

Asheboro unit stands strong!

On March 29th & 31st, leaders from Local 831 attended two of the Asheboro informational meetings. As you may remember, the Asheboro plant was organized through the "neutrality clause" language, however, because of some issues arising from that organizing drive, a complaint was filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Rather than keep the employees in limbo for several years while the legal battle was fought, the USWA agreed to discontinue that effort and move forward with the regular organizing drive. Now, at least 50% must sign a card signifying they are interested in having a union and the USWA will petition the NLRB to set the union vote up.

A time-out period has been in play between the original drive and the new card signing drive. That time-out period ended on April 8th. The next several meetings of Asheboro workers will be for the purpose of signing the cards and checking the interest level. "From talking to those in attendance on March 31st, I would say that the interest level is high and rock solid," stated Dana Dixon. The workers have told the organizers, "you all do what you need to do and we will do the rest."

Brad Smoyer, USWA International Organizer and Local 878 member told those in attendance about Local 831's union meeting in March (Brad & others attended), he explained how everything works and introduced leaders from Danville and Statesville. Questions ranged from how the grievance procedure works to distribution of overtime. "Our grievance procedure is like the weather, it changes every day," stated a future USWA member.

It seems that Asheboro has some of the same methods of operation that Statesville had. Newly elected President of Local 1159L, Elliott Turner provided great insight into what Statesville

Continued on page 3

No dog and pony show here

Corporate leaders from Akron visited the Danville plant on March 29th to offer their help and support in making Danville a safer plant. The group included; Chris Clark, Don Stanley, Amy Brie, Mike Porter, Huw Marsden and Steve Pauley. This leadership group has been visiting plants that have the worse safety records. Though Danville does not have one of the worse safety records, the group decided to come here anyway.

The day started with a joint presentation on safety at Local 831's Union Hall and at the plant. President Danny Barber and Plant Manager Terry Tennyson welcomed the visitors to Danville and presentations followed from members of the plant safety committee and Safety Manager Ron Knight. Communications Coordinator Dana Dixon, also gave a presentation on plant and union communications to the group. "When I first heard about the visit, I figured they were coming to beat us up. That wasn't the case at all. They made it clear that they were here to help and support us in any way they could," stated Safety Committee Member, Dennis Saunders.

At the plant, the group visited the last six scenes where accidents have taken place. A reenactment of what happened when the accidents occurred was also given. All six-accident victims were there to inject their input on why the accidents happened and what can be done to prevent other accidents. Members of the leadership group also offered their suggestions for improvements at each scene of the accidents. "At no time was any topic discussed except safety. Not even production. It was obvious that helping the plant to become a safer plant was the only thing on their agenda," said Dixon.

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Brad Smoyer



Terry Trull

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APRIL 13, 2005

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present. Eighty-one members were present. Opening prayer was led by Earl Guill followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the March meeting and the Treasurers' report were read and approved.

Willie Fitzgerald gave a report on the SOAR International Conference held in Las Vegas which he attended along with Kenny Stevens.

Dana Dixon reported on the 2005 Goodyear summer employment of college students. A college student who is a relative of a Goodyear retiree may be eligible for employment.

Ted Fitz, a representative of the Cope Committee, talked on the privatizing of Social Security. Members signed letters stating "SAY NO TO PRIVATIZATION" which will be mailed to our Congressmen and Senators.

Benny Toller gave an informative report on retiree insurance. Blue-Cross/Blue-Shield cards were mailed 4-8-05 and 4-12-05. Deductions for health care premiums should start 5-1-05. Goodyear mailed letters to all members. Any questions should be directed to Benny Toller.

Door prizes:

Oil and lube change from Perry Bros. won by Raymond Parks and George Waller.

Oil and lube change from Goodyear Service Store, Mt. Cross Rd. won by Wyatt Watkins and George Stewart.

Attendance Prize: Elaine McGee's name was drawn. Elaine was present and won the \$20.00 attendance prize. The amount will start again next month in the amount of \$10.00. Plan now to attend your SOAR meeting.

Fifty-fifty won by Jerry Snead.

Motion made by Charles Denny to adjourn. Seconded by George Stewart. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, *Secretary*

What can I buy for a buck ?

