



During the month of August our Local Union sent members to participate in three conference meetings. The first was the Texas AFL-CIO Convention, followed by the Rubber & Plastics Industry Conference Safety Symposium and, finally, the first USW District 13 Conference since the PACE merger created the new district. At all three our Local Union was a leader and our delegates did a good job of representing our membership. At all three events the discussion often revolved around what can be done to keep the plant and the Local Union going. At the AFL-CIO Convention THE STRETCH won yet another award and Joe Wyatt was also at the District 13 Conference to speak as the United Steelworkers Press Association Communication Coordinator for District 13.

Coming into the last half of 2007 our Local Union has scaled back on some of its spending to reflect the change in our income from having fewer dues paying members. We have made a conscious decision to stay within our income, having reached an overall funding level that is appropriate for a Local Union our size. While it's always aggravating to people to discuss and make changes to how they're accustomed to operating, it's the right thing to do. Our intention is not to cut out everything we do as a Local Union. It is to

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

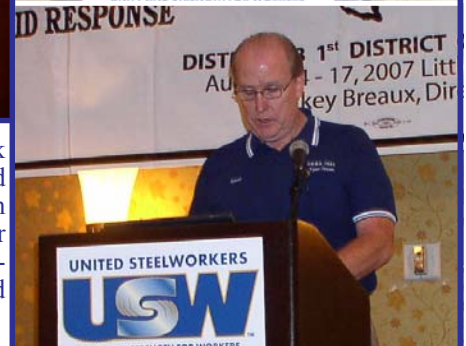
by
Jim Wansley

have and follow a course of action that will allow us to adapt to whatever our situation is at the end of 2007, and beyond, and still be able to participate in and support the International Union and our members.

There are all kinds of rumors out there concerning what's going to happen with our plant or when it will happen. As soon as I know something I'll get it to you. Until then it's all just rumors.

In September Union City and Fayetteville are supposed to go from a three fixed-shift operation to a four-team continuous operation. Both plants, along with Gadsden, are producing badly. The further they fall behind the more difficult it becomes to shut Tyler down. Anyone with half a brain has to question how Goodyear can replace Tyler's production by trying to ramp up plants that can't run their existing ticket. In addition, Valleyfield has not shut down completely and, until it does, Tyler cannot be shut down completely and honor our contract.

I appreciate everyone who is coming to work and making the decision to shut this plant down an embarrassing one for Goodyear. I know there are people in the company that are questioning that decision.



Delegates that were elected to attend the USW District 13 Convention in Little Rock were: left to right, Kency Alexander, Local 746L President Jim Wansley, Derwin Ford and Red Roden. Also attending but not pictured was Red Blake. Picture above right, President Jim Wansley spoke on several occasions at the convention. Picture bottom right, Stretch Editor Joe Wyatt was invited to address the convention as District 13 USPA Communication Coordinator to encourage union locals to start or enhance existing newsletters by joining the United Steelworkers Press Association.

USW National Political Director Chuck Rocha's Thoughts on Tyler

Editor's Note: While at the Texas AFL-CIO Convention in Corpus Christi last month, I had the opportunity to interview Chuck Rocha. Since Chuck had started his career here at Kelly Tyler, I asked him to give me his thoughts on the Tyler plant and our current situation. These are his comments.

"I hired on at the Kelly Springfield plant on October 19th 1990 in the Mix Center as a Banbury operator. I was elected as Division Steward at the age of 23, the youngest ever. I was appointed to the Safety Committee by the former President John Nash and served in a lot of capacities at the Local Union. I say that because in all of those instances I tell you that before I tell you that I am the Political Director for the largest industrial union in North America. We have the best political program of any international union and it is because there is a local union guy from Tyler, Texas that heads that department who understands what its like to work everyday, who understands what its like to work third shift and operate a nasty banbury and still find time to volunteer do something in the community. Whether it be working for the party, working for the United Way, or helping kids.

