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Conference stresses need to take back America for working families



Congressman Gerald Kleczka (center) pictured here with President Greg Gorecki and Ross Winklbauer at his office in Washington D.C.

By Ross Winklbauer

On February 3, 4 and 2003, President Greg Gorecki and I attended the Industrial Union Council Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. We were part of a delegation of over 3700 union members from around the country. There were members from the Mine Workers, Machinists, UAW, Teamsters, PACE and many other unions. The goal was to meet with our State Representatives in Congress and to talk to them regarding three very important issues to working people. The issues addressed were health care, trade, and the Labor Law.

Before we went to the Capitol, we heard from several speakers including John Sweeney, President AFL-CIO, Richard Trumka, Secretary/Treasurer AFL-CIO, Congressman George Miller and Senator Byron Dorgan.

Congressman George Miller stated we need to take back America for working families and if our elected representatives want to be leaders then we need them to lead.

Senator Byron Dorgan stated fair trade and jobs, it's that simple. He asked if it was "fair trade" to import 680,000 cars from Korea, but we send only 2,800 to

Korea. He also said that for every \$5.00 China exports to the United States we only send China \$1.00 worth of products. Is this fair trade?

The speakers went on to say that Congress must act now to address the manufacturing crisis. As a first step, Congress must work with the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council to enact a comprehensive policy reform agenda to include:

- (1) Good Jobs – To improve America's trade balance and strengthen manufacturing industries, we need:
 - Fair trade policies that protect workers' rights and environmental standards;
 - Tax laws that end incentives for corporations to move production overseas;
 - Immediate intervention to address the problem of the overvalued dollar, which puts U.S.-based producers at an impossible competitive disadvantage; and
 - "High road" industrial development strategies that preserve and create *good* manufacturing jobs, with high wages, full benefits, safe working conditions and respect in the workplace.
- (2) Healthy communities – To ensure healthy communities and families, we need measures that bring adequate public money into the health care system, ease cost and competitive pressures and preserve employer-sponsored health care plans. These include:
 - A Medicare prescription benefit and coverage for most drug costs;
 - Protections against loss of retiree benefits; and
 - Subsidies to encourage employers to continue health care benefits.
- 3) A voice for working families – Reforming and enforcing the nation's labor laws are essential to addressing the manufacturing crisis, as well as for promoting good jobs for all American workers. We need:
 - Stronger labor laws to prevent employer interference and suppression of workers' freedom to choose for themselves whether to reform or join a union and bargain collectively;

Remember you can find our website at:

www.pace7232.org

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT***“Most effective conference I've ever attended”***

**By Greg Gorecki
President**

Last month membership approved Ross Winklbauer and myself to attend the Industrial Union Council Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. I believe it was probably the most effective conference I've ever attended during my time as an elected Union Representative. There were over 3700 delegates there. Rich Trumka, Secretary/Treasurer, AFL-CIO chaired the meeting. The delegates were from all over the country. They represented members of the U.A.W, Steelworkers, IUE-CWA, Unite, United Mine Workers and at least 5 other major Unions. We all came together as one voice to send a message to our elected officials that we need to revitalize American manufacturing. While there were many issues that needed to be addressed the leadership of the council prioritized what they felt were the most pressing issues: health care, worker's rights and the trade deficit. Guest speakers were brought in to elaborate on the issues. They suggested an approach to use with our congress people and senators and then bussed all of us to the Capitol, to lobby our representatives. We only had about 4-5 hours to do this but we used our time effectively. We focused on the congressmen that represent our members. We did meet with Congressman Petri, along with 15 other delegates from different unions. We had two meetings with Congressman Kleczka's office. First with his aide and then later when the Congressman was available he personally met with us. Congressman Sensenbrenner was not available, and then we just ran out of time. Congressman Kleczka was familiar with our issues and was very supportive of the issues we raised. That's not unusual though, Kleczka has always been good for working people. Congressman Petri, on the other hand, was a completely different experience. Petri did not seem well versed on the issues nor would he commit to a position on them. We told him we will be watching how he votes on issues and when election time comes around we will inform our members as to how he voted on issues that affect us. My only regret about this conference was that it was too short. This was the first conference with all the Industrial Unions together, and they plan on convening on an annual basis. Hopefully we will be represented there next year, and the delegates will have more time to lobby the politicians.

