

# REP RTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PACE LOCAL 7-232

VOLUME 25, NO.5

MAY 2004

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** by Scott Godshaw

## Service Division to leave the Falls

We were informed by the company recently (again) that the Service Division is leaving Menomonee Falls and should be coming to Burleigh. We, however, were told this before and then there was some negotiating involved with Harley-

Davidson. This created the possibility that the Service Division was staying at the Falls. Right now, the only thing that is certain, is negotiations with Harley are finished and the Service Division must be out of the Falls by August of 2006. The Bargaining Committee will be meeting with the Service Division management soon to discuss exactly what will be happening to Service. We will let everyone know as soon as it is revealed.

Also at Briggs we have been meeting with the company to finalize the Productivity Reward Program that will be rolled out plant wide in areas that will have piecework eliminated on August 1, 2004. The plan was originally negotiated in 1998 as the pilot program and went into the contract in its' entirety in 2001. The Bargaining Committee is monitoring the process closely to insure that the contract is being followed. The company, when all the rough edges have been smoothed out, will conduct training sessions for the affected areas.

We received another WARN notice on April 30, 2004. The permanent reduction will occur on or about July 1, 2004, when Department 238 (miscellaneous sub-assembly) will be reduced by approximately 10 jobs; Department M3-Q (quality) will be reduced approximately by one job and Department M7-X (components-carburetors) will be reduced by approximately 12 jobs.

Briggs announced their third quarter earnings, which ended March 31. It was a very profitable quarter. If the fourth quarter does equally as well, the possibility exists that we could receive a bigger EVA check than last year. If there is an EVA check, those

checks would be distributed by the end of August. The contract states payment will be made on or before the end of the second month following the end of the relevant PlanYear. Fiscal year ends June 30th.

### Strattec

At Strattec, Grievance Representative Karl Schneider recently received a formal request from Strattec Plant Manager and Vice President Kathy Scherbath, to attempt to go back to his regular job due to the President of the Union's job going part time. I responded to Scherbath request stating that there was no correlation between Karl's Union business and myself going back to work in the shop, when I can. In fact, the stewards and grievance

reps need to step up more when it comes to day to day Union business on the shop floor. I also stated that at Strattec, not only do I see little effort in resolving issues but I see NO effort in trying to even meet with the committee. It has taken us approximately 2 months to complete a third stage. This is unacceptable! I went on to say that if she wanted Karl Schneider not to work 40 hours on Union business, then I recommended that we work together to resolve grievances in a more timely manner at a earlier step. On May 4, 2004 we finally finished the third stage grievance meeting that started on March 16th that I was speaking of.

Also at Strattec, training or lack thereof has become a major issue. I would like to call your attention to Dennis Nowak's article on page 5 regarding training at Strattec.

### Membership Meetings

The membership meeting this month as usual will be the third Sunday of the month which is May 16th. However, next month's membership meeting will be held on the fourth Sunday, June 27th due to Father's Day. There will be no membership meeting in July. All meetings are held at Frank Monreal's El Matador 9155 W. Bluemound Road at 9:30a.m.



# Bush Economic Record, only Administration in 70 years with Decline in Private Sector Jobs

by Ross Winklbauer

In 2002, the Bush Administration promised Americans its' economic policies would create 3.4 million more jobs in 2003 than were created in 2000; however, in fact, the economy lost 1.7 million jobs. When President Bush took office, six million Americans were unemployed. Today, over eight million Americans have no job. This Administration's record on job creation is the worst since the Hoover Administration and the Great Depression. Recently, the Bush Administration predicted the economy would add 2.6 million jobs in 2004, but even President Bush has now backed off this prediction. By failing to endorse the job projections of his own Council of Economic Advisors, the President is admitting that his term will end with a net job loss. This is a far cry from the millions of new jobs he promised in order to justify his trillions in tax cuts for the wealthy.

