

The Rubber Ball

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Hill

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Local 745. It is July and the weather is warm. This year is predicted to be one of the warmest we have had in quite some time so remember to acclimate yourself to the heat whether you are at work or home and always drink plenty of water.

By the time this reaches your mailbox the July 4th shut down week will have come and gone, the first one of the year and hopefully the only one until Christmas! Portions of the plant have been working less than 40 hour weeks and several areas have not worked full all year. The GNC has worked on a memorandum with the company on how work is assigned on a less than 40 hour week and have agreed to put signup books out for those who want to work on Fridays. This has made the process consistent throughout the plant.

The end of each month always brings birthday meetings at the plant with Steve Strauss and for the most part nothing is changing, not getting any better but not any worse, everyone is just getting older. In curing, the molds have been staying right around 30-34, we are now sending product to Bryan, Ohio and with the addition of rubber being sent to Bryan the banburies are working a full 40 hours for the most part, but Bryan will begin making their own squeegees and extrudants by August 1, so this goes away.

In last October's meeting Steve announced molds were increasing to 44 in rear farm and 17 molds up front, but that was short lived and when our customers filled their orders for the upcoming months we fell right back to the 30 mold range. Working partial Fridays and only 32 hours most areas of the plant. In speaking recently with Paul Reitz, President of Titan Tire Freeport, he sees no light at the end of the tunnel for the remainder of the year, but sees many good things here in Freeport for the future.

These past months we have had fourteen new retirees starting new

lives outside of Titan and several more have put in estimates and are only one bad day away from signing their retirement papers. I congratulate them and wish them luck in their retirement. There are now 278 active members of the Union, 72 on layoff and 14 on the employment roll. I have seen more and more members at the Union office talking retirement, if you are not sure where you stand with 85 points toward your Steelworker Pension, or what you have accumulated towards retirement you can always call the pension department in Pittsburgh (800-848-1953). You will receive in your mail an up to date accounting of your retirement status. An estimate of your retirement income can also be done at any time by filling out a simple form from the Union office and sending it to the steelworker retirement. The yearly SPT statements usually arrive in May but this year are late because of a new system in place and will arrive in June. Mary is in the office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and I will help you on Wednesdays for any retirement questions 815-235-9713. Office hours are 7:30 am – 4:00 pm.

For those of you who have a retirement check from Goodyear each month there will be a new number and contact information. Aon Hewitt will now be handling these accounts and if you need a change of address, or a change in bank account, or for whatever reason the new contact number is 844-449-4772 Monday through Friday 9 am to 7 pm and online at www.selfservice.goodyear.com. The new number will actually connect you to someone in the United States, either Charlotte, NC or Woodland, TX where previously it had been off shore!

It has been a year since I have taken the President's office and in that time the septic system drainage lines and the retaining wall have been replaced and the cement

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Freeport School District 145

5 Ways to Contact your Union

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United Steelworkers of America

Local Union No. 745

2496 E. Maize Road

Freeport, IL 61032

815/235-9713

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

deck leading to the front door has also been replaced. We have a new storage shed to house the trailer and old storage shed. The Trustees have done a complete inventory of the hall contents so now, in case of a catastrophe we have a listing of what we have and we continue to do the usual up keep on the hall as needed. The backlog of grievances have been reduced to where we are almost current on steps one through four but those going to arbitration are continuing to grow. Management continues to have to run things past corporate before they can make even the smallest of decisions and recently one told a GNC member that settling these grievances is what arbitration was for. The GNC is now working on getting ready to do just that and start arbitrating cases again.

With the retirement of Tony Balsamo, Mary and I have taken on the role of Benefit Rep and are learning as we go. Last month's membership meeting I also appointed my third new e-board member in the last year, the previous members have all retired. I am always looking for stewards on all shifts to represent membership. Without stewards on all shifts it is easy for management to abuse the contract and take advantage of membership. If you are not already retired, consider becoming active in the union and becoming a steward.

The GNC has had two meetings in Merrillville with the other two Titan plants to go over the upcoming expiration of the contract in November and possible negotiations. They were productive sessions and District Director Mike Millsap has a different approach to negotiations than did Jim Robinson. All three locals are in agreement that this looks to be very good for us in negotiating what is important to us as members rather than having the Steelworkers tell us what is good for us.

