

Worrying Never Helped Anything

In times of uncertainty it can often be tempting to worry. According to Webster's Dictionary to worry is to be concerned or troubled; to be in distress or to have mental anxiety. It is understandable that people are concerned and even troubled about the ongoing contract negotiations and Goodyear's overall financial health. However, worry can have a negative effect on one's physical and mental health.

Speculation about the future can lead to rumors than often fuel more worries and do little for anyone other than to waste time and energy. We can all work and hope for a positive result in the negotiations and a company turn around that will make us the envy of every corporation in America. In the meantime, allowing worry and rumors to occupy our minds and time will do nothing to bring about positive results.

You can spend your days listening to and spreading every rumor that comes along, worrying about a possible strike, a lock out, the stock price or Goodyear's survival, but at the end of that day, what have you accomplished? Rumors come and go. Some turn out to be true and many others do not. If we strike, we strike. If Goodyear locks us out, they lock us out. Goodyear's stock will be what it will be at the end of the day. We can all work as a team and help Goodyear to be the best that it can be, but worrying about it will do nothing to turn our situation around.

The best thing we can all do is to focus our energy on today and plan for tomorrow. Support our union leaders. Go to work each day with a determination to do the best job we can. Help to stop rumors, not spread them. Pay off debt and save money. Spend quality time with family and friends. Get involved in the community and church. If we do these things, we can stay busy enough that it will be difficult to find time to worry.

Attendance Pays Off for Dabbs

After working 12 hours, it is easy to get in the car and head to the house, however, on the second Thursday of every month many of our members cruise by the union hall to attend their monthly membership meeting. This past meeting really paid off to David Dabbs of the

maintenance department. Every month, Local 831 adds \$25 to the attendance prize. It has been adding up for years, to the sum of \$700.00. Every union members name is in the prize barrel and at every regular membership meeting a name is drawn. If the name drawn has attended either the 7:30 a.m. or the 7:30 p.m. meeting they win the prize. Brother Dabbs was on hand as his name was drawn. "I've recently started attending the meetings again and I'm glad I did," stated Dabbs. Taking home \$700 should keep him coming for years. "I'm going to use this check to encourage other maintenance employees to start attending," added Dabbs.



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Tentative Agreement was reached on Wednesday, August 20, 2003



Business Meeting - August 13, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All board members present except Nancy Chaney, George Stewart and J.C. Hudson. There were 85 members present for the meeting.

Opening prayer by Earl Guill followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the July meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Phone Committee—volunteers needed to phone members to announce information that may come up between meetings. See or call one of the board members if you can take a list to call.

Brunswick stew will be cooked October 8 on our regular meeting day. Volunteers need to be at the Union Hall at 6:30 a.m. to help prepare for the stew. Lunch will be served consisting of our own homemade stew.

Christmas party will be December 10 at the Union Hall. Reservations letters will be mailed at a later date.

Soar presents a bus tour to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on October 13, 14, and 15. See page 7 for details. To make reservations, call Jack Dodson at 792-0043. Reservations on a first come basis so get them in early.

Kenny Stevens gave a report on the Rapid Response meeting held at the Union Hall on July 8 and hosted by the local Soar Chapter. He received a letter from Jim Centner, Soar Director, and Jack Casparriello, Executive Board Member of Soar District 8 thanking us for being a great host for this meeting. Kenny also reminded local retirees to send letters to Mr. Jon Rich, President of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. to let him know that we still care and are concerned about the possible loss of jobs, pensions and reduction in benefits. If you have not sent your letter, please do so today.

Kenny will be attending the Alliance for Retired America National Legislative Conference in Washington, D. C. on September 3 - 5. He will be meeting with Congressman Virgil Goode, Senator George Allen and Senator John Warner.

Drawings for the door prizes were held. Winners were as follows:

Earl Kraft and Page Slayton each won a free oil and lube change from Perry Bros. on Piney Forest Road. Jesse Hawker and Larry Pifer each won a oil and lube change from the Goodyear Service Store on Mt. Cross Road.

Fifty-fifty won by Paul Marlowe.

Charles Denny and crew fried fish for lunch. Thanks Charles for a job well done.