It was the lessons that I learned in Tyler and from my peers and my friends at the local that helped me get to where I'm at today. And that goes back to the dilemma that you are in currently, that breaks my heart more so than anything else in my life ever has, the way Goodyear has treated employees there and the politicians who have constantly voted for free trade deals that are the backbone cause and the reason that those plants want to leave. It's all tied to politics. I am the Political Director so it makes me angry every time I speak about it because our politicians are in the back pocket of business and business organizations that make it easier for companies to relocate tires overseas, when we have hard working Americans who play by the rules, who go to work everyday, who are to ones being forgotten about and the ones being left behind.

I watched my father work at a plant my whole life. I watched my Uncle Monte and my Uncle Rick and a lot of my uncles and cousins work in that plant everyday and give everything they could to make Goodyear and Kelly Springfield a profitable company. And the thanks that they get now is that Goodyear would like to walk away from every retiree's benefit and everything they have ever done in the community there. With the amount of money that the Steelworkers and the company have put into the community, I think it is going to decimate a lot of things outside of the tire movement if that place shuts down, the mom and pop taco shops to the dry cleaners to a lot of things that people don't think about every day that reciprocate down through the chains of the economy.

I travel around the country and get to speak to lots of important people and do a lot of what people think are cool things, but no



**USW National Political Director
Chuck Rocha**

there in Tyler, and I did. If you ever come to Pittsburgh and you walk into my office, not on the back door, not on the wall, not down the hall, but on the front door of my office is the strike sign that I carried in Tyler. It's on the front door because I want people to know that there is a struggle that goes on every day and there is a reason why we do the job that we do. There's real people like what work in Tyler who wake up every day now not knowing what the future holds and no knowing if they can trust the company to be there in 6 months or 3 months or a year, after they have sacrificed and given everything they can to a company to make it profitable. It's the backbone of every fight that we fight and it's exactly the reason we have to be involved in politics because we have to have politicians in there who are beholden to the Steelworkers and to workers so they would never pass any law to make it easier for a plant to leave.

It keeps me up at night, thinking about it, thinking about my friends who I used to work beside on the banbury who I know have a bunch of young kids, who I know were relying on that pension to secure their time in their aging life. It keeps me awake at night but it also gives me the power to do my job everyday because it's a constant reminder of what I was hired to do. It is a constant reminder of how I get paid. Union members all over the country give a little bit of money every week in the form of union dues. Part of that goes to the International and part of that goes to pay my salary. I take that very personal, I take that as a badge of honor, to make sure that everyday I wake up, I'm doing something for them, because I see now how bad they are getting screwed day in and day out."

matter where I go or no matter who I'm talking to, I always make sure people know I'm from Tyler and I always make sure people know I'm from Local 746. People say that I do that because my local guys may be in the crowd, but people have seen me when my local guys were not in the crowd and I still talk about it. I talk about those lessons and making those lessons come to life everyday and being the real focus group of our membership because it wasn't that long ago that I was that membership working the shift work.

I wish I had more thoughts on what's actually going to happen at Goodyear. That's done on a different level with collective bargaining and with Hoover and the policy committee. I just see the same thing that every one else does, read the same thing that everyone else does and call Jim Wansley and try to find out what's happening at the local.

The proudest moment of my life was getting to stand side by side with my brothers and walk the picket line

Job Opportunities

There will be a number of job opportunities in the Petro Chemical industry in the coming years. Here at Lyondell we are looking for high caliber people who have skills, a solid work history and ethic and who can work in a zero tolerance drug and alcohol workforce.

You can learn about the corporation and apply for opportunities within Lyondell by visiting our web page www.Lyondell.com and looking for technician opportunities, and indicating all of the locations which you would be willing to be considered for.

Don C. Hare Director of Global Labor Relations

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We had around 60 members present at the meeting, on August 13th, 2007. We have had several things happened since the last SOAR Club news. First, we had a 42 Tournament on July 9th, 2007, and 12 SOAR Club members participated in the tournament. Mr. Charlie Jones was the winner of this tournament. We also had the drawing for the trip to Pagosa Springs Resort and again Mr. Charlie Jones won the trip. We were all so jealous but Charlie congratulations, we hope you have a very good time. We have 42 Tournament's on every other monthly meeting. So the next tournament will be at the same day as our next meeting September 10th, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. and the SOAR meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. If you are retired and would like to participate call Deno Robertson at 903-561-1467 or Roy Stanley, 903-592-3260.

