

# REPORTER

## UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 2-232

### President's Report by Jesse Edwards

#### At Briggs

#### Direct Deposit Start

Starting January 1, 2012 per the contract, Article XIII section 13, all employees will be paid through direct deposit to a financial institution of your choice. You have to notify the company of which financial institution to send your direct deposit. Your account number will be required. The company will also be going paperless as of January 1, 2012. If you want to print a copy of your pay stub from a non-work computer you can log on to, [https:// connect.basco.com](https://connect.basco.com). If you are using a kiosk in the cafeteria, H.R. department or the M / F plant main office, you would start with My Briggs, then click on My Source Link and follow the instructions. If you do not have a computer or need some assistance, you can go to the Human Resources Department and someone will be available to help you.

#### Retirement

If you want to retire with the 10 years of Medical Insurance, Dental and Vision, you must retire prior to January 1, 2012. Employees with a seniority date of 12/31/79 or prior, who retire by January 1, 2012 will be eligible for company paid monthly premiums for 10 years or age 65. If you retire on or after January 1, 2012 you will be eligible for medical coverage only and the lowest cost medical option for up to 5 years, but not beyond age 65, provided you pay the same contribution as the active employees. If you are retiring on or after January 1, 2012 and you want Dental and Vision you will be eligible for 5 years or until age 65, provided you pay the full cost. If you would like to retire prior to January 1, 2012, August 31, 2011 was the dead line to give your 4-month notice. However if you missed this date you can still ask your manager for a waiver and be eligible for the \$25,000. As of August 31, 2011, 32

members signed up to retire.

#### Coils

The Company is in the process of eliminating the Coil. They have already stopped assembling the Coil on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift and plan to stop production completely by July 2012. Also, in the Coil department, during the vacation shut-down, the company started the process of reconfiguring the stator lines. This process is now complete. This also created job elimination. Some lines ran with 3 production workers and now they are ran with 2, and some lines ran with 2 production workers and now the line requires only 1 production worker. The jobs in the Coil department are slowly being eliminated. When the Coil is eliminated, the department will have 5 Stator lines, the model 9 back-pole and the quantum back-pole.

Continued on Page 2

## Latino Labor Conference/Congreso Latino Laboral

President Edwards and I attended the Latino Labor Conference in Madison on November 4th and 5th. This was an outstanding conference, with loads of information we can use and share with our members. LCLAA (Labor Council for Latin American Advancement) Executive Director, Hector Sanchez shared a story about a conversation he had with a man, who asked, which is the party in the United States that is for the workers? That is how far we have fallen! Neither the Democrats nor

the Republicans are fighting for the people. They are beholden to the money of corporate lobbyists who actually write legislation that is not in our best interest. USW Local 2-232 is proud to be a member of the Milwaukee LCLAA chapter. For more information, please call the USW Local 2-232 office at 414-257-1041.

Photo of LCLAA Executive Director, Hector Sanchez speaking at the Latino Labor Conference.



**President's Report continued**

The Bargaining Committee asked the company about bringing in new work to the Coil department and we were told they are looking for new work.

**Generators/HSB**

In HSB, the company is bringing back the 200-mil line. The line should be back in February 2012.

This is new work and this model is only being built in Milwaukee. At this time, the work is low volume, but it should create 6 or 7 new jobs. At this time generators is busy with the volume increased from building 45 generators per day to building 65 per day. If needed, they can build 100 per day. At the time when the Bargaining Committee met with the company, we were told all generators were sold out. The warehouse was emptied out and they expect to be busy the next 4 months.

**Contractors**

The Company eliminated 2 more contractors at the end of September. They currently have 5/6 still working in the shop, training setup.

**State of the Business**

The Bargaining Committee requested that the Company have a state of the business meeting with the employees. The meeting was held on Tuesday October 11, 2011. The Company gave an overview of the business and allowed for questions at the end. I encourage all employees to ask questions. If you are shy and do not want to ask a question, give the question to your Steward or your Rep. and they can ask the question for you. The Company said they plan to have more of these meetings.

