

Perriello Does Town Hall Meeting

Over the summer congressional recess, Rep. Tom Perriello is holding 20 town hall meetings across the 5th District ranging from early mornings to evenings. Perriello is repeating the string of face-to-face meetings he held last year throughout the district. Facing the scrutiny of national news cameras and angry constituents, Rep. Tom Perriello, D-5th District, held his ninth town hall of the month in Danville on Tuesday night and fielded pointed questions about jobs, the deficit, taxes, social security, the war in Afghanistan and health care.



Perriello addresses Danville town hall attendees.

Perriello stood before a crowd of more than 100 at O.T. Bonner Middle School answering questions for more than two hours. In his opening remarks, Perriello continued

his jobs-heavy focus, touting the need for construction, infrastructure and manufacturing investments. When asked about his position on the proposed Muslim mosque/community center to be built near Ground Zero in New

York City, Perriello paused, choosing his words carefully and replied "let me start by saying, I cannot imagine wanting the government to be able to tell me and my faith community where we can build a house of worship on private property. I have opinions on whether it's a good idea or not, but

compared to the importance of solving the economy right now . . . this is a distraction of what our biggest priorities should be." The crowd over-whelmingly applauded his answer.

There were many questions on health

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USW Signs Deal With Leading Chinese Companies

The United Steelworkers (USW) announced today it has signed agreements with A-Power Energy Generation Systems Ltd, (NASDAQ: APWR) and Shenyang Power Group ("SPG"), two of China's leading power generation companies. This agreement provides a strong foundation for a win-win relationship between Chinese renewable energy equipment manufacturers and U.S. workers as the USW will guide and work collaboratively on all aspects of the companies' U.S. market strategies including manufacturing, assembly, component sourcing, distribution and wind energy project development.

"We will work with A-Power and SPG to create long-term, good-paying, green American jobs," said USW International President Leo W. Gerard. "The USW is committed to building a strong domestic supply chain that will be key to the future of America's global renewable energy leadership." A-Power and SPG anticipate purchasing over time approximately 50,000 tons of steel to be manufactured in

unionized American steel mills to supply the towers for a 615MW wind farm in Texas.

"It is an honor to team up with the Steelworkers for this historic partnership that will result in hundreds of American jobs and help create a clean energy future for the U.S." said Cappy McGarr, US-REG Managing Partner.

"We look forward to working closely with the USW on further projects to help expand wind power and renewable energy in the U.S."

"Through our partnership with the U.S. Renewable Energy Group, we had the unique opportunity to meet President Gerard and understand his vision for win-win relationships between manufacturers and workers," said Mr. Jinxiang Lu, Shenyang Power Group Chairman and CEO. "We quickly discovered that our company's high standards at every level of the clean energy technology supply chain were the same as those of the USW. A-Power, SPG and USW know that the success of our organizations is dependent on developing the world's most

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The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except Nancy Chaney. There were 106 members present. Opening prayer led by Kenny Durham.

The name of Raymond Spicer was drawn for the attendance prize. He was presented with a check for \$70.00 of which he returned \$35.00 to the Club. September's attendance prize will be for \$10.00.

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

A contact committee is being formed and members signed cards giving their names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail address for future use.

Pension and Insurance Committee - a report was given by Benny Toler who attended a VEBA meeting in Maryland on July 6. It appears that cuts will be made in 2011 on insurance. See Benny Toler for details. Also, Benny announced that members would be receiving a card in the mail about open enrollment. Members should fill out the card and return to sender.

Charles Denny announced that he and his committee would be preparing a fish fry at the September meeting.

Brenda Scarce gave a report on bus tours. She has planned a trip to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, Tenn. November 9th -11th. On December 6th she has a trip to the Southern Supreme Fruitcake Factory in Bear Creek, N. C., and travel to Selma, N.C. to see a Christmas show at the American Jubilee Theatre. After the show, dinner will be at the Homestead.