On our Silent Auction we did real well we made \$550.50, plus \$45.00 still owed by one member making the total \$595.50. On the Cake Walk we had a total of \$189.00. All the cakes looked so delicious it was hard just having to pick just one.

We had new members join the SOAR Club Eddie and Betty Dobbins. Congratulation Eddie and Betty we are proud to welcome you. We know you will be a great asset to the Club. We were happy to see Ray and Cheryl Lubojacky present again at the meeting; we hope you won't stay away so long.

At the August Meeting we had Ice Cream and Cake and it was all so delicious. I know we were all very full, but it was so-o-o-o good.

At our next meeting September 10th, 2007, we will have Finger foods. The Union had several to retiree the first of July and the SOAR Club would like to encourage each and everyone to come join the Club. We would like to see our membership double in the next few months. We need more good workers in the Club like Charlie Jones. Charlie has brought in some real good entertainers each month and every time it seems to get better than the last. Thanks, Charlie, for doing such a great job. At the September Meeting Charlie has a Blue Grass group coming to perform for us.

We are still planning our trip to Branson, Missouri on November 13th – 16th, 2007. So Retiree Club members if you are interested in going on this trip with us you will need to contact me, Helen Young, at 903-561-4096. If I'm not home leave a message and I will call you back. Our bus is almost full.

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

SOAR Auxiliary Ladies
 The Auxiliary Ladies met on August 7th, 2007 at the John Nash Activity Building and we had 12 ladies present. Mrs. Carol Swanson suggested that the Auxiliary Ladies, help some of the children in getting school supplies, which we did. Now Ladies, since Carol has introduced this program to us, by helping people, let's keep the ball rolling, I know there must be other things that we can do. If you have any suggestion please let us know and Thanks, Carol for such a good suggestion. Also I would like to say that every month we bring snack foods that is later carried to Hospice. Again Carol Swanson instigated this. So ladies let Carol know how much we appreciate the good deeds she has brought to our attention. We will be going to Mineola on August 31st, 2007 at 10:00 am from the Union Hall. So Ladies, please come this will be a great day to join and enjoy the fun times we have together.

Our next meeting will be October 2nd, 2007, at the John Nash Activity Building. So please Ladies let's make a good showing at this meeting.



Eddie & Betty Dobbins

The Annual Turkey Shoot/Chili Cook-Off is Just Around the Corner



On Saturday, October 20, 2007 from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM the Annual Turkey Shoot/Chili Cook-off will be held on the USW Local 746L grounds. Volunteers are needed to help to make this year's event the biggest and best ever. Whether you are an active employee of Goodyear, a retiree, scholar-ship recipient or a member of their families, you are needed. If you are willing to help, please contact Employee Involvement Coordinator Freddie Wehrmann at 903-535-1665 (665 in the plant) or send an e-mail to at freddie.wehrmann@goodyear.com. If you are interested in having a Chili Team, entry forms are available from Freddie in the plant or they may be picked up at the union hall.

This year the event will be sponsored by the Area Steering Committees of Curing/Final Finish/ Shipping and Tire Assembly. Event coordinators are; Terri Johnson, Keith Battles, James Claussen and Laura Tennyson. Door prizes will be given away all day during this event. Advance tickets and Day of the Shoot tickets will entitle

you to be eligible for all door prize drawings. Advance shoot tickets are \$2.00 each; or 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10.00. The Advance ticket entitles you to FOUR SHOTS. Day of the Shoot tickets entitles you to only three shots. Door Prizes are \$1.00 each.

Grand Prize tickets are \$10.00 each. The following prizes will be given away;

- 1. \$1,500 CASH**
 - 2. (1) SET OF TYLER MADE TIRES**
 - 3. (1) REMINGTON MODEL 700 SPS 30.06 \$629.95**
- Donated By Noonday Gun Trader**

Each member of the Steering Committees has Advanced Shoot and Grand Prize tickets. More information will be forthcoming. All proceeds from the Turkey Shoot/Chili Cook-Off go into the Scholarship Fund. Your support of this year's event will be greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!



