

# REPORTER

## Edwards Elected President Mesa, Wentz Elected to Strattec Bargaining Committee

by Ralph Schwieger

A general election was held in plant and at the Union office on March 5, 2010 for the positions of President and the two Strattec Bargaining Committee members. The result for President was 251 votes for Jesse Edwards and 99 votes for Milton Dawson. At Strattec there were four candidates running for the Bargaining Committee. The result was Joe Wentz had 74 votes, Aurelio Mesa 68 votes, Alan Belanger 64 votes and Bill Berdan 35 votes. Joe Wentz and Al Mesa are the two Bargaining Committee members at Strattec. Thanks to all who participated in this election. Due to the election of Jesse Edwards for President, an election was held at the March membership meeting for Grievance Representative. Dean Wegner, current Bargaining Committee member was nominated and was unopposed for the Grievance

Representative position. At the May membership meeting, an election will be held to fill the Bargaining Committee position vacated by Dean Wegner. You must have one year of seniority to run and must be a member from Briggs & Stratton.

I would like to thank the Election Committee consisting of Co-Chairs Vicky Gorecki and Yolanda Turner and Nancy Copeland and Dean Wegner for a job well done.

### Election Results

President - Jesse Edwards 251 Milt Dawson 99  
Strattec Bargaining Committee  
Joe Wentz 74, Al Mesa 68,  
Al Belanger 64, Bill Berdan 35

## May Membership Meeting

Sunday  
May 16, 2010  
9:30 a.m.

Frank Monreal's El Matador  
9155 W. Bluemound Rd.  
IMPORTANT BUSINESS

- Reports of Officers, Grievance Representatives and Committees
- Discussion and action on any other proper business for this meeting.
- Nomination and Election for Briggs Bargaining Committee

## NOTICE:

Nomination and Election will take place for the Briggs Bargaining Committee member during the May Membership Meeting which will be held at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. in Milwaukee on May 16th at 9:30 am

# Executive Board and Bargaining Committees



**Jesse Edwards**  
President



**Allen Evseichik**  
Vice President



**Ralph Schwieger**  
Fin Sec/ Treasurer



**Tameka Smith**  
Recording Sec



**Vicky Gorecki**  
Trustee at Large



**Nancy Copeland**  
Briggs Trustee



**Chuck Porter**  
Strattec Trustee



**Debbie Curro**  
Guide



**Stanley Quezaira**  
Sgt at Arms



**Dean Wegner**  
Briggs Gr Rep



**Lorenzo Payne**  
Briggs Barg Comm



**Milton Dawson**  
Strattec Gr Rep



**Joe Wentz**  
Strattec Barg Comm



**Al Mesa**  
Strattec Barg Comm



## ASK YOUR LAWYER

by Thomas Flanagan  
*Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, S.C.*

### 2010 WORKER'S COMPENSATION RATES

The maximum temporary total disability rate in 2010 is \$815 per week. Temporary total disability is paid while a worker is off from work and healing from an injury. It is two-thirds of his or her gross weekly wage. It is not taxable.

The maximum permanent partial disability rate in 2010 remains at \$282 per week until the new law goes into effect about April 1, 2010, at which time it goes to \$292 per week. Permanent partial disability is paid when the doctor has released the injured worker from active medical care and has set a percentage of disability. The amount of permanent partial disability one receives is dependent upon the part of the body that was injured and the percentage of disability given at that part of the body according to a statutory formula.

If you have questions about worker's compensation, personal injury or social security disability, feel free to call the Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman law firm at 414-271-4500 or toll free at 1-800-841-5232. See our website at [www.previant.com](http://www.previant.com). Listen to the "Previant Legal Line" on Saturdays at noon on WTMJ radio 620 AM.

## Local 2-232 Legal Clinic

Do you have legal questions or problems facing you or your family? Have you suffered a major personal injury? If you have, or if you have any other legal problem, Local 2-232 is providing free legal consultations with lawyers from the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman at the USW Local 2-232 Union Office on 8500 W. Capitol Dr.

- The legal clinic will not provide free representation, but will advise you on your best course of action and make the appropriate referrals to help resolve your legal problems.
- The Law Firm has many excellent attorneys, experienced in most kinds of legal problems.
- Members of Local 2-232 may also contact the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, S.C. for a free consultation regarding all personal injury matters. Please feel free to call the number of the office nearest you. Milwaukee 414/271-4500, Waukesha 262/549-6300. Identify yourself as a member or retiree of USW Local 2-232.

