

REPORTER

President's Report by Scott Godshaw

Layoffs Continue at Strattec

At Strattec the layoffs continue. The company had posted the first one for Thanksgiving week. Then they posted one for the month of December starting December 1st, then they had to cut deeper and posted another one beginning December 8th. They now have posted one for the month of January. As of December 8th, there are 49 people on layoff, 17 of those are on voluntary.

The company has agreed to pay everyone their holiday pay even though they will not be working in that half of the month. I do commend the company for doing that because if they wanted to, they could easily have said sorry no holiday pay for those people that did not work in that half. Again I am glad Strattec is doing the right thing.

Also at Strattec, January 2nd was negotiated this year as a paid holiday; however, the company is shutting down December 22nd and 23rd. You can

either take a vacation day or lack of work.

Briggs

At Briggs, at Burleigh, the company is shutting down on January 2nd. It will be a lack of work day or pay as you go vacation day if you have pay as you go. The departments that are working their normal schedule include:

- Engineering Model Shop (Dept. 132)
- Transitional Work Department (Rehab-Dept. 203)
- Distribution Sales and Service (Dept. 472)
- Product Reliability-Test House (Dept. 476)
- Model Shop/R&D (Dept. 945)
- Engine Application (Dept. 953)

At Service, they are letting as many people as possible take vacation days. But if you do not take a vacation day, then you would have to work. At this point, there will not be a lack of work day for the

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January Membership Meeting

Sunday
January 18, 2009
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.
- Nominations for Trustee at Large, Strattec Grievance Rep, Briggs Grievance Rep and 2 Briggs Bargaining Committee Members
- Nomination and Election for Recording Secretary

NOTICE:

Nominations will take place at the January Membership Meeting for Trustee at Large, Strattec Grievance Rep, Briggs Grievance Rep and 2 Briggs Bargaining Committee Members. Nomination and election will take place at the January Membership Meeting for Recording Secretary

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Service Department.

Also at Briggs, the Heat Treat department went off the 12 hour shifts and went to a 10 hour shift similar to dept.770. They will be working Mon through Thursday. That started on December 1st.

Productivity Reward

The Productivity Reward checks were given out on Wednesday December 10th. That included Departments 797, 716 and the Maintenance Department 700.

Nominations

Nominations will take place at the January membership meeting for Trustee at Large, 1 grievance representative at Strattec, 1 grievance representative and 2 bargaining committee members at Briggs. As you know there was a by-law change regarding the Briggs Bargaining Committee, where we will have 1 grievance representative and 2 bargaining committee members similar to Strattec.

However, we can still utilize a bargaining committee member as we see fit which would include acting as a grievance rep when needed.

Recording Secretary

An election will be held at the January membership meeting for the office of Recording Secretary. This vacancy has occurred due to the retirement of Recording Secretary Karen Clark.

I would personally like to thank Karen for her dedication and her desire to get involved in the Union this late in her career.

Karen ran unopposed in 2006 when then Incumbent Recording Secretary Tom Bishanell chose not to run because of his pending retirement. Karen was also unopposed in 2008.

On behalf of the joint board, once again thank you for all your hard work and we will miss you.

Happy Holidays

I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday season. Let's hope that 2009 will be a better year for all of us.

USW Calls for Major Economic Recovery Program for Main Street

USW International President Leo W. Gerard called for a major campaign to pass a substantial, strategic and sustained economic recovery plan for President-elect Barack Obama to sign when he takes office. Hundreds of economists joined Gerard and dozens of labor and public interest leaders in the Campaign for American's Future's calling for a minimum investment of \$900 billion over 2 years.

**USW
International
President
Leo Gerard**

"This plan invests in America's future. "It will get us on track to creating an economy that works for working families," said Gerard.

"I can't imagine a successful economy that doesn't have a strong, vibrant, forward-looking manufacturing sector, one that puts people back to work and makes the products of the new century. We need an economy that thrives on making things and creates wealth through middle class prosperity."

The investment represents three percent of the GDP for two years and is the floor amount estimated to be needed to re-ignite the \$15 trillion U.S. economy. The plan focuses on public investment to strengthen America's long-term competitiveness by creating a much stronger infrastructure, well-paying jobs and a sustainable source of dependable energy.

