Four Decades Of Service

Not many people can say they have given 40 years to one company, Ron Lute is one person that can. Ron began his career in Akron, Ohio prior to moving to Danville. In all, he has spent 40 years with Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and as a union member. Lute has retired as the longest service hourly employee at the Danville plant. His operations team held a combination service award & retirement party for him. Pictured are Division Chairmen Butch Robinson and Jeff Dixon are pictured along with Ron Lute. Congratulations on your service and retirement.

Supreme Court Flexing Their Power

Prior to the 2004 Presidential election, union leaders from all over the United States were expressing great concern over who might get elected and when elected who they would put in key positions such as the Supreme Court. It looks like President Bush has loaded his court to benefit big business and big government. For years Republicans have complained about government being too big. They have stated that the average American citizen could control their own destiny without governmental interference. It looks like just the opposite is happening. While the leaders worried more about how the court would deal with labor laws, it appears the courts attention at this moment is beating down hard-working government employees.

In a 5-4 decision, in which the newest appointee, Samuel Alito cast the deciding vote, the Supreme Court has scaled back the protections for government workers who blow the whistle on official misconduct. Critics predict the impact would be sweeping, from silencing police officers who fear retribution for reporting department corruption, to subduing federal employees who want to reveal problems with government hurricane preparedness or terrorist-related security.

Joint Press Conference Held

On Friday, June 9th just as the official exchanging of proposals took place, Local 831 with Goodyear officials present held a press conference. The Register-Bea and WAKG radio were present. Other media sources were invited but did not attend. The topic of discussion was the logistics of the negotiations and a short timetable of events. Communications Coordinator Dana Dixon welcomed the guests and gave a brief opening day statement, after which questions were taken. Attending for Local 831 in addition to Dixon; Vice President Terry Trull, Recording Secretary Brenda Miles, Division Chairmen Jeff Dixon & Butch Robinson were also present. Attending on behalf of Goodyear were: Plant Manager Terry Tennyson, Communications Manager Jo Andrews and Communications Intern Sarah Chumbley.

Continued on page 3
President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present except Nancy Chaney and J.C. Hudson. There were sixty-five members present.

Opening prayer was led by Jack Dodson and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer’s report was read and approved.

The National Alliance For Retired Americans convention will be held in Washington, D.C. on September 5 - 8th. Kenny Stevens will be representing the Soar 8-UR-1 Chapter. Jack asked for a motion to pay the cost of food for Kenny to attend the convention. Charles Denny made the motion and Raymond Spicer seconded. Motion passed.

Those interested in another Goodyear plant tour need to see Jack. If enough interest is shown a schedule will be set up with Goodyear for the tour.

Shirts are available for ordering with the new SOAR logo. Also caps with the new logo will be available soon. See Barbara Fry if you want to order a shirt.

The picnic and ballgame will be July 13th, oven #17 at Dan Daniel Park stating at 4:30 p.m. There will be no meeting on July 12th at the Union Hall.

The name drawn for the attendance prize was that of Brenda Haymore. Since she was not present, the July prize will be $60.00.

The next one day trip for our SOAR Chapter will be August 10th to the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va. to see the play “The Philadelphia Story” which is an intelligent, sophisticated, romantic comedy-farce (part screwball) of love and marriage, human growth and class distinction told with sparkling wit. Seats are still available. Call Jack Dodson for reservations.

Door prizes won by the following: Oil, lube and filter change from Goodyear Store on Mt. Cross Road won by Kenny Stevens and Jeanne Dawson. Oil, lube and filter change from the Goodyear Store on Piney Forest Road won by Frank Moon and Ernest Cassidy.

