

CAFTA Passes in the House!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

- SOAR Meeting Minutes
- Steelworkers' Executive Vice President Sellers Announces Retirement
- Letter to the Editor

PAGE 3

- August Membership Minutes
- A Neat Trick

PAGE 4

- Editor's Column
- Floating Sweatshops?
- Free Choice Act Gains Support

PAGE 5

- Questions & Answers
- Labor Day 2005
- SEIU, Teamsters, UFCW Quit

PAGE 6

- Pension & Insurance
- Happy Birthday! Social Security

PAGE 7

- Union And Kroger Talks Stall

PAGE 8

- September Calendar
- Retirees
- Condolences



Have you checked your labels lately?

The House of Representatives voted to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) by a vote of 217-215 on July 28, 2005. The 15-minute vote was held open for approximately an hour as the pro-CAFTA side strong-armed congresspersons into voting for the bill. Whether you are Republican, Democrat or Independent, it is a sad day for the working people of this country. Since 2001 the United States has lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs. 1,000,000 of those are because of NAFTA. 400,000

of the jobs were lost to China. We have 618 billion dollars in trade deficit with 162 billion of that belonging to China. And what does our congress do? They pass yet another free trade agreement, CAFTA! This agreement was not passed on merits, but rather of the pathetic and underhanded tactics of exchanging yes votes for side deals and other pressure tactics. It is already having an impact right here in Danville. Dan River Inc. has dropped gauntlet at its Home Fashions Division. The company

Continued on page 3



AUGUST 10, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except Nancy Chaney and George Stewart. There were 67 members present.

Opening prayer was by Earl Guill.

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

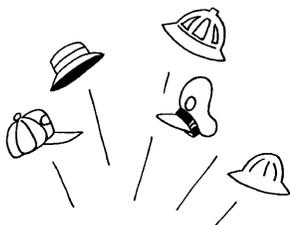
The name of Robert Adams was called for the attendance prize and he was not present. The drawing in September will be worth \$50.00. Member must be present to win.

The Union picnic will be on October 15 at the Carrington Pavilion on Craghead Street.

Dillon Rucker and Kenny Stevens each won a free oil and lube change from Perry Bros. on Piney Forest Road. Sammy Jefferson and Donald Supernault each won a free oil and lube change from the Goodyear Service Store on Mt. Cross Road compliments of Gold Adkins. Fifty-fifty was won by Charles Denny.

Charles Denny and his crew are in charge of the September lunch which will be a fish fry with all the trimmings. Plan now to attend the meeting on September 14 at the Union Hall at 11:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Charles Denny to adjourn and seconded by Kenny Stevens. Motion passed. Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary



HATS OFF TO ALL RETIREES!

WE MISS YOU!

2005, U.S.S.P.

Steelworkers' Executive Vice President Sellers announces retirement

USW executive board appoints Hoover as R/PIC successor

(Pittsburgh, Penna.) -- John Sellers, Executive Vice President of the USW Rubber/Plastics Industry Conference (R/PIC) has announced his retirement effective September 1, 2005. The USW International Executive Board has appointed Ron Hoover as his successor.

Sellers was appointed to represent the former members of the United Rubber Workers (URW) on March 1, 1996, elected by delegates to an R/PIC conference in September 1996 and re-elected to a four-year term in September 1997 and again in 2001.

Hoover joined the URW in 1964 when he went to work at Goodyear's Topeka, Kansas, plant. He was a union activist at Local 307, serving as Division Chairman and two-term president before his appointment to the URW staff in 1989. He has served as coordinator of the Goodyear/Kelly Springfield/Dunlop bargaining committee since 1993.

Sellers joined URW Local 639 at AMF Voit in Santa Ana, Calif., in 1966 and was appointed to the URW staff in 1978. He joined the international staff in 1991 and served as organizing director, education director and political education director, as well as participating in master contract bargaining.

With the USW, Sellers coordinated successful strategic campaigns to win settlements from Bridgestone/Firestone and Continental AG, and led the Union's negotiations with the major tire companies such, as Goodyear and BFGoodrich/Michelin.

Hoover has served as Sellers' assistant since 1998. He recently successfully concluded the contract re-opener negotiations with Continental/General Tire and he oversees the USW's Journeyman Card Program.

