



THE STRETCH

Local 746L



VOLUME 36, ISSUE NO. 3

TYLER, TEXAS

MARCH, 2006

From The President's Desk

by Jim Wansley

Last month I talked about how 2006 will be a year of negotiation, first with the Master Contract and then with the Local Contract talks beginning soon after our local elections. In this article, I'd like to reflect a bit on the last six years, where we've been and where we've got to get to in order for the Tyler plant and our Local Union to not only survive, but to prosper in these difficult, uncertain times.

As I talk to our members I'm asked about one thing more than anything else. Everyone wants to know where we stand and what's going to happen with the Tyler plant during these upcoming contract negotiations. One reason I don't get very far when I do come over and go through the plant is because of the amount of time I spend with each person who wants to talk when I do. I try to give that person a complete answer to whatever question I'm asked. The response to where do we stand is one I spend the most time on, whenever I'm asked about it.

The short answer is that we're in a much better place than we were in 2000 or 2003 but that we have a ways to go to be as secure as any one of the big plants (Union City, Fayetteville or Lawton), which is where we want to be. In 2000, and really as early as 1998, Tyler was in trouble although it wasn't readily apparent to most people on the plant floor. In 2003, despite our best efforts, we were in even worse trouble because of the terrible condition of Goodyear and our "place" in the North American Tire structure as the Goodyear plant producing only "low value added" tires. In fact, Goodyear had begun planning for the demise of the Tyler plant as early as 1998 and, by late 2002 had decided to take the plant down by half in the last six months of 2003 and down completely in 2004. Investment in equipment that changed Tyler production from the "low value added" tires to "high value added" tires had been almost non-existent for some time and that, more than anything else, was endangering the Tyler plant.

While we had garnered support for Tyler that hadn't been there in 2000, the financially distressed condition of Goodyear in 2003 was threatening to overcome all our efforts and take Tyler down, as well as Huntsville and several of the Goodyear Engineered Products plants.

The agreement reached between the Steelworkers and Goodyear in 2003 provided Tyler with three years of guaranteed life and made it possible for us to get where we are today. The agreement kept production of high value added tires and, to a lesser extent, low value added tires in the United States. It provided investment opportunity for American plants, including Tyler. Our Local Agreements, with their Productivity Plan goals, kept our wages and benefits among the best in

manufacturing while creating a joint effort by company and union to make the Goodyear North American Tire and Goodyear Engineered Products Division plants more efficient and competitive, allowing Goodyear to survive and come back from the brink of bankruptcy. During the last three years that goal has been achieved.

In the last six years we've fought and scratched and clawed to provide a future for Tyler even as manufacturing in the United States has lost not only plants but also entire industries. In Tyler we have improved our position in the very worst of times for Goodyear. It hasn't been easy, but the majority of the people here have understood and supported those efforts and this union leadership group for the last six years.

In 2006 we have to reach an agreement between the Union and Company that will allow us to continue the struggle and, ultimately, prevail. What that means for Tyler is obtain investment that changes our product line from low value to high valued added tires. It means we must grow this plant and become a large Goodyear North American Tire plant on a par with Union City, Fayetteville and Union City.

In short, we have to continue down the road begun in 2000 in Tyler. We control our destiny at this point and that is, in itself, quite an accomplishment given everything going on around us and where we started six years ago.

We belong to the best union out there. We have one of the best local unions in that union. There will always be those who say different and who might try to convince you otherwise for some reason. But the truth is our union has kept Tyler open, kept Goodyear producing tires in this country and done it in such a way that provides more job security and good benefits for our members. We have to continue down that road in 2006. Controlling your destiny means it can go either way. It doesn't mean you have it made and can coast, or you can afford to make bad decisions and survive.

As we come into the election cycle here, choose well. Ask questions of those running for office. They will make decisions that will affect your job and your family. Just being critical of those who have shown what they stand for should not be enough to get your vote. Just a handshake and a smile isn't enough. Find out from those asking for your vote what they are going to bring to the party. Then show up and vote. If you don't vote, then you have made a real mistake.

I want to thank everyone who has supported doing what's needed to keep this plant open during the last six years. Thanks to your efforts and your support, we control our destiny.

