



## *From The President's Desk*

by Jim Wansley

On Friday June 30 the “target company” for the tire and rubber industry “pattern bargain” was selected. Uniroyal-Goodrich, which is owned by Michelin and is still commonly referred to as BF Goodrich, or BFG, was selected. By now you should have seen a Solidarity Alert that went out Friday detailing how it happened and what it means.

As far as our negotiations at Goodyear, we will resume talks on Monday July 10 with the company, in an effort to resolve as many “non-pattern” issues as possible. At some point we may mutually agree to break off the discussions at Goodyear until the pattern has been established.

We will, however, be operating with the expectation that bargainers at BFG will get a contract there by the July 22 contract expiration date, or very soon thereafter. At Goodyear and at Bridgestone/ Firestone the union will not be idle, concerning our training and preparations.

This week Joe Wyatt has been selected to be our local union's Contract Action Team coordinator. Joe and the CAT coordinators from the other local unions involved in this bargain will be in Cincinnati for two days during the week of July 10 for training on mobilization and the role of each Contract Action Team. That training will be conducted by the USW International's Strategic Campaigns Department.

As I stated, we will be getting ready to do what we must to get a fair and equitable agreement for our members and retirees. We will be getting our Strike and Assistance Committee in place and

trained. We will make sure this company has no misunderstanding concerning our resolve and our ability to take Goodyear on, if it becomes necessary.

I want to thank everyone who took the time to vote during our strike authorization vote. Overall the membership in twelve locations gave our bargaining committee a 97.5 percent yes vote. We know the support for our bargaining committee is there and, if Goodyear had any doubts before, they now know it.

No one wants a strike, but the proposals submitted by Goodyear are totally unacceptable. They have no basis in what's needful for Goodyear to survive and compete. Three years ago we set out to save this company and, with our active participation, that was accomplished. It should come as no surprise that as soon as they got a little money ahead, they would come after our members and retirees. If not for the Union, it would have happened in 2003 or before. If not for the Union, it will happen now.

If it does come to a fight we will mount a strategic campaign, not just a strike. No one does it better. No one stays with it until the fight is won better than the Steelworkers. We will be ready and that is why you will see things like CAT training taking place now.

Thanks for your continued support and your solidarity. Every chance you get, let your managers know you support the bargaining committee and, if necessary, will fight to win if it comes to it. Make it plain to them you will fight “one day longer” than the company to get a fair and equitable agreement.

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## **USW Designates BFGoodrich as “Target” for Tire and Rubber Master Contract Negotiations**

*Steelworkers look to establish template in an agreement that will serve as a pattern for other contracts*

(Cincinnati) — The United Steelworkers (USW) announced June 30th that BFGoodrich/Michelin has been selected as the “target company” for 2006 master contract negotiations in the rubber and tire industry. Representatives from USW bargaining committees engaged in contract talks with Bridgestone/Firestone (BFS), Goodyear and BFGoodrich/Michelin voted today in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“Significant in the selection of BFGoodrich is the fact that we believe that we can set an industry pattern that looks after our retirees, enhances job security and protects the standard of living for our active and retired members” said USW executive vice president Ron Hoover.

The purpose of pattern agreements is to provide a level playing field for employers when it comes to the cost of labor. This compels employers to compete on the basis of product and service quality, innovation, up-to-date technology and management.

Negotiations began earlier this month. The BFGoodrich/Michelin talks cover 4,000 members in three facilities and have been taking place in Knoxville, Tenn. The contract expiration date for the current three-year pact is July 22, 2006. The USW Goodyear/Kelly-Springfield/Dunlop negotiations cover 4,000 members at 12 plants in the U.S. Another 3,000 members are involved in talks in Canada. Talks are taking place in Cincinnati. The negotiations with Bridgestone-Firestone are being held in St. Louis and cover 6,000 workers in eight U.S. plants. The expiration date is also July 22.

The USW represents some 70,000 members in the tire, rubber and plastics industry and 850,000 overall in the U.S. and Canada.

