance as well.

The Tyler Plant will benefit in many ways from attending the conference. It was a great opportunity to hear and learn about the policies and procedures required for implementation of the overall process. In addition, other discussions centered around such topics as how Goodyear provides funding to plant sites; creating and maintaining ICD budgets; developing Local Joint Committees (LJC) policies and procedures; developing Annual Training Plans; and finally methods used to determine course offerings. All information will be reviewed with the Tyler LJC in the very near future so the Tyler Plant can establish a formal plan to move forward with local implementation.

Williams Awarded The Philip Murray Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Williams (left), daughter of classifier Jeff Williams, was one of five students from Texas awarded the Philip Murray Memorial Scholarship for members and sons and daughters of members of the United Steelworkers of America in the amount of \$1,500 to be applied to the expenses of her freshman year.

To be eligible, she had to have a "B" average or better, during her junior or senior year in high school.

Ashley, who graduated as valedictorian of Chapel Hill High School, plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler in the fall.



Ashley Williams

OBITUARY



Joy Goodman

Joy worked in Dept. 210 as a Stores Disburser when he retired in June of 1995.

MDA Executive Lock-up

On July 26th, Tyler business and community leaders went "behind bars for good" to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Representing USW Local 746L and Goodyear Tyler, Joe Wyatt raised a total of \$575. "The prisoners were detained in a mock jail from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse, 5704 S. Broadway Ave., Tyler," MDA Regional Public Affairs Coordinator Maria Frederick said.

Participants were picked up and escorted to "jail" at the restaurant, where they were sentenced by judges Benny Howard, an MDA client, Denny Burris, a retired Dallas firefighter, and Scott Knight. After getting their "mug shots" taken, the jailbirds were placed "behind bars" and made phone calls to post bail while they were treated to a meal.

"Last year's TELU raised more than \$44,000 with 120 jailbirds, and this year's goal is \$80,000," Ms. Frederick said.

All money raised supports the Tyler chapter of MDA. The MDA is a voluntary health agency working to defeat neuromuscular diseases through research, services and education.

In Texas, MDA offers four summer camps, more than 20 support groups and clinics, and more than \$1 million in research grants to state hospitals and universities. For more information on MDA, call 903-534-2984 or visit www.MDA.org. The 42nd Annual Jerry Lewis Telethon is scheduled for Labor Day weekend.



The Stretch Editor, Joe Wyatt, being handcuffed by Smith County Deputy Gary Middleton and hauled off to jail "for good."

THE FIGHT FOR A SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Labor unions and workers from unions across the board are at the forefront of the broad national single payer healthcare coalition. Such a system would cover everybody in the United States with quality and affordable healthcare. Through the efforts of the ALL UNIONS COMMITTEE for SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE..., over 160 labor endorsements have been voted by local unions, Central Labor Councils and Internationals... all in support of H.R. 676, the Conyers Bill that would provide the best healthcare system in the world for every single person in the United States.

Healthcare-NOW, the national coalition dedicated to this healthcare advance is headed by a team of three national co-chairs representing the view that we must work together with a broad and diverse coalition if we are to defeat the forces that want to keep healthcare in the hands of the for-profit, Healthcare Industrial Complex, the insurance companies, the pharmaceutical drug corporations and the for-profit hospitals and lobbyists..

The Single Payer leaders who co-chair Healthcare-NOW are Leo Gerard, President of the United Steelworkers, Jim Winkler, head of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, and Dr. Quentin Young, National Coordinator of the fastest growing and most progressive group of doctors in the nation, Physicians for a National Health Program.

Says Gerard: "The news about healthcare is worse every day. The costs are going up. Employer contributions are going down or becoming non-existent. Quality of care is questionable, and corporate fraud is rampant. Every contract is about negotiating healthcare benefits rather than for better salaries and working conditions. But there is a solution and it is a single-payer system.

What would a single payer system do for us? We would get a lot more than we do now. All medical, dental, optical, mental health coverage, all hospitals, medical equipment, pharmaceutical drugs, long term care, drug and alcohol treatment and more would be a part of the new system. Attention to and control over the corporate fraud that now takes away hundreds of billions of dollars would help us pay for this kind of healthcare for everybody.

How much would we pay? Surprisingly, we would pay less than

we are paying now considering premiums, co-pays, deductibles, and uncovered costs such as dental, pharmaceutical drugs and long-term care. An average family of three that pays more than \$10,000 a year now – including all of the above costs, would now pay about \$1,200 a year– or \$100 per month. Employers would contribute too – the same amount per employee based on their income. How would this work? We all would be paying a small amount into the system. The big corporate entities would no longer be handling the money and reaping huge profits, paying for advertising, lobbying and denying our needs because we would have a single payer and we would have an entitlement to healthcare.

NEW CAMPAIGN Healthcare-NOW is launching a new campaign to ELECT A HEALTHY CONGRESS. Unless we change the Congress in the 2006 election, we will not be able to push forward the ambitious agenda we have for getting national healthcare or any other progressive legislation.

New indicators of the extreme healthcare and leadership crisis in this country appear every day. Today, the crisis involves two major concerns:

1. The Bush- appointed National Labor Relations Board is voting this week on a new rule that would cut the numbers of union members by the hundreds of thousands –turning worker categories into supervisors – particularly nurses – but also people in every type of work, eliminating their right to be members of a union. The NLRB has refused to hear testimony, and a fight is being launched to stop this blatant anti-worker strategy. The California Nurses Association and other unions are leading this struggle.

2. Insurance companies are refusing to provide coverage for patients who use particular hospitals. For example, today's Atlanta Constitution reports that Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the largest insurer in Georgia is refusing to pay Piedmont Hospital for patient services. And a similar crisis faces Jamaica Hospital in New York City, denied payment by United Health.

Single payer insurance is the answer that makes the most sense. Keep up to date on the USW fight to change our current healthcare system by visiting our union's website at: www.usw.org. Also, more information can be found on the website for Healthcare NOW at:www.healthcare-now.org.

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