

The Rubber Ball

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dale Sandell

Hello Brothers and Sisters and retirees of Local 745. What a busy time we are into right now. We are just starting the process of negotiating a contract with the school unit. We are writing proposals for improvements to their CBA. While with the Tire plant we have been in this process again since September of last year. This has been a very lengthy process that is done in Merrillville, IN. This location makes it possible to work on three separate contracts at one time (Freeport, Bryan, OH and Des Moines, IA). Unfortunately this adds time away from home as well as adds cost to the process. Hopefully we will be able to get the labor strife at Titan settled.

I would like to encourage everyone to check out our Local 745 website and our new Facebook page (USWLocal745.org and Facebook/USW Local 745). I try to update the Facebook page daily and I update the negotiations page almost daily when I am in negotiations with the tire plant or the school unit.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

Bunny Oviatt

The Rubber Ball seems to be progressing in a positive manner. We strive to keep members informed of Local 745 in all the different activities, common struggles, and triumphs. The website usw745.org is the fastest way of communicating. The Rubber Ball is basically for the members without access to the website. Some members actually prefer a hard copy. The information is a synopsis of the

most recent meetings and activities of our union. You may choose the method you prefer by simply calling Mary at the hall to opt in or out of the Rubber Ball. It is the member's responsibility to keep addresses current. Unfortunately, the names of undeliverable newsletters must be removed from the mailing list. The member can easily resume delivery by providing the correct address.

My personal goal is to publish this information consistently on a monthly basis following the USW Local 745 membership meeting. This meeting usually falls on the second Sunday of the month. This can only be done if all contributors submit the information on a timely basis. All members are welcome to submit an article or announcement. Perhaps you or someone in your family has earned an achievement that you would like to share with us. Email us at uswlocal745@comcast.net or write your submission and drop it off at the hall. Maybe you would just like to ask a question. All submissions are subject to review of content. We do have space limitations. The Rubber Ball is a lot smaller than the old Voice of Steel.

Recipe from Jeanne's Day Care Pancakes

Use a nice bowl.
Put in:
3 cups sugar
salt
4 cups water
7 cups flour
Stir it up and cook in the oven.
Cook 7 minutes. Put on butter and syrup. This makes 4 pancakes.

January 29, 2013
Volume 18, Issue 1

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United Steelworkers of America

Local Union No. 745
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Freeport, IL 61032

815/235-9713

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Highlights of the January Membership Meeting

President Dale Sandell called the meeting to order in the normal fashion at 9:00 Sunday, January 13. After a brief welcome, the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call of Officers. The Highlights of the December meeting were bypassed by voice vote with no decent. Communications to/from membership was read, consisting of one thank you note for a gift card received by laid off member another was for a memorial Bible.

REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

There are arb dates for the plant scheduled for March and April. Again both these dates are scheduled for discharged members. The Classified Unit also has two grievances scheduled to arb; we're having difficulty getting them scheduled yet expect to have confirmed dates soon.

Dale and Frank Wool are going to Merrillville again the 14-16 of January. Dale has also put up a Facebook page as yet another form of communication.

Gate drops were conducted at the plant in December to aid our laid off members. More than \$1500.00 was collected. Gift cards were purchased and distributed over the shut down. As a related note we are having problems distributing the donations that were collected for those who lost their jobs at Sensata.

Union City, the former Goodyear facility, has 8 banburys up and running and is working on the remaining two. There are roughly 300 people working in the facility currently. Several former Steelworkers are working there.

Titan management locally has put up a posting stating that the Local is in arrears in the area of union business hours. This issue is in the process of being corrected. In the meantime keep an eye on any hours that may be deducted from your checks as a result of union business charges. Any shortages can be corrected by giving Don Hill a copy of the affected check stub.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The board recommended sending one person to Nashville, TN to meet with the other rubber units in the USW.

The Board recommended sending current G&NC members to a training session in Indiana, Saturday February 9. With the current work schedule we are not expecting any lost time, just mileage and meals. These two actions were passed with separate motions and no decent in either vote.

The final recommendation was a secret ballot vote to approve the appointment of Gina Robinson as a steward. This, as with all steward appointments, is subject to a 90 day trial.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER'S REPORTS

Don Hill presented both his and Dan's report as Dan was unable to attend due to a family issue. He began with his report, (Financial Secretary); the union business hours and financial statement were presented on the overhead. After Don's description, no questions were heard and the motion to accept and pay the bills was heard and passed.

The Treasurer's report including the check book register for the month of December were presented on overhead. After an accounting of all accounts, a motion to accept and pay the bills passed, again without decent.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Willie Kreeger reported on the activities of the Safety Committee in the past month. All questions asked were answered.

Kip Kuhlemeier reported for the G&NC on the activity of grievance processing. The work of resolving grievances has picked up with fewer members of the G&NC traveling to Indiana for negotiations.

A motion to adjourn was heard and the meeting was closed shortly after 10:00 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dave Swanson*

SOAR Minutes

January 8, 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. All were present except Trustee Thomas Wild.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as read. The treasurer's report was given and approved. Geri had received thank you notes from Mary Meier, FACC, SRC and Hospice for the gifts of money given in December.