Strike and Assistance Committee has Wrap Up Meeting

On Thursday August 9th, the Strike and Assistance Committee met for the last time to be updated following the audit from the International Union. Every local that was on strike and receiving strike benefits was audited. Local 746L's records balanced out to the penny. Following the meeting, the committee was treated to cake and homemade ice cream prepared by Local 746L's secretary Tressa Hawkins. Donnal Harden brought chicken, meatballs and potato salad. It was quite a feast!

On Sunday August 26th, New Days Community Church had a dedication of the church furnishings. NDCC was the church where the Strike and Assistance Committee was located during the strike. Part of the donation that Local 746L gave to the church for use of the building, went to buy new furnishings for the Women's Center.

Strike and Assistance Committee members are: Chairman, Kency Alexander, Ed Moore, Jim Clark, Chris Antal, Lee Wehrmann, Sandra Harden, Red Blake, Earl Tate, Billy Johnson, Joe Wyatt, Freddie Freeman, Kenny McLeod, Freddie Wehrmann and Terri Johnson.

Pictures below: Top-Strike and Assistance Committee at the wrap up meeting. Middle row: (L)-Rev. Reginald F. Garrett. (C)-The furnishing bought with the donation money from the local. This is the room where the gift cards were passed out. (R)-Church and S & A Committee member Freddie Freeman thanking Local 746L for the donation. Bottom Row: (L)-Refurbished Sanctuary. (R)-S & A Committee members Freddie Freeman and Joe Wyatt with Tressa Hawkins at the New Days Community Church for the dedication.



Pumping Gas-Good to Know

Here are some tricks to help you get your money's worth:

1. Fill up your car or truck in the morning when the temperature is still cool. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground; and the colder the ground, the denser the gasoline. When it gets warmer gasoline expands, so if you're filling up in the afternoon or in the evening, what should be a gallon is not exactly a gallon. In the petroleum business, the specific gravity and temperature of the fuel (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, ethanol and other petroleum products) are significant. Every truckload that is loaded is temperature-compensated so that the indicated gallonage is actually the amount pumped. A one-degree rise in temperature is a big deal for businesses, but service stations don't have temperature compensation at their pumps.

2. If a tanker truck is filling the station's tank at the time you want to buy gas, do not fill up; most likely dirt and sludge in the tank is being stirred up when gas is being delivered, and you might be transferring that dirt from the bottom of their tank into your car's tank.

3. Fill up when your gas tank is half-full (or half-empty), because the more gas you have in your tank the less air there is and gasoline evaporates rapidly, especially when it's warm. (Gasoline storage tanks have an internal floating 'roof' membrane to act as a barrier between the gas and the atmosphere, thereby minimizing evaporation.)

4. If you look at the trigger you'll see that it has three delivery settings: slow, medium and high. When you're filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to the high setting. You should be pumping at the slow setting, thereby minimizing vapors created while you are pumping. Hoses at the pump are corrugated; the corrugations act as a return path for vapor recovery from gas that already has been metered. If you are pumping at the high setting, the agitated gasoline contains more vapor, which is being sucked back into the underground tank, so you're getting less gas for your money.

Hope this will help ease your 'pain at the pump'

Joe Barron Awarded 33rd Degree of The Scottish Rite

Joe Barron is Facilities Maintenance Lead Hand in the plant and is also a Mason. He recently obtained the 33rd degree of the Scottish Rite, something that is almost unheard of for someone as young as Joe. Here is just a small part of what the 33rd represents. Joe has many things that he does here in the community that qualifies him for this.

Although there is no higher degree than that of Master Mason, the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite serve to enrich the philosophy of the Symbolic Lodge. A Mason who chooses to further his Masonic experience by becoming a 32° Scottish Rite Mason will be expanding upon the fundamental principles of Freemasonry. The moral and ethical lessons will allow him to be constantly reminded of his duty to God, family, country, and fellow man

All Scottish Rite Jurisdictions nominate a select few members to receive the 33rd Degree, Inspector General Honorary, in recognition of outstanding service to the Rite, or in public life to the principles taught in the degrees. In the Southern Jurisdiction, the Supreme Council chooses 33rd degree members from among those who have previously received the rank and decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honor. The KCCH is bestowed in a Ceremonial of Investiture in recognition of outstanding service to the Rite, or in public life to the principles taught in the degrees. This degree cannot be requested nor bought, it has to be given only after many years of service to all.