Pension and Insurance Notes

by Sherrell Brown

Medical Center Offers Free Cholesterol & Glucose Screenings

Who: *Employee's or dependents over 30 years of age*

who:

- Have never had their cholesterol checked
- Have not had their cholesterol checked in several years
- Do not take medication to lower their cholesterol
- Do not have to be patients at the medical center

What: *Cholesterol & Glucose Screening*

- Come as you are, no fasting required
- Takes about 10 minutes
- We'll take a few drops of blood from your fingertip
- Results while you wait

Where: *Goodyear Family Medical Center*

No appointment required

Why: *Adults should have their cholesterol and Blood Sugar checked at least every 5 years to assure early detection of conditions such as diabetes and high cholesterol that would require treatment.*

When: *March 14, 15 & 16 (Tuesday through Wednesday) 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00 while supplies last.*

Discounts for Goodyear Associates

Ready for Spring Break? Goodyear team members can enjoy some traveling discounts. Check out the following savings opportunities.

Avis

Save up to 15 percent off regular rates. Call 1-800-698-5685. Be sure you mention member discount identification number D42600 Entertainment Benefits Group.

Budget

Save up to 25 percent off of a rental car. Call 1-800-455-2848 and mention BCD number X989200.

Hotel Chains

Team members can save up to 50 percent off overnight hotel accommodations at thousands of locations in the U.S. and Canada. To redeem the offer, call the number for the hotels listed below and give the identifications number 64702 at the time of reservation.

AmeriHost: 1-800-996-2087

Days Inn: 1-800-268-2195

Howard Johnson: 1-800-769-0939

Travelodge: 1-800-545-5545

Advance reservations are required. Offer is subject to availability and some blackout dates may apply. Discount is off regular rate and cannot be combined with any other discounts, offers or special promotions. Discounts vary by location and time of year.

To learn more about other discounts offered by the Entertainment Benefits Group, log on to www.ticketsatwork.com and enter the company code Goodyear.

The Entertainment Benefits Group is offering discounts to Goodyear team members on hotels and Florida Vacations.

AmeriHost Inn, Days Inn, Howard Johnson, Knights Inn, Ramada Inn, Super 8 Motel, Travelodge and Wingate Inn are the current participating hotels. Team members can save up to 50% off these overnight accommodations.

Planning a Florida vacation to Walt Disney World or Universal Orlando? Goodyear team members can enjoy their next Florida vacation at a discounted price. To learn more about these discounts, go to www.ticketsatwork.com, where you can create your own account using the company code, Goodyear.

Smoking Cessation Products are FSA Eligible

Those working hard to stop using tobacco are reminded that smoking cessation products are eligible for reimbursement from healthcare Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA).

"Although we all know the benefits of quitting tobacco use go deeper than FSA reimbursements, it's still a hard task to accomplish for some," said Gary Dannemiller, Goodyear's manager of benefit operations.

Heavy tobacco users trying to quit can find relief with smoking cessation products that ease withdrawal symptoms by delivering small, steady doses of nicotine spread-out over many hours. In contrast, smoking offers an immediate rush as nicotine enters the lungs and then travels to the brain within seconds.

Additionally, smoking cessation products don't contain tar, carbon monoxide and other toxins that make cigarettes harmful to one's health.

Smoking cessation products eligible for FSA reimbursement are over-the-counter gum, lozenges and skin patches. Nasal sprays and inhalers are only available by prescription, however, prescription drug co-pays can be reimbursed through healthcare FSA as well.

Items purchased during 2005 must be submitted before March 31. Any balances remaining in an associate's account not used for expenses incurred in 2005, will be forfeited.

Other items eligible for reimbursement include certain non-prescription, over-the-counter medications including antacids, allergy medicines, pain relievers and cold medicines. Also any amounts not paid by a medical, drug, dental or vision plans, including: deductibles, co-payments and amounts above plan limits.

Quick Steps to Restore Dependent Benefits

Goodyear associates who were unable to complete the company's dependent audit, and who believe their dependents are still eligible, may follow one of several steps to have those benefits restored with no lapse in coverage, according to the corporation's compensation and benefits department.

1. Respond in a timely manner. If you have been asked to provide additional information, or if you are just now trying to comply with requests that were made last summer, submit your information as quickly as possible. You may fax your documents to 602-797-6424, noting that you are replying to the dependent audit request for documentation.

2. Allow time for Goodyear's Solution Center to process your data. The Solution Center has experienced a high call volume since the ineligible notices were mailed. Associates who have submitted data need to allow time to have the data processed and repeated calls slow the process. All associates who have submitted data will get confirmation that data is adequate or additional information is needed.

