

We've been back at work for about a month now. Things certainly aren't back to normal. 165 people signed up for the early exit allowance, or buyout, and they will be leave at the end of June. The rest of us will stay on for the duration.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by **Jim Wansley**

For those staying there is no exit date, though Goodyear has clearly indicated it plans to shut down here during the first quarter of 2008. Whether it does or not will depend on the market, and our place in it, more than anything else. In the meantime I will be working with the USW and with our elected officials to explore any possibilities for obtaining funding and changing the picture for our plant.

What I would tell people is that we need to be able to come to work and feel we're accomplishing something. Otherwise we will all be miserable every day.

The vast majority of our folks aren't geared to just come to work and not care. We spent the last six years developing into the best performing plant in North America. For the eighteen or so months prior to the strike we were just that. For Goodyear to make a decision to target our plant for shutdown

based on which state raised more money to keep the doors open, and not on performance, is a crushing development. I know that's how it's affected me.

As I said, I will explore any remaining avenue to change the picture for our plant. Until that happens we can expect little or no help from Goodyear corporate. For now we need to do what we can to help ourselves. Plans are underway to increase the number of High Value Added (HVA) tires that can be produced here. That's the best thing we can do to keep the doors open here longer and, maybe, someone at Goodyear will come to realize what a mistake closing this plant down truly is. But if all we do is keep our jobs for another six months or a year, it's well worth doing.

Thanks for your ongoing support and your kind words. I cannot begin to express my appreciation for what this membership did during the strike. Our committees worked wonders in manning the strike line, finding help and resources for our families and in bringing the community into our fold as never before.

Poll: Increasing Majority Backs Unions

WASHINGTON (PAI)—By a 65 percent-25 percent margin, the U.S. public approves of unions, a new poll for the AFL-CIO shows.

That margin, which has grown from a 55-35 edge in 1981, is still larger than the percentage (53 percent) of non-union non-supervisory workers who—if given a free choice—would vote to unionize, the data adds.

Pollster Guy Molyneux's data, an update on previous surveys, was released as labor begins its concerted drive to get the Employee Free Choice Act through the Democratic-run 110th Congress. It will campaign for the legislation even though, as AFL-CIO Organizing Director Stewart Acuff admitted in the Jan. 24 telephone press conference, anti-worker GOP President George W. Bush would veto it.

It also comes as the Bureau of Labor Statistics released its latest data on union numbers and representation nationwide, showing that 12 percent of all workers are unionized, but only 7.4 percent of private sector workers are union members. Another 1.5 million are represented by unions, but not members.

Molyneux emphasized that support for unions cut across all demographics, including political and regional. In the historically anti-union South "it was a little lesser than in the other regions, 60 percent-29 percent," he said. "And even the highest income group

was 57-34." The one exception: Republicans, whose party is anti-union. The numbers there were 43 percent approval-44 percent disapproval, within the poll's margin of error.

The margins grow when pollsters read to the 808 voters they sampled statements that described tactics companies use against unions in organizing campaigns. The heavy disapproval of such tactics translates into backing for EFCA, Molyneux and Acuff said.

EFCA would level the playing field by outlawing many anti-union tactics and also legalizing automatic card-check recognition of unions, Acuff noted. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) promises a vote on it by spring.

Seventy-seven percent called it "important" or "fairly important" that the U.S. have strong laws to let workers choose unions, without management interference. At least two-thirds of respondents opposed anti-union tactics, such as plant-closing threats (66 percent) or firing union backers (94 percent). The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

"One reason it (EFCA) enjoys such broad support is that Americans don't believe employers should run the campaigns that they do in workplaces" against unions, Molyneux said. He noted the poll tied pro-union support into constant unease about the economic future. "There's a growing sense that corporate America just does not care for America's workers," Acuff added.

Pension and Insurance Notes

by Sherrell Brown

STOCK OPTIONS YOU MAY HAVE TO SELL!!

If you retired before 2000 or were hired after 2000 the following does not apply to you.

The stock options you were granted in 2000 are exercisable until 2010 with the following exception as explained by the language.

