

# REPORTER



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USW LOCAL 2-232

VOLUME 29, NO.2

APRIL 2008

## Godshaw Re-elected Stanley Quezaire Wins Election for Sergeant at Arms

Scott Godshaw was re-elected President of USW Local 2-232. The results of the General Election were 225 votes for Godshaw and 97 for Bill Vian. Godshaw will begin his 3rd full term as President after being elected in May 2003 to fulfill the rest of Greg Gorecki's term, who had retired.

Stanley Quezaire, Steward for department 735 1st shift, won the election for Sergeant at Arms. Quezaire defeated Dennis Clark, former Sergeant at Arms, 175 votes to 141 votes. In Quezaire's first attempt at office, he will now be a member of the Executive Board.

These terms are 2 years. The Executive Board is as follows: Scott Godshaw- President; Allen Evsechik- Vice President; Ralph Schwieger- Financial Secretary Treasurer; Karen Clark- Recording Secretary; Bettie Burmester- Briggs Trustee; Chuck Porter- Strattec Trustee; Vicky Gorecki- Trustee at Large; Debbie Curro- Guide and Stanley Quezaire-

Sergeant at Arms. Vicky Gorecki's Trustee position is elected in odd years with the Grievance Rep elections. Her term will end in 2009 while the rest of the Executive Board terms will end in 2010.

The 2 Strattec Bargaining Committee members terms were also up this year and as stated in the last issue of the *Reporter*, incumbents Dennis Nowak and Al Olivares were both unanimously re-elected without opposition. They will once again join Grievance Rep Milt Dawson on the Strattec Bargaining Committee.

Milt Dawson's term will end in March of 2009 and that election along with the election of the Briggs Grievance Rep and the Briggs 2 Bargaining Committee members will take place then as well. The change in the By-Law that was voted on at the January membership meeting calls for 1 Grievance Rep and 2 Bargaining Committee members at Briggs to follow the same format as Strattec.

### May Membership Meeting

Sunday  
May 18, 2008  
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.

### NOTICE:

Nominations and election will take place at the May Membership Meeting May 18, 2008 for one delegate to the USW International Convention which will be held on June 30th through July 3rd.

# Executive Board



**Scott E. Godshaw**  
President



**Allen Evseichik**  
Vice President



**Ralph Schwieger**  
Financial Sec/Treasurer



**Karen Clark**  
Recording Secretary



**Betty Burmester**  
Briggs Trustee



**Chuck Porter**  
Strattec Trustee



**Stanley Quezaire**  
Sergeant at Arms



**Vicky Gorecki**  
Trustee at Large



**Debbie Curro**  
Guide

	<h2>Election Results</h2> <p><b>President:</b>  <b>Scott Godshaw - 225</b>  <b>William E. Vian - 97</b></p> <p><b>Sergeant at Arms:</b>  <b>Stanley Quezaire - 175</b>  <b>Dennis Clark - 141</b></p>	<p>UNITED STEELWORKERS</p>  <p>UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS</p>
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**President's Report by Scott Godshaw**

## Thanks to Membership and Congratulations

First of all I would like to thank membership for re-elected me. As I had stated at the last membership meeting, I will not be retiring in July of this year. I would like to congratulate Stanley Quezairé on his election for Sergeant at Arms. I would also like to congratulate all the members of the Executive Board that were unopposed. That would include Vice President Al Evseichik, our new Financial Secretary Treasurer Ralph Schwieger, Recording Secretary Karen Clark, Briggs' Trustee Betty Burmester, our new Strattec Trustee Chuck Porter, who gave up his Sergeant at Arms position to run for this position and Guide Debbie Curro. Also congratulations to Strattec Bargaining Committee members that were unopposed Dennis Nowak and Al Olivares. Also Vicky Gorecki's position of Trustee at Large is up for re-election every other year than the rest of the Executive Board. I would like to thank the Election committee, led by co-chairs Vicky Gorecki from Briggs and Al Belanger from Strattec and election committee members; Al Alt and Sherry Esser from Strattec and Jimmy Carpenter, Dean Wegner and Bettie Burmester from Briggs for a job well-done.