Door prizes won by the following:

Oil, filter and lube change -

Piney Forest Goodyear Store - Kenneth Rucker

Oil, filter and lube change - Mt.

Cross Goodyear Store - Pete Gammon
50-50 drawing - Marvin Hunnicutt

Motion made by Charles Denny to adjourn seconded by Juanita Edwards. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

FULL-TIME STUDENT

If you have a dependent that is 19 years of age or older and enrolled as a full-time student, you must submit the 2010 fall semester documentation from the school showing they are enrolled in at least 12 credit hours. You must also provide proof of financial responsibility for this dependent by providing your 2009 tax return or the following:

- proof of residency
- tuition payments
- auto insurance with dependent listed as a driver
- court order

Note: The deadline to turn in your full-time student information is August 31, 2010. If the Solution Center does not receive your information by then, your dependent will be terminated effective 9-1-10.

What Happens In 2012 With New Health Care Bill

1. Physician payment reforms are implemented in Medicare to enhance primary care services and encourage doctors to form "accountable care organizations" to improve quality and efficiency of care.
2. An incentive program is established in Medicare for acute care hospitals to improve quality outcomes.
3. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees the government programs, begin tracking hospital readmission rates and puts in place financial incentives to reduce preventable readmissions.

Memory Walk 2010

The Alzheimer's Association supports research to find a cure, provides support for individuals, their families and caregivers and promotes reducing the risk of dementia through brain health. Alzheimer disease touches everyone in a family. Please consider being a sponsor, starting a team or joining the committee for this very crucial fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 8:30 am at the Community Market. For more information please contact Melanie Vaughan (434) 792-3700 ext. 237 or go online to www.DanvilleMemoryWalk.com.

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Perriello

care reform, taxes, his voting record, federal spending, medicare, social security and his congressional mail pieces. Responding to a question about seniors' benefits in the health care legislation, Perriello said "no seniors' benefits are being cut" and later told the crowd that "Social Security is in much better shape than the media claim it is."

Most who asked questions--whether they supported him or not--thanked Perriello for holding the meeting.

"Quote of the Month"

"No matter how just a cause is, unless the cause is backed up with the power to enforce it, it is going to be crushed and annulated," Samuel Gompers.

Mr. Gompers was an American labor leader and a key figure in American labor history. Gompers founded the American Federation of Labor and served as that organization's president from 1886 to 1894.

August Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its special membership meeting on July 21, 2010 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Harry Davis followed by pledge of allegiance.
- Roll Call of officers.
- Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the July regular membership meeting. They were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for August is as follows:
 - Motion to send 2 WOS to the Bread and Roses Banquet to be held September 25, 2010 in Roanoke, VA and to purchase a ½ page ad for \$100.00.
 - Motion to donate \$100.00 to Faces of our Children.
 - Motion to purchase ½ page

ad to say No to Alcohol & Drugs notebook program sponsored by Dan River High School.

- Motion to allot \$200.00 for the Civil Rights Training to be held August 19, 2010 at USW Local 831 Union Hall.
- Motion to allot \$1,000.00 for the Ed Steffey Educational Open to be held September 24, 2010.
- Motion to purchase a 10-seat table for the NAACP Banquet September 25, 2010.
- Motion to donate \$500.00 to God's Pit Crew for the Fund D Fest to be held September 11-12, 2010.
- Motion to purchase T-Shirts for the Picnic Committee for approximately \$120.00.
- Motion to send President and Policy Committee Member to the

Fall Interim meeting to be held in New Orleans, September 19-24, 2010.

- Motion to suspend with regular business for the purpose of discussing the tentative agreement:
 - Points of information: President Barber and Vice President Brown explained the agreement and entertained questions from the floor.
 - Joe Reynolds/Richard Gregory/Keith Hamlett won the 50/50 raffle.
 - The name of Katrina Woods, dept# 1524 cc# 7023 was drawn for the attendance drawing. She was not present. The September door prize will be \$400.
 - Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held on September 9, 2010.