BRIGGS

We met with the Company regarding the Menomonee Falls plant. The Company laid out the fact that their lease expires in September of 2006. They are exploring different options right now, but as of February 12, 2003 nothing has been decided.

They did admit with the implementation of the new measured day work system, the Menomonee Falls warehouse has become a lot more efficient. This was one of the things the Union had hoped for when we agreed to look at the new system. The Union will also continue to work with the Company on some type of incentive program for the newly established time measured area.

As of right now, it is still in exploration stage but it is something we will continue to pursue.

The Union received an amended WARN notice from the Company regarding the job elimination in M-8. Originally the reduction was supposed to take place in March, it has now been pushed back to about the middle of April.

DIE CAST UPDATE

There is no update. We continue to get mixed reports from the Company. Some say that we could hear something by April, others say an agreement is going to take some time. My opinion is, I'd rather not hear anything until they have an agreement. It seems that some of the salary people keep adding fuel to the rumors. We will get the word out as soon as we know anything that is definite.

MICRO

On the status of the micro line, the word we were given is that it could start up at any time. It could be as soon as next week to some time in the future.

The Bargaining Committee has requested a meeting with John Shiely to ask him about the state of the business. We've done this annually, but as of now, we do not have a date for this meeting.

STRATTEC

We met with the Company on February 6th to third stage a few grievances. Two of the grievances were for job performance.

The other grievance we discussed was the way the Company is ignoring the insource/outsource language. The Company said they will be more aware of that issue and get that message out to their W.G.L.'s. The language basically states that whenever practicable the committees will be provided the subcontracting information in sufficient time to allow it to review the proposed subcontracting before it takes place. This is in order to attempt to minimize subcontracting.

We were having some issues with the way vacation pay was being calculated and interpreted. Karl was able to get with the Company and resolve that issue, and it was resolved before a grievance had to be pursued.

There has been more talk by the Company regarding job consolidation. The Job Consolidation Committee has not met with any consistency. The Company had pretty much abandoned the meetings prior to the lay offs starting last July. The Company now feels a sense of urgency and seems intent on putting the consolidated jobs in place without the input of the Union's Committee.

Just a reminder that the election for Grievance Rep at Strattec will be coming up in a little under 2 weeks.

Remember to get out and vote. Al Belanger, the Strattec Co-Chair of the Election Committee, will be running the election at the plant. The election will be held on Friday March 7, 2003. Times will be from 5:30 a.m.-7:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. Voting will also be available at the Union office, 8500 W. Capitol Dr. on March 7, 2003 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Strattec Corner

By Bigg Al Olivares

Well, everyone, its that time again. I have a bit of manufacturing and American history to share with you. During the latter half of 1776, Benjamin Franklin was sent by Congress to seek foreign aid for the Revolutionary War. His endeavors were successful and he did acquire weapons and provisions that in turn helped us get our now "taken for granted" freedoms. The embarrassment the United States suffered due to an incapacity of being able to be self sufficient during the war would now lead to actions taken by government officials of the time. In 1791, with the embarrassment and fear still fresh in the government's head, the Secretary of Treasury at that time and soon to be President, Alexander Hamilton wrote a report to the President. The report highlighted that America needs to ensure and promote manufacturing within our borders to ensure our safety and to keep our levels of supplies strong enough to defend ourselves without having to worry about a different country to come and bail us out. Bottom line was that we need to manufacture goods in America to take care of America.

With that being said, let me get back to the present time frame. It appears that the government now and the ruthless greed of corporations are now putting the money before the safety and defense of our beautiful country. As laborers we feel the wrath of these injustices every day. Now, the intent of this article is not to lower your level of patriotism or sense of security. In fact I feel we need to be aware of this kind of information so we do not fall prey to the old saying "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat." With the current status of the world and the advancement of technologies abroad, who is to say that anyone will be able to help us even if they want to?.

