

The Informer

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

USW LOCAL 831 VETERANS HONORED!



USW Local 831 Military Veterans, who attended their November membership meeting, were honored with a United States Flag pin from the Local as a token of appreciation for their services/sacrifice to our great country!

Titan Buys Goodyear's Union City, Tennessee Plant

The Jackson (Tennessee) Sun newspaper reports that Titan Tire Corp., a subsidiary of Titan International Inc., has purchased the former Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. plant in Union City, Tenn.

In July, Goodyear announced it had ceased production at the facility. Goodyear had announced its intention to close the plant by the end of 2011.

Goodyear Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Richard Kramer said in July that the company had planned to close the plant by the end of the year. "Since then, the product transfers to the other Goodyear plants have been completed more quickly than expected. We are now able to meet the needs of our consumer tire customers without further production in Union City."

This purchase follows the deal closed by Titan in April for Goodyear's Latin American farm tire business at a cost of approximately \$98.6 million, according to the Titan Tire Corp. website. "The transaction includes Goodyear's Sao Paulo,

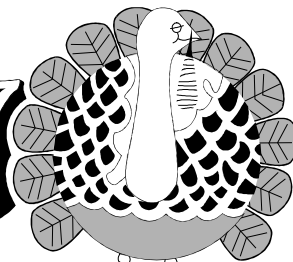
Brazil manufacturing plant, property, equipment and inventories and a licensing agreement that will allow Titan to sell Goodyear-brand farm tires in Latin America and North America," the company said

"We are very excited to have purchased these great assets for Titan," Maurice Taylor, chairman and CEO, said at that time. "Over the next 18 to 24 months, we believe Latin America revenue can grow up to approximately \$400 million by adding OTR radials and other earthmover and construction tires to the facility. This expansion into Latin America supports our global vision of becoming the world's premier farm tire manufacturer. The European portion of the transaction is pending as Goodyear works through the closing requirements."

According to *Modern Tire Dealer's January 2011 Facts Issue*, the Union City plant was built in 1968. The unionized plant had a capacity to build 35,000 passenger and 13,000 light truck tires per day.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of our union brothers,
Leonard Craft and Harry L. Davis.

Happy
Thanksgiving



Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving from USW Local 831!

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The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present. There were 117 members present.

Opening prayer led by Jack Dodson.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved.

The name of Kathy Eanes was called for the attendance prize. She was not present. Next month's total will be \$30.00.

New members welcomed:

Dennis and Dixie Wilkins, Sr.

Aubrey and Linda Ridgeway

Dianne Hyler gave a report on the Soar bus tour on December 5.

Ray Parks gave a report on the URW Credit Union brunswick stew to be held on November 17.

Door prizes awarded to the following:

Oil, lube change & tire rotation - Goodyear Piney Forest Rd. Store - Freddie Walker

Oil, lube change & tire rotation - Goodyear Mt. Cross Rd. Store - Betty White

50-50 - Donald Haymore

Motion made by Kenny Barbour to adjourn seconded by Catherine Williams.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

2012 WORKING SPOUSE PROVISION

All active employees that have a working spouse that is offered employer sponsored healthcare must submit a Coordination of Benefits (COB) in order to receive the 50% reimbursement of their spouse's premium. If you did not submit your 2012 Coordination of Benefits (COB) during Open Enrollment, now is the time to get that form in to the Goodyear Benefits Solution Center. You will not be reimbursed if there is no 2012 COB on file along with a proof of an employee only coverage letter that states the amount your spouse pays per month for healthcare.

LIFE INSURANCE

Effective January 1, 2012, the life insurance programs will be provided by MetLife. For those eligible, the transition will impact basic, optional contributory, basic accidental death & dismemberment and optional accidental death & dismemberment coverage.

Your current coverage amounts and beneficiary designations will carry over directly to MetLife. You will receive a package before the end of the year detailing specific information on the transition from Minnesota Life to MetLife, including contact information, additional services available and rate amounts.