# Labor Board charges Continental Tire with unlawfully relocating Charlotte production

*Charges confirm USW complaints that company purposefully short-circuited bargaining process*

(Pittsburgh, PA) — The United Steelworkers (USW) received notification today 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.”

“It became increasingly obvious during negotiations that Conti didn’t intend to bargain in earnest,” said USW executive vice president Ron Hoover.

From the onset of talks this spring, Continental demanded that only an agreement that provided \$32 million in annual concessions would be considered. Despite multiple requests for documentation, the company never did explain how it concluded that it needed that amount. Without these savings, Conti threatened to cease tire production in September 2006. In March, it laid off 114 workers and another 166 more in May. An additional 360 are scheduled for lay-off this week.

During negotiations, the USW submitted proposals that would have yielded \$16 million in cost savings through wage and health benefit concessions, increased production and production efficiencies, and cost-controls on spiraling health care and prescription drug costs. Even though the parties were making progress in negotiations, the company short-circuited bargaining by wrongly claiming that talks had reached an impasse when the April 30 contract deadline arrived.

It then implemented its proposal that cut costs by \$32 million annually. Included were drastic wage cuts and major increases in the cost of health care coverage for both active and retired members. Still, it was only eight days later that the company announced that it would cease tire production in July 2006 and relocate it to other facilities. The hourly workforce would be reduced from nearly 1100 in July 2005 to less than 100, leaving intact mixing, warehouse and maintenance operations in order to avoid paying pension and insurance obligations as outlined in the contract’s plant closure language.

## NAT Exits Segments of Private Label Business

Goodyear announced today that it is withdrawing from certain segments of the private label tire business in North America.

“Today’s announcement is part of our continuing strategy to focus selectively on the more profitable segments of the business,” said NAT President Jon Rich. “Our intention is to build upon our strength in our branded and retailer-specific product lines.

The action involves approximately 10 private label brands that are currently manufactured by NAT and are sold by a small number of primarily wholesale customers to tire retailers. It represents approximately one-third of the company’s private label position overall.

The decision will require a corresponding reduction in North American Tire’s manufacturing capacity. Specific decisions will depend on cost savings opportunity, plant performance, plant capabilities and the focus on serving NAT customers.

In 2005, these segments of the private label business represented approximately \$300 million in sales and about eight million units manufactured in five NAT plants: Fayetteville, N.C.; Gadsden, Ala.; Tyler, Texas; Union City, Tenn.; and Valleyfield, Quebec.

***Plant Manager Comments on page 8***

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

**[www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org](http://www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org)**

*United Steelworkers website*

**[www.goodyearnegotiations.com](http://www.goodyearnegotiations.com)**

*Goodyear website*

## Ask Texas Representative to Vote “No” on the Oman Trade Treaty!

Again placing America second in the NAFTA/CAFTA “free trade” game, Congress is about to embark on a trade treaty with Oman that promises more of the same disregard for conditions for workers around the world.

*Please call Democratic members of Congress from Texas who have not committed to oppose the Oman Free Trade Agreement and ask them to vote “no”.*

Like NAFTA and CAFTA, the proposed Oman FTA negotiated by the Bush administration pays scant attention to working Americans. The proposed deal includes no obligation for the governments to meet international standards for worker rights. Like NAFTA and CAFTA, the agreement worsens a cheap-import policy that races to the bottom of world labor standards. And like NAFTA and CAFTA, the deal threatens the ability of the U.S. government to enact laws that are in the interests of workers and consumers.

The Texas Fair Trade Coalition reports, “Abuse of foreign workers, including forced labor, non-payment of minimum wage, and even physical and sexual violence, are known occurrences in Oman, and yet the Government has not adequately enforced its own laws forbidding such practices.”

The coalition lists the following Democrats as undecided on the proposed treaty:

U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez: 202-225-3236

U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards: 202-225-6105

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee: 202-225-3816

U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson: 202-225-8885

U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes: 202-225-4831

U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz: 202-225-7742

U.S. Ruben Hinojosa: 202-225-2531

U.S. Henry Cuellar: 202-225-1640

Please call these lawmakers and urge them to oppose the Oman Free Trade Agreement and demand a reworked version that includes enforceable worker rights provisions.