This degree is conferred only on a limited number of 32nd degree Scottish Rite Masons who have performed outstanding service within Scottish Rite or the Masonic fraternity or those who have given exceptional service in some other field of endeavor



Joe Barron manning the kettle at Christmas. Just one of the many places that Joe does volunteer work.

THE LAWS OF LIFE

* Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch or you'll have to go to the bathroom.

* Law of the Workshop

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

* Law of Probability

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

* Law of the Telephone

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal.

* Law of the Alibi

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

* Variation Law

If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will start to move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

* Law of the Bath

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

* Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

* Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

* Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

* Law of the Theater

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

* Murphy's Law of Lockers

If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

* Law of Rugs/Carpets

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.

* Law of Location

No matter where you go, there you are.

* Law of Logical Argument

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

* Brown's Law

If the shoe fits, it's ugly.

* Oliver's Law

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

* Wilson's Law

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it. (this one is true every time!)

* Doctors' Law

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

You may not be able to change the direction of the wind, but by frequently adjusting your sails, you can arrive at your destination.

Scholarship Thank You Notes

Dear Goodyear Members,

Thank you for the scholarship that you awarded me. Being selected to receive a Goodyear scholarship from you is an honor and an answer to my prayers. As a four year regional qualifier and a two-year state qualifier in power lifting, finishing at the State Meet in 10th place last year and 6th place this year. I have discovered that with dedication, hard work, and a lot of prayers that the impossible can be accomplished.

I have seen the dedication and hard work of the union members to raise money for these scholarships. During the tough times with the strike, their desire to make dreams of their dependants of getting college scholarships become a reality was still a priority.

With your help, I plan on getting a good education and make you proud of the investment you made in me. Someday, when I am financially able, I plan to "pay forward" the kindness you have shown to me and help another deserving student follow their dreams of a college education.

May God Richly Bless Each Person that Contributed to the Goodyear Scholarships.

Robert McCall

Thank you very much for the scholarship. It has helped me so much.

Thanks Again

Leighton Kennedy

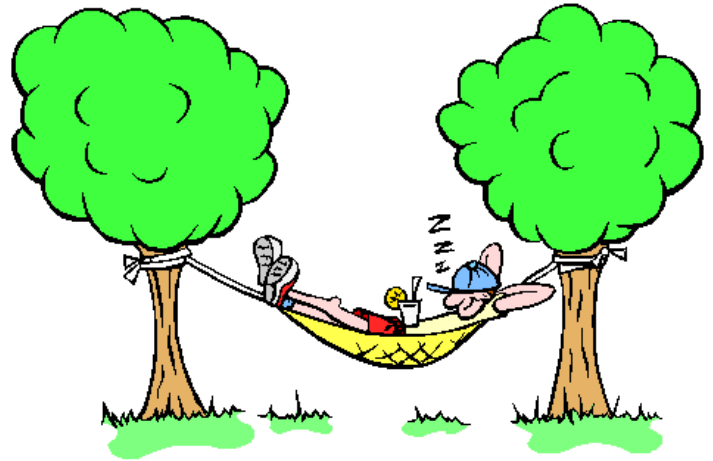
South African Union Workers End Strike

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) announced that it reached an agreement with six tire manufacturers, ending the month-long strike by 6,000 workers. The affected plants included Goodyear, Continental, and Firestone in Port Elizabeth, Dunlop in Durban and Ladysmith, and Bridgestone in Brits, North West. The three-year agreement includes wage increases of 8 percent in the first year and 7.5 percent in the second and third years. Other provisions include skills-based development grading, five months maternity leave, annual leave of 15 working days and a 10.5 percent increase in employers' contribution to a provident (pension) fund. The Numsa workers went on strike July 22 seeking a 10 percent wage increase in addition to other demands.



They just finished the jury selection phase of the Michael Vick case.

Picnic Planned for Labor Day



The Smith County Labor Council will host the annual Labor Day Picnic on September 3rd. The event will be held on union grounds with food and entertainment for the whole family. Come on out and enjoy a day of fellowship and relaxation with friends, neighbors and co-workers.