The only way to lead our lost herd of politicians back to the prosperous, greener pastures of manufacturing within our own borders is to go out and vote for the representatives that know the issues and realize the repercussions and the severity of such. As far as Corporate America is concerned, the only way to wake up those greedy bastards is to let the right government officials give them a swift kick in the butt, by putting in place laws and guidelines that keep Americans working, making goods in American factories to keep Americans going every day in times of

peace and in such tragic times as now with fear of war and terrorism abroad. I'm pretty sure the greedy corporate bastards will not be happy making the great country they live in a third world defenseless wasteland. Let's see how they would enjoy all that money surrounded by poverty and despair.

At Strattec De Milwaukee things are going about the same. The two remaining layoffs caused by machine movement are slated for the early March time frame. The two displaced people will be a trickle down result from the finalizing of department 90. These are supposedly the final layoffs due to machine movement that fall under similar language.

We still do not know what could come in the future as far as layoffs, due to discontinuing of locks being manufactured and the current state of our economy being in a recession. Hopefully we can make it through with no layoffs but, we need to keep our heads on straight and be ready for anything. With regards to the final number of layoffs, the Company and the Union have a meeting set up for February 25th to get final numbers and hopefully stop this doom and gloom on the shop floor and let us start to work forward to the future and who knows maybe even get some new work for us at the Milwaukee facility.

Finally, as usual, may God help us so we in turn can help America. Also, to all of our members who are serving in the Reserves and the National Guard, our prayers are with you. Show the bad guys how a good ol' fashion Milwaukee Union style ass whipping is properly applied. We will never forget, nor will we ever give up. OHH RAH!!! GOD BLESS AMERICA!!! LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE LABOR UNIONS!

LOCAL 7-232 REPORTER

March 2003 Volume 24, Issue #2

**LOCAL 7-232 PAPER, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL,
CHEMICAL AND ENERGY WORKERS
INTERNATIONAL UNION**

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

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

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Officers: President: Greg Gorecki, Vice President: John Nalepinski,
Secretary-Treasurer: Joe Chambers, Recording Secretary Scott Godshaw, Trustees: Ross Winklbaauer, Ralph Schweiger, Vicky Black, Guide: Greg Weber, Sergeant at Arms: Dennis Clark.
Briggs Bargaining Committee: Greg Gorecki, Scott Godshaw, Mike Merrill, Barb Schuller, Jesse Edwards
Strattec Bargaining Committee: Greg Gorecki, Karl Schneider, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares

Membership Information

January 2003

2,079 Members in Good Standing

1,636 in Briggs & Stratton Unit

443 in Strattec Unit

January Dues Payments

1,447 Dues Paying Members at Briggs

386 Dues Paying members at Strattec

1834 Total Dues Paying Members

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

Grievance Rep Reports

Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

SAFETY / INJURIES

On January 25, 2003 an employee was injured in Die cast. The employee was pinned against the die by the extractor. He yelled for help and a co-worker went to assist him. In this case the employee received a burn to the forearm, but this could have been much more serious. The employee did not miss any time from work. The employee failed to follow the safety procedure. Since this happened the company has installed more safety devices including another safety switch, a gate to prevent you from getting inside where the extractor is. They also started to retrain all employees in Die cast. If you think your job is unsafe please notify your steward, grievance rep, facilitator or the safety department.

FIRE / DEPT. 763

On Thursday January 30, 2003 there was a fire in department 763 heat treat. The Wauwatosa fire and Brookfield fire departments both responded. The Briggs's HAZMAT team also responded to the fire. The fire started at the # 10 draw furnace and it also traveled up through the smokestacks. The fire department arrived at 4:35pm and was cleared to leave at 5:21pm. No one was injured. The company started the furnaces back up at 2:20AM all but the # 10 draw furnace. Article X section 5 of the contract states the facilitator or supervisor shall have the duty to shut down an unsafe job. Employees have the right to refuse to work on a unsafe job. Think safety first.