Letters to the editor: 8/11/05

Thursday, August 11, 2005
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Health care is public policy, not a bargaining chip

Omission is the cleverest form of deception, a ploy amply evident in George F. Will's Aug. 8 column, "Sustaining 'Detroit,'" in which he addresses the competitive pressures facing the Ford Motor Co. "Outside America," he avers, "the company is not functioning as a welfare state, paying the high costs of medical and pension benefits." Mr. Will's solution to this dilemma is "trimming of some benefits" secured by the United Auto Workers. What he conveniently omits is the fact that in every other major industrial nation, health-care benefits are provided through public policies of one sort or another, as is the case in Canada, where a Ford can be produced for \$1,500 less than in the United States. Canada long ago wisely removed the cost of health care from the competitive equation, especially in manufacturing. Mr. Will's deliberate omission of this fact is typical of today's conservative propagandists, who champion unregulated globalization while simultaneously rejecting the need for universal health care as a core element of a national competitiveness strategy. Apparently he would rather lead the nominally informed public to believe that the UAW's benefits are the problem, rather than the lack of public policies that address the runaway cost of health care -- hardly a piddling omission.

MARCO TRBOVICH
Assistant to the President
United Steelworkers of America
Downtown

August Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on August 11, 2005 with President Danny Barber presiding. These were the highlights.

■ Benny Toller opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of allegiance.

■ Roll call of officers, all were present except Sylvester Mayo who was on vacation

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

■ Executive Board report for August was approved as read and contained the following items.

o "Thank You" received for our donation to operation Family Reunion

o Motion made by David Payne to allot \$550.00 for the Ed Steffey

Educational Open

o Motion by Wayne Dickerson to send the President and Recording Secretary to the ICD Conference to be held Nov. 16-18, 2005 in Chicago, Illinois

o Motion by Brenda Miles to send Gloria Gravely to the Virginia Workman's Comp Seminar to be held Sept. 13-14, 2005 in Richmond, Va.

■ Financial Secretary William McLaughlin, read the financial report for July and it was approved as read.

■ Pension and Insurance Representatives, Benny Toller and Gloria Gravely gave the P&I report to membership.

o See P&I Report in this issue

■ Mark Powers and Linwood Saunders gave COPE report.

o CAFTA signed

o Tim Kaine is running for Virginia Governor and he supports labor

■ Trustee report was given by Trustee, David Payne

o Audit conducted on Financial Secretary and books

o Auditing personal property of Local 831

■ 50/50 drawings were won by Ricky Miles and David Soyars

■ Edith Mims Dept. 2541 cc# 6018 name was drawn for the attendance prize. She was not present at the meeting. The September attendance prize will be \$475.00.

■ Motion by Jeff Dixon to go into a special meeting for the purpose of nominating delegates to the Rubber & Plastics Industry Conference to be held Oct. 2-5, 2005 in Pittsburgh Pa.

■ Motion to adjourn, motion carried.

Continued from page 1

CAFTA Passes in the House!!

announced that it will put its Apparel Fabrics Division on the market and it expects a sale by the end of the year.

Washington manufacturing lobbyist Jim Schollaert, blamed the troubles Dan River has suffered on trade policies including NAFTA and CAFTA agreements. Schollaert represents the American Manufacturing Trade Coalition, which lobbies Washington lawmakers against free trade that exports American production jobs.

While we weren't successful in defeating CAFTA, there was a lot of effort put forth. Letters to the editor reached over 2.5 million people, thousands of phone calls were made and legislator meetings, petition drives, letter writing campaigns, protests, press conferences, radio ads and other actions were used to bring members of Congress our way. The problem was, not enough of our congress people listened. What does CAFTA mean for working people in this country? It means more companies will move more jobs from this country to Central America. What's wrong with CAFTA? One in four in Central America are considered desperately poor and suffering from hunger, a non-existent free trade union movement,

no protection for workers, doesn't outlaw child labor, more sweatshops and anti-union. The average pay per hour for an American worker is \$16.00. The average for a person in Central America is 0.68 per hour. Forty percent of Central Americans earn less than \$2.00 per day. It may be free trade but it sure isn't fair trade. Americans are playing on an uneven field and big business is loving it!

How can anyone with a conscious vote for CAFTA? All Democrats and one Independent Congressperson voted against CAFTA with the exception of 15. All Republican Congresspersons with the exception of 27 voted for CAFTA. Our Representatives Republican Virgil Goode (VA) and Democrat Brad Miller (NC) voted against CAFTA while Va. Republican Senators Warner and Allen voted for CAFTA. In North Carolina both Republican Senators Burr and Dole voted for CAFTA.

