

# The Rubber Ball

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dale Sandell*

Seems that the month of February is just flying by. This year mother nature is making up for the easy one she delivered to us last year. Lots of snow, rain and cold make for a long winter season. I know this season is about whipped but I'm ready for some nice spring weather.

During the February Union meeting the membership voted to endorse Sheila Hooper for Township Supervisor. I am very proud of this action. Sheila has stood with our Union many times in the past and our support in this election is the right thing to do. She has been in the role of Supervisor since 1977 and is being challenged by two individuals. I ask that all of our members that live within the township of Freeport will get out and support this pro-labor candidate.

A collection was taken at the union meeting for a donation to the Tebala Shrine Circus coming to Rockford on May 31 through June 2, 2013. Although the Executive Board decided to not donate from the Union it was decided that we would take up a collection from attendees to send needy children from Freeport and Rockford to attend this fun filled evening. We collected around \$100 that morning. If anyone else would like to add to this, please stop in the Union office and see our office manager Mary Meier.

I have been stationed in Merrillville, Indiana a lot of this past month, still working on trying to get a contract with Titan. We are gaining ground but we have not reached a tentative agreement as I write this article. I believe the question will come to

us very soon if we want to hang everything on the hopes that the labor charge will withstand the appeals or if we want to start to rebuild a contract back towards the 2006 CBA. Right now the proposal from the company is contingent on resolving the existing labor charges. If we hold on to the charges, then the offer is to stay status quo--meaning we stay right where we are with the current set of imposed work rules and wages until the charges are resolved one way or the other. If we win the charges then a judge will have to decide what is the correct compensation for the members that lived under the imposed work rules and if any retirees are due any lost compensation. The other side has us accepting much of the imposed work rules as a contract, such as forced overtime, loss of vacation and much more. The product your Grievance and Negotiating Committee has been working on is an improvement to the L.B.F., but only a few steps back closer to our beloved 2006 CBA. The only thing I can guarantee is that your committee will continue to negotiate for a better contract with everything that we have.

## TITAN TIRE Contact Information

For Titan Tire employees if you have benefit issues, please contact Kyle Falconer at (815)235-6385. All other HR issues, please call Paty Arce at (815)235-6338.

February 28, 2013  
Volume 18, Issue 2

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### 5 Ways to Contact your Union

Phone: (815) 235-9713

Fax: (815) 232-7762

E-Mail: [uswlocal745@comcast.net](mailto:uswlocal745@comcast.net)

Mail: 2496 E. Maize Rd.  
Freeport, IL 61032

Website: [usw745.org](http://usw745.org)

### 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.

**Highlights of the February Membership Meeting**

President Dale Sandell called the meeting to order at 9:02am, Sunday Feb. 10, 2013. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by Dave Swanson calling the roll call of officers. A motion was made seconded and passed to bypass the Highlights of the January meeting.

A motion was made to bypass the normal order of business to allow Freeport Township Commissioner, Sheila Hooper to address this body. Sheila gave a brief biography, including the fact that she held a union card as an educator in the local school system. She explained the facts of the up-coming elections, Feb. 26, 2013, with the position she has held for many years. She is being challenged in the Citizens Party Primary by two candidates vying for her seat. The winner of this primary will participate in a contested election later in the spring. She thanked membership for allowing her to address our membership and hoped our members would consider voting for her.

**REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- We have settled on two arbitrators for two discharge cases with Titan Attorney Jim Pirages from Rockford. We have sent possible dates to both arbitrators awaiting their replies.
- We authorized the replacement of a computer at last month's meeting and are using it for the financial officer's work. This came in well under the budget recommendation.
- Titan negotiations are continuing again this week on Monday in Merrillville, IN. We've been told that we will have something more to consider and we should be in Freeport again on Tuesday afternoon.
- We have got a Facebook page and are updating it also, in addition to our web page. Our Facebook page can be found at USW Local 745 and our Webpage address is [www.uswlocal745.org](http://www.uswlocal745.org).
- January 23-25, 2013 Dale Sandell attended the R/PIC meeting in Nashville, TN. This conference is led by International Vice-President Stan Johnson, former URW rep from the Goodyear chain. This meeting takes place before the Master Negotiations occur. All the tire plant locals from around the country meet to discuss the various conditions for their members.

