

Communications are Key to Education

The 21st Biennial Conference of The United Steelworkers Press Association was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from August 13-16, 2006. On hand were delegates from 13 districts looking to better educate themselves and to improve the local newsletters on which they serve as Editors.

Delegates registered and attended a getting acquainted session for communicators on Sunday, compliments of District 10. On Monday morning the conference was opened by USW International Vice President of Administration Tom Conway who commented, "Everything we do is about education." Delegates were also welcomed by the outgoing President of the USPA, Ucinda Sims, whose comments ended with the introduction of the Executive Board of the USPA.

USPA District 8 Communication Coordinator Dana Dixon then challenged everyone to learn something, to learn with new ideas and tools and to be innovative in their methods of communicating.

The USPA conference agenda consisted of speeches, breakout classes on Basic Writing, Advanced Graphic Design, Web Design and Layout, Web Searching Techniques and more. Classes began each morning at 9 am and continued throughout the day until 4:30 pm with film documentaries scheduled in the evenings. Local 831's newsletter, The Informer, was used repeatedly during the conference as an example of excellence in union journalism.

The highlight of the conference was the highly anticipated appearance of USW President, Leo W. Gerard at the awards banquet. President Gerard gave a rousing speech that captivated all attendees.

Election of USPA Officers was held and rubber workers will hold 6 out of 14 positions. Three District Communications Coordinators

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Pictured are Mike Fox, Terry Trull, Dana Dixon, Sandra Hairston and Danny "Tree" Travis.



Dixon wins Howard J. McCartney award

Each year during the USPA conference, an award is given by the United Steelworkers to an individual that they feel has went above and beyond in dedicating their services in communicating the union message. The name of the award given is the "Howard J. McCartney Award."

Howard J. McCartney was a person who possessed and utilized his many skills and talents on behalf of the United Steelworkers. He played a key role in

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AUGUST 9, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members were present except Nancy Chaney. There were 86 members present.

Opening prayer was led by George Williams.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Treasurer's report read and approved.

The attendance prize in the amount of \$70.00 was not awarded as the name drawn was Susan Emerson and she was not present. The amount for the September meeting will be \$80.00.

Goodyear tire sale will be September 25-29 at both the Goodyear-Mt. Cross Rd. store and the Goodyear Piney Forest Rd. store. Four \$25.00 cash prizes will be awarded to members who work the sale at the "Hot Dog Wagon". To be eligible a Soar member must work a minimum of two hours at one of the locations per day but can qualify at only one location. The drawing will be held at the October meeting.

Charles Denny and his crew will be preparing a fish fry at the September meeting.

Jack Dodson asked members for approval of travel expenses for the Board members to travel to Rocky Mount on August 14 to meet with Representative Virgil H. Goode, Jr. of the U.S. House of Representatives regarding retirees health benefits. Motion made by Charles Denny and seconded by Kenny Barbour to approve the expenses. Motion passed.

A brief outline was given on the on-going negotiations between Goodyear & USW.

The Union picnic will be October 7 at the Pavilion on Craghead Street.

There are still seats available for the bus tours in October and November. Call Jack Dodson for details.

The free oil, lube change from Goodyear Store on Mt. Cross Rd. was won by Thomas Dawson and Corinne Parks. James Chattin and Tom Le Master each won a free oil, lube change from the Piney Forest Rd. Store.

Fifty-fifty was won by Dillon Rucker.

Motion made to adjourn by Charles Denny second by Willie Fitzgerald. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be September 13 at the Local 831 Union Hall at 11:00 a.m. New members are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Greg Gammon

MINNESOTA LIFE

As of July 31, 2006 there were 7047 letters sent out as reminders to complete beneficiary designations. Remember, a member can designate beneficiaries at any time, but Minnesota is required by insurance law to pay the proceeds to the beneficiary on file. So even if you receive the mailing and it is after the so-called "deadline," it is imperative that you designate one.

ZOCOR

Express Scripts has advised that the brand Zocor will be removed from the formulary September 1, 2006. The generic became available sometime after June 23, 2006, which is Simvastatin, and mandatory generic was applied at the time (difference in cost plus the formulary brand co-pay was applied). In September, the co-pay applied to mandatory generic situations will be increased to the non-formulary brand co-pay. It is important that the doctor not indicate DAW (dispense as written) on the prescription. At mail order they can contact the physician to ask if generic may be substituted, but if the doctor or the patient insist on the brand Zocor, the member will be subject to applicable co-pay and difference in cost. Please find enclosed an example of the prescription Zocor versus the generic Simvastatin, assuming this is for a 10 mg tablet. Zocor will cost the member \$46.62 for a 30-day supply from a local pharmacy, and will cost \$145.89 for the 90-day supply. However, if you took the alternative drug of Simvastatin the 10mg tablet will cost \$10 from the local pharmacy (30-day) and \$20 for mail order (90 day) service. Also keep in mind that when you spend more on prescription drugs, you aren't always getting more. Also, many patients who take expensive drugs will do just as well with drugs that cost less. As well, Generic and lower-cost brand drugs are often equally effective and more affordable.

