

REP RTER

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APRIL 2004

Godshaw, Winklbauer and Curro re-elected; Schmidt elected new Vice President

On Friday, March 5, 2004, President Scott Godshaw, Financial-Secretary/Treasurer Ross Winklbauer and Guide Debbie Curro were all re-elected to their respective executive board positions. Fred Schmidt, steward from department 735, was elected to his first term as the new Vice President. Former Vice President John Nalepinski chose not to seek re-election, thus creating the opening.

Scott Godshaw defeated Richard Clark 499 votes to 237 votes. Godshaw will be serving his first full term as President. Originally he was elected to fulfill the remainder of Greg Gorecki's term due to Gorecki's retirement on May 1, 2003.

Ross Winklbauer defeated Tom Klema 473 votes to 246 votes. Winklbauer will also be serving his

first full term as Financial-Secretary/Treasurer. He was elected to fulfill the remainder of Joe Chambers' term due to Chambers' retirement on July 1, 2003.

Debbie Curro defeated Al Evseichik 510 votes to 218 votes. Curro will also be serving her first full term. She was elected as Guide when Greg Weber chose to run for Winklbauer's open Trustee position. This happened due to Winklbauer winning the Financial-Secretary/ Treasurer position at the August membership meeting.

Fred Schmidt defeated Tom Hogan 391 votes to 321 votes, thus becoming the Vice President and the only new member of the Executive Board.

These positions on the Executive Board are all two year terms.

Labor Issues- Democrat or Republican? You be the judge

by Ross Winklbauer

Ask yourself this question, "Who represents hard-working families better, Republicans or Democrats?"

Every issue from now until the November election, we will print a comparison of the candidates view on labor issues and the effect they have on our hard-working members.

The following is being re-printed from the 2004 Congressional Report Card on Labor Issues, by Representative George Miller, Senior Democrat from the Education and the Workforce Committee.

The Bush Administration's Failed Economic Policies Have Brought Misery to Millions of Hard-Working Families

The economic policies of the Bush Administration continue to be disastrous for hard-working families. Since President Bush took office, we've lost 2.3

million jobs -- the worst record on job creation since the Great Depression.

Despite repeated promises that multi-trillion dollar tax cuts would bring economic prosperity, the Bush Administration's economic policies have resulted in a staggering 1.8 million fewer new job than predicted. And now, President Bush and Treasury Secretary Snow are admitting that their own Administration's that 2.6 million jobs will be created this year, are wrong.

Real household wages have fallen two out of three years of the Bush Administration.

There have been double digit increases in health care costs, sending employees reeling from hikes in health insurance co-pays, premiums and deductibles. Retirement security has been threatened as private pension plans have been permitted to run up a \$400

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Executive Board



President
Scott Godshaw



Vice President
Fred Schmidt



Financial-Sec/Treasurer
Ross Winklbauer



Recording Secretary
Tom Bishanell



Strattec Trustee
Ralph Schwieger



Briggs Trustee
Greg Weber



Trustee at Large
Vicky Black



Guide
Debbie Curro



Sergeant at Arms
Dennis Clark

LOCAL 7-232 REPORTER

April 2004 Volume 25, Issue #4
**LOCAL 7-232 PAPER, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL,
CHEMICAL AND ENERGY WORKERS INTERNA-
TIONAL UNION**

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

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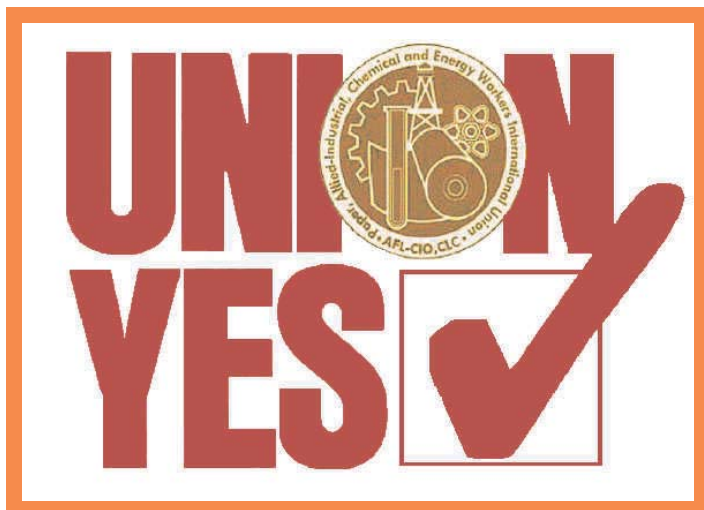
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Hours 7:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Monday through Friday