Just a follow up on some training expenses that were authorized at last month's meeting. We authorized the G&NC to attend "Just Cause" training in Indiana. Some of the G&NC were scheduled to train and others had other commitments. Due to the late notice no one from the school district unit could attend either. As such no funds related to this expense were spent.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- There will be a Rapid Response training and conference in Washington, DC April 16-20. The board has recommended sending Mark Hooper, the P.A.C. chairman to this event at an estimated cost of \$2,700. A motion was made, seconded and approved, without decent, to send Mark.

- There is a Women of Steel Conference on March 10-13 and the board has recommended sending two people to this event. We have not confirmed who will be attending but are hoping to get one lady from the tire factory and one from the school unit. Again a motion was made, seconded and approved to send up to two people to this conference. The costs are different between the two employers so estimating will be less accurate. For two people we would estimate \$3,500 total for both. This motion passed, again without decent.
- We received a request from the Tebala Shrine club to sponsor tickets for their annual Circus fund raiser in Rockford. After discussing the issue the board has decided to put a bucket in the back of the room and ask everyone to consider a personal donation.

**THE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORTS**

Dan Kreeger first presented Don Hills' report in Don's absence. The customary overheads that Don prepared were shown. No questions were heard, a motion to approve them as presented was made, then approved by membership.

Dan presented his Treasurer's report along with overheads of the check book register and Treasurer's report. Questions were asked and explained to member's satisfaction. A motion was made to accept the report and place into the record of the local. This motion passed.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dave Swanson read a letter prepared by members of the P.A.C. in regards to an endorsement in the Township Commissioner's primary. A motion to endorse Sheila Hooper passed without decent.

Willie Kreeger reported on the safety committee's activities and safety issues in the plant. There was a lot of discussion on this report.

Kip Kuhlemeier reported for the G&NC, on the processing of grievances and issues they are hearing in the factory. This also solicited a good deal of discussion, comments and concerns.

Several members complained about the way that open enrollment was held this past December. This also served to create a lot of questions and complaints on the various insurance problems.

The last discussion was about the uniform service or the lack of service from the Titan representatives or uniform delivery company.

A motion to adjourn was heard at 10:10am.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Swanson*

**Calendar:**

- Mar. 6 Executive Board Meeting 3:00 p.m.
- Mar. 10 Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m.
- Mar. 12 Retirees Meeting 1:30 p.m.
- Mar. 12 Classified Unit Meeting at Library 4:30 p.m.

**SOAR Minutes**

Feb. 12, 2013

1:30 p.m.

President Larry Dyson called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The roll call of officers was taken and all were present except Vice President Jerry Redington and Trustees Lee Horstmeier and Thomas Wild. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer's Report was given and approved.

Larry demonstrated how to go online to the SilverScript website. He showed us how to register and how to use the site. If you have problems you can call 1-877-460-7766 for Web help. When ordering prescriptions you will automatically be signed up for automatic refill. If you don't want to automatically receive your pills then you must call and tell them to change that. The Customer Care phone number is on your prescription card. Trustee Thomas Wild can no longer attend meetings so he needs a replacement as a trustee. Ron Duchow offered to become a trustee.

Those who have Aero Internet services may be finding some difficulties. Hackers have gotten into the system.

Larry would like to set up a recycle day with a Stockton company. Is anyone interested?

The No call # is 1 888 382 1222.

Helen Fullerton announced that Barb Schrader fell and is injured. The Golden meals lunch program is recommended. Suggested donation of \$3.50 and a very nice meal.