"Investments to retro-fit public buildings with American-made products will spur the economy by creating jobs for working Americans and producing profitable businesses here at home," Gerard said as he lauded president-elect Obama's announcement this weekend to create the largest public infrastructure program in a half-century. "It would also make us more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions."

The statement calls for recovery plan that is sustained. While a two-year stimulus will help the economy get back on track, it will take many years to build one of sustained and balanced growth, not one driven by booms and busts of asset bubbles.

"This kind of massive investment in the economy that we're calling for mirrors the ideas of President-Elect Obama," said Gerard. "These investments should be done with American products where our trade policies allow, and where our trade policies don't allow for that we should change them."



News from Your Local 2-232 Rapid Response Coordinator

by Allen Evseichik

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

Now that the election is complete and Barack Obama has been elected, the Rapid Response Team will be working diligently to get the Employee Free Choice Act passed into law. In order to help in this endeavor, the Rapid Response Team is asking that you make a call to Senator Herb Kohl.

- From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm M-F, dial toll-free: 866-340-9279
- During evenings and weekends, dial: 202-224-5653
- Introduce yourself and say where you are from
- Thank the Senator for his past support of the Employee Free Choice Act
- Encourage him to stand firm in his support until we get the Employee Free Choice Act passed into law!

With your help and encouragement to Senator Kohl, we will have a much stronger case in getting this act passed.

During these difficult economic times, it is essential that we remain positive and continue to work together to support each other and our union. It is my wish that you and your families have a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

In Solidarity,

Allen Evseichik Vice-President-Rapid Response
Coordinator USW Local 2-232

LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

December 2009

Volume 29, Issue #7

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
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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, Nancy Copeland Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Stanley Quezaire

Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Jesse Edwards, Tameka Smith, Karen Clark, Dean Wegner

Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Milton Dawson, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares



ASK YOUR LAWYER

by Thomas Flanagan

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

WHAT IS A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS?

The first consideration when a person consults with an attorney regarding a potential lawsuit is whether the statute of limitations has run out. A lawsuit, whether it is for an automobile accident, breach of contract or malpractice, must be started, assuming it cannot be settled, within a specified period of time after the injury occurred. If that period of time has already passed, the lawsuit cannot be filed or if it is filed, will be dismissed for non-compliance with the statute of limitations.

For example, if a person is involved in an automobile accident in Wisconsin, a lawsuit for personal injuries must be started within three years of the date of the accident. A medical malpractice action in Wisconsin must be commenced within the later of three years from the date of injury or one year from the date the injury was discovered. An action for breach of contract in Wisconsin generally must be commenced within six years after the cause of action accrued. A statute of limitations may vary, however, depending on the type of lawsuit and the particular facts of the case. Also, state statutes of limitations are not uniform and vary from state to state. Therefore, if you believe you have a cause of action, do not hesitate to bring the matter to the attention of an attorney as soon as possible.

If you have questions about workers compensation, personal injury or social security disability, please 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.

**UNION
YES**  

Briggs Retiree Club

The Board and Committee wants to wish the members of the Briggs Retiree Club a healthy Holiday Season and a prosperous 2009 New Year.

On Sunday December 7th, we had our annual Christmas dinner at Alioto's on Mayfair Road and Burleigh. A good time was had by all.

Dues for joining the Briggs Retiree Club are still only \$24 a year. If you happen to join in July, you would only have to pay the prorated portion which would be \$12.

Our monthly meetings are the third Wednesday of the month. Bingo is played on the second Wednesday of the month and cards are played every Tuesday. For more information, call Dolores Higgins, our Vice President at 414-873-7121.

We want to thank Briggs & Stratton for all their help in keeping our Retiree Club going. We would also like to thank USW Local 2-232 for their Christmas donation and for allowing us to continue to put our write ups in the Reporter. You can find the Reporter on the Internet on www.pace7232.org or pick up a copy at our meetings or just stop at the Union office for one at 8500 W. Capitol Dr.

Our contract will be up at the end of the year with the Elk's Lodge on Good Hope Rd. At our last regular monthly meeting, which was held on November 19th, there was much discussion of where our meetings will be held next year. The choices came down to Schwabenhof and the Elk's Lodge. Dolores called for a standing vote and the majority chose the Schwabenhof. So our meetings in 2009 will be held there, with the exception of our annual Christmas party, which will be held again at Alioto's. Wishing you all Happy Holidays.