Do you ever stop and think of what you can buy for a dollar? You can't buy a cup of coffee. You surely can't buy a tank of gas. You can't even buy a pack of cigarettes or a carton of beer for a dollar. But for a dollar a week, that's right a dollar a week you

can help provide protection for you and your family. How? By enrolling in the Steelworkers Political Action Committee (PAC). A dollar a week per member will add up giving our union money to help make our voices heard in the political arena. We must remember that it was Politicians that wrote the laws, which allowed LTV executives after the company claimed bankruptcy to leave with large lump sum payments. Congress wrote laws, which allow bankruptcy judges to void labor agreements and Congress wrote laws, which allowed unfairly priced steel to flood American markets. Steelworkers endorse Politicians that support working men and women. It's hard to compete with the Manufacturing Associations and large corporations, but together with that dollar per week we can fight and fight we must!

One dollar per week can help protect our jobs, our pensions and our social security. It can help secure a decent future for our children and grandchildren. If you have not signed up for the PAC check-off, please contact a COPE committee member or call the union hall at 388-5537. The only way, working people can be strong, are in numbers. Are you ready to take the big boys on?



Wal-Mart to Close Unionized Canadian Store

Wal-Mart's efforts in recent months to portray itself as a generous employer must seem surrealistic to the thousands of its workers who have endured low pay, discrimination and a ferocious effort by the company over the years to squash union organizing.

But the company is having trouble disguising its recent decision to close its first unionized store rather than negotiate a contract in good faith. Wal-Mart announced it was closing the store in Jonquiere, Quebec, after the union asked the Quebec Labor Ministry to mediate the negotiations.

The company tried to justify the closure by saying the union's contract demands would damage its ability to "operate efficiently and profitably." The store employs some 200 workers, who organized with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) in the summer of 2004.

But UFCW Canada Director Michael J. Fraser said, "Wal-Mart has fired these workers not because the store was losing money but because the workers exercised their right to join a union." He said it was "quite a coincidence" that the company's first unionized store is the only one in the world that the company claims is unprofitable. Fraser said the union will petition the Quebec Labor Relations Board to force Wal-Mart to reverse its decision to close the store.

UFCW International President Joe Hansen said Wal-Mart's decision demonstrates the company's "systematic abuse of working families. This is a company that prefers to spend millions and millions to dress up its image on TV, rather than treat workers with respect."

The UFCW has launched a petition campaign calling on Wal-Mart to reverse its decision. Visit www.ufcw.org for more.

District 8 Scholarships awarded

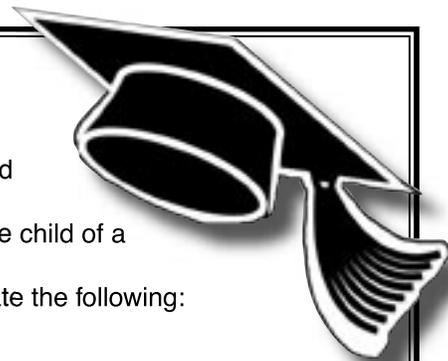
USWA, District 8 which includes Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia and Maryland has awarded its' 2005 scholarships. There were no applications received for Maryland, therefore, there was no scholarship awarded for that state.

Each state awards a \$4,000 scholarship. To be eligible, the student must be the child of a dues paying member in good standing.

District 8 Welfare & Education Fund, Board of Trustees would like to congratulate the following:

Paul David Rakes	Local 7153	Kentucky
Brandon Graham Ellison	Local 12103	Virginia
Donald Brett Pauley	Local 8621	West Virginia

If you have a child who will be eligible next year, applications are available at the union hall around December. USWA Local 831 has been fortunate enough to win this award three times.



Statesville Elects Officers

Our newest local is up and running with election of officers complete, they moved directly into elections of shop stewards. They have negotiated, voted on and signed into action their first contract. It appears that USWA Local 1159L is full steam ahead. Since this new local is a Goodyear facility and rubber based, they will bear the L after their local number. This signals that they are a part of the Rubber & Plastics Industry Conference (RPIC) of the USWA.

The officers are:

Elliott Turner	President
Richard Hill	Vice President
Toni Hickernell	Recording Secretary
Robin Tench	Financial Secretary
Lesley Marion	Treasurer

Local 831 wishes them the best. Solidarity Rocks!

Executive Board Report

Since the membership meeting was moved this month, we will not be able to provide those minutes, however, the following items were approved at the April Executive Board meeting. These items must all be approved through the regular membership meeting.

