

JANUARY 2010



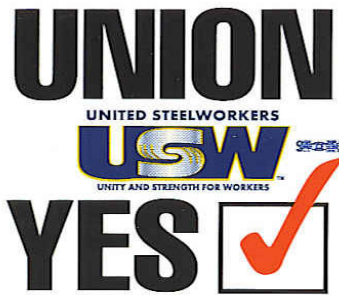
USW LOCAL 1137

*Representing the Maintenance, Storeroom,
Transportation and Fire Control employees of
International Paper's Courtland, AL Mill*

OFFICERS:

*President: Johnny Phillips
Vice President: James Messer
Recording Secretary: Edwin Smith
Financial Secretary: Ray Boston
Treasurer: Bill Flippo
Trustees: Keith Hensley, Junior Hol-
den, Kevin Messer
Guide: David Dutton
Guards: David Garrison, Robert
Poellnitz*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Upcoming Meetings:

Monday January 11
Monday February 8
Monday March 8
3:45 PM

*David Garrison
was the
winner of the
USW jacket
at our December
meeting.*

Stewards Meeting
Friday Jan. 8
7:30 a.m.
Maintenance
Training Center

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a great New Year Holiday. I apologize for being late with this month's newsletter and for it being only a couple of pages long. My holiday time was rather hectic and the time I was away from the job, I tried to be completely away from the job.

From a safety standpoint, the year ended on a rough note for the mill. We had a couple of recordables giving us 4 for the year. Not bad considering our past but still not where we would all like to be. None of our injuries can be blamed on carelessness or ignoring of rules, all were just things that happened and should serve as reminders to us that, in our line of work, we are always at risk and we must always be vigilant for potential hazards. Our non-maintenance members (storeroom, train crew, fire inspectors) finished the year recordable free again and next week will mark 7 years since their last one.

I had the opportunity on January 6 to meet Kirt Cuevas, Mr. Bruner's new boss. He spent a full day here, touring the whole mill and talking to many of our folks. He was already aware of Courtland's reputation for being able to make whatever paper the company needs and to provide a quality sheet to the customers. After this visit, he was also impressed with our people and the way we approach our jobs. He spoke very optimistically about our mill's future and the company's commitment to invest in Courtland.

2010 promises to be another interesting and challenging year. As a nation, we are fighting 2 wars, neither of which has an end in sight; we are still struggling to come out of the worst financial crisis of my lifetime; far too many of our citizens are out of work. As a mill, I believe are in a good position to run full in 2010 and beyond. As a local, we still have several issues we are striving to resolve in order to make our member's jobs better, safer, and more secure.

Please, to all of our members and their families, have a SAFE and a HAPPY 2010.

Say something **GOOD** about your Union today





This financial crisis is forcing companies to make tough decisions;

there is a risk that we might need to lay off Andre....

Proposed By-Laws

Change — A proposal to change Article VI, Section 1 of our by-laws was read at our November and December meetings. This change, if approved, would raise the salaries for the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. The proposed change will be read again and voted on at our January 2010 meeting.

Support Our Troops

Local 1137 sent 5 boxes of supplies and goodies to our soldiers in Afghanistan. We plan to do this more than once in 2010. If you have a family member or friend that you would like to have receive a package from us, please get the name and address to us. The last message I had from Robert Wilson, he said he would be home for a couple of weeks in January and then return to Afghanistan to complete his tour. He expects that to happen in April and plans to be back at the mill in May. Jeff Martin's son is back in the US now and Darren Bobo's son will be returning to his base in Alaska soon.

There will be a meeting of members of the Maintenance Sick Fund immediately following our regular union meeting on January 11! If you are a member of the sick fund, please plan to stay for this.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Joe Crumpton of the Train Crew. Joe retired December 31!

Say something GOOD about your Union today