

# REPORTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USW LOCAL 2-232

VOLUME 31, NO.1

JANUARY 2010

## Election for President and Strattec Bargaining Committee to be held on Friday March 5, 2010

**Evseichik, Schwieger, Smith, Copeland, Porter, Curro, Quezaire all unopposed for Executive Board Positions**

Nominations were taken for all Executive Board positions (excluding Trustee at Large which nominations for that position is in the odd years) and the 2 Strattec Bargaining Committee members at the January membership meeting held on January 17, 2010 at Frank Monreal's El Matador in Milwaukee.

Incumbent President Scott Godshaw retired officially from Briggs on January 1, 2009 but stayed on until the end of his term which is March 5, 2010.

The 2 grievance reps from both units, Jesse Edwards from Briggs and Milton Dawson from Strattec, were nominated and both accepted the nomination for president.

The election will take place on Friday March 5, 2010. It will once again be conducted in plant and

at the Union office on 85th and Capitol as well.

All the other Executive Board incumbents were unopposed. That would include Vice President Allen Evseichik, Financial Secretary-Treasurer Ralph Schwieger, Recording Secretary Tameka Smith, Briggs Trustee Nancy Copeland, Strattec Trustee Chuck Porter, Guide Debbie Curro and Sergeant at Arms Stan Quezaire.

Nominations were also taken for the 2 Strattec Bargaining Committee members. Incumbent Al Belanger was nominated along with Joe Wenz, Bill Berdan and Al Mesa. Strattec members will be able to vote for 2 of the candidates.

This election will also be held on Friday March 5, 2010.

## March Membership Meeting

Sunday  
March 21, 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.

## NOTICE:

General Election for President and the 2 Strattec Bargaining Committee Members will be held on March 5th at the following locations and times:

USW Local 2-232 Office-  
8500 W. Capitol Dr. 10a.m. to 3:30p.m.

Strattec Cafeteria- 5a.m. to 7:00a.m.  
and 1:30 to 3:30p.m.

Burleigh Plant- South Cafeteria  
5a.m. to 7a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30p.m.

Menomonee Falls Plant Break Area  
5:30a.m. to 7a.m. and 1:30 to 3:45p.m.

# Elections

## President



**Jesse Edwards**

Steward Dept.194/195- 5 years;  
 Alt. Gr. Rep-2 years;  
 Acting Vice President-7 months  
 Gr. Rep. 1997 to present;  
 Member-SPEC and Die Cast  
 Sub Committee;  
 Chairperson of the UED Safety  
 Committee;  
 Delegate- Wisconsin State  
 AFL-CIO Convention-96, 98,  
 00, 04, 06, 08  
 Delegate PACE International  
 Convention-96, 99, 03, 05  
 USW International  
 Convention 08  
 Co-Chair Steward Training  
 Comm.  
 Numerous other conferences  
 and schools



**Milton Dawson**

Union Steward  
 Dept.055-071  
 Contract Negotiations 08  
 Current Grievance Rep

## Strattec Bargaining Committee



**Aurelio Mesa**

5yrs Community Service  
 Committee (1yr Chair)  
 5years Election Comm  
 10 years as Steward or  
 Alt Steward



**Joe Wenz**

Steward Attec 8 1/2 years  
 Steward Tool Room  
 (Burleigh 2 years)  
 Employment Law (MSOE)  
 General Law (MU)  
 Steward Training (School  
 for Workers)  
 Labor/Mgt Relations  
 (Milwaukee Area Labor  
 Council)



**Al Belanger**

3rd Shift Union Steward  
 FMCS Conference  
 PACE Spring Conference  
 Bargaining Committee  
 Co-Chair Election Comm  
 School for Workers  
 Current Bargaining  
 Committee Member



**Bill Berdan**

Grievance Rep  
 Alt Grievance Rep  
 Steward Various Depts.  
 By-Law Committee  
 Collective Bargaining  
 Interest Base Bargaining  
 Worker Comp  
 Conflict Mgt.  
 Steward Training  
 Computer Application  
 for Union Officers  
 Attended 4 State  
 Conventions