Please make sure that beneficiary updates are on file when the transition is complete by contacting MetLife or going on their website after January 1, 2012.

A&S DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

Effective January 1, 2012, the administration of the disability income benefits (A&S) will be performed by MetLife. The change will impact qualifying disabilities beginning on or after January 1, 2012. You will receive a package by the end of the year detailing specific information on the transition from Liberty Mutual to MetLife, including contact information and new procedures to file a claim. All claims that are with Liberty Mutual through December 31, 2011 will remain there.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Liberty Mutual will continue to process Workers Compensation benefits.



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Angel Tree

Local 831 will have 36 Angels this year. What is an Angel Tree? Each angel on an Angel Tree represents a child whose circumstances make them unlikely to receive anything this holiday season. The Angel Tree will allow for that angel (child) to receive at least 1 toy and 1 article of clothing in a gift bag, though they may have gone without. The angel tree is completely voluntary and anyone can choose as many angels as they would like. The cutoff date will be December 6, 2011. Come to the Union Hall to choose your angel (boy or girl) along with the guidelines. Call or come out to the Union Hall for further details.

November Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on November 10, 2011 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer was led by Courtney Dixon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call of Officers
- Reading of regular membership meeting minutes was given by Brenda Miles they were approved as read
- Executive Board report from November, approved as read
- Financial Report for the month of

October was given by Greg Gammon and approved as read

- Motion to accept 24 new members
- A leadership award was presented to Jeff Dixon, Division Chairman, by President Danny Barber for completion of the United Steelworkers Leadership Program.
- Motion to accept a new member from Goodyear Service Store
- Pension and Insurance Report was given by Gloria Gravely (see pg 2)
- Trustee Report was given by Pam Wright and Becky Inman; an audit

was conducted in October and the books were in order

- President Barber encouraged membership to prepare for 2013 and answered questions from the floor.
- Larry Hook and Danny Barber won the 50/50 raffle
- The name of Richard Davis CC#4180 was drawn for \$250.00 attendance drawing, he was not present
- Motion to adjourn. The next Union Meeting will be held on December 8, 2011.

Some Millionaires Pay Less In Taxes Than Middle Class

A quarter of millionaires in the United States pay a smaller share of their income in federal taxes than many middle-class families, according to a new congressional analysis that offers fresh support for President Obama's push to raise taxes on the nation's wealthiest households.

The report, by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, found that when all federal taxes are taken into account — including those on wages, investment income and corporate profits — some households earning more than \$1 million a year paid as little as 24 percent of their income to the Internal Revenue Service in 2006.

That's substantially less than the share paid by many families making less than \$100,000 a year that faced a top effective tax rate exceeding 26.5 percent, the report said.

All told, 94,500 millionaires paid a smaller share of their income in taxes than 10 million households with moderate incomes, the report found.

"Most Americans think millionaires ought to be paying a higher rate than middle-class taxpayers, not a lower one," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), who has long urged policymakers to raise taxes on the wealthiest households. "This report increases the momentum for our proposal to ensure millionaires pay their fair share."

The report offers the first government analysis of federal tax data since billionaire investor Warren Buffett, a former Washington Post Co. board member, complained that he pays a lower tax rate than the 20 employees in his office, who earn much less than

he does. After Buffett wrote an op-ed in the New York Times, Obama argued that policymakers should overhaul the tax code to ensure that millionaires pay at least as large a share of their income in taxes as middle-class families do, a principle the president dubbed "the Buffett Rule."

Later that month, Senate Republicans rejected a variation on the Buffett Rule — a 5.6 percent surtax on income over \$1 million — to cover the cost of Obama's \$447 billion jobs package.

Critics initially blasted the Buffett Rule, arguing that the average millionaire already pays a significantly higher effective tax rate than middle-class families do. The CRS report, by Thomas L. Hungerford, a specialist in public finance, found that to be true: Millionaires, on average, paid about 30 percent of their income in federal taxes, while households earning less than \$100,000 paid closer to 19 percent.