3. Any dependents that need to have a prescription filled or that need to see a doctor should do so. Although they may have to pay the full price for the prescription or the doctor's office visit, associates who provide the required documentation on a timely basis may request claims to be resubmitted once benefit coverage has been restored for their dependents.

4. Many vendors will automatically re-process claims for services denied if the eligibility is restored quickly. There is a better chance of that happening, however, if documentation is provided in a timely fashion.

Earlier this year, Goodyear reported that associates had voluntarily removed nearly 5,000 dependents during the two audit phases. A number of other dependents were removed involuntarily, meaning associates did not respond to requests for documentation, they did not respond in a timely manner, or the information that they submitted was incomplete.

Goodyear's Benefits Solution Center is working with associates to get their dependent coverage restored if the needed documentation is timely received and complete. Associates who do not respond timely face the possibility of losing dependent benefit coverage until the next open enrollment period in November.

February 13th, SOAR ORGANIZATION, met at 6:00 PM at the John Nash Activity Center. The theme for the night was "Valentine". The door prize money was won by Hazel Stanley, \$ 37.50.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13th, 6:00 PM, at the John Nash Activity Center. The retirees meal for the evening will be a fish fry. Members are asked to bring desserts. Eugene Hulsey, President, encourages new retirees to attend this meeting.

Special Prayer for President, Eugene Hulsey. Eugene has been back in Trinity Mother Frances Health System. Also continue to pray for Billy Cooper. He has been in CICU at Trinity Mother Frances Health System.

Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies auxiliary met February 7th , 10:00 am at the John Nash Activity Center. Sarah Lockwood worked with the members on "lap throws" they are making to take to Tyler and Area Nursing

Homes. Members are to bring them back to their March meeting finished. President Tommie Frances is going to work with the ladies attending the March meeting to make bibs for Tyler and Area Nursing Homes. Ladies are to bring "bias tape" to the March meeting.

The ladies decided to start a Red Hat Group for "fun" and not form a chapter and belong to a National Organization at this time. They are going to have their first luncheon, March 15th, 11:00 am at Southern Magnolia Eatery, 3307 Chandler Hwy (inside Loop

323 near Weaver Chiropractic Office). Ladies wear your purple outfit, red hat, and join us. Lockie VanDeman is the Red Hat Queen for the group. By the way, Inez Keller is having a birthday that day. What a way to spend your birthday.

The next ladies auxiliary meeting is scheduled for March 7th, 10:00 am, at the John Nash Activity Center. Ladies are asked to bring finger food and plan to work on the bibs.

Continue to remember our Troops and their families, Our President, and Our Country.



STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES

RETIREES' BANQUET

On Friday, February 10th, the annual Retirees' Banquet was held at Harvey Hall. There were about 500 people in attendance. Catering was done by Hickory Fare Barbecue and entertainment was provided by magician Bruce Thompson. Buck Buckler was the main speaker. President Jim Wansley, Barbara Jedlicka from the Medi-Center and Johnny Lollar from Trinity Mother Frances also made comments. Also S.O.A.R. President Gene Hulsey was able to attend the event and gave opening and closing prayers. Gene has recently had brain surgery.

There are many more pictures that were made at the banquet and are available by e-mail only. If you would like to receive these pictures in your e-mail, and you are not already on The Stretch e-mail list, send a request to joewyatt@cox-internet.com.



Election for 746L Union Officials Nears

On Thursday March 2nd at the regular March monthly meeting nominations will be held for the election of union officials. Candidates wishing to submit an article about themselves and their qualifications for the April Stretch must have it in by March 20th. The voting on union officials will take place on April 12th & 13th from 6am to 4pm on both days. If necessary, a runoff will be held April 19th & 20th from 6am till 4pm both days. Those elected officials being formally installed at the May union meeting. The articles from candidates were going to put them in this month's Stretch, but at this time the nominations have yet to be made and the April Stretch will be out before the elections, so these articles will be fresh on everyone's mind when they go to vote.

Mail them to the union hall, e-mail them to joewyatt@cox-internet.com, or give them to **EI Coordinator Jim Clark** or **Joe Wyatt, R1/R2 Tirebuilder, A-Team.**

Below are the duties of officers as listed in The By Laws Book of Local 746L, 2003 edition.