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

Editors: Scott Godshaw, Ross Winklbauer, Al Olivares
Officers: President: Scott Godshaw Vice President: Fred Schmidt, Secretary-Treasurer: Ross Winklbauer Sr. Recording Secretary: Tom Bishanell, Trustees: Greg Weber, Ralph Schwieger, Vicky Black, Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Dennis Clark.

Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Mike Merrill, Barb Schuller, Jesse Edwards, Tom Bishanell
Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Karl Schneider, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares



ASK YOUR LAWYER

by Thomas Flanagan

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

Get Doctor Referrals in Writing

There can be a limit on what a worker's compensation carrier has to pay for medical bills. If your injury is conceded as work-related or if you win at a hearing, the comp carrier has to pay certain bills. Those bills are your treating doctor's care and any referrals from your treating doctor to other doctors. Also, upon notice to the comp carrier, you can have a totally separate second opinion doctor whose bills the comp carrier may be responsible for paying, along with any referrals from the second opinion doctor.

The problem arises where someone goes to a third doctor and the worker's compensation carrier raises a defense on payment of those particular bills, because under the law they are only responsible for the first two scenarios mentioned above.

A potential problem arises when it is not clear where in the chain a particular doctor comes up (as an initial treating doctor, a referral from a treating doctor, a second opinion or a third opinion, etc.). This situation can be clarified and remedied very easily by making sure that you ask whatever doctor you are seeing to clearly state in his records the referral to the next doctor. When you see the next doctor, ask that doctor to make clear in his records that you are coming from another doctor. This way it can be easily determined that there is a referral chain and that the comp carrier is responsible for all the doctor bills (as long as it is the original treating chain or the second opinion chain).

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, S.C. law firm at 414-271-4500 (Milwaukee) or 262-789-5000 (Brookfield) or 800-841-5232 (statewide toll free).

Thanks to Election Committee

Al Belanger and myself would like to thank the Election Committee who worked on the Elections this February and March. We worked very well together. This is a very good hard working crew. So our thanks go out to Dave Bauer, Vicky Black, John Langford III, Debra Lokker, Ruth Merrill, Linda Stein, Jan Trott and Debra Washington. Our hats go off to all of you.

Thank You,
Greg Weber

Co-Chairperson Election Committee for Local 7-232

Membership Information February 2004

1637 Members in Good Standing
1261 in Briggs & Stratton Unit
376 in Strattec Unit

February Dues Payments

1060 Dues Paying Members at Briggs
351 Dues Paying members at Strattec
1411 Total Dues Paying Members
(Difference reflects members off work
for lay-off, illness or other reasons)

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billion dollar deficit.

Mismanagement of the federal budget has turned hard-won budget surpluses into skyrocketing federal deficits (\$530 billion). The Bush Administration's policies have turned a projected 10-year, \$5.6 trillion budget surplus, into a \$3.0 trillion dollar deficit.

The Administration's trade and wage policies continue to undermine the economy.

We continue to lose higher paying jobs in manufacturing (down 2.8 million since 2001) and professional services, while new jobs are mostly in low-wage, service providing areas. Rather than trying to stem job losses across this nation, the President's Economic Report endorsed the outsourcing of millions of high paying jobs as, "a new way of doing international trade" that "makes sense... (if) produced at a lower cost overseas."

Unable to stop the hemorrhaging of American manufacturing jobs, the Bush Administration is offering some job creation sleight-of hand: change the definition of what constitutes a manufacturing job. Its 2004 Economic to Congress contends that jobs such as "flipping hamburgers" can be characterized as "manufacturing."