FULL TIME STUDENT FORMS

The Goodyear Solution Center has mailed out to all employees a letter about requirements for full-time students. This information must be submitted no later than September 30, 2006, which at that time their benefits will expire if dependent doesn't qualify. If your dependent continues as a full-time student you must submit documentation obtained from an accredited school showing that your dependent is full-time. To be classified as a full time student, the student must have 12 credit hours. You must also provide proof of financial responsibility of the dependent by submitting a copy of your latest tax return. Please provide the name and Social Security number of the employee or retiree when you submit this information. If any questions arise, please contact the Goodyear Solution Center at 1-800-334-9395 or your benefit representative at USW Local 831.

August Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on August 10, 2006 with Vice President Terry Trull presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting.

■ Greg Gammon opened the meeting with prayer. It was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers, all were present except Danny Barber (union business), Gloria Gravely (union business), David Payne and Byron Taylor.

■ Recording Secretary Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the July meeting. They were approved as read.

■ Executive Board report for July was approved as read and contained the following:

- Motion to allot \$18,000 for T-shirts.
- Motion to purchase locking four drawer file cabinet for trustees and P&I office.
- Motion to send President and two members of Civil Rights Committee to Civil Rights Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on September 7-10, 2006.
- Motion to send President,

Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, two Board members and two Grievance committee members to District 8 Conference in Charleston, West Virginia on September 25-27, 2006.

• “Thank You” received from God’s Store House.

• Motion to uphold grievance committee decision.

• “Thank You” received from Cub Scouts of America.

• “Thank You” received from Jeff Yarbrough for previous committee appointment.

• Committees appointed (see article).

• Motion to include members of Asheboro Wire plant to attend Local Union Picnic on October 7, 2006.

• Motion to purchase printer for financial office.

■ Financial report for the month of July was given by Dana Dixon was approved as read.

■ P & I report was given by Greg Gammon (see P&I report).

■ Committee Reports:

• Contract Action Team by Dana Dixon (see CAT story)

• Trustee report by Becky Inman. All was in order.

• By-Laws report by Jeff Coleman, first reading of by-law proposal given.

• Picnic report by Brenda Miles, we will have a picnic (see article)

■ Points of information given by Terry Trull:

• Highlights on BF Goodrich & Michelin ratified contract vs. what Goodyear wants.

• Strike & Defense Rules.

• Larry Eanes, USW International Auditor was present to answer questions concerning strike and defense rules.

■ Tommy Barber and Randy Foster won 50/50 drawings.

■ The name of Terrance Coles 2541/1614 was drawn for the attendance drawing. He was not present. The September door prize will be \$75.00

■ Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be September 14, 2006.

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Communications are Key to Education

are from the Goodyear chain, Local 831--Danville, VA, Local 746--Tyler, Texas and Local 286-Lincoln, Nebraska. Van Tenpenny was elected as the new President of the USPA.

The Awards Banquet and ceremony are how the USPA recognizes and rewards excellence in various newsletter categories. There are award winners for achievement in stories about organizing, safety and health, civil rights, best original cartoon, best picture and The Mike Enos award for best web site. The major awards presented were The Howard J. McCartney Award for Communicator of the Year and The Ray Pasnick Award for the best overall paper.

The winner of The Howard J. McCartney Award is given to honor the unsung heroes of the local union press. This year’s winner is none other than Local 831’s own Dana Dixon. Local 831’s The Informer also won

the Organizing Departmental Award, The Legislative and Political Action Departmental Award and a Best Front Page Merit Award.

The Ray Pasnick Award recognizes the best overall paper in three circulation categories. Circulation of less than 1000 went to The 1023 Express from the Salem Va. Yokohama plant. Circulation of 1000 to 2000 went to The Stretch from the Tyler Texas Local 746L and circulation of over 2000 was awarded to the Golden Lodge News from Local 1123.