And lastly, I would like to congratulate Bill Vian and Dennis Clark for participating and seeking election to become part of the Executive Board. They have both served this Local in the past and I certainly give them credit for wanting to stay active and involved. Although both have a lot of seniority, I would like to see the new members take a page from their book and start participating and becoming more involved and active in this Local. I know some less senior members want to become involved and start participating. They can begin doing that by attending membership meetings.

### Briggs

At Briggs, we received an unfavorable ruling from Arbitrator Steven Briggs. This was the case where the Bargaining Committee was overturned by membership. The case was regarding a member serving a 30 day trial basis in the tool room to determine whether or not he could prove that he could bump a journeyman. After weighing all the testimony, the arbitrator ruled with the company. Fortunately, we did not receive any additional bad language that could be used against us in the future.

On that note, speaking of receiving bad language from an arbitration case, Strattec closed some whole departments down for a day or 2 due to the strike that is affecting GM product. We lost the arbitration decision regarding shutting down the plant for a day when the company chose to shut down on

January 2, 2006. The company is using that decision to shut down. The arbitrator in this case ruled that the company can do this and not be violating the work spreading language of the contract.

We did insist that the voluntary language in the contract be utilized.

Strattec did post for a 1 week voluntary layoff in several different areas the week of March 31st. They did post again for the week of April 7th as well.

Also at Strattec, we will be in negotiations for a new contract starting sometime in May. The contract expires on June 29, 2008.

### Spring Conference

I, along with Ralph Schwieger, Milt Dawson, Dennis Nowak and Chuck Porter, attended the USW District 2 Spring Conference held at the Wyndham Airport Hotel in Milwaukee. As usual there were many interesting speakers, some USW dignitaries and local politicians as well.

The message was loud and clear. With this being an election year, we need to all become politically active and support labor friendly candidates. We will be asking for your help down the road as far as volunteering to assist these candidates by attending rallies, doing phone banks or just passing out flyers at the plant. The Presidential election is right around the corner and will be here before you know it.

## LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

April 2008

Volume 29, 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: Scott Godshaw, Al Olivares**

**Officers: President: Scott Godshaw Vice President: Al**

**Evseichik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Schwieger**

**Recording Secretary: Karen Clark, Trustees: Chuck**

**Porter Vicky Gorecki, Betty Burmester Guide: Debbie**

**Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Stanley Quezairé**

**Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Jesse**

**Edwards, Jackie Goodwin, Karen Clark, Dean Wegner**

**Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Milton**

**Dawson, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares**

## From the Desk of New Financial Secretary Treasurer Ralph Schwieger

Hello Brothers and Sisters:

I want to thank all of you for your faith in me to hold this office for our local. I have big shoes to fill, that's for sure. Ross Winklbauer did a magnificent job as Financial Secretary Treasurer for this local! I thank him for his past and continued support. He is now training me in the duties of this office which will take quite some time.



I also want to give a shout-out to Joe Chambers, who was the Financial Secretary Treasurer before Ross. Joe continues to assist our local when ever called upon. Thanks a bunch Joe!


I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to YOUR Union Hall, 8500 W. Capitol Drive on the northwest corner of that intersection. We are in the lower level, 101 of that building. Stop by and say hello.....

I heard some members are looking for Steelworkers apparel. We do not stock any at our office. Go to the United Steelworkers web site and you can find t-shirts, jackets and much more. The website is <http://www.uswa.org>

One more thing..... In March of 2008, it was reported that 80,000 jobs were lost due to the slowing (dead stopped) economy. 32,000 American jobs would have been created if President Bush's Defense Department would have awarded the building of a new re-fueling tanker to Boeing, an American company. Instead, the contract was awarded to Northrop Grumman and EADS, the European parent of Airbus. Airbus is a French company. Republican Presidential candidate John McCain played a key role in denying Boeing this contract. Bush and his policies are bad for America and bad for American Workers.

Never forget that politics affects you every day of your life. Don't just get mad! Get INVOLVED!