The Bush Administration has abandoned the nation's most vulnerable workers, low wage workers and the unemployed. Its opposition to a modest increase in the minimum wage -- unchanged for 7 years -- means that it will soon be at its lowest value in 50 years.

The first two months of 2004, a record number of individuals exhausted their state unemployment benefits and were unable to find work. Over 2 million will exhaust their state benefits in the next 6 months. Despite this staggering number of exhaustions, the Bush Administration and its Republican allies refuse to extend federal unemployment benefits.

Membership Meeting Recap

by Tom Bishanell

The membership meeting was held on March 21, 2004 at Frank Monreal's El Matador at 9:30 a.m. President Scott Godshaw presided over the meeting. Scott introduced Tom Barrett, who opened the meeting by addressing membership on his goals for Milwaukee if elected mayor on April 6th.

Ralph Schwieger gave the Trustee's report for February. Greg Weber gave the Financial Secretary-Treasurer's Report. Weber stated we had 1,439 dues paying members in February.

Communications

The Waukesha County Labor Council is awarding \$450 and \$200 scholarships for use in accredited schools. The eligibility requirements are now available.

The Executive Board recommended the following motions that were passed:

Send \$50.00 to the Milwaukee County Labor Council to offset the cost of the phone banks for Tom Barrett's mayoral campaign.

Send President Scott Godshaw to the School for Workers two day program on Bargaining Health Care for the single registration fee of \$300.

Reports of Officers

Scott Godshaw started the president's report by giving the election results and congratulating the winners and those that chose to participate.

At Strattec a third stage grievance meeting was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2004. In one grievance which dealt with a posting regarding toolmakers, the company alluded to the fact that China is an option for making new tools for cost savings. Strattec's chief steward resigned and Al Evseichek has been appointed until an election is held.

Scott read a letter that he sent to John Sheily concerning the cancellation of the EX engine for Milwaukee and the die cast study for Auburn. It stressed membership's desire to be part of the future for Briggs & Stratton. Scott was still waiting for a response from the company.

At Menomonee Falls, a mid contract change was attempted regarding vacation that members did not pass. The Union also had a separate contract change pass enabling the DC3's to get a guaranteed week of vacation during the time period between Memorial Day and Labor Day inclusive.

As far as the Service Division making the move over to the Burleigh Plant, no final decision has been reached. With the pending sale of the South Building, changes in parking and the south locker room will occur. The company will be getting the information out to each member as it becomes available.

The time study analyst and the president have gone back on the shop floor on a part-time basis. Godshaw mentioned the difficulties this presents but in order to save money, this would continue.

A WARN notice was sent with the total number of

jobs lost at 44. This reduction is scheduled to occur April 23rd. There also will be some combining of departments with the company yet to determine the exact details.

The Bargaining Committee and Briggs will be meeting Tuesday, March 23rd for third stage grievances.

Jesse Edwards reported that in M3 the Model 9 machining is adding a third shift to build a bank because it is scheduled to be eliminated in November.

Karl reported that at Strattec things remain slow. It is still early, but the company does not expect to have a shutdown. Due to July 4th landing on Sunday, the holiday will be observed on Monday, July 5th.

In Department 64, the postal work will drop from 1000 per shift to 100 per week. Karl praised the union members who satisfied the customer needs, knowing the jobs would be eventually lost. Strattec will be posting a voluntary layoff before reducing six to eight Tech IV's.

Karl also stated that the Union has been meeting with the company on training issues. Some senior members were reluctant to train being so close to their retirement. The company has finally started to buy into this.

A moment of silence was observed by all in attendance for the passing of Larry Rosenthal.

The next meeting will be held Sunday April 18th at Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Road at 9:30 a.m.

Local 7-232 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 7232 is providing free legal consultations with lawyers from the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman at the Local 7232 Union Office.

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 Previant Law Firm has many excellent attorneys, experienced in most kinds of legal problems.

Members of Local 7232 may also contact the law firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, 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 Local 7232.