Jimmie Bateman won \$ 34.00 from the June meeting drawing.

The monthly meeting will be held July 10th, John Nash Activity Center, 6:00 PM. Members are to bring finger food and desserts.

Retirees are encourage to attend the July 10th meeting. Dr. Di Paolo from the University of Texas Health Center will be the guest speaker discussing “ Fitness Over Forty”. Drawing for door prizes will be held at the end of the meeting.

Dr. David Di Paolo is a board-certified radiologist at The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler, where he directs the MRI Center. In addition to his medical expertise, Dr. Di Paolo is certified as a Lifestyle and Weight Management Consultant with the American Council on Exercise. He also has received two certifications for personal training, one with the American Council on Exercise and the other with the American College of Sports Medicine, the premier fitness organization in the nation that sets the guidelines and standards for training and physical activity.

Dr. Di Paolo’s continuing education efforts have included additional training in:

- \*Youth fitness
- \*Older adult fitness
- \*Strength training
- \*Nutrition
- \*Exercise during pregnancy
- \*Yoga
- \*Postural corrective exercises

With a keen interest in advancing health and fitness advice for middle-aged and older adults, Dr. Di Paolo currently lectures on a variety of topics, including:

- \*Fitness for adults over forty
- \*Managing obesity
- \*Exercising with diabetes
- \*Strength training
- \*Exercising for bone health
- \*Getting started with an exercise regimen

Dr. Di Paolo and his wife, Sue, also a personal trainer as well as a nurse, have two sons who are members of the Texas East Gymnastics Team.



## Retirees' Corner

by Tennie Hulsey and Carol Swanson

## Ladies Auxiliary

September 14-17 a trip to Nashville, Tennessee is scheduled for the S.O.A.R. Organization. If you have any questions or want to sign up to go contact Helen Young at 903-595-3469. We plan to go by Chartered Bus but there is a certain number we must have to travel by bus.

## “SSS”

“SSS” is coming to the S.O.A.R. Club. That stands for “Senior Star Search”. If you play an instrument and would like to become a member of a band for the retirees contact Carol or Jack Swanson at 903-593-8990 or Tennie Hulsey at 903- 566-2383.

Also if you have a talent and want to entertain (ladies that does not mean a talent for shopping , because that comes natural). If you know how to sing, dance, etc. American Idol move over because now we have “ Senior Star Search 2006”.

There will be no meeting in July due to July 4th is on our regular meeting date. Ladies be sure to attend August 1st meeting. You will be notified location of the meeting. S.O.A.R. Members be sure to bring your items for the Family Room at Hospice of East Texas Home Place. The snacks that we donate are appreciated by the families. If you have never had a family member or friend at Hospice of East Texas Home Place, I would like to encourage you to call 903 -266-3400 and have some one to take you on a tour. I was called one Friday night to go and style a womans hair and polish her nails requested by a nurse. When I arrived and went to the patients room it was the mother of a high school classmate of Jacks. What I could do for the family meant even more to me since we knew the family. If you have time and want to volunteer , I encourage you to call the Volunteer Coordinator, Judy Griffin at 903-266-3400 and volunteer. Some volunteer positions are not patient contact. I have volunteered there for two years. - Carol Swanson

**Happy July 4th ! Have a Safe and Fun Day!**



**Remember our Troops,  
America, and Our Leaders**



## Speak Out for Universal Health Care

The Citizens’ Health Care Working Group, created by Congress in 2003, is calling for the nation to develop and implement universal health care by 2012. The group is taking public comments before finalizing its interim recommendations—**and you should add your voice.**

Go to [www.citizenshealthcare.gov/speak\\_out/ircomment1.php](http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/speak_out/ircomment1.php) to tell the working group you support high-quality health care for all.

