



May 1, 2014
Volume 19, Issue 2

The Rubber Ball

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dale Sandell

Hello Brothers and Sisters and Retirees and Friends and Family of Local 745. The rainy season of April is upon us but we all know this will bring the May flowers. Let's hope we get enough moisture to carry the farmer's crops for the year. We could use a bumper crop and some better prices for commodities to help the local farmers and their need for the tires we produce. We need an upturn in the market for the tires we make. Last week Titan had another cut back in their workforce that caused 26 more of our Union brothers and sisters to be put on layoff. It is always sad to sit in the layoff meetings and try to assure brothers that this down turn in the market is temporary and short lived but the reality is we do not know how long this may last.

Speaking of laid off members the ones that were let go last fall are running into their 6 month anniversary since working at the factory and are getting their notices that unemployment benefits are expiring. We need to add this list of members to our prayers and work on events to help them out. We have

been posting job fairs on our website and on our Facebook page and I know you are taking advantage of these but finding full time employment with decent wages and benefits is not easy.

Our new amalgamated unit from the Valspar Paint and Varnish plant in Rockford is moving forward nicely. Mark Trone has been working hard on getting this old Local 960 moved into a new amalgamated unit for Local 745. We have about 35 members in this unit. At present Mark is working with the former Staff Representative of this membership to organize a meeting with Valspar and a separate meeting with the membership. Before this amalgamation Mark did not service them as a staff rep but now that they are part of Local 745, he will have them also. This just slows down the orientation part of bringing them into our membership but Mark is working hard to make sure all goes smoothly and error free.

We have another event scheduled for our 50th Anniversary coming up very soon. Sunday May 18 we have been invited to join the Retirees in their annual

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5 Ways to Contact your Union

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.

picnic. This will be held at Jane Addams Community Center in Cedarville, IL at noon. Drinks and pork chop sandwiches will be served and attendees are being asked to bring a dish to pass. We would like those interested in attending to RSVP with Mary at the Union Office (815-235-9713) so that we have an idea how much food to prepare. Please plan on coming out and enjoying a great meal, some games and time spent reminiscing with our retirees. It should be a good time for all. One of the favorite things we did at the first quarterly event was to show old pictures from union activities. This seems to grab the attention of all. Everyone likes to try to find pictures of themselves or of friends when we were younger, skinnier and still had a full head of hair. Mary has been busy digitizing many more pictures for our enjoyment and they will be shown in a slide show presentation.

Last but not least I wanted to comment on the "Biggest Loser" competition that is going on at the factory right now. Congrats goes out to "Team Hof" for being in the lead after the first 5 weeks with over a 10% loss at this point. My team "3 and a Half Men" (yes they made us change our name) are all losing weight also, maybe not on the leader board yet but hopefully by the end we will be. The competition is having an effect though. Look around the plant at the employees and you can see a definite difference in many people trying to win the prizes. Keep up the great work, if your goal is to win the prize or just start to cut some excess weight, this should prove to be a healthy choice made by all.

REMINDER FOR GOODYEAR RETIREES
Special Medicare Benefit

When you become eligible for Medicare, for our insurance you need Part A and Part B. There is a cost for Part B and your Medicare premium will come out of your social security check. Goodyear Retiree Healthcare Trust will reimburse you \$50 a month per person on Medicare. Goodyear Retiree Healthcare Trust will do a direct deposit to your account once a

quarter instead of once a month. When you or a dependent gets your Medicare card, bring it to the office with a void check or savings account information and we will fill out a direct deposit form and fax it to Goodyear. If you have any questions, feel free to call Tony Balsamo at the Union office.

Calendar:	
May 13	Retirees Meeting 1:30 p.m.
May 14	Executive Board Meeting 3:30 p.m.
March 18	Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m. Picnic noon-4:30 p.m. Cedarville

SPRING CLEANING SAFETY
by Willie Kreeger

Spring is here and we're getting ready to clean up inside our homes and to work outside in our lawns and gardens. But all that lifting, climbing, trimming and other spring-cleaning activities heighten the risk for home injuries. There are over 10 million unintentional home injuries in the US per year that result in visits to hospital emergency rooms. These injuries result in over 20,000 deaths per year. Falls and poisonings cause over half of home deaths. Your safety at home is as important as your safety at work!

- **Walkways**
Keep stairs, steps, landings and floors clean of toys and clutter
Carry loads so that you can see over them and use the handrail.
- **Ladders**
If you need to climb, use a ladder (not a chair, table or box)
Place stepladders on level ground and open them completely, making sure all locks are engaged.
Before using a ladder outdoors, choose a location that is at least 10 feet away from all power lines. Coming in contact with live wires can be fatal.

Lawn and Garden Safety

Service lawnmowers and power tools every spring before using them. Make sure that they are in good repair. This includes having the blades sharpened and tightened on the mower. Make sure that all guards are in place.

Before mowing, walk the lawn and pick up sticks, stones, toys and other debris that could shoot out from the mower or damage the blade.

Don't let people stand or sit anywhere near where you are mowing. Be especially careful to keep small children away. Do not allow children to ride on lawn tractors/mowers.

Store gasoline only in approved containers. Refuel mowers outside when the engine is cool.



50TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC FOR RETIREES, MEMBERS AND SPOUSES

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, Local 745 and the SOAR Retirees invite you and your spouse to a potluck picnic at Jane Addams Community Center on Sunday, May 18, from noon to 4:30 p.m. Pork chop sandwiches and beverage will be provided and you are asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be Bingo and door prizes, too. Come spend the afternoon reminiscing with your fellow workers. Please sign up by calling 815-235-9713 by May 12.

SOAR Minutes
April 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Redington at 1:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited and the roll call of officers taken. All were present.

The treasurer's report was given.

Jerry read a letter from Freeport School District's transportation department. They are looking for bus drivers for the next school year.

The Welfare Committee met before this meeting and discussed the website.

Geri Hendren has been taking an info packet to the funerals she attends on what to do to collect the spouse's benefits.

Pre91 retirees have been receiving letters in regard to charges for their prescriptions.

The Retiree picnic is May 18 from noon to 4 p.m. Please RSVP by signing the list at the attendance podium or calling Mary Meier at 815 235 9713 before May 1.

The Local's anniversary committee is sponsoring quarterly get-togethers to celebrate our 50th anniversary. A motion was made and passed to invite the Local to our retirees' picnic. Since this will be an increase in attendees a motion was made to raise the allocation for the picnic from \$300 to \$500. Willie Kreeger will make pork chop sandwiches and beverages and provide the tableware. Attendees with the last name starting from A to N will bring a salad or vegetable and M to Z will bring a dessert. We will play bingo. Donations of prizes are needed.

Sandy Dyson will not be able to continue to set up the refreshments after the meetings. Delores will be in charge and requests help from others. Thanks Sandy for all you have done over the years.

Officer elections will be in the fall of 2014.

Joyce (John) Conner is in the hospital.

Larry Wittbecker passed away.

We adjourned at 2:15 p.m. A fellowship time followed.

MUSTANGS FINISH SECOND AT STATE

The Thurgood Marshall chess team, the Marshall Mustangs, won second place in the grade 7 division at the Illinois Elementary School Association Chess Tournament March 1 at Illinois State University.

Team members included Vincent Do, Sengdao Inthavong, Sreyansh Mamidi, Jack Sweet and Jeremiah Davis (son of Mike Davis). Jeremiah is a 5th grader competing with 7th graders. Congratulations Jeremiah!

May 1, 2014

UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 745
2496 E MAIZE RD
FREEPORT IL 61032

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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