**Legal Clinic Hours:**  
**1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**  
**First Monday of each month**  
**Call for an appointment: 414-463-7425**

## 7 Shot and Killed During Peaceful March in Bay View

by Ralph Schwieger

That could have been a headline the day after the Bay View Tragedy on May 5, 1886. Accounts of that tragic day say 14,000 workers marched as part of a nationwide campaign for the 8 hour workday. Banners carried by these working people asked for 8 hours of work, 8 hours of rest and 8 hours for what we will. When the marchers were about 200 yards away from the Bay View Rolling Mills plant, the State Militia fired on them, killing seven. The fight for a justice on the job continues to this day!

At 3 p.m., Sunday, May 2nd, at the corner of E. Russell Ave. and S. Superior Street, (State Historical Marker Grounds) there will be a gathering to remember the sacrifices of the past. It will be the 124th Anniversary of the Bay View Massacre. Hundreds show up every year to remember and honor those who fought for a more humane workplace and a more just society. I hope you all can make it!!

Even with this slaughter, Labor was not intimidated and less than three weeks after the killing, marched 5 miles through the city, showing the powers that be that the fight would continue!

Milwaukee Historian, John Gurda wrote the book, *The Making of Milwaukee* and the book has been made into a documentary series by Milwaukee Public Television. Gurda does a masterful job of telling Milwaukee's Labor History and his book or the documentary, should be read or seen by all.

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." Author and Poet, Maya Angelou

In Solidarity,  
 Ralph Schwieger

## Godshaw Retires



Scott Godshaw receives his retirement plaque from the joint board at the membership meeting on March 21, 2010. Good luck to Scott.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** by Jesse Edwards

## “I would like to thank all the members...”

I would like to thank all those members that supported me during the election. I look forward to working with all the members of Local 2-232.

### Strattec

At Strattec a 3rd. stage grievance meeting was held on March 25th. The Bargaining Committee discussed four grievances with the company. Also at Strattec the company approached the union regarding working 12 hour shifts in department 54. The company stated they needed to work 7 days per week to meet their production schedule and our members didn't want to work the overtime. The Bargaining Committee met with our members in Dept. 54 and they told us they didn't have a problem working the overtime. The problems were training, cross training, over time posting and job preference. After meeting with our members, the committee then met with the company to resolve these issues. At this time, department 54 will continue working 8 hour shifts.

### Briggs

On February 22, 2010 the company started assembling the Home stand by generators at the Burleigh plant. These generators are assembled on first shift. They current have 32 people working and have a Req. in for and additional 20 people. If you are interested in these jobs you should put in a transfer request. Bringing in these jobs is good for the Milwaukee work force. We hope this trend continues. The union has the job description if you need to know what type of work is being performed.

### No Smoking

The State passed an amendment to its Clean Air Act that will go into effect July 5, 2010. This amendment will prohibit smoking in all government buildings, public places and enclosed places of employment. Briggs will be smoke free effective July 1, 2010..

### Coils

In the Coil department, the Orbital line has been shut down and a 3rd. shift was added to the Banner line. At this time all the Coils are being assembled on the Banner line. The reason given was the company wants to be more cost efficient.

### 5 S Program

The company has been doing the Lean Manufacturing 5 S program through out the plant and it seems to be going well.

### Worker's Comp

Worker's Comp claims are being denied because our members are not signing the voluntary

## Briggs Retiree Club

Hi Everyone

On Wednesday April 21, 2010 we will be having our pancake brunch for only \$5 at noon at the Schwaubenhof 14750 W. Silver Spring Dr. in Milwaukee. All of our events are at Schwaubenhof.

Our luncheon, business meeting and bingo will be held on Wednesday May 19, 2010.

On June 16th and July 21st, we will have our picnic and bingo starting at 10:30 a.m. There will be refreshments and door prizes and the cost is \$5.

There is a sheepshead tournament every Friday at the Schwabenhof. Play begins at 11a.m. Raffle tickets are sold at all events, 3 for \$1.00.

If you are aware of any members that are ill, please contact me Sherry Kent at 262-894-7775.