But the averages hide wide variations within income categories, Hungerford wrote, with millionaires paying anywhere from 24 percent to more than 35 percent of their income in federal taxes. The lower tax bills are primarily the result of low tax rates on investment income, such as capital gains and dividends.

Although ordinary earnings are subject to payroll taxes as well as income tax rates as high as 35 percent, investment income — which constitutes the bulk of earnings for many very wealthy households — is taxed at no more than 15 percent.

"The current U.S. tax system violates the Buffett rule in that a large proportion of millionaires pay a smaller percentage of their income in taxes than [do] a

significant proportion of moderate-income taxpayers," Hungerford wrote, although "not to the extent alluded to by Mr. Buffett."

Congressional Republicans have attacked the Buffett Rule, as well as the idea for a surtax on millionaires, as "class warfare." They argue that raising taxes on millionaires would penalize many small businesses, the primary engine of U.S. job growth. They also oppose raising taxes on investment income, arguing that doing so would discourage savings and risk-taking.

The CRS report offers a withering rebuttal to both claims. Just 1 percent of tax returns with business income have adjusted gross income of more than \$1 million a year, the report says, and those businesses are some of the least likely to create jobs.

"Many observers claim that small businesses are the primary creators of jobs," Hungerford wrote, but "most of the research cited by these observers is from the 1980s. More recent research suggests that small businesses contribute only slightly more jobs than larger business."

The main difference "appears to be due to hiring by new startup firms," which "generally do not generate much business income in their first years in operation." Consequently, higher taxes on millionaires are unlikely to affect them, the report says.

As to savings, the report argues that private savings rates have fallen over the past 30 years even as the capital gains tax rate dropped from 28 percent in 1987 to 15 percent today, suggesting that "changing capital gains tax rates have had little effect on private saving."

Pirelli To Invest \$300 Million In Argentina Plant

Italian tire maker Pirelli announced plans to build a new truck tire factory in Argentina in October. The initial investment will cost the company \$300 million, with the possibility of an additional \$200 million in added expansions.

The investment comes after last years commitment to ramp up production of SUV and light truck tires to five million per year at the company's existing plant in Argentina. The announcement came after a meeting between Chairman Marco Tronchetti Provera and Argentine president Cristina Kirchner in Buenos Aires.

Construction of the new plant is slated to start in early 2012, adding 700,000 tires per year to global capacity from the company's six current plants. Pirelli currently owns plants in Turkey, Italy, Egypt, China, and the two in Brazil.

The Argentine government has pledged to finance the project at preferential rates and has guaranteed energy supply. If Pirelli commits to the second phase of the development, capacity would be doubled to 1.4 million truck tires per year, 13% of the company's global truck tire output.

The expansion is "part of the company's international expansion strategy which, in recent years, has seen an increasing direct industrial presence in countries like Argentina which have fast rates of growth and competitive industrial costs," according to Pirelli.

Revenues for Pirelli have soared to an estimated \$500 million in Argentina this year, an increase of 40%. Currently, the company imports all of the tires it sells in the country.

The new facility will allow Pirelli to produce tires for the local market, substantially reducing costs in the sector. The company intends export half of the new production to neighboring countries.

USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

285 Shady Grove Road
Providence, NC 27315-9477
(336) 388-5537 • FAX: (336) 388-5009
USW District 8 • www.usw831.org

Danny Barber
President and Editor

Editors

Michael Scott - Managing Editor
Joshua Moyer - Communications Coordinator,
Associate Editor
Butch Robinson - Associate Editor



EDITOR'S COLUMN...

"Tis The Season" Is Here



The holiday season has come upon us with a vengeance. The month of November, which holds Thanksgiving Day is the start of what can be, an opportunity for us to make memories that last. Family and friends, yes, even the ones that only come to eat, gathering around the table for a feast of too much turkey and dressing then moving into the living room to spend the afternoon in a semi-conscious state, and arguing between naps over whose favorite football team will win this year. By the way, the Cowboys and Redskins played on November 20. We'll do it all over again in December, the Christmas holiday, and then start out the New Year as clients in a Weight Watchers meeting. I can't "weight".