Meeting adjourned.

Nancy Guill, Secretary



Past Vice President, Johnnie Dodd accepts his 30+ year retirement watch and pen set from Vice President Terry Trull.



Retiring Executive Board Member Wayne Teague accepts a plaque of gratitude from Vice President Terry Trull.



COPE Chairman and Sam Fitzgerald clown around at the PAF tee-shirt distribution.

Federal Action Key to Stemming America's Manufacturing Crisis

By Leo W. Gerard

By practically every measure, American manufacturing is in crisis.

Since January 2001, our nation has lost 3 million jobs in the private sector. U.S. manufacturing, which has shrunk to barely 15 percent of all private sector jobs, accounted for two-thirds of that decline - a loss of more than 2 million well-paid manufacturing jobs.

Capacity utilization, a measure of production activity, dropped to 74 percent last year, the lowest level since 1983. At the same time, the nation's trade deficit in goods broke another record, soaring to an estimated \$458 billion - an astounding \$1.2 billion per day.

Workers in practically every state and every sector of the economy are being devastated. In our union, to cite just one example, more than 50,000 steelworkers have lost their jobs, and nearly a quarter million retirees, spouses and dependents have had their health care benefits wiped out by unfair trade and the wave of bankruptcies and liquidations it has induced..

In large part, this growing devastation results from the failure of both the Clinton and Bush administrations to forge policies that would restore America's role as the global leader in manufacturing - a role that was instrumental in building the American middle class and in giving minorities a ladder to climb out of poverty.

Instead, Washington's fascination with so-called "free trade" - and with the smoke and mirrors of the dot-coms, which produced few products or profits, but set the stage for the corporate crime wave that skimmed \$7 trillion of value away from productive investment - have put our entire economy at risk.

A new study by Joel Popkin and Company for the National Association of Manufacturers confirms that our government is trading away some of America's best

jobs. Manufacturing typically provides higher pay and better benefits, including pensions and health care, and also gives workers opportunities for advanced education and training.

The persistent hollowing out of American manufacturing may, in fact, be pushing our economy's most dynamic sector beyond the point of recovery. "If the U.S. manufacturing base continues to shrink at its present rate," the study warns, ". . . a decline in U.S. living standards in the future is virtually assured."

Yet our leaders in Washington seem oblivious to manufacturing's benefits and to the dangers of its decline. In their mania to create more windfalls for the wealthy, they are sabotaging any

"... Fortunately, the rest of America is not as clueless as our politicians."

possibility of federal action to restore our nation's ability to compete for global leadership in manufacturing, undermining the living standards of all working Americans in the process.

Fortunately, the rest of America is not as clueless as our politicians. A new poll commissioned by our union in nine states of the industrial heartland shows that voters - Democrats, Independents and Republicans alike - understand the need for bold federal action to regain our global leadership in manufacturing:

* 75% of voters surveyed agree that "creating new manufacturing jobs should be the President's top domestic priority."

* By a margin of nearly 3 to 1 - 68% to 23% - voters would be more likely to support a presidential candidate whose top priority is creating new manufacturing jobs over one whose top priority is giving a tax cut to all Americans. Among Democrats and Independents this preference is overwhelming, but a majority of Republicans also favor manufacturing jobs over tax cuts by 51% to 39%.

* Respondents expressed sweeping

dissatisfaction with the nation's trading policies. Fully 90% favor "enforcing fair trade agreements that would require countries like China to respect environmental standards and workers' rights," and 83% support "changing American trade policies to punish countries that engage in unfair trade practices," actions which have long been demanded by our union and other fair trade advocates.

* Finally, 55% of voters give President Bush a negative rating for "preserving U.S. manufacturing jobs," - the only negative rating he received in the survey.

The poll also shows that the public strongly supports a sweeping federal program to create up to one million

new manufacturing jobs by making a major investment in new technologies that would make America energy independent and help protect the environment.

Even after respondents were given the price tag for such a bold federal initiative - from \$200-300 billion over the next 10 years - they still voiced support for such a government initiative by an overwhelming 78% to 14%.