Congratulations go out to all award



Mike Fox & Sandra Hairston

winner as well as all attending editors. Everyone involved came away a winner. Local 831 extends thanks to the USPA and all involved for providing this unique educational experience. With these additional tools our local newsletter staff can continue to provide and improve

the information provided to Local 831 membership. USW Assistant to the President/Communications Marco Trbovich said it best, “If we’re not in the game on the media end, we’re losing the game.”



President Leo Gerard

Franklin Discount back in the mix

When the shoe certificates were printed, Franklin's Discount & Southern States were omitted. Since then, Franklin's has come alive and is ready for action. "Safety shoes are our main business and we want to thank Goodyear employees for making their purchases from our store," stated Kay McCollum, storeowner. Franklin Discount is The Informer's newest advertiser and they have much more to offer than just safety shoes. One quick visit and you'll see that they have a wide selection of jeans, t-shirts, hats, belts and are proud to show off their American-made goods.

There are very few places left that carry any American-made goods and they will quickly lead you to the display of Pointer Brand overalls. Made by the Pointer family, everything down to the thread and buttons are Made in the U.S.A. in addition to Pointer Brand, they also feature several safety shoes that bear the Made in the U.S.A. label. Franklin's has one style of non-metallic toed safety shoe as well, for those who don't want the added weight of steel toes. If you haven't stopped by lately, please do so soon! Don't forget to clip their ad for an additional \$5.00 off safety shoes.

USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Associate Editors
Danny Travis, Mike Fox, Sandra Hairston

■
Communications Coordinator
Dana Dixon



EDITOR'S COLUMN...

The real deal on minimum wage

At the current minimum wage level, a full time, year round minimum wage worker will earn in one year \$10,712.00. That is of course, if no one gets sick! That's \$5,378.00 less than the \$16,090.00 that is needed to lift a family of three out of poverty. A family's annual average health care premiums exceed annual pay at the minimum wage, which is now \$5.15 per hour.

Here's the kicker, the last minimum raise increase was back in 1997. Since that time Congress, who decides if a minimum wage increase should be applied have voted to give themselves pay raises- technically "cost of living increases" in the past nine years totaling \$31,600, or more than \$15 an hour for a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks a year. Guess who's paying for those raises, you got it, WE ARE! Is this fair? It doesn't take rocket science to figure out who they are really looking out for and its not working America.

You may ask yourself, what does that have to do with us; I'm making a good income. It has everything to do with us! If congress doesn't care enough about a person who makes only \$5.15 per hour, how do you expect them to feel about workers who make a good and decent wage? We must elect representatives to congress who do care. We have some but we need more! Democratic Leader Harry Reid who supports a minimum wage increase to \$7.25 an hour vowed to do anything it takes to stop congressional pay raises this year and even pay raises in the future unless an increase in minimum wage is given by congress.

"To say no to a minimum wage increase would be outrageous and shameful. It's past time for a raise in our nations federal minimum wage," stated AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

The problem with congress is they have lost touch with normal everyday Americans. Hey, everybody ain't rich. Everything around us is getting more and more expensive. But if you are one of the elite that makes several times the average that the average American makes, you don't feel the pain as much. I know one pain you would feel, not being re-elected, that's in our power, the only true power we have.

Danny "Tree" Travis, Associate Editor



Getting Hoodwinked

The government sent as much as \$1.4 billion in bogus assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina and Rita, getting hoodwinked to pay for season football tickets, a tropical vacation and even a divorce lawyer, congressional investigators have found.

Prison inmates, a supposed victim who used a New Orleans cemetery for a home address, and a person who spent 70 days at a Hawaiian hotel all were able to wrongly get tax payer help, according to evidence that gives another black eye to the nation's disaster relief agency.

Agents from the General Accountability Office, the investigation arm of Congress, went undercover to expose the ease of receiving disaster expense checks from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Man, what some folks will do!

Questions & Answers

If anyone has a question for *The Informer*, please submit it to Danny Travis, Sandra Hairston, Mike Fox or your Division Chairman.

How will I survive financially during a strike?

In the event of a strike it is very important to contact all of your creditors and let them know you are involved in a work stoppage. It may even be to your advantage to contact them before a strike is called, so you know their expectations. Many creditors will work with you to see you through this tough time.

With the possibility of a strike on everyone's mind, have you asked yourself "Who can I count on to help me?". The answer is as close as your local URW Community Credit Union. The URW MFCU has already contacted the Local Union and said that they are ready to assist its' union members in the event of a strike. The friendly staff will be glad to assist you with any questions you may have.

