

# REPORTER

UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 2-232

## President's Report by Jesse Edwards

**Briggs Discharge / Attendance**-The company has been discharging a lot of members and employees that are not in the Union yet because of their attendance. The attendance policy is a no fault system and if you get 8.0 points or (3) three final warning within an 18 month period you are subject to discharge. I did receive some complaints that members were not receiving their attendance warning in a timely manner. If this happens to you, report it to your Steward so the Union can investigate it.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Stage**-The Bargaining Committee met with the company on March 3, 2011. We discussed three, discharged member's grievances and the company refused to re-

hire any of them back. We had a 3<sup>rd</sup> stage meeting on April 15th for six discharges and the company once again, refused to hire them back. As you can see if you are discharged for attendance, it's very difficult to get your job back. Make sure you keep good attendance so this want happen to you.

**Arbitration**-The Union arbitrated a member grievance in June 2010. The arbitrator ruled in the Union's favor and said the member should be made whole. However, the company didn't abide by the arbitrators decision. The Union appealed and won the appeal. The member is now seeking back pay.

**Retiree's Insurance Canceled**-When you retire and you elected Preferred Dental or Pre-

ferred Vision, you have to pay a monthly premium. The company will pay the basic coverage cost for Dental and Vision and you have to pay the difference in cost. If not paid, the company will cancel your insurance. At this time, we have 31 retiree's who have had their insurance cancelled. In this case, they had until April 8<sup>th</sup> to appeal and submit the full payment.

**Workers Memorial Day** - April 28 was Workers Memorial Day. We all deserve the right to work in a safe environment. Each year more than 700,000 workers are injured on the job. Always remember, SAFETY FIRST!

**Amalgamated Union**-We are an Amalgamated Union USW Local 2-232 representing members Strattec Security and Briggs & Stratton.

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### Special points of interest:

- **Right to Work, for Less!**-Page 2
- **Briggs and Strattec Reports**-Page 3
- **The Attack Continues**-Back Page
- **Next Membership Meeting May 15th** at 9:30am. 633 S. Hawley Road, Yatchak Hall.
- **Nomination and Election for Briggs Trustee and one Delegate for the International Convention**

## Rest in Peace Dolores Higgins

Dolores C. Higgins passed away on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It is a very sad day for United Steelworkers Local 2-232 and everyone who knew her.

Dolores never slowed down after she retired from Briggs & Stratton in 1999! She was the Vice-

President of the Briggs & Stratton Retiree Club. She was the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) all by herself and still ran Community Services of Local 2-232. Over the years, Dolores has received many awards for her tireless efforts to help people.

24/7, you could count on Dolores to take care of business no matter where that would take her. She was fearless and strong when she had to be yet tender and caring to those in need.

She will be dearly missed!

# President's Report continued

**New hire Insurance-**If you want to enroll in the Briggs & Stratton Insurance Plan, you must enroll within 30 days after your hire date.

**Vacation Shutdown-**The company has informed the union that vacation shutdown is schedule to start June 27, 2011 and return to work July 11, 2011. If your department is working during shutdown, you would have been advised by April 1, 2011.

Eligible members, who choose to be paid their vacation as they take it, should have notified Human Resource department by May 1.

**New hire Insurance-**If you want to enroll in the Briggs & Stratton Insurance Plan, you must enroll within 30 days after your hire date. If you do not, you will have to wait until open enrollment. However if you have a life changing event you could make a change in midyear. You can also use the Quad Med. Clinic.

**Production-**The company is building 55 Generators per day but overtime is schedule to end. The engines were strong for February and March. The Coil department

has been busy but starting to catch up and the over time is schedule to end.

The company is still hiring to fill vacancies and to replace the contractors who were called back to train and does production work.

**Strattec-**The production is starting to slow down and overtime will be cut.

Their will not be a vacation shutdown this year. The new work in the AT-TEC department is scheduled to start in the April or May time frame. It looks like Strattec will have another good year.

In Solidarity,

President, Jesse Edwards



We Are One!

## Right to Work by Gloria Smith

Dear Union Members, I am writing to you with a concern in regards to States with Right to Work Laws and the education I have received through our local. The name Right to Work is very misleading. It does not guarantee anyone a job or protection against unfair firing. This law could weaken the best job secu-

rity protection for union workers, which is our contract. The Right to Work Law is a State Law that stops employers and Unions from negotiating a fair contract agreement. Right to Work means Right to Work for Less. Keep the Union and work to make it stronger. Together we stand and divided we fall. In 1968, Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. died while defending AFSCME sanitation workers in Memphis Tennessee, who were fighting for their dignity and The Right to Organize. So let's continue with the fight. One for All, Kill the Bill and Stand with Wisconsin.

In Solidarity, Gloria Smith, Recording Secretary

## Briggs Report by Dean Wegner

**Home Products**-Home products has been working overtime because of a high demand for Generators. They have been working 9 hours per day.

**Coils**-The Coil department has been working 7 days per week.

**Briggs Hiring**-The positions open at the time of this writing are Assembler, Machine Control B, Setup, Maintenance Mechanic and Quality Control. If you are interested in a different job, you should go to Human Resources to request a transfer.

**M / F**-The Falls is hiring and two members were dis-

charged for attendance. To all members watch your attendance. (Come to work)

**Snow Day**-Briggs closed because of the snowstorm and this was the first time they closed in years. If you had a vacation day scheduled, you will not lose it, because the plant was closed. If you got pay as you go, then you used a vacation day and were paid.

**Contractors**-The contractors are still here. The company is moving very slow to get rid of the contractors. We need union members working here.