## ASK YOUR LAWYER

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

### RECENT CHANGES IN HIT AND RUN CLAIMS

When you purchase an auto insurance policy in Wisconsin, you automatically receive uninsured motorist (UM) coverage since it is required by law in Wisconsin. This coverage protects you if you are injured by a driver who does not have liability insurance coverage. This coverage also protects you if you are injured and involved in an accident with a negligently operated unidentified motor vehicle, commonly referred to as a "hit and run" accident. Recent legislation (2009 Budget Bill) prohibits insurance companies from denying UM coverage for hit and run accidents when no physical contact occurred. Now, if there is independent third party verification that an unidentified motor vehicle was a cause of the accident even though the vehicle did not actually hit or come in physical contact with your vehicle, you as an injured driver or passenger will have access to UM coverage. Before this change, an unidentified vehicle had to actually hit or make physical contact with your vehicle before you could make a claim for UM coverage.

If you have questions about worker's compensation, personal injury or social security disability, feel free to call the Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, 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, 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 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: 414-463-7425**

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

**Goodbye, Good Luck and Thank you!**

Our January 17, 2010 meeting was the last one that President Scotty Godshaw will preside over. My first term in office went by quickly and I thank Scott for all his help and expertise during that time. He has taught me a lot and I can't thank him enough! It is his time to ride off in the sunset and enjoy his retirement. Let me change that. The thought of Scott on a horse is quite comical so let's say he will drive off in the sunset and enjoy his retirement. I hope his tires stay inflated for a long, long time! (Inside joke here, Scott has a flat tire it seems every couple of months. Scott does not find this funny at all!)

At the last meeting, Scott presented Dennis Nowak, who retired the end of December, with a plaque, thanking him for his years of service to this Union. Once again, Dennis taught me so much and I thank him for always taking the time to answer any of the stupid questions I had over the years. We worked together at Strattec and that front bench in the Tool Room along the aisle is where I could always find him, working hard, but always taking the time to answer a question. That bench should be bronzed!!!

Both these guys worked their way up in the Union holding positions from Steward through President. 60 plus years of experience between these two will be sorely missed!

From the bottom of my heart Gentlemen,  
 Thank you for everything!!

### Nowak Retires



**Dennis Nowak (left) receives a plaque from President Scott Godshaw in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to this local.**

Dennis Nowak retired on January 1, 2010. Dennis has served this Local since 1981 as an Alternate Steward, Steward, Alternate Grievance Rep, Grievance Rep and a Bargaining Committee member. His strong Union leadership, dedication and his vast knowledge will certainly be missed by all.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** by Scott Godshaw

## Goodbye Farewell and Amen

We were obligated to have the membership meeting in January for the purpose of taking the Executive Board and Strattec Bargaining Committee nominations. As I stated at the December membership meeting, the notification for these nominations were sent out in the Labor Press, via mail, in November to every active member's last known address. This notification satisfies our By-Laws and the Labor Department.

I would like to congratulate the unopposed incumbent Executive Board members and I would also like to wish good luck to the candidates that are running for President and the Strattec Bargaining Committee. This is your opportunity to express your voice by voting. One again we will be having in-plant voting to make it as convenient as possible for you to vote. If you are off on March 5th, you will still be able to go to the Union office on 8500 West Capitol Drive to vote. There are no absentee ballots.

At Strattec, we are having a problem with the penalty charge related to pre-retirement election for your survivor option. The charge was eliminated in the 2008 negotiations; however the discrepancy is with members still being charged for something that was in effect before July 1, 2008. The Bargaining Committee met with the company on January 18th to discuss this. We also are waiting for some additional information from the company regarding this important issue..

At Briggs the new jobs will be coming in soon. There was an informational posting that went up showing the jobs that will be available. The company does not have to post these jobs contractually. However, anyone would be able to put transfers in for any of the jobs coming in, even if they are not posted. You must be qualified for the job, to be able to receive the transfer. According to the company, the latest is, the jobs should be up and running by February 15, 2010 and the production has slowed due to a lower demand, meaning the number of jobs coming in now, are down to 54. However, the company is determined to make this product successful. Also the location has changed. The new area will be located in the south east end of the building.