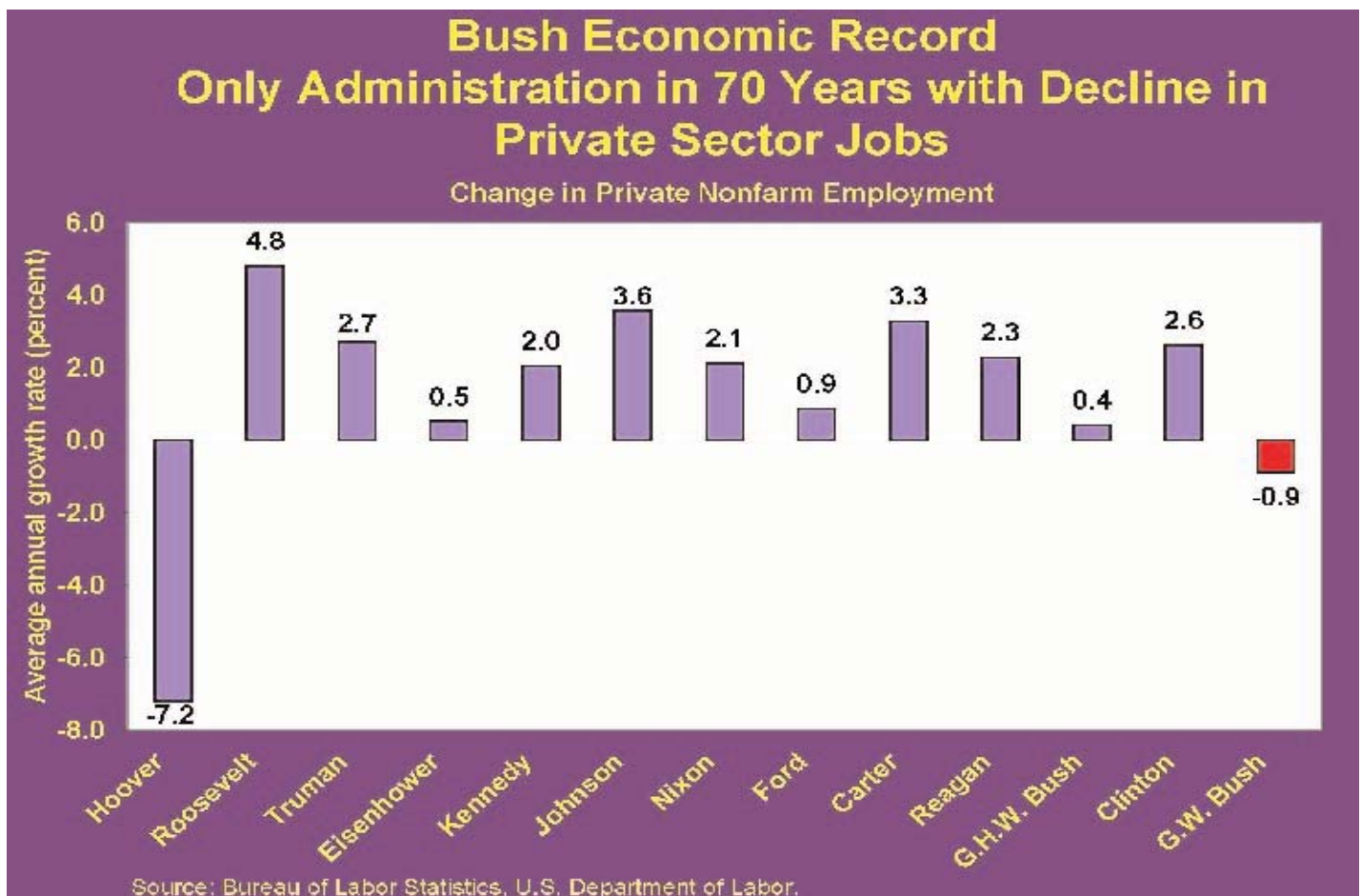
On one hand, in a speech in Bakersfield,

California, President Bush said that job growth in the private sector was critical to the country's economic success.

Then in his 2004 Economic Report of the President to Congress, President Bush said " Outsourcing is just a new way of doing international trade. More things are tradable than were tradable in the past. And that's a good thing."