GROUP CHANGE

Employees with 5 years of seniority and currently on layoff can go to personnel and request a group change. The next time you can request a group change is 1 month prior to April 1st. and the company will bump you back in seniority permitting within 6 weeks after April 1st.

STATUS CHANGE

If you are currently out on a voluntary layoff the first scheduled work day in April your status will change from voluntary layoff to involuntary layoff and the company will bump you back into your department, job and shift seniority permitting. If you want to stay out on voluntary layoff you must notify the company prior to the first scheduled work day in April.

DIE CAST

In department 192 the company used the 12 Month language to lock in the control body job. This job went into production in May 2002, but according to the Die Cast manager the customer was complaining about poor quality, so the company locked the job in so they could have the same people running the job every day. Some of the tenders in 192 were very upset about this, however per the contract the company can lock that job in.

Strattec Security

by Karl Schneider

Orders are strong, we are currently at a build schedule of 230,000 locksets per week. This forecast is for the next four weeks. We have 38 members on layoff, 9 of which are voluntary. This does not include the 18 members that took the voluntary layoff to retirement. The recall dates are as follows:

Piecework – October 2001

Daywork – September 1978

The Ford Q1 recovery is going very well. Ford is pleased with our initial corrective actions that are taking place. Every member that is involved in this should be proud of his or her efforts, I am.

There was a quality concern in the assembly area of CSS Housings but it has been addressed and the overall quality of our products has been good. Just a reminder, if you are having problems with your machine or any piece of equipment that you use to do your job, be sure to notify your WGL. If your attempts are ignored, notify your steward or a member of the Bargaining Committee.

I have been getting a lot of questions on former job rights. I will try to explain what your contractual rights are. If you are bumped into a different job or get recalled from layoff to a different job, you have former job rights and former shift rights to the job you were in before the bump or layoff occurred. Again this happens once you are back to work in a different job. For a more detailed explanation, see your steward or a member of the Bargaining Committee.

In closing, I would like to say "thank you" to all the people who make my job easier.

In Solidarity,

Karl Schneider

Also, in 192 the company eliminated 3 pieceworkers jobs due to production no longer needed in Milwaukee. These model 9 heads are being cast down south.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An employee with 5 or more years of seniority can take a personal leave of absence once every 5 years (from March 1st through October 31st inclusive for non-hardship) for up to six (6) weeks. You can also take a six(6) week personal leave from November 1st through the end of February inclusive if it is dealing with a hardship. You can't take a personal leave to look for work or work another job or business venture. If you take a personal leave be sure to get a memo stating the time your leave starts and the time you are to return to work. This would protect you in case you have a dispute with the company. The personal leave does not preclude you from requesting an emergency leave of absence. An emergency is defined as a sudden, unexpected occurrence.

In Solidarity

Jesse Edwards

Membership Meeting Recap

by Scott Godshaw

The membership meeting was held on Sunday February 16, 2003 at Monreal's El Matador at 9:30 a.m. sharp.

Ralph Schwieger read the Trustee Report. Joe Chambers, in his Financial Sec/Treasurer Report, stated there were 1447 members at Briggs and 387 members at Strattec for a total of 1834 dues paying members in January. A motion was made and passed to accept the report as read.

COMMUNICATIONS

United Way of Waukesha County and the Waukesha County Labor Council will be sponsoring their Annual Union Counselor/Referral Specialist Program. The classes will run six Mondays starting March 10th through April 14th from 7:00-9:30 p.m.

PACE Region X will be holding their Women's Network meeting Friday March 21, 2003 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton in Milwaukee. The delegate fee is \$20.00. Motion to send Vicky Black from Briggs and Maria Kennemer from Strattec passed.

The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO will be holding their Legislative Conference on Tuesday, April 29, and Wednesday, April 30, at the Concourse Hotel in Madison. Motion to send Mike Merrill and Ralph Schweiger passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President Greg Gorecki reported that since there is not monthly or quarterly steward meetings,, new stewards will be sworn in at the monthly membership meetings. However, no new stewards were present.