Also at Briggs, there have been some glitches going to a new system. The one glitch was members that retired on January 1st were still having their insurance premiums deducted from their payroll checks. In the past, the deduction was eliminated when they retired. The deductions were taken off the

## Briggs Retiree Club

Hi Everyone.

I would like to start by saying welcome to all our new members that have joined our club in 2010.

We would also like to thank Scott Godshaw for his continued dedication to our Union and Retiree Club for placing (and editing) our articles in the Reporter. We all will truly miss you when you retire from our Union and printing articles that kept us informed as to what was going on all these years at Briggs. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Keep in mind that our meetings and social activities are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Schwabenhof N56W14750 Silver Spring Drive in Menomonee Falls.

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

Once again, Scott thanks from all of us for placing our newsletter in the Reporter. You truly will be missed by all of us.

Fraternally yours,  
Sherry Kent  
Bob Johnson

**Join the  
Briggs Retiree Club  
today for information call  
Erma Gorecki  
262-781-8951**

first 2 checks of the year but those retirees will be reimbursed for those reductions on a payroll check on week #3, January 21st.

As most of you know, I presided over my last membership meeting on January 17th as my term ends on March 5th. I will miss the people that I worked arm in arm with over the years. Since 1987 when I first was elected as a steward, I have no regrets as I know I did everything in my power to do what I felt was always in the memberships' best interest. What I will miss the most is helping people.

I would like to thank our International Rep Ernie Dex for all the help he has given me and this Local over the years.

I would also like to thank all that supported me over the years as well. I will end this with the title of the final MASH episode. Goodbye, Farewell and Amen!

## Membership Meeting Recap

by Allen Evseichik

The membership meeting was held on Sunday, January 17, 2010. The meeting started at 9:30 a.m. sharp and was held at Frank Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Road in Milwaukee.

Chuck Porter read the Trustee's report. Ralph Schwieger gave the Secretary- Treasurer's report. He reported there were 366 dues paying members at Briggs and 191 dues paying members at Strattec for a total of 557.

### Communications

A thank-you card was received from the Strattec Retirement Club for the Christmas donation. The thank-you note from the Briggs Retirement Club was printed in the Reporter. The Executive Board recommended motions that passed; donate \$50.00 to the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; and donate \$50.00 to the WisLabor History Society.

### Reports

President Scott Godshaw started with his report. Scott began by informing the membership that nominations for the Executive Board and Strattec Bargaining Committee nominations would be taken. Scott also informed the membership that the Bargaining Committee will be meeting with Strattec regarding the pre-retirement selection charge. At Briggs the new jobs will be coming in soon, a total of 56. An informational posting went up showing the jobs that will be available. It was made known to retirees that the problem regarding their insurance premiums has been corrected and they will be reimbursed on week three.

Jesse Edwards stated in his report that on December 23, 2009, Briggs mailed out the debit cards for the flex-spending accounts. If you do not receive yours, please contact your steward. At the Menomonee Falls plant, the third-shift has been eliminated which accounts for the loss of ten jobs. The workers were absorbed into the first and second shifts. The new jobs will be located at the south end of the Briggs plant.

Milton Dawson reported that a grievance was filed in regards to the pension charge. A second grievance was filed for the tool sampling tech job in punch press. A collection for the disaster in Haiti will be taken. You may also donate by texting 90999; a fee of \$10.00 will be charged with the monies going to the Red Cross.

### New Business

On Sunday, January 17, 2010, there were no discharge members in attendance at the meeting. Nominations were taken for President; Jesse Edwards

## LOCAL 2-232 REPORTER

January 2010

Volume 31, Issue #1

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: Tameka Smith Trustees: Chuck Porter, Vicky Gorecki, Nancy Copeland Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Stanley Quezaire

Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Jesse Edwards, Tameka Smith, Dean Wegner, Lorenzo Payne Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Milton Dawson, Al Belanger