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

Strattec Corner

by Bigg Al Olivares

Hello once again, brothers and sisters of Local 7-232. It is probably no surprise, but unfortunately, the relationship between the company management and the Union's Bargaining Committee are continuing to get worse as issues arise. Grievances are piling up and as each day passes, we attempt to resolve, but to no avail.

In recent meetings with the company, they informed us of a 9% drop in orders in the die cast area. This drop of course is not the doing of management, but is driven by customer demands, or lack thereof. Basically, the automotive industry move toward fewer locksets on their vehicles and the slump in sales are really what is driving the slow period at Strattec de Milwaukee. They also informed us of how they are aggressively pursuing new business. They are running into some road blocks. It appears that in the bidding process, the customer is informing us that our cost for tooling is just too high, and that Strattec needs to have a more competitive cost in this aspect of the bidding process. In reaction to this, the company informed us that they are looking at China for manufacturing cheaper tooling.

Now, as it currently stands, Strattec de Milwaukee has nothing being sourced to Communist China for the North American market. I know that some of you are saying that Strattec is already in Communist China and you are partially right. Their business there is currently a joint venture that supplies product solely for the Asian market. In other words, Strattec does not currently manufacture anything in Communist China and ship it back to the United States. Management is aggressively looking into it, but as they told us in a meeting, they are also looking for ways to keep the tooling work here in Strattec de Milwaukee.

Of course, me personally, I took that statement at face value. As management told us, if after everything is said and done, if it comes out that Communist China can do it cheaper, (the Chinese companies do it cheaper because they can fabricate shoddy dies and then exploit their workers by paying them pennies to secondary op the hell out of parts; i.e. trim & broach.) Strattec will outsource the tooling work.

Of course the sad news continues, the contract that Strattec received from the United States Post Office to retro-fit its fleet with seven tumbler locksets from the original five is nearing completion. We, the

Union, were aware that someday it would run out, but unfortunately, without the numbers that were driven by this contract and the return to a much lower norm, members will be affected once the contract runs its course in approximately the first week in May. The extent of the job loss is unsure at this point.

I would like to speak, or write, if you will, to a rumor that Department 64 Assembly will be going down to a single shift operation. When the committee addressed that issue, the company replied that there was no truth to that rumor. Of course, with that being said, as we all know, management could change their minds tomorrow.

Finally, the management told us awhile back that we were going to have a traditional relationship. What exactly that means, is well beyond my personal groups of explanation. We, as a committee, we will do our best to keep the lines of communication open as issues arise. We won't give up.

Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO Community Services 15th Annual "Health & Hygiene" Drive

Help strengthen our families and communities by donating items to shelters so people can keep their dignity and self-esteem intact.

You can bring your items to the next membership meeting at Frank Monreal's El Matador on Sunday April 18, 2004.

Suggested items include:

- Tooth brushes & toothpaste
- spray deodorant
- lip balm
- baby products
- feminine & paper products
- laundry supplies
- non-alcoholic mouthwash
- razors & shaving cream
- combs & brushes
- hair care products
- first aid supplies

Financial donations are also welcome.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Scott Godshaw

“Thank you for your continued support.”

First of all, I would like to thank you for your continued support by re-electing me. I, as President, along with the Executive Board and the Bargaining Committees, will persevere during these tough times and continue to fight the good fight.

As most of you know, Tom Bishanell, our Union Time Study Analyst and myself are back working in the shop on a part time basis. I will admit it is an extreme adjustment attempting to work a few days in the shop and focusing on the job at hand as President. I will serve this membership to the best of my ability whether full or part-time and do what I have to do.

Strattec

At Strattec, we had a third stage on March 16th and continued on Wednesday March 24th. We have still yet to conclude this third stage as we are now awaiting dates to complete the seven grievances. In one grievance, which dealt with a posting regarding tool makers, the company alluded to the fact that China is an option for making new tools for a cost saving measure because a lot of their competitors are now having new tools built in China.

Also at Strattec, the Chief Steward resigned and Al Evseichik has been appointed as the chief steward until an election can be held.