Gorecki reported on the recent Legislative Conference he and Ross Winklbauer attended in Washington D.C. He reported on Strattec's third stage and the Company's ignoring of the Insource/Outsource Committee. He also reminded the Strattec body of the upcoming Grievance Rep. election to be held on Friday March 7, 2003. Al Belanger, Co-chair of the Election Committee will be running the election.

At Briggs, a meeting took place with the Company on the future of the Menomonee Falls Plant and their recent standards implementation. Also reported on was Die Cast, time study, the Micro Line and the Bargaining Committee's request to meet with John Shiely.

Mike Merrill reported on updates on MED South, 780, 238, 243, Die Cast, the Micro Line, M-3 and M-8.

Karl Schneider reported on Strattec's third stage and updates regarding layoffs and quality issues.

Tom Bishanell gave his Time Study and Job Evaluation Reports for both Strattec and Briggs for the last quarter of 2002 and the whole year.

The next meeting will be held Sunday March 16, 2003 at Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Rd. at 9:30 a.m.

Grievance Rep Reports

Briggs & Stratton First & Third Shift

by Mike Merrill & Barb Schuller

MED SOUTH- PRODUCTION AS USUAL

In the coil department, the stator rates are under fire again from the company timestudy department. Tom has been diligently working on the grievance to come up with a fair and equitable rate.

Department 780 will go to a three shift operation 2-17-03. They will be moving three set-up people from the other shifts.

Department 715/238 will reduce by three pieceworkers because of the automation of the rocker arm assembly.

Department 243 is currently running three shifts on the rack plater. That part of the department is running at capacity.

DIE CAST

We continue to have concerns regarding the Beaver Tail job in dept. 192. The company timestudy department studied the job. Their study showed the job running at a rate that cannot be done by one person, yet the company continues to insist that this can be done. They placed a slider on the job, which does not work, because of the extensive flash on the part. Besides the flash, there is the trimming, filing, inspection and packing. It's a little overwhelming even for the most experienced operators.

The company posted voluntary layoff notice for four tenders as they achieve their desired staffing of set-up people. Three of these layoffs were taken by volunteers. This cutback is due to the company getting more set-up A people in place to do relief. The staffing intention of the company was to have ten set-up A's on each shift. Currently there are nine on first and third shifts and ten on second shift. The tender relief position was temporary until the set-up people were in place. First and third shifts have retained one relief person until the tenth set-up A is in place.

Everyone in Die Cast was given some information on plant or department evacuation methods. When the company tells you to leave the area, please leave for your own safety.

MED NORTH

Micro Line – At the time of this writing, the prospective customer is LA Equipment. The company is hoping to get a contract signed soon with them. If that happens, production could possibly start up in March. As of now we do not know what the production rate or run will be.

M-3 – The Company posted a voluntary layoff because they are ahead of the production schedule. The posting is for two set-up people and five operators.

M-8 – The Company is extending the 60-day layoff notice. It was originally to take effect March 2nd. The original notice was for nine set-up, ten operators, one labor grade. 20. The layoff will take place approx. April 15th. As always, this plan is subject to change. Menomonee Falls – There are a lot of new people that came in the warehouse side because of retirements. We have a lot of issues with training procedures and the new daywork standards the company has put in place. We are currently trying to address them with management.

Workers Comp — When our members report a workers comp. injury, there are multiple forms to be fill out. One of the forms in the packet is a "Voluntary and Informed Consent for Disclosure of Health Care Information". Read that form carefully. It states on the form you are not required to sign this. Under the workers comp. law, the company has the right to medical information regarding your injury only.

