

Vote Lands New Faces In Union Election

Members of Local 831 have elected seven new leaders to represent them for the next three years. The old phrase, some things change and some stay the same definitely applies in this year's election. In total, there are five new officers and two representatives holding new leadership positions for the first time.

Tim Brown (mechanic) replaces Terry Trull as Vice President, Mark Powers and Terry Reynolds assume the positions of Guard, Carolyn Coles is the new Guide, Greg Glass makes up the third Trustee, joining returning trustees Becky Inman and Pam Wright. Mike Fox becomes the new Division II Chairman replacing 11 year Chairman Irvin Lawson and Scott Wallace replaces Butch Robinson as Division IV Chairman. Robinson served two terms as chairman.

Danny Barber, who is the longest running president in the history of Local 831, assumes his position as President. Barber has been president of Local 831 for 17 years. He also serves as chairman of the USW table committee during master negotiations. His vice president for 11 of those years was Terry Trull. Recording Secretary Brenda Miles, returns to her position which she has held for 11 years. Gloria Gravely retains her job as policy member for the Local as she begins her fifth year. Greg Gammon begins his

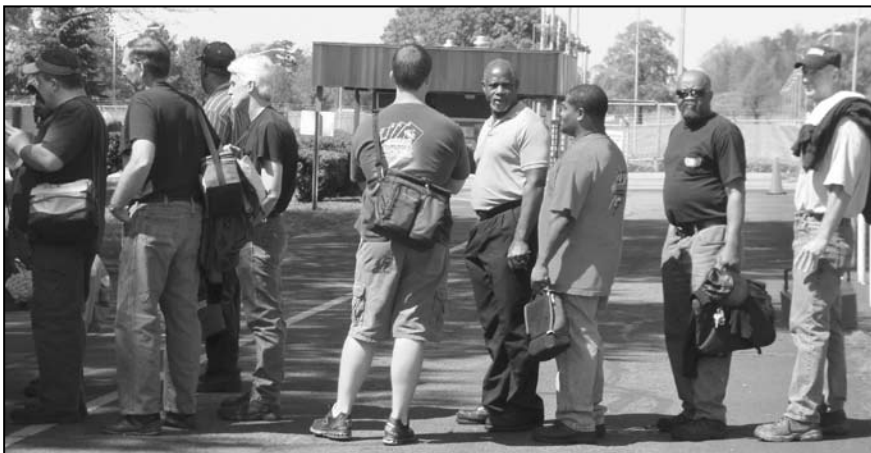
first term as Financial Secretary after being appointed to replace retiree Dana Dixon and 14 year veteran Jeff Dixon returns as chair-



Officers and representatives being sworn in their new leadership positions.

man in Division III. Bennett Gobble takes on his new roll as Treasurer replacing retiree David Payne.

Local 831 would like to thank the efforts of Chairman of the Election Committee, Jimmy Davis and members who helped with the election process. Special thanks go out to all members who took the time to vote. Best wishes to our new leaders as well as our old.



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MAY 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except Nancy Chaney and George Stewart. There were 102 members present. Opening prayer was led by Juanita Edwards followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved.

The name of Claude Taylor was drawn for the attendance prize. He was not present, therefore, the prize will be \$60.00 for June.

Benny Toler gave a report on VEBA.

Richard Moore, President of Moore Insurance Co., gave an informative presentation on investments. Following the meeting, Mr. Moore presented door prizes to those whose name was called.

The following new members joined in May:

- Samuel Barker and wife Peggy
- Michael Chaney
- R. S. Hundley and wife Bonnie
- David R. Hyde
- Ronnie Lawless and wife Teresa
- Paul Lea and wife Shaunell
- Bobby McCain and wife Dianne
- Jeorome Morrison and wife Cheryl
- Richard Payne and wife Jane
- Roosevelt Scott and wife Hazel
- Charlie Vaden and wife Yvone
- Bernard White and wife Betty
- Michael Wilkes and wife Marion

The following won door prizes:

Free oil & lube change from Piney Forest Goodyear Store - Linda Rucker

Free oil & lube change from Mt. Cross Rd. Goodyear Store - Kenny Durham

50-50 - George Waller

Motion made to adjourn by Earl Guill seconded by Willie Fitzgerald. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Guill

Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS

The 90 days of continuation of coverage under the benefit plan for employees that were laid off 3-23-09 will end June 20, 2009. In order to continue benefits thru Goodyear, you can sign up for COBRA benefits. Information from the Goodyear Benefits Solution Center concerning COBRA should arrive at your home shortly. If you are considering the 18 months of COBRA, please make sure that you read your paperwork thoroughly and follow the instructions on how to get enrolled. Keep in mind you may be eligible for the American Recovery Act of 2009 that allows for temporary premium reductions for up to 9 months which includes the 90 days continuation period. (65% Subsidy) There are eligibility requirements that must be met in order to receive this assistance and they are:

- MUST be eligible for continuation coverage at any time during the period from September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009 and elect the coverage.
- MUST have a continuation coverage election opportunity related to an involuntary termination of employment that occurred at some time from September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009.
- MUST NOT be eligible for Medicare.
- MUST NOT be eligible for coverage under any other group health plan, such as a plan sponsored by a successor employer or a spouse's employer.

You must return the COBRA notice within 60 days from the date listed on your COBRA letter to be eligible.

NOTE: For those Employees who were laid off and have SUB credits under the Master Supplemental Plan, your Continuation period will depend on the number of SUB credits units that may give you additional months of coverage at the active rate that you pay now. The 65% Subsidy will apply towards your active premium rates for up to 9 months. COBRA letters will be sent to Grandfathered laid off employees and you must return the letter within 60 days of the date on the notice to be eligible for assistance. Eligibility requirements are listed above.

MINNESOTA LIFE

Optional life insurance on your dependents terminated once they reach age 19. This applies even if the dependent is a full-time student in College. If you have a disabled dependent that has been deemed disabled and covered on the insurance prior to reaching age 19, they will continue to be covered under the optional life insurance policy as long as you pay the premium.

This is the only exception for a dependent age 19 or older. If you have multiple dependents on the policy that are younger than 19, their policy will continue in effect until age 19 as long as the premiums are paid.

*Conversion Privilege: The dependent coverage can be converted over to a private policy once they reach age 19 by contacting Minnesota Life at 1-800-660-2584. Group rates will not apply at that time.

A FATHER MEANS...

A Father means so many things...

A understanding heart,

A source of strength and of support

Right from the very start.

A constant readiness to help

In a kind and thoughtful way.

With encouragement and forgiveness

No matter what comes your way.

A special generosity and

always affection, too

A Father means so many things

When he's a man like you...

- Author Unknown

May Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on May 15, 2009 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Samuel Fitzgerald followed by the pledge of allegiance.
- Roll Call of officers.
- Brenda Miles presented the minutes from the April regular membership meeting. They were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for May was approved as read and it contained the following:
 - Motion to donate \$1,000 to PATHS.
 - Motion to donate \$1,000 to American Cancer Society.
 - "Thank You" received from NC Special Olympics.

- Motion to send two COPE committee members to AFL-CIO meeting August 13-15, 2009 in Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Motion to allow President and Policy member to travel to Cincinnati, Ohio as needed for negotiations.
- Motion to support Ronnie Watson for District Director.
- Motion to hire Joshua Moyer as IT person.
- Motion to renew CD on May 9, 2009.
- Motion to allot up to \$1,000 to purchase of a new TV for hall.
- Motion to purchase desk for Pension and Insurance office.
- Motion to allot up to \$750 for new computer for recording secretary's office.

- Trustee report given by Becky Inman.
- Points of Information:
 - Ronnie Watson, former treasurer of Local 831 will be running for District Director, please support him with upcoming fundraisers for this position and make the vote turnout a success.
 - May 31, 2009 President and Policy Member will be traveling to Cincinnati, Ohio to begin negotiations for contract.
 - Strike vote to be held in late June or early July.
 - Contract issues will be; limited incentives-no piece work, change discipline policy-too many branches in discipline policy, tier wage system-grandfather clause, benefits-increase our out-of-pocket medical expenses.
- Walter Borden and David Childress won the 50/50 raffle.
- The name of Jerry Towler won the \$250 VISA card for picnic raffle.
- The name of Darrell K. Davis, dept# 2420, cc# 4601 was drawn for the attendance drawing. He was present. The June door prize will be \$25.
- Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held on June 11, 2009.