**Volunteers/needed**

We need volunteers for the Human/Civil Rights Committee and the Election Committee. You can call the Union office if you are interested. The number is 414-257-1041 or see your Steward or Grievance Rep.

**Grievances**

The Union has filed two grievances in reference to how our members were paid the 2% pay increase and the \$1.00 pay increase. The Union disagrees with

when the \$1.00 was paid and how the two percent was applied to your wages. This affected production workers still going through progression.

**Insurance Open Enrollment - Briggs / Strattec**

Briggs open enrollment was November 1st — November 15th and at Strattec open enrollment will be November 4th — December 5th. During this time, open enrollment will be for active members and retirees. After your enrollment, you will receive a confirmation statement.

**At Strattec**

**Plating**

The Company implemented new rates in the plating department. This made it difficult for some of our members to attain. The Company is also training in this department. The Union will be reviewing all rates that are not attainable.

**Die cast**

The company has purchased two new machines and at this time, Die cast is busy.

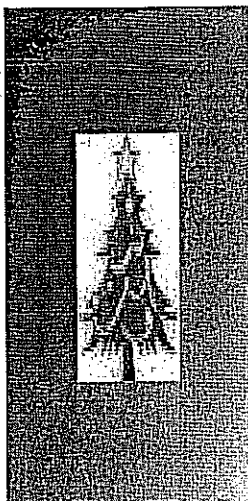
The Union has been contacted by the buggy man in die cast. At this time, they have two buggy men per shift. The issue is they need another buggy man per shift. The Union will investigate and meet with the company ASAP.

**Grievance Representative**

At this time, Diane Neely is out sick and (Al) Aurelio Mesa has been appointed Grievance Rep. until Diane Neely returns to work. You can reach Al at 414-247-3458.



Happy  
Holidays  
from  
USW  
Local 2-  
232



**Briggs & Stratton Retiree Club**

I'd like to start by saying, welcome to all of our new members. I'm really glad to see our club growing and continuing. We have many fun activities and get togethers and faces we haven't seen in a long time. If you would like to join, please contact Erna Gorecki at 262-781-8951. Sheepshead Tournament is every Friday at the

Schwabenhof, 14750 W. Silver Spring Drive. Our meetings and social events are also held at the Schwabenhof.

God Bless,

Fraternally Yours,

Corresponding Secretary, Sherry Kent and President Bob Johnson

## Briggs Report by Dean Wegner

### Attendance

I had 2 members discharged for 3 final warnings in 18 months. We went to Third Stage with them and lost both cases. The Company will not give in cases like this so keep an eye on your attendance.

### Vacation

When you take a Half Day of vacation, you must work at least a 4 hour shift.

### New Work

Punch Press will be getting new work. They will make a spring, a washer and a shaft.

### Badges and Safety Glasses

Badges and Safety Glasses must be worn at all times.

### Hourly Job Postings

There will be a good num-

ber of job postings between now and the end of the year because of retirements. Postings are on the Company Boards.

### Wisconsin's new concealed carry law

Briggs & Stratton prohibits the possession of firearms and other weapons in our facilities, so please refrain for doing this.

### Lost Customer

We lost the John Deer work (Walk behind Lawnmowers and Snow Blowers) to Honda. We will see how much this will hurt us next year.

### Fire Drill

We had a fire drill a few weeks ago and it went well. Next year we will be having a tornado drill. Watch for the postings.

### Union Meetings

I would like to see members coming to Union Meetings where you can get the facts, not rumors from on the shop floor. Let's keep our Union strong, working together as one.

### President

I would like to thank Jesse Edwards for all the hard work he does behind closed doors, at the office and on the shop floor. Many Members don't know how hard he works! Thanks for the leadership you have given us here at Briggs.

Season's Greetings to all Members and their families. Have a safe one and tell someone you love them.