By Laws of USW Local 746L

ARTICLE V Duties of Officers

Section 1. Duties of the President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Local Union and preserve order, and shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Local Union membership. The President shall have the right to vote at all elections of Officers and when the members are equally divided on other questions, shall have the deciding vote.

The President shall call special meetings in compliance with Article VIII of the International Constitution. Notice of all special meetings must be given the members of the Local Union by bulletin board posting or other reasonable means. The business of the special meeting shall be confined to the subject in which that meeting was called, and the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the same procedures as govern regular meetings.

The President shall enforce the provisions of the International Constitution and of these By-Laws and the policies and manuals of the International Union, and shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for and be ex officio member of all committees. The President shall perform such other duties as the Local Union may assign.

In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Guide, Guard or Trustee or in the position of Grievance Committee Member at any time during the term of office, the remaining Local Union Officers shall, by majority vote, select a successor to service for the remainder of that term.

Wherever a Local Union Officer (except President) or Grievance Committee Member, because of receipt of an extended vacation benefit or otherwise, will be unable to serve during an extended temporary period, a temporary replacement will be designated as provided in the Local Union By-Laws, and in compliance with the International Constitution. The temporary replacement shall carry out all duties of the office or post during such temporary period.

Where the temporary vacancy is in a Local Union Office (other than President) or in a Grievance Committee post, the Local Union Officers shall, by majority vote, select a "Temporary Acting" replacement. Temporary Acting Treasurers and Financial Secretaries shall be authorized, during the temporary period of their service, to be signatories to checks. A replacement shall serve only until the temporary period is ended.

In the event of a vacancy none of the remaining officers either alone or acting together may perform the functions of the vacant office but rather the vacancy must be filled in accordance with the provisions set forth above.

The Union President shall appoint, when there is no minority serving on the Negotiating Committee, at least one (1) member who is a minority to assist and advise Local Union Negotiating Committee during Local Union Negotiations on those matters relative to minorities.

Section 2. Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of the President's duties and during the President's absence shall perform the duties of the President. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall act as President for the unexpired term.

Section 3. Duties of the Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall record the proceedings of the Local Union in a book kept for that purpose, read all papers and perform such other duties as are required by the International Constitution, these By-Laws, the various manuals and policies of the International Union and the Local Union. The Recording Secretary shall also have custody of the Local Union Seal, and shall be responsible for any misuse of the same.

The Recording Secretary shall read to the Local Union all communication, which may require attention.

Section 4. Duties of the Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall receive all money due the Local Union and pay the same to the Treasurer, from whom the Financial Secretary shall take a receipt. The Financial Secretary shall also keep accurately the accounts of the Local Union with its members, and shall at all times have the books open for examination by the Trustees, and perform such other duties as are required by the International Constitution, these By

Laws, the various manuals and policies of the International Union, and the Local Union. The Financial Secretary shall make out the various reports required by the International Secretary-Treasurer and forward such reports to the International Secretary-Treasurer in accordance with instructions.

Should it be proved that the Financial Secretary has failed to report monthly the full membership of the Local Union as provided for in the report to the International Secretary-Treasurer and transmit the full amount of initiation fees and dues, the Financial Secretary shall be suspended from all privileges and benefits until the deficiency is made good, and shall be liable to the International Union for the full amount unpaid.

The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of all transfer request forms issued and received.

The Financial Secretary's accounts shall be subject at all times to audit by the International Secretary-Treasurer.

The Financial Secretary shall make a detailed financial report at least once each month at the Local Union meeting covering the receipts and expenditures of all funds of the Local Union. If the expenses of Local Union exceed its current income or impair its reserves, the Financial Secretary is obliged to call this fact to the attention of the membership.

Section 5. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive from the Financial Secretary all money collected by the Financial Secretary and shall deposit all money belonging to the Local Union in a bank designated by it. All initiation fees and dues shall be deposited in a separate bank account to be designated as a trust fund for the International Union. The Treasurer shall cause to be issued to the Financial Secretary a receipt for all money turned over to the Treasurer or deposited to the Treasurer's credit in the regular bank account.

The Treasurer shall issue a separate receipt for the amount of money turned over at any time or for such deposit made, and shall sign all checks and have them countersigned by the President and the Financial Secretary.