Health costs are soaring, 46 million of us have no insurance and employers are shifting health coverage burdens to workers left and right. President George W. Bush has responded with a proposal for privatized Health Savings Accounts and high-deductible, limited benefit plans that would push us even further in the wrong direction. **Bush’s plan would actually cost consumers more, provide less care and encourage more employers to dump workers’ health coverage.**

In contrast, the working group’s interim recommendations are heartening for those of us who believe strongly that not only the rich should be able to get good health care. The group declares, **“It should be public policy that all Americans have affordable health care,” and calls for the government to define a “core” benefit package for all Americans,** guarantee financial protection against very high health care costs, support integrated community health networks and promote efforts to improve quality of care and efficiency.

The 14-member commission, which so far has heard from more than 20,000 people—**many of them union members**—at 75 community meetings around the country and online, is taking recommendations and comments from the public until Aug. 31.

**Don’t let the Bush administration followers, who think privatized health care accounts and high-deductible health plans will fix America’s health care crisis, control this debate. Be sure you make your voice heard, too.**

## More Workers Than Estimated Accept GM Buyout

More than 47,000 hourly General Motors and Delphi employees have accepted early retirement or buyout offers, news reports said. At GM, around 35,000 workers are slated to leave by the end of the year, while at Delphi, more than half of its workforce of 24,000 opted for the plan.

Since more workers than anticipated chose to take the offer, GM can now close 12 plants by 2008 to lower costs and reach the company goal of cutting 30,000 jobs two years ahead of schedule, sources said.

GM will pay \$3.6 billion for the buyouts, which will end up saving the company \$8 billion a year. That is \$1 billion more than CEO Rick Wagoner originally stated, news sources said.

Most of the GM employees who are leaving worked there 27-plus years and were eligible for the early retirement option, which is \$35,000 plus full retirement benefits. Workers with less tenure give up their benefits but keep their pensions, and get either \$70,000 or \$140,000 in a lump-sum, reports said.

Analysts said the reason so many workers chose to take the buyout is because their future at GM would be uncertain. The current United Automobile Workers contract with GM will end next year, and the union might be forced to make concessions in their new contract, reports said.

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## A Fatality Occurred At Goodyear Plant In Valleyfield, Quebec

On Saturday, June 17, at 8:20 a.m. an employee of Service d'Entretien Mécanique Salaberry, a firm that provides contract labor to the Valleyfield plant, was struck by a fork truck as he entered an intersection of 2 aisles near the #1 mixing laydown area. One of the forks hit the contractor's leg just below the knee causing him to fall forward hitting his head on the mast of the fork truck and then hitting the back of his head on the concrete floor. To our greatest regret, the contractor died two days later as a result of these injuries.

The contractor's name is being withheld at the request of his family, and he worked at the Valleyfield Plant off and on for the last 15 years. Many lives will be affected due to this tragic loss of life; primarily the family, friends and other loved ones of the man who was fatally injured, but also the operator of the fork truck, his family, and fellow co-workers.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the individual's family during this very difficult time," said Interim Plant Manager André Racine. "We are cooperating fully with the authorities investigating this matter."

Safety inspectors from the Quebec C.S.S.T. are investigating the incident along with Huw Marsden from North American Tire.

To not fully comprehend the magnitude of this situation would be our greatest flaw. Unfortunately, work-related deaths are not an uncommon occurrence, but does this make them any less dramatic or significant? The answer should be absolutely not. What is your common response upon hearing of these fatalities? Initially, we feel sorrowful and offer our most sincere condolences to all those involved, and we probably make ourselves much more aware of our own surroundings for a short time to follow. Yet, throughout the course of day to day life, we gradually become more complacent to the hazards that surround us everyday. Why must it take something so drastic and so terrible to happen, for us to awaken our senses once again to such life-threatening possibilities? Something most everyone is guilty of, yet we should make every possible effort from which to refrain. Please make yourself aware to all potential hazards, stay alert to your surroundings, and make your work place as safe as possible. Not just for yourself, but for everyone else as well. Never have the mentality that if you happen to get hurt, you are only effecting yourself. This accident simply involved one man walking and another on a fork truck, in just the blink of an eye, so many lives will never be the same.