Remember you must be a paid up member to attend our functions. The cost is still only \$24 a year

Fraternally yours,

Sherry Kent, Corresponding Secretary  
Bob Johnson, President

## Join the Briggs Retiree Club

today for information call

**Erma Gorecki**  
**262-781-8951**

medical authorization release form. If you sign this form you are giving the company the right to review your entire medical records. The union's position is you should only have to share information that's related to your industrial injury. If your claim is denied, you have the right to file for a hearing.

### Retirees

When you retire you have medical insurance for 10 years or until age 65. However, when you become eligible for Medicare Part A or Part B you have to enroll. Medicare will become your primary insurance. If you don't sign up when you become eligible the cost of the plan may go up 10% and you will have to pay this penalty for as long as you have Medicare. Also, If you or your spouse start collecting social security disability after two years then you must sign up for Medicare part B.

In Solidarity,  
President Jesse Edwards

## Membership Meeting Recap

by Allen Evseichik

The membership meeting was held on Sunday, March 21, 2010. The meeting started at 9:30 a.m. and was held at Frank Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Road in Milwaukee.

A motion was made and passed unanimously under application for membership for one new employee who was accepted as a new member of our Local 2-232 United Steel Workers.

Chuck Porter read the Trustee's report. Vicky Gorecki gave the Secretary/Treasurers report for the months of December and January.

### Communications

A thank you card has been received from families of members who have passed away and the local had sent flowers. A thank you card was received from Dolores Higgins to thank the Executive Board and Grievance Committee. A thank you card was received from Dennis Nowak in appreciation of the recognition and well wishes upon his retirement. A thank you note was sent from American Income Life for offering an insurance program for our membership. The Executive Board recommended motions that passed:

- We will be sending two people to the United Steel Workers District 2 Spring Conference in Appleton, WI on April 8th through April 11th.

- Fifty dollars was donated to the National Labor Committee, a strong partner for our union in the fight for global justice for workers.

- The resolution for the passage of clean energy legislation. Our Local will be willing to participate.

### Reports

Jesse Edwards talked about winning the election. He thanked all of the people who voted for him and all of the people who participated. He stated it was brought to our attention that at age 65 each individual is responsible and expected to sign up for Medicare coverage. There was a problem with worker comp at Briggs. If you have any problems, please contact your grievance rep. or call the union office. The 5/S program in the coil department has been started. This is for cleaning and organizing. He talked about the new generator line and soon people will be added to run this line. If interested, put in a transfer.

Milton Dawson reported that he has 4 grievances that he is taking to 3rd Stage. Department 54 needs more people to work overtime.

Dean Wegner reported that there are 3 openings for set-up men. These jobs are not posted in the shop. If anyone is interested please see Dean. The

## LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

April 2010

Volume 31, Issue #2

LOCAL 2-232 UNITED STEEL, PAPER AND FORESTRY, RUBBER, MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

Representing employees of Briggs & Stratton Corp. and Strattec Security Corp.

Office 8500 W. Capitol Dr.

Phone 414-463-7425 Fax 414-463-7638

e-mail -office@pace7232.org

Website- www.pace7232.org

Hours 7:00a.m.- 4:00p.m.

Monday through Friday

The information contained herein is of informal nature and is not intended to be final and authoritative.

Editors: Jesse Edwards, Ralph Schwieger

Officers: President: Jesse Edwards Vice President:

Al Evseichik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph

Schwieger Recording Secretary: Tameka Smith

Trustees: Chuck Porter, Vicky Gorecki, Nancy

Copeland Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at

Arms: Stanley Quezaire

Briggs Bargaining Committee:: Jesse Edwards,

Tameka Smith, Dean Wegner, Lorenzo Payne

Strattec Bargaining Committee: Jesse Edwards,

Milton Dawson, Joe Wentz, Al Mesa

5/S program is almost complete in Dean's department and everything looks great. Dean reported that the managers at Briggs were asked to hire for all open jobs. Dean closed by thanking Scott Godshaw for all of his dedication and hard work. He wished him Good Luck in his retirement!!

International Rep Ernie Dex reported on the importance of the resolution for the passage of the clean energy legislation. This is one of the most important job-creating tools in our country. This legislation would enable new technologies to be developed and would bring new jobs to areas hit hard by the recent down turn in our economy.

Jesse Edwards took nominations for Briggs grievance rep. Dean Wegner was nominated and accepted the nomination and was unopposed. He is the new grievance rep and is filling the position left by Jesse Edwards.