It is clear that President Bush is a callous and reckless steward of the national economy. His economic policies are bringing record fiscal deficits, but they are not bringing the jobs back. And they are not bringing any relief to the long-term jobless, who need extended unemployment benefits. But President Bush and his Republican cronies have made sure they aren't getting them.

I would like to thank the 2004 Congressional Report Card on Labor Issues for supplying the information I used for this article.



**Notice: Even George W. Bush's Father, George H. Bush, created more jobs during his presidential administration than his son did.**

## Compensation may be owed for hearing loss

There have been many inquiries made regarding compensation you may be owed for hearing loss you have due to your employment.

If you have a hearing loss and it is work related, you are entitled to compensation if the amount of loss is above certain minimums. Hearing loss can be proved through an audiogram. An audiologist, known as an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist (ENT) usually performs these tests. There are a few procedures you must follow to process your claim. By doing so, you can minimize in receiving the compensation payment.

You must be out of the employment for seven (7) consecutive days before you obtain a hearing test.

Workers Compensation does not pay for this exam.

Your insurance may or may not cover this exam. If it does, be sure to go through the proper provider to get it covered. This does not preclude your right to go to an (ENT) outside that facility. However, you will be responsible for the full cost of the exam if you wish to do this.

Have a doctor send the results of the hearing test to:

Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Division  
201 E. Washington Ave., Room 161

P.O. Box 7901

Madison, WI 53707-7901

As soon as all information is received, your claim will be reviewed and you will be notified if you have a compensable loss of hearing.

### BRIGGS

If you belong to the EPO Insurance plans, you must go through your selected health care facility and pay the co-pay required. This does not preclude your right to go to an ENT outside that facility. However, you will be responsible for the full cost of the exam, if you wish to do this. For those of you that have PPO Insurance, hearing exams are not covered.

You can obtain the prior hearing tests by contacting the Workers Compensation Department at Briggs (414) 259-5378. It can take a while to retrieve these tests, so request these tests as soon as possible.

If a hearing aid is recommended as a result of compensable loss, you should again contact the Workers Compensation Department at Briggs at (414) 259-5697.

### STRATTEC

If you belong to a PPO Plan, a hearing test in your network is 90% covered. You would pay 10%. If you go out of your network, it is 70% covered. You would pay 30%.

If you need to obtain prior hearing tests or if a hearing aid is recommended as a result of a compensable loss, you should contact Tom Kiepczynski, safety manager at Strattec, at (414) 247-3567

## LOCAL 7-232 REPORTER

May 2004 Volume 25, Issue #5

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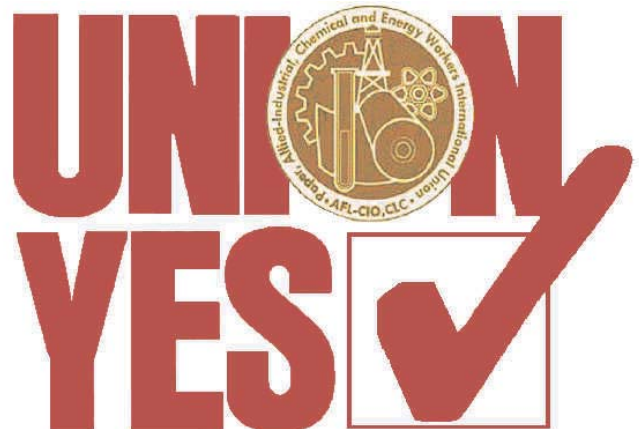
Hours 7:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Monday through Friday

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

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**Officers:** President: Scott Godshaw Vice President: Fred Schmidt, Secretary-Treasurer: Ross Winklbauer Sr. Recording Secretary: Tom Bishanell, Trustees: Greg Weber, Ralph Schwieger, Vicky Black, Guide: Debbie Curro, Sergeant at Arms: Dennis Clark.  
**Briggs Bargaining Committee:** Scott Godshaw, Mike Merrill, Barb Schuller, Jesse Edwards, Tom Bishanell  
**Strattec Bargaining Committee:** Scott Godshaw, Karl Schneider, Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares

