

## Thank You For Making This Year's Picnic A Success

This year's picnic consisted of a new look, a new location and many new jubilant faces. The Carrington Pavilion was a great location, which presented plenty of space and parking. The food, activities, games and rides again exceeded previous years. Although, most of the feedback was positive, plans are currently being made to make next year a more eventful success. After careful observation and conversation of the pros and cons it



was concluded that each year with the attendance growing, the serving lines would be one of the items that we will focus on, along with an attempt to increase the activities for families, friends and of course the children.

There were plenty of cheerful smiles that were served along with the food, which contributed to the overall success of making Local 831 Union Picnic one that will be discussed until 2006.

In conclusion, again we would like to say thank you to all participants. We solicit any and all comments, suggestions and prayers.



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NOVEMBER 9, 2005

President Jack Dodson called the meeting to order. All Board members were present. There were 109 members present. Opening prayer was by Rosa Farmer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The name of Bishop Ray Stephens was drawn for the attendance prize and he was not present. The prize will be worth \$80.00 in December.

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

Terry Trull, Vice-President of Local 831, discussed the URW Credit Union election of officers. He has asked for the results of the last election but has gotten no cooperation from the current board or the URW Credit Union officers as to the actual results of the count. Terry has asked for a re-election. A petition is circulating to support Terry's request for a new election of Officers.

Gloria Gravely, Insurance Representative for Local 831, spoke on Medicare, Part D for prescription drugs. Goodyear suggests you compare the difference between the plans before you sign up on any plan, as the Goodyear plan is better for SOAR retirees. Goodyear will send out credible coverage letters in case you want to sign up at a later date. Members need to save these letters for future use. Gloria will be glad to answer any questions regarding insurance. Also, Met-Life is changing to Minnesota Mutual for those who retired after 1999 and are paying a premium. This change will take place in June 2006.

Door prizes were won by the following:

Goodyear Service Store - oil and lube change - Spencer Adkins and George Stewart.

Perry Bros. - oil and lube change - Larry Pifer and Lewis Eggleston

William Robertson won 50-50.

Dana Dixon showed a picture slideshow from the 2005 Union picnic.

A motion was made by George Stewart to adjourn and seconded by Kenny Stevens. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Guill

# PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

## ■ Open Enrollment

The last day to make changes with the 2006 annual Open Enrollment was November 13, 2005. Anyone who will be expecting a COB reimbursement from Goodyear due to their spouse paying a premium for their own insurance, needs to make sure this form was mailed to the Benefits Solution Center if it was NOT done online during open enrollment. Flexible Spending Accounts and Dependent Daycare Accounts need to be updated during open enrollment in order to be enrolled in the programs.

## ■ Budco Verification Process

- 43,000 families audited
  - 2,344 dependents initially removed
  - As of 10-27-05 (3,814 dependents removed)
  - Non-compliant people will terminate if not received by December 16, 2005.
  - Letters will go out to all people who are dropped from the insurance.
- Please make sure that everyone who receives a mailing from Budco sends the required documents in before the deadline.

## ■ Medicare Part D

All Medicare eligible retirees should have received a letter from Goodyear on the Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Plan). Please take a close look at this letter and compare the difference between Goodyear's prescription drug plan verses Medicare "D".

Goodyear will receive a subsidy of 28%, which means a \$50 million savings for the company. A Credible Coverage letter will go out to all eligible Medicare retirees to keep in case they decide to enroll at a later date. Third party vendors will be trying to entice retirees to sign up for Part D, but make sure you understand that there will be a premium to pay each month of \$32.30 and a \$250.00 deductible to pay.

**\*DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR CREDIBLE COVERAGE LETTER.**

## ■ Optional Life Insurance

Effective 1-1-06, hourly will automatically transfer from Met-Life to Minnesota Mutual. You will also be grand-fathered in the status you are in (Smoker/ Non-Smoker). Everyone will be asked to fill out a new beneficiary form after the change is made. Customer Service features will include 800# that will automatically pop up on customer service screen with no call menu and calls will go straight thru. You will be able to go on-line to do beneficiary forms.

- Cash Accumulation funds will transfer over as well and Interest will be calculated on a daily basis. It is a good idea to start putting extra money in this fund so that when you retire you can continue your optional life and pay your premiums out of this fund.
- You will be notified if you are behind on your premiums.
- Letters will go out to all active associates concerning optional life insurance.

