

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by  
**Harold Sweat**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a Happy and Safe New Year. This year we will be faced with many new challenges in areas we have never experienced before. The Union leadership and membership will be challenged to make prudent decisions that will allow the Union Hall to continue the same level of service in the future that we have experienced in the past. The Union Hall will remain open at this time with Sherrell Brown serving as the Benefit Representative. Red Blake will continue in his capacity as the Safety Chairperson.

There are several vacancies on the Executive Board and in the position of Division I Chairperson. If you would be interested in serving in one of these positions, notify Tressa Hawkins at the Union Hall, 903-595-3469 by January 17, 2008. There is a meeting requirement of eight meetings in the past twenty-four months to be eligible for the Executive Board position. The Executive Board will make these selections.

As a result of the mass layoff, several committees were left with vacancies. The deadline for signing up for a committee position will be January 17, 2008 at the Union Hall. Sign up for as many committees as you like, listing your preferences in numerical order. The following is a list of committees:

- Safety Committee
- Publicity and Education Committee
- Strike and Assistance Committee
- Entertainment Committee
- By-Laws Committee
- Legislative and Committee on Political Education (C.O.P.E)
- Smith County Area Central Labor Council Committee
- Time Study Committee
- Skill Trades Committee
- Organizing Committee
- Civil Rights Committee
- Buy American Committee
- Budget and Finance Committee
- Women of Steel Committee

## Farewell Letter from President Jim Wansley

This will be the last article I write as president of Local 746. I am leaving the plant on December 31 as part of the reduction occurring on that date. I want to take this last opportunity to share some thoughts as tire production ends here.

First, I appreciate the opportunity this membership has given me to serve you and, as a group, I cannot begin to express how much I admire this local union membership for what it has accomplished in the seven years since I took office. In that time a culture has been created here that made the Tyler plant one of the best in Goodyear, if not the best. In addition, everyone in the United Steel-

There are other committees such as the Area Steering committee and the Employee Assistance Program Committee that will be filled as soon as possible. There will be vacancies in the Leadhand positions as well as Union Steward vacancies. Efforts to fill these vacancies will be made as soon as possible. Some temporary appointments may be made until vacancies can be filled.

Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) meetings will be held to help people who need assistance in filling out the necessary paperwork to receive SUB benefits. The Stretch has a copy of the calendar and flow chart with the times and dates for these meetings. Dan Manier, Goodyear Specialist in SUB applications, will hold meetings on how to fill out the paperwork properly to receive SUB benefits.

The Texas Workforce Commission has a wealth of information, educational opportunities, as well as counselors available to assist you in a multitude of ways. I would encourage you to utilize their services.

Dealing with life changing circumstances can require a lot of energy. As you deal with this change, remember you did not cause Goodyear to reduce production in Tyler. It is normal for you or your family to experience some minor signs or symptoms of stress during this time in your life. Some signs of stress are irritability, nausea, elevated heart rate, sweating, tremors, loss of appetite or excessive eating, trouble concentrating and inability to sleep. Slow down and define a direction for your life. Decide if you are returning to work, school or trying to find a job. Maybe you are just going to take some time off to relax. Then prepare for the next step in your life. Set a personal goal or timetable as to how much time you are going to take off. Don't feel responsible for things that are clearly out of your control. Seek encouragement through friends, family or your church. Ask for help if you feel yourself losing control.

I appreciate your support during this time of transition.  
In Solidarity,  
Harold Sweat

worker organization has recognized our local union as among the best. I was told that again and again as I made my goodbye calls to those in the International Union that I have had the pleasure of working with these last seven years.

That the plant is losing tire production and may now shut down is in no way the fault of the local union membership or of the salaried workforce in Tyler. The truth is that the state of Texas let us all down just when all our hard work and sacrifice put us in the position of being able to secure our jobs for the foreseeable future. If the same state leadership had been in office in the early eighties

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

this plant would have closed then, and it would have been every bit as great an injustice to the community and those working at the plant as it is today. For seven long years we sought state support to access the Texas Enterprise Fund, to go along with the support we received from the county and the community, to secure investment in the Tyler plant. Only at the end, when it was much too little and too late, did we get that type of funding help from Texas. It really brings home how important it is who we vote for and that we must hold the people we put into office accountable after they get our vote. We did a lot of education and put out a lot of information to our people, and I believe as a group we did try to hold them accountable, but most people in the community and across the state still don't.