## Local 7-232 Legal Law 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 7-232 is providing free legal consultations with lawyers from the law firm of Previat, Goldberg, Uelman, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman at the Local 7-232 Union office, 8500 W. Capitol Dr. Legal clinic hours: 1:00P.M. to 4:00P.M. First Monday of the month. Call for an appointment 414-463-7425.**



# Membership Meeting Recap

by Tom Bishanell

The membership meeting was held Sunday, April 18, 2004; at Frank Monreal's El Matador at 9:30 a.m. President Scott Godshaw presided over the meeting. Vicky Black gave the Trustee's Report for March. Ross Winklbauer gave the Financial Secretary-Treasurers Report. Ross noted we had 1,393 dues paying members in March.

## Communications

The 118th anniversary commemorating the Bay View tragedy takes place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 2nd.

The Milwaukee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO will meet for the Second Summit, "Building Bridges." It will be held Saturday, May 8th at 9:00 a.m. at M.A.T.A.

The National Association of Letter Carriers annual food drive is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th. Volunteers are needed to sort and pack food.

Voices Against Hunger, a group organized by the Hunger Task Force, is holding a 2004 Anti-Hunger Forum, Saturday, April 24th, at Marquette University.

The 2004 Workers Memorial Day will be held Wednesday, April 28th, starting at 5:00 p.m. with a march from Ziedler Park to the Postal Workers Union Hall. There is a 6:00 p.m. commemoration dinner which follows. Tickets are \$10.00 through the Milwaukee County Labor Council.

The Milwaukee County Labor Council and PACE Local 7-0852, which represents the workers at Milwaukee Dustless Brush Co, both sent thank-you letters for the money donated during their strike and lock-out.

Send \$50 to the Community Services Committee of the Milwaukee County Labor Council for the 15th annual Health and Hygiene Drive.

Ross Winklbauer then explained that \$383 had been collected in the prior years to assist in a legal defense for a sympathetic cause. The suit was settled and the money returned. It was recommended and approved by membership that the money now be donated to our Local's Community Services Program.

## Reports of Officers

Scott Godshaw reported that at Strattec the last third stage meeting will finally be concluded on May 4, 2004.

Kathy Scherbarth, vice president of Strattec, sent Grievance Rep, Karl Schneider a formal request to go back on his job 2 days a week due to the Local president going back on the shop floor on a part time

basis. Scott said he responded by stating there is no correlation between the two positions. Scott explained that if Strattec would work with us to settle at an earlier step, maybe Karl would be able to get on his job more.

Godshaw reported that at Briggs, the company has now stated that the Service Division from Menomonee Falls will be moving to the Burleigh Plant.

The Bargaining Committee has been meeting with the company on a regular basis to finalize the productivity reward program that will be expanding and upcoming elimination of piecework this August 1st.

The president ended his report by reading Jeff Mahloch's response to the letter Scott sent to John Shiely.

Mike Merrill reported on MED North and an increase in Micro Line production. He also gave information on MED South, Plating, Departments 780 and 716, and tentative layoffs.

Jesse Edwards gave his report on Department 128 combining with Department 721. He also told members about the upcoming job elimination, Die Cast production, and the procedure for anyone with vacation pay remaining.

Karl Schneider reported that at Strattec, the Nissan tour went well. Visitors liked the product, our people, and the plant. Karl stated that mag was dead and a few people had quit, vested. He then reminded members to get their vacation requests in before April 30th.

Tom Bishanell gave the timestudy report for the first quarter ending March 31st.

The next meeting will be held Sunday, May 16th at Frank Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Road, at 9:30 a.m.

## Membership Information

April 2004

1615 Members in Good Standing  
1242 in Briggs & Stratton Unit  
373 in Strattec Unit

## March Dues Payments

1048 Dues Paying Members at Briggs  
345 Dues Paying members at Strattec  
1393 Total Dues Paying Members

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

# Strattec Corner

by Bigg Al Olivares

Hey everybody! I hope everyone is doing good and enjoying the scattered and somewhat unpredictable early days of spring in Wisconsin. As for the goings on at Strattec de Milwaukee, I have no real positive things to report.