Pension & Insurance Alternate

Ricky Austin, dept.# 2333 has been chosen to be the alternate Pension & Insurance representative for Local 831. Austin will be training with Gloria Gravely and will be filling in for her when needed.



Employee Assistance Program Coordinator (EAP)

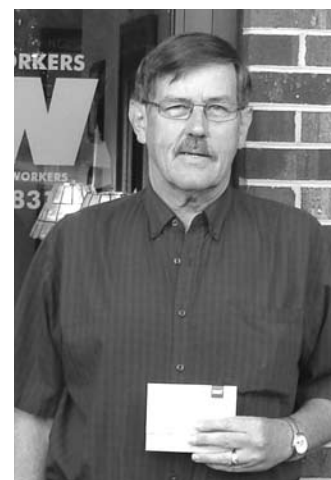
Courtney Dixon, dept. 1420 will presume the position of Employee Assistance Program Coordinator (EAP). Dixon has been with Goodyear for eleven years. "I'm really looking forward to the challenge, I have had a lot of experience working in my local and with people, although I have some big shoes to fill, I plan to continue on the precedence set by my predecessor." He will be replacing Bryon Taylor who will be retiring soon. Taylor has held this position for 22 years. "I feel very confident in Courtney because of his honesty, integrity, and compassion. I could not have made a better choice," stated Taylor.



- Motion to purchase \$45 ad to Local 8675 for Labor Day.
- Financial report for the month of May was given by Greg Gammon and approved as read. Motion to accept two rejoining members.
- P & I report given by Gloria Gravely (see P & I).
- Election committee report given by Jimmy Davis.
- Cope committee report given by Byron Taylor/Mark Powers.

Annual Picnic Raffle And The Winner Is ...

The fourth drawing for the annual picnic raffle for a \$250 VISA card was held at the May membership meeting. And the winner is retiree Jerry Towler. At the annual picnic, prizes of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 will be drawn. Each will be in the form of a VISA card. After each monthly drawing all winning tickets will be put back in for chances at future drawings. Tickets are still available and still only \$5.00 each.



Pay Me Now or Pay Me Later

Over the next few months I will be writing about the different areas of training. We will talk about topics like, what is certification, qualification, why is documentation important and the reason we need qualified labor trainers. I would like to talk about the importance of training.

There use to be a commercial about fram oil filter that would say "Pay me now or pay me later." I believe we are always going to pay for training or the lack of it. If we don't give the time and/or resources to train, it will drive the cost of every indicator up we strive so desperately to bring down.

Lack of training affects safety, quality, production and even attitude. If we are constantly moving trainee's and not giving them the opportunity to be trained, then they feel no one cares if they learn their jobs or not. On the other hand, if we allow our trainee's the opportunity to be trained they will feel they are important to the process, and it will cut down on training time. This will benefit the trainee and our business. I truly believe this is what everybody wants.

Last but not least, this is to the trainers, training coordinators, and managers who have a role in training. I would like to ask you this question. "If we don't care about training who will?"

One more thing, when some one says to you, "training sure does cost," just say to them, it sure does. "Do you want to pay me now or pay me later?"

Ronnie Crane,
Union Training Coordinator

EDITOR'S COLUMN...

All Good Things....

If you were to take a snapshot of Local 831 and Goodyear from three years ago and compare it to today, what a difference you would see. Our plant, a vital cog in the Goodyear machine, running wide open with no obstacles in sight other than a contract negotiation. Our local union preparing, in hindsight justly, for a potential labor dispute. Fast forward to 2009 and all you can say is wow! Our plant is running at less than 50 percent of it's capacity, we have people on layoff, the future is uncertain and another contract negotiation is here. Our local union has new faces and many obstacles to overcome including preparing for another potential labor dispute. But remember that we control our own destiny. That control begins with an upcoming strike authorization vote. If you believe in the freedom for me to write this and the freedom that allows you to read it, then you must also believe in the freedom to organize into a union and that this union must stand strong and united with me to vote "YES" for the strike authorization vote. Nobody wants a strike but in the event that it becomes necessary, we must be prepared by giving this authorization.