Now that we have lost these jobs certain funding is available to retrain and help find work for our people, both at the state and federal level. The state people responsible for administering those programs are first rate and always have been. But we should not be in the position of having to use them.

Again, I appreciate the support and kind words from everyone during these last seven years. While it hasn't been easy for this membership or for me it has always been an honor to serve as the president of the best local union, representing the finest group of workers and working with a lot of good salaried people here in Tyler. I hope you will all fare well, as that is certainly your due.

Per our by-laws Harold Sweat, our vice-president, will assume the duties of president on January 1, 2008. He will need your help and supports as the local union adapts to a smaller membership with fewer resources and as the union representative vacancies created by this reduction are filled. He will do a good job and I know he will receive the support he deserves as he does it.

## The First Job Fair of 2008

Hosted by KLTV JobLink  
Special invitation to all Goodyear workers & all job seekers

Door Prizes for jobseekers  
Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 3pm  
Tyler Rose Garden Center

Employers present:  
Halliburton  
ADECCO Staffing  
Best Buy  
Nationwide Recovery Systems  
Texas Department of Justice  
VME Process Inc.  
University of Phoenix  
Remedy Staffing  
McDonald's  
KLTV  
Tyler ISD  
East Texas Workforce

### DON'T FORGET YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS.

The Med Center still has a large number of Members and Retiree's medical records that need to be transferred to your doctor. You can go by the Med Center to sign a release for the records to be transferred to your doctor. You can also sign a release at your doctors office then he or she can request your records. Your records cannot be released to you. The Med Center will be transferring your records for approximately the next 30 days then they will be sent to storage.

Express Script mail-order prescription forms are still available at the Union Hall. This is the only way to receive 90-day prescriptions.

## Pension & Insurance Notes

by Sherrell Brown

### Pension and Insurance Position

The master contract guarantees Tyler a Pension and Insurance position until at least the next contract or until the plant totally closes down. I have agreed to stay on in that position. Everyone in mid December had to make a choice as whether to stay or go. The plant started with senior members and gave them a choice to go or stay. The canvas is complete now; members had to make the choice that was best for them. I do not think there was a right or wrong choice; members had to consider what was best for them and their families. Having said that I believe every choice was the right choice and I wish all who will be leaving the best of times in the future.

### WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

As stated in the above article, I will be staying in the pension and insurance position. For all retirees nothing will change the Union will still be here to support and help you as always. Members leaving will still be able to contact the hall for help with insurance and SUB questions. While we plan no immediate changes now, in the near future there may be changes in the way the Union Hall operates. We will be losing 600 members and the remaining 130 or so cannot financially support the Union Hall with their dues. Do to the previous Presidents and E-Boards financial abilities to conserve assets; we have substantial savings accounts we will be using to maintain the hall for now. I am sure the remaining members will be looking at ways to stretch these savings and other options available to them.

### VEBA (Retiree Health Care Plan) CLEARS FIRST HURDLE

U. S. District Judge John R. Adams gave initial clearance to the plan on Friday

December 14 in Akron. Goodyear now must notify about 30,000 retirees, their spouses, and other dependents. Union retirees have until March 4 to file written objections to the proposed plan, and Judge Adams set a hearing for April 11 on whether to issue final approval. Final approval is expected in the first half of 2008. If not already you should receive a document explaining the VEBA and your rights to file an objection to the plan.

### Goodyear Pharmacy Prescription Records

The records have been sent to:

**Family First Pharmacy**  
16623 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Gresham, TX  
Ph. 903-561-2822


When calling, patients need to specify the RX number because that is the way pharmacy prescriptions are filed. Computer data cannot be transferred, so there is no way to retrieve prescription information by patient name. Pharmacy customers should remember that retail pharmacies can only dispense a 30-day supply of medication under the Goodyear prescription plan. People on maintenance medication can only receive 90-day prescriptions if they are using the mail-order pharmacy, Express Scripts.

We had around 83 members present at the meeting, on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007; at the John Nash Activity Building. I think this was the biggest crowd we've had. The SOAR Club furnished the ham and turkey and the ladies brought the accompanying dishes. We all enjoyed a fantastic meal and had a lot of fun visiting with everyone. We sang Christmas carols, with the help of Billy Joe Price, which brought back a lot of memories. We want to encourage each and everyone to join the SOAR Club this month that have retired from the plant.