General Provisions – The options shall not be exercisable after termination of employment, except for retirement or death. In the event of retirement, the locked in options shall become immediately exercisable for the remainder of the term of the option

grant. In case of death, the locked in options may be exercised up to three years after date of death, in accord with a will or appropriate laws. In no event can the options be exercised beyond the expiration date.

This means if you take the early exit and do not retire in the next month you will lose the stock options. Also if you work until the plant closure and do not retire in the next month you will lose the options. If you plan on retiring at a later date you must sell your options before you exit the company.

What Are You Going To Do With Your 401K?

Those of us who have contributed to our 401K now face the decision of what to do with it now that Goodyear is going to close. There are a lot of options we have but what are they? There are a lot of ways we can invest the money but what are they? How do I know who to invest with? These are some of the questions I am getting at the Union Hall. Unfortunately I am not a financial advisor and do not have the answers. There has been so many questions concerning our 401K options I feel the membership would like some guidance in this area. If there is enough interest I could put together a 401K workshop and have several financial advisors from around the area speak. There would be no names, phone numbers or address's given out unless you do it yourself. This would just be an informative workshop where you would be

able to meet different financial advisors and make your own decision as to whether you want to pursue advice from one of these individuals. This would include current retirees who have not yet made a decision about their 401K or who may want to move to another advisor. Spouses are invited to attend also. The Union cannot and will not recommend a particular financial advisor this strictly is up to you after hearing what they have to say. **If you are interested please call the Union Hall and let the secretary know you will attend. If you have any questions you would like answered at the workshop please give them to the secretary. As I said earlier no names, phone numbers or addresses will be given out. This will be up to you.**

Union Hall phone # 903-595-3469

Trade Climate Shifts to Protect Worker Rights and the Environment

As President Bush gets ready to sign a trade agreement with Colombia this month, Democrats are flexing their control of Congress with plans to have labor and environmental protections inserted into pending trade treaties and to demand that the administration adopt similar measures in future pacts it negotiates.

The Democrats have proposed protective provisions into two pending trade deals with Peru and Colombia, measures that would limit duty-free access to the U.S. market for goods made in those countries if factories are found to use child labor or deny workers the right to organize unions. They plan to take a similar approach to deals still being negotiated by the United States trade representative with South Korea, Malaysia and Panama.

The new requirements could put the brakes on the president's so-called fast-track trade authority that is set to expire at the end of June which allowed for a simple up-or-down congressional vote on trade pacts without opening them for amendments.

The shift on trade policy is a welcoming sign to American workers whose concerns were disregarded for corporate interests over the past eight years.

Currently both sides in Washington are continuing the rhetoric of bipartisanship cooperation but that could be tested when the Bush administration seeks approval for free-trade agreements it has already struck with Peru and Colombia. Democrats have pledged to engage the administration on trade with the groundswell of support they received in the past election as a result of disenchantment over U.S. job losses, including jobs moving overseas.

E-Mail Address Changes

E-mail addresses at the union hall have changed from cox-internet. The new addresses are:

Jim Wansley's e-mail is unchanged:
pres746L@aol.com

Harold Sweat:
chopper746@suddenlinkmail.com

Sherrell Brown:
local746@suddenlinkmail.com

Helen Young:
hkyoung@suddenlinkmail.com

Joe Wyatt:
joewyatt@suddenlinkmail.com

165 people signed up for the buyout/early exit.

The S.O.A.R. Organization monthly meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2007. We will be having a Valentine Party at the John Nash Activity Center, 6:00 PM.

Members are to bring a covered dish and desserts. If you are not a member of the S.O.A.R. Organization you are encouraged to attend the Valentine Party and join our organization. During the Valentine Party we will be playing Bingo after the meal. We have a lot of fun, take trips, and enjoy the fellowship with one another. On the day of some meetings throughout the year, 42 Domino Tournaments are chaired by Roy Stanley before the meetings. If you are interested in playing in the tournaments or need additional information contact Roy Stanley at 903-592-3260.

The members are in the process of planning trips in the next few months. We are even discussing a trip before Christmas to go again to Branson.

