

The Gift Of Giving

The holiday season is upon us again and USWA Local 831 has stepped up to the plate once again to spread some joy in the community. The Angel Tree, sponsored by the local, consisted of 90 angels (children) that the Salvation Army sent in. Members came by the hall and selected their Angel and returned bags and boxes of goodies for the children of various ages. Union member Julie Irby was so excited while she shopped for her Angel. She wanted to make sure she bought things that children of that age were wearing. Julie stated, "It's a good feeling when you're out shopping for Angels, you actually feel like it's your own child". Terry Trull and Brenda Miles headed up the shopping list for the Angels that the local allocated the \$2000.00 to go towards the Tree.

The Salvation Army will be distributing these packages to the Angels because no child should be forgotten during this season. We the members at Local 831 are very blessed and if we can help make some children have a Merry Christmas then it's worth every amount of money just to see a smile on their faces.

Thanks to all members and their families for supporting our first Angel Tree Sponsorship. We should be proud of what our Local does for the community and surrounding areas.



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USWA Local 831 wishes everyone a

Merry Christmas

and a safe New Year!



December 10, 2003

The 2003 Christmas lunch was held at the Union Hall and attended by 166 members and guests of members. The menu of rib-eye steak or grilled chicken breasts with baked potato, salad, rolls, and dessert was catered by Mary's Diner and enjoyed by all.

The following made door prize donations:

- Dr. John and Valerie Hoffman 4 - \$25.00 cash prizes
- Dan Valley Foods Fruit Basket
- Outback Steak House 4 - gift certificates
- Perry Bros. Tire Co. 3 - oil and lube change certificates
- Mary's Diner 3 - gift certificates
- Soar Chapter 2 - \$50.00 cash prizes
- Soar Chapter 12 - \$25.00 cash prizes
- Soar Chapter 2 - Soar cookbooks
- Goodyear Service Store 2 - oil and lube change certificates
- Goodyear Tire & Rubber Plant Set of Goodyear tires
- Short Sugars 1 - gift certificate
- B.F. Goodrich 2 - computer wheel balance certificates

We thank all of the above for their generosity.

Our next meeting is January 14 at the Union Hall at 11:00 a.m. with lunch served at 12:00. Plan now to attend.

Remember our military men and women in prayer during this Holiday Season and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

See you next year.

Soar Board Members

Robitson New Staff Rep for District 8

Eddie Robitson has assumed the position of Staff Representative for District 8 replacing former Staff Rep, Melvin Watson. Watson retired on September 2, 2003. Eddie will represent 18 locals all from the state of Virginia. His duties will require him to attend all union meetings, assist in third step grievances when needed and to help in most local negotiations. Eddie comes to us from the Yokohama Tire Plant in Salem Virginia where he served as President of Local 1023. He served as President for a total of eight years. Before being elected President, Eddie held positions as a tirebuilder, Tuber Operator and Millman. He has a total of 28 years with Mohawk/Yokohama and has been a union member the entire time. Eddie has been married to his wife Joan for 32 years and they have 4 children. "I am flattered to have been chosen by the Steelworkers to represent District 8 as their Staff Rep. I look forward in the years to come in representing the people in our district. Without a doubt Local 831 is the cream of the crop when it comes to all the locals and membership should be very proud of that." All of us at Local 831 wish Eddie and his family much success.



Moving Work abroad Proving Tough For Some Firms

As U.S. firms move work overseas to take advantage of cheap labor and cost, some are realizing that operating outside their home country is more complicated than they thought. When Jamey Bennett started selling his Light/Wedge personal reading lamp, everything was made in China. Then the headaches began; conference calls in the middle of the night. Shipment delays and many problems related to language differences. The problem got so bad that Bennett transferred the manufacturing to Newport News, Virginia. "Firms that believe that moving business is going to be simple... very often get burned," said Martin Kenny, a University of California-Davis professor who recently completed a study of firms doing work in India. Last month, Indiana said it was halting a contract with a Indian company to upgrade it's computer system for it's unemployment benefits office after politicians and others started an uproar about the work leaving the state, not to mention the country. Dell recently shifted some of its computer call center work from India and GE in May moved some work from India to the Phoenix area. It was found that workers in India don't own many appliances and therefore could not relate to the customers' problems.