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

December 25 - Christmas Day



January 1, 2009 - New Year's Day



January 18 - Membership Meeting

January 19 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day



February 14 - Valentine's Day



February 16 - President's Day



Membership Meeting Recap

by Karen Clark

Our membership meeting started promptly at 9:30a.m. at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Rd., however, due to not having a quorum, reports could be given but no official business could be transacted.

Reports of Officers

President Scott Godshaw reported on the lay-offs at Strattec, most of the Burleigh plant shutting down operations on January 2, 2009 with the exception of a few departments. Service will be running as a regular business day on January 2nd but most people that are requesting vacation are receiving the day. He also reported that nominations will take place for Trustee at Large, Grievance Rep at Strattec, Grievance Rep at Briggs and 2 Bargaining Committee members at Briggs, at the January membership meeting.

Milt Dawson reported on a recap of the lay-offs at Strattec and also reported a member discharged for attendance.

Jesse Edwards reported on the Heat Treat departments' new hours, the coil department still working some overtime and new hires regarding transfers.

Ralph Schwieger reported on the dues increase that will take place automatically in January of 2011.

International Rep Ernie Dex reported on the importance of the Automobile Big 3 Rescue Plan from the government. He also reported on the Employee Free Choice Act and had flyers to remind members to call Senator Herb Kohl's office.

Our next membership meeting will take place on Sunday January 18, 2009 at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Road in Milwaukee. All members are encouraged to attend.

"I would just like to take a moment...."

by Karen Clark

I would just like to take a moment to say this will be my last report as I will retire at the end of this month. I will leave Briggs & Stratton with just over 30 years. I'll say it has been one heck of a roller-coaster ride. I do want to thank all the friends I have made throughout the years for their friendship, guidance and support.



Karen Clark: "I can retire and move on with my life and family."

During my 30 years, I have seen a lot of changes, some for the better and some not so good. But I truly did enjoy my many jobs. I always tried to do my best no matter what department I had worked in. Trust me; I was in a lot of departments years ago. All the hard work did pay off as now I am able to retire at the age of 48. I can retire and move on with my life and family.

So, thanks to all of you who had touched my life. I will miss seeing you on a daily basis. To my Union family; I thank you for all of your help and guidance especially Scott, Ross, Ralph and Jesse.

Take care, see you around
Karen

Membership Information

December 2008

650 Members in Good Standing

439 in Briggs & Stratton Unit

211 in Strattec Unit

December Dues Payments

404 Dues Paying Members at Briggs

203 Dues Paying members at Strattec

607 Total Dues Paying Members

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

Union Dues Paid for 2008

Briggs \$43.86 X 7 months = \$307.02

\$44.40 X 5 months = \$222.00

Total = \$529.02

Strattec \$42.97 X 7 months = \$300.79

\$43.22 X 5 months = \$216.10

Total = \$576.89


IN MEMORIAM

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the following members:

Ida Williams	Dona Brueggemann
Refer Weichert	Ludwig Hammerer
Donna Beilke	Patricia Hobbs
Jeffrey Fetting	Phyllis Landfried
Irene Grzywinski	Eugene Straw
Caroline Cotter	Leberta Games
Mary Dombrowski	Wayne Randall
Bernice Heckert	Sandra Habegger
Irene Kimbrough	Jean DeBerry
Dorothy Etzel	Larry Allen
Ernest Kassa	Helen Kelln
Katherine Wild	Ruby Thompson
Ethel Sauld	Gladys Hellmann
Nancy Finkler	Jack Rohde
Bruce McRae	Herbert Enoch
Mary Potochar	Lila Kauth
Joan Farnand	Dolly Hegman
Dorothy Klemmer	Karoline Jensen
Arleen Kalbus	Theodore Bork
Oliver Von Stockhausen	Dolores Wallner
Joann Bates	Mary Pecher
William Claas	Edmund Niedzwiecki
Ethel Mae Kamps	Adolphus Allen
Dallis Ahrens	Lucy Payne
Dorothy Borowski	Harlan Drake
Elmer Pucek	Crescence Dorik
O'Neil Giessel	Pearl Dakuras
Sandra Jankowski	Lenard Wozney
Lillie Finger	Edwin Dombrowski
Eunice Schilling	Wayne Herbert
Anita Bell	Gertrude Olson
Bruce Thompson	Lillian Parks
John Boyer	Phyllis Gahagan
Clyde Ward	Mae R. Smith-Gaines
Alice Borschlegel	Evelyn Wells
Eugene Larson	Florence Drea
Katie Shaurette	Donald Balsewicz
Joan Moe Weber	Ingrid Brown
Theresa Wroblewski	Arthur Rossman
Thomas Liederbach	Gregory Mikolich
Ronald Pallen	Nyle Seidel
Gordon Billings	Joseph Knoebl
John Kromm	Ervin Sikora
Gustave Bartels	Ramona Bruckner
James Stanger	James Neitzel
Julius Kraehling	Jerome Schmitz
Merna Nearing	Loretta Ostrowski
Estelle Ohm	Marion Prelozni
Nancy Vasquez	Odessa Appel
David White	John Miksic
Leroy Mahoney	Gerald Stanislawski
Dorothy Bruessel	Donald Folcik
Frank Voza	