The SOAR Club had \$720.00 to shop for toys for the underprivileged children and the toys were taken to the Fire Department on the corner of Reick and Old Bullard Road. We had five ladies go shopping and we had a lot of fun picking out toys we thought the children would like to receive. Our prayer is that all the children here in our area will wake up to a very Merry Christmas morning.

We will have a 42 Tournament January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the SOAR meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. that evening at the John Nash Activity Building. If you are interested in the 42 tournament and would like to participate call Deno Robertson at 903-561-1467 or Roy Stanley, 903-592-3260. We are to bring finger foods to the meeting.

Well things are winding down at the plant I'm told and it's so sad that it is actually happening. We kept hoping for a miracle to keep the doors open but it didn't happen, but we do know God knows what's best. I have always been told that when one door closes another door will open. So Ladies and Gentlemen keep your heads up and remember that we do have a miracle working God who is willing to help each and everyone of you.

**UNITED STEELWORKERS**  
  
**STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES**  
**RETIREES' CORNER**  
 by  
**Helen Young**

**SOAR Auxiliary Ladies**

The Auxiliary Ladies met on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and we had 21 ladies present. We do want to encourage all of our new retiree's ladies to join our Auxiliary Club. We meet the first Tuesday of each month; but we will not meet on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. So our next meeting will be on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008, so ladies bring a covered dish.

At our December meeting the ladies decorated Christmas plates, which Linda Bateman bought. I didn't get a picture of the plates so you could see our handy work. (Sorry)!!

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a group of ladies went to the Chandler Nursing Home to visit with the people there. We carried cookies that we served to the members and then sang Christmas carols, which was enjoyed by all.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a group of ladies went to Target and bought toys for under-privileged children and we really had a great time, in spite of the messy weather. After we finished buying the toys we carried them to the Fire Department.

Linda Bateman shared with us a recipe that is a real easy delicious dish, so I'm going to share with all of you.

**CORN SALAD**

- 2 cans whole Kernel Corn (drained)
- 1 cup of onions
- 1 cup of green peppers
- 1-cup mayo
- 2 cups of cheddar cheese
- 1 9 oz. Bag of Chile Cheese Fritos (crushed)

Mix all together and chill except for the chips. Put in the crushed chips right before you serve.



**Top Row-Left to Right: 1st and middle picture were taken at the Ladies Auxiliary meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. 3rd picture was taken at the SOAR Club meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007. 1st picture-second row: Chandler Nursing Home (L – R) Inez Keller, Carol Swanson, Tommie Francis, Lockie Van Deman, Virginia Pike, Tennie Hulsey, Sarah Lockwood and Helen Young. Middle Picture: Veverly Henderson receiving gifts from Auxiliary Ladies (L-R) Inez Keller, Tennie Hulsey, Lockie Van Deman, Sarah Lockwood, Veverly Henderson, Virginia Pike, Carol Swanson and Tommie Francis. Last picture shows the Members of the Chandler Nursing Home.**

**On Lay-Off? The S.O.A.R. Wants You**

The S.O.A.R. Club (Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees) extends an invitation to the USW union members in the plant, **who are on lay-off and are eligible to retire**, to attend the S.O.A.R. Club meetings. At this time, it is not known if you can actually join S.O.A.R., but you are welcome to attend the meetings. You are also welcome to participate in any activities that are going on although you may have to pay toward the cost of the event, if there is any involved, which the S.O.A.R. Club normally covers. There will be no membership dues to be paid by you until you become a member. The S.O.A.R. Club meets at 6:00 PM, the second Monday of every month, at the John Nash Activities Center. Please join us!