On a lighter note, I knew that this day would eventually come and have pondered many times what my feelings would be or what I would write about. It is with mixed emotions that, due to my new duties as Division II Chairman, I will be ending my tenure with Local 831's award winning paper, "The Informer". I'd like to thank the staff and membership for their support, President Danny Barber for his faith in me and last but not least Dana Dixon. Dana's leadership helped to steer me to who I am today as a union member. I said from the beginning that I would do my best to fill his shoes and I didn't even come close to that objective. This will likely be the last editorial that I write and that makes me sad but on the other hand I understand that it will create a wonderful opportunity for someone else to step up into a leadership role with the paper. I must move on to serve the members of Local 831 in other ways but a piece of me will always remain with "The Informer." As the saying goes "All good things must come to an end."

Mike Fox, Managing Editor



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■
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President and Editor

■
Editors

Mike Fox Danny Travis Sandra Hairston
Managing Editor Senior Writer Assoc. Editor

■
Mike Fox
Communications Coordinator



Stimulus Increase Unemployment Benefits

A stimulus increase of \$25 is available to anyone receiving unemployment benefits, trade or emergency unemployment compensation each week. The initial payment was issued in a lump sum payment covering February 28 through May 2, 2009. No taxes were deducted from the lump sum payment; however, taxes will be taken out of the \$25 if the claimant has elected to do so in their unemployment after May 2, 2009. As a week is processed the FAC payment will be included in the total payment amount. The maximum amount an individual claim record is eligible for is \$250, which will be for ten retroactive weeks. There were 145,397 claims processed and \$22,402,022 in FAC benefits distributed by May 8, 2009. Please call customer service at 1-800-961-8423 and enter your pin number to check to see if your \$25 was deposited into your account.

Questions & Answers

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

How long do I have to work in order to receive a watch?

A union member who has been a union member 30 years consecutively receives a steel workers watch and pen set upon retirement.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life will be held on May 29, 2009 from 6:30 pm through May 30, 2009 at 6:00 am. at the Carrington Pavilion. Please go by and support the American Cancer Society.

Retirees And Spouses To Fill Vacant CDC Seats

The Career Development Center's (CDC) local joint committee has updated its policy regarding retirees and spouses. Retirees and spouses will now be permitted to participate in customized classes offered by the CDC. Classes will still require a minimum of five active and / or laid off hourly employees. Retirees and spouses will be permitted to fill any vacant seats on a first come, basis after all active and laid off employees have had the opportunity to enroll in said classes.

The active employee, laid off employee and retired employee must attend the same class in the same time slot as their spouse. Flat fee classes will be at no cost to the retirees or spouses. Retirees and spouses attending per student fee classes will be required to remit payment to the instructor prior to taking the class. Listed below is the order in which enrollment in classes will occur.

- 1st Active and/or laid off hourly employees
- 2nd Retirees
- 3rd Spouses of active and/or laid off hourly employees
- 4th Spouses of retirees

The CDC is located at 110 Exchange Street, Suite A, directly behind Riverside Marathon. For more information, contact David Austin, Coordinator, or Kathy Patterson, Assistant to the coordinator at (434) 792-1670 or a member of the CDC Local Joint Committee.

CAT - Contract Action Team

Members of the Contract Action Team (CAT) should contact your CAT coordinators, Mark Powers or Courtney Dixon to update their data sheets. The shift coordinators are: First shift-Delta Williams, Stuart Lovelace, Sandra Hairston and Sam Fitzgerald; Second shift-Rhonda Walker, Antonio Harris, Chip Ragans and Carloyn Coles; Third shift-Ricky Austin, Cathy Barker, Willie Futch and Brian Shore.

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Cope Get Letters Out And In A Hurry

The United Steelworkers of America have filed a petition under Section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974 that documents a huge surge of passenger and light truck tire imports from China during 2004-08. Imports from China during this period have increased by a whopping 215 percent in volume and 295 percent in value. This has taken place while domestic production of consumer tires declined by 25 percent.

The union has identified nearly 7,000 tire workers who have been affected by six factory shutdowns of consumer tires since 2004. The section 421 petition is asking the U.S. government to impose import quotas on China of 21 million consumer tires used on passenger cars, light trucks, minivans and sport utility vehicles. Section 421 was written into the trade law to enable companies, groups of workers and other parties to seek relief when rapid increases in imports of certain products cause or threaten "market disruption to a domestic industry."