Grievance Rep Reports

Strattec Security

by Milt Dawson

Layoffs

Layoffs are the biggest issue facing our workers. As of December 8th, there is a total of 49 workers laid off, 16 voluntary and 33 non-voluntary. It has also been brought to our attention that in the past, some workers disqualified themselves from certain jobs. This may affect their ability to avoid layoff, but remember, you still have the opportunity to perform that job you disqualified yourself from. For those workers who have been put on other jobs, be sure to put in for your former job rights.

Hopefully things will get better before they get worse; our jobs are tied to the auto industry and our jobs rise and fall with its fortune. As you know, the Big Three are waiting for funds to be agreed to from Congress to give them a shot in the arm. Car products aren't selling off car lots, and on top of that, the industry is in its slow period. But, things do and will get better, people.

December's Membership Meeting

I know that this is a bad time for us as far as our jobs and futures are concerned. For the members who were at our December 7th membership meeting, we were told about a family by our Financial Secretary-Treasurer Ralph Schwieger, that our union was put on alert to help this family, a husband and wife with two young children. They were homeless living in a small trailer with no heat, no food or proper clothing for them or their children. Ralph said that he was contacted by Dolores Higgins a retired Briggs and Stratton worker who still works very hard along with other USW Local 2-232 EAP counselors.

Ralph told us that Dolores advised him that she has helped a lot of people over the years but this was the worst case she has ever seen. After that information was given to our Joint Board members, Ralph said that things poured in for the family. Brother and sisters, that's what union is about, "that's what I'm talkin about". And by the way, brothers and sisters, you see those "Hunger Task Force" boxes placed around the plant, I'm representing the union working with the company to help out some people or families this holiday season. Please drop something in those boxes for them. Thank you, and may you and your families have a safe and happy holiday season.

In Solidarity,
Milton Dawson

Grievance Rep Reports

Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

Heat Treat

The Heat Treat department, prior to December 1, 2008 had four members working 12 hour shifts, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The company informed the Bargaining Committee that because of lack of production demands, they would be cutting back. The start up and shut down of the furnaces were also a big cost.

Effective December 1, 2008, the company, with all members in the Heat Treat department involved, started four 10 hour shifts, four days per week. This will allow them to run production 4 days, 24 hours per day and shut down 3 days per week. Because of this change no jobs were eliminated. The four members will have staggered starting times.

Job Posting

The company continues to hire new employees to fill open jobs. If no one has a transfer in for a job, they will post an informational posting. You should watch the main bulletin boards for these postings. A transfer request expires after 6 months. You must have good attendance and no job complaint on your record. If you have any question regarding job posting or open jobs, go see your steward.

Membership Meeting

We need more members to attend membership meetings. You, the member, are the Union. Plan to attend and let your voice be heard. The Union is only as strong as its' members. Don't wait until something happens to you to attend. You should come and support your other union brothers and sisters. *One for all and all for one.*

Bereavement

If you have bereavement during the holiday period, you have to take it immediately after the holiday. You can't punch in at work and then take bereavement. If you punch in, you will forfeit your bereavement leave. If you are eligible for one day or three days, you only have to make one phone call to the ACTT system.