Imagine it, a day when most of us, no matter who we are or what we're worth, or maybe think we're worth, can and should take the opportunity to thank Almighty God for our Savior, our families, our friends, our jobs and in many respects, each other. The Thanksgiving holiday is special not only for the fellowship but due to it's not being commercialized to the extent that you are glad when it's over. There's no capitol to be made, so retailers put up the Christmas decorations before Halloween. That part of the season starts very early the Friday morning after Thanksgiving.

Friends, allow me to tell you. I am truly thankful for you all. Yeah, I know, I don't know many of you. I guess that you could say most of you. But, I've come to realize over the course of the last couple of years, that it takes a diverse, but united group of people to make things work. There are times when we as co-workers may not see eye to eye, but the mark of character, humanity and spirit is to have a heart for one another. While I know there are some, who don't quite get that work is not first in many of our lives, it does play an extremely large part and we should do the best that we can while we are there. If not for Goodyear, for ourselves.

From my family to yours, my wish is that you have the best and most prosperous of holiday seasons. Pray for one another. Support one another. Be thankful for what you have. Help someone less fortunate. Thank a veteran for his/her service to our country. Sometimes, the pleasantness of a smile is all it takes to make someone's day better.

God bless you all.

Butch Robinson, Associate Editor

Some General Rules for Holiday Safety

- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.
- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. **PRACTICE THE PLAN!**
- Avoid wearing loose flowing clothes—particularly long, open sleeves—near open flames - such as those of a fireplace, stove, or candlelit table.
- Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous. When dry, greens burn like tinder. Flames can flare out of control, and send sparks flying into a room, or up the chimney to ignite creosote deposits.
- Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.

From **Holiday Decoration Safety Tips**, A Publication of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Questions & Answers

If anyone has a question for *The Informer*, please submit it to Butch Robinson, Joshua Moyer or your Division Chairman.

Why are we having shop steward elections again in December?

Shop Steward elections were held early in 2011 due to the plant's work schedule changing from an 8 hour traditional schedule to a 12 hour continuous schedule. Plant wide Shop Steward elections are being held again in December to fulfill the local bylaws that require elections to be held in December of odd numbered years.

Gingrich calls child labor laws 'truly stupid'

By Nia-Malika Henderson

UPDATE: At a Monday afternoon speech in New Hampshire where he unveiled his plan for revamping entitlement programs, Gingrich reiterated his ideas about child labor laws, saying that kid janitors "would be dramatically less expensive than unionized janitors." In an interview with my colleague, Amy Gardner, Gingrich said that he is not advocating revamping child labor laws, he simply wants to empower young people with a work ethic they need to succeed.

"I'm not suggesting that they drop out of school and become janitors, I'm talking about working 20 hours a week and being empowered to succeed."

GOP presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich called child labor laws "truly stupid" at a Friday appearance at Harvard University, saying that he would propose extraordinarily radical changes that would fundamentally transform the culture of poverty

Republican presidential candidate and former U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich (Adam Hunger - Reuters)

Speaking at the John F. Kennedy school, Gingrich said that children in the poorest neighborhoods are "trapped in child laws" that prevent them from earning money.

"Most of these schools ought to get rid of the unionized janitors, have one master janitor and pay local students to take care of the school," Gingrich said according to a CNN video. "The kids would actually do work, they would have cash, they'd have pride in the schools, they'd begin the process of rising. Get any job that teaches you to show up on Monday. Get any job that teaches you to stay all day, even if you're having a fight with your girlfriend."

FYI: According to child labor laws, the minimum age for most non-agricultural work is 14, though there are some jobs that children of any age can perform (babysitting, delivering newspapers and performing minor chores).