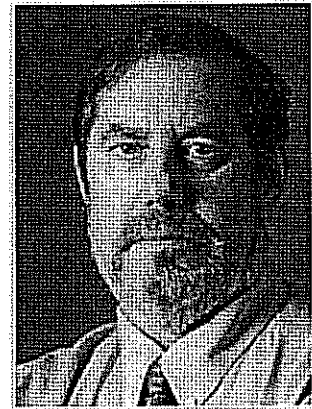
**Employees being fired**-Their are employees being fired for attendance and I had someone fired for smoking.

Please read the standard of conduct book and you need to come to work. It is very hard to get your job back with these violations.

Spring is in the air!

In Solidarity,

Dean Wegner-Briggs & Stratton Grievance Representative



USW President, Leo Gerard

## Strattec-What's Going On by Diane Neely

WHAT'S GOING ON-by Diane Neely

Despite the tragedy in Japan, Strattec Security Corp. is still holding strong. Strattec does not anticipate a layoff at this time and there are no plans for a summer shut down, despite the summer shut down for GM, FORD, and CHRYSLER. Things are looking good in the ATTEC area. The Robot is en route and hopefully it will land here sometime in the next two weeks, which is a plus for us. Strattec's annual audit went well. A few corrections were needed and they have been taking care of. Despite the bad news surrounding the press release in regards to the 1.8 million, Strattec still has hopes for an EVA pay out for the

year at this time.

### MANUAL PACK CELL FACE LIFT

The manual pack cell has a new look and some changes have been made. More changes are to be made in the die cast tumbling area and the wash area.

**SCRAP**- Strattec is still having some problems in this area which affects all of us. We should try as much as possible to take time and pay a little closer attention to the things that we do. SCRAP negatively affects our EVA.

It has come to my attention that people have been ask-

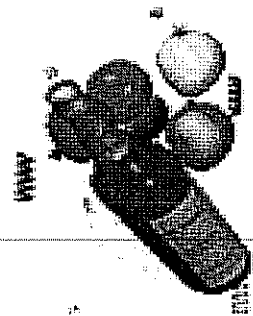
ing if Strattec would be planting a tree for our beloved friend Franco and the answer to the question is yes. Strattec has been in contact with his family members and it will be announced when the final arrangements are made.

Congratulation to all of our up coming Retirees!

In Solidarity

Diane Neely-Strattec Grievance Representative

Congratulations to all of our up coming Retirees!!



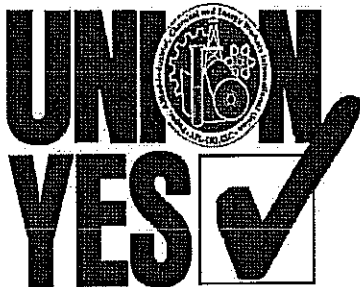
Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

... the Voice for Working Families

**Unity and Strength for Workers**

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## The Attack Continues by Ralph Schwieger

The attack on American Citizens continues! As of this writing, the April 5<sup>th</sup> election for the Wisconsin Supreme Court is still up in the air. I hope the recount along with an examination of the happenings in Waukesha County will restore the integrity of the Wisconsin vote.

The time is now for all to come together and fight the attempts to take over this County by the extremists on the right. How Wall Street can steal trillions of dollars from the world and the far right's solutions to this travesty, are to strip collective bargaining rights from public employee's, eliminate Medicare, allow school choice to someone living on Lake Shore Drive, cut corporate taxes, cut access to medical care for the needy, rip apart immigrant families, restrict our right to vote, destroy mass transit, give away state assets and the whole while, not creating one frickin' job.

This man will be out in the streets fighting for all! We Are One my

Brothers and Sisters and in the words of Bob Marley, Get Up, Stand Up, Stand Up for Your Rights, Get Up Stand Up, Don't Give Up the Fight!!

In Solidarity,

Ralph Schwieger

Financial Secretary Treasurer

### Local 2-232

#### Legal Assistance

Do you have 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 Previante, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman.

Milwaukee 414-271-4500

Waukesha 262-549-6300

### Local 2-232 Reporter

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Local 2-232 UNITED STEEL, PAPER AND FORESTRY, RUBBER, MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

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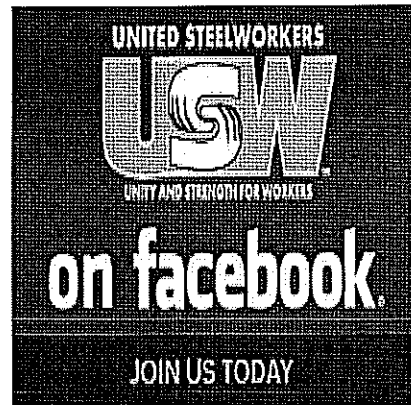
Hours 7:00am - 4:00pm

Monday through Friday

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

Editor: Ralph Schwieger

Officers: President: Jesse Edwards Vice President: Al Evseichik, Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Schwieger Recording Secretary: Gloria Smith Trustees: Chuck Porter, Yolanda Turner, OPEN Sergeant at Arms: Stanley Quezaire Guide: Denni Walczyk Briggs Bargaining Committee: Jesse Edwards, Dean Wegner, Vicky Gorecki, Lorenzo Payne Strattec Bargaining Committee: Jesse Edwards, Diane Neely, Joe Wentz, Aurelio Mesa



Are you on Facebook yet?

Lots of great information can be at your fingertips via Facebook. The United Steelworkers and the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO have pages chocked full of information on what is happening in Wisconsin and Nationally.