

The Rubber Ball

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Hill

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Local 745. The Rubber Ball was last printed in October of 2014. This publication didn't happen because something else always took priority: Meetings with District 145 members and administration, Valspar representation, and catching up with issues at the plant (Titan) which had fallen behind and needed to be attended to before putting out a paper. I don't plan on this much time passing before putting out another edition. In this publication I will address not only Titan membership but Valspar and District 145 members to some degree.

Season's Greetings!

October has come and gone. The clocks have been turned back one hour. Daylight savings time is back and now, soon Thanksgiving will be upon us, our free turkey from Titan will be on the table and before you know it the Thanksgiving feast will be over. Black Friday ads are already showing up and yes, Christmas, followed by New Years. Time seems to be flying by just that fast.

I hope you caught it, **all Titan employees including non terminated laid off members will receive a turkey on Wednesday, November 18**, after their shift. Everyone should pick up their turkey and, if not wanted, give it to someone *you* know can use it.

The end of each month always brings birthday meetings with Steve Strauss at the plant and lately he's given us good news. In October's meeting he announced molds are increasing to 44 in rear farm and 17 molds

up front, where we had been working only 32 hours he is now indicating more Friday work between now and Thanksgiving. Hopefully a 40 hour week for everyone. No shut down until Christmas is now almost a guarantee. The upturn has been credited on better marketing practices to the small guy for replacement tires.

As many of you who are working at the plant know, the deductions from your checks for your various insurances this past year were incorrect from the beginning of the last year, and have not been corrected as of this date. Titan has finally sent me some information as to the amount of everyone's deductions in trying to get things correct before next year's enrollment period. In the next week or so we will be looking at open enrollment; I am being told for next year it will be held differently with everyone basically going on line themselves and signing themselves up. Help! Open enrollment will happen in December.

This past month we had five new Titan plant retirees: Rich Baker, Steve Hutchison, Brian Raab, Dan Swartzendruber, and Dennis Euler. I congratulate them on their new life outside of Titan and wish them luck in their retirement. This brings the total retirees for the year to 36 and still November and December to come. There are now 291 active members of the Union, 98 on layoff and 17 on the employment roll.

It has been six months since I have taken the President's office and in that time the septic system drainage lines have been replaced at the hall, the retaining wall, which was leaning badly has

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United Steelworkers of America

Local Union No. 745
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Freeport, IL 61032

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

been replaced and the cement deck leading to the front door has also been replaced. Soon we will 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.

The GNC has been busy catching up on old grievances and soon, not quite yet, but soon, we will be current and when a grievance is filed membership can expect things in a timely manner. The answer you are looking for may not happen, but we will all remember why the grievance was filed and the facts pertaining to the subject. Then we will be preparing for negotiations.

The Valspar officers and grievors were provided much needed training in October. Our District Representative Mark Trone did the training and I thank Mark for a job well done. Most of these members were newly elected and eager to learn how to uphold the contract and write and process grievances. Valspar has about 36 members and the majority, 24 or so, are all new in the past few years and want to make a difference in their future.

A contract for Valspar will begin the sit down drag out portion of negotiations in January, but the preparation has already started with surveys and proposals being put together as you read this letter. Their contract expires January 26, 2016. The Titan contract expires November 16, 2016, and preparation in many ways has already started. The District 145 employees contract expires June 30, 2017; that will be here soon enough.

Titan employees, as a reminder everyone, including retirees, can still buy tires at 10% over cost for the rest of the year. If you know anyone who may be in need of tires this is an excellent opportunity to supply them with their needs. Contact Greg Hakala at the plant at (815)235-6270.

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?, and 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.

Tony Balsamo, our Benefits Rep is in the office on Wednesdays, you can stop in or call to make an appointment. The number at the union hall is 815-235-9713.

Our next Union meeting will be held on November 15 at 9 a.m.

YOUR STEELWORKER PENSION
Tony Balsamo

Example 1:
\$1.85 x 2080 hrs. (52 wks x 40 hr) = \$3,848
\$3,848 x 25% = \$962
\$962 ÷ 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 x 2496 hrs.(52 wks x 48 hr) = \$4,617.60
\$4,617.60 x 25% = \$1,154.40
\$1,154.40 ÷ 12 = \$96.20 (multiplier)
In this example, the full pension benefit will be \$96.20 for this year, paid each month to the employee.

For example, if you work 10 years and average 40 hrs, your pension will be \$80.17 x 10 yrs. = \$801.70 per month.