# November Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its' regular membership meeting on November 10, 2005 with Vice President Terry Trull presiding. These were the highlights of the meetings:

- Brother Doug Jones opened the meeting with prayer and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call of Officers, all were present except William McLaughlin. Danny Barber was on union business.
- Recording Secretary Brenda Miles presented the minutes from October and they were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for November was approved as read and contained the following:
  - Thank you from Liberty Tax Service for the picnic invitation.
  - Motion to donate \$250 to Operation Family Reunion (Army Fisher House).
  - Thank you from the Danville/Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce

for participation in the Ed Steffey Memorial Education Open.

- Motion to donate \$200 to the "Adopt a child" program set up for Ormet Steel union workers. They've been on a lengthy strike.
- Motion to purchase three shirts for the negotiating committee in Social Circle, GA. This is a recently organized USW/Goodyear local.
- Motion to purchase 2,400 retractable badge holders to sell for \$1.00 each.
- Motion to allow the COPE Committee to lobby the 2006 Virginia General Assembly.
- The financial report for September was given by Dana Dixon and was approved as read.
- Pension & Insurance report given by Gloria Gravely (see P&I story).
- Jeff Dixon reminded membership that the vacation canvassing would begin soon and that Local 831 was in the process of preparing for another

mini-arbitration, hopefully before the end of 2005.

- VP Trull gave a report on the fall interim meeting (see Interim meeting story).
- VP Trull also informed membership that Local 831 representatives and Goodyear-Danville representatives went to Gadsden to look at their incentive program.
- Dana Dixon displayed a slideshow from the 2005 picnic for membership to see.
- Johnny Scott and Carl Franklin won the 50/50 drawings.
- J.W. Whitten cc# 3599 dept. 1320 was drawn for the door prize and was not present. The December door prize will be \$550.
- Motion to adjourn; the next meeting will be December 8, 2005.

## Why should I attend union meetings?

Attending unions meeting can and will save you thousands of dollars because you will obtain accurate information along with the correct procedures to follow. You will also be given the opportunity to ask questions regarding any information presented. Therefore, secondhand information is eliminated.

Knowledge is powerful and all of us have heard the statement "united we stand, and divided we fall". We can stimulate our brains by learning from one another, positions come with qualifications and attending the meetings not only allows one to hear if the candidates selected are equipped too do their jobs, but also gives the members an opportunity to see if they would like to broaden their horizons in upcoming elections.

We all pay our union dues, why not come and see where it is going and how the money is disbursed? The members after all design it and the information is provided for our benefit. After all don't you want to know where your investments are going?

Finally, when you look for the definition of the word union, it states an act of joining together of two or more groups or things; a group of countries or states joined under one government; a marriage; an organized body of employees who work together to upgrade their working conditions and wages.

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## Victory for Working Families



**Last week, voters in every region of the country rejected the anti-worker vision of government by and for corporate interests.**

**It was the efforts of working families and activists across the nation who made these working family victories possible.**

**Thanks for all that you do for working families.**

Dear Working Families e-Activist,

**The tide is turning for working families in America. Last week, voters in every region of the country rejected the anti-worker vision of government by and for corporate interests.**

Working families made huge gains, electing pro-worker governors in Virginia and New Jersey, rejecting Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's attack on public service unions and creating new jobs in Ohio with a \$2 billion bond measure.

**\* In Virginia and New Jersey,**

## USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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USW District 8 • www.usw831.org

■  
Danny Barber  
President and Editor

■  
Dana Dixon  
Managing Editor

■  
Janet Gwynn & Danny Travis  
Associate Editors



## EDITOR'S COLUMN...

*The good news is.....*

Well, another year is just about over with and the holidays are about to begin. When we celebrate the holidays, we usually do so with family and friends. We count our blessings and spend quality time with the ones that we care about. We tend to really focus on the things that are most important such as God, our family, friends and health. Let's add one more to the list, JOB. Here at the Danville plant we are fortunate to be able to add this to list. Many people in America cannot!

We have seen thousands upon thousands of workers loose their jobs in America. Right here in our own backyard, we have witnessed lay-off's and plant closings. Now these folks just didn't loose their jobs, many lost their health care, medical benefits, pension, overall standard of living and perhaps a little bit of self esteem. Can you imagine what it must feel like not to be able to provide for your family. I think this would be the most difficult part of all. And the attack seems to continue on the American worker with more free trade on the horizon.

The good news is, that here at the Danville plant we have jobs. Not only jobs but good paying jobs with good negotiated benefits. And we tend to be moving in the right direction, which hopefully means that our jobs will remain here for sometime. Truly, we should be thankful. In conclusion, this has been one difficult year not only for the people who are out of work but as well for the hurricane victims. This holiday season take time to think of those less fortunate and be thankful for what we have. We have it pretty good compared to a lot of people. On behalf of the Education & Publicity Committee we wish you health and happiness during the holidays. Please pray for our soldiers overseas.