Widespread support for such federal action in these nine states - Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa and Arkansas - represents 112 electoral votes, some 40% of the total necessary for victory in 2004, and crosses all partisan boundaries. While 83% of Democrats favor the proposal, so do 78% of Republicans and 73% of Independents.

These results might be surprising to the administration in Washington. But anyone who works for a living will tell you that a paycheck goes a lot farther than a tax cut, a raise is much better than a rebate, and our nation's strength ultimately depends on the vitality of American manufacturing.

Leo W. Gerard is International President of the United Steelworkers of America

PENSION & INSURANCE

For all members who have United Health Care as their insurance carrier:

If you have to send a claim back for Reasonable/Customary charges make sure you send the EOB/ Explanation of benefits, the balance bill from provider along with a note saying: Review These Charges for the "Hold Harmless" clause in the Danville, Virginia area.

"Hold Harmless" has to be on the note so they can direct the claim to the right appeals team.

Member Business Of The Month

Any member with an outside interest can have their business card published free of charge for one month. This month's member business is David Vernon. David works on B shift as a NG Operator.



David Vernon

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■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

■
Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



Working together would benefit both sides!

Issues arise every day in a work environment such as Goodyear. The key to making things happen without disruption is having the ability to work with the other on the issue. A good example of having the need to work together is illustrated in the recent arbitration case concerning the vacation shutdown week.

On July 2, 2003, Local 831 Negotiating committee and the Human Resources Department of the Danville plant sat down before Stanley Sergent (arbitrator) to present their information so that Mr. Sergent could make a unbiased decision.

The union's case was built on the fact that a shutdown was scheduled and employee's vacations were scheduled pursuant to the 51-week formula as detailed in our agreement. After employees were issued vacation receipts, employees made their plans accordingly. Thus, the first week of August became a week of vacation for all employees on continuous operations. When the company cancelled the vacation shutdown in May of 2003, employees were deprived of the opportunity to take advantage of their full 52-week vacation schedule for 2003 as detailed in the applicable language. Issuing vacation slips is a long-standing, well-established practice that has always been honored by Goodyear. President Barber stated in a previous posting that the union's position in this fight was simply "protecting the integrity of the contract".

The company contends that under the authority of Article III, Management clause, to manage the operation of the plant, which includes the right to schedule and/or cancel a vacation shutdown, they should be able to do, as they deem necessary. They go on to state that the wording that the employer may shut down all or part of the plant for vacation additionally gives them that right. Also, they state, "The agreement does not address the issue of when a vacation shutdown must be scheduled or when it can be canceled. Instead, Article III grants the company the authority and responsibility to manage and operate the plant, which includes the ability to schedule and/or cancel a vacation shutdown for continuous operations.

The arbitrator's award stated—The company is undeniably correct in its assertion that the Managements rights clause contained in the collective bargaining agreement gives its broad authority to manage the business and control its operations. That authority is not absolute and unfettered, however. Instead, it is subject to the explicit limitation that "(t)he exercise of such authority shall not conflict with this agreement, its purposes, or the supplements thereto."

This whole issue and its final decision could have been totally resolved, if Goodyear had chose to sit down and work out a sensible solution as the union requested. Shortly after their announcement to cancel the vacation, the union informed them that most likely a canvass would provide enough employees to run the tires they needed. Darrell Finney, Plant Manager was quoted in the Communicator (joint newspaper) as stating we actually ran more than expected and considering the problems incurred that week, it was a successful one. If the volunteer canvass had been made as the union requested, Goodyear would have thousands of dollars to put against their huge debt. Just another bad decision to add to their list of mistakes.

The important thing to remember is "two heads are better than one". When Goodyear management and Danville management recognize the fact that we are in this thing together and we both want and need for us to survive — things will get better.

Dana Dixon, Managing Editor

Questions & Answers

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

I've noticed on recent Job Postings that the company posts only (1) one vacancy in a classification and then later awards several jobs from that posting. What's up with that?