Fifty-fifty was won by Randolph Mayes. Motion made by Kenny Stevens to adjourn and seconded by Ming Toth. Motion passed. Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Guili, Secretary

We send our sincere condolences to the Wadie Fitzgerald family in the loss of his wife Cleo Fitzgerald.
June Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on June 8, 2006 with Vice President Terry Trull presiding. These were the highlights of the meeting:

- Ronald Clarke opened the meeting with prayer. It was followed by the pledge of allegiance.
- Roll call of officers, all were present except President Danny Barber and Gloria Gravely on union business.
- Recording Secretary Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the May meeting. They were approved as read.
- Financial Secretary Dana Dixon presented the May finances and they were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for May was approved as read and contained the following:
  - Purchase Ad and send two COPE members to the AFL-CIO Askew award dinner in honor of past President Danny LeBlanc in August.
  - Purchase retirement page for Legal Counselor Bernie Kleiman.
  - Send four safety representatives and the President to the Joint Health and Safety Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. to be held from August 20-25.
  - Grievance appeal, motion to uphold grievance committee decision.
- Motion to purchase a computer laptop and service agreement for $831.99.
- Motion to send two W.O.S. to Bread and Roses Dinner to be held in Roanoke, Va.
- Motion to send Dana Dixon a day early for the U.S.P.A Conference.
- Motion to purchase desk for Recording Secretary at approximately $1250.00
- Motion to allow the use of the hall to AFLAC for selling of their packages.
- Motion to purchase 50 ink pens for the International Policy Committee at $316.00.
- Reminder, deadline to register for tickets for the Danville Braves is June, 14 at 4:00 p.m.
- Motion to purchase 120 shirts for approximately $1280.00 for CAT Team.
- Motion to remove Richard Barksdale as shop steward due to attendance policy.
- Motion for strike vote to be held on June 15-16 from 5:30 am to 8:00 pm., with Norman Stowe, Sandra Hairston and John McCain serving as the election committee.
- Thank You received from Project Access and Local 850 for attending rally.

Pension & Insurance
Continued from page 2

mail order envelopes that are addressed to St. Louis, MO. This will not change. Prescriptions received in St. Louis will be imaged and then filled in Bensalem. This allows for prescriptions to be filled by one of the other mail order centers in the event of a disaster. The facility in Bensalem is state of the art and labor organized.

Express Scripts phone numbers will not change. Goodyear’s customer service calls will still go to Albuquerque because they are more familiar with our plans. This should not cause any disruptions to members. If there are any concerns please do not hesitate to call your Pension & Insurance Representative at the hall.

Supreme Court
Flexing Their Power
Continued from page 1

This ruling was perhaps the clear-est sign yet of the Supreme Court’s shift with the departure of moderate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and the arrival of Alito. Only one year ago, O’Connor was the swing vote that encouraged whistleblowers to report sex discrimination in schools.

Stephen Kohn, chairman of the National Whistleblowers Center said, “The ruling is a victory for every crooked politician in the United States.”

While everyone knew changes would occur with the changing of the Supreme Guard, no one thought it would bring on attacks of good law-abiding citizens. It looks like big and crooked government is here to stay.

Pension & Insurance report given by Greg Gammon. (See P&I report)

- Relay for Life (Women Of Steel) report was given by Cathy Barker and Brenda Miles.
- Communication Coordinator Dana Dixon informed membership of upcoming press conference to be held at Local 831 on June 9, 2006.
- Motion by Dana Dixon to go into Special Meeting to discuss Strike Vote second by Byron Taylor.
- Brenda Miles and Danny Barker won the 50/50 drawings.
- Vice President, Terry Trull discussed the following:
  - Executive Board set date for the strike vote.
  - Informed membership of the importance of 100% strike votes.
  - Informed membership about concessions at Local 850.
  - Target company will be selected June 30.
- Door prize winner was Mark W. Adkins 1523/4657. Brother Adkins was the lucky winner of $700.00. It pays to attend!
- Motion to adjourn. The next meeting will be held on July 13, 2006.

Definitions For a New Economy

CEO: chief embezzlement officer
CFO: corporate fraud officer

BULL MARKET: A random market movement causing an investor to mistake himself for a financial genius.

BEAR MARKET: A 6 to 18 month period when the kids get no allowance, the wife gets no jewelry, and the husband gets no sex.