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## 616 'Guess the Name' and 20 win

A total of 616 Goodyear associates correctly guessed that Goodyear's newest airship would be named "Spirit of Innovation." Of that group, 20 have been selected at random as prize winners in the exclusive Goodyear associate "Guess the Name" contest.

**First prize – Ride-for-two on the Goodyear Blimp:**

**Second prize – Set of four Goodyear tires**

**Third prize – Certificate for oil/lube/filter change at any GASC:**

First-prize winners will be contacted next week to determine blimp ride availability. Second- and third-prize winners will receive certificates via inter-office mail.

## Building the Spirit of Innovation

**CAPTION: Top photo: Lesa France Kennedy (left), president of International Speedway Corp. and a member of NASCAR's Board of Directors, christened the *Spirit of Innovation* along with Lynn Keegan, wife of Chairman Bob Keegan. Bottom photo: The *Spirit of Goodyear* flies overhead while final preparations are underway for the christening of Goodyear's newest airship.**

On June 21st, Goodyear's newest blimp, the *Spirit of Innovation* was christened with fanfare, applause and a splash of the bubbly. However, before all the glitz of the celebratory event, the blimp demands nothing less than hard work and diligence from its crew members in Airship Operations. The christening was the culmination of a months-long effort for the newest blimp in Goodyear's fleet. It was created to replace the *Stars & Stripes*, which was damaged in Florida during a storm last year.



# Sweatshop Ban Heads USW Lobbying List

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)—A ban on the export, import or sale of goods made by sweatshop labor topped the legislative agenda for the Steelworkers' Rapid Response conference in Washington in mid-June. But health care wasn't far behind. And the Employee Free Choice Act was on the lobbying list for the workers, too.

Urged on by USW President Leo Gerard, retiring USW Legislative Director Bill Klinefelter and others, the 800 delegates in D.C. descended on their lawmakers to lobby on several key issues for the 850,000-worker union.

But they also paused to celebrate a win, as labor and congressional pressure forced the Bush administration Energy Department to reverse its decision to abolish traditional pensions for nuclear site cleanup workers, represented by USW through former Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers locals.

Still, that ruling showed the Bush administration's attitude towards workers, their pay, their pensions and their prospects, Klinefelter said. "They weave and weave and weave their threads" against workers, he warned. And the lasting solution to that political "weaving" problem, he added, is through elections.

"We got a 1-year moratorium and hearings next year on the issue," he declared on June 21. "And then next year, we'll get another 1-year moratorium. And in 2009, we won't have to worry about the future of our defined-benefit pensions because we'll (his emphasis) have the Energy Department" after election of a pro-worker president.

That left the activists, who initiate USW's Rapid Response network in home states and locals when issues arise, to descend on Congress, armed with data and worksheets reporting on their reception. The new issue, a sweatshop ban (S. 3485) crafted by Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) and USW, headed the list.

"The race to the bottom is fueled by corporations that search out the cheapest labor and fewest standards to produce their goods. These products are often bound for the U.S. market. Workers abroad are exploited, while workers here find themselves unable to compete on this anything-but-level playing field," USW's fact sheet said.

Dorgan's bill would help halt that race, the union added, by forcing corporations to certify that their products are not made in sweatshops, and banning them if they are. It defined sweatshop goods as "those made under conditions that violate International Labour Organization standards—to organize and bargain collectively, to refuse forced labor, to reject child labor and to work free from discrimination" on the job.

And Dorgan's bill would let investors and competitors of firms

that use sweatshop-produced goods to sue both the guilty companies and the government if it fails to enforce the law, the fact sheet added.

Gerard told the crowd the sweatshop ban would be the first item on the Rapid Response agenda, at least in their conference. After that, he said, USW will sit down and discuss the two single-payer health care bills it wants to have its activists push.