In Solidarity,  
Financial Secretary Treasurer,  
Ralph E. Schwieger



### ASK YOUR LAWYER

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

#### 2008 WORKER'S COMPENSATION RATES

The maximum temporary total disability rate in 2008 is \$805 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 2008 is \$262 per week. This rate will become \$272 per week when the pending worker's compensation bill is signed by Governor Doyle. 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 dependant 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 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, Uelmen, 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 Previant 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, 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 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: 463-7425**

## Membership Meeting Recap

by Karen Clark

Our membership meeting was held on Sunday March 16th, 2008 at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. in Milwaukee. Due to a lack of quorum, reports could be given but no business could be conducted at this meeting.

### Communications

We received a thank you from the Strattec Retiree Club.

USW District 2 new director is Michael Bolton. Immigration Unions and Workers 27th Annual Conference sponsored by Wisconsin Labor History Society at Golda Meir Library at UWM 2311 E. Hartford Ave. Saturday April 26th 9a.m. to 3p.m.

### Reports of Officers

President Scott Godshaw thanked membership for his re-election and congratulated all the board members on their elections. He also thanked the election committee for a job well done.

Godshaw stressed the need for less senior members to begin participating in Union activities.

He also reported on the recent unfavorable decision of the arbitrator from the case that membership overturned the Briggs Bargaining Committee's decision not to arbitrate. And he reported on a previous arbitrator's decision regarding Strattec. He also reported on the layoffs at Strattec.

Jesse Edwards reported on the coil department and harassment in the workplace.

Milton Dawson thanked his stewards for attending, problems with threats and closing down some departments due to the strike at American Axle.

Ernie Dex reported on health insurance being a big problem in our country and recommended everyone should watch the movie "Sicko". He reminded us to get out an vote and read the leaflets regarding labor friendly candidates. He also stated Local elections should not be a popularity contest.

Our next membership meeting will be held on Sunday May 18, 2008 at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Road in Milwaukee at 9:30 a.m.

## Membership Information

**March 2008**

**752 Members in Good Standing**

**519 in Briggs & Stratton Unit**

**233 in Strattec Unit**

**March Dues Payments**

**454 Dues Paying Members at Briggs**

**219 Dues Paying members at Strattec**

**673 Total Dues Paying Members**

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

## Briggs Retiree Club

At our April meeting, we will welcome back some of our "Snowbird" members who were unable to escape the last few months around here. In spite of the extreme weather conditions we have had this winter, the attendance at our meetings was still pretty good.

We will start our April meeting with a 12 noon brunch served by the famous Jimbo's Catering. Not a bad way to get our summer programs going. Also at our April meeting, there will be a guest speaker discussing hearing loss and what can be done about it.

At this point, our members appear to like the Elk's Lodge, our new meeting place. The Elk's Lodge is located at 5501W. Good Hope Road.

Food will also be served at our May and August meetings at the Elk's Lodge. For June and July, we will be having picnics at the Schwabenhof Restaurant. Schwabenhof is located at N56w14750 Silver Spring Drive in Menomonee Falls.

All new members are welcome. The cost for joining is only \$24 a year. Come see some old friends and meet some new ones as well. For information on joining, call Erma Gorecki at 262-781-8951.

See you at our next meeting.

Fraternally yours,

Doris Reinke

Recording Secretary

Bob Johnson

President

## Join the Briggs Retiree Club

today call Erma Gorecki

262-781-8951

for information

*See some old friends and  
meet some new ones*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11- Mother's Day



May 18- Membership Meeting

May 26- Memorial Day



June 14- Flag Day



June 15- Father's Day



July 4- Independence Day



## Retirement Meetings at Briggs

Get Ready for Retirement Meetings -  
April 24th, 29th and May 1st

For details about your Briggs & Stratton Retirement Plan benefits and Retiree Insurance options, attend a "Get ready for retirement" workshop. During this time, a Representative from Mercer Outsourcing will be on-site facilitating workshops on the Briggs & Stratton Retirement Plan. Additionally, there will be workshops on the Retiree Insurance options facilitated by Barb Ehlers, Manager of Health Care Benefits.