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Leadership Scholarship Program:

Having recently graduated from the four year course and being the 1st person from our Local to successfully go through all four years and complete the curriculum I feel compelled to share some of the information I received from the program and to make others aware of this important tool that can be used to educate, mobilize, and prepare Union leaders for the future.

USW International established this Scholarship program aimed at developing and improving leadership skills for Union Officers, representatives, activists, and International staff reps. The program consists of four, one week training sessions each summer at the Linden Hall training center or at the USW Headquarters in Pittsburgh.

District Directors recommend an allotted amount of students from their respective Districts and from each state in their district as well as Canada. Once in the program you must complete your "good works" assignments each year and report it to your District Director to be approved or not for the next year.

The first year there are (4) four Level 1 group's. You travel to Linden Hall for the first time and immediately realize that this will be a very diverse group and you share a room with someone from another District. Skills taught are defining leadership and how to build strength within your local.

In your second year Level 2 you begin to learn about strategic planning, internal organizing, working in groups to make plans and presentations to staff reps and instructors while being videotaped. How to hold a Press conference and dealing with the mass media.

In the 3rd year Level 3 you will have the hardest challenges and the longest classes day & night with homework each day. You tour the Homestead in Pittsburgh, a National landmark in Labor History where many early Steelworkers were killed and died for the Labor movement. You are given a company in your own district to research, locally and internationally, and prepare a profile for the International Organizing department to use in an actual organizing campaign.

Finally, in year 4 which is Level 4 you spend part of the week at Linden Hall and the other part at International Headquarters meeting with your top International Officers in different forums. Understanding that by now you have cultivated different skill sets. You can showcase them by choosing an elective such as: Effective Local Union leaders, Messaging & mobilization and media, grievance investigation and Arbitration preparations and presentation. At the end of the week the class prepares an action or activity to be shown at Market Square in downtown Pittsburgh. Our class this year made a YouTube video of our activity displaying a tug of war between the 1% versus the 99% involving the vast difference of our classes. This depicts us trying to save the middle class. (Note) You can view this video on our USW 831 face book page.

In closing, I must say Thanks to President Danny Barber, Staff Rep Eddie Robtison, and District 8 Director Billy Thompson for encouraging me to go through this prestigious program.

Jeff Dixon, Div III Chairman

USW Calls Repeal of Ohio SB 5 a Citizens' Victory for All

Elections in Other States Build New Politics for Jobs

The United Steelworkers (USW) declared the 99 percent stood up and fought back with votes against the millions of dollars poured into Ohio by the one percent of Wall Street on Election Day and among other states to declare a turning point in protecting good jobs, working families and workplace rights.

Leo W. Gerard, USW President, said: "Active and retired Steelworkers Union members joined their neighbors and all working families to reject the anti-worker Issue 2 on the ballot in support of firefighters, teachers, nurses, bus drivers, bridge inspectors, social workers and other public employees.

"It was a citizens' victory for all. We stood together, public and private sector - union and non-union - to start a new direction and declaration to the extremist politicians that Ohio voters reject their agenda. Now we've got to prepare for tomorrow's victories and build a future for an America that works for all of us."

USW members gathered at election watch events and union halls in Columbus, Cleveland, Canton and Cincinnati to celebrate the moment with other union members, students, families and friends. Ohio voters struck down Senate Bill 5 passed and signed by Gov. John Kasich after being placed by petition on the ballot as Issue 2. The anti-worker law was killed by a stunning margin of 61-39 percent of the vote.

According to the Ohio Secretary of State, voter turnout was at 46 percent, which is the highest off-year participation in 20 years. The vote against Issue 2 was more than 2.1 million and significantly higher than the 2010 vote that put Gov. Kasich in office.

S.B. 5 would strip collective bargaining rights from nearly 350,000 Ohio public employees that give teachers a voice in the classroom, home health care workers a living wage, firefighters and police officers a say in staffing and response times for emergencies.