Motion was made and passed for the next membership meeting to be held at Frank Monreal's El Matador on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Recap Minutes prepared by  
Vice-President Allen Evseichik

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9- Mother's Day



May 16 - Membership Meeting

May 31- Memorial Day



June 14- Flag Day



June 20 - Father's Day



July 4 - Independence Day



## USW USW NEWS

### What health insurance reform means for USW members, retirees right now

President Obama has signed historic health insurance reform legislation, a major bill that will help most Americans have health care.

We've put together a fact sheet to help lay out the facts and explain the immediate and longer-term impact. We'll pass along more information as soon as we get it.

Many members are reporting that employers or insurance companies are threatening workers with rate hikes, plan changes and other things because of reform. **DON'T LET THEM BULLY YOU.** Arm yourself with the facts and stay in touch with your union.

Here are some highlights of what reform means right now for union-negotiated plans and VEBAs:

- You will NOT lose your union-negotiated private health insurance plans because of reform. Nothing in this bill changes our right to collectively bargain health plans and employers cannot drop existing plans because of reform.
- Current collectively bargained plans are grandfathered, meaning much of the new law does not apply to those plans until after they expire.
- We will NOT let employers or insurance companies use reform as an excuse to bully us into unnecessarily expensive premium hikes. Don't let them threaten or intimidate and keep our members informed to combat this.
- NO high-cost benefits will be taxed under provisions in the Senate reconciliation or "fixes" bill until at least 2018, and the impact of the tax on insurers should be lessened through a variety of changes and exemptions. That bill is expected to be passed by this weekend.

## Membership Information

April 2010

**578 Members in Good Standing**

**382 in Briggs & Stratton Unit**

**196 in Strattec Unit**

**April Dues Payments**

**363 Dues Paying Members at Briggs**

**184 Dues Paying members at Strattec**

**547 Total Dues Paying Members**

**(Difference reflects members off work for lay-off, illness or other reasons)**

# Grievance Rep Reports

## Strattec Security

by Milt Dawson

First, let me lead off by congratulating Jesse Edwards as the newly Elected President of Local 2-232, I support his efforts, as he leads us into the future.

### Grievances

We have four grievances set for stage three as of this writing. The first grievance concerns a company person doing bargaining unit work over in Department 55. The second grievance involves the company turning a union job into a company job, but yet the job consists of the same duties as before, which is now being done by the company person. The union never agreed to this. The third grievance pertains to job preference as it applies to skilled trades weekend overtime. The fourth grievance involves the surcharge that is leveled on eligible workers that want to change their elections as it pertains to pre-retirement survivorship options on or after July 1, 2008. The union has a disagreement with that as to when a surcharge is leveled. As of this report, the date the third stage grievance meeting is set for March 25th.

### Hours of work

The company approached the union about going to 12 hour shifts in Department 54, Key milling, consisting of 4 consecutive 12 hour days. Contractually, this would have to be mutually agreed upon. The company advised the union that due to an increase in production in key milling, that the only way they can get full coverage was to go to the 12 hour shifts. Stay tuned.

IN SOLIDARITY,  
Milton Dawson

## Briggs & Stratton

by Dean Wegner

### New President

I will support Jesse Edwards as President. He will do a good job and will be a great leader.

### New Smoking and Tobacco Use Policy

Effective July 1, 2010 Briggs & Stratton Corp. will make all its Wisconsin Facilities Smoke/ Tobacco Free. That means all of Briggs & Stratton, including the parking lot. This is a State of Wisconsin Passed Amendment and Clean Air Act. The company will sponsor a wellness program. Any employee who completes the smoking cessation classes offered at our on-site clinic by 12/31/10 will be reimbursed the full cost of the program. You can contact Michelle Lang at 414-774-4629 to register.

### Safety Glasses

Please keep your safety glasses on at all times. It's for your own safety. This is a zero tolerance policy. I don't want to see members getting written up for not having them on.

### Elected Grievance Rep

I was Elected Grievance Rep. If you need any help or support talk to your steward. He will contact me if he needs help. To contact me my pager is 414-669-6332. In shop 9-669-6332.

### The Stand By Generator

The new work is up and running. The line is running on 1st. shift. They have two more sub lines to install the area is looking real good.