As a side note, the Local 831 has yet to hear from the salaried Goodyear Family Credit Union regarding potential strike issues for members.

Union Picnic "On Go"

Raffle tickets still available.

The USW 831 Picnic is on schedule and will be held even if there is a strike. Preparations have been in motion for some time now so the show will go on. New this year will be a combination wrist band/meal ticket. There will also be a dependent verification process. So please leave the neighbors, cousins and other non-dependents at home so they won't be turned away.

The Benefit Raffle is also in high gear. For a mere \$5.00 donation you will have a chance to win one of three trips in this years USW Local 831 Picnic Benefit Raffle to be given away the day of the Union picnic. Check out these destinations, buy your ticket(s) and start packing!

3 Nights Cancun, Mexico	(\$500 spending cash)
3 Nights Jamaica	(\$500 spending cash)
3 Nights Bahamas	(\$500 spending cash)

All trips include R/T Airfare and Hotel (Double Occupancy). There is a one year window of opportunity to schedule your trip and if you are not in the mood for travel, a cash alternative is available. Get your tickets from all picnic committee members, all Division Chairmen or on your next visit to the USW Local 831 Hall.

Approximately 3000 tickets are available. There is no limit on how many chances you can purchase so get yours today!

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Dixon wins Howard J. McCartney award



the advancement of labor journalism and in helping develop local union publications.

Dixon presented award by Secretary-Treasurer James English

The award was first presented in 1972 and since then has been presented every two years to a deserving local union editor. Because of his dedicated service, the award is given in his honor. This year's award was presented to Local 831 member Dana Dixon. Presenting the award at this year's conference was International Secretary Treasurer Jim English.

"This year the Howard J. McCartney Award is being presented to an individual who has devoted his waking hours promoting communications in many ways and unionism as a whole. This person has served in various capacities throughout the 30 years with his local," said English.

Dixon has served his union since he was 18 years old starting in Madisonville Kentucky where he first started working for Goodyear. He started at the Goodyear-Danville plant in 1985. He has served on the Committee on Political Education (COPE) and the Contract Action Team where he has worked through two sets of negotiations and has worked as a public relations person for the local, brought community attention to the job losses in his industry and how foreign trade impacted them.

"Winning this award would not be possible without the support of my local. The President and Vice-President allow me to focus my attention on building better communications within the union. I come from a union family, both of my grandfathers worked in the coal mines. I lost one grandfather to a mine collapse and the other died from black lung. I know first hand how important a union is," explained Dixon.

"He mentors various current and future local union leaders in helping them to understand the importance of effective communications and instructs courses at a local and district level. Presently, this gentleman serves as the local's Financial Secretary, the Editor of the local's award winning newsletter, assists with managing the local's web site and serves as a District 8 Communications Coordinator for the United Steelworkers," stated English.

"My communication's vision would be that someday all members would realize that our jobs are in the hands of our legislators. When you elect labor-friendly legislators, you increase the likelihood of job security. We can no longer focus only on moral and social issues, such as abortion and gun control. We can't ignore the issues that effect workers in this country such as jobs, pensions and health care. We must elect representatives that will support working families and address the issues that have crippled our country," stated Dixon.

Communications Questioned At Meeting

The August membership meeting was a meeting of great interest to the members concerning a possible strike and current negotiations. The communications about contract negotiations was raised, Communications Coordinator, Dana Dixon gave the following information:

- CAT members should read all alerts as soon as they are posted. It is their job to be able answer questions about the alerts to the membership. If a CAT member doesn't understand, they should contact the union hall for clarification. The purpose of giving CAT members their orange shirts is to make them identifiable in their area.
- All alerts and information shared on the GKD web site are a product of the Policy committee in Cincinnati. Locally we make no changes, we report it as it comes.
- Yes, more information would be great, however, we have elected these union members as our negotiators and we must give them our full support and respect the fact that they are telling us everything they can without jeopardizing the negotiations.
- It is impossible for our negotiators to share the day-to-day discussions as they may change as the topics of discussion changes.
- In the beginning, President Barber and Policy Member Gravely stood in front of membership and read all proposals going to Cincinnati from our local as well as proposals they have knowledge of from other locals. Since that meeting, President Barber followed up with additional proposals including the Cut & Gut proposals that the company has made. There has been little if anything held back. While you may not have seen all this on paper, if you attend your meetings—you've heard it all.
- At the August meeting, Vice President Terry Trull gave some of the highlights of the B.F. Goodrich agreement and the comparable proposals that Goodyear has offered. B.F. Goodrich has put their agreement on their web site, to display their information. You can read it by going to www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org. Our members must remember, their agreement has many pieces that would be give-backs as compared to our current agreement. **This is their agreement not to be confused with what we want or what we will accept.**
- Please be patient with your CAT members, they are there to help you understand. They can't give you something they don't have. A conference call was held on Thursday morning and Local 831 reported that the membership would like to have more information, as did most all other locals. On that call, the planning of events at all locations was discussed and as they materialize, that information will be shared. For all those who feel they do not get enough negotiations information—will you be there when we need people for rallies?