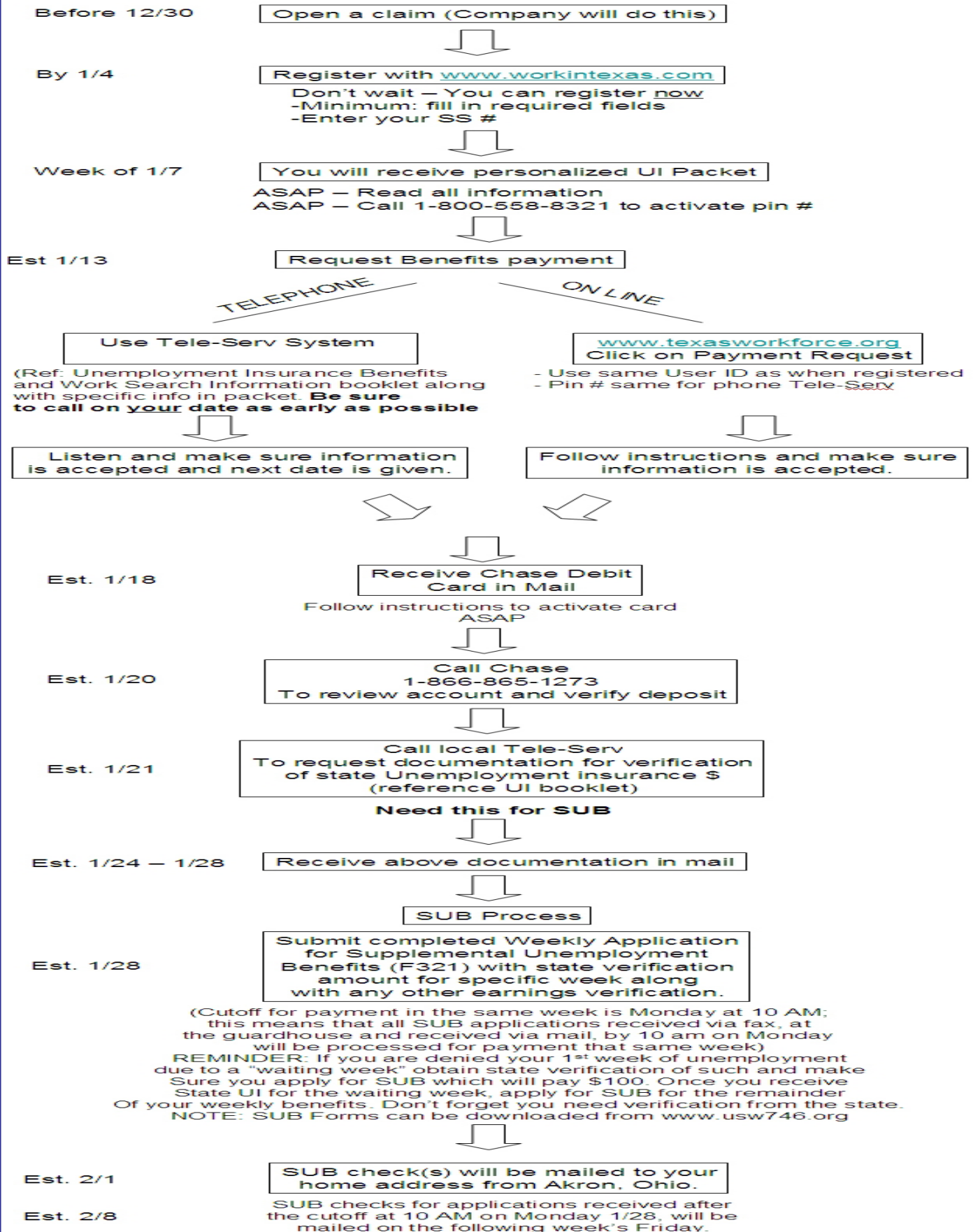
# estimated calendar of events **JANUARY 2008**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30-Dec Benefit year begin for claimants	31-Dec	<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR	<b>2</b> Mass applicant file run by State(TWC)	<b>3</b> TJC Career Development Day - Jan 3rd 1 - 4pm Rogers Student Center	<b>4</b> Register "workintexas" no later than this date last regular pay mailed (incl 12/31 holiday) \$\$\$	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> State packet should arrive around this date; call 1-800-558-8321 and set up pin #	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> KLTV Job Fair Rose Garden 10am - 3pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Meeting at Union Hall re: UI/SUB processing 8:30am and 6pm 1st SIC check mailed \$\$\$	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Earliest date to request payment for State \$; (follow instructions)	<b>14</b> Meeting at Union Hall re: UI/SUB processing at 8:30am <b>ONLY</b>	<b>15</b> Meeting at Union Hall re: UI/SUB processing at 8:30 am and 6pm	<b>16</b> Job Fair at Rose Garden 9am until noon	<b>17</b> Remaining 2007 vacation and pro rata 2008 vacation \$\$\$	<b>18</b> Estimated earliest date to receive Chase Debit Card Activate card per instruct.	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Meeting at Union Hall re: UI/SUB processing 8:30am and 6pm	<b>22</b> Meeting at Union Hall re: UI/SUB processing 8:30am and 6pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> SUB check(s) mailed from Akron \$\$\$	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Earliest date to make 2nd request for State \$	<b>28</b> mtg Hall 8:30a/6p Probable <u>first</u> date to apply for SUB; cutoff 10am (State verification \$ required) State \$\$\$ on debit card	<b>29</b> Mtg @ Hall 8:30a/6p UI/SUB processing (State verification \$ required)	<b>30</b> DEADLINE for Preliminary Election form for Special Distribution	<b>31</b>	<b>FEB 1</b> SUB check(s) mailed from Akron \$\$\$	<b>2</b>

# FEBRUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> SUB cutoff 10am	<b>5</b> Last Day to apply for SUB Benefit week begin 12/29 (30 day rule)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> SUB check(s) mailed from Akron \$\$\$	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Earliest date make 3rd request for State \$	<b>11</b> SUB cutoff 10am State \$\$\$ on debit card	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> SUB check(s) mailed from Akron \$\$\$	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> SUB cutoff 10am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> SUB check(s) mailed from Akron \$\$\$	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Earliest date make 4th request for State \$	<b>25</b> SUB cutoff 10am State \$\$\$ on debit card	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> DEADLINE for option 3 pref hire applications SUB check(s) mailed from Akron \$\$\$	<b>MAR 1</b>

## State Unemployment Insurance Process



Reference:  
**THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE SHALL BE IN EFFECT FOR APPLYING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (SUB).**

## The First and The Last



Top Photo: First tires produced in Tyler in 1962. Standing left to right: Don Lilya, Bill Sheetz, Bill Hawkins, Bill Shanholtz, Front: Bob Lint and Dick Ball

Center Photo: Tyler Plant Manager Bobby Wayman and USW Local 746L President Jim Wansley with the last tires produced in Tyler. Standing behind them are: Robert Pereschuk, Sherrell Brown, Ralph Rameriz, Bud Allred, Marcus Brown, Richard Pickette, Jay Moore, Mike Lutmer, Mark Eschberger, Gerald Guffey and Harlod Sweat.

Bottom Photo: Last green tire produced in Tyler. AFR Tirebuilders Craig Martin and John Mason with Tyler Plant Manager Bobby Wayman.

# OBITUARIES



Pat Rountree, 68, died on November 30, 2007. Pat worked in Dept. 320 at the time of his retirement in 1999.



Henry James Williams passed away on December 3, 2007 at the age of 74. Henry worked in Dept. 911 and retired in 1995.



Charles Epperson died December 26, 2007. He was 77 years old. Charles retired in 1994. He worked in Dept 410 at the time of his retirement.

## S.O.A.R. Club Raffle Winner



For the last several months, the SOAR Club has been selling raffle tickets to raise money for the club.

The raffle tickets were for either a gift card or a Remington rifle from Gander Mountain. Bryan Allen won the drawing and chose the gift certificate. Bryan is a Banbury Operator in Dept. 320.

## TAA Decision 62405

THE GOODYEAR TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY  
NORTH AMERICAN TIRE DIVISION  
TYLER PLANT

INCLUDING ON-SITE LEASED WORKERS FROM UGL  
UNICO TYLER, TEXAS

Certification Regarding Eligibility

To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance and Alternative  
Trade Adjustment Assistance

In accordance with Section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 USC 2273), the Department of Labor herein presents the results of an investigation regarding certification of eligibility to apply for worker adjustment assistance.

In order to make an affirmative determination and issue a certification of eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance, the group eligibility requirements in either paragraph (a)(2)(A) or (a)(2)(B) of Section 222 of the Trade Act must be met. It is determined in this case that the requirements of (a)(2)(B) of Section 222 have been met.

The investigation was initiated on November 5, 2007 in response to a petition filed by a state representative on behalf of workers of The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, North American Tire Division, Tyler, Texas. The workers at the subject firm produce passenger tires. Workers are not separately identifiable by products produced.

The worker group also consisted of on-site leased workers from UGL Unico.