## Membership Information

January 2010

**574 Members in Good Standing**

**382 in Briggs & Stratton Unit**

**192 in Strattec Unit**

**January Dues Payments**

**370 Dues Paying Members at Briggs**

**192 Dues Paying members at Strattec**

**562 Total Dues Paying Members**

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

and Milt Dawson will be running for this position. Nominations were taken for the following Executive Board positions and all the incumbents were unopposed: Vice President Allen Evseichik, Financial Secretary-Treasurer Ralph Schwieger, Recording Secretary Tameka Smith, Briggs Trustee Nancy Copeland, Strattec Trustee Chuck Porter, Guide Debbie Curro and Sergeant at Arms Stan Quezaire. Guide. Nominations were taken for Strattec bargaining committee; Alan Belanger, Bill Berdan, Joe Wentz, and Al Mesa are running for the two positions which need to be filled. Voting will take place on Friday, March 5, 2010 for President and the Strattec bargaining committee members.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14 - Valentine's Day



February 15- President's Day



March 5 - Election for President and Strattec Bargaining Committee

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day



March 21- Membership Meeting

April 2 - Good Friday

April 5 - Easter



May 9- Mother's Day



## Grievance Rep Reports

### Strattec Security

by Milt Dawson

To you and your families, I hope that this report finds you in good spirit and in good health. We start this year off with a few grievances being filed.

We filed a grievance regarding an issue, whereby the company took it upon itself, to "Flip" a bargaining unit job to a company job. And we, in our understanding of the mutually agreed upon negotiated contract in June of 2008, whereby, both parties agreed that just one, and only one said job, "Tool Sample Technician" would be changed over to a Company position. This was made very clear, no ifs, ands or buts. So, at this time, we are looking to set a date to go directly to 3rd stage.

We also met with the company to discuss a very serious issue regarding the bestowing of a survivorship benefit surcharge on retirement benefits. Both sides agreed to set a date to meet again after the Company provides information requested by the union.

We are still fighting for overtime back pay for a now retired worker. This looks like it's going to 3rd stage.

On the job front, with the retirement of workers at the end of 2009 (some of these retirements were brought on because of concessions that were basically forced on us), this left some job openings. The company went to the street to fill some of these openings.

I would like to congratulate the recent retirees.

We are connected to the auto industry, and unless you've been living under a rock, you know it's been pretty rough out there. The loss of certain benefits, the down turn in the economy, high gas prices, and the fact that we have been working behind the pay curve for a lot of years, this Grievance Rep, feels that when the profits come back, "AND THEY WILL" the company won't forget about those words that were spoken to us by our new "CEO" in the cafeteria on January 21st. He said all the right things. He's a very likeable person, but time is the only thing that will tell.

This grievance rep will be watching and listening, what about you, SISTERS AND BROTHERS, will you be doing the same???

In Solidarity,  
Milton Dawson

# Grievance Rep Reports

## Briggs & Stratton Grievance Rep by Jesse Edwards

### Service Division Falls

A few months ago, the company made a business decision to move some of the Simplicity work down south. At the time they said this would eliminate 10 jobs. The move is to be completed by the end of February 2010. Third shift was shut down on January 15, 2010. The employees were transferred to first shift and at this time no one has been laid off.

### F.S.A. Debit Cards

The flexible spending account debit cards were mailed late. They should have been mailed in December but instead they were mailed in January. At this time, every one should have their card. If not, see your steward.

### Payable Vacation

On the check you received on January 7, 2010 your payable vacation days were deducted as an after tax deduction in error. The amount of the deduction ranged from \$22.50 to \$50.. This money was refunded on your January 14, 2010 check.

### Retirement

The January 17, 2010 membership meeting was the last one presided by Scott Godshaw. Since Godshaw's retirement, he stayed on to finish out his term. His term will end March 5, 2010. I have worked with Godshaw in serving this union since 1991. We have battled with the company many times over the years. This union will miss Scott Godshaw. Good luck with whatever you do next.

### Nomination

At the membership meeting held on January 17, 2010, I accepted the nomination to run for President of USW Local 2-232.

In Solidarity,  
Jesse Edwards

## Union Dues Paid for 2009

**Briggs \$44.62 X 12 months = \$535.44**

**Strattec \$43.76 X 6 months= \$262.56**

**\$44.72 X 6 months= \$268.32**

**Total = \$530.88**

## Briggs & Stratton Bargaining Committee by Dean Wegner

### New Work

The Home Standby generator work is going on the south end of the plant. The line is going in as I write this report. Jobs are being posted on the board.

### The Health Center

The Quad Med Health Center is giving free H1N1 flu immunizations. Stop in and get one, it's a good thing.