"Despite what some Ohio state politicians claimed, it was never about money," declared Dave McCall, Director for USW District 1 in Ohio. "It was about Gov. Kasich's revenge agenda against working people. Steelworkers ran phone banks, hand billed public places and work sites, recruited friends and neighbors to get out the vote. Solidarity worked." He said more than 10,000 volunteers collected 1.3 million signatures to place Issue 2 on the ballot.

Gerard cited Election Day wins in other states too. Voters sent a wake-up call to anti-worker politicians in Michigan by voting to recall state Rep. Paul Scott (R-Grand Blanc) - the first recall since 1983. In Arizona, a recall of GOP state Sen. Russell Pearce, the architect of a repressive immigration law, was beat by fellow Republican Jerry Lewis who doesn't support an immigration crackdown. Maine voters rejected a voter suppression law by a 16 percent margin - rejecting a same-day registration ban.

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear (D) won reelection overcoming a tough economy in a conservative state to sail to a second term in office. Also in another special election in Wisconsin, Democrat Jill Billings has won the 95th Assembly District with a whopping 72 percent of the vote. Iowa Democrat Liz Mathis won Senate District 18, 56 to 44 percent, keeping Democrats in control of the state senate.

The USW represents 850,000 members in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. It is the largest private sector union in North America, representing workers in a wide diversity of industries.



Shoe Vouchers Expiring!

Shoe Vouchers are scheduled to expire November 30th, and they **WILL NOT** roll-over for 2012. The only exception are those grandfathered, however, check with your Shop Steward, Safety Committee, Division Chairman or any Union Representative for clarification. New Shoe Vouchers are expected to be issued in mid-December.

Tea Party	#occupywallstreet
<i>(Astroturf)</i>	<i>(Grassroots Movement)</i>
Every event covered by the media, advertised beforehand by Fox News	Media ignores occupations for over a month and then ridicules them
Participants mock the sick and the poor	Participants provide free food, healthcare and emotional support to everyone present
Anti-union, anti-poor, racist, bigoted, xenophobic	Strives for inclusion and worldwide participation
Funded by the Koch brothers	Avoids leaders—decisions based on consensus of General Assembly
People show up with assault rifles, shout and spit at members of Congress, and the police take no notice.	People show up unarmed, committed to non-violence, and get maced and beaten by police
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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.

Dallas "Lane" Bowen
CC# 4201 dept: 2431

Harold Haley
CC# 4103 dept: 2541

Sylvester Mayo
CC# 4083 dept: 1110

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Hilda Adams, Clifton Barber, Bruce Barker, Ricky Bowling, Leonard Brown, Dempsey Burnette, Jeff Chandler, Darrel Coles, Randy Cooley, Evelyn Dulin, Bobby Evans, Willie Futch, Eric Harris, Kenneth Howell, William Hudson, Quincy Jones, William Kronkowski JR, Daniel Martin, Wanda Martin, Thomas Mullins, William Mullins, Taylor Parrish, Darrel Smith, William Starkey, Henry Stowe, Earl Taschereau, Lamonica Thomas, Robert Wade, Nevada Watlington, Dexter Wilson, James Withers, Heulah Womack

The Family of Retiree Reed Bowling

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER 2011 CALENDAR						
				1 BD	2 AC	3 AC
4 AC	5 Exec. Board Meeting 7:30 AM BD	6 B/D	7 SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM A/C	8 Union Meeting 7:30 AM 7:30 PM A/C	9 BD	10 BD
11 BD	12 AC	13 AC	14 SOAR Christmas Lunch 11:00 AM B/D	15 B/D	16 AC	17 AC
18 AC	19 BD	20 BD	21 AC	22 AC	23 BD	24 BD Christmas Eve Plant Holiday
25 BD Merry Christmas Plant Holiday	26 AC Plant Holiday (8 Hours)	27 AC	28 B/D	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Plant Holiday
				8 Hour Vacation Shutdown		