One is HR 676, by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), to establish a publicly financed but private practitioner-delivered health care system, based on Medicare.

USW calculated HR 676 would save \$286 billion of the \$2 trillion the U.S. now spends on health care, by eliminating the private health insurers, their 20 percent overhead and their profits. It would also restore patient choice of doctors and providers.

The union said Conyers' bill would be paid for "a health tax on the top 5 percent of income earners, a modest payroll tax"—it gave no figure—"a minimal tax on stock and bond transfers and current sources of federal revenue for health care."

The other is S. 2229, the Medicare for All Act by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). It extends Medicare and its benefits to those under 65, possibly in stages for various groups. USW calculated it would save \$380 billion in health care costs, as Medicare has only 1 percent-3 percent in overhead costs, speakers told the crowd. S. 2229 would be paid for through general government revenues, a 7 percent excise tax levied on employers' payrolls and a 1.7 percent income tax on all workers.

Both bills would completely eliminate insurance companies and their premiums, co-pays, deductibles and out-of-pocket costs, thus giving workers net savings, speakers and the fact sheet said. And both would rewrite Bush's prescription drugs program to make it more senior-friendly and less generous to the pharmaceutical industry.

The sweatshop bill and the health care bill left EFCA as third on the agenda, but delegates devoted a morning to a detailed briefing on the need for leveling the playing field in labor law, before heading up to Congress to buttonhole lawmakers about it. Speakers stressed that EFCA would end one-sided labor election procedures, make it easier to get court orders against employer labor law-breaking and produce meaningful penalties—as well as forcing employers to bargain a first contract after a union wins.

And Klinefelter sent the delegates off with another piece of good news, on trade. He quoted that morning's *Financial Times* as saying that when presidential trade treaty negotiating authority expires, "it is very doubtful any administration will ever get it again."

He added: "Since 1995, we have raised the issue so that no politician, Democrat or Republican, can run without talking about trade."

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## Cost of Living Allowance

The cost-of-living allowance effective for the base period of March, April and May 2006 is twenty-seven (\$.27) cents. This increase will raise COLA from the current \$9.86 per hour to \$10.13 per hour effective July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

**Due to physician vacations, the Goodyear Medi Center will be closed on Saturdays July 1 through July 22nd. (July 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd) Saturday office hours will resume on July 29th.**

## Blood Drive Results Are In

Employees from Stewart Regional Blood Center were in the plant and the union hall on Wednesday June 7th and Thursday June 8th. The blood drive took place in the main conference and at the John Nash Activities building and a total of 136 pints of blood were donated. We would like to thank each associate who not only donated, but also attempted to donate to this very worth-while cause. Remember, you can give blood throughout the year at the Stewart Blood Center or you may attend one of many blood drives that take place throughout East Texas. Blood is always needed and your help is always appreciated.

## Tyler ICD Coordinator Named

The ICD (Institute for Career Development) program made another step toward becoming a reality this week. The ICD Local Joint Committee (Richard Pickette, Jim Wansley, Harold Sweat, Marsha Raska, Mike Newsom and Carrie King) announced Steve Day as the new ICD Site Coordinator on Tuesday. Day brings with him a great deal of experience in the areas of training and education. He is retired from Goodyear/Kelly Springfield with over 30 years of service. Day's last job was Training & Communications Manager here in Tyler. Although retired, he has recently been involved in conducting sales and product training for Goodyear sights around the country. Day officially assumed his new role June 1.



**ICD Coordinator  
Steve Day**

From this point on, a great deal of work will need to be done in order to bring Tyler's ICD Center to fruition. Requests for start up funds, securing an office space for the learning center and initial training for the coordinator will be the first items receiving attention. Progress on the implementation of the program will be communicated as soon as it occurs.

Following this start up phase, the coordinator will then set out to survey the Tyler work force in order to gather information about what subjects or courses that the Tyler associates would like to see offered through the ICD program. This initial survey will serve as the foundation for the new program. As the momentum builds with the local ICD program, please be thinking about what you would like to see offered through the program and contribute your ideas to the survey when it takes place. Be watching the The Stretch, the Tyler Pride, the KTTV system, as well as for special postings communicating information about the Institute for Career Development here in Tyler.