The letters to congressmen and senators from both North Carolina and Virginia state the above facts to the respective representatives and senators of both states. The COPE committee received, printed, folded and mailed the letters in a seven-day period. Contract Action Team members distributed the letters to be signed by union members. The petition has been filed with the Obama Administration in order to preserve the jobs at the Danville plant and other tire manufacturing facilities. Over 3,240 letters from the Danville plant were mailed.

Senators from North Carolina are Richard Burr and Kay Hagan. The congressman from North Carolina is Representative Brad Miller. The Virginia Senators are Jim Webb and Mark Warner. The congressman from Virginia is Representative Tom Perriello. The COPE Committee would like to thank everyone that signed the letters.

Union City Votes Yes

Members of Local 878 at the Goodyear Union City plant have overwhelmingly voted in favor of an agreement between the company and the union. In a letter dated April 24 to Local 878 President Harry Alford, a proposal was offered to local union workers that highlighted three potential "phases" of a workforce reduction at the Goodyear plant. Ninety-four percent of the members voted in favor of the buyout agreement.

The terms of the proposal state under Phase 1 that the plant has the right to make an initial ticket reduction and/or conversion to a five-day conventional schedule. The plant will begin three eight-hour shifts five days a week on July 6, 2009 after their July 4, holiday shutdown. Currently, the plant operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day on 12 hours shifts.

Included in Phase 1 is the buyout of 600 workers, including 60 technical maintenance by classification, at \$3,000 per year of service with no cap.

Under Phase 2 of the agreement, 400 buyouts would be offered at \$2,000 for each year of service with no cap. Phase 3 of the agreement states that in the event of an announced plant closure, employees who did not leave during Phases 1 or 2 would have the option of accepting a \$25,000 lump sum one-time payment or preferential hire rights, SUB and SIC pays, as well as medical and other benefits according to plant closure provisions of the Pension and Insurance Agreement.

"This agreement was to give the Union City plant a chance to survive. They were considering closing the plant and with this agreement, if things pick up in the next two years, it will have a good chance to survive," said USW Local 878 Communications Director Willis Hicks.

"We will begin work to implement the agreement and continue to drive improvement activities for our operations," stated Union City Plant manager Todd Turner. Goodyear-Union City currently employs around 2,600 people. The agreement also states the local tire manufacturing facility would no longer be protected under Letter 53 of a master contract and may be closed.

Purcell Tire Buys Goodyear Retread Business

Purcell Tire & Rubber Co. of Potosi, Mo., has acquired the assets of Goodyear's Wingfoot OTR retread business, an off-the-road, retread manufacturer. Purcell is one of the largest private companies in the St. Louis region. They will be shipping Goodyear's retreading equipment from plants in Salisbury, NC and Winona, Minn., to Potosi, Mo. The company has about five other retread plants around the country. Goodyear's Wingfoot Commercial Tire Systems subsidiary is exiting off-the-road retreading business, and closing operations at the two plants. Some employees are transferring to their Wingfoot operations and 35 employees at the two plants are being laid off. Wingfoot will continue to operate its commercial truck tire retreading operation.

Strike Vote on Horizon!

Every three years the contract between Goodyear and the United Steelworkers expires. Soon a strike vote will be held at every local to authorize a strike if it is deemed necessary by the men and women of the negotiations committee. A strong strike vote only implies what the members will do if necessary. Rest assured that your negotiating committee would only call for a strike if it were absolutely necessary. The strike vote for our local will be sometime in late June or early July. Please, show your strength and solidarity on the day of the strike vote!

— 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.