From a nurse:

I'll never forget the look in my patients eyes when I had to tell them they had to go home with the drains, new exercises and no breast.

I remember begging the Doctors to keep these women in the hospital longer, only to hear that they would, but their hands were tied by the insurance companies.

So there I sat with my patients, giving them the instructions they needed to take care of themselves, knowing full well they didn't grasp half of what I was saying, because the glazed, hopeless, frightened look spoke louder than the quiet 'Thank You' they muttered.

A mastectomy is when a woman's breast is removed in order to remove cancerous breast cells/tissue. If you know anyone who has had a Mastectomy, you may know that there is a lot of discomfort and pain afterwards.

Insurance companies are trying to make mastectomies an outpatient procedure. Let's give women the chance to recover properly in the hospital for 2 days after surgery.

It takes 2 seconds to do this and is very important. Please take the time and do it really quick! Please relay this to all of your friends and tell them to do the same.

If there was ever a time when our voices and choices should be heard, this is one of those times.

There's a bill called the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act which will require Insurance Companies to cover a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for patients undergoing a mastectomy. It's about eliminating the 'drive-through mastectomy' where women are forced to go home just a few hours after surgery, against the wishes of their doctor, still groggy from anesthesia and sometimes with drainage tubes still attached.

Lifetime Television has put this bill on their Web page with a petition drive to show your support. Last year over half the House signed on.

PLEASE!! Sign the petition by going to the Web site below. You need not give more than your name and zip code number. <http://www.lifetimev.com/breastcancer/petition/signpetition.php>

This takes about 2 seconds once you are on the site. PLEASE tell your friends and family, and on behalf of all women, THANKS.

Democratic Hopefuls Try Hard To Show Differences In Chicago Debate

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

CHICAGO (PAI)—Seeking to convince almost 15,000 unionists, and a national television audience, that they have what it takes to be the next president, seven hopefuls for the Democratic presidential nomination tried hard to show differences in their AFL-CIO-sponsored debate in Chicago. To some extent they succeeded, especially in foreign policy, but also in over who gives the strongest support to workers and unions.

The 96-minute debate, held August 7 during the federation's Executive Council meeting, is part of the AFL-CIO's endorsement process. The 10-million-member organization seeks the widest input possible from its members before its leaders finally make a decision, if they do, by either late this year or early next year.

That need for information led Sens. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), Joseph Biden (D-Del.), Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.), Gov. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) and former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) to the stage at Chicago's Soldier Field, its football stadium. Their responses drew frequent applause, occasional laughter and even one or two boos, when they ducked questions.

Several of the hopefuls took pains to declare they support the right to organize and particularly the Employee Free Choice Act, the labor-backed legislation—which passed the House but which a GOP filibuster killed in the Senate—to help level the playing field between workers and bosses in organizing and contract bargaining.

“In a workers' White House under a Kucinich administration, the right to organize, the right to collective bargaining, the right to strike, the right to decent wages and benefits, the right to a safe workplace, the right to a secure retirement, the right to participate in the political process, these are all basic rights that will be the hallmark of a presidency by Kucinich,” the former Cleveland mayor said.

But only Edwards said how he would push for the bill. “I intend to be the president... who walks on the White House lawn and explains to America how important unions and organized labor is to the future and the economic security of this country,” he declared. He also said he would push legislation to outlaw striker replacements, or scabs.

“It is fine to come up on this stage and give a nice talk. The question is: Who's been with you in the crunch?” added the North Carolinian, who is from a right-to-work state.

His answer, that he walked picket lines 200 times in the last two years and helped 22 unions organize, set off a round of differences over who has been with workers the most. Several other hopefuls said they have better credentials in backing workers.

Obama noted his original work in Chicago was as a community organizer, in the city's South Side after the closure of the LTV Steel plant there. That included working “with unions to deal with laid-off steel workers.” And he reminded the crowd he has “marched on your picket lines” with AFSCME members who have been trying for four years to organize Chicago's large Resurrection Health Care system, with 8,000 workers.

“For 34 years, I've walked with you on picket lines,” retorted Biden. Jabbing at Edwards, he added: “The fact of the matter is it's not where you've been the last two years. Where were you the six years you were in the Senate? How many picket lines did you walk in? Look at our records. Look at our records... Did you walk when the corporations in your state opposed you?”