The Treasurer shall keep regular and correct accounts of all money received and paid by the Treasurer, and report at each meeting the balance of cash shown by the last report, the amount received since, the total checks issued and authorized, and the balance remaining. The Treasurer's accounts shall be open for examination by the Trustees at any time when called upon. The Treasurer's books shall be subject at all times to audit by the International Secretary-Treasurer of the United Steelworkers of America. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as are required by the International Constitution, these By Laws, the various manuals and policies of the International Union, and the Local Union.

All money paid out by the Local Union from its treasury must be approved by the membership at a Local Union meeting. Under no circumstances shall officers or members pay bills without authorization by a Local Union meeting, nor shall the members authorize payment of any bill or incur any obligation for which funds are unavailable, nor shall the members authorize the payment of or incur a debt for any activity not in accordance with the Constitution and policies of the International Union and these By-Laws.

Recurring standard bills (fixed salaries which have been previously authorized including local, state, and federal taxes; rent; light; heat; etc.) may be paid by the Treasurer on a single authorization by the Local Union to pay such bills when due.

Under no circumstances shall any of the dues collected by the Local Union be spent before being sent to the International Secretary-Treasurer.

The Treasurer maintains a petty cash fund of no more than One Hundred (100) Dollars. He shall not carry a balance in the checking account greater than the amount of his bond.

Section 8. Duties of the Trustees

It shall be the duty of the Trustees to have charge of the hall and all property of the Local Union. They shall audit the books and financial records of the Local Union every three months and give a report of such audit at the next regular Local Union meeting. They shall perform such other duties as the Local Union may require.

Section 9. Duties of the Guide

It shall be the duty of the Guide to see that all present are entitled to remain.

Section 10. Duties of the Guards

It shall be the duty of the Guards to take charge of the door and see that no one enters who is not entitled to do so.

Announcing the..

PHILIP MURRAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

For

Members and Sons and Daughters of Members

Of

THE UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA — DISTRICT 12

(OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, COLORADO & UTAH - DOES NOT INCLUDE FORMER URW & ABG LOCALS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXISTENCE & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. THEY ARE LOCALS 235A, 746L, 985L & 998L.

Twelve Scholarships, each with a value of \$1,500.00 are to be made available for use in the freshman year at any accredited college or university in the United States or Canada. They will be awarded in May 2006 by the Existence and Educational Council, United Steelworkers of America, District 12. Winners of the scholarships will be selected by Selection Committees composed of professional educators.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE: All candidates must have a "B" average or better, during the junior or senior year in high school to be eligible. Candidates must be high school graduates or members of high school classes graduating before July 1, 2006 and must be either members, sons or daughters of members, or legal wards of members, of Local Unions affiliated with the Existence and Educational Council, District 12, United Steelworkers of America. The PHILIP MURRAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS are unrestricted as to sex, race, religion, political affiliation, and intended course of study.

The Scholarships will be awarded on a geographical basis, to candidates residing in the following areas:

Five in Sub-District 3 (Texas)

Five in Sub-District 4 (Arkansas & Oklahoma)

Two in Sub-District 5 (Colorado & Utah)

This distribution is based on the relative distribution of members of the United Steelworkers of America. Separate Selection Committees will function in each of the three areas.

HOW TO APPLY: Applicants will fill out the application blank, available from Jim Clark or from the union hall, except for the section to be filled out by the Local Union Financial Secretary. After completion of the application by the appropriate school official, applications should be mailed in an envelope addressed to The Scholarship Committee, United Steelworkers of America at the nearest of the following addresses:

1300 Rollingbrook Or, Suite 605, Baytown, TX 77521

Attention: John Patrick

P0 Box 1410, Benton, Arkansas 72018-1410

P0 Box 2009, Pueblo, Colorado 81004

CLOSING DATE: To be considered application must be post-marked NO LATER than April 15, 2006. For additional copies of this announcement and application form, write to the United Steelworkers of America at any of the above addresses.

Local 746L Host Best Practice Conference



N.A.T. Local Presidents and Safety Representatives

All 12 Union President and Safety representatives from North American Tire were at the 746L union hall the first week of February. President Jim Wansley invited the group to Tyler since Tyler is one of the leaders for safety in N.A.T.. The goal of the conference was to determine the best practices for safety systems. The presidents were here for support of the safety representatives.