If your representative voted against CAFTA, call or write and thank them. If your representative voted for CAFTA please call or write and tell them how disappointed you are.

A Neat Trick

Bradley, a defendant in an expensive lawsuit, tells his lawyer, "If I lose this case, I'll be ruined."

"It's in the judge's hands now," says the lawyer.

"Would it help if I sent the judge a box of cigars?" asks Bradley.

"Oh no! This judge is a stickler for ethical behavior. A stunt like that would prejudice him against you. He might even hold you in contempt of court. In fact, you shouldn't even smile at the judge."

In due course, the judge renders a decision in favor of the defendant. As Bradley leaves the courthouse, he says to his lawyer, "Thanks for the tip about the cigars. Sending them really worked!"

"What? You sent them? I don't understand," said the incredulous lawyer.

"It's easy," said Bradley. "I sent the cigars to the judge, but enclosed the plaintiff's business card."

Floating Sweatshops?

California-based company SeaCode plans to avoid U.S. labor laws by stationing 600 foreign software engineers on a ship moored just three miles off the California coast and classifying the engineers as "seamen."

SeaCode -- which as of July had yet to purchase the ship -- would thus avoid payroll taxes and the need for immigration visas. This strategy would also allow the company to avoid hassles normally associated with outsourcing to countries like India and China--such as travel expenses for executives monitoring overseas work and ten-hour time differences.

Lower level "seamen" will start at roughly \$24,500 per year, according to company founder Roger Green, while senior programmers would be able to make as much as \$60,000. Median salary for programmers in the U.S. is around \$60,000 per year, while experienced programmers can make as much as \$125,000 or more.

A Los Angeles Times article said programmers would work two 12-hour shifts, with four months on board followed by two months off.

--Labor Notes/CALM

EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Just in case,

If you haven't begun to prepare for our next contract that is up in July, it may be a good idea to start. Though we hope that Goodyear and our Union will be able to negotiate a good and fair contract without a strike, in fairness, we know that may not be the case. When I think of strikes, none compare to me more in importance, than the one in 1976. That's because of the things that we fought for then, are the major benefits of today. The two that stick in my mind are, COLA and dental insurance. It took four months on the street, but we got a good and fair contract and it brought us to the standards of other industrialized unions. Do I think that we will have to strike this time? I certainly hope not, but I have no idea what may be on the table this time around. I can only prepare for the worst and support what ever our union leadership decides.

If not for the preparedness of union members in 76 there's no telling what kind of standard of living we would be experiencing today. We didn't want to strike, but we did what had to be done.

What will be the issues that we fight for this time? Hopefully, what ever they are, we will be able to come to an agreement without a strike. We can only hope and pray and start preparing just in case.

We all have different financial obligations and for some it's harder to save than others. But almost everyone can save some. Start a plan today, on preparedness of a strike. Whether it's getting ahead on bills or putting away extra money, make the choice of being prepared. Just maybe that money you put away can go towards something else besides a strike. I certainly hope so.

Danny "Tree" Travis, Associate Editor



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Danny Barber
President and Editor

Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



Free Choice Act Gains Support

Just before Congress left town for its August recess, six new co-sponsors signed on to the Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 1696 and S. 842), bringing the number of co-sponsors to 201 in the U.S. House and 38 in the Senate. The bipartisan bill would reform the nation's basic labor laws by requiring employers to recognize the union after a majority of workers signs cards authorizing union representation. It also would provide mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes and establish stronger penalties for violation of the rights of workers seeking to form unions or negotiate first contracts. For more information, visit <http://www.aflcio.org/voiceatwork>.

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Jeff Coleman,
Division I Chairman

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 my vacation eligibility?

Article IX, section 1 pg, 77, states what vacation is due and who becomes eligible for it. Years of continuous service is the main ingredient in determining how much vacation you are entitled to. One year of service two weeks, five years three weeks, 10 years four weeks, 20 years five weeks and 25 years six weeks. Vacation is based on (40) hours per week. Employees that were hired in or around the year 2005 but were laid off and were recalled later could have an adjustment service date, which could affect their vacation eligibility. Article X, section 1a states that employees with two (2) years or less of service and are laid off and recalled within five (5) years shall be given their previous service, plus service credit, for time laid-off provided such service credit does not exceed their actual service at time of lay-off. If you think that you may have an adjusted service date, check the company seniority rosters in your business team or have your shop steward or lead hand to check it out.