Briggs

At Briggs, I had reported that I was going to write a letter to CEO John Shiely and copy the other top brass, regarding the disappointment of the EX engine not coming here. I did that. I stated the extraordinary qualities this membership possesses and why it is in the best interest to all concerned to bring the EX and other work here to Milwaukee.

Service Division

At the service division at Menomonee Falls, we attempted to do a mid contract change regarding vacation, however, the change did not pass as it did not receive the required 67% vote of the members involved. We did, however, have a separate vote for the DC3s, the former warehouse attendants. This vote for the mid-contract change passed handily to enable the DC3s to get a guaranteed week off during the time period between Memorial Day and Labor Day inclusive. As far as Service coming over to Burleigh, it is still up in the air, no final decisions have been reached. The Falls management group still feels Service is coming to Burleigh. We will have to wait and see.

Burleigh

Also at Burleigh, with the pending sale of the south building, we will begin to see some changes as

far as parking and the locker room on the south end. I met with Mae Killebrew and she will be getting the information out to each member as soon as it is available. In the mens' and womens' South locker room, everything must be cleaned out of your lockers by April 8th, prior to the Good Friday holiday. We will be addressing the locker situation with management.

We did receive a WARN notice that will occur approximately April 23, 2004. Department 238 will lose 12 jobs, department 243 will lose 12 jobs, department 716 will lose 11 jobs, department 743 will lose 1 job; department 760 will lose 1 job; department 765 will lose 3 jobs; department 772 will lose 2 jobs and department 780 will lose 2 jobs. The total is 44 jobs. There is going to be combining of departments but we have not sat down with the company as yet to determine exact details but we will be doing that soon.

Third Stage

We had a third stage grievance meeting on Tuesday March 23 at Briggs where five grievances were heard.

Deepest Condolences

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Larry Rosenthal, who passed away in the shop on Friday March 19, 2004. The Bargaining Committee will be meeting with the company to resolve any issues regarding this unfortunate situation.

Department 280 Party

Our 'Department 280' party is coming up again at the end of June. (June 23, 2004) It will be at Alioto's. (Hwy. 100 and Burleigh)

Anyone retiring that worked in Department 280, please call Ray Mueller (262-628-3312) or Dorothy Konkol (414-541-7424) or Judy E. (262-538-4224) by May 1st. We have to know by then so we can send you an invitation.

You must be a Department 280 retiree.

*See you then,
Dorothy Konkol*

Grievance Rep Reports

Strattec Security

by Karl Schneider

Production

The last quarter of the fiscal year is fast approaching. The company expects orders to be down 9% from the current build schedule. This creates an excellent opportunity to do some training.

Shutdown

The company has informed me that they do not intend to have a shutdown in July. They have until April 15th to notify which departments are working. The deadline for vacation requests for fiscal 2005 is BEFORE April 30. If you turn in your new vacation requests ON the 30th, it will be considered in the 2nd round of vacation. This is found in ARTICLE VII Section 4 (page 24) of the contract.

Dept. 64

The postal retro fit work that was being done in CC4 is expected to be completed by mid-May. This means the orders will drop from 2000 a week to 100 a week. I want to thank the people in the cell that worked so hard to meet the customer demands knowing full well the work would run out when the retro fit was completed. You made the best of a bad situation. You should be proud of yourselves I know I am proud of you! When the orders drop to 100 per week the Company plans to reduce 6-8 labor grade 18 Tech. IV. The Company must post for a voluntary layoff first before they can lay anyone off.

Training

For quite some time the Bargaining Committee has been meeting with the Company on training issues. This particular problem came up after the Company bumped out more senior tool makers. They did this because the less senior toolmakers got trained in newer technology. Grievances were filed and a battle on seniority ensued. The Company then took the position it would train by seniority. Some of our senior members where/are reluctant to be trained. Their feelings are why train me for months and months after which I will retire and never use the training. The time would be better spent training the less senior member who cannot retire at this time. Well after about a year of this the Company has bought into this philosophy. This is what they came up with in a job classification that requires more than one month of training: the Company will ask the senior person if they want to cross train or pass. If the senior person passes, they give up job preference and overtime. Also if they do not retire before the end of the contract they will be the next one to train no questions asked.