Retirees

There are about 35 members who signed up

Briggs & Stratton First & Third Shift

by Dean Wegner

Discharge

One member was discharged due to attendance. I am currently working through the grievance procedure to attempt to get his job back. However, with an attendance discharge, it is very difficult to do so because the point system is a no-fault system.

New Hires

The company has been hiring new employees the past month due to retirements at the end of the year. I would like to welcome all new hires.

Membership Meetings

The membership meeting was held on Sunday December 7, 2008. Due to not having a quorum, we were unable to conduct any official business. You should try and make it to the membership meetings. It is very important.

Christmas Shutdown

For Christmas shutdown, the last day of work is Tuesday December 23rd. The first day back from Christmas shutdown for most departments is Monday January 5, 2009.

Merry Christmas

I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all officers of USW Local 2-232 and also to all the membership and their families as well. It has been a long hard year with a rapidly changing economy.

Family and friends are very important to all of us. You should always take the time to tell those that are special in your life, I love you.

Merry Christmas.

In Solidarity,
Dean Wegner

to retire effective January 1, 2009. Congratulations to the retirees.

Merry Christmas

I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all USW Local 2-232 members and their families.

In Solidarity,
Jesse Edwards

Wellness Corner “You can’t live without it”

Seasonal Affective Disorder: Blame it on Sunlight and Serotonin

by Urmila R. Parlikar, MS

The winter blues aren't just a frame of mind; they're also a state of mind. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD), also called winter depression, is characterized by a drop in energy level, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, irritability, weight gain, and carbohydrate cravings, among other things. It usually begins by late fall or early winter and ends by late spring or early summer. The neurotransmitter serotonin is believed to play a significant role in SAD. Now a new study in *The Lancet* provides further evidence for this relationship.

It Is (and Isn't) All in Your Head Although scientists have long suspected an important role for serotonin in SAD, concentrations of this neurotransmitter in the cerebrospinal fluid bathing the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) of SAD patients appear to be normal. In an article published in the December 7, 2002 issue of *The Lancet*, researchers from the Baker Heart Research Institute in Australia sought to determine whether concentrations of serotonin and other neurotransmitters measured from blood vessels draining the brain (a more accurate measure of serotonin concentrations in the brain than cerebrospinal fluid) would provide evidence for the relationship between serotonin and SAD.

The researchers enrolled 101 healthy men between the ages of 18 and 79 years. None of the men included in the study had a history of major illness (including depression) or cardiovascular disease, were currently on any medications, or had previous psychiatric therapy.

Over the course of a year, the researchers gained access to blood draining from the brain of the volunteers by taking samples from their internal jugular veins, which are found in the neck. They then measured the blood concentrations of serotonin and two other neurotransmitters not believed to be directly related to SAD—dopamine and norepinephrine—to use as controls. The neurotransmitter concentrations were then correlated to seasonal factors (measured daily) such as highest and lowest temperatures, total rainfall, and hours of bright sunlight.

As expected, production of serotonin by the brain was lowest in winter and was strongly correlated with the amount of bright sunlight during the day. Other than bright sunlight, no other seasonal factors had an effect on serotonin production. Concentrations of dopamine and norepinephrine were not influenced by these factors.

The major limitation of this study is that it was conducted on healthy volunteers, and it is not known whether environmental factors would affect people with SAD in the same way.

What Does This Mean For You? By solidifying the link between sunlight, serotonin, and SAD, these study results provide further support for light therapy and certain antidepressant medications to treat SAD.

Light therapy, also known as phototherapy, involves the use of light to stimulate the brain to produce neurotransmitters. You sit a few feet away from a special light box for a prescribed amount of time—usually up to 45 minutes—every day. This light is stronger than ordinary office or household lighting. If light therapy works for you, your symptoms will most likely improve significantly or disappear altogether.

If light therapy does not work for you, or if your depression is very severe, your doctor may prescribe a type of antidepressant called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). SSRIs increase the level of serotonin activity in the brain. Though SSRIs are already used to treat SAD, this study further validates their use by supporting the relationship between serotonin and SAD.

RESOURCES:

Aurora Health Care

<http://www.AuroraHealthCare.org>

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

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