The other candidates, who all support labor rights, passed up a chance to enter that debate on strength of support, even though they often turned away from topics questioners raised to answer prior questions.

A similar attempt at showing differences occurred on health care, with all the candidates backing universal health care, but only Kucinich advocating government-run single-payer Medicare for all, eliminating the insurance companies.

“In my first year” as president “I would ensure every single, solitary child in America and make sure catastrophic insurance ex-

ists for every single person in America, while we move towards a national health care system covering everybody,” Biden said.

Edwards staked out several positions sharply critical of what he called “the Washington establishment,” blaming it—in both parties—for the stalemate on health care, GOP policies on such things as contracting out, and anti-worker measures in general.

“We need public financing of campaigns” for Congress as a way to clean up Washington, Edwards said, since business outspends workers by an 18-to-1 margin. “When a lawyer offers money to a jury” for a verdict, “it's called a bribe. When lobbyists go to members of Congress and offer money to them, it's called politics,” Edwards noted. Both Edwards and Obama refuse lobbyist dollars for their drives.

The foreign policy differences came mostly in fighting terrorism, as the candidates differed sharply over a prior statement by Obama that he would, if elected, take military action in Pakistan if Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf did not clean up the al-Qaeda enclave in that nation's northwestern province.

Edwards did not mention he voted for the Iraq war. All the hopefuls but Kucinich and Obama did. Obama referred to unnamed candidates who changed their positions. That was an indirect jab at Clinton, who has been criticized for her pro-war vote in 2002.

Dodd, a longtime veteran of the Foreign Relations Committee and foreign policy expert, lectured Obama that “words have consequences.” Several hopefuls said the GOP Bush government's Iraq war made the U.S. more vulnerable to terrorism. Clinton, drawing on her husband's experience as president before Bush, said candidates with big ideas sometimes should not articulate them.

Obama retorted Dodd had not read his whole speech on terrorism, where he laid out a series of steps to battle al-Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan—after leaving Iraq.

On another foreign policy issue, unfair trade treaties, the hopefuls, except Kucinich, agreed NAFTA, the 11-year-old jobs-losing trade pact between the U.S., Canada and Mexico, should be fixed with insertion of labor rights, not scrapped. President George Bush Sr. (R) pushed it and Democratic President Bill Clinton shoved it through a then-Democratic Congress, over intense union opposition. It lacks enforceable labor rights.

The hopefuls did not say how they would fix NAFTA, but they said they would notify the Mexican president and the Canadian prime minister—Obama said “president”—that they want to renegotiate it. Kucinich would scrap NAFTA and the other trade pacts, such as the World Trade Organization. All said any new trade pacts must have enforceable worker rights. Clinton called for “a trade prosecutor.”

She also criticized the Bush regime for lax enforcement in the domestic arena, at one point telling Deborah Hamner, a widow of a dead Sago, W. Va., coal miner, that “Chris Dodd and I were on the committee that passed some very good laws. The problem is we have an administration that doesn't want to enforce those laws.

“When I am president, we'll have a Department of Labor that actually cares about labor. And when it comes to organizing Resurrection Hospital, I will be the president who signs the Employee Free Choice Act,” Clinton declared.

All the hopefuls took a somewhat critical stance against China, not calling it an enemy, but, in Richardson's words, “a strategic competitor.” Obama and Biden said part of the problem is the U.S. budget deficit is so large that China finances part of it, and that weakens our bargaining position. “They hold the mortgage on our house,” Biden said.

“We've got to get back to fiscal responsibility in order to undercut the Chinese power over us,” Clinton added, reminding the crowd and the TV audience that Bill Clinton's administration ended with budget surpluses, not Bush's record deficits. “And we have to have tougher standards on what they (China) import into this country. I do not want to eat bad food from China or have my children having toys that are going to get them sick.”

Local 746L T-Shirts will be handed out at the union hall on Wednesday, September 5th & Wednesday, September 12th from 7 AM - 8 AM & 2 PM - 4 PM on both days. These shirts are being provided to all members in good standing as of June 30, 2007 per membership motion. The shirts will only be distributed at the union hall, not in the plant.

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