The company is using the (7) seven day rule per Article X Sec 4 (f) page (99) to fill additional vacancies in that original classification. The Local Negotiating & Grievance committee recently posted a Notice on the Union bulletin boards advising members of the company's method of backfilling jobs to comply with the Memorandum on Per Agreement jobs (PA) before the November expiration date. *In short, if you're interested in bidding on a job go ahead and BID because they MAY award more jobs than the original number of vacancies that were posted.*

The above information was provided by Division III Chairman Jeff Dixon and also was discussed at our recent Union Meeting.

We need Loans!

And, we're willing to pay for them.

Our membership has enjoyed our

"Take Two" program for quite sometime now. And though we don't want the Bastille stormed, we still need to get some more loans going. So, we're making a deal with you. Why don't you refer someone to the credit union where they can take advantage of "Take Two" and we'll pay you!

That's right. It's a win-win situation! You refer anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in The City of Danville, Pittsylvania County or Caswell County, we'll refinance their current car loan from any OTHER financial institution and take 2% off of their rate!*

Then, we'll deposit **\$10** into your account for your "trouble"!

This offer expires September 30, 2003 so don't miss out!



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Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means

"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

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Member Chatter

In your opinion, why is Goodyear in the shape they state they are in?



Ed Clark,
Dept. 2421, B Shift

"They spent more time buying to expand than managing what they had. They made some very bad investments."



Harry Adams,
Dept. 1524

"Poor management. Their corporate structure needs to be restructured."



Jackie Snead,
Dept. 2541, A Shift

"They spent more than they had. You don't get that far in debt knowing how to manage and knowing how to invest wisely."



Ida Fuller,
Dept. 2431, D Shift

"Poor management. They do not have enough good supervision. Waste and other issues are out of control on top of a weakened economy."

SOAR presents
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
 OCTOBER 13, 14, 15, 2003

Features:

- Round Trip transportation, via chartered motor coach
- Two nights accommodation, Baggage Handling at Hotel
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- Dinner and Show at Dixie Stampede
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- Free time at Outlet Malls in Pigeon Forge

Members Tour Cost (per person)

- \$250 Double Occupancy
- \$325.00 Single Occupancy
- \$240.00 Triple Occupancy
- \$230.00 Quad Occupancy

Non-Members Tour Cost (per person)

- \$260.00 Double Occupancy
- \$335.00 Single Occupancy
- \$250.00 Triple Occupancy
- \$240.00 Quad Occupancy

Emergency Cancellations: All monies cheerfully refunded except for tickets and services that we are unable to obtain a refund.

With sign up a Deposit of \$50.00 is due. • September 10, 2003 Balance is due.

October 13, 2003 7:00 a.m.
 Depart from USWA Local 831 Union Hall
October 15, 2003 10:00 p.m.
 Arrive in Danville, Virginia

For More Information Contact:

Jack Dodson 434-792-0043
 Kathy Hamlett 434-685-1688

Please remit bottom portion with payment

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee October 13 - 15, 2003 Jack Dodson 1296 Little Creek Road Ringgold, VA 24586

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Signature _____ Date _____

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RETIREES

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

Fermon McLaughlin

Luther Milner

David Pruitt

Mike Wiles

*We Send Our
Sincere Condolences To*

Luther Atkins, Stephen Cook, John Crowder, Brian Sean Davis, Christopher Farmer, Anthony J. Ferguson, Andrew S. Gregory, Jarris Gunn, Scottie R. Hawkins, Steve Marshall, Milton Wilson, William Womack and to The Families of Leigh Bennett and Retiree Russell Wilson

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2003 CALENDAR						
BD 31	September AC 1 Labor Day Plant Holiday	AC 2 Exec. Board Meeting 7:30 AM	BD 3	BD 4	AC 5	AC 6
				————— 13th Civil Rights International —————		
AC 7 — Conference —	BD 8	BD 9	AC 10 SOAR Meeting 11AM	AC 11 Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM	BD 12	BD 13
BD 14	AC 15	AC 16	BD 17	BD 18	AC 19	AC 20
AC 21	BD 22	BD 23	AC 24	AC 25	BD 26	BD 27
BD 28	AC 29	AC 30	October BD 1	BD 2	AC 3	AC 4
AC 5	BD 6	BD 7	AC 8	AC 9	BD 10	BD 11