And there are language problems. Although many people overseas speak English, phrasing and other issues can crop up when English is not the first language. One Dell spokesman told the Associated Press that it was shifting some corporate clients from India, to Texas after receiving service complaints. Some businesses overseas are so new that there is not enough expertise on how to properly oversee both service and manufacturing operations. Despite these issues, for some, moving work abroad is still taking place. Wall Street giant Goldman Sachs estimates that of the 2.7 million U.S. factory jobs cut in the last three years, 1 million have been relocated abroad.

December Membership Meeting Minutes

USWA Local 831 held its' regular membership meeting on December 11, 2003 with President Danny Barber presiding. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- Prayer led by Ronald Williams followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll call of officers- All were present.
- Recording Secretary, Brenda Miles read the minutes from the November 13, 2003 meeting and they were approved as read.
- Reading of the Executive Board report was approved as read. The following items were agreed to:
 - Motion to send (2) COPE committee members to Va. AFL-CIO Legislative Conference in Richmond, Va.
 - Motion to purchase 145 T-shirts thru the Union Supplier for approximately \$1,500.
 - Motion to reduce the Family Security T-shirts from \$10.00 to \$8.00 per shirt.
 - Motion to allow the COPE committee to lobby at the General Assembly in Richmond, Va. in 2004.

■ Financial Secretary, William "Stick" McLaughlin presented the financial report for November and it was approved as read.

■ Pension and Insurance Representative Benny Toller reported on confirmations being sent out to the homes, be sure to check your confirmations out for the correct information. If they are wrong call the 800#, BENPHONE to make any corrections. Check your EOB's if it does not show in the shaded area then you do not owe anything, normally the \$15.00 co-pay shows unless you go to an out of network provider then you will owe more.

■ Charlie Lea, election committee member, reported on the run-off elections.

■ Jeff Yarbrough and Ted Fitz, COPE committee members reported on the Rapid Response Conference held in Miami, FL.

■ Terry Trull reported on supporting the Salvation Army Gate Collection.

■ Brenda Miles, Co-chair of the

Women of Steel, reported on 50/50 Benefit Raffle for the Homeless Shelter and thanked everyone for their support.

■ President Danny Barber gave these points of information:

- Reported on the cost of the Union Picnic
- Tool kit talks
- Latest on Goodyear's accounting errors.

■ Vote on the Memorandum of Agreement to move traditional 3rd shift schedule so they would not have to return on Christmas Day night. Memorandum was approved by membership.

■ New Officers and Representatives were sworn in by Eddie Robitson.

■ Charlie Lea and Linwood Saunders won the 50/50 drawing.

■ Paul Eastridge cc#4318 Dept.# 2541 name was drawn for the attendance prize of \$100.00; the member was not present so the January prize will be \$125.00.

■ Motion to adjourn, motion carried.

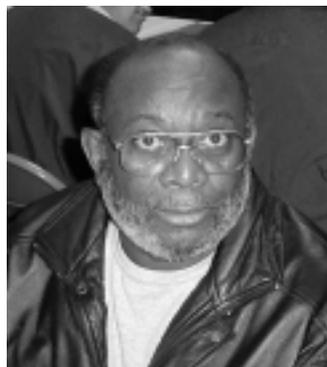
Member Chatter

As a SOAR Chapter member, what draws you to participate?



Richard Austin
(ex-2541/Service)

"I've just attended my first SOAR meeting and I'm quiet impressed with the organization. I'm going to enjoy being around all the people I've worked with for so many years."



Wyatt Watkins
(ex-1524/Paint Line)

"I really enjoy the fellowship at the SOAR meetings. If not for SOAR, many people you've worked with you would never see again."