- * Send the COPE committee to the USWA Legislative Conference on May 9-10.

- * Participate in the 2005 Relay for Life Cancer Benefit on June 3. Local 831 to make up to a \$1,000 donation. We will ask Goodyear to participate in this as a joint venture.

- * Approved the use of the union hall for a yard sale on May 7th. This will be used in our Relay for Life fundraiser.

- * Approve the pressure washing of the brick signage and vinyl fencing for \$50 by "All Washed Up" Pressure Washing. (see ad on page 6)

- * Approve participation for Local 831 Officers and representatives in the annual summer school held in Blacksburg, Virginia.

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Asheboro Unit

had gotten versus what they were being told in Asheboro. He stated, "Statesville's biggest change was moving from rapid-rotating 12-hour shift to a fixed 12-hour shift."

One Asheboro employee stated, "Union deputies are on patrol. Everywhere you look, Goodyear is peeking around the corner to see who's talking to who." These are some of the issues that were discussed:

- * How can they continue to put more and more on us. The workloads are increasing daily. We explained

how union facilities have time study engineers to study workloads and how that is managed.

- * Asheboro has three types of employees. Full-time with full benefits, full-time with partial benefits and temporary workers with no benefits.

- * How do you all decide who gets the overtime. In Asheboro it goes to whoever they want to give it to. The contract language about seniority and low hours was explained. Several grievance settlements were discussed illustrating that Goodyear must pay if they use the wrong people. Contract decides that!

- * Do you have to represent the freeloaders? The law rules on this matter.

- * Grievance procedure. Our Division Chairman explained how to file a grievance, the facts that would be needed if your grievance were to go to arbitration, the mini-arbitration process and the difference between an award and an opinion.

"Overall, the meeting was very positive and very informative for myself. I was amazed at how things work from Goodyear facility to Goodyear facility. We are truly blessed for what our local has done for us," adds Dixon.

Continued from page 1

No Dog and Pony Show

Some of the things shared with the group from the safety committee was the need to work on equipment and things that we are now doing to add more awareness to safety, such as, safety huddles, monthly audits and mock OSHA audits. While at the union hall, Don Stanley asked if anyone knew when was the last year Goodyear did not claim a fatality in one of their plants? With so many changes in the organization, there are only records for the past 28 years and the records show that Goodyear has had at least one fatality in each of those 28 years. "If nothing stuck with me on that day, that staggering figure did," said Saunders.

"One thing was clear on the day of the corporate visit, and that was, it will take all of us as a team, union and salary to get us where we need to be, as far as safety is concerned. This was not a dog and pony show, the corporate visitors were sincere in helping Danville to become a safer place to work," stated Saunders.

Members from the Safety

Committee include: *Chairman Mike Baker, Dennis Saunders, Kathy Adkins and James Coles.*

Note: Danville had 29 accidents (as of the visit) for 2005 that could have been prevented. Please work safely!!

USWA Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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USWA District 8 • www.uswa831.org

■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

■
Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Can we really trust in trade with China?

You've heard the saying "shoot yourself in the foot," we could all agree that's a dumb thing to do. However, many U.S. companies may be doing exactly that by expanding their operations into China. I'll provide two arguments that I think will back up that statement.

Beware of the perils

Not everyone can be a winner, as some of American companies flocking to do business in China will eventually find out. Many seem to think that China is the land of great opportunity. And why not—a market of 1.3 billion people means even if only a small number today are real consumers, that's still a lot of potential. There are cracks starting to appear in this Great Wall of Commerce. "China is starting to exhibit some signs of market maturation. Car prices have fallen 14.4% during the past three years and the gap between prices in that nation and North America will continue to narrow in the coming years," stated Mike McKenzie of PricewaterhouseCoopers L.L.P. a speaker at a recent conference on the Chinese automotive market.

Raw material cost in China is rising, and wage increases, excessive competition and misaligned supply and demand could change the long-term outlook. While McKenzie states there is still some room today for automotive suppliers, he predicts that from 2008 to 2012, the country will have a period of rationalization and some companies stand to lose. He goes on to say, make sure your long-term strategy encompasses more than today's hot-ticket market. Goodyear has not been one to develop the long-term strategies, traditionally we have romanced the hot-ticket market and usually too little too late.