In Solidarity,

Dean D. Wegner

If capitalism is fair then unionism must be. If men and women have a right to capitalize their ideas and the resources of their country, then that implies the right of men and women to capitalize their labor."

Frank Lloyd Wright

## The Recall of Scott Walker

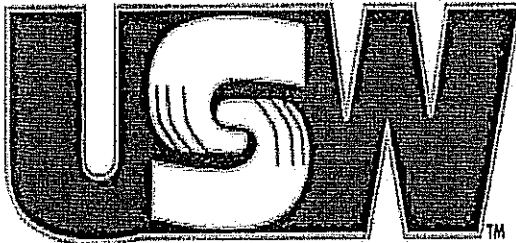
The recall of Governor Scott Walker and Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch started on November 15<sup>th</sup>. I hope you all can support this effort to remove the most polarizing Governor in Wisconsin's history. What he has done to the citizens on Wisconsin is horrific. His attack on public workers has been well documented but the attacks on women and children of this state should push everyone to support this recall. The voter suppression bill passed this year will put up a barrier for thousands and thousands of Wisconsin residents, impeding their ability to vote. This disgusting pole tax will make the job difficult but in the end, I do believe Walker will be recalled. It will not happen if everyone stays on their couch! This is a call to action that should be taken seriously. We need everyone's help in this effort to stop the corporate takeover of Wisconsin and the country as a whole.

We have included a page in the Reporter, on the voter suppression law. Please read it and make sure everyone you know will be prepared to vote!

## Unity and Strength for Workers



# UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

Local 2-232 Reporter

May 2011 Volume 32, Issue 4

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 633 S. Hawley Road Suite 116

Phone 414-257-1041 Fax 414-257-1213

Email-office@pace7232.org

Website-www.pace7232.org

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 Quezairé 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

## Membership Meeting Recap

The membership meeting was held on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 9:30 am at Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Road. President Jesse Edwards presided over the meeting.

### Communications

We received a thank you card from the Hunger Task Force for our yearly support.

The Executive Board recommended and a motion was passed for the following....

- 1) President Jesse Edwards, Diane Neely and Dean Wegner to the Fall Leadership Training, on October 13-14 of 2011.
- 2) President Jesse Edwards and Financial Secretary Treasurer Ralph Schwieger, to the Labor Council for Latin Americans on November 4-5 of 2011.
- 3) Buy a computer for the union office.
- 4) Send \$50.00 for the Jeffrey Smith Memorial. Jeffrey Smith from USW Local 1342 was killed on the job.

5) Send \$100.00 to the Hunger Task Force.

6) Retirees Christmas party at Briggs, \$250.00.

7) Retirees Christmas party at Strattec, \$100.00.

### Trustee Report

Yolanda Turner gave the Trustee Report for the months of July and August 2011.

### Financial Secretary Treasurer Report

Ralph Schwieger gave the Financial Secretary Report for the months of July and August 2011.

### Report of Officers

President Jesse Edwards reported at Briggs, 32 members have signed up to retiree. The coil department is closing down as of July-2012. Generators will bring back work. 6-7 jobs should be created in Milwaukee.

At Strattec, a new machine in the Die Cast department will bring in new

jobs. Also, President Edwards stated that our By-Laws have been submitted to the International for approval.

President Edwards is asking for volunteers for the Civil and Human Rights Committee.

Open enrollment was held on Nov. 1-15 2011 for insurance at Briggs.

Dean Wegner reported that 3 members were terminated at Briggs and that Briggs lost the John Deere account. It will be going to Honda effective December 2011. There is new work in Punch Press, Spring and Shaft.

Diane Neely reported at Strattec, production was down in the CSS department. The company is cleaning up old space for new machines. Bronco runs cover plates to produce more volume.

## Signing the Poll Book

Voters must sign the poll book to obtain a ballot. The poll book now contains a signature block for each voter. Only one poll book needs to be signed.

Voters unable to sign the poll book because of a physical disability are exempt from this requirement. If this applies to you, tell the election officials that you are unable to sign because of disability. Election officials will write "exempt" in your signature block.