I have reported earlier that the company was pursuing magnesium die casting for the Milwaukee facility. Unfortunately, things in that arena did not pan out in our favor. From what I gather, certain factions from within Delphi, the company from which we were bidding for the business with, wanted the casting done by Strattec. This, of course, is a good thing. However, one faction or group over there, the bean counters, of course, were looking to score some cheaper deal elsewhere. The good thing is that Delphi actually increased the amount of the order. This is indeed excellent news. Of course there is always a hitch. Somewhere during the negotiations, the work went from being cast in Milwaukee, (new work for us) to an outside vendor.

You may ask yourself why in the heck, or how in the heck, would it end up being cast somewhere else? Well, as it was explained to me, the initial cost of startup in the Milwaukee facility to do this type of casting at this volume, would not be capable of generating positive EVA in a reasonable amount of time. Of course, reasonable amount of time as viewed through a corporate greed monger is defined as immediately. Thus, the decision was made to quote this wonderful new business to a company that already does magnesium castings. This, of course, drastically reduces the start up time of the new business and almost, if not immediately, begins to generate positive EVA with the first piece.

Now with all that "crap" being said, a few questions pop up in my mind. First of all, if the company is not willing to make the investment for the Milwaukee facility now for the magnesium casting, were they really ever? I mean for all we as a union know, they could have been blowing smoke up our you-know-what to pacify us or make themselves look good. That is just one observation and opinion, which happens to be mine. Okay, now the company says they *may* have made the investment at the smaller order size because of the smaller volume of the orders they could have better financially managed the new program which would have generated positive EVA quicker if not immediately. I guess all I can say to that is "whatever." I mean there could have been some way of bringing at least part of the magnesium business to our facility on Good Hope. We could have one machine by us with that other company supporting us. But of course, noooo!! Once again greed has to override our future in Milwaukee. This is a huge let down for both sides. So as usual, the morale continues to spiral downward out of control as we sit back helplessly and watch our own extinc-

tion. Come on company, wake up! We know you need the money. But, darn it, you can do it without the expense of us losing our jobs. I would think you would want your work force to grow in knowledge and flexibility. We can't do that unless you afford us the opportunity. So let me personally thank you for a whole lot of nothing. Just for once would it be possible for you to act like you give a darn about your workforce?

## TRAINING

by Dennis Nowak - Strattec Bargaining Committee

Training, WHERE IS IT?

That is the question our people have been asking me, and the question certainly has merit.

Apparently there are several areas that have no training going on what so-ever, and some areas have very little. The overwhelming issue I'm hearing that is hampering the training process is:

"No People - No Time To Train"

Well why not?

Could it be that we have barely enough people to make our weekly build schedule?

Could it be that management does not replace our workers and we are therefore left shorthanded?

Or could it be that the commitment to training has diminished?

Maybe by increasing the staff or our hours, training could get its much-needed second wind.

The need for training is Today, Tomorrow, and the Future.

The commitment needs to be reaffirmed and carried out so our folks can bring to their jobs expanded work knowledge and flexibility.

What do you say, can we get this done?

## UNION T-SHIRTS

by Bigg Al Olivares

**Brothers and Sisters of Local 7-232, summer is almost here so it's time to show off your Union Pride, and what better way than our own t-shirts. We have a few different colors and styles. Of course, with the summer weather on its way, sizes are limited. You can purchase these t-shirts at the Local's Union office or at our Union meetings. Wait! I have just been informed if you attend six meetings, you receive a shirt of your choice FREE. Bigg Al says "What a bargain!"**

Sizes: Small- XXXL

**Union made, Union strong!**

## Grievance Rep Reports

### Strattec Security

by Karl Schneider

Brothers & Sisters:

#### Last Quarter

We are in the last quarter of the fiscal year. EVA is ahead of last year's trend. We are \$1.69 million short of the 6% payout mark.

