



March 5, 2014
Volume 19, Issue 1

The Rubber Ball

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dale Sandell

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Retirees of Local 745, Well our 50th Anniversary is about to become a reality. On July 29, 1964 our Local was established. That's 50 years of negotiating contracts and representing members at the highest level possible from the dedicated individuals that stepped forward to speak up for others. On that day in history, the following stepped forward and signed their names to the Charter with the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America: Joe P. Conder, Raymond R. Knutsen, Clarence D. Stumbaugh, Leroy K. Milliken, Richard T. Munda, Robert Connery, William Meyers, Grant Harrell, Gene M. Miller, Richard Peterson, Marvin D. Kuntzelman, Eugene N. Johnson, Laurence L. Ebert, Gerald M. O'Connell, Duane F. Reitz, Ronald L. Larson, Robert D. Meeks, and Dayle Lyons. I wonder if they ever thought that their brave efforts would still be alive 50 years later? We all owe these original leaders of Local 745 a great deal of appreciation. Without their efforts we would not have the standard of living or the benefits that we enjoy at the tire plant and at the School District. I believe that all Freeport residents and businesses have prospered from the action of these brave men back in 1964.

Well now let's jump back to the present time and talk about what is coming up this year. I have asked members of the Tire plant and the School Unit and retirees to join in the planning of this year's events. Ann Coan and myself are the Co-Chairs, with Steven M. Latham and Kevin Kirk from the tire plant, Jerry Redington, Wayne Komprood and Tom Knautz, as Retirees, and Cecelia Stacy, Mary Jane Zimmerman and LuAnne Beintema from the School Unit. The first thing coming up is a "Going For The Gold" game day at the Union Office from 11:30 a.m. to ??? This is also the monthly meeting day for March so some can come for both. We will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and potato chips and we are asking for everyone to bring a dish to pass. We will be playing cards and board games. Spouses are encouraged to join in too. We must limit this to 80 people so R.S.V.P.s are required. Just call Mary at the office and let her know you are coming. I hope to see you there.

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Phone: (815) 235-9713
Fax: (815) 232-7762
EMail: uswlocal745@comcast.net
Mail: 2496 E. Maize Rd.
Freeport, IL 61032
Website: 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 Membership Meeting
February 16, 2014**

President Dale Sandell called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

A list of grievances has been presented including a discharge, G13-005 union business hours and several other money issue grievances.

Tellers report from International elections has determined that Mike Milsap has won the election and will be sworn in March 1st in Pittsburgh.

A committee has been formed to plan the 50th Anniversary celebrations this year. The committee involves active officers and members, retirees and school district members.

Having regular days at the union hall has been well received so far so until further notice President Sandell will be at the union hall both Wednesdays and Fridays.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The board has recommended that we allot \$600.00 for use in parades this year. After very little discussion this motion was passed.

The second action was to recommend both Larry Gross, 3rd shift and Roy Heise, 2nd shift on a 90 day trial period as stewards. This motion also passed without dissent.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Don Hill was out of town this week and Dan Kreeger presented his report. No questions were heard so Dan presented his report next. The financial documents matched so Dan reviewed the checkbook register. There has been a bank error and while the bank investigates the facts the books will remain balanced until the conclusion of the investigation. We expect to resolve that this next week. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the reports as presented and place them into the record.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Kip Kuhlemeier reported on the highlights from the other two Titan Tire facilities. Des Moines is steady and working Saturdays with no significant labor activity. Bryan on the other hand still has the North side of their plant idle, for all practical purposes. They are also working with a reduced workforce.

Willie Kreeger reported for the safety committee that the committee is in the process of organize mock OSHA audits. The incentives that are being offered for safety performance, the safety committee has tried to moderate some of these to not injure members in the process.

Dale Sandell reported that the special committee for the 50th anniversary activities has met twice with another meeting scheduled for two weeks.

Bill Mariani again gave a report on the drain field and plumbing problems. It appears that the first issue is a frozen drainage between the building and the septic system. The basement is dry for the moment but before

we get along on the repairs we'll try to resolve the plumbing problem.

A motion to adjourn was entertained approximately 9:35 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dave Swanson*

NEWS FROM TONY BALSAMO

Open enrollment for 2014 for Goodyear retirees who are on Medicare will have two health insurance options to choose from. On November 14 the Local Union and Retiree Club put on three meetings to explain the Freedom Blue insurance option. Jerry Redington, the President of the Retiree Club, and two representatives from Freedom Blue were there to explain the program and answer questions. Approximately 240 retirees attended the meetings. They also passed the hat for toys for tots and collected over \$400.