We adjourned at 2:20 p.m. with a fellowship time following.

*Susan Walt, Recording Secretary*

**YOUR STEELWORKER PENSION**

*Tony Balsamo*

Example 1:

$\$1.85 \times 2080 \text{ hrs. (52 wks} \times 40 \text{ hr)} = \$3,848$

$\$3,848 \times 25\% = \$962$

$\$962 \div 12 = \$80.17$  (multiplier)

In this example, the full pension benefit will be \$80.17 for this year, paid each month to the employee

Example 2:

$\$1.85 \times 2496 \text{ hrs. (52 wks} \times 48 \text{ hr)} = \$4,617.60$

$\$4,617.60 \times 25\% = \$1,154.40$

$\$1,154.40 \div 12 = \$96.20$  (multiplier)

In this example, the full pension benefit will be \$96.20 for this year, paid each month to the employee.

Example 3: Per Last, Best and Final

$\$1.25 \times 2080 \text{ hrs.} = \$2,600 \times 25\% = \$650.00$

$\$650.00 \div 12 = \$54.17$  (multiplier)

Example 4: Per Last, Best and Final

$\$1.25 \times 2496 \text{ hrs.} = \$3,120.00 \times 25\% = \$780.00$

$\$780.00 \div 12 = \$65.00$  (multiplier)

For example, if you work 10 years and average 40 hrs, the first five years will be  $\$80.17 \times 5 \text{ yrs.} = \$400.85$  and the second 5 years will be  $\$54.17 \times 5 \text{ yrs.} = \$270.85$ , so you would get \$671.70 per month.

**SAFE LIFTING**

*Willie Kreeger*

Most of you have heard the general rules of safe lifting. Remember to "Get a firm grip on the load, keep it close, bend at the knees, use your legs to lift the load, and keep your spine in the natural position (with an arch in your lower back)." These principles always apply and should be incorporated into every lift--if possible! Given the enormous number of "risky" lifting situations, you may not be able to apply these principles every time. This is why you must always remember to *LIFT IT TWICE!* What?!

Most of you know the proper way to physically lift an item, but how many of you are aware that you need to lift the item *TWICE*.

1. Think about the lift prior to actually doing it.
  - How am I going to lift the item? Can I do it myself or should I get some help?
  - How heavy is the item? Do I need to use mechanical assistance?
  - Where am I taking the item being lifted? Is it a difficult path or a distance to go?
  - What hazards may hamper the lift or obstruct the travel path?
  - Eliminate those hazards before you lift the item.
2. The second lift is the actual physical lift. Here is where you carry out your plan.
  - Use proper body mechanics and techniques while going through the motions.
  - Keep the load as close to your body as possible.

Next time someone tells you to lift twice remember: Two lifts means less risk of a back strain.

**Parade Time**

*Bunny Oviatt*

I am so looking forward to springtime weather. It seems to me the winter of 2012-13 has been more harsh and longer than most recent winter seasons. I know we need the moisture, so come on April showers and bring on the May flowers. I am ready to enjoy the outdoor activities, festivals, and the celebration of warm summer holidays.

It is time to prepare the USW Local 745 float for the upcoming parades. The first parade of the 2013 season is May 27, the annual Memorial Day Parade in Freeport, IL. The theme for this parade is "60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice." All constructive decorative ideas are welcome in designing the 2013 season float. If you have any plans for the float please submit your idea to the USW 745 office. The float will be used for the Shannon Labor Day Festival in Shannon, IL on 9/2, Lena Fall Festival in Lena, IL on 9/7, and the Annual Harvest Time Parade in Oregon, IL on 10/5.

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the float and to transport the float to the destination town, walk along, and return it as well. Please consider volunteering in whatever capacity suits you best.

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA  
 LOCAL 745  
 2496 E MAIZE RD  
 FREEPORT IL 61032

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>FRIENDS AND FAMILY DISCOUNT PROGRAM</b>	
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