Counterfeiting and piracy runs rampant in China

According to the office of the United States Trade Representative, China has become a leading exporter of counterfeit and pirated goods to the world. In 2003, China accounted for 66% of all U.S. Customs and Border Protection seizures of intellectual property rights (IPR) infringing goods. China is also a major source of counterfeit and pirated exports to Japan, the EU and other third-world markets. China fails to refer a sufficient number of cases involving export to criminal investigation and prosecution and also fails to pursue investigations to capture the producers of the counterfeit and pirated goods. China has no ethics or morals; they do intend to bury us.

In a commentary from Fan Gang of Project Syndicate, he states, "China now appears to be the country with the most notorious reputation for corporate piracy. Indeed, if multinationals and developed countries had an 'Interpol' to track down and arrest countries charged with being havens for business piracy, China would likely top the 'Most Wanted' list because of its lack of protection of IPR. Sadly, much of the case is true; no one should ignore this or pretend the facts are otherwise"

I know many of you are wondering, just where I'm taking you, let's go back to my original question, "can we really trust in trade with China?" Consider this, with all I quoted about China's counterfeit and piracy, you should understand that Goodyear is not building plants in China. They are out-sourcing production to China owned tire manufacturers. My understanding would place Goodyear providing specifications and molds with outsourcing providing labor and materials. With their history of counterfeiting and piracy, what would keep these manufacturers from using our molds and our specs and selling those products to anywhere in the world? Even worse, they use our molds and develop their own specs and bury the Goodyear name forever. I will argue that if we send our ticket, molds and technology to China, that's exactly what, will happen. Crippling ourselves intentionally does not seem like something we should do to help our financial longevity.

So, you answer the question. Markets are maturing; cost of raw materials is increasing (even in China) and the likelihood of counterfeiting and piracy are no less than, expected. How does this protect our good name? They would use our reputation to sell their product and keep all the profit and related jobs.

Dana Dixon, Managing Editor

Sources: Project Syndicate, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative & a little help from Doug Knowles



Questions Answers

If anyone has a question for *The Informer*, please submit it to Dana Dixon, Gloria Gravely, Danny Travis or your Division Chairman.

What is the proper procedure for shift trade agreements on 12-hours?

The contract language (Article X Seniority, Section 5 (h)) reads as follows: (h) *Temporary shift trades may be made between two employees on the same job for a definite period of time after it has been approved by the steward involved and the department manager. Any shift trade request must be in writing and signed by both the requesting parties. Employees must make their own tentative arrangements to trade shifts temporarily, subject to Employer approval. Shift trades are limited to a maximum of four (4) weeks in one (1) week multiples. Employees trading shifts will assume one another's status on seniority and hours charged for distribution of work purposes, for the duration of the trade. Shift trades, including one day trades, may only be made if such trades will not cause daily overtime pay or premium pay or result in a short work week requiring paying short work week benefits. (See Letter 4, Items 17, 18 & 19)*

The language is fairly clear, I hope this helps and as always, when in doubt about a contractual issue, refer to your contract book.



Jeff Coleman,
Division I Chairman

Thank you URW/USWA 831!!!!

MARCH 1987, excerpt URW 831 Union Newsletter
article submitted by Jack Dodson

"OUR CREDIT UNION"

In the latter part of 1969 some union members saw a definite need and advantage of having a Credit Union. On December 1, 1969 eight employees, all active in the Union at the time, signed the charter to start our Credit Union. The charter signed by R. Jack Jones, Peter A. George, John B. Thompson, C.R. Denny, Jack D. Dodson, Jimmie E. Foster, A. Ray Deel, and A.T. Lewis was approved January 6, 1970 and U.R.W. Local 831 Federal Credit Union was born. We started out with 55 members and \$473.00. We now have 2310 members and \$5,375,406.00 in assets. We have made 18,632 loans for a total of \$29,337,537.00 (Based on February 1987 Report)."

Fast forward 18 years

Today your credit union has over 8,800 members and \$50 million in assets! We have made a total of 57,537 loans for a total of \$183,021,456.92 (Based on March 2005 Report). We have added many additional services and two locations to serve our members!

Join us on June 4, 2005 at 5:00 PM at the Community Market for our annual meeting to celebrate what you started 35 years ago. Pork n Blues to follow annual meeting.*

**You have a lot to be proud of
URW/USWA 831!**

*(Limited amount of tickets available, stop by either of our two locations, 539 Arnett Blvd or 264 Lowes Drive) We'll see you there!