Dino won the door prize money of \$ 38.00. Sorry Kay was not



RETIREES' CORNER

by

Tennie Hulsey & Carol Swanson

able to attend the meeting due to illness. How did she learn that Dino had won the money before he got home from the meeting? Thank goodness for cell phones, but who called her?

Members are asked to bring items for the Hospice of East Texas Home Place to the February meeting. Carol and Jack Swanson will be delivering the items after the meeting. Please bring items such as canned fruit, snacks, jello (individually packaged.) juices, crackers, etc. For additional information contact Carol or Jack at 903-593-8990.

Ladies Auxiliary:

The meeting for the ladies is scheduled February 6, 2007, 10:00 AM, John Nash Activity Center. Ladies attending bring finger foods and desserts. The ladies will be discussing plans for future "fun" trips, increasing the membership, and future meetings and activities. Spouses of new retirees are encouraged to join the ladies organization. We have a lot of fun !!

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The following article submitted by Employee Involvement Coordinator Jim Clark

Early Black History

Black history, or African American history, is the history of the ethnic group in the United States that is of African descent. Many of the people who belong to this ethnic group are the descendants of the African slaves that were brought to the United States and other parts of North America, most of them from West and Central Africa. From the early 1600's until 1807, many blacks were taken from their homes from eight slave-trading regions in Africa. Just like the White community they were sold into, the Africans all came from different ethnic groups. During this time of the early black history, blacks were not given any rights, and were considered to be on the same levels as farm animals used to help with the manual labor; the records for slave trade, births, and deaths were kept alongside the similar transactions for a master's farm animals. Even though a vast majority of blacks who were living in the United States during this time were slaves, some of them were free citizens and lived in both the Northern and Southern states.

Black History During and After the Civil War

One of the most influential events in black history was during the American Civil War which lasted from 1861 through 1865. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln, issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves in the southern states which had seceded from the Northern States. After the war was over and the country was rebuilding itself, it became a challenge for the newly freed slaves to find their place in society.

States that had previously had slaves a part of their society

passed laws to prevent blacks from being able to be fully active members in society, including not allowing them to vote. Schools and other public places, such as restaurants and public transportation, were all segregated, having different facilities for blacks and whites. During this time in the United States, there was a strong resistance to the integration of blacks into society. The discrimination and outward acts of hate against blacks were highest during this period of time, which leads up to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 60s.

The Civil Rights Movement

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court made a monumental decision in the case of Brown vs. Board of Education, which ruled that legal segregation in all areas of life is unconstitutional. This decision sparked what is known as the Civil Rights Movement. After Brown vs. Board, all aspects of life in the South had to be desegregated, but there was opposition by many members of the white community. Boycotts, voter registration campaigns, Freedom Rides, marches, pickets, and other nonviolent actions were taken by the black community to fight for the equal rights they were denied of. The most significant leader of the Civil Rights Movement was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was King who delivered the historic "I Have a Dream" speech and helped influence President Lyndon B. Johnson to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Most of the Civil Rights activists took on a nonviolent approach and tried to convey their cause in peaceful terms, but there were some who did believe that force needed to be used when necessary.

Black History Quiz

1. The first Black woman elected to congress was:
2. The first Black mayor of a major American city was:
3. The seventh day of Kwanza is observed on Jan 1 and is called:
4. Legislation to restrict the movement and freedom of freedmen was enacted in 1865 in Mississippi and was known as:
5. The week-long celebration, "Negro History Week," which was expanded in 1976 and is now known as "Black History Month," was started in 1926 by:
6. Gwendolyn Brooks, the first Black person to win a "Pulitzer Prize," won the prize for her book:
7. The first Black female aviator was:
8. The first Black person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1950):
9. One of the planners of what is now Washington, D. C.:
10. The first Black-owned television station in the US began broadcasting in 1975 and was located in:

Answers

1. Shirley Chisholm
2. Carl Stokes
3. Imani, meaning faith
4. Black Codes
5. Carter G. Woodson
6. Annie Allen
7. Bessie Coleman
8. Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
9. Benjamin Banneker
10. Detroit

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wives of Union Members says “Thank You”

To the members and Officers of Local 746L:

Words cannot express how privileged we feel to be a part of this local. The way you supported us, financially and physically, during the strike was overwhelming.

