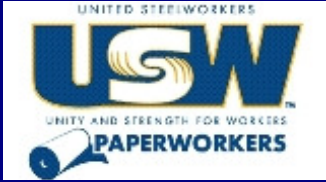


MARCH 2010



# 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 Holden, Kevin Messer  
Guide: David Dutton  
Guards: David Garrison, Robert Poellnitz*



### Upcoming Meetings:

**Monday March 8**  
**Monday April 12**  
**Monday May 10**  
**3:45 PM**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Jeff Martin  
was the  
winner of the  
USW jacket  
at our February  
meeting.*

**Stewards Meeting**  
**Friday March 5**  
**7:30 a.m.**  
**Maintenance**  
**Training Center**

### Catching up ...

In January, we were congratulating Joe Crumpton on his retirement. Now, just two months later, we are sending our condolences to his family. Joe suffered an aneurysm and, after a hard struggle, passed away on February 27. He would have been 62 later this month. I've seen several people retire in the last few years but I don't think I've seen anyone as happy about going or looking forward to enjoying retirement more than Joe. His family is in our thoughts and prayers.

You should notice some changes coming soon in the mill's cafeteria. There will be some painting and other things done to make the cafeteria more appealing to the eye. There are also changes planned for the menu. For breakfast, the menu should stay basically the same with some possible additions, such as waffles. For lunch and dinner, we should see less and less of the hot bar ("meat and three") and more grilled, short-order type offerings. Hamburgers, fish sandwiches, wraps and pizzas, as well as better, fresher salads and cold sandwiches are coming, along with more 'specials'. Menus will be made available by Thursday of the preceding week to allow for better planning by mill employees.

The 2007 USW/IP Master Agreement provided for two Health and Safety Conferences during the term of the Agreement. The first was held in September 2008, the second is being planned for September 2010. Exact dates and the location have yet to be determined. Local 1137 President Johnny Phillips is on the planning committee again and you will be given more information as it becomes available.

If you receive anything from "Union Workers Credit Services", throw it away. They will offer you a pre-approved 'platinum' credit card. This is a SCAM and this company has had hundreds of complaints filed against them with the Better Business Bureau.

As a reminder, MARCH 15 is the deadline for applications to be received for the **Homer Wilson Scholarship for Steelworker Children**. We have also learned about scholarships provided by the Alabama AFL-CIO. More information on these scholarships can be found on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Say something **GOOD** about your Union today



UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**USW News**  
 UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

A recent letter by United Steelworkers (USW) International President **Leo W. Gerard** to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission raised concerns about our nation’s current capability to produce component parts for the growth of the nuclear industry in the US. It was written in response to the awarding of loan guarantees by the U.S. government to build two nuclear reactors in Burke, Georgia that could possibly use components built overseas.

The USW believes that the majority of the materials used in building these plants such as steel and piping can be sourced from domestic facilities employing its members. As North America’s largest manufacturing union, the USW sees such initiatives as integral to the renewal of manufacturing in America.

“American taxpayers should not bear the burden of loan guarantees if the jobs to be created by them are in another country,” said Gerard. “If we’re going to invest in nuclear as a way to become less oil-dependent, then we need to build it domestically.”

The USW represents the workers at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding in Newport News where nuclear aircraft carriers and submarines are built and where a joint venture between Newport News and AREVA has been announced. The USW is already engaged in discussions about partnering with Newport News and AREVA to develop this production in property adjacent to current shipbuilding site.

“We urge the regulatory agencies involved in the permitting and licensing of this new nuclear capability as well as Congress and the Obama administration to take a long term view of these possibilities,” said Gerard. “We must take the necessary steps to insure that the domestic content of these facilities is developed here in the U.S. by American workers.”

*Robert “Babe” Wilson of C-Shift Maintenance:*

SPC WILSON, ROBERT  
 HSC 877TH EN. BN.  
 TASKFORCE BUILDER  
 FOB SHARANA  
 APO AE 09311

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**Support Our Troops** If you have family or friends serving in the military, please give us their names and addresses. We will be sending packages to servicemen and women again soon and would like to include them. Just give their name, relationship and address to Johnny or Edwin.