#### Vacation

The first round of vacation for the next fiscal year has ended. If you have a request that was refused by the company, you should save that slip. As the refused date approaches, the refused slip from the first round should be considered if your boss can now let more people off.

The second round is from May 15th, ending prior to May 30th. Since the 29th is a Saturday, requests should be turned in by the 28th for remaining available dates. Remember, in the second round, full weeks by seniority take precedent over less than full weeks by seniority. If you have any questions, see your steward.

The company is not planning to have a shut down this year. The July 4th holiday will be observed on Monday July 5th.

As for remaining vacation from this fiscal year, you need to use your vacation days by June 30th. If you are having trouble getting your vacation approved, you should notify your steward.

#### Stewards

There was a steward election held last month in Department 64, 1st shift. Jerry Plieth was elected unopposed. Stewards for the rest of the departments are as follows:

First shift: Department 51 – Nancy Lesniewski, Departments 50 & 66 – Carmella Strock, Departments 54 & 55 – vacant, Department 71 – Al Evseichik, Departments 77 & 90 – Jan Parker, and Departments 58, 59, 60 & 68 Randy Neiman.  
Second Shift: Departments 50, 54, 55 & 71 – Tony Pipia and Departments 51, 58, 59, 60, 64, 77, & 90 – Dan Turk.  
Third Shift: Departments 50, 54, 55 & 71 – Milt Dawson and Departments 51, 58, 59, 60, 64, 68 & 90 – Chad Mathews.

The Executive Board appointed Al Evseichik Chief Steward back in March due to a vacancy. Al has been doing a real nice job in this role.

It is very important to check any attendance warnings for accuracy before signing them. Your

## 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)

steward cannot assist you if they are not aware of the problems.

Currently we have 365 members, of which 341 are active. Of the 24 that are inactive, 9 are on voluntary layoff, all in the trades. The remaining 15 are on various types of leave.

#### Wellness Committee

The Joint Union and Company Wellness Committee has been resurrected with a commitment to bring awareness to everyone's health at Strattec. My personal goal is to put out as much information and support as possible to improve your health. The Wellness Committee will be sponsoring events for National Employee Fitness Day, which is May 19th.

#### Conference

On April 28th & 29th, I attended a conference called Addiction and the Workplace. The primary focus was on education and resources available for dealing with addictions. It was not limited to employees. Other covered topics were adolescence treatment, behavioral health, and insurance resources. Resources were provided by Federal, State and County Agencies. If you have any questions or needs in this area, contact me. All correspondences will be kept confidential.

In Solidarity  
Karl Schneider

# Grievance Rep Reports

## Briggs & Stratton First & Third Shift

by Mike Merrill & Barb Schuller

### MED South

In Department 797, on Thursday April 15th, Dennis Cerfus held a departmental meeting in which he explained the department's move, scheduled during the months of June and July. There is an issue that is truly disturbing, our own members turning each other in to management at this meeting. Jerry Stoisolovich also stated that the layoff plans for some of the other areas were not going to happen as planned. This will affect especially departments 715 and 243. Department 715 was put on nine hours and told the layoff will not happen as planned because they cannot find an outside vendor to do the work. But when they do, they have assured everyone, they will be moving the jobs. Also, in the plating area, it seems the company cannot find another company to plate pistons and A/C bases either. This is subject to change.

In Department 716, the layoff scheduled for April 23rd will take place as scheduled. The department currently has 13 labor grade 18's and will reduce this to only six.

In Departments 770, 760 & 765, there is a safety concern. The company is trying to eliminate some toxic chemicals from the plant and they are receiving static from our members because of an inconvenience of trying new chemicals. Take a look at the number of members passing away recently or currently ill. Whatever we can do to help the health of every person in this plant should be taken into consideration.