MOMENTUM INVESTING: The fine art of buying high and selling low.

VALUE INVESTING: The art of buying low and selling lower.

STANDARD & POOR: Your life in a nutshell.

MARKET CORRECTION: The day after you buy stocks.

CASH FLOW: The movement your money makes as it disappears down the toilet.
Grow A Row For God’s Storehouse

God’s storehouse has been in business for years providing food for families in need. Unfortunately, with the way the economy is and the loss of jobs in the community there are more families in need than ever before. Apexer Julie Irby, who is a contributor to God’s Storehouse and understands their needs, wants to help even more by asking Local 831 members who plant gardens to donate fresh vegetables when their harvest comes in.

“We have a lot of people in our plant that grow gardens every year and a lot of what they grow is given away. Why not give some to an organization that helps people that are in need,” stated Local 831 Vice President Terry Trull.

God’s storehouse is located on Westover Drive and is managed by Becky Wales. The storehouse has always taken non-perishable foods such as canned goods but because of the coolers that they now have they can receive perishable foods. Wales who has managed the storehouse for years now, says that not only are they in need of food but also money. “We also need money to keep the storehouse operating,” stated Wales. If anyone would like to give a monetary gift to God’s Storehouse they can do so by calling Wales at (434) 793-3663. Let’s help God’s Storehouse help those who are in need.

USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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Providence, NC 27315-9477
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USW District 8 • www.usw831.org

Danny Barber
President and Editor
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor
Danny Travis
Associate Editor

WHAT’S NEXT?

Negotiations have started and we’ve already heard the question—what’s next? The first meeting of both sides together was June 9th. At that meeting they received their first look at each other’s proposals. Rumors have been floating around for weeks about different issues. The fact remains until June 9th, the union had no idea what proposals they (the company) would bring. Be aware of rumors—if you don’t hear it from your local union, it remains a rumor. Goodyear benefits the most out of rumors—if we can keep the accurate communications flowing, we can benefit the most. For this reason, we have decided to reorganize our Contract Action Team (CAT) to get out the facts. Every person who is selected or that volunteered for CAT will be given a bright tee shirt designating them as a CAT member so that they can be easily identified. There are CAT members throughout the plant, in every division and on every shift.

Communications will be through various methods. Solidarity Alerts originate in Cincinnati and are emailed to the local union to be distributed. Depending on the information contained in these alerts—distribution will vary. Early alerts will most likely be posted. Other alerts containing information we feel needs to be in every union members hand will be hand billed at the gate or distributed through CAT members.

On June 9th, we held a press conference to get the news to the proper area news media. This information was first shared at the June membership meeting on June 8th. One of the items discussed was the fact that we were going to make every effort possible to inform our members before we did the news media. We can’t guarantee this with the staggered shifts we work, but every effort will be made. You must understand there are times when the press calls with rumors they hear. There are times that we must speak with them to keep them from running inaccurate information that would benefit no one.

Other forms of communications include regular postings on union authorized bulletin boards, right here in the Informer, through the email network and on the Goodyear/Kelly/Dunlop Solidarity Express web site at www.gkdsolidarityexpress.org.

Events such as rallies may be held to spread information.

With all of this in mind, we must remember, we must keep the Danville plant running at the highest levels possible. Plants operations are discussed throughout the negotiations. Remember last contract when Huntsville’s position put them outside the normal negotiating process and eventually closed. Another plant, Tyler, Texas was restricted from the guaranteed status that the other plants received. We want to give President Barber & Policy Member Gravely everything they need to ensure Akron that Danville is and will always be the best we can be.

On June 30th, the overall Policy Committee, which includes the Bridgestone/Firestone group and the BF Goodrich/Michelin group as well as our teams will decide on the target company. By selecting a target company, it means that the majority of the negotiating process will move to get them to reach an agreement. Once that agreement is reached, a pattern is established and negotiations move on to another tire manufacturer.