Calendar:

March 11	Retirees Meeting 1:30 p.m.
March 12	Executive Board Meeting 3:30 p.m.
March 16	Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m.
	Game day 11:30 a.m. -?
March 24	Workman Comp Attorney 1:15-3:45 p.m.

SAFE LIFTING

by Willie Kreeger

Small children are the best lifters in the world. When you were a child, you were too!

Lifting was accomplished in the most natural way - using the body the way it was designed to move. How did we do it? Watch any small child and you will see them:

- Bend at the knees - they squat.
- Keep the head up - they squat
- Keep the back straight - they don't have the agility to bend over and lift
- Lift with their legs - they don't have a choice with their weak arms
- Hold the load close to their body - if it's too far away from their body, they can't get their arms around it
- Avoid twisting - they fall
- Stable footing - they fall
- Too heavy - they let you know - they cry or call out for help

As we grew older we watched adults perform unsafe or improper lifting tasks - often because it was faster. Eventually we forgot how to do it properly. We started doing things for convenience and speed - not for safety. These bad habits can put tremendous strain on our backs, arms, shoulders, wrists and legs. The result over time may be permanent problems.

Bad habits are difficult to change, but it can be done with a bit of conscious thought and practice.

- Bend at the knees
- Back straight
- Hold the load close to the body
- Avoid twisting
- Make sure footing is stable
- If the object is heavy - get help

When you need to lift anything - small loads or big loads - practice the same things you did as a child!



GOING FOR THE GOLD GAME DAY

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, Local 745 invites you and your spouse to a potluck/game day after the March monthly membership meeting on March 16, 2014, at approximately 11:30 a.m. Pulled pork sandwiches and potato chips will be provided and you are asked to bring a dish to pass. You can bring card games, dice or board games. Members and retirees from the Titan Tire plant as well as the School Unit should plan to attend. Please sign up by calling 815-235-9713 as there is a limit of 80 people.

SOAR Minutes Feb. 11, 2014

Sue Lambert and Brenda from the Senior Resource Center presented a program about the Center. There are offices in Freeport and Galena. Funding for the Senior Center comes from State and Federal grants, donations, fundraisers and sponsors. Many hours are donated by volunteers. April 12 is their big fundraiser for the transportation program.

The Stroll a Thon will be held at Oakley Courts and supports the two buses and the van used for transporting seniors to appointments and shopping. You can be a walker and collect pledges or pledge to someone who is walking. The Rolling Stone, the Center's newspaper, is found in the shopping news first of the month edition.

Tax preparation program is taking reservations now and will begin soon. If you have any questions about ways they might help you, just call and they will try to connect you to those who can help.

Jerry was pleased with the letter we received from Rep. Bustos. She seems to want to be connected with her district.

Dale Sandell has been asked to swear Wayne Komprood into office when he returns from his travels. Also Jerry has asked Dale to report on sale of tires from China. These are sold below cost.

Several people mentioned that the price of their prescriptions has gone up. Be sure to question the price hike and see if there is a better alternative.

It was announced that Wayne Bardell has passed away.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

UNION MEMBERS ALERT

by Scott Farrar

On behalf of the Grievance and Negotiating Committee, we would like to remind you of your employee's rights to Union representation better known as Weingarten Rights. It states, "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer, or steward be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions."

This is to keep employees from being misquoted and to ensure procedures are followed. By not exercising your right, it makes it difficult for your union representative to defend you or any other employee from unfounded allegations by the Company. This also includes any investigation in which you are asked to participate by the Company.

UPCOMING PARADE SCHEDULE

Last year we participated in several area parades and we're looking at the 2014 parade schedule. We are planning to participate in the Freeport Homecoming Parade, Lena Fall Festival, Shannon Labor Day Parade and possibly the Rockford Labor Day Parade. If you know of other area-wide parades you'd like to see us participate in, please call the Union office with those possible dates. We will have new signage in anticipation of celebrating 50 years of service to our members.

You and your family members are always welcome and encouraged to walk with the parade float.



Lena Fall Festival

March 5, 2014

UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 745
2496 E MAIZE RD
FREEPORT IL 61032

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Freeport, IL
Permit No. 23

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
TJ's, Tim Burke, 4479 Hwy KK, Gratiot, WI (608) 482-3454	10% off purchases