Bill Scott
(ex-2415/Reroll liners)

"I like seeing all the people I've worked with. The SOAR meetings provide retirees an opportunity to stay on top of insurance issues as well as new contract discussions."



Gloria Adams
(ex-2541/Service)

"I just love the opportunity to reminisce with my fellow retirees. We discuss politics affecting workers and retirees and just plain old have a good time."

The SOAR Chapter urges anyone who has not joined to do so, "you don't know what you are missing!"

Rumsfeld WINS "Foot in Mouth" Award

A comment last year by Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld on the hunt for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was awarded the "Foot in Mouth" prize by Britain's Plain English Campaign, narrowly defeating new Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger.



"Reports that say something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know," Rumsfeld told a news briefing.

John Lister, spokesman for the campaign, delivered it straightforward and said: "We think we know what he means. But we don't know if we really knows."

California Governor Schwarzenegger said, "I think that gay marriage is something that should be between a man and a woman."

You can see why it was such a close contest!!!!

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Let's close out the year on a high note. Despite many of the concerns that have and are surfacing on a regular basis, the Danville Goodyear plant has a lot of good things going on. We have just recently picked up three new contracts for tires, Volvo, Freightliner and Fleetwood. All of these manufacturers are credited with being the top of the line manufacturers as announced, a large majority of the tires needed, will come from the Danville plant. These major contracts could make 2004 one of the busiest years ever for our plant. We have introduced a new line of steer tires that seem to be doing well. Our aircraft tire business is at a premium level. The overall quality perception of Goodyear truck tires has increased. On top of all these things, we have a new plant manager. We have heard a lot of good things about Carol Goodwin. Many of those who worked with Carol previously are giving her high marks.

Heading into 2004, we (Danville employees) can't secure the turnaround for Goodyear overall, however, we can make Danville the plant it has been known to be—the best Goodyear has to offer! There are many things we can do locally to make this happen. Reducing waste while producing at reasonable levels, maintaining good safety practices, providing better communications to employees and getting back to the basics.

Let's focus on the positives and make Goodyear-Danville and USWA Local 831 the best they can be!

Informer Staff

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Danny Barber
President and Editor

Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
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Brothers and Sisters,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve this local for another term. We've been through some tough times and they haven't ended yet. Your negotiating committee is working diligently to resolve the "toolkit" talks and to bring "lead hand" concept to reality. We have faced difficult times in the past, but none more difficult than now. Our local has always been fortunate to have people to step forward and lead. The officers and representatives of the past three years and the next three are all dedicated to the challenges ahead of us. As Mark Twain once said, "Success is a journey, not a destination. It requires constant effort, vigilance and reevaluation." Each one of us should take a moment to evaluate our commitment of returning Goodyear to the company it once was. It will take a combined effort of management and the union to make this happen. I truly believe it can happen.

In closing, I appreciate your confidence in me as your President and I urge everyone to stand behind the leaders you have elected. I also wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Danny M. Barber

Questions Answers

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

How will Routine Physicals be paid under the National PPO Plan?

There will be a \$15.00 Copay for Routine physicals covered for all Network (Panel) Providers Only. (specific health guidelines based on age)

This will be for office/clinic visits. Out of Network is not covered. Services that are covered are: mammographies, pelvic exams, PAP, PSA, colorectal exams and vision and hearing exams. Immunizations and medical history are also considered preventive care.

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50/50 Raffle Benefits The Shelter

USWA Local 831 Women of Steel sponsored a 50/50 Raffle to benefit the Homeless Shelter of Danville, Va. Tickets were sold by various union members for \$1.00 during the week and the drawings were held on the week-end for three



consecutive weeks. Winners of the raffles are as follows:

- Week 1 Betty Ferrell- \$227.00
 - Week 2 Victoria Martin- \$295.00
 - Week 3 Terry Trull- \$312.00
- \$25.00 anonymous donation

A grand total of \$859.00 was raised to benefit the Shelter which has helped approximately 1,633 people this year. Brenda Miles and Charlotte Wright, Co-chair of the Women Of Steel, would like to thank everyone who sold tickets, purchased tickets, and made donations to this worthy cause.