Audit

The Entela audit was held in the plant recently there were four minors in the 3-day audit. As usual Neil

Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

Safety/Diecast

There was an accident in Die cast on March 2, 2004. At around 4:30p.m. or 5:00p.m. the setup man and the supervisor were changing the rear half of the die. Just as the die cleared, the machine fell to the floor. Someone could have been injury seriously. The die weight is 6800 pound. They used a six ton 12,000 pound hoist to lift the die. After the die fell to the floor NO one was hurt and the safety department was called to investigate. The electric hoist was also locked out. Reminder: Always work safe and follow the safety procedure.

Dept. M3Y

Department M3Y Model 9 cylinder machining started up a 3rd. shift on March 28, 2004. The reason given was to build a bank so they can shut it down in November. At that time the department is scheduled to be eliminated.

Working shutdown

If your department is working the second week of shut down, the company has to advise you by April 1st. Normally they will post it in your department by April 1st. As you know the first. week of vacation is guaranteed except departments 472, 700 and 105. I know it's early, but the vacation year starts Friday before the 4th of July. This year the vacation shutdown starts July 2, 2004.

Recall Rights

Members who made a group change by February 27, 2004 will be bumped in within 6 weeks after April 1st. Also, if you are laid-off more than 6 weeks you should check with the union to find out if you are violated. I just recently had a case where a member was laid-off for 6 months and a least senior member was working. A grievance was written and the member was made completely whole.

In Solidarity
Jesse Edwards

told me what a great job, everyone did out on the floor. He is always impressed by our members.

China

As the company starts to test the waters for Asian tooling, the Union has scheduled meetings with management to get an understanding of the costs associated with a new tool build. We will share any information with the insource/outsource committee.

This direction is being driven by the customer as they say the company's tooling costs are not competitive when bidding on new work.

In Solidarity,
Karl Schneider

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9- Good Friday
Holiday

April 11- Easter Sunday

April 18- Membership
Meeting

May 9- Mother's Day

May 16- Membership Meeting

May 31 - Memorial
Day

June 14- Flag Day



June 20- Father's Day



Briggs Retiree Club

With spring here, let us look forward to some warm weather and summer – again.

Our coming events include our last bingo until October on April 14th, and on April 21st we will have our pancake brunch; doors open at 10:00 a.m., brunch at 11:00 a.m. Call Dolores Higgins, our vice-president, at 873-7121 if you will attend. Our special activities and door prizes will follow. Please bring your birthday or anniversary treats if either falls in April or May. Sheepshead card playing will be on Tuesday, 12 noon, no cash prizes for the summer months.

All our events are at the Post 449, at 3245 N. 124th St. You must be a paid up member to attend any of our events.

May and June are our picnic months. A decision on what we will have will be decided at our coming meeting. Please try and attend all our doings.

We thank Briggs and Stratton for all their help in keeping our Briggs Retiree Club going and also to our PACE Local 7-232 for putting our monthly doings in the Reporter.

Our get-well wishes to Ruth Hren, Merna Nearing, Louis Berinski, Virginia Lukarage, Katherine Holtz, Eleanor Kryscio, and Katherine Dramitsch. Our sympathy to the family of Marie Musil who passed away.

Hope to see you all at our coming events.

We, the Committee, wish you all the joy and love that the coming Easter.

Take care and God bless.

Frances P. Capello

Corresponding Secretary

262-251-7514

Recall Dates-Briggs

(As of March 19, 2004)

Heavy machine operators. None on layoff at this time

Light machine operators. None on layoff at this time.

Assemblers.....None on layoff at this time

L.G. 18 or better..... August 14, 1978

L.G. 23..... August 7, 1978

L.G. 27..... September 13, 1976

156 employees on layoff
(30 have restrictions)

April Membership Meeting

Sunday

April 18, 2004

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.**