Greed Is The Reason For The Season

Corporate greed is the main reason for the devastation of the U.S. manufacturing base. So said a wide range of labor activists and their community allies who shared personal experiences in a discussion at the U.S. Social Forum. They were exploring ways to rebuild manufacturing and in the process create millions of new green jobs.

Lisa Jordan, educational director for the United Steelworkers (USW), said global capital, which met last fall at the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh, pointed to that city as a "model of post-industrial America." That was all well and good, said Jordan, except if you went into the devastated working class communities that had been built around manufacturing.

The global economy is largely dictated by the transnational corporations' drive for profits. Of the 100 largest economies globally, 40 are countries and 60 are transnational corporations, Jordan said. In 1976, 90 percent of the bottom wage earners in the U.S. had 50 percent of the wealth. Today, that has been reduced to 24 percent, a result of neoliberal policies applied to the U.S. working class. This concentration

of wealth is the backdrop for the multi-pronged crises in the U.S. and Europe, she said.

A panel of labor activists kicked off an animated discussion about how to rebuild the U.S. manufacturing base. Andrew Dinklelocker, an organizer with United Electrical Workers (UE), recounted the story of the six-day occupation of the Republic Windows and Doors factory in Chicago in December 2008. The workers successfully forced Bank of America to use its federal bailout money to extend credit so that workers could get wages, and benefits due them. Another company subsequently bought Republic Windows and there is hope most of the workers will eventually be called back. Dinklelocker said for every manufacturing job created, five additional jobs are created. By contrast, in the service sector, the ratio is one to one.

Michael Bolton, from the Steelworkers, spoke about a paper mill in Kimberly, Wis. The entire community depended on the mill's existence. But its latest owner, New Page Corp., closed the mill because the company could import cheaper

paper from abroad. Wisconsin's paper valley has been devastated with plant closings since 2001.

"The mill's existence didn't matter to the company and the elected officials," Bolton said. "But it mattered to the workers, their families and the community. Two years later, 70 percent of the workers are still unemployed." Bolton said communities, cities, states and countries are being whipsawed, and this should be illegal. Our current trade system is a "protective trade system - it protects the rich and corporations," he said. "Trade should be a global civil rights and environmental issue."

Jeff Rains of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, a Steelworkers partnership with a number of U.S. manufacturers, said \$2 trillion is needed to modernize the U.S. infrastructure. Such an investment in "green jobs" could put millions back to work in manufacturing, construction, research and development, and clean energy. Rains said a broad coalition can be built including some sections of the business community. He cited 30 corporations who pledge to use U.S. production facilities to construct a high-speed rail system.

Career Development Center Hosts Open House

Local 831's Career Development Center (CDC) hosted an Open House on August 11th, 12th, and 13th. Our brothers and sisters that came out enjoyed refreshments, free give-a-ways, and a chance to win a \$50 Visa card each day.

On Friday, one name was drawn to win a flat screen TV. For every class a member attended, they got a chance to win the TV. The lucky winner was Donald Crews.

The three winners of the daily drawings for the Visa cards were:

- Butch Robinson
- Jackie Jones
- William Poindexter

The Career Development Center is part of the Institute for Career Development. The program is a union negotiated benefit that offers customized courses at no charge to hourly associates. It also provides tuition assistance for members attending college. For more details, contact the CDC office at (434) 792-1670.

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Michael Scott - *Associate Editor*

■
Mike Fox - *Communications Coordinator*



EDITOR'S COLUMN...

A Nation Of Laws And Flaws



We live in a great nation. A nation of laws. I consider this a good thing because the law not only protects us from those that would do us harm, but rightly guarantees our freedom and our voice to oppose those in power. Having said that, I think that for every good, common sense law we have, there is at least one law that makes no sense whatsoever.

If you live in Alabama, you can be put to death for putting salt on a railroad track. That seems a little harsh, but on the bright side, it's only a misdemeanor to carry an ice cream cone in your back pocket. If you live in Lee County, Alabama, the law prohibits you from selling peanuts after sundown on Wednesdays.