In Departments 716 & 780, it seems the company has turned in the opposite direction than in the departments mentioned before. The company has changed their policy regarding set-up men working on the punch presses or transfer presses. The safety policy, which the company and union were in agreement with, was that a set-up person could not work alone in the department. Because it's budget time, they do not consider a safety matter any longer to work alone in the department. Their resolve is to give the set-up person a walkie talkie, and to have the guards check on them on their rounds. Just remember if you are one of these set up people and something does happen, please check the column numbers in your work area. It seems that's the only way security can find you in case of an emergency.

### Smoking Policy

Heads up! The company is going to be cracking down on the No Smoking Policy. As you can see, Dennis Mulheron has started already.

## Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

### Departments 128 and 721

A meeting was held on April 13, 2004 with department 128. During the meeting our members were told that Department 128 (dock#9 and dock#13) and Department 721 (P-building) would be merged the week of April 19, 2004. There will be job elimination. The W.A.R.N. notice will go out on April 26, 2004. The job elimination will occur on or about June 25, 2004. Nine (9) jobs will be eliminated at this time. If you have any questions please see your steward or grievance representative.

### Department 192

In Department 192 Die Cast, there are no changes in production at this time. The plan for now is to run with 18 machine tenders and 12 setup people per shift.

### Vacation / Pay as you take it

If you wanted to change your vacation pay as you take it status, you would have had to do that in the month of April. Any vacation pay not received will be paid by the third pay check in May.

### Workers Memorial Day

April 28, 2004 is Workers Memorial Day. Please see your steward or grievance representative for a ribbon to be worn on this day. Mourn for the Dead, Fight for the Living.

In Solidarity,  
Jesse Edwards

### A Special Thanks

The Union would like to thank Nick Hyke, Mark Plate and Ken Carnek for their unselfish acts of putting their own lives on the line in an attempt to save another member. Thanks again. Third shift is glad they have such dedicated first responders.

### MED North

There is good news regarding the Micro Lines. On May 10, the line will go from a 500 run rate to a 750 run rate. This should add six to eight operators and one labor grade 21 dayworker.

On the outboard line in Department 206, they are currently running very limited production. The company still does not have a date when the line will be moved to Generac (Briggs & Stratton Power Products).

In Solidarity,  
Barb Schuller and Mike Merrill

# UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9- Mother's Day

May 16- Membership Meeting

May 31 - Memorial Day



June 14- Flag Day

June 20- Father's Day



June 27- Membership Meeting (note change in date)



## Briggs Retiree Club

Our May 19th luncheon and bingo will be held at the Legion Post #449 on 124th Street. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. Festivities start at 12 noon, bingo and door prizes will follow. (Voluntary treats are welcome.)

June 16th and July 21st will be the dates for our picnics, all at the Post #449. Doors open at 11 a.m. There will be free refreshments and door prizes. There will also be bingo played. Festivities start at 12 noon. Remember to bring your birthday or anniversary treats on these days.

Sheepshead is played every Tuesday at noon. There are no cash prizes for the summer months.

Remember you must be a paid up member to attend any of our events. Call our Financial Secretary, Erma Gorecki 781-8951 for more information. Dues are \$24.00 a year.

Please remember Briggs retirees & members now in nursing homes. Let us try and visit them or give them a call when we can. Our get well wishes go to Stefan Hinemann, Elsie Weissenbon, and Joe Werner.

I hope to see you all at our May luncheon and summer picnics. Take care of yourselves and enjoy the summer months. God bless.

Wishing all the mothers a "Blessed Mother's Day."

Frances P. Capello  
Corresponding Secretary  
1-262-251-7514

# May Membership Meeting

Sunday  
May 16, 2004  
9:30 a.m.

Frank Monreal's El Matador

9155 W. Bluemound Rd.  
IMPORTANT BUSINESS

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

## Recall Dates-Briggs

(As of April 16, 2004)

Heavy machine operators. None on layoff at this time

Light machine operators. None on layoff at this time.

Assemblers.....None on layoff at this time  
 L.G. 18 or better..... October 16, 1978  
 L.G. 23..... August 7, 1978  
 L.G. 27..... September 13, 1976

**133 employees on layoff**  
(30 have restrictions)