*Everyone, especially our stewards, should check out our website at [www.usw1137.org](http://www.usw1137.org) fairly often. We try to keep it updated with the latest information for our members. If you have anything you would like to see posted there, let us know and we will try to do it. We have links to several interesting websites for union members.*



*“I am opposed to ‘right to work’ legislation because it does nothing for working people, but instead gives employers the right to exploit labor.”*  
 Eleanor Roosevelt



Say something GOOD about your Union today

# Sedgwick CMS Customer Dissatisfaction

We are Not Satisfied  
Until You are  
Dissatisfied

**Just Saying, "DENIED"!**

**One Claim at a Time**

## IP LOCALS FORM COMMITTEE TO CONFRONT CONTINUING HEALTH CARE ISSUES

IP Union Council members are continuing discussions around consistent bargaining problems with IP's Sedgwick, and the need to address this problem as a council. Facts and information are currently being collected to build our case about this company health care administrator and what appears to be a clear effort to undermine our labor agreements and circumvent the intent and spirit of the law. A working group on the Sedgwick problem has been established. Local 1137 President Johnny Phillips is part of this group, along with USW members from IP facilities at Pensacola, Riegelwood, Georgetown, Texarkana, Richmond, VA, Anaheim, CA and Barrington, NJ, as well as several USW International staff people.

First conference calls were held during the last week in February and plans are being made on how to gather and verify more information, how to educate our members on our rights as well as our responsibilities as well as preparing and mobilizing our membership for whatever strategic campaigns might follow.

At the last couple of meetings of the IP Union Council, discussions about Sedgwick have taken up a lot of the Council's time. Another meeting of the USW Paper Council and the IP Council are planned for August of this year in Pittsburgh. We hope to have information and path forward suggestions ready from this work group to share with the full Council at these meetings and we will keep you up to date as more information is made available.

### USW District 9 Presidents Meetings

A series of Presidents Meetings have been scheduled throughout District 9. Local 1137 President Johnny Phillips will be attending one of these meetings in Gadsden, AL on Wednesday March 10.

 *Check out the Union Plus website to learn about discounts and services available to Union members - [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org)*

Say something **GOOD** about your Union today

## Scholarships Available

Once again, the Alabama Organized Labor Awards Foundation is sponsoring an essay contest. There will be five (5) scholarships awarded to winners of the contest. The scholarships are:

***The Birmingham Building Trades Towers Inc. Scholarships (3)*** - \$2,000 scholarships, funded by Birmingham Building Trades Towers, Inc.

***The James Albright Memorial Scholarship (1)*** - \$1,500 scholarship, funded by The Gardner Firm PC

***The Jack Baccari Memorial Scholarship (1)*** - \$1,000 scholarship, funded by Financial Matters LLC

This year the essay topic will be:

***“U. S. Labor productivity has increased continuously since the 1950’s yet real wages for workers has decreased steadily since 1973. How can labor unions reverse this trend and put wages and benefits back in line with productivity and profits?”***

The contest is open to current Alabama union members, their spouses and dependents that are full or part time post-secondary students. All essays must be submitted by **Friday, May 28, 2010** and the winners will be announced at the Alabama Organized Labor Awards Foundation banquet on **August 21, 2010**.

See Johnny Phillips or Edwin Smith for complete rules and an application.

### Condolences

To Tim MacPhee on the recent loss of his mother-in-law.

To John Rittenberry on the recent loss of his father-in-law.

### Union Hall Lawn Care

Eric Bradford has been awarded the bid to take care of the lawn maintenance at the union hall for the next 12 months. ‘Thank you’ to all who submitted bids.



***Whenever someone in your crew has a death in their family, please contact Johnny or Edwin so we can take care of the flowers and/or Bibles. Don't just assume we know, we'd rather be told several times than not at all.***

**Suggestions and ideas for the newsletter can be turned in to any of the officers. We want this to be interesting and useful for the members of Local 1137 so let us know what you want and need to see in the newsletter and on the website!**

Say something **GOOD** about your Union today