A contract for Valspar has been negotiated and ratified in January, but it took three votes and membership's concerns were heard. The new contract runs through January of 2019. News at Valspar that is of some concern; Sherwin Williams has bought Valspar and the sale will be final and complete January 2017. Rockford has a good workforce and is in a good location with an airport, interstate highways and rail service, not to mention they are located on the river, and with that I believe they are a valuable commodity to Sherwin Williams. Still, as we all know, new owners bring new challenges.

I have put out postings at the plant for a union day in August at Cellular Field to see a White Sox game where unions will be honored and ticket prices reduced for union members. There will also be a tribute to Labor at the Chicago Speedway in September where special pricing will be made for union members. I realize this is early but time goes fast and this gives a chance to plan ahead. For information you can call the Union office at 815-235-9713.

If by chance you find yourself talking to a candidate for congress, senate, or even president in

the next few months you might want to ask them: what do they propose, or have they proposed for jobs bills? The latest trade agreement (TPP) Trans Pacific Partnership that is being passed around is even worse than NAFTA in respect to job loss and Rapid Response has run action by having cards signed against this agreement by membership trying to stop this latest Trade Act that links U.S., Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam together in a free trade agreement. This is NAFTA on steroids! Loss of more jobs! Call your Representatives and voice your concern against this action. How do they propose to replace the good paying jobs they send overseas when they sign the trade bills they stand behind so readily? It is not additional taxes and taxing Americans that pay for America and keep our economy strong, it is manufacturing and good paying jobs where Americans have the money to live above the poverty level and spend the wealth that keeps America functioning. It's the jobs!

When spending my money, I look for the American made product! Some stores I simply don't shop, just for the record.

Our Union meetings are held on the Sunday following the second Wednesday at 9 am.

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Steve Bamberg

It has been about a year since I have taken over the Financial Secretary duties. Since my last Rubber Ball report in November 2015, I have gone through, and learned quite a bit about what it takes to be the Financial Secretary.

Most of the tasks have come fairly easily, such as paying the monthly bills, Monthly and Quarterly Reports, etc., while other tasks have been quite difficult. The Annual Federal reports were a lot of work, and did cause a lot of problems at first. With me taking over half way through the year, there was one person (Don) recording the 1st half year and myself recording the 2nd half year, (not everything was recorded the same way, as Don was taught to record some things one way, and I was taught to record them another way). There was also an upgrade in the software used to record the information that was slightly different. With all the changes, Don and I worked together and the reports were filed on time.

Since that time I have created another Cash Book to cover our Home Association bank account, (an account we use to pay utility bills and other odd bills), that should make it easier when next year's reports are due.

All else seems to be going well. Any questions pertaining to our local finances please ask, or attend our monthly membership meetings where I give monthly reports.

TURNING 65

Mary Meier

No, I'm not there yet, but we've had a few Titan active members whose wives are turning 65 before their husband is retired. While you are still enrolled in Titan insurance, there is no need to sign up for Medicare Part B. However, if the active member retires and will go back on Goodyear insurance, then the wife would need to enroll in Part B, which can be done through the Social Security office. If retiring and going on Titan VEBA, coverage for Medicare eligible is not offered, but there is a reimbursement program available.

Once you are enrolled in Part B, you will receive all kinds of mail about prescription plans. Our Goodyear retirees have Silverscript prescription coverage and won't need to do anything but be enrolled in Freedom Blue.

For those retirees enrolled in Freedom Blue, at age 65 for both member and spouse, you are eligible for a \$50.00 per person/per month reimbursement. This amount may change in the future, but when turning 65, it is important that we get Goodyear a copy of your Medicare card showing Part B coverage.

If you have other insurance questions, please feel free to call. If we can't answer your questions, we'll try to get the information you need. Thank you for your patience during this learning process.

**Classified Unit
Freeport School District 145
Cecelia Stacy**

Hi, my name is Cecelia Stacy, and I'm the Unit Chairman of the Freeport School District 145 Classified Staff currently serving my second term. My service in the Union has been very rewarding. The knowledge I've gained in these past 6 years has been very enriching. I've had the opportunity to attend the Women of Steel Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. I'm also a Steward and currently serving on the Executive Board. We have a GNC that consists of a team of 5 members.

I will be attending my 4th year of summer school this July and I'm looking forward to graduation. This is not the end for me, it's the beginning. I look forward to attending next summer (if opportunity allows) Intro to the Women of Steel and the 4 year course following.