All of us in the plant are coming under a new law. Our brothers and sisters in the tire room have already been introduced to the "MOST" system. It's the law of the land now, and it will be spreading throughout the plant.

As I understand it, the "MOST" system is based on the maximum output of the equipment operated, with little consideration of the problems routinely found on decades-old equipment. Any and all down time will be heavily scrutinized, and anything less than the standard will be referred to the disciplinary process. Four strikes, game over.

This new production standard seems rather strict, but remember, as a resident of the state of Virginia it is illegal to tickle women, let your children go trick or treating on Halloween, or pass a car without honking your horn. As for those of you living in North Carolina, it is a crime to sing "off key," or use an elephant to plow your field.

Seriously, none of these absurd laws is ever enforced, but the new law in our plant will be enforced. While I am not effected, as of yet, by the "MOST" system, I can already see the problems with its utilization and enforcement. This standard is being implemented by people that know nothing about the jobs we perform. It's a system that does not take into consideration all the headaches we have to deal with to keep this plant running. Bad stock, equipment unreliability, adjusting lights and photo-eyes, tripping limit switches, and un-jamming conveyor belts hardly scratch the surface. It seems like all the cards are stacked against us.

Let's look at it for what it is. The leadership of Goodyear claims to embrace the following priorities, in the following order:

- 1. Safety
- 2. Quality
- 3. Production

The implementation of the "MOST" system is clear, undeniable evidence that our leadership's priorities are in fact:

- 1. Production
- 2. Production
- 3. Production

I find it odd, if not dangerous, that a company that preaches "safety, safety, safety" wants to mandate a policy that puts its employees in danger. Some of the building rates have been substantially increased. Combine this "MOST" system with our strict disciplinary policy, and we will have little choice other than taking every unsafe shortcut possible to avoid putting our jobs on the line. Taking shortcuts is something we should never do. It's a shame that this "world class" company wants to encourage such unsafe behavior by threatening our jobs.

It's easy to avoid selling peanuts after sundown on Wednesdays in Lee County, Alabama. It's not so easy to make the decision to put yourself at risk of injury or death, for fear of losing your job.

Michael Scott, Associate Editor

Questions & Answers

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

Will the transition back to 12 hour shifts affect the Christmas shutdown?

No. Currently the plant is still scheduled for the Christmas shutdown. However, according to the contract, "the company may cancel announced shutdowns with thirty (30) days written notice for shutdowns of more than three (3) consecutive days."

The Union And All Its Worth

Joining together in a union to bargain for health care, pensions, fair wages and better working conditions is the best opportunity working people have to get ahead. People often forget the benefits awarded to a community simply by having a union shop within the community.

Today, good jobs are vanishing and health care coverage and retirement security are slipping out of reach. Only 38 percent of the public says their families are getting ahead financially and less than a quarter believes the next generation will be better off. But workers who belong to unions earn 28 percent more than nonunion workers. They are 52 percent more likely to have employer-provided health coverage and nearly three times more likely to have guaranteed pensions.

All workers should have the freedom to decide for themselves whether to form unions to bargain for a better life.

The Employee Free Choice Act, supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress, would enable working people to bargain for better benefits, wages and working conditions by restoring workers' freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union. It would:

- Remove current obstacles to employees who want collective bargaining.
- Guarantee that workers who can choose collective bargaining are able to achieve a contract.
- Allow employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.
- Eliminate the scare and harassment tactics of powerful corporations.

It's unfortunate, but even with a pro-labor White House, and a pro-labor majority in both Houses of Congress, the Free Choice Act legislation has stalled. With big business opposing the bill with their deep pockets, it's understandable that the bill is slow coming. However, with the circumstances we have right now, the bill should be pushed through, and quickly. It's unlikely that the political playing field will be so favorable after the coming elections.

