



The Informer

Representing Workers of Goodyear Tire and Rubber/Goodyear Service Store/URW Credit Union

Local Workers See Need For A UNION!

For those who missed it, our local newspaper has been covering the story of a continuing effort by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union (IAMAW) to organize based on growing employee discontent in a local furniture manufacturing facility. Swedwood Danville, local maker of low priced, affordable furniture for IKEA, began production in it's first U.S. plant in July of 2008. This fledgling location has since grown to employ some 400 people from the Danville area.



Swedwood Danville Virginia Plant

The local management has been accused by some of their former employees of promoting a culture of fear, mistreatment and discrimination. As reported in the April 13 edition of the Danville Register & Bee, former employees have registered complaints of discrimination with the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), accusing Swedwood of placing black workers on overnight shifts in the lower paying jobs. A claim that a company representative from Sweden disputed via e-mail.

"This is incorrect", says the correspondence, "Swedwood bases employee decisions on legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons, such as skills, experience and competence." Statements such as this are expected from the "parent" company. But a canned line

or a politically correct sound bite just doesn't mask the apparent employee distress on this side of the pond.

As far back as July, the machinists union reported a higher incident of injury in Danville than in any other worksite of the same type or industry in the U.S. based on OSHA log data.

Just four short months ago, this same international union brought to light charges of poor safety, unfair treatment and disrespect by local management in the form of a protest rally on December 7, 2010 at company headquarters in

Geneva, Switzerland.

William Street, director of the woodworkers' arm of the IAMAW, has been quoted as saying, "I got to tell ya, the best union organizer I have in Danville is the Swedwood Corp... the workers are being managed very badly and that is making my job easier."

Everyone has the right to be treated with respect and feel safe while in the work place. The basic premise of the employee/employer relationship is that the employee come to work when scheduled and does his/her job and the employer provides a hassle free environment and a paycheck. Good luck, brothers and sisters of Swedwood Danville. The Union way is the only way.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

- SOAR Meeting Minutes
- Pension & Insurance
- 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

PAGE 3

- April Membership Minutes
- Shedding Light On The Legislative Process
- Putting U.S.- China Trade In Its Proper Perspective

PAGE 4

- Editor's Column
- Goodyear Expects Record Income Levels By 2013

PAGE 5

- Questions & Answers
- April Visa Card Winner

PAGE 6

- General Assembly Report
- Temporary Transfer Training Checklist

PAGE 8

- Retirees
- May Calendar
- Condolences

Happy Mother's Day - May 8th





The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except J. C. Hudson. There were 102 members present.

Opening prayer led by Jack Dodson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The name of Percy Coletrane was drawn for the attendance prize and, since he was not present, the prize for the next drawing will be \$30.00.

A Resolution for staggered elections of Soar Officers adopted by the Board was presented to members for approval. It was approved by one hundred percent majority. It will now be sent to International for consideration.

New members welcomed were Curtis and Annie Hughes.

Richard Moore of Moore Insurance Agency presented an informative program on investments. He also donated the following door prizes:

\$50.00 gift certificate won by Jean Worley

\$25.00 gift certificate won by Michael Adkins

Fireproof Home Safe won by Ming Toth

Folding Chair won by Earl Guill

Cooler won by Tommy Stanley

3 Caps won by Eva Smith, Edward Smith and Velma Farmer

Soar door prizes won by the following:

Goodyear Piney Forest Store - Frank Moon

Goodyear Mt. Cross Road Store - Earl Jeffries

50-50 - Lynn Stewart
Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

WORKERS COMPENSATION

If you are injured in the plant, please let your area manager know that the accident has occurred and that you need to go to the plant hospital. If it's an emergency, dial 555. It may seem minor at first but the next day you may not be able to get out of bed. This will save you a lot of headache in the long run. When the nurse shows you a list of doctors, make sure that you read the form before signing. This will be your opportunity to choose the doctor of your choice. If they are not listed on the panel then you are allowed to give them the name of a Doctor, as long as they are experienced to treat whatever the injury is. This will become your treating physician.