We encourage you to attend an upcoming workshop to help make sure that your transition to retirement is as easy as possible. If you have any questions about the retirement planning process, please call the Briggs & Stratton Pension Service Center at 1-866-417-5663 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Central Time, any business day, to speak with a Participant Service Representative.

If you have completed an Intent to Retire form and have received your paperwork, there will also be One-on-One Sessions with a Mercer Representative available. These sessions are only for employees who are currently signed up to retire and need assistance with their retirement forms. Please note: Milwaukee Hourly employees can attend one 20-minute session during work hours. If you want to schedule a One-on-One session, contact Liz Mlekush at 414-259-5747.

### Retiree Insurance Group Meeting

Thursday, April 24th 1:30 p.m. & 2:45 p.m.  
BP - North (Cafeteria)

### Pension Group Meeting

Thursday, May 1st-1:30 p.m. & 2:45 p.m.  
BP - North (Cafeteria)

### One-on-One Sessions with Mercer Representative

Tuesday, April 29th-12:30 pm - 4:30 pm.-BP North  
Thursday, May 1st-8:00 am - 12:00 am.-BP North  
(Cafeteria)

## Mercer Phone Number

**1-866-417-5663**

**If you want to schedule a One-on-One session with Mercer, contact Liz Mlekush at the Briggs Benefit Department at 414-259-5747.**

# Grievance Rep Reports

## Strattec Security

by Milt Dawson

### Layoffs

The company, as you know, has started layoffs due to the strike at American Axle. They supply GM with axles for their automobiles, which means that orders coming in from GM has slowed down considerably for us here at Strattec. This action has caused financial hardship for our members. With the cost of gas and food rising along with other life supporting things and our economy taking a nose dive, layoffs are never welcome. This layoff comes at a time when just a month ago one of our Union Brothers had to give up his job here because of the cost of gas. It was not financially worth it for him to commute from his home to work each day. That's darn sad! At this time of writing, we are in our 2nd layoff in as many weeks. Brothers and Sisters, we had better start looking for the future and not fool ourselves. Right now the company is telling us they are playing it by ear. A new report estimates the strike has put as many 40,000 out of work, including layoffs at the GM assembly plant in Janesville.

### New Machines

The company has informed the Union that we are getting new machines in department 836. There is a Wire Machine, an EDM Machine, 3 Auto Bar Feeders and a Sinker Machine. It's always good news when new machinery comes in but the company said no new job would come from this. Job creation is what we really look for when new machines come into our workplace. Hopefully new diversified business will follow and provide new jobs.

### USW District 2 Spring Conference

The USW District 2 Spring Conference was held in Milwaukee on Friday March 28th through Sunday March 30th. This was a great event that included our new USW District 2 Director Michael Bolton, Assistant to the Director and District Education Coordinator Arthur Kroll, International VP Fred Redmond and our own powerhouse Sub-District Director Ernie Dex. Dennis Nowak, Chuck Porter, Ralph Schwieger, our Local Union President Scott Godshaw and myself all attended on behalf of Local 2-232.

The great Women of Steel had their conference on Thursday March 27th and Steward Yolanda Turner represented us at this conference.

### Silly Season

The company, for good purpose, has the 5S housekeeping policy in place to see that a clean workplace is kept by all. The Union understands the need for such a policy. But for some reason, the company, in all

## Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

### Industrial Injury

If you are injured at work you should report it to your facilitator, supervisor, security department and/or the E.M.T. If you are treated by a doctor and he gave you restrictions, be sure not to do anything outside your restrictions. Be aware the company may have a private investigator or someone follow you with a camera to see what you are doing. If you are doing anything outside your restrictions, you could be subject to discipline.

### Vacation

If you want to take vacation on certain days or weeks during the vacation year be sure to sign up prior to May 1st. Vacation request of weeks or more during the months of June, July and August will have preference over days. If you request vacation after May 1st, it will be on a first-come, first-served basis after all members who requested vacation prior to May 1st has been granted. If you want to change your vacation pay option you must make the change prior to May 1st.