At this time, many questions exist related to this new initiative for the Tyler Plant. Sources for these questions include plant employees that will benefit from the ICD process, members of the Local Joint Committee that will establish guidelines to provide program direction and even questions from me, regarding my role and responsibilities. Until there is a more formal mechanism to identify and address questions and provide information on program status, I plan to use the weekly publication as a means to provide communication updates to plant personnel," said Tyler ICD Coordinator, Steve Day.

Goodyear's involvement with ICD is a direct result of the 2003 Master negotiations.

To date, five Goodyear plants covered under the Master Agreement have requested and received an ICD overview. Tyler is

first to move forward with implementation. "Everyone should keep in mind that Tyler is in "start-up" phase of introducing the ICD process to the plant population. It is vital that we create a strong foundation on which to build and do things right," stated Day. "For that reason, the speed of implementation may not be as fast as some may like. However, a meeting is planned next week with the Local Joint Committee (LJC), for the purpose of discussing what actions have taken place thus far and what is needed for the immediate future. As more information becomes available, it will be shared with plant employees," Day said. "In the near future, I hope to have an e-mail account where other questions can be sent directly to me."

Several questions have been asked already related to the new ICD Program.

**Q** - Where does the money come from that will fund ICD?

**A** - As part of the last Master Contract between Goodyear & the USWA, it was agreed that beginning in year 2006, Goodyear would contribute a certain amount of money into an ICD account based on total number of tire units sold during each quarter. This money then becomes available for use by Union plants in NAT. Based on the number of employees at a particular location; a formula is used to determine how much of the overall money deposited is set aside for that plant.

**Q** - Who will be eligible to participate in the ICD Program?

**A** - Since this is a program that came out of the Master Agreement, any member of Local 746L can participate.

**Q** - What type of training classes will be provided by ICD?

**A** - The simplest way to answer this is to say that at this time, it is unknown what type of classes will be offered. In the near future, a survey will be distributed to plant employees, asking for their input and interests. Once the survey is completed, that information will be reviewed by the Local Joint Committee (LJC) and that committee will determine the classes that will be made available.

**Q** - Will people be paid while attending any ICD training?

**A** - No. All classes offered will be voluntary and wages will not be paid.

**Q** - Where and when will classes be taught?

**A** - The Tyler Plant is now in the process of identifying an off-site location that will become the Tyler ICD Learning Center. Training sessions will be done at this facility. A specific class will be scheduled at different times that will allow people working different shifts to attend.

**Q** - When will Tyler be ready to begin implementing the local ICD Program?

**A** - The LJC has submitted a "Request for Start-up Funds". Once approved, money will then become available for use by the Tyler Plant to begin operation of the local program. It is expected that approval will take a couple weeks.