If Liberty Mutual denies your claim, you have the right to file for a Workers Compensation Industrial Hearing. If you obtain a lawyer to represent you, the Benefits Representative will no longer be able to assist you with your claim. Everything has to go through your attorney. The only thing we can help you with would be any contractual issues. Your attorney needs to inform you on what you are entitled to as far as temporary total benefits, temporary partial benefits, mileage reimbursement, medical reimbursements, permanent partial benefits, disfigurement benefits, marketing your remaining abilities and anything else that pertains to Workers Compensation Law. There is a two (2) year statute of limitations when it comes to workers compensation. Make sure your attorney explains what you are entitled to under the law. Our hands are tied once you obtain legal counseling.

MINNESOTA LIFE

If you go out of work for a period of time, Minnesota Life could begin to direct bill you for your optional life insurance premium. If you have money accumulated in your cash accumulation fund, they can take your premiums from that and you may not see a bill. If you have any questions, please contact the Union Hall.

3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We would like to thank all of the parents who took their time to bring their children to one of the Egg hunts that was held this year. All the eggs had something in them. We hid 5 special eggs in each group each day for a \$5.00 gift card to Chick-Fil-La for a total of 40 gift cards that were won. There was One Golden Egg with a Goodyear Yoyo and One Silver Egg in each of the four age groups. The golden egg was a gift card worth \$50.00 to Toys R Us. The silver egg was a gift card worth \$20.00 to Toys R Us. Each child also received a Tote bag and was given a Frisbee, Safety color and work book, crayons, box of jelly beans, pencil and a participate ribbon if they showed the picture that they colored. We also had hotdogs with all the fixings, chips, cookies and a drink. The Frisbees had a safety message, USW Local 831 and Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Danville, VA printed on them.

These are our winners for Thursday, Golden Egg winner for NB-3 was Jazmyn Adkins, J.Adkins, & Silver Egg winner was Gia Stone, T. Stone. 4-6 Golden Egg winner was Jordan Elliot, B. Elliot, & Silver Egg winner Xavion Cisneros, P. Jaimes. 7-9 Golden Egg winner was Rorer



Continued on page 5

April Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on April 14, 2011 with Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Reverend Ronald Dean Clarke followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call of Officers
- Reading of regular membership meeting minutes. They were approved as read
- Executive Board report for April was approved as read and contained the following:
 - Motion to accept 9 new members
 - Motion to donate \$1,500.00 for the Easter egg hunt that was held April 14 & 16th at the Goodyear Baseball Field.

- Motion to donate \$250.00 to the March of Dimes
- Motion to send the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Chairman, (2) Time Study, (1) COPE Member, (1) Women of Steel, (3) Safety Committee, (2) Skilled Trades, (2) Executive Board, (1) Civil Rights, (1) Organizing, and (1) Education and Publicity member, to the District 8 Summer Institute, to be held June 5-10, 2011 in Blacksburg Va.
- P&I (Pension and Insurance)- See P&I, page 2.
- COPE Report- Given by Pete Morton & Rhonda Walker- Reported on the 2011 General

Assembly

- Election Committee- Jimmy Davis-Reported on the election that was held for the delegates to the 34th Constitutional Convention
- President Barber reported on the Spring Interim Meeting
- Frank Fulton and Charles Elliot won the 50/50 raffle
- The name of David Redd, was drawn for a \$75.00 attendance drawing, he was not present.
- Shelby Totten, CC#6553 Dept. 4040, was the Picnic Raffle winner.
- Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held on May 12, 2011

Shedding Light On The Legislative Process

This article is not written with an aim at boring you to tears or as filler for a newsletter. It's written in support of those people from our local Union who have a passion for lobbying the legislative body of the State of Virginia to support or oppose a particular piece of legislation that may be of concern to you.

That said, in continuing our effort at educating our membership as to the inner workings of the Virginia General Assembly, we will talk about committees.

In the Senate, the Senate Steering Committee, which is composed of senior senators from the eleven congressional districts, appoints committee members. But, in the House of Delegates, the Speaker of the House appoints committee members.

There are also, joint committees made up of members from both chambers of the legislature.

The activities of committees from the House and Senate are very similar in nature. They consider all legislation introduced, hold hearings and report recommendations to their respective colleagues.

Most committee meetings and hearings are open to the public. Committees may meet twice daily

allowing you to move in and out at will. You may, if the opportunity to visit should arise, want to spend enough time in a meeting to form an educated opinion, as it is difficult to evaluate the work of our legislature after only a brief visit. It's akin to coming in on the backside of a conversation. You know just enough to be dangerous.