**Danny "Tree" Travis**

working family voters were the key to electing two new governors, Tim Kaine in Virginia and Jon Corzine in New Jersey. Both governors-elect are committed to fighting for working families with firm commitments to jobs, health care and education. And in New Jersey, more than 40 union members were elected to state and local offices.

**\* In California,** voters spoke loud and clear when they rejected Proposition 75, Gov. Schwarzenegger's anti-worker initiative. Prop. 75 would have silenced the voice of public workers and their unions in California's politics, opening the door wide for Schwarzenegger to cut funds for schools, hospitals, health care, infrastructure and public safety.

**\* In Ohio,** working families scored a huge victory when voters approved Issue 1, which will bring many new construction and high-tech jobs to Ohio. The \$2 billion "Jobs for Ohio" bond measure will finance infrastructure improvements and encourage high-tech employment, a big win for working families in the state.

Unions and our allies were the key to victories in each of these races. In California, a huge union member-to-union member mobilization countered Gov. Schwarzenegger's attacks on working families.

In Virginia, more than 400,000 union households and the 50,000 new members of Working America-the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO-were the deciding factor in the election. In New Jersey, working families mobilized to elect a governor who has a 100 percent AFL-CIO voting record on policies backed by working families.

Yesterday's victories were only the beginning of a much larger battle to take back our government for working families. America's unions and our allies are committed to winning this fight, and you are a key part of our strategy.

Thank you for all that you do.

In solidarity,

Working Families e-Activist Network,  
AFL-CIO



Gloria Gravely

## Questions & Answers

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

### What happens to my optional life insurance if I go out of work?

The employee's premium will come out of their "cash accumulation" account provided they have money in the account. If you have optional life for your spouse, they will be sent a bill and you must submit payment to keep the insurance in force. Likewise, the employee will receive a bill if there is no money in the "cash accumulation" account.

In January 2006, the carrier of the Optional Life insurance will change from MetLife to Minnesota Mutual. Your cash account and other information will carry over to them. They will send out new beneficiary forms for members to complete. It's always a good idea to update this information from time to time.

Greg Gammon has been selected as the Pension & Insurance Alternate. Join me in welcoming Greg.



Greg Gammon

## Sides Discuss Issues At Interim Meeting

The second and last Interim meeting for this year was held in Nashville, Tennessee. The meeting, which is held twice a year except on the years of negotiations, will be the last until 2007.

All local union Presidents and Policy Committee Members from the Goodyear chain attend. President Danny Barber and Policy Committee Member Gloria Gravely represented Local 831.

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss problems that arise under the Master Bargaining Agreement. Jim Allen, Human Resources, who heads up the Interim meeting for Goodyear and other Goodyear officials discussed various topics that affect the company and issues that are of concern. Heading up the Interim meeting for the Union and leading in expressing our issues was, Executive Vice President of R-PIC Ron Hoover.

All representatives of the union first meet among themselves to discuss issues that effect individual plants that are in the chain. They then decide what issues will become sidebars or across the table. Sidebar issues are issues that will not be discussed face to face with Goodyear officials. Goodyear usually answers questions and concerns that are raised across the table within 30 days.

On the first day, union representatives met only among themselves to discuss issues. Some of the issues discussed were; an update on engineered products, rules of the Interim meeting, benefit issues, up-coming 2006 negotiations and how the union had stepped to the plate in 2003 in helping Goodyear's turnaround. For the company, Goodyear's Steve McClellan presented to the union these items; the annual operating plan for 2006, quality of the steer tire, replacement and OE tires and how China will become larger than the United States in the tire market by 2010 unless there were changes. "In order for this not to happen, we must stay competitive in the U.S.," said McClellan. Chris Warner, who was also there representing Goodyear commented on issues of various Goodyear plants. He said that equipment reliability was the worst problem for Danville. He also promised that Goodyear would continue to invest in new products to remain competitive in the market place.

One concern that Steelworkers International Vice President Tom Conway expressed to the company was benefits. "After listening to the union side, I feel that benefit issues are not being administered as bargained," stated Conway. "This was my first Interim meeting as Policy Member. I felt I had a first hand education of whom you are dealing with and what appears to be down the road when negotiations start. You also get the opportunity to see the many issues that other plants are dealing with," commented Gravely.