Local 746L Safety Representative Red Blake said, "It was good to get to know the people in person that I deal with on a daily basis. Before this conference they were only a voice on the phone. I now have a face to go with the voice." Red went on to say that he thought the results of the conference were positive.

Applied's 2nd Annual Team Bass Tournament

Coming Soon



Applied's 2nd Annual Fishing Tournament at Lake Cypress Springs

We will be using Tall Timbers Marina

More Information will be available soon! Or call Brian at **903-780-8274**



Date 4/22/06

Tournament will be at Lake Cypress Springs for customers and friends of Applied Industrial Technologies. This includes Goodyear/Tyler employees and retirees. 100% of entry fee to be paid back in prizes along with many extras. \$60 entry per Team which includes Big Bass Prize

Entry fee will be needed by April 14th to ensure space.

Goodyear-Gadsden Associates Complete OSHA Course

Course Taught by Goodyear-Tyler Safety Representatives

In an effort to make Goodyear-Gadsden a safer workplace, it has become a goal to educate as many associates as possible about having a safe environment.

One educational experience took place last week at the Gadsden Inn Conference Center. There, two associates from Goodyear's Tyler plant taught 16 Gadsden associates an OSHA 30-hour general awareness course.

Red Blake, the United Steelworkers' Local 746L safety chairman, and **Gary Reedy**, the Local's ergonomics and training chairman, used Power point presentations, hands-on activities and displays to teach associates about OSHA requirements, from record keeping to lockout/tagout to material handling.

It also included discussions and activities focused on the Code of Federal Regulations.

"They had to learn to use the codebook and we did exercises for all of the modules," Blake said.

The modules from the class were means of egress, toxicology, electrical subpart, lockout/tagout, record keeping, permit required confined space, material handling, machine guarding, personal protective equipment, hazardous communications, access to records, ergonomics, hazardous materials, bloodborne pathogens, welding, and roles and responsibilities of the safety representatives and committees.

"The class went well," said Reedy, who is also a tirebuilder in Tyler. "The students were very involved. It's a fast-paced class, so

you really have to pay attention to get everything in 30 hours. Everyone did a great job of keeping up. We're just glad we had the opportunity to work with them."

Bren Riley, vice president of USW Local 12L, was instrumental in getting the OSHA 30-hour course for Gadsden associates.

"We were able to offer this class to our associates thanks to Goodyear's commitment to the safety of our associates," he said. "I appreciate that commitment. And, I appreciate Red and Gary for coming and sharing their knowledge with us."

Ronnie Reed, a longtime member of the Safety Leadership Committee, agreed. "I'm glad we were given the opportunity to learn from them," he said. "This is an excellent opportunity for our people to learn about the OSHA standards. Red and Gary did an excellent job of making this course a fun and enjoyable learning experience."

Now that the associates completed the 30-hour course, they will take the OSHA 501 course, which is known as the "Train the Trainer" class. It's being organized by Johnny Alexander, the training coordinator for USW. The course will begin March 13.

"Once they finish the 501 course, they'll be able to teach the 10-hour and 30-hour OSHA classes," said Blake, who is also an electrician at the Tyler plant.

Riley said the group plans to train all members of the Floor Safety Team by the end of the year.

Associates who participated in the first course include Tommy Stonebraker, Stan Pollard, Randy Alverson, Michelle O'Dell, Bren Riley, Bill Miller, Donnie Vickery, Betty Joe Power, Johnny Ingram, Frank Lang, Colin Ellis, Shirley Dyer, Jon Bowen, Billy Todd Gray, Harold Milan and Ronnie Reed.

For Sale

*1990 Ford Probe New Tires, Battery, & Brakes. Contact Jim Clark Ext 665 inside the plant or 903-535-1665 outside of the plant. **\$1500.00**

*Portable chain link dog kennel 7ft X 13ft, 6ft high. Includes dog house. Will deliver in the Tyler area. Contact Joe Wyatt, A Team R1/R2 Tire builder, or call 930-595-5378. **\$175.00**

Place an ad in The Stretch

Send ads by e-mail to:

joewyatt@cox-internet.com

or by regular mail to:

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

The ads from members and retirees of Local 746L are free for 3 lines like the ones listed above 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. Ads that run for longer than one month will have to be resubmitted each month.

U.S. Tire Rebate Coupon Distribution Begins

Associates and retirees can save on the purchase of up to 12 tires, thanks to the 2006 Tire Rebate Discount Coupons, currently being distributed. The discounts will be applied through mailed rebate checks, rather than at the point of sale.

