



August 1, 2014
Volume 19, Issue 3

The Rubber Ball

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dale Sandell

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of Local 745

As usual, summer is flying by us this year. We've enjoyed comfortable temperatures so we are getting a little payback from the horrible winter we endured last year.

A couple exciting events have happened recently that I want to expand on. The first one would be about our celebrating the Local's 50th anniversary. We have had two quarterly events so far with two more planned. The next one will be on August 17 following the Union meeting. It again will be held here at the Union office. This is a potluck type of meal with the Union providing the entrée. The celebration starts at 11:00 a.m. with the meal to begin at 12:30 p.m. We will be playing cards before the meal and the all time favorite Bingo will follow the meal. We will have door prizes as well as gifts for the contestant winners. Bring yourself, bring your spouse, bring your kids and come out to enjoy the monumental celebration of this Local representing members for 50 years!

I want to give you an update about our newest amalgamated unit, the employees of Valspar from Rockford, IL. Kip and I met with the membership during

shift change recently and we immediately felt welcomed by this group. Although it is a smaller membership of about 37 members, they have been strong Union Brothers and Sisters for many years. This unit used to be USW Local 960L, but due to the reduced number of members they were then moved by the International union under the umbrella of Local 745. Recently I have appointed Kathy Olson as our interim Unit Chairperson. Kathy is filling a much needed role of being the top union representative inside the building. She is also my contact person from outside of the building. Recently she injured her knee and is off of work and Scott Anderson has been filling her role for Local 745. I attended the monthly joint safety meeting for the month of July. They have a very impressive lost time record going right now 400 days without a lost time accident. Congratulations to the membership and Valspar to this accomplishment. I will say that during my first meeting I was impressed with the detail that this group goes into for every near miss and how hard they work to eliminate the possibility of a similar event reoccurring. Their Collective Bargaining Agreement went into effect on January 26, 2013 but the members never received their copies. (Kip and I were made aware of this in our initial meeting with the membership.) Local 745 voted

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From the President

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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

School Unit: Cecelia Stacy
815-908-9814
Valspar Unit: Kathy Olson
815-670-9391

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.

at our July monthly meeting to print 8.5 x 11" copies in house and distribute them to the membership. We will also be holding Unit Union meetings on Sunday afternoons in Rockford following the Local's meetings here in Freeport.

Well the Biggest Loser competition here in Freeport is complete. I want to congratulate "Team Hof" for their win. This was a two person team made up of Dean and Carolyn Hofmaster. The biggest individual weight loser was Bob Keleher. Freeport lost more weight in our competition than both Bryan and Des Moines. Everyone should be very proud of the weight they lost. There are many long term health benefits to losing weight but also some immediate results also. Kevin Kirk reported that he has been off of insulin for over a month since his dramatic weight loss. Great job my friend! Now for some, as well as myself, the challenge will be to keep the weight off. How about a weigh in about two months after the end of the competition?

Lastly, Woody Davis and I attended a meeting in Peru, IL on July 22. This area of Illinois is booming with business and in particular USW organized sand mining operations. This meeting was about organizing opportunities within each Local's region. Mark Trone lead the meeting and it was also co-hosted by Sub-District Director Jose Gudino and District Organizing Coordinator Ted Sauter. The concept for the meeting was to start to formulate a plan on organizing at the Locals. The topic of training was brought up and it was agreed to start by getting all locals trained before moving forward. Three locations were set to hold the training with Ted Sauter traveling and providing the training. I am proud to announce that Local 745 was picked to have one of the three training seminars in our building. I believe that here at Local 745 we have a great facility and a very professional staff. To keep these we must grow. I pledge to work with Titan Tire, Freeport School District 145 and Valspar Paint and Varnish to help make them as competitive as possible but the bottom line is that I cannot make them grow. Growth is an upper management decision. So to grow the membership we must gain through organizing. Yes, I know the problems involved with organizational drives and that the success rate is not always what we would like, but I truly believe that this is the way for us to continue to represent members for another 50 years. That is my passion.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY 2014 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Dale Sandell called the meeting to order.

REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dale reported on the following topics;

- One NLRB charge still remains to be resolved. That is the complaint filed by a third shift steward who was talked about disparately by the plant manager at the "birthday" meeting on all three shifts.
- The 50th anniversary planning committee will meet Tuesday July 15th at the Union Hall. The next event will be held after the membership meeting August 17th at the office.
- Twenty 4th step meetings were held June 26th on all three shifts. More will be scheduled at the end of July. The G & NC has been called to meet with managers to discuss more layoffs that are supposed to begin the week of July 19th.
- The Classified staff G &NC met July 1st to review a grievance that was answered after school recessed for the summer; that grievance will be taken to the next step. They also began to plan the upcoming steward training in early August.
- Membership at Valspar have been amalgamated into Local 745L Unit 2. Dale and Kip went over to meet with members and management June 17th. While they were there they sat in on their safety committee meeting. They both commented on the way the management and union worked together.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

- The Valspar Unit ratified their agreement in June of 2013 and membership has yet to have individual copies of their agreement. The board has recommended that we allot the funds needed to produce copies of their contract in-house and distribute them to the members at Valspar. A motion was made, seconded and approved, without decent.
- There is a need for a mail drop, for the Unit at Valspar, which can be locked. The board has recommended purchasing a box that can be locked for use as a mail box. A motion was

made, seconded and approved to make the purchase.

- Our local has three votes to be carried to the USW Constitutional Convention. The board's decision not to send a representative this year still allows us to cast our votes. The board has recommended sending the votes to the convention with a representative from the Sub District. Membership approved this vote without dissent also.

THE NEXT GENERATION

Next Generation is a program to inspire and educate the young members of the United Steelworkers. Our retirees have paved the way and fought to make a difference. This is a chance for our younger members to get involved and to make a difference in our community. For more information, contact the Next Generation coordinator at usw.org/nextgen-coordinators or call (412) 562-4338.

TITAN LAYOFF INFORMATION

For our Titan Tire employees who are currently on layoff, and if you are collecting unemployment, you are responsible to report to the Union office once a month. You can either stop in to the office during business hours or call us at 815-235-9713.

Also wanted to let you know of job opportunities in the LaSalle/Peru area for skilled trades and production workers. The following companies are presently hiring:

Flint Hills Resources, www.fhr.com; LaSalle/Peru area, skilled trades positions

Illinois Cement Co LLC, www.eaglematerials.com; 1601 Rockwell Rd, LaSalle, 61301; phone 815-224-2112; skilled trades and production positions

Unimin Corp, www.unimin.com; 402 Mill St., Utica, 61373; phone 815-667-5102

US Silica, Ottawa, IL, rew31.ultipro.com/USS1000/JobBoard/listjobs.aspx, phone 800-243-7500

50 YEARS CELEBRATION PICNIC
Join us at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 17, at a picnic lunch and game day at the Union office. We will provide lasagna and plan to eat around 12:30 p.m. There will be card games, bingo and outdoor games, weather permitting.

SOAR RETIREE'S MINUTES

Jerry suggested we have Mayor of Freeport Jim Gitz speak to us in the future. Also with fall elections coming soon we may want to endorse some of the local candidates that have supported labor.

The 50th Anniversary Picnic was to be held at the fairgrounds but it has been suggested that instead it be held at the Union Hall with a potluck dinner on August 17th. The committee will be getting more information out.

The Retiree's picnic at Jane Addams Community Center was very successful.

Jerry says that Silver Scripts will probably remain with corrections to the problems. Freedom Blue was started last year as an insurance option. They do lots of surveys which are voluntary.

Geri Hendren passed a list of phone numbers around of those members who have paid their dues and attend the meetings. This list will become a phone tree to get out the word if a meeting needs to be cancelled.

John Hendren won the attendance prize for today's meeting. The raffle name was David Martin but since he was not here to collect the money, another \$5 will be added making next month's total \$60. You must be present to win this prize and all retirees' names are included whether a member of SOAR or not.

EXCERPTS FROM THE FIRST RUBBER BALL

From the October 1, 1975 issue of the "Rubber Ball" Bob Sladek submitted the name because "A ball has no sides and contains everything in it. I believe our Union newspaper will not take sides, will publish unbiased reports, and will contain everything in the way of local and international Union news."

Calendar:	
August 12	Retirees Meeting 1:30 p.m.
August 13	Executive Board Meeting 3:30 p.m.
August 17	Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m. 50th Celebration 11:00 a.m. meal at 12:30 p.m. at Union office
August 26	Workman Comp Attorney 1:15-3:45 p.m.

August 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