Dana Dixon, Communications Coordinator

Committee Appointments Announced

The following members have been appointed by President Danny Barber to committees, presented to the Executive board and read at the monthly Union meetings.

Picnic Committee: Harry Hughes, Jerry Harris, Steve Howell, Pamela Wright, Ricky Miles, Ralph McCubbins, Harry Adams, Barry McCubbins, Brenda Miles, Teresa Long.

Safety Committee: Mike Baker, James Coles, Kathy Crawley, Dennis Saunders.

Organizing Committee: Henry Stowe, Barry Austin, Tony Powell, Carolyn Coles, Ricky Miles, Antonio Harris, Harry Brooks, Priscilla Fitzgerald, Sylvester Mayo.

By-Laws Committee: Jeff Coleman, Paul Tucker, Monica Gray.

Women of Steel: Brenda Miles, Charlotte Wright, Joyce Holland, Cathy Barker, Monica Gray, Lisa Spicer, April Blackwell.

Civil Rights Committee: Wayne Dickerson, Dorothy Jones, Joyce Holland, Nicole Williams, Barry Browning.

Cope Committee: Linwood Saunders, Mark Powers, Delta Williams, Rhonda Walker, Stuart Lovelace, Courtney Dixon, Ricky Austin.

Skilled Trades Committee: Dennis Hawker, Mark Powers, Verman Saunders, Butch Robinson, Barry Bridgen, Brian Shore.

Contracting Out Committee: Butch Robinson, Doug Knowles, Mary Ann Davis.

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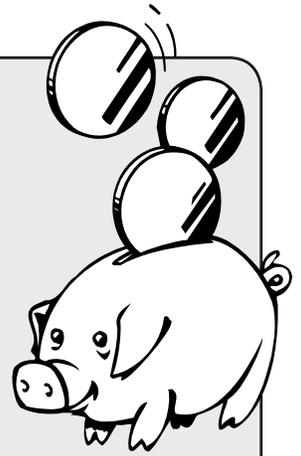
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Most Households Managing Finances Well

Most households in America are doing a pretty good job managing their finances, although lower income families, which generally have less of a financial cushion to deal with unexpected problems, face challenges, said Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

Bernanke made his observations as families are coping with higher borrowing costs and lofty energy prices. They must also deal with an increasingly complex array of financial products that sometimes can seem bewildering when it comes to making smart financial decisions.



DREAMING OF THE IDEAL RETIREMENT IS YOUR JOB. HELPING YOU GET THERE IS OURS

It's simple, really. How well you retire depends on how well you plan today. Whether retirement is down the road or just around the corner, if you're working towards your goals now, the better off you'll be.

Preparing for retirement means taking a long-term perspective. We recommend buying high-quality investments and holding them because we believe that's the soundest way we can help you achieve your goals.

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Christopher Saunders,
Thomas Stevens, David Sydnor,
Ronnie Sydnor, Danny Turner,
Reginald Venable, Ronald Williams,
Nanny Woody, and Thomas Woody.
To the families of retirees
William Coleman, Clyde White, and
Sam Lee and to the family of
Mark French.

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.

Joe Heath
Fabric Calendar

Mike Johnson
Fabric Calendar

*Get ready for the
USW picnic!*



Mark your Calendar - October 7, 2006

U.S.W. Local 831

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2006 CALENDAR						
August BD 27	AC 28	AC 29	BD 30	BD 31	AC 1	AC 2
AC 3	BD Labor Day 4	BD Exec. Board Mtg. 7:30 AM 5	AC SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM 6	AC 7	BD 8	BD 9
				Civil Rights Conference		
BD 10	AC 11	AC 12	BD SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM 13	BD Union Meeting 7:30 AM 7:30 PM 14	AC 15	AC Women of Steel Bread and Roses Banquet Roanoke, VA 16
AC 17	BD 18	BD 19	AC 20	AC 21	BD 22	BD 23
BD 24	AC 25	AC 26	BD 27	BD 28	AC 29	AC 30
District 8 Conference						