Politics aside, the research says it all. Union workers are paid more fairly than non-union workers. On top of that, having union shops in the community raises the wages of jobs in the area, including non-union jobs. Unions create better work environments, safer labor practices, and bring in better healthcare benefits. Simply put, a strong union workforce is vital to maintaining a healthy, local economy. Something every community needs right now.

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Union Workers Exempted From State Wage Cuts

On the first day of July, the Governor of California imposed an executive order that would cut about 200,000 state employees' pay back to the federal minimum wage. The reason for such a testy decision was said to be because the state Legislature had failed to pass a budget.

The Department of Personnel Administration Director, Debbie Endsley, sent the order July 1st in a letter to the state controller. The order meant that most of the state's employees would be earning only \$7.25 per hour for the month of July.

The Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, said through his spokesman Aaron McLearn, that the change would be reflected on the state employees' next paycheck. The workers would be paid in full retroactively once a budget is passed and signed by the Governor.

The only state employees that were protected from the order were the roughly 37,000 workers that have Union representation. These workers, through their Union, had already reached a tentative agreement with the Governor through contractual negotiations.

State legislatures were quick to express their disappointment with the governor's decision, citing the effects that families of state workers would have to suffer.

"This is not a realistic proposal to save the state cash any more than his budget plan, which kills 430,000 jobs, is a realistic proposal to close our deficit. Using working families as leverage is not the kind of leadership we need to get through this budget process," said state Assembly Speaker John Perez, D-Los Angeles.

Adding more turbulence to the political turmoil, the State Controller, John Chiang, said that his office would refuse to comply with the minimum wage order. His reason for non-compliance is the legality of the order, which at the time, was being determined in the Appellate Court system. Chiang says that his office will take no action until the matter is settled by the courts.

Another ray of hope for the affected workers are initiatives being implemented by banks and credit unions. The Golden 1 Credit Union, which caters to state workers, will offer zero-interest loans to members whose pay is affected by the executive order. The largest U.S. lender, Bank of America, has pledged to waive fees and offer emergency credit-line increases, as well as offer help with mortgage payments.

Communication

In my life experiences I have learned when we don't communicate bad things happen. How many times have you said, "I wished you had told me, or I would have done this if someone had told me." In our plant with all the boards, DQTV and papers why should anyone have to ask, what have you heard, what's going on? One of the main reasons is we don't always communicate the things we need to know. One place not communicating hurts is training.

I tell all our trainers, "don't take anything for granted, we don't teach common sense we only teach the tasks to do the job." If we don't tell our trainees, we cannot expect them to know. This is why we have check-off sheets and comment sheets. This is our way to communicate to our trainees. Our check off sheets are used to make sure we communicate the information to everyone we train on a particular job. Our comment sheets are used to communicate all the strength and weaknesses a trainee may have. It also lets the trainee know the action we are going to take to help them get pass those problem areas. The comment sheet gives the trainee the opportunity to give feedback on the concerns he/she may have.

Another place we fail to communicate is to our training department. Their have been numerous times training coordinators have come to work on Monday to check on trainees only to find out they have been moved. This bothers me for two reasons. The first reason is we might not have a labor trainer on the shift the trainee is placed on. When the trainee makes a mistake everyone wants to blame training. Again we find ourselves failing to communicate. If the managers would only ask, "is the trainer ready to be moved?" "Do they need a trainer or resource person?" The second reason is, and this is the one that really gets to me, trainees belong to the training department until certification.

It always amazes me with all the other duties a manager has why do they want to add training to their list. If everyone else is going to try to handle training we do not need a training department. Doing our jobs as labor trainers and training coordinators is how we bring value to the company. If we don't do our jobs we are worthless to this plant and our employees. I guess what I am trying to say is, let's communicate more and screw up less.

Ronnie Crane, Union Training Coordinator

Safety Talk

How many times a day do we put off something that needs to be done, i.e. taking out the trash, cleaning up your room, mowing the lawn, wearing your personal protective equipment (PPE) or simply putting things back in their proper place? We often say things like, oh, that can wait until tomorrow or later this week.