We have prayed and ask God to bless you beyond what you could ever imagine.

You all deserve to be able to keep our plant open and keep your jobs. We hope and this becomes a reality.

Thank you and God Bless,
Holly Chilek, wife of Andrew Chilek



I would like to thank the union officers, members, and all others who worked so hard before and during the strike. I would especially like to thank Jim who spent countless hours away from his family traveling and negotiating on our behalf. While the strike was difficult and may not have entirely ended the way we had hoped, I personally appreciate the impact it has had on my family.

None of us would have chosen the strike, but in the midst of what seemed to be the most frightening situation my family has faced, God took all the negative implications and turned them for good. Like most families our age we did not have a substantial savings.

Early in the strike I had withdrawn my money from the bank, paid a few bills, and deposited my money into my handbag for safe keeping. My family and I went to church that Wednesday evening, and without thinking I forgot my bag in my car. After a great service you can imagine my husband’s terror when he went to the parking lot and discovered someone had broken the passenger’s side window and stolen my bag, and quite literally our last dollar. Our church immediately wrote a small check for things we might need in the next couple of days. Devasted, we set out to try and figure what our next move should be. When friends heard what had happened several came and offered cash to help out.

The next Sunday morning we were called to the front of the church. Our worship minister announced what had happened and people came out of their seats to our aid. We were handed checks, cash, and love...so much we literally could not carry it all. By the end of that service God had provided us with over 3 times what had been taken. We were able to take of things we had thought we would have to put off!

We have also discovered the bonds that hold people together during difficult times. I have had the opportunity to correspond with union members from all over the country, and what a blessing to have brothers and sisters who have never met you, but are willing to stand against great adversity for you. Many local union members did not have the opportunity to find other employment or have well deserved time with their families, they were making sure that our needs were provided for. I have to add they provided those needs in a very respectful, dignified, and efficient manner. I honor that effort and pray that God will bless that entire team who sacrificed for the good of all tenfold.

With the help of a very special couple who worked tirelessly to provide gift cards for our children and a dedicated friend who made my children her personal mission, we had a glorious Christ-

mas.

I say a special prayer for those who crossed the picket line. I don’t say this because they betrayed their fellow workers, but because they betrayed themselves. They may have earned a pay check, but they cheated themselves from receiving the sorts of blessings that only come with sacrifice and being a part of something larger than yourself.

Thank you,
Nikki Yordy, wife of Brian Yordy

Support from a Local Businessman

Dear Joe,

I am not a Goodyear employee, however I wrote a letter to Robert Keegan, Goodyear president and basically told him that if they closed the Tyler plant and sent it to China, I would never buy another Goodyear product and that I would spearhead a drive to boycott Goodyear. One of his assistants replied that all tire companies are sending their factories to other countries because of labor cost and being able to compete in a global market.

Here is a question someone should get the U.S. President to answer, “If all our tire manufacturing is in other countries, what happens if China should have a civil war or go to war with us? What are we going to drive our vehicles on, the rim?”

If we are already too dependant on foreign oil, why are we going to get dependant on important items like tires? CD players OK, but not tires!!!!

Thanks,
Tommy Payne,
Flint

The following letter was sent to Goodyear’s CEO Bob Keegan by Mr. Payne

October 6, 2006
Mr. President,

I would appreciate your taking the time to read my letter in its entirety and I want to warn you that it is in the best interest of your company that you do. It is 3:30 in the morning and I have been lying awake all night thinking about the lives of the families of your employees who were forced to walk out on strike in your Tyler Goodyear Plant yesterday. On the news last night I heard the story of a little five year old girl who called her dad on his way home from the Plant and asked him if he still had a job. No five year old American child should ever have to worry about her dad having a job. Sensationalism of the media? Maybe, but maybe it is time that we resort to whatever reasonable means to keep our jobs in America. The lives of every member of the City of Tyler, Smith county, surrounding counties and many across the state of Texas and even other states will be affected by this strike and the closing of this plant if that comes to pass.