In Solidarity
Mike and Barb

Ask the Lawyer

By Thomas J. Flanagan

WHAT YOU ARE OWED IF YOU HAVE TO GO FOR AN "INDEPENDENT" MEDICAL EXAMINATION

If you are requested by the worker's compensation carrier to attend an examination conducted by a doctor hired by the carrier (usually called an independent medical examination), you are entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses. Before the examination, you are entitled to receive "all necessary expenses including transportation expenses." Expenses include wage loss. If you lose time from work to attend one of these examinations, you should submit the time loss to the worker's compensation carrier for full wage replacement. Mileage is reimbursed at 32.5 cents per mile.

If you have questions on worker's compensation, personal injury, or social security disability, please feel free to call the Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller and Brueggeman law firm at 414-271-4500 (Milwaukee) or 262-789-5000 (Brookfield) or 800-841-5232 (Statewide toll free).

Local 7232 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

Thank the Liberals for your work benefits

By Curt Andersen from the *Green Bay News Chronicle*

A recent remark by a conservative about liberals made me wonder how that person managed to ignore the 16 year Circus of Spending under Govs. Tommy Thompson and Scott McCallum.

Since the person that made the remark had a college degree, I had to wonder just what he learned in college, other than Party Hearty 101. As my dad used to grouse, "They send these kids to college and they learn to be smart alecks."

Perhaps some people have not given much thought to how their bread is buttered, directly or indirectly. Let's start with those college guys. Taxpayers subsidize university (and technical college) tuition, and though different in each state, Wisconsin pays a minimum of 14 percent of real tuition costs. That subsidy is the result of liberal policies, not the penny wise, pound foolish conservative variety. Yet, so many kids go off to college without knowing that. The liberal idea of free public schools took root more than a hundred years ago. Public schools are a big part of why the United States is a strong nation today. The liberal GI Bill allowed hundreds of thousands of veterans to attend college and get much better jobs than they would've had otherwise.

Unions grew from liberal seeds. While corporate cynics sniff at unions, they should thank them instead for their fabulous salaries and benefits.

Every benefit unions got -better wages, increased safety, sick pay, vacations, medical and dental insurance, pensions, and the famous 8 hour day white collar workers got, as well. Better pay has allowed people to buy bigger homes and the furniture to fill them. Sales of merchandise increased, creating more jobs. The pay increase allowed people to buy a new car every so often, increasing the number of jobs at every increment of auto manufacture.

Vacation time, brought about by unions, brings an annual 30 billion tourist dollars into Wisconsin, creating more jobs and allowing even more people to live comfortably and buy more merchandise, again creating more jobs.

Liberals pushed for safety improvements, which have allowed more people to work in dangerous jobs without losing fingers, limbs, eyes, hearing or lives. The need for safety measures promoted development of new products and created new markets and new jobs.

Doctors and dentists can live in relative luxury because of medical and dental insurance. All of the talent in the world is useless if customers can't afford needed care. Sick pay, when used right, keeps disease from spreading at crowded workplaces. Social Security keeps handicapped and older people from living in squalor. Liberal policy is what allows hunters and fishers to ply their hobbies.

The liberal idea of common property gives folks access to hunt and fish on state and federal lands and waters. Some sportsmen wrongly credit this benefit to conservatives.

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Strattec Grievance Rep Candidates



Karl Schneider

Former steward, Incumbent Grievance Rep, School for Workers Collective Bargaining Course, Delegate-PACE Region X Spring Conference, PACE Region X Collective Bargaining Workshop, Delegate-Milwaukee County Labor Council, Delegate 2000 & 2002 AFL-CIO Wisconsin State Convention



Debbie Figueroa

Steward Dept. 64 1999-2001, Chief Steward (Strattec 2000-2001), Delegate-Woman's Conference, Safety Committee Dept. 64, Steering Committee Learning Center

NOTICE: General Election for Strattec Grievance Representative

**Friday March 7, 2003
Strattec Cafeteria**

**5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to
3:30 p.m.**

**Local 7-232 Union Office
8500 W. Capitol Dr.
10am. to 3:00p.m.**

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It's amazing to think that some of our hoity toity brethren believe they are where they are because of innate talent. They must get over that. Taxpayer subsidies landed these folks on third base, and they think they've hit a triple.