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How you invest your 401(k) plan money today could affect your retirement plans tomorrow. I can help you determine what investments, and in what amounts, can best help you meet your retirement goals.

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PENSION & INSURANCE

Family Status Change

• If a child is born, the paperwork has to be turned in to the Goodyear Benefit Solution Center before the 31 days is up after the event. If you turn it into the company, make sure you have the date stamped and a copy made of it.

• Status Change Forms can be turned in prior to proof of the birth.

• Forms must be filled out on both sides before they will be processed.

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance Cards

• Everyone will be receiving new B/C B/S Insurance cards. The Social Security number has been taken off for Security reasons. This is referred to as "Unique Identifier."

• Destroy Your **Old Cards Please.**

Top 10 Funny Store Signs

1. Outside a muffler shop: No appointment necessary, we hear you coming.
2. Outside a hotel: 'Help! We need inn-experienced people.'
3. On a desk in a reception room: 'We shoot every third salesman, and the second one just left.'
4. In a veterinarian's waiting room: 'Be back in 5 minutes, Sit! Stay!'
5. At the electric company: 'We would be de-lighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be.'
6. On the door of a computer store: 'Out for a quick byte.'
7. In a restaurant window: 'Don't stand there and be hungry, come on in and get fed up.'
8. Inside a bowling alley: 'Please be quiet, we need to hear a pin drop'
9. In the front yard of a funeral home: 'Drive carefully, we'll wait.'
10. In a counselor's office: 'Growing old is mandatory, growing wise is optional.'



Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale
When: May 7
Where: USWA Local 831 Union Hall
Time: 7:00 am - 1:00 pm

- Tables can be rented for \$5 each or you can make a donation of goods to Local 831 to be sold and used as a donation.
- Donations accepted after April 25th
- All monies raised will go to the Relay for Life (Cancer Society)
- Refreshments, including baked goods will be sold (baked goods donations requested)

TIRES & WHEELS

On Sale!

All tires and wheels are on sale!
Wheel rep's will be on site all week.
May 16-20

During this sale only, Goodyear Plant Employees will be given an "instant rebate" using their current coupons. The rebate is as described on these coupons, except the rebate will be instant (no need to mail it in). Payroll deductions allowed for this sale.