Procrastination is a word that we are confronted with on a daily basis and one that usually gets us in a lot of trouble, but as always, when we talk about SAFETY Procrastination is a word that should never be used. We have to take a different approach and look at things from a whole new perspective concerning Safety.

When we procrastinate with regards to safety we create opportunities for ourselves as well as others to become seriously injured or even killed. We often talk about the many opportunities that exist in our plant to make our workforce a safer one and we must combine all of our efforts and resources to make sure that the latter doesn't happen (fatality). Safety is something that must be taken seriously at all times, and we can never put off or put on hold things that could possibly cause hurt harm or danger to ourselves and to others. As Union and Management continue to discuss and work on safety related issues that we have in this plant we all must put forth every effort to eliminate procrastination and vigorously work toward creating an environment where "NO ONE GETS HURT".

Everyone can play a vital part as far as safety is concerned by taking responsibility for their own personal safety as well as the safety of their co-workers, which will eventually make Goodyear (Danville) a safer place to work.

Safety Committee

USW Signs Deal

sophisticated and skilled workforce.”

“Our cooperation with USW will benefit the development of our projects, including the planning of a wind turbine assembly plant in Nevada and the ongoing development of the supply chain for the expected delivery of wind turbines to the 615MW wind farm under development in Texas,” said John S. Lin, Chief Operating Officer of A-Power.

“This is obviously the first cooperative agreement between the USW and a company headquartered in China, and it is appropriate that we recognize the expertise and insight of Cappy McGarr and Ed Cunningham of the U.S. Renewable Energy Group who brought together this landmark cooperation,” said Gerard.

The Final Verdict On A Failed Philosophy

“This economic crisis is a direct result of the greed and irresponsibility that have dominated Washington and Wall Street for years... It’s the result of an economic philosophy that says we should give more and more to those with the most and hope that prosperity trickles down to everyone else... This crisis is the final verdict on this failed philosophy – a philosophy that we cannot afford to continue.”

— President Barack Obama

SO MUCH PLANNING GOES INTO RETIREMENT.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT TAXES AS WELL?

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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.

No retirees this month.

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Jamie Blane, John Blankenship, Lloyn Brooks, III, Jeffrey Davis, Herbert Echols, Ernestine Edwards, Thomas Fitzgerald, Glenn Glass, Greg Glass, Cynthia Gilley, Gerold Griffin, Jr., Lawrence Hairston, Bruce Hall, Glen Hall, Jamie Hall, James Hite, Antonio Johnson, Ethel Johnson, Cleveland Keller, David Keller, Sharon Light, Ray McDowell, Jerry Meadows, Jr., Delrick Mooreman, Roger Moser, Michael Puckett, Mark Russell, Sarah Russell, Dexter Saunders, Thomas Smithnosky, Jackie Snead, Monica Watlington, Curtis Webster, Melvin Wiles, Nannie Woody and Thomas Woody.

To the families of retirees:
Harry Jeffreys, Sr., Odell Tucker and Ronald "Pete" Niday.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2010 CALENDAR						
			1 AC SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	2 AC	3 BD	4 BD
5 BD	6 Labor Day AC Plant Holiday	7 Exec. Board Meeting AC 7:30 AM	8 SOAR Meeting BD 11:00 AM	9 Union Meeting BD 7:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM	10 AC	11 God's Pit Crew Fund D Fest AC
12 God's Pit Crew Fund D Fest AC	13 BD	14 BD	15 AC	16 AC	17 BD	18 BD
19 BD	20 AC	21 AC	22 BD	23 BD	24 Ed Steffey Memorial Educational Open Golf Tournament AC	25 WOS Bread & Roses Banquet Roanoke, VA NAACP Banquet AC
Fall Interim Meeting (19th-24th)			Arbitration (22nd-23rd)			
26 AC	27 BD	28 BD	29 AC	30 AC		