After all this, I guess the answer to what’s next remains to be seen, however, we will see it together. You will hear everything we hear about these negotiations. One last thought to remember, both sides always agree to a media blackout on the issues. While we know the issues will be health care, pension, as well as other benefits, we will not hear the specifics.

The one thing that every member can do is to maintain our SOLIDARITY.

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

How do I know what to do when the contract expires on July 22, 2006?

On the day the contract expires there will be members of the local negotiating committee in the plant. They will receive a phone call from President Barber who will inform them on the status of the negotiations. Three things can possibly happen.

* We may extend the contract and continue to work.
* We may reach a point where our negotiators will call an official strike.
* We may reach a tentative agreement.

If any of these occur, your local negotiating committee will advise you on what you should do.

WOS have a “Man of Steel”

Our local union’s Women of Steel (WOS) have always been big volunteers and at times they recruit others to help in their endeavors. The Relay for Life is one such an event. “I remember the very first time we participated in the Relay for Life. A union member just showed up with his lounge chair and stated he was there for the duration. He even allowed me to call him Freddie for most of the night, before he corrected me and stated he was Frankie West of the maintenance department and a cancer survivor,” stated WOS Chairwomen Brenda Miles.

Every group needs its’ volunteers and WOS has theirs.

“We would like to thank our overall committee as well as non-committee volunteers; Juanita Turner, Tonya Stone and Linda Davis. Committee members who contributed greatly include Charlotte Wright, Monica Gray and Sandra Hairston,” added Miles.

Above the WOS volunteers, Frankie West has shown up at every event for five years and not only shows up but also gets the team location set up, and spends the entire time there. This year the majority of his family stayed too. “This event is the only thing I volunteer for. Being a cancer survivor will bring new focus to such a cause. I was diagnosed in 2000, had an operation and have been clear since then. You just don’t know the suffering people go through until it hits you. That is why I think it is so important to fight for a cure—that is why I relay,” stated West.

The dedication of Frankie West is why the WOS have made him their “Man of Steel.”

Baucus Is 43rd Senator to Co-Sponsor Employee Free Choice Act

Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) became the 43rd senator to sign on as a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act, eight short of a majority. There are 216 co-sponsors in the House, just two short of a majority. The most recent supporter in the House is Delegate Eni Faleomavaega (D) of American Samoa, who does not have a vote in floor actions.

The legislation (S. 842 and H.R. 1696) would require employers to recognize a union after a majority of workers signs cards authorizing representation. It also would provide for mediation and arbitration of first-contract disputes and set stronger penalties for violations of labor law when workers are trying to form a union.

Happy Fathers Day!

Workin’ Man

I was never one to eavesdrop when someone was having a chat. But, late one night as I came through our yard, I found I was doing just that. My wife was talking to our youngest son as he sat on the kitchen floor. So I stopped quietly to listen just outside the screen door.

Seems she’d heard some kids all bragging about their daddy’s jobs and they all were big executives. And then they asked our Bob, “What fine career does your father have?” Their queries all began. Bob mumbled low as he looked away. “He’s just a workin’ man.”

My good wife waited till they all had left then called our young boy in. She said, “I have something to tell you son,” as she kissed his dimpled chin. “You said your Dad’s just a workin’ man and what you said was true. But, I doubt if you know what that really means, so I’ll explain it to you.

In all the sprawling industries that make our country great, in all the shops and stores and trucks that daily haul our freight…whenever you see a new house built, remember my son, it took the common workin’ man to get that big job done!

Its true executives have nice desks and stay real clean all day. They plan big PROJECTS to achieve…send memos to relay. But, to turn their dream into fact, remember this, my son, it took the common workin’ man to get those big jobs done!

If all the bosses left their desks and knocked off for a year, the wheels of industry still could turn running in high gear. If men like your Dad aren’t on the job, that industry can’t run. It took the common workin’ man to get the big jobs done!

Well, I choked back a tear and cleared my throat as I entered through the door. My young son’s eyes lit up for joy as he jumped up off the floor. He gave me a hug as he said, “Hey Dad, I’m so proud to be your son….Cause you’re one of the men, the special men, who get the big jobs done!