Letcher A. Adkins
Dept.# 1411 CC# 2738
Charlie P. Boyd
Dept.# 1320 CC# 3248
Michael W. Chaney
Dept.# 2421 CC# 3589
James M. Davis
Dept.# 2431 CC# 1761
Keith C. Deane
Dept.# 1411 CC# 2009
Albert Dillard
Dept.# 1320 CC# 2974
Perlie Fitzgerald
Dept.# 1523 CC# 2448

Hubert D. Garrard
Dept.# 1523 CC# 4971
Larry D. Goode
Dept.# 1430 CC# 3103
Anthony R. Graves
Dept.# 1320 CC# 2663
Earl C. Guilliams, Jr.
Dept.# 1415 CC# 3744
Lloyd "Gene" Harris
Dept.# 2415 CC# 1465
Jerome A. Howerton
Dept.# 2421 CC# 2427
Waverly Hubbard
Dept.# 1523 CC# 5372
Buddy N. Hudgins
Dept.# 3541 CC# 2188
Larry W. Hughes
Dept.# 2431 CC# 1981
Michael L. Kent
Dept.# 1430 CC# 3188

Jonathon L. Kirby
Dept.# 1631 CC# 2158
Paul T. Lea
Dept.# 2421 CC# 2799
Hubert E. Lipscomb
Dept.# 1320 CC# 2915
Roger L. Matthews
Dept.# 1411 CC# 110
Ronald "Pete" Niday
Dept.# 2420 CC# 2656
James H. Oakley
Dept.# 1320 CC# 3516
Richard L. Payne
Dept.# 1631 CC# 2698
George A. Pruitt
Dept.# 1110 CC# 2087
Floyd L. Randolph, Jr.
Dept.# 1161 CC# 3648
Tommy L. Robertson
Dept.# 1320 CC# 1722

Roosevelt Scott, Jr.
Dept.# 2311 CC# 2466
Howard V. Simpson
Dept.# 1330 CC# 1275
Robert E. Slade
Dept.# 1523 CC# 917
Theodore J. Smith
Dept.# 1411 CC# 1026
Edward N. Snead
Dept.# 2415 CC# 2333
Clarence E. Stephens, Jr.
Dept.# 2431 CC# 1349
Lester L. Terry, Sr.
Dept.# 1420 CC# 1959
Charlie L. Vaden, Jr.
Dept.# 1414 CC# 2918
Harry Waller
Dept.# 1631 CC# 871
Donnie D. Younger
Dept.# 2541 CC# 1157

KEEP YOUR RETIREMENT ON SOLID GROUND EVEN IF THINGS AT WORK ARE UP IN THE AIR.

Few things are as stressful as worrying about work. Because it's easy to feel like things are out of control, it's essential to consider any financial decision carefully. This is especially true when it comes to your retirement savings.

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Sub-Check Distribution

To those employees who were on layoff that received a Danville only sub-check for week beginning March 30, 2009, Goodyear took out union dues of \$1.45 by mistake to 210 individuals. The Danville Plant has provided a list to the local union of those affected. Please come by the union hall and see Financial Secretary Greg Gammon for your refund.

Jobless? Uninsured? Free Meds available!

Pfizer Inc. unveiled a new program that will let people who have lost their jobs and health insurance keep taking some widely prescribed Pfizer medications-including Lipitor and Viagra-for free for up to a year.

The world's biggest drugmaker will provide more than 70 of its prescription drugs at no cost to unemployed, uninsured Americans, regardless of their prior income, who lost jobs since January 1 and have been on the Pfizer drug for three months or more. Applicants will have to sign a statement that they are suffering financial hardship and provide a "pink slip" or similar employer notice. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2009, with medication provided for up to 12 months after approval-or until the person becomes insured again. Patients can call a toll-free number, (866) 706-2400, to sign up, and those whose drugs are not included in the program will be referred to other company aid programs. Starting July 1, 2009 patients can also apply through the web site, www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com, which has information about the other Pfizer aid programs.

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

David Adkins, Jr., Jason Broyles, Dereck Carter, Ricky Carter,
Greg Ferguson, Bryant Fitzgerald, C. C. Gloe, Holly Gray,
Salathiel Hairston, Sharon Light, Lloyd Lipscomb, Mark Roach,
Daniel Simering II, Randy Sloane, Seasar Stewart, Kenny Williams,
Donald Wood, Dean Wray.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 2009 CALENDAR						
31 Pres & Policy Member Cinn. OH Negotiations Begin	1 Exec. Board Meeting 7:30 AM	2	3 SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	11 Union Meeting 7:30 AM 3:30 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Fathers Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Credit Union Contract Expires	29	30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day 