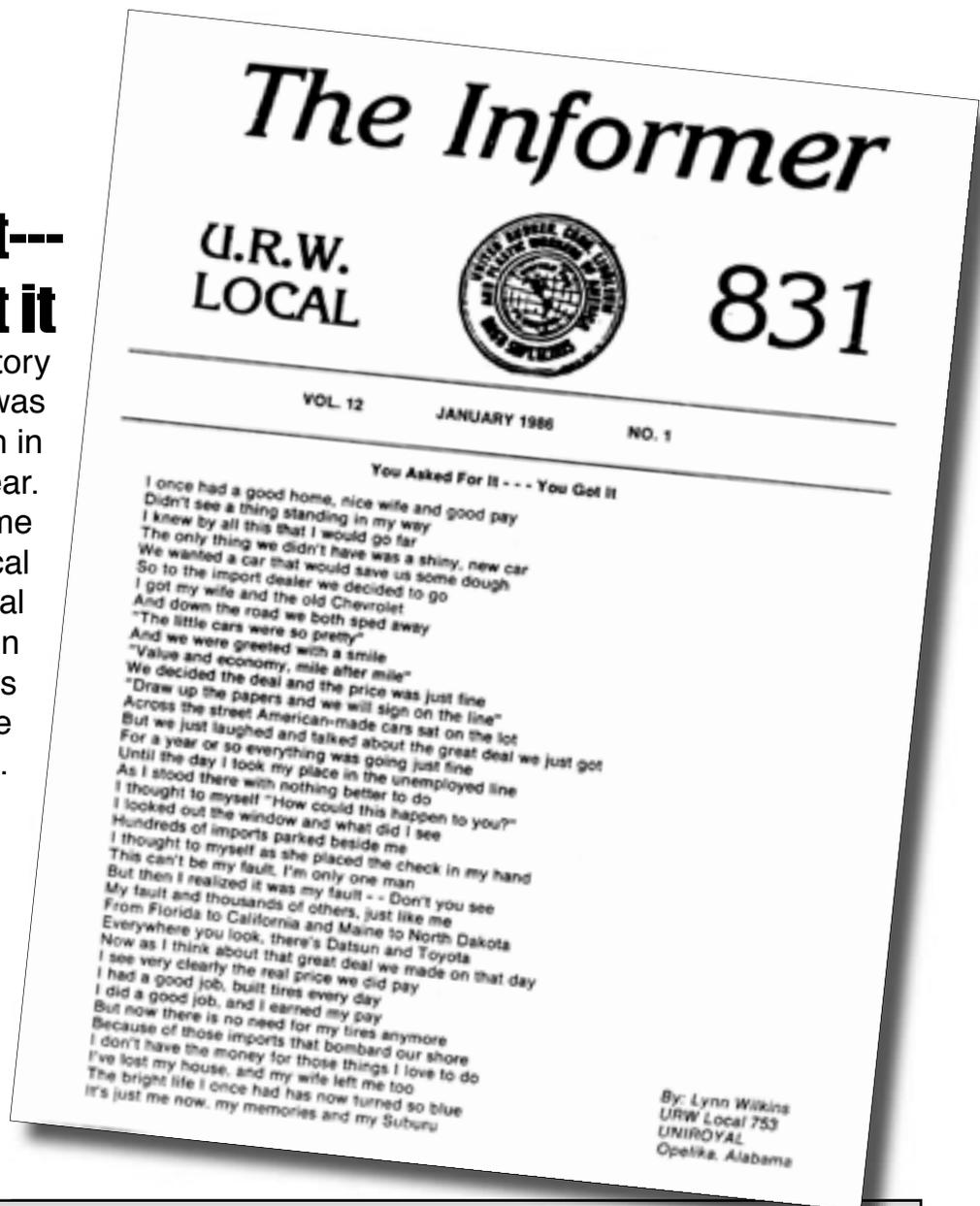
Buy a \$1.00 Raffle Ticket from SOAR
for a chance to win a set of tires!
Refreshments will be served.



Visit our store at
 450 Mt. Cross Road
 Danville, VA
434-792-1022

You asked for it--- you got it

This month's back in time story is actually a poem that was written back in 1986 and run in the "Informer." the same year. Lynn Wilkins who at the time was a member of URW Local 753 and employed by Uniroyal Tire wrote it. It was obvious then as it is now how important it is to purchase American made products when at all possible.



ATTENTION Combat Infantryman

If you or a family member received a CIB please join us in our effort to obtain a Special Virginia License Plate for Combat Infantryman Badge Recipients

The DMV has designated Major Gary Gibbs, US Army Retired, as sponsor to receive the required 350 paid applications for a special license plate to honor these veterans.

For More Information Contact:

Mr. Gary Gibbs

335 Riverside Drive • Luray, VA 22835

540-743-7205 • ggibbs@shentel.net



RETIREES

Congratulations to the following retirees. We wish them much success in their future endeavors and hope they can fully enjoy their union negotiated retirement benefits.

Billy Demott
 Earl Easley
 Betty Ferrell
 James Irving
 Donald Supernaut
 Reliss Tanksley
 Jasper Totten

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Robert Bryant, George Carter Jr., Steven Coleman, Steve Fitzgerald,
 George Gwynn, Brian Johnson, Lane Kemp, Latin Lipford
 Byron Martin, Victoria Martin, Christal Myers, Wallace Saunders
 Ricky Wharton, Thomas Wilson, Charlotte Wright, William Yancey
 To the family of Addie Jones

A special thank you is extended from Steve Fitzgerald to his co-workers on the tubers for their expression of sorrow during the lost of his grandmother.



U.S.W.A. Local 831
 285 Shady Grove Road
 Providence, NC 27315

Return Service Requested

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 2005 CALENDAR						
AC 1	BD 2 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	BD 3	AC 4	AC 5	BD 6	BD 7
BD 8	AC 9	AC 10	BD 11 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	BD 12 Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM	AC 13	AC 14
AC 15	BD 16	BD 17	AC 18	AC 19	BD 20	BD 21
BD 22	AC 23	AC 24	BD 25	BD 26	AC 27	AC 28
AC 29	BD 30 Memorial Day (T)(C)	BD 31	June AC 1	AC 2	BD 3	BD 4