Larry announced that two past members, Pete Baker and Henry Bates, have passed away.

Mary Meier made a presentation of the new website. Go to USW745.org to find the website. There you will find information about what is happening in the Local and also in our SOAR club. The new newsletter The Rubber Ball will be available on this site. Our monthly meeting minutes may be found under the SOAR heading or in the Rubber Ball news. You can also find the Local on Facebook.

Jerry Redington announced that everyone should have their prescription cards by now. The packets are arriving. Included in the packet is a list of local pharmacies for your zip code that will accept CareMark or Silver Script.

You should have received your last paper check for Medicare reimbursement. The April reimbursement will only be sent by direct deposit. If you did not send in the form and a voided check to set up your direct deposit then you should contact Mary Meier for help.

Larry reviewed some of the topics on which we would like to have speakers. If you have a suggestion please notify Larry.

Geri collected \$12 dues for 2013. If you did not pay today please do so next meeting. If possible bring correct change.

Adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Fellowship time followed the meeting.

Susan Walt, Recording Secretary

CLASSIFIED INSIGHT

Mary Jane Zimmerman

Local 745 L01, District 145 classified employees, met for their monthly membership meeting on January 8, 2013. It was reported that two grievances are at the arbitration level. The Union is waiting on the District to jointly select arbitrators. The District has turned this procedure over to their attorney. Mark Trone and Jim Robinson are getting involved in an effort to make this selection happen. We are also waiting for an answer from the District from a step one grievance meeting. Issues of concerns with the current contract were shared by several members and discussed.

The G.N.C. scheduled two additional meetings the week of January 14 to prepare for negotiations. New Business included discussion of a Relay for Life team and hosting an I.M.R.F. workshop this spring.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Mark Hooper

Last day of 2012. Whew! What a year! Drought, Hurricane Sandy, Flooding, Presidential election, and fiscal cliff looming! All in all, a very unique year.

So with the clock ticking down, and the fiscal cliff set to throw our economy back into a recession, congress decided they should meet again on Monday, the 31st, and try to come up with a solution. With this impending deadline, they decided to meet at 11am! 11AM!! That a way fellas. Way to go after it. Work till noon, take a 2 hour paid lunch, then reconvene for an hour or so showing the people how dedicated you are, and how hard you are trying to solve this problem. Our lame duck congress. I should be shocked, but frankly this is what I have come to expect from this pig-headed congress.

Did any of our brothers and sisters see the movie LINCOLN? It was truly an amazing movie. So good, I saw it twice. I was thoroughly impressed by this theatrical history lesson. The sets, the costumes, the blocking and even the verbiage used put you right into this historical era of our nation. Facing the spring of the 4th year of our bloodiest war ever, more than 600,000 casualties, and ten times that many missing limbs on the surviving, our nation wearied of this war. You think President Obama looks aged from the stress, you should see how they aged President Lincoln 10 years in this time frame. Lincoln wanted to pass the 13th amendment, making all men equal under the law, and freeing slaves. The political lobbying behind the scenes, and portrayed in the movie was amazing. But the end result was that they got the votes to pass the amendment. All done legally. These early representatives of our budding nation worked passionately and continually to get the job done.

I think all members of our congress should have to view this movie 3 times then get back to work with a better understanding of what it means to serve their constituents.

Congratulations to the following Retirees:

- Kim Benson, Dept. 531, Service Helper, 34 Yrs.
- David Gruendler, Dept. 534, Press Operator, 35 Yrs.
- John Mahon, Dept. 534, Inspect & Repair, 31 Yrs.
- Patrick McCauley, Dept. 200, Trucker, 40 Yrs.

Calendar:

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

AVOID THE FLU

Willie Kreeger

Remember to wash your hands!

The flu is a contagious disease that is caused by the influenza virus. It attacks the respiratory tract in humans (nose, throat, and lungs). The flu is contagious. A person can spread the flu starting one day before they feel sick. Adults can continue to pass the flu virus to others for another 3-7 days after symptoms start.

Practice good hygiene by washing your hands frequently. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Get seven to eight hours of sleep each night. Get good nutrition and be sure to eat five fruits and vegetables each day. Exercise regularly. Don't go to work when a fever or any other of the flu symptoms are present. Avoid shaking hands with other people. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizing gel to reduce risk of exposure after touching door handles, shopping cart handles, rest room facilities, and other places where there is a lot of public contact.

EXECUTIVE WOOL & LEATHER JACKETS

USW Local 745 will be taking orders for leather jackets. USA Union Made of premium drum dyed top grade leather, the jacket has a front covered top pocket and slash pockets and a storm fly covered zipper. The USW Local 745 logo will be available on the front and an additional charge will include the logo on the back. Prices start at \$170 for sizes 12 and up. There are additional charges for 2X through 5X. A sample jacket is available at the Union office. Payment in full is required when ordering. Call the Union office (815-235-9713) or stop in to place your order.

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA
 LOCAL 745
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 FREEPORT IL 61032

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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