## Hospitalized Voters

Hospitalized voters may appoint an agent to pick up their ballot from the clerk's office. The agent must present the hospitalized voter's photo ID to the clerk's office.

## Voter Registration Changes

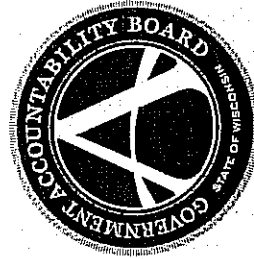
You can register to vote up until the Friday before the election or on Election Day. You must reside at your address for 3 consecutive days to be eligible to vote, and you may no longer use a corroborating witness as proof of residence. Proof of residence is required when registering less than 20 days before an election, on Election Day, and for first-time Wisconsin voters registering by mail. For more information on acceptable proof of residence documents contact your local municipal clerk



1244A Midway Rd.  
Menasha, WI 54952

920-722-7630

<http://www.usw.org/districts/new?district=2>



Voter Public Access  
<https://vpa.wi.gov>

For detailed information about the Voter Photo ID law, please visit the Government Accountability Board website: <http://gab.wi.gov> or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS or contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or TTY 1-800-947-3529.



# Wisconsin Election Laws:

## Photo ID and Other Recent Changes

Effective 2012

## Photo Identification

Beginning in 2012, you cannot receive a ballot until you have met ID requirements. (See the "Photo ID Exemptions and Exception" section.) Wisconsin does not issue a separate "Voter ID" card. Instead you must use one of the photo IDs listed below.

**Your photo ID does not need to show a current address.**

## Acceptable forms of Photo ID

- Wisconsin driver license\*
- Wisconsin DOT-issued photo ID card\*
- U.S. passport\*
- Military ID card\*

*\*The above documents may not have expired earlier than the date of the last November election.*

- Certificate of naturalization issued within last two years
- Unexpired Wisconsin driver license or state ID receipt
- ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin.
- Unexpired ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college that contains an issuance date, student signature, and expiration date within two years of issuance, along with a separate document showing proof of current enrollment.

If you are eligible to vote but do not have an acceptable ID, you may obtain a **free** ID for purposes of voting. Please visit <http://gab.wi.gov> and click "Voter Photo ID" for more information.

## Photo ID Exemptions/Exceptions

Photo ID is always required when voting at the polling place and at the clerk's office unless you are a confidential elector.

Photo ID is not required for these absentee voters:

- Military electors
- Voters who are permanently abroad
- Confidential electors

Photo ID is not required, but is replaced with alternative requirements for these absentee voters:

- Indefinitely confined voters
- Nursing home and other care facility residents who have ballots delivered by a Special Voting Deputy
- Residents of care facilities who are not visited by a Special Voting Deputy

For further information contact your municipal clerk.

## Provisional Ballots: Voters who do not provide Photo ID

Voters, including absentees, who are required but unable to provide photo ID may vote by provisional ballot.

Provisional ballots are not counted unless the voter provides an acceptable photo ID to the municipal clerk by 4 p.m. the Friday after the election.

## Changes to Absentee Voting

### Absentee in the Clerk's Office

Absentee voting in the clerk's office is now restricted to the two weeks before an election. Absentee voting now ends at the close of business the Friday before the election.

The new law prohibits absentee voting and voter registration the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before an election.

Beginning in 2012, absentee voters in the clerk's office must present the same type of photo ID required at the polls (see list on the left).

### Absentee Requests by Mail

Beginning in 2012, absentee requests for ballots sent by mail must be accompanied by a photocopy of an acceptable form of voter ID (see list on the left).

Once you have sent the clerk's office a photocopy of your ID, you will not need to send photocopies with future absentee ballot requests by mail, fax or email unless you change your name or address.

### Absentee Requests by Email/Fax

If submitting an absentee request via fax or email, you must either include a photocopy of acceptable ID with your request or in your absentee ballot envelope.