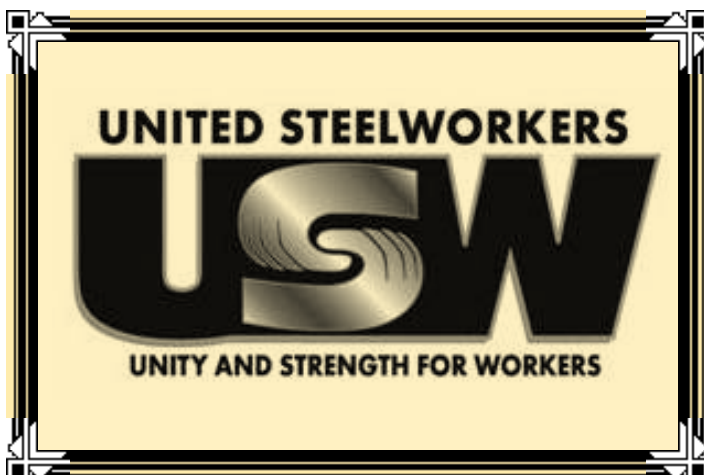
SS

All of the departments are looking very good. I would like to thank all the members who are helping to get to that level of clean and lean.

### Shut Down

The company posted that all departments may be working during shut down.

In Solidarity,  
Dean Wegner



# Wellness Corner “You can’t live without it”

## What is Wellness?

### What is Wellness?

Wellness is a choice... a decision you make to move toward optimal health.

- Wellness is a way of life... a lifestyle you design to achieve your highest potential for well-being.
- Wellness is a process... a developing awareness that there is no end point, but that health and happiness are possible in each moment, here and now.
- Wellness is the integration of the body, mind and spirit... the appreciation that everything you do, and think, and feel, and believe has an impact on your state of health.
- Wellness is the loving acceptance of yourself.
- Wellness is a state of being which is different for each individual. Wellness is achieved as each person reaches a healthy balance of a combination of things, including ones physical, emotional, spiritual, vocational, intellectual, social and environmental health.

It will look different for each individual as they work to achieve the highest level of wellness that is possible for them in each of these areas. For example, someone could be a marathon runner and have great physical health, yet because they spend so much time training, their relationships are out of balance or perhaps they have no time to grow themselves intellectually. This person may not be totally well.

How can you achieve your highest state of wellness? It is by learning about each of the components of wellness, and growing your personal capabilities and strengths in each of the components to create the balance that is most beneficial to you at this time in your life.

### Seven Components of Wellness

- Emotional wellness – Accepting and manage your feelings, including your ability to understand your limitations, navigate through stressful situations and maintain healthy relationships with others
- Environmental wellness – Having places to live and work that are safe for you both emotionally and physically
- Intellectual wellness – Participating in creative, stimulating, growth-oriented activities. It involves learning new skills, and sharing that knowledge and skills with others
- Occupational wellness – Finding rewarding work, where you can use your special skills and tal-

ents to make a positive contribution

- Physical wellness – Managing your physical health on a daily basis
- Social wellness – Contributing to ones environment and community. It emphasizes the interdependence between others and nature
- Spiritual wellness – Finding meaning and purpose in life, and defining a value system to operate within

### Health is the whole... body, mind and soul

You count grams of fat and fiber, eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, drink green tea, and jog four times a week. But you spend most of your time at a high stress job, have few close relationships, and feel that your life lacks meaning. The good things that you do for your body may help increase your resistance to stress and illness, but they only reflect part of a much larger picture.

Health is more than having a body that works properly. It includes physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, and even occupational/vocational dimensions. When these dimensions are working in harmony, they contribute to a sense of well-being and satisfaction. Doctors Donald Tubesing and Nancy Loving Tubesing are pioneers in the field of wellness. In their book, *Seeking Your Healthy Balance*, they explain that health involves all of you—your mind and emotions, your connections with other people, your sense of hope, your satisfaction with work, as well as your body.

## Healthy Corner

Here are some important numbers for Briggs employees regarding your health:  
**Health-Link -Access to immediate, confidential, healthcare expertise.**

**1 -888-228-7672**

**Patient Care-Helping you through the healthcare maze.**

**1-877-344-7474**

Here is an important number for Strattec employees regarding your health:

**United Health Care**

**Health care problems or questions, call toll-free 1-1-866-827-9025**