### Coils

At the time of this writing the Coil department is busy. They are working 9 and 10 hour shifts plus mandatory Saturdays and some Sundays to meet the customer demands.

### Grievances

I recently settled a grievance in the union's favor. At this time, I have two grievances that have to go to 3rd stage.

In Solidarity  
Jesse Edwards

of its management reasoning, seem to feel that when cleaning isn't being done properly or in a timely reasonable manner (i.e. dept. 71) management resorts to things like hanging up a cutout of a pink "PIG". This is to bring attention to the problem. Or as management likes to say, to give incentive in way of a contest (yeah right). So, once the department is cleaned, the "PIG" will be moved to another area where an incentive needs to be used to bolster good housekeeping (yes, like HR or the engineering department). To be honest, sure, maybe it can bring a laugh, however, to some it is not funny at all but rather demeaning. I have a great idea, why not get rid of all the WGLs? Why have them around when you can just hang up a large, demeaning and degrading pink "PIG" in each department? That will surely get the job done. And what a great savings for the company, no more salaries for the WGLs. I can see our EVA looking real good. Brothers and Sisters, what do you think? Do you think the company will look at this idea as SILLY?

# Wellness Corner "You can't live without it"

## Better-Educated Smokers More Likely to Quit After Seeing Ads & Eating Less May Hinder Immune System

TV ads that promote quitting smoking are more likely to have an impact on better-educated smokers, while warnings about the dangers of secondhand smoke have a similar effect on people of all educational levels, says a University of Wisconsin study.

In 2002 and 2003, researchers surveyed 452 adult smokers of different socioeconomic and educational levels about their recall of quitting smoking and secondhand smoke ad campaigns. A year later, the researchers checked on the respondents' smoking status.

Of those who recalled seeing the ads, about 65 percent of college-educated participants tried to quit in the following year, compared with 30 percent of those with a high school education or less, the study found.

However, there was no statistically significant difference between the groups in abstinence from smoking after one year or in their response to messages about secondhand smoke. The findings are published in the May issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

"Some media campaign messages appear less effective in promoting quit attempts among less-education populations," wrote lead researcher Jeff Niederdeppe, a post-doctoral fellow, and colleagues. Niederdeppe noted that about 7 percent of Americans with graduate degrees are smokers, compared to 46 percent of those with a GED.

Income may be a major factor when it comes to quitting smoking, he suggested.

"Lower socioeconomic-status smokers may be more addicted and work in places where smoking is less restricted. They also have less access to abstinence aids such as medications and counseling," so seeing an anti-smoking ad may not be an effective motivator in itself.

"We are not doing a good enough job of providing lower socioeconomic smokers with resources to help them quit," Niederdeppe said.

More information: The American Cancer Society offers a guide to quitting smoking.

### Eating Less May Hinder Immune System

You may no longer need to remember whether it's "starve a cold, feed a fever" or vice versa. New research suggests you should just eat.

A study of deer mice has found that reducing the amount of food the mice ate impaired their immune system. The findings are published in the

May/June issue of Physiological and Biochemical Zoology.

The researchers found that decreasing the amount of food the mice ate by 30 percent significantly decreased the number of B cells in their systems. B cells produce antibodies and maintain immune memory, so an immune system lacking B cells must relearn how to fight infection and disease.

"A 30 percent restriction in food intake doesn't affect body mass and only minimally reduces activity in deer mice, but it eliminates the long-term immune protection provided by antibodies," study co-author Lynn Martin said in a prepared statement. "One wonders whether similar moderate food restriction has comparable immune effects in humans."

Martin and fellow researchers cited previous studies that had found that infections were "more frequent and tend to be chronic in malnourished children." Previous studies have also found that vaccines that provoke B cells to protect the body long-term, such as the vaccine for measles, are less effective among the malnourished.

The authors proposed that future research should be done to learn what specific features of diet (calories, protein, micronutrients) affect immune system function.

## 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**

**[www.patientcare4u.com](http://www.patientcare4u.com)**

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

**United Health Care**

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

**[www.myuhc.com](http://www.myuhc.com)**