LABOR DAY 2005

As America's workers and their unions get set to mark Labor Day 2005, it's more critical than ever that we take action to fight the assaults on working families and demand that the nation's decision-makers "Reward Work, Respect Workers."

Workers are facing the worst assault on good jobs and economic security in decades. Wealthy corporations drive down living standards and deprive working families of health care and retirement security-all with the help of their friendly politicians.

It's time to take action.

Labor Day action this year will focus on the campaign to create and maintain good jobs-to end Wal-Marting of America, to ensure health care and retirement security, to restore workers' freedom to form unions and to build Working America, the nation's largest community union for working people.

Together, hundreds of thousands of workers will take part in Labor Day events and the Aug. 23-31 Labor Day 2005 Online Action Week to demand that America "Reward Work, Respect Workers." Thousands more will take part in annual Labor in Pulpits services.

Labor Day is the one day each year when America honors working people and spotlights our unions.

John Sweeney, AFL-CIO

SEIU, Teamsters, UFCW Quit

AFL-CIO Fractures Over Strategy and Leadership

A heated debate among the leaders of America's unions about how to strengthen and grow the labor movement boiled over in July when four major unions boycotted the AFL-CIO convention in Chicago. Two of them quit the AFL-CIO outright, a third quit the day after the convention ended, and at least one more indicated it would be leaving to join with the others in forming a new labor federation.

In all, unions representing about one-third of the AFL-CIO's 13 million members either quit or indicated they would do so. They said the nation and the economy had changed over the last half-century and the AFL-CIO was not properly structured nor governed to do the job of building power for the nation's workers. Only 12.5 percent of workers are in unions - and only 8 percent of all private-sector workers. Unions represented 35 percent of all workers in 1955, when the AFL and CIO merged.

At the same time, delegates from the 52 unions staying with the AFL-CIO re-elected the federation's top officers and set out an agenda for growth and structural change that its leaders said responded to most of the complaints of the dissidents.

The two unions that quit immediately were the Service Employees (SEIU), with 1.8 million members, and Teamsters (IBT), with 1.4 million. The 1.4 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) joined the boycott of the July 25-28 gathering and then announced July 29 it was disaffiliating. UNITE-HERE, the needle trades and hospitality workers union with 450,000 members, participated in the boycott as well and was expected to quit soon.

Those four unions and three others - the Laborers, the Carpenters and the United Farm Workers - are all members of a newly formed Change to Win Coalition. Broadly speaking, the group believes more of labor's financial resources should be devoted to organizing than now is the case, and less on political campaigns.

Unions on the other side of the argument say that improving labor's organizing record won't be possible until labor laws are made more pro-worker, through electing more worker-friendly lawmakers. And they say that by leaving the AFL-CIO the dissident unions are violating the basic tenet of organized labor: unity above all.

The split means that SEIU, the Teamsters and UFCW will no longer be sharing some of their members' dues income with the AFL-CIO, which will cost the federation some \$25 million a year -- about one-fifth of its budget -- and require either a dues increase from the remaining affiliates or an increase in revenue from some other source; a cutback in staff and/or services, or a combination of the two. The AFL-CIO had earlier in the year announced it was trimming its staff by about 100 jobs as it attempted to respond to dissident complaints about priorities.

One of the biggest points of contention was what relationship the departing unions could have with state labor federations and central labor bodies - organizations of AFL-CIO-affiliated local unions across the country that unions use to coordinate activities and seek support for their issues. On the final day of the convention newly-re-elected President John Sweeney sent a three-page letter to all state and central body principal officers saying that unions not affiliated with the AFL-CIO are "free riders" - non-dues payers - and are not to be allowed to participate in the groups.

For more information on the convention and the issues behind the split, go to www.aflcio.org and www.changetowin.org.

PENSION & INSURANCE

Vision Care

Cole Managed Vision is now Eyemed. The plan has not changed, only the name. Member's customer service number has not changed. It is 1-800-334-7591.

401/K Savings Plan

On July 26, 2005 the Pension and Insurance Committee visited the J. P. Morgan facility in Kansas City, MO. J. P. Morgan is the new account manager for the 401/K savings plan.

Self Direct Account: There will be a \$100.00 fee per year to offer this service to Goodyear employees. Per J. P. Morgan reps; it takes more time and effort to offer this service. The \$100.00 fee will have to be deducted from one of the employees core accounts. Examples are S&P 500, Stable Value etc. The deduction will be done \$25.00 per quarter.