Committee meeting rooms are found in both the Capitol and in the General Assembly Building across from the Capitol. There are several meeting rooms on each floor where subcommittees often meet. Information desks are found on the first floor of both buildings.

Committees consider bills in open session and take appropriate committee action. They may report a bill, which is a proposal for law, to the floor as submitted or amended. They may recommend it for consideration by another committee or simply pass it by indefinitely, (PBI) which essentially kills it.

Minute books are kept that track how often committees meet, when bills are received and actions are taken. This is also where you find information on how your representative voted on issues that affect how you live in Virginia.

With understanding comes unity... (information for this article was obtained through the use of various resources, one being the Virginia AFL-CIO 2010 General Assembly Guide and Lobbying Manual)

Putting U.S. - China Trade In Its Proper Perspective

A recent New York Times Economics blog highlighted the rapid growth of U.S. exports to China, which look impressive in isolation. But this is a biased and one-sided view -- exports have been overwhelmed by the growth of U.S. imports from China and the bilateral trade deficit. When trying to assess the costs and benefits of the U.S./China trade relationship, counting only exports is like judging a baseball game by only counting runs scored by the home team. It might make you feel good, but tells you nothing about who is winning or losing the game.

Properly measured, U.S. imports from China were \$364 billion in 2010, vs. domestic exports of only \$85.8 billion (excluding transshipments of goods from other countries), for a trade deficit of \$278.3. Even when goods made in other countries are included with U.S. exports, the deficit in 2010

Continued on page 7

Goodyear Expects Record Income Levels By 2013

Goodyear is targeting a record operating income of \$1.6 billion in fiscal 2013, company executives are telling investment analysts in New York.

"Having momentum coming out of the deep economic recession, we are now positioned to confidently drive higher levels of performance across our businesses," said Chairman and CEO Richard Kramer.

"We see the tire industry being guided by seven 'mega trends' over the next five to 10 years," he said. "We believe these trends favor Goodyear and our well-established innovation capability."

To support its goals, Goodyear is budgeting capital investments of \$1.1 billion to \$1.3 billion per year in 2012 and 2013, up slightly from that budgeted for 2011, with \$500 million to \$600 million each year for plant modernizations, expansions and construction.

These investments will support a 3- to 5-percent annual increase in unit volume, focused on high-value-added tires in high-margin segments.

With an eye on the bottom line, Goodyear said it expects its pension expenses to fall by \$100 million a year by 2013 as it reduces its under-funded pension obligations by more than half to \$1.2 billion by 2013.

The Akron-based tire maker expects an operating income of \$450 million in its North American Tire unit along with improvements in its international businesses. By comparison, NAT reported operating income of \$18 million.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Wisconsin "Wake Up Call for Unions" Everywhere



You had to be living under a rock, not turned on a TV, been on the computer, not listened to a radio or read a newspaper not to have known about the calculated attack on workers and collective bargaining in Wisconsin and Indiana in the recent weeks. The Wisconsin statehouse just may have been the battleground that Unions needed to record this moment in labor history as the trumpet sounded to all workers that no one was immune from a corporate assault.

This fight probably helped to promote Unionism better than any ad the AFL-CIO could have put together. Unions (Public & Private) quickly recognized the seriousness of this event. The nonstop rallies and speeches from almost every organized Union, including USW International President Leo Gerard provided the teachable moment and the wakeup call and call to arms.

This opportunity gave Unions a chance to propel the Union movement to the front page and to garner the attention of the rest of the working class. Many polls taken clearly show that the American people, when asked if we should maintain the right to collective bargaining, believe the answer is a resounding yes!

As far as the final result in Wisconsin, the courts will probably have to give a final ruling. But since we have awakened the public and we have reenergized Unions across the U.S. and Canada what do we do next?

Many companies treat workers as a commodity instead of viewing them as a valuable resource. Some people have bought into a myth that Unions have hurt America's economy. They should realize that Union benefits and wages provide the standard for other companies to follow or match, so indirectly they benefit from Unions too. If you study economic history you will see that when the USA was the envy of the world business community, one out of three Americans belonged to a Union.

In the future we must encourage our newest and younger members to take up the challenge of Unionism and continue toward a better workplace. Today's tool bag may have things like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to help better communicate and serve our members at the click of a mouse.