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# Attention Skilled Tradesmen

As the expiration of our current contract with Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. looms nearer, we must be prepared for what our futures may hold. If the need to strike should become a reality, the possibility of a job search may become real as well.

One of the things we can do as craftsmen and as members of the United Steelworkers is to apply for a USW Journeyman card. This card may not cause you to be hired automatically by a union shop; it may move you to the head of the class.

In order to take advantage of this union benefit, you must, first and foremost be able to answer one question- Am I a member of the United Steelworkers, Local 831? If you can answer yes to this all-important question, all you have to do is fill out the short questionnaire located with this story. Give this form with a passport style photo

and a \$10 check made out to the USW International to either myself (Butch Robinson-Division Chairman) or the chairman of the skilled trades committee, Bobby Short. We will then fill out the application and ask the company to write a letter for you. You must have a total of 10 years in-craft to receive this card. So it may be necessary to get a letter from a former employer.

As previously stated, this union-negotiated benefit could help you in your job search should the need arise. On another note, we encouraged Goodyear to maintain the numbers of craftsmen we had in place as of April 2004 and to add 15 additional slots (5 per year). They have complied with this request as all have been posted as of November 10, 2005.

**Butch Robinson**, Division IV Chairman

## JOURNEYMAN CARD INFORMATION

(Include a check for \$10.00 made out to USW International)

Full Name (Last Name, First) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

SS# \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Present Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Seniority Date \_\_\_\_\_ CC# \_\_\_\_\_

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# American-made "Pick of the month"

From time to time, someone brings attention to a product made in the U.S.A. in which members may be unaware of. This month, New Balance shoes are that product. While not all of their shoes are "Made in the U.S.A." many are and their label will guide you to the ones that are. If you are interested in keeping jobs on American soil, Buy U.S.A. made athletic shoes. If your shoe store of choice doesn't carry them, ask why?



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7. Southwyck Plaza Food Lion
8. 607 West Main Street Food Lion
9. Tuscarora Shopping Center Food Lion
10. Tightsqueeze Shopping Center Food Lion
11. The Junction Gretna Food Lion
12. 1981 NC Hwy 86N Yanceyville Food Lion



## OUR ATM'S ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

Perhaps, you sense that change is in the air. And not just pocket change either, but a whole new way to do your banking.

We're happy to announce that we have placed a convenient ATM right near you! In order to meet our members' needs, we've put an ATM close to where many of you live or work. We were careful to find locations with plenty of parking - one of our main goals was to provide easier, quicker access to make your banking even more convenient.

Our new ATM's are right around the corner. And remember, no fees for URW members. Just another way for URW to say thank you to its members.



# 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.

John Younger      Dept. 1211  
 Maynell Kelly    Dept. 1411

*We Send Our Sincere  
 Condolences To*

Collin Adams, Horace Allen, Sandra Belcher, Michael Fallen, P. Fitzgerald,  
 Larry Flood, George Freeman, Lawrence Gilbert, Giles Gregory,  
 Torrence Griffin, Glen Hall, Douglas Hearp, Hugh Logan, James Marlowe,  
 Randall Martin, Curtis Meadows, Jeffrey Morris, James Reynolds III,  
 Terry Sheffield, Jackie Snead, Tanya Stockton, Brian Stone, Michael Stone,  
 Michael Waller, Carlton Walton, Leon Wiley, Charlotte Wright

**What have you  
 done for your  
 Union Lately?  
 Attend A Meeting,  
 Be Involved, and  
 Make A  
 Difference!**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>DECEMBER 2005 CALENDAR</b>						
November AC <b>27</b>	BD <b>28</b>	BD <b>29</b>	AC <b>30</b>	AC <b>1</b>	BD <b>2</b>	BD <b>3</b>
BD <b>4</b>	AC <b>5</b> Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	AC <b>6</b>	BD <b>7</b> SOAR Board Meeting 1:00 PM	BD <b>8</b> Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM	AC <b>9</b>	AC <b>10</b>
AC <b>11</b>	BD <b>12</b>	BD <b>13</b>	AC <b>14</b> Retirees Christmas Dinner 11:30 AM	AC <b>15</b>	BD <b>16</b>	BD <b>17</b>
BD <b>18</b>	AC <b>19</b>	AC <b>20</b>	BD <b>21</b>	BD <b>22</b>	AC <b>23</b>	AC <b>24</b> Christmas Holiday
AC <b>25</b> Christmas Holiday	BD <b>26</b>	BD <b>27</b>	AC <b>28</b>	AC <b>29</b>	BD <b>30</b>	BD <b>31</b> New Years Holiday