The tire rebate program again provides U.S. associates and retirees with coupons for a specific dollar savings per purchased tire. The savings amount per tire varies by product line purchased.

For example, a \$20 rebate per tire is sent to buyers of the new Goodyear Eagle featuring ResponsEdge Technology tires – when they become available. Others qualifying for the \$20 rebate are Goodyear Assurance, Eagle, Fortera and Wrangler tires, along with the Dunlop SP Sport and Direzza lines.

Rebate levels will be \$10 per tire for remaining Goodyear, Dunlop and Kelly products, except for light-truck bias and Marathon trailer tires, which qualify for a \$5 rebate.

As in 2005, the process for this year's program is simple. The tire buyer makes a tire purchase of Goodyear, Dunlop or Kelly brand tires at any authorized retailer, then mails the original invoice and the needed coupon(s) to the address shown on the coupon(s). The applicable rebate amount will then be sent to the purchaser.

Most associates and retirees should expect their personal rebate coupon books to begin to arrive in early February. For those who already have purchased tires in 2006 – before receiving their new rebate coupons – just save the invoice, then follow the steps to obtain the rebate once you get your 2006 rebate coupons.

New Associates



February 13th Group

Pictured left to right are; Steven Dudley, Michael Wilcox, Reggie Henson, DaNesha Johnson, Billy Johnson and Tim Jackson.



February 20th Group

Shown from left to right are; Richard Byrne, Rocky Rivers, Brad Johnson, James Kapule and Leland Kennedy. Richard Byrne is a preferential hire from the St. Marysville Ohio plant.

Letter to the Editor

To: Joe Wyatt Editor
Double Standards: Rich verse Average

Does anyone believe if they shot someone even accidentally that there would not be a full scale investigation into the shooting, all kind of interviews with the witness, and above all an interview with the person who shoot the person. As well as I can tell the shooting of Cheney's friend was not investigated and Cheney was never interviewed and no charges are pending for him leaving without filing a report with the local authorities. You are I would have at least been charged with negligence. Mr. Cheney and the lawyer did not have valid hunting stamps for hunting birds but were issued a warning for it, so Mr. Cheney sent them the seven dollars for a stamp— don't think that would have worked for you are me.

Larry VanDeman "Retired"

Associate's Son Shoots for the Stars

Casey Rivers from Lindale, TX has advanced to the televised series of Nashville Star. Casey was the performer at last years Retirees' Banquet. He is also the son of millwright Allen Childers.

Over 20,000 contestants auditioned at 17 cities all over the United States. Performers came to audition from across the globe: Germany, England, the British Virgin Islands, Canada, Italy and Sweden. Casey auditioned at the Oklahoma City, OK open calls. The competition was held at the "Toby Keith's, I love this bar and grill" venue on October 29. The first day of competition, the contestants were to sing part of a cover song, and Casey was advanced to day two of the competition where he sung one cover song and one of his own original songs. After the judges watch Casey perform and sing, there were a series of questions that Casey was confronted with.

After reviewing Casey, he received a call that he was one of the 42 contestants chosen for the regionals. The group would be divided into two groups, one group to be sent to the Houston, TX Regionals and the other group, which Casey was in, was sent to the Nashville, TN Regionals. He would perform before the judges on January 6 at the Wildhorse Saloon, downtown Nashville. Casey performed a cover song entitled "Your cheatin heart" and his own original song "Good things gone better." Casey has been steadily writing his own material and had a hard time deciding which song to use but apparently it was the right one! On January 11, Casey received a call from Nashville Star producer, saying "You are I of 10 performers that made the Nashville Star Season 4 televised series."

Casey will leave the 2nd week of February for Nashville where he will remain for approximately 3 months. The show will air beginning on the March 14 Tuesday 10/9c on the USA network. You can keep up with Casey by going to usanetwork.com and click on Nashville Star season 4. You can also keep a check on Casey's website at www.caseyrivers.com.

The new season will be kicked off by recording artist "Big & Rich" Episode I will open with a high-energy performance by the Grammy-nominated duo before they retire to the judge's table to advise contestants along side show veteran Phil Vassar and Anatasia Brown. Artist Cowboy Troy will co-host season 4 with 5-time Grammy award winning superstar Wynona Judd, also Gretchen Wilson will join the Nashville Production team. Also additional celebrity judges and performers will be announced in the coming weeks.