I spent eighteen months of my life, that has forever impacted me, in combat fighting in Viet Nam. I was told at age nineteen that I was defending my country and preserving our American freedoms, one of which is free commerce. I was not defending my country, as our servicemen and women are now doing in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are fighting an enemy that attacked our homeland. The North Vietnamese Communists were not coming to attack America. None the less I did my duty as did many of your employees, right along with me, in serving our country. Therefore, we have a right and a

continued on next page

freedom to defend our livelihood when it is being threatened.

I am not one of your employees; never have been. But I own a large tractor that has Goodyear tires which I will be replacing next year. Those tires sell for over \$750.00 per tire. I have also just replaced the tires on my service truck with Goodyear tires at a cost of over \$800.00. However, if your company closes the Tyler plant or any other American Goodyear Plant as well as anyone of the four in our sister country of Canada, I will never purchase another Goodyear product. It is long past time for our industries to quit sending American jobs to foreign countries simply to make a larger profit line. It is time for our government officials to close the gaps that allow foreign countries to flood our country with substandard products and put our American people out of work. You pay lobbyists in Washington, put some pressure on the lawmakers.

I understand that your company wants the employees to take pay cuts as much as \$10.00 an hour, and that you are attempting to take away benefits from former employees retirement programs. It seems to me that it is time that when we make a promise that we need to honor it. Your company made a promise to the retirees that if they did certain things, their efforts would benefit them when they retired. Is that a breach of a contract? Why should your company keep its word? Enron didn't, nor has our government! It is a matter of principal. When I joined the Marine Corp at age 18, our government promised one of my benefits as a veteran would be free medical care, should I ever need it. Not so today. We have to pay a copay. When I was growing up a man's word was his bond, so I believed them, as your employees have believed your company. Apparently not so, even though your company put it in a legal document called a contract. Granted an expired contract can be renegotiated, but not retirement benefits for people already retired. Time for the lawyers to wake up and do something? I hope not.

Honor your company's commitment to them.

In early America, Unions on strike did horrible things, killings and destruction of companies property. Your people today would not think of doing such things. But while you and your management are sleeping, they are peacefully walking a picket line trying to get your company's attention. And many of your employees and families are lying awake at this early morning hour wondering what the daylight will bring. Put yourself and your family in the place of these people. Walk a mile in their shoes. Nobody wins with a strike. Just as it puts the employees lives in a turmoil, your company is losing money every minute that it is down. Money that can never be recouped. That hour and time is long gone. Lost production is lost forever. Probably by the time you read this letter, your company will have already lost enough money to pay what the employees were holding out for.

I hope I am making a point with you. Maybe not, but here is a promise. If your company closes the Tyler Plant, any of the America Plants or the Canadian Plants, **I will "spearhead a boycott" of all Goodyear tire products, rubber hose products and any other products made by companies owned by Goodyear for the rest of my life.** You say what can one old man do? Have no fear of him. Have you ever seen the movie or read the book, Erin Brockovich? Maybe your company is not dumping cancer causing chemicals into the communities, but your company's actions is destroying lives. Lives of good people who have worked hard to earn you a huge salary, as well as others in upper management and good profits for your stockholders. The Internet and networking are great tools for getting the message out. Your stock is already dropping. If you want someone to take a pay cut, start with yourself and make it a large one as well

the rest of your corporate management. Other places to make cuts might be in not passing out \$15.00 company ball caps to 1100 employees the day before a strike deadline. That is a cheap slap in the face. Quit giving \$10.00 discounts on tires to the employees and their families and put the \$10.00 into their pay scales and they would be glad to pay full price. Another place to make cuts should be in the huge bonuses that is paid to upper management. No one deserves to be paid that much while the little man suffers. Just do your job for the good of the company and for the good of the nation. Give the bonuses back and cut out all the unnecessary perks. You might be thinking most catastrophes soon loose their spotlight and people move on, not so if someone keeps feeding the fire and I will, as will thousands of others.