Our Classified Staff Unit consists of 150 members. Those members include 6 Security members, 9 IMT's (Librarians), 42 Kitchen Staff members, and 93 Para Educators.

This past year had its ups as well as its downs. Unfortunately, more downs than ups. The 2015 – 2016 school year started out with 5 new Administrators ranging from Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent, Human Resource Director, Equity Director, Food Director along with 3 new Board Members. We went from 1 disciplinary meeting and 1 grievance being filed in the 2014 -2015 school year to over 40 disciplinary meetings and 20 grievances being filed this 2015 – 2016 school year. We have been faced with trials that are forcing us to the bargaining table. We have one more year in this contract, however, our people will get what is just and due them. The kitchen staff has been affected the most. They were hired for kitchen cooks and assistant cooks; however, they have become District chefs. Titles have changed, duties are increased, hours are increased, building locations are changed giving members no

choice in these matters and no raise in the pay for all the additives. However, we have a contract and it will be acknowledged and respected. I trust that there will be a meeting of the minds before school is scheduled to begin, which would be best for all involved. We, USW Local 745, will fight for what is right on behalf of our members.

This school year is scheduled to start August 29th. We the Classified Staff will approach the 2016 – 2017 school year as a fresh start. The past is the past and we will move forward with open hearts, minds and souls. Our jobs are all focused around the children of this District and their needs. We have and will continue to make that difference in the moment, in the hour, in the day, and in their lives.

*Life begins to end the day we become silent
about things that matter.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Calendar:

All meetings at the Union office unless otherwise indicated.

- Aug. 9 Retirees Meeting 1:30 p.m.
- Aug. 10 Executive Board 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 14 Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m.
- Sept. 7 Executive Board 3:30 p.m.
- Sept. 11 Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m.
- Sept. 13 Retirees Meeting 1:30 p.m.

CROSS MATH

Place the numbers 1 through 9 in the empty white squares so that the 3 horizontal and 3 vertical equations are true. Each digit will be used exactly once. Calculations are done from left to right and from top to bottom.

	+		+		=	15
+		X		÷		
	+		X		=	24
-		-		÷		
	+		-		=	14
=		=		=		
3		12		4		

UNITED STEELWORKERS
 LOCAL 745
 2496 E MAIZE RD
 FREEPORT IL 61032



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DISCOUNT PROGRAM	
Current participating businesses are:	
<u>Business Name/Location</u>	<u>Benefit</u>
Butitta Brothers Automotive, 1334 W. Galena Ave., Freeport (815)232-7165	10% off parts and service excluding tires
CarQuest Auto Parts Store, 11 S. Liberty Ave., Freeport (815)232-6106	10% off purchases
Brightflower Nursery LLC, 650 N. Stockton Rd., Stockton (815)947-2647	10% off all nursery products
Rock Hollow Conservation Club, 1971 Ill Rt. 75 E, Freeport Restaurant (815)232-5428, Gun Club (815)599-5690	10% off all food purchases; \$10 off gun purchases in the gun shop
Dairy Queen, 651 W. South St., Freeport (815)232-1235	10% off purchases
4 Seasons Bowling Center, 1100 W. Galena Ave., Freeport (815)235-6145 ext. 1	Buy one game, get one game free
Loescher Heating & Air Conditioning, 1860 S. Walnut, Freeport (815)232-6166	10% off total service bill; 5% off new equipment purchases
Hampton Inn, 109 S. Galena Ave., Freeport (815)232-7100	\$69.99/night regular room rate
Cimino's Little Italy, 421 N. Challenge St., Freeport (815) 235-8700	10% discount on food purchases
Ross Auto Glass, 737 E. Stephenson St., Freeport (815)232-6444	10% discount on windshield repairs; 5% discount on auto glass sales
AMSOIL - Ron & Kathy Bickford, Forreston, (815)938-3306	10% off on Amsoil products
Carlson Canine Camp, 388 E. Lamm Rd., Freeport (815)235-1500	10% discount on services (excludes retail items such as dog food & toys)
Quiznos, 1820 S. West Ave., Freeport (815)599-0022	Free pop & bag of chips with purchase of a sandwich or a salad
Auto Logic, 515 E. Queen Ave., Stockton (815)947-2760	10% off purchases up to \$200