Director **Michael R. Millsap**
Cordially invites you to attend the
District 7 USW
Annual Celebration 
Fri., December 18, 2015 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
McBride Hall, 1301 Texas St., Gary, Indiana
Call 219.886.2596 or 800.932.8007 to RSVP
 We are collecting canned & packaged food for the Food Pantry.

Highlights of the October Membership Meeting

Don Hill called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. on Sunday, October 18. The minutes of the previous meeting were bypassed. Correspondence included: District Director's annual bowling tournament; meeting call for 2016 Safety, Health and Environmental Conference, and Women of Steel Conference meeting.

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD:

There will be a meeting of all three Titan locals in Indiana on October 29 and 30. Trip expenses were approved. Plant production has dropped to 4 days for most of the plant. However, there should be no shut downs until the scheduled Christmas/New Year break.

Valspar's contract is set to expire early next year. A training session was held for their new officers and stewards.

A bid for up to \$75 for snow removal and salting was approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Secretary's report given by Steve Bamberg and Treasurer's report from Dan Kreeger were approved. A question was asked about the cost of the memorial Bibles, but after explanation of the By-laws, no further questions were heard.

REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

Mark Trone reported on the status of negotiations. He also explained how the activities of the current budget negotiations in Springfield are affecting working people of Illinois and asked that members speak with their State Representatives and State Senators and ask them to do more to achieve a budget. Also if you've had any dealings with workman comp in the last few years, it may help to speak to the various state officials about your experience.

Meeting duly adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Dave Swanson, Recording Secretary

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Steve Bamberg

As many of you may know, I was appointed to the Financial Secretary office in June, 2015, after our former Financial Secretary, Don Hill, was elected to the President's office in May 2015.

I stepped into the Financial Secretary position with no past experience in maintaining financial records, books, etc. So, with Don by my side for the first few weeks, I began to learn the ins and outs of the office.

In July, I went to the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana to receive Financial Secretary training. While in Champaign, several items pertaining to financial officer duties were covered. Areas covered included:

- USW International Constitution and By-Laws, and how they pertain to local financial officers.
- The Do's and Don'ts of a financial officer
- The financial secretary Cash Book (a computer program that records all financial transactions made by the local). The Cash Book training itself took nearly half the class time, as the Cash Book has over 30 different columns. Each column represents a different reason for the income or expense. Each time there is a deposit, or check made, it needs to be recorded in the proper column.
- Making monthly financial reports to the members. (Reports are made at monthly membership meetings.)
- How the Financial Secretary and Treasurer work together to assure the accuracy of the local finances.
- Writing checks and making sure all the proper deductions are coming out.

- Important dates (basically a calendar indicating when certain items need to be taken care of; taxes, etc.)
- The filing of monthly, quarterly, and annual reports, and taxes.
- Filling out vouchers for individual expenses, and getting the vouchers signed by the individual receiving the reimbursement, or pay.

After attending the class at U of I, you would think I would be able to come home and handle all the local financial issues. WRONG. While going to Champaign helped tremendously, there were a few things that didn't quite register right away. For example, items such as quarterly reports didn't register until I actually did them. I often found myself calling Don over from the President's office for help.

After four months on the job, I have become more comfortable with most issues, but still on any given Friday at the Union office you can hear me call out, "Hey, Don, come here a minute."

While the call outs to Don are less frequent, it's nice knowing he is here to help as year-end issues will be coming soon.

Since taking office, the local finances are good. We have maintained our balances, and all bills are being paid.

If you have any questions regarding our local finances, feel free to ask me or attend our monthly membership meetings and hear my report. I'm always open for questions after giving my report.

I would also like to thank our membership for giving me the opportunity to serve the local as Financial Secretary.

RETIREE OPEN ENROLLMENT MEETINGS

For all members who are eligible to receive Goodyear medical insurance coverage, there will be an informational meeting on December 1 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Union Office regarding open enrollment for 2016. Representatives from Freedom Blue and Goodyear Healthcare Trust will be here to answer questions. Please call the union office to make a reservation at 815-235-9713.

Calendar:

All meetings at the Union office unless otherwise indicated.

- Nov. 15 Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m.
- Nov. 26 & 27 Thanksgiving Holiday (Office closed)
- Dec. 1 Retiree Insurance Meetings
11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Dec. 8 Retirees Meeting 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8 Classified Unit 4:30 p.m. (Library)
- Dec. 9 Executive Board 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 14 Central Labor 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 24 & 25 Christmas Holiday (Office closed)
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve (Office closed)

UNITED STEELWORKERS
 LOCAL 745
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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