The investigation revealed that employment separations at the subject firm are related to a shift in a major portion of passenger tire plant production to Chile and Mexico, countries that are a party to a free trade agreement with the United States, and South Africa, a country that is beneficiary country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

In addition, in accordance with Section 246 the Trade Act of 1974 (26 USC 2813), as amended, the Department of Labor herein presents the results of its investigation regarding certification of eligibility to apply for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA)

## THE FACTS OF LIFE

- The most destructive habit (Worry)**
- The greatest Joy (Giving)**
- The greatest loss (Loss of self-respect)**
- The most satisfying work (Helping others)**
- The ugliest personality trait (Selfishness)**
- The most endangered species (Dedicated leaders)**
- Our greatest natural resource (Our youth)**
- The greatest “shot in the arm (Encouragement)**
- The greatest problem to overcome (Fear)**
- The most effective sleeping pill (Peace of mind)**
- The most crippling failure disease (Excuses)**
- The most powerful force in life (Love)**
- The most dangerous pariah (A gossip)**
- The world’s most incredible computer (The brain)**
- The worst thing to be without (Hope)**
- The deadliest weapon (The tongue)**
- The two most power-filled words (I Can)**
- The greatest asset (Faith)**
- The most worthless emotion (Self-pity)**
- The most beautiful attire (A SMILE)**
- The most prized possession (Integrity)**
- The most contagious spirit (Enthusiasm)**
- Anonymous

for older workers.

In order for the Department to issue a certification of eligibility to apply for ATAA, the group eligibility requirements of Section 246 of the Trade Act must be met. The Department has determined in this case that the requirements of Section 246 have been met.

A significant number of workers at the firm are age 50 or over and do not possess skills that are easily transferable. Competitive conditions within the industry are adverse.

### Conclusion

After careful review of the facts obtained in the investigation, I determine that there has been a shift in production from The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, North American Tire Division, Tyler Plant, Tyler, Texas to Chile, South Africa, and Mexico of articles that are like or directly competitive with the passenger tires produced by that firm or subdivision. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, I make the following certification:

“All workers of The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, North American Tire Division, Tyler Plant, Tyler, Texas, including on-site leased workers from UGL Unico who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after November 2, 2006, through two years from the date of certification, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974, and are also eligible to apply for alternative trade adjustment assistance under Section 246 of the Trade Act of 1974.”

Signed in Washington, D.C., this 20th day of December 2007  
ELLIOTT S. KUSHNER  
Certifying Officer, Division of  
Trade Adjustment Assistance

# Stress Management - Relieving Stress from WebMD

Some of the most useful stress management skills you can learn are healthy coping strategies. Many of these can be done with little or no instruction. No one strategy is preferable-you need to find what works best for you. Using these techniques regularly until they become habits that are part of your lifestyle is the key. Use this coping strategies evaluation form to see how you respond to stress.

## Ways to work through your emotions and relax your mind

• **Writing.** There is evidence that writing about stressful events and circumstances may help relieve stress and improve diseases linked to stress. Write for 10 to 15 minutes a day about stressful events and how you felt. One way to use writing to deal with stress is to keep a stress journal. This can really help you identify the sources of stress in your life so that you can find better ways to cope with them.

• **Expressing your feelings.** Discussing how you feel with friends, family members, or a counselor is an important way of coping with and relieving stress. Laughing and crying are also natural ways to release tension and frustration. They

are both part of a normal emotional healing process.

• **Physical activity.** Exercise can reduce stress and the stress response. Aerobic exercise-the kind that increases your heart rate, such as walking, running, bicycling, or swimming-is especially useful for counteracting the harmful effects of stress. Even everyday activities such as house cleaning or yard work can reduce your stress level if you do them vigorously. Stretching is also a good way to relieve muscle tension. Regular, moderate physical activity may be the single best approach to managing stress. For more information about becoming more active, see the topic Fitness.

• **Doing something you enjoy.** A meaningful activity helps relieve tension. This can be a hobby, such as gardening; a creative activity, such as writing, crafts, or art; or doing volunteer work for a cause that benefits others. Playing with and caring for pets also can help you relax. Although you may feel that you are too busy, making time to do something you like can help you relax and make you more productive in other areas of your life.

Local 746L  
Published monthly by  
USW Local 746L  
13624 State Hwy. 31 W.  
Tyler, Texas 75709  
(Phone) 903-595-3469  
(Fax) 903-595-0328  
[www.usw746.org](http://www.usw746.org)  
Editor-Joe Wyatt  
[joewyatt@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:joewyatt@suddenlinkmail.com)  
The Stretch staff or publisher does  
not assume responsibility for views  
expressed in signed articles  
published in this publication.



United Steelworkers  
Local Union 746L  
State Hwy. 31 West  
Tyler, Texas 75709  
AFL-CIO-CLC  
UNION USW LABEL  
746L

JANUARY 2008

BUY AMERICAN

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Tyler, Texas  
Permit No. 884