Author Unknown
Rain Doesn’t Dampen Spirits At Relay For Life

Though the rain came, it did not dampen the spirits for this year’s Relay for Life, which is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivors of cancer and to honor those who have succumbed to this disease. This is the fifth year in a row that Local 831 has participated in this worthwhile event that is organized by the Women of Steel.

Relay for Life is held every year, not only to raise money but to also raise awareness about cancer and the hope that one day a cure will be found. This year’s event was held on June 2 and 3 at the Danville/Pittsylvania County Fairgrounds. The 24-hour event started at 6:00 p.m. Friday and ended at 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Although there was plenty of rain, thunder and lightning, this year’s event rolled right along as planned. During the event, teams of people gather to take turns walking around the track. The goal is for each team to have someone walking the track for the entire period. As a tradition, cancer survivors were given the honor to walk the first lap.

Opening ceremony began at 6:30 p.m. with prayer, guest speakers and singing. There was plenty of activities including a contest for the best Hawaiian outfit, singing, dancing, karaoke and cooking. There was also a slide show of people who had lost the battle to cancer shown during the course of the evening. At midnight, the American Cancer Society provided a meal to all participants. Many events take place during the evening leading up to the closing ceremony, which was on Saturday, June 3 at 9:00 a.m.

“When we first got started, it was raining, thundering and the wind was blowing. As I looked around I saw all these people there that were energetic and excited. They didn’t let the bad weather bother them because they all knew that when this event was finally over they had stood up against cancer,” said Recording Secretary Brenda Miles. This year’s co-chairs for the event were Women of Steel members Charlotte Wright and Monica Grey.

Besides our local, there were many other businesses, charities and organizations from Danville and Pittsylvania County that participated. Our local raised $6,000.00 through gate collections, funds from last year’s picnic bake sale, gate collections and T-shirts. This year, the Goodyear Service Store and URW Credit Union contributed to our overall gate collection. Luminaries were also purchased so they could be placed for the remembrance of loved ones that lost their life due to cancer. All together the Danville/Pittsylvania County Relay for Life raised over $76,000.00 to fight cancer. Cancer does not discriminate against race, gender or age. It is a disease that has affected almost every family in one way or another. The fight will continue until a cure is found. The women of Steel would like to thank everyone that contributed to this year’s event and they hope to see you there next year.
DON’T GO ON VACATION
without giving your engine some new oil!

Oil & Lube $15.99*
* Includes up to 5 qts. of oil. Tax and disposal fee extra.

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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.

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Shoe Certificate Error
Shoe certificates were distributed last month to employees. However, some of the vendors were omitted due to an oversight and we would like to take this opportunity to resubmit the names along with addresses where the certificates may be redeemed. Please be reminded you have one year to redeem your certificate.

* Franklin Discount Company 215 North Union St. Danville, Va.
* Southern States 744 Craighead St. Danville, Va.
* Shoe Carnival Riverside Centre Danville, Va.
* Saf-Gard Shoe Mobile Located on Plant Site Danville, Va.

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We Send Our Sincere Condolences To
Clinard Adams, Keith Adkins, Sally Adkins, Andre Baldwin, Charlie Belcher, Jr., Mark Boothe, Dallas Bowen, Steven Carney, Danny Crumpton, Bruce Evans, Gregory Ferguson, Bryan Gee, John Graves, III., Omar Grimes, Dennis Guill, Michael Hangelia, David Ingram, Bobby James, James Jennings, Jr., Harold Jennings, Sr., Kenneth Jones, Larry Lea, Samuel Martin, Raymond McDaniel, Charlene Mebane, James Patterson, Tommy Scott, David Smith, Carl Wade, Stanford Wells, III., William Wingate

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.

Ron Lute  A-Crew     Dept. 1524
40 Years of Service

U.S.W. Local 831
285 Shady Grove Road
Providence, NC 27315

Return Service Requested

JULY 2006 CALENDAR

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