**Q** - What will it cost to take a class using ICD?

**A** - There is no cost to the employee to take the class using ICD. ICD funds will be used to cover these costs.

## 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](mailto: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

# RETIREMENTS



**Cecyl Inselman**

**Steve Jones**

**Fancy Love Jr.**

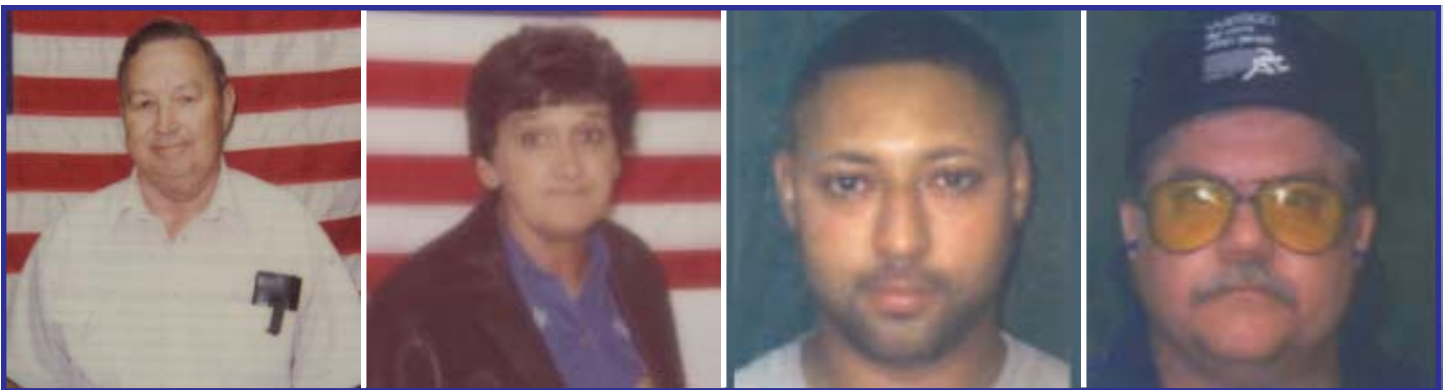


**Kelly Smith**

**Jasper Warren**

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# OBITUARIES



**Ernest G. Hawkins**, passed away on June 13. He was an Electrician and retired in April of 1999.

**Becky Johns** passed away on June 25th. She was medically retired in January 2006. Becky was 55 years old.

**Charles Williams** passed away on June 28th. He worked in Dept. 430 as a Duplex Roll Changer. Charles was 39 years old.

**Rex Shirley**, Dept. 119 Electrician, passed away on July 1st. He had 21 years of service. Rex was 50 years old.

## Plant Manager Addresses Tyler Workforce On Goodyear Private Label Announcement

“This announcement from corporate was certainly not anything that anyone wants to hear but it is a reality,” said Billy Taylor.

“Although this is unsettling news, we must keep all things in perspective. First, at this time there are no published plans as to how this might affect Tyler. Secondly, it is very important to remember that Tyler remains the most consistent plant in NAT in achieving our ticket and meeting out financial objectives. This is all the more reason for each and everyone of us to stay focused and keep the image of Tyler in a positive light in Akron,” stated Taylor.

“I am confident in the Tyler team! We have shown that we can perform well and we will be successful in the things that we can control. As always, I appreciate your efforts in keeping Tyler on track and competitive in North American Tire,” Taylor concluded.

## Executive of McWane Company Sentenced to Prison for Environmental Crimes

Charles Matlock, an executive with Springville, Utah-based Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Co., was sentenced in a federal court to 12 months and 1 day in prison and a \$20,000 fine for violating the federal Clean Air Act.

Pacific States, which manufactures cast-iron pipe for the water and sewer industry, is a subsidiary of McWane Inc. – a Birmingham Ala.-based cast-iron pipe-making company with a lengthy rap sheet of environmental and safety violations and convictions.

On Feb. 8, a federal judge sentenced McWane to pay a fine of \$3 million – the largest criminal environmental fine in Utah history – and serve a 3-year period of probation, after it pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act. At that time, Matlock also pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act by rendering inaccurate a stack emissions test required under the act.

“[The] sentencing of the former vice president and general

manager of Pacific States Pipe Company underscores McWane’s lamentable record of serious environmental misconduct nationwide,” said Granta Nakayama, EPA’s assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance. “The message should be clear that prosecutions will go as high up the corporate hierarchy as the evidence permits and we will hold senior managers of corporations accountable, as well as the corporation itself. All company employees should definitely think twice about knowingly breaking the law because they should clearly understand that they will face incarceration and fines for harming the environment and putting the public at risk.”

The sentencing of Matlock comes just a few weeks after a jury found another McWane subsidiary – Phillipsburg, N.J.-based Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Co. – and four of its officials guilty of committing egregious violations of safety and environmental laws.

Joe Wyatt  
Editor  
joewyatt@cox-internet.com  
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cation.

Joe Wyatt  
Editor

(Phone ) 903-595-3469

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