If America can throw up a blockage of North Korea, creating a boycott of their country by other countries who deal with them, we can and will boycott Goodyear and you won't have to worry about closing Plants, you will be out of business. And you won't be able to sell what you build out of country in this country. Martin Luther said that "the pen is mightier than the sword." I have learned that is ever so true, but I have a new one, "the Internet and email is faster and even more powerful and cheap." One of the early American flags had the words, "don't tread on me" underneath a coiled snake. Are these warnings or threats? No never. We are negotiating! You work with us and our American people will gladly work with you, for you and buy your products.

Our college students protested the Viet Nam war in the 60's and 70's. Our government finally listened, pulled out, bringing our servicemen home to be treated as criminals and not given hero welcomes as they should have been for serving our country. Maybe our college students need a new cause to get behind, stopping the steady drain of our jobs to foreign counties, because there might not be a company or job waiting for them when they graduate. Maybe our politicians should be making laws stopping the buying up of our country's property by foreign countries and peoples before we are taken over from within. Maybe our talk show hosts, like Lou Dobbs, need to let our people know what companies like Goodyear are doing in small communities like Tyler, and all over our Nation.

Please take me serious. Hundreds will follow my lead. Thousands will follow them and millions will follow them. A single thread can easily be broken but a thousand entwined, then it is a powerful force.

President Regan, asked Mr. Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin wall, I ask you to use your power and influence to stop this injustice to this community and wherever you have employees, and retirees. I know you have the power to instruct your leadership to find a better way. I ask you again to use your power. I understand that our City, County and State governments are offering huge incentives to keep the Plant in Tyler. I don't think this is right for them to use our tax money to help you have an even fatter bottom line. But Lee Iacocca who saved Chrysler and Dodge did get some help from the government. If Goodyear's needs are truly justified, then ok, but first prove it to all of us. Why is it any of my business? Because it affects not only me personally, but all of my community, all my friends, and all my loved ones as well. Lay all the cards out on the table and bite the bullet as well, for the good of the many. Iacocca might even could give you some advice.

Thank you for your time,
A concerned American,
Tommy Payne

Local 746L Strike Assistance Program Setting A Standard For Others

by H.L. Thompson, District 13 Staff

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with the membership of this local union my observations concerning your Strike Assistance Committee and the assistance program developed at Local 746L.

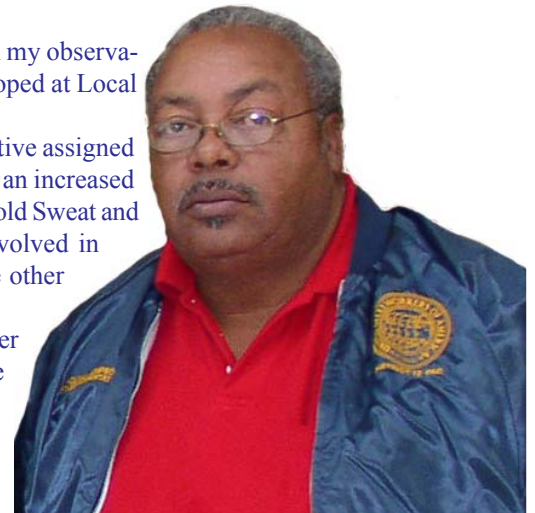
For those of you who haven't met me, I am the USW District 13 staff representative assigned to service USW Local 746L. During the strike, my primary assignment was providing an increased level of support for your local union. I worked even more closely with Jim Wansley, Harold Sweat and the rest of your leadership throughout this time than in the past. I was directly involved in coordinating strike assistance funding, legal assistance, picket line activities and the other things that have to happen for a local union to maintain a strike.

This local union has always been recognized as among the best of the Steelworker locals. Even so, what was accomplished by your leadership and the Strike Assistance Committee was exceptional. I believe the assistance program that evolved here will be used to set a standard for others, as well as become a learning tool for our District and the entire Steelworker organization. It was that good and it was becoming ever more effective when the strike ended.

The USW International Strategic Campaigns Department provided initial training and then arranged for your Strike Assistance Committee to meet with people from several other local union Committees who had developed and administered a Strike Assistance Program and endured a strike at their locations. Then your leadership and your Committee developed a game plan for your program prior to the strike.