Locally, we have a very diverse membership with experienced workers and new hires, male, female, black and white. We all have our different likes and dislikes in and out of the plant but one thing I know for sure is that we all will need each other to survive. Remember that none of us is as strong as ALL of US! So I salute and thank our Union brothers and sisters in Wisconsin for the much needed WAKE UP CALL!! HELLO!

Jeff Dixon, *Division II Chairman*

Questions & Answers

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

If I bid and get the job, do I lose my Grandfather Status?

Yes. You will be paid a transition payment for the grade that you go to. If you are disqualified from the new job, you do not get your status back.

Continued from page 1

3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Payne, T. Payne, & Silver Egg winner was Drake Zaher, S. Zaher. 10-12 Golden Egg winner was Abbie Hylar, J. Adkins, & Silver Egg winner was Ty Wingfield, J. Adkins.

These are our winners for Sunday, Golden Egg winner for NB-3 LaNaiya, Dweller Lester, & Silver Egg winner was Zichoryah, Theresa Wim-bush. 4-6 Golden Egg winner was Treasure, Vickey Aikens & Silver Egg winner was Charleigh, Norman Crouch. 7-9 Golden Egg winner was Jonathan, Amy Wilkerson, & Silver Egg winner Tanner, Joy Wilkerson. 10-12 Golden Egg winner Jeffery, Dorothy Hood, & Silver Egg winner was Andra, David Lewis.



We would like to thank Danny Barber & USW Local 831 and Tim Noe & Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. for all the monies donated to fund this egg hunt. I would like to thank each volunteer that helped out at the egg hunts and thanks Bunny for hopping on over.

Kathy Crawley, Union Safety Committee Local 831

April Visa Card Winner

This is Shelby Totten, CC#6553 Dept. 4040 the April winner of the \$250.00 Visa card for the Picnic Raffle.



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General Assembly Report

The 2011 session of the Virginia General Assembly opened on January 12, and ran for forty-seven days, ending February 27. There were 1105 bills introduced in the House of Delegates and another 764 in the Senate totaling 1869 bills introduced this year.

Though many bills were introduced that could affect various aspects of the lives of working families, we wanted to highlight some of those of particular concern. The term "HB" refers to House Bill.

- HB500 was a bill designed to amend the state Constitution by adding a "Right to Work" clause. As it was debated, this bill was ruled unnecessary due to the fact that "Right to Work" is presently outlined in the Code of Virginia Section 40.1- 60,61 and 62. "Right to Work" has been law in the Commonwealth since the early 1950's. This bill passed in the House but later died in Committee at the Senate.
- HB1475 was to amend the Code of Virginia relating to whether certain injuries occurring on the job are work related. Currently, people injured on the job in the State of Virginia who cannot relate the particulars of the event are guilty until able to prove themselves innocent. For example, if a person has incurred a brain injury to the extent they find themselves incapable of recalling relevant circumstances of the accident, they are denied compensation until such time as there is enough evidence shown that the injury or death was work related. This bill creates the presumption for workers' compensation benefits, in the absence of said evidence, that the injury or death was work related. As a matter of fact, the spouse of a satellite TV installer testified that due to current law, when her husband suffered substantial head trauma, due to a fall from a ladder, rendering him unable to recall details of the accident. This placed his family in financial distress due to the months it took to prove their



Temporary Transfer Training Checklist

Have you ever been asked to go to another area of the plant to work? If so, what did you do? The majority of employees just go to whatever job they are asked to go to. I think we all want to do what we can to keep our plant running and profitable. We all know there is a right way to do the different jobs in our plant and there is also a right way to be moved.

If you are being moved to a job you have not been certified on or you have been off of a job you have done for an extended period of time, a Temporary Transfer Training Checklist should be filled out on that employee. If you have never seen or heard of this Temporary Transfer Training Checklist, let me tell you how it works.

When you are moved, the area manager should have a Temporary Transfer Training Checklist waiting for you. A qualified employee who works on the job or the area manager you are being transferred to should be assigned to you. Hopefully the qualified employee is a labor trainer. The qualified employee or area manager will walk with the transferred employee and go over all the pertinent safety information (safety cables, emergency stops, light curtains, lock / tagout points etc.) Any other special information regarding waste or production

should be shown to the employee at this time.

Once this checklist is completed, it should be placed in their departments log book located within their department. This checklist is good for 90 days. If the employee is pulled again within 90 days, the area manager will initial one of the lines at the bottom of the checklist each time the employee is pulled to do that job.