Betty Ferrell- \$227.00



Victoria Martin- \$295.00



Terry Trull- \$312.00

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The end of an Era!

Friday May 2nd, 2003 marked a sad passing. After more than a hundred and two years in Fulton New York, the Nestlé company shut down it's very first Chocolate factory in the United States, putting over 417 men and women out of work.

The majority of these employees were just within reach of their retirement. Now they must start over again. Nestlé has moved the plant's Nestlé Crunch bar production to Brazil, the Nesquick line to another state, and sold off the Peters brand of chocolate that had been produced at this factory for most of it's history.

For years these employees put forth every effort, met every demand, and fought every fight possible to save this factory. Each and every time the Company raised the bar, the employees met the challenge. This was not enough for Nestlé.

Over the past twenty years, New York State, Oswego County, and the City of Fulton brought Nestlé tax break after tax break, incentive after incentive. These were not enough. Seven years ago the City of Fulton

undertook a multi-million dollar water and sewer upgrade and overhaul specifically intended for the Nestlé plant. The people of this town, many of them Nestlé employees, retirees, family, or friends, all understood. What was good for Nestlé was good for the town. They emphatically supported these upgrades with their tax dollars. This was not enough for Nestlé.

Nestlé announced that the plant would close and that this was strictly a "business decision" and was not open to discussion. The Nestlé company is huge, it manufactures more than just candy bars. There are the drinks: Juicy Juice, Nestea, Nesquick, Nescafé, Coffee Mate, and Carnation Instant Breakfast. There are the pet foods: Purina, Mighty Dog, Alpo, Fancy Feast, Friskies, and Tidy Cat.

There are the prepared foods: Lean Cuisine, and Stouffers. And the candy: Nestlé Crunch & Chocolate, Baby Ruth, Wonka, Sweet-tarts, Butterfinger, Goobers, Raisinets, and Bit-o-Honey to name a few.

Nestlé wants still more. Who was first in line last year when the trustees

of the Hershey Foundation considered selling their controlling share of the Hershey Companies? Nestlé was! Considering their "Just Business" decisions, where would they move Hershey Pennsylvania's production lines to? Hershey Brazil? Hershey Thailand? Remember, it's just business.

So the next time you're buying a candy bar, coffee creamer, Cocoa, Chocolate Milk, or dog food, please take the time to think about the little town in upstate New York that has 417 newly unemployed workers, and will never again have the smell of chocolate in the air when it's about to rain. Then make your choice; Nestlé or another brand. Maybe, just maybe, Nestlé will then realize it isn't just business any more.

Hopefully the workers at the Danville Nestlé plant will never have to worry about their jobs.

Support American produced products - Keep Jobs in the U.S.A. Buy American

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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.

Kenneth Hall
Dennis Dillion

*We Send Our
Sincere Condolences To*

Jimmy Davis, Joe Ferland, Bobby Moore,
William Pritchett, Ricky Wharton
To the Family of Retiree Terry Farmer.

Our usual system for condolences has broken down. If you know of anyone who has had a death please notify the union hall.

Peace
On
Earth

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY 2004 CALENDAR						
January 15, 1929 January 19, 1807 January 21, 1824	Martin Luther King, Jr. General Robert E. Lee General Thomas J. Stonewall Jackson			AC New Year's Day 1 —Plant Holiday—	BD 2	BD 3
BD 4	AC Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM 5	AC 6	BD 7	BD Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM 8	AC 9	AC 10
AC 11	BD 12	BD 13	AC SOAR Meeting 11AM 14	AC 15	BD Lee & Jackson Holiday 16	BD 17
BD 18	AC Martin Luther King Holiday 19	AC 20	BD 21	BD 22	AC 23	AC 24
AC March of Dimes Telethon 25	BD 26	BD 27	AC 28	AC 29	BD 30	BD 31
February BD 1	AC Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM 2	AC 3	BD 4	BD 5	AC 6	AC 7