The key to the success of your program was that Jim and Harold put together an assistance committee that was diverse, that was representative of the make-up of your membership and that had its own excellent leadership and communication skills. The result was that committee then took the ball and ran with it in ways that can't be taught. The Committee worked wonders while working with members in dire need each and every day. That is why you had no one cross the picket line here for so long and then had so few cross during the last month of the strike.

That Strike Assistance Committee became like a family and then expanded that family concept to the rest of the local union membership. It's unionism and solidarity at its best.



H.L. Thompson, District 13 Staff



Bob Voit of Dept. 410, spent a lot of his time during the strike on the picket line with his camera. He took hundreds of pictures. Bob then took a few of these pictures and created the single picture above using a number of pictures.

Bob has a website with lots of pictures ranging from weddings to classic cars, motorcycle rallies to nature. His website address is www.snapshotshop.net. Go to his website and look at all of his pictures. Click on **America's Fight** to see the ones of the strike.

USW Local 1671 Solidarity Rally



USW Local 752L helped sponsor the rally by bringing all of the equipment and food to have a fish fry. (top 2 pictures on right and left sides) Top center, Freddie Wehrmann presents a donation check to USW Local 1671 President Michael McClain. Bottom left, Freddie Wehrmann and District 13 Director Mickey Breaux. Bottom right, Freddie standing in front of the Local 1671 union hall.

A Solidarity Rally was held in Star City, Arkansas on January 27th for United Steelworkers Local 1671. Local 1671 has about 50 members and has been on strike against National Wire for the past 18 months. USW Local 752L from Texarkana (Cooper Tire) helped to sponsor this event by bringing all of the cooking equipment, food, supplies and the best fish cookers around. About 175 people were expected to attend, however due to the rainy, cold weather, only about 70 or so people were there. National Wire is a European company and union members from National Wire in Europe were special guest at the rally.

Freddie Wehrmann and Joe Wyatt from USW Local 746L attended the rally and made a donation from Local 746L of \$500.00 to Local 1671. Having just completed a strike of their own, they knew how hard it was for this local to be out for 18 months and were amazed that even after all of that time, not a single person had crossed the picket line.

Temporary workers were brought in to replace the strikers,

and then were made permanent. The strikers had to agree to an unconditional return to work or have no job to return to. This is a "blank check" for the company. They had to agree to return to work because the temporary (now permanent) workers were going to vote to decertify the union. Had that happened, there would have been no hope for the ones on strike or the union. The company now won't let them return to work even though they agreed to the unconditional return to work. Currently, when and if they go back to work, they will go back in with less seniority than the people now working in the plant. The union is still fighting for Local 1671 and charges have been filed with the labor board. Depending on the outcome of the labor board's rulings and the progress that the USW can make, they may get their jobs back, maybe with back pay.

An interesting fact about this strike is that the Plant Manager of National Wire in Star City and his upper management team used to be the Union President, Vice President and Financial Secretary of Local 1671.



Alexander Awarded Plaque for Job Well Done

On Tuesday, January 16, the Strike Assistance Committee and their spouses were treated to dinner at Clear Creek Texas Seafood Restaurant by the USW District 13 Director Mickey Breaux, Assistant to the Director John Patrick and Staff Representative H.L. Thompson.

After dinner each member of the committee was given a plaque by Kency Alexander, the coordinator for the Strike Assistance Committee, for the efforts that they put into the committee working to assist the membership during the strike.

The committee also presented Kency with a plaque for the outstanding support and unselfish dedication he brought to the committee. Shown in the picture at left is Kency receiving the plaque from Tressa Hawkins, secretary and clerk for the committee.

RECENT RETIREES



Velma Blaylock Adolphus Brown Glenn Cobb Thomas Crocker Larry Cross Rex Crossly



Harold Jackson Willis Jackson Rufus Jackson Larry Mallory Kenny McLeod Billy Mullins



Robert Pond Clarence Seaton Henry Smith Clyde Stine Peggy Taylor Jamie Thomas

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Joe Wyatt
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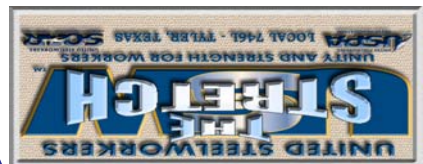
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