The winner of Nashville Star will receive a recording contract from the RCA Label group, home of superstars-Alan Jackson, Kenny Chesney, Martina McBride, Brad Pasley and Sara Evans among others. Support Casey Rivers by tuning in each week as he shoots for the stars!



Casey Rivers

OBITUARY

Larry Frederickson, 62, supervisor many years ago, passed away 2/15/06.

No photo available.

With prescription drugs, is 'more' better?

Here's a pop quiz. Do brand name medicines work better than generics? Don't answer yet, you might be surprised.

Although high-priced, brand name medicines dominate the prescription drug market, extensive research shows that low-cost generic equivalents are just as effective, according to Dr. Barbara Toeppen-Sprigg, Goodyear's global medical director.

"Studies show that Americans believe prescription drugs cost too much," she said, "but many times they are unwilling to accept the generic equivalent because they equate cost with effectiveness."

In other words, if a drug costs more, it must be better, and that's not always the case, said Dr. Ed Weisbart, chief medical officer for Express Scripts, Goodyear's pharmaceutical supplier.

"When you spend more on prescription drugs, you aren't always getting more," he said. "A drug that costs more but does not do more is not a best buy."

A better deal for patients and plans

Spending less money while achieving the same benefit is always a better deal for both the patient and their benefit plan, Weisbart added. It also puts the patient in the role of being a smart consumer.

Since 1990, the amount that consumers spend annually on prescription drugs has jumped over 500 percent, going from \$40 billion to \$250 billion, according to an article last fall in the *New York Times*. Spending would be nowhere near that amount, however, if patients were more willing to use generic drugs.

Consider the current drug war between Lipitor and Zocor. Both help lower a patient's cholesterol levels, and the formula for each drug is patent protected. That will change this summer when Zocor's patent protection expires. Once that happens, companies that specialize in generic drugs will be able to sell a Zocor equivalent. As the market gains generic equivalents, the price drops drastically.

According to the *New York Times* article, Lipitor, which retains patent protection, costs about \$2 per day, while generic Zocor

would cost about 35 cents or less per day.

"The most commonly prescribed dosage of Lipitor is 10 milligrams daily," Toeppen-Sprigg said "Patients can reduce their cholesterol just as much using generic Zocor, and save themselves a good deal of money."

While self-insured companies, such as Goodyear, pay almost 70 percent of all drug costs, patients still pay a considerable out-of-pocket amount, Toeppen-Sprigg said. A three-month supply of a formulary brand drug, for example, could cost the patient as much as \$80. The generic equivalent, which in most cases would be just as effective, could cost as little as \$30. Non-formulary medications could cost the patient even more. In some instances, it could be as much as \$140 for the same three-month supply.

In situations when a brand-name medication is the only method for treatment, Toeppen-Sprigg said treating the condition should be the priority. When a low-cost generic drug achieves the same goal as the higher-priced brand name, however, it is up to consumers to determine if the brand name is worth the additional cost, whether for the drug itself or to the benefit plan that helps provide it.

Heavy advertising pushes costs higher

Prescription drug advertising typically focuses on brands that are familiar to consumers, such as Lipitor, Nexium (a gastrointestinal medication), and Clarinex (which treats allergies). The ads offer only the pharmaceutical companies' perspective, which usually is that their brand names are superior. But there is another reason for the advertising effort.

According to Express Scripts and the Kaiser Family Foundation, a non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the U.S., every \$1 that pharmaceutical companies spend on direct to consumer advertising, earns more than \$4 in sales, a return greater than 300 percent.

The more knowledgeable and attentive a health care consumer you are, the more able you'll be to make informed choices, Toeppen-Sprigg said.

Published monthly by
USWA Local 746L
13624 State Hwy. 31W.
Tyler, Texas 75709
(Phone) 903-595-3469
Joe Wyatt
Editor
joewyatt@cox-internet.com
The Stretch staff or publisher
does not assume responsibility
for views expressed in signed
articles published in this publi-
cation.




Local 746L
THE STRETCH

United Steel Workers Of America
Local Union 746L
State Hwy. 31 West
Tyler, Texas 75709
AF-CIO-CLC
UNION USWA LABEL
746L

BUY AMERICAN

MARCH 2006

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