You may be thinking why should I worry about this form? I am only going to be there for one night and I did this job three years ago. Filling out this form protects everyone; I will give you some examples. If you have an accident and OSHA had to investigate, and nothing is in your folder to show you have been trained on the job, then we have trouble. If any changes have been made since the last time you worked on the job, and we don't let you know, then we have trouble. The Temporary Transfer Training Checklist was developed to take away the trouble.

The next time you are moved, tell them you are going to take away the trouble, get me the Temporary Transfer Training Checklist form. Remember, if you don't understand it, you don't sign it.

Ronnie Crane, Union Training Coordinator

"case". This bill passed both chambers and will hopefully be signed by the Governor.

- SB (Senate Bill) 1113 dealt with eliminating the requirement that unemployment benefits be reduced by fifty percent of the amount of the claimants' Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits in years when the solvency level of the unemployment trust fund is less than fifty percent. Example: if you are collecting Social Security

retirement benefits and go back to work, and subsequently laid off or lose your job, your unemployment benefit would be subject to this reduction. This bill would enable the claimant to collect the entire benefit. This bill passed in both chambers. Not clear if the Governor will sign it.

The General Assembly is scheduled to re-convene on April 6.

Pete Morton, COPE

Continued from page 3

Putting U.S.-China Trade In Its Proper Perspective

was \$273.1 billion, substantially more than estimates reported by the Times (“\$180 to \$250 billion”).

A sizable share of U.S. exports to China is raw materials used to produce goods that are re-exported back to the United States. Four of the top six industries producing exports are waste and scrap products, semiconductors, resins and synthetic rubber and fibers, and basic chemicals.

Sectors such as cash grains (the top export commodity) and waste and scrap support very few U.S. jobs. Such trade may be good for U.S. multinational companies (MNCs), but provides

few benefits for the domestic economy. Overall, the large and growing trade deficit with China has displaced millions of U.S. jobs, most in the manufacturing sector which has lost 5.5 million jobs since 2000.

The report relies on data published by the U.S. China Business Council, a trade association representing MNCs doing business in China. These firms have profited enormously by outsourcing production to China. China has subsidized these firms through massive currency manipulation, which reduces the costs of their exports by 25 to 40%, and by pouring tens of billions of dollars

into subsidies of products like steel, glass and paper products.

U.S. MNCs should not be allowed to dictate U.S. trade policy. The U.S. needs to get tough and demand that China and other currency manipulators revalue their currencies and end other unfair trade practices. Nibbling around the edges with a WTO case for one sector and import surge protection for another will not get the job done. The U.S. should start by threatening to impose large tariffs on all U.S. imports from currency manipulators.

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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.

Carl F. Adams
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We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Herman Adkins, James Barksdale, Ronnie Barksdale, Valerie Burnett, Joe Cash, Brenda Clayborne, Wayne Clayborne, Johnnie Coleman, Brian Davis, Freeman Davis, Tommy Evans, Cordell Fallen, Corrie Ferrell, Torrey Gravely, Frank Hampton, Gregory Holst, Christopher Hood, Antonio Johnson, Ethel Johnson, James Lunsford, Robert Mcelwee II, Mike Myers, Curtis Paul, Linda Poke, Isaiah Polk, Lynwood Pope, Robert Shively, William Smoot II, Keith Vandenburg, Kenneth Vernon, Christopher Weadon, James Withers, Jason Wyatt.
Condolences to the Family of Retirees:
James C. Richmond, John Call and James Devins

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1 BD	2 Exec. Board Meeting AC 7:30 AM	3 AC	4 SOAR Exec. Board Mtg BD 1:00 PM	5 BD	6 AC	7 AC
8 Mother's Day AC	9 BD	10 BD	11 SOAR Meeting AC 11:00 AM	12 Union Meeting AC 7:30 AM 7:30 PM	13 BD	14 BD
15 BD	16 AC	17 AC	18 BD	19 BD	20 Relay for Life AC 6:30 AM 6:30 PM	21 Relay for Life AC 6:30 AM 6:30 PM
		Arbitration				Armed Forces Day
22 AC	23 BD	24 B/D	25 A/C	26 A/C	27 BD	28 BD
29 BD	30 Memorial Day AC 	31 AC				