Loan Repayments: An employee who has an outstanding loan with their 401/K, may see an increase in your loan repayment amounts due to the fact that Hewiett did not deduct loan payments properly. The IRS Regulations state that if you are paid weekly, 52 loan repayments should be deducted. Hewiett was not doing this.

Military: Loans can be deferred for up to one year or as long as the employee is on Military leave up to one year.

Out of Work: If you are out of work and have an outstanding loan, when you return your loan will be recalculated and your loan repayment amount will increase, depending on the amount of time you are out and the length of the repayment time can't exceed 60 months.

Education: Meetings will be held at most locations in September for the employee and spouse. These meetings will be off shift with no pay.

Dependent Audit: As of July 25, 2005 1,600 people have been removed from the insurance because they were not eligible. They expect this number to double by the end of the amnesty period.

Optional Life Insurance: Three finalists interviewed - MetLife, Minnesota Life and Prudential. Minnesota Life was chosen to provide life insurance programs beginning May 2005 (except for hourly GUL plan which has guaranteed rates through December 2005) because of competitive pricing offered and reputation for customer service. Keep in mind the International Policy Committee has not approved the Group Universal Life Plan as of yet. There are still some issues with this plan but the committee will continue to discuss these issues until they reach an agreement. The change would be effective for GUL coverage with Minnesota Life on January 1, 2006. We will continue to keep you updated on this issue.

Happy Birthday!

SOCIAL SECURITY

On August 14, 1935 President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the social security legislation. It remains one of the most important pieces of legislation in our history. Before social security, there was nowhere to turn for help if you became disabled, orphans lined the street corners to beg for meager help, and nearly half of all American seniors lived in poverty.

Today, thanks to social security, 8 million disabled workers can survive with dignity, 7 million children and other survivors of deceased workers can make ends meet, and poverty amongst our elderly has been virtually eradicated. Social security works! It has never missed a payment in its 70 year existence, and it has long been a beacon of hope for those most in need.

Regardless of the indisputable success of social security for seven decades, there are many that want to dismantle it. As you know, Rapid Response has been actively involved in the fight to stop the efforts of many to privatize social security. We have also worked hard to counter the deception from those trying to convince us that social security is in a crisis and won't be able to meet its obligations to those who desperately need it.

Because of your hard work, we have kept the Bush Administration and others from being able to privatize social security so far, but we must not think for one minute that this fight is over. We must remain vigilant and ready to respond if and when the next attack on social security comes! For today, though, lets be thankful that we are celebrating the birthday of one of the most important programs in our history, and lets hope that we can protect it for at least another 70 years.



Keep Your Eyes Looking For the next employee Tent Sale.

We anticipate the next sale to be late
September or early October.

The management and unionized employees
thank you for your continued support.



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Union And Kroger Talks Stall

Kroger and the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400 reached a temporary impasse when a scheduled bargaining session was cancelled last week. The session was cancelled due to an unrelated issue at a store outside the covered area in the collective bargaining agreement, Kroger announced.

The two sides now will not meet until mid-August. The biggest issue separating the two sides is who should absorb the increased cost of health care coverage. The union wants to develop a health care plan that will provide security at a reasonable cost for the employee and employer. They also want to address a total compensation package for employees and retirees, which allow its members to live decent and retire fairly after making all the profits they have for Kroger. The union says that while Kroger continues to make record profits their ideas of what benefits they think our workers deserve involve reduced benefits and big co-pays for active and retired employees. Kroger has only one store in Danville which is unionized.



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Michael Wells, Duane Wiley, Ronald Wiley,
Leon Wiley, Scott Williamson, Lula Wilson,
Randolph Witcher, Charlotte Wright,
Pamela Wright, Tracy Wright

To the family of retiree Lonnie Ellison

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.

Jerry Jones	Dept. 1211
Terry Robinson	Dept. 1110
John Wilkerson	Dept. 1110
Freddie Wilson	Dept. 2541
Steven Wright	Dept. 2311

**Support Your Local
Union,
Attend A Union
Meeting &**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2005 CALENDAR						
BD 28	AC 29	AC 30	BD 31	BD 1	AC 2	AC 3
AC 4	BD 5	BD 6 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	AC 7	AC 8 Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM	BD 9	BD 10
BD 11	AC 12	AC 13	BD 14 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	BD 15	AC 16	AC 17
VA Workers Compensation Seminar						
AC 18	BD 19	BD 20	AC 21	AC 22	July BD 23	BD 24
BD 25	AC 26	AC 27	BD 28	BD 29	AC 30	AC 1