Benefits from liberal thought and action are why other countries envy the United States. Those benefits are now being eroded by so called globalization that pits the workers of one nation against the workers of another. When even blue collar workers support this destructive idea, we are all in big trouble.

Andersen is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a Navy veteran. He owns a small business and is an adjunct instructor at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. He is vice president of Clean Water Action Council. Reprinted with permission.

- Legislative Conference

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- A quicker and fairer process for determining union representation; and
- Guarantees of meaningful collective bargaining rights and legal protections for all workers.

After all the speakers were finished, all 3700 delegates loaded the busses and went to the Capital. Greg and I first attempted to meet with Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner from the fifth district. Even though I called before we went to Washington and asked to meet with the Congressman, we were told that Congressman Sensenbrenner and his aids couldn't meet with us and we were asked to leave his office. We had better luck with our next meeting. We were able to meet with my representative Congressman Tom Petri of the sixth district. There were seventeen of us that explained to the Congressman the problems of the working people of Wisconsin. We asked him to join with the other congressman from Wisconsin to pass legislation that would help our cause. He was very polite and said he would review our requests. Congressman Petri is a member of the Republican Party so if you live in his district you might want to give him a call and try to encourage him to stop supporting only the rich and support the working people of Wisconsin also.

From there Greg and I met with Congressman Jerry Kleczka, a democrat from the fourth district. Congressman Kleczka has been a strong supporter of labor for a long time and told us he would be more than willing to fight for the rights of working families. He placed Local 7-232 on his mailing list and told us he'd like to send us information to help keep us clued in as to what is happening in Washington. **Periodically we will share Kleczka's reports in the newspaper and on the Local 7232 website.**

<http://www.pace7232.org/reporter/March2003/kleczka.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7th – Final Election for Strattec Grievance Rep.

March 16th – Membership Meeting

March 17th — St. Patrick's Day 

April 18th – Good Friday Holiday

April 27th – Membership Meeting

May 11th — Mother's Day

May 18th – Membership Meeting

May 26th – Memorial Day 

June — Steward Elections

June 15th — Father's Day

June 22nd – Membership Meeting

June 27th – Vacation Shutdown at Briggs Begins

July 4th – Independence Day 

July 14th – Return from Shutdown (Briggs)

Briggs Retiree Club

First of all, I would like to let you all know our Reporter will not be sent out by mail anymore due to a cut in expenses. PACE Local Union 7-232 will be putting it on the internet at www.pace7232.org. We will also be picking up some Reporters at the Union office and bringing them to our club events which are held on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month. They are held at the AMF Bowlero on Burleigh. The doors open at 11:00 a.m. for Bingo and the meeting is held at 12 noon. Also, every Tuesday we play cards at 1:00 p.m. and we have bowling on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Other events will be announced at a later date.

You must be a paid up member to attend any of our club events. Dues are \$24.00/year or 6 months for \$12.00 Jan.-June and July-Dec. Call Erma Gorecki at 262-781-8951 for more information.

All of you Briggs retirees come and join our club! Meet your friends you once worked with and meet some new ones. You'll be glad you did. I am looking forward to seeing you.

Please let us remember our sick and shut-ins; Donald Jewell, Marian Kulicka, and George Bushman. Also, our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Richard Tillman who has passed away.

Please try to attend our coming events, they will be important.

Till next time, take care and God bless.

Frances P. Capello
Corresponding Secretary
262-251-7514

March Membership Meeting Sunday March 16, 2003 9:30 a.m.

Monreal's El Matador Lower Level

9155 W. Bluemound Rd.

IMPORTANT BUSINESS

- Reports of Officers, Grievance Reps and Committees
- Discussion and action on any other proper business for this meeting.

Recall Dates-Briggs

(As of February 19, 2003)

Heavy machine operators September 23, 1973

Light machine operators September 23, 1976

Assembly November 20, 1973

L.G.23 July 31, 1978

Above L.G. 23 August 31, 1978

L.G. 27 September 28, 1970

247 employees on layoff