### Health Risk Assessments

On your last paycheck in January, you will receive your pay for taking the Health Risk Assessment. You will receive \$60 just for taking the test. And if you pass the test or improve by 5 points from last year's test, you will receive \$180.

### Scott Godshaw

I would like to thank Scott Godshaw for all the hard work he has done in the last few years, since I have been involved in the union. he took me under his wing and showed me how to deal with day to day problems at Briggs. His shoes are going to be hard to fill. Good luck Scott Godshaw.

In Solidarity,  
Dean Wegner

## Attention Future Briggs Retirees

For those of you future Briggs & Stratton retirees that wish to retire under the current contract, the dates have now been confirmed that you will need to put down on your letter of intent to retire form.

The new form that is currently on the brig-gspension.com website has 2 dates that are needed. You will need to put down July 30, 2010 for your date of termination and August 1, 2010 will be your pension start date. Friday July 30, 2010 is the day you will still be able to have your cake, walk around and get paid for the day.

If you have already filled out your letter of intent to retire form and did not put July 30th and wish to retire under the present labor agreement, you will need to send in a cancellation form along with your new letter of intent form. Both of these forms can be sent in the same envelope.

Any questions, call the Union office at 414-463-7425 or Mercer at 1-866-417-5663.

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

### Increasing your physical activity

### Exercise is good for your mood

#### Exercise is good for your mood

By Robin Monson-Dupuis, LCSW

Many people underestimate the relationship between the mind and the body. Cold, gray wintry days may make us feel less inclined to get out and exercise. We may feel sluggish and lethargic. The lack of sunlight in winter can also make us feel blue and irritable. It is easy to forget that exercise can help with these disruptions our mood. Exercise not only energizes and strengthens our bodies but can actually improve our mood as well.

The type of activity that can reduce depression, irritability, and anxiety is cardiovascular exercise. This is the type of exercise in which you elevate your heart rate for an extended period of time without stopping. Good examples of this are running/jogging, jump roping, biking, stairstepping, swimming, etc. Warmup for 5 minutes, maintain an elevated heart rate for 20-25 minutes, and then cool down for 5 minutes. You will give your mood a boost!

Do this cardiovascular workout at least four times per week and you will notice an improvement in your level of contentment, relaxation, and psychological well-being. This is because cardiovascular exercise flushes the stress hormones, cortisol and adrenaline, out of the brain that are generated when we are stressed, anxious, upset, and nervous. In addition, cardiovascular exercise helps to release endorphins, such as serotonin and dopamine, into the brain. Endorphins are "feel good" chemicals that help to induce a more positive, happier outlook. Of course, always consult with your physician if you have a serious medical problem prior to beginning a new cardiovascular program.

So workout for the health of your mood as well as your body!

#### How do I know it is safe for me to start exercising?

For many people, beginning a low-to-moderate physical activity program is quite safe. But depending on your age and whether you have certain cardiovascular risk factors, you may need to see your physician before starting a program of vigorous (as opposed to moderate) aerobic activity.

The American Council on Exercise offers excellent advice to help you determine if you need a doctor's permission before starting an exercise program. Click here to review these guidelines.

If at anytime during activity you experience excessive shortness of breath, light-headedness, dizzi-

ness, chest pain or pressure, stop your activity and report your symptoms to your physician.

#### How can I become more active?

- Starting a safe exercise program
- Commonly used stretches
- Strength training
- Aerobic activity
- Aerobic exercise guidelines
- Caloric expenditure of various activities

Why exercise? Because increased physical activity not only improves the fitness of your heart and lungs, it also helps you manage your weight, control your blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels, helps you build healthy bones, muscles and joints, helps reduce stress and increases your energy level. As you can see, the benefits of exercise are many and the good news is that it is never too late to become more active and to begin to reap the benefits!

In aerobic exercise, you continually move large muscles in the legs and buttocks. This action causes you to breathe more deeply and your heart to work harder to pump blood, thereby strengthening your heart and lungs.

Examples include:

Walking, Jogging, Running, Aerobic dance, Bicycling, Swimming, Hiking and Playing sports that involve running, such as basketball and soccer.

## 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**