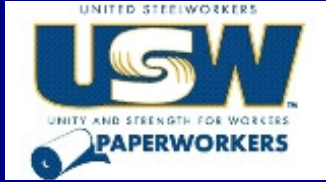


June 2010



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: Junior Holden
Treasurer: Bill Flippo
Trustees: Keith Hensley, Billy Leone,
Kevin Messer
Guide: David Dutton
Guards: David Garrison, Robert
Poellnitz*



Upcoming Meetings:

Monday June 14
Monday July 12
Monday August 9
3:45 PM

Gabriel Sutton
was the winner
of the
USW jacket
at our May meeting.

Stewards Meeting
Friday June 11
7:30 a.m.
Maintenance
Training Center

Catching Up ...

On May 24 we had a very serious incident occur which resulted in two of our members being airlifted to the burns center at UAB. Thankfully, both Steve and Joe were released from the hospital later that day and it wasn't as bad as it could have been. This has been, or at least should be, a wake-up call for all of us. Besides these two injuries, May was a terrible month for injuries at the mill. If it is due to a lack of focus or if it is just coincidence, we know it can't continue. The company has been telling for some time now that they were serious about enforcing the safety rules and policies. With our safety record, it's hard to argue with them. I think we should all be aware now that a violation of any of the big 4 procedures (ZES, Vessel Entry, Line Break, Hot Work) will result in some sort of discipline. If we know we are supposed to have a permit or are supposed to put a lock on something and we don't do it, it's hard for us to defend it. Take time to follow the procedures. If you are not sure, ask someone. We have been assured of the consequences of not following the procedures but nobody has been threatened with discipline for taking too long to start a job because they were getting their permits or doing their ZES.

I think the Safety program at the mill took a definite positive step last week with the assignment of Michael Olive to the Safety Department. Everyone who has worked with Michael is proud to see him take this assignment and we are looking forward to improvements in the Safety attitudes of everyone at the mill. The leaders of all three Locals met with Mr. Bruner, Ms. Hunting and Willie Fuller last week to discuss ways to improve our safety focus. We had a very open and frank discussion and several things were talked about. We may be seeing more changes soon.

For personal reasons, Ray Boston has resigned as Financial Secretary of Local 1137. In accordance with the USW Constitution, the remaining officers elected Junior Holden to fill the remainder of the term as Financial Secretary and elected Billy Leone to fill the remainder of Junior's term as Trustee. Cuz has been active in our Local for as long as I have worked here and I would personally like to thank him for all he has done for us and wish him the very best.

As I write this, I am attending the Alabama Governor's Labor/Management Conference. Also attending are Ben Sneed of Local 1161, Phil Everett of Local 193 and HR Manager Willie Fuller. I will be back at the mill on Friday June 11.

Johnny

Say something GOOD about your Union today

UNITED STEELWORKERS USW News

UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

Steelworkers Help Green Light New Energy-Efficient Bulbs

Mike Hall, AFL-CIO Senior Writer

Here's a way to reduce your carbon footprint and support good green union jobs. Check out the new Sylvania Super Saver halogen light bulbs made by the United Steelworkers (USW) in a Wellsboro, Pa., plant.

As more and more households turn to the energy-efficient bulbs over the familiar incandescent light bulb that sucks up much more energy, many manufacturers are shutting down their U.S. operations and producing the new bulbs overseas.

But Osram Sylvania has decided to manufacture its Sylvania Super Saver halogen bulbs at existing facilities in the United States. Wellsboro currently produces the outer glass portion of light bulbs that are assembled at Osram Sylvania's plant in St. Marys, Pa.

The new bulbs' major debut came in early May when home improvement giant Lowe's began stocking the bulbs. Sales have been strong even with little advertising. Barry Mortimer, a member of USW Local 1001 in Wellsboro, says that while Lowe's is considering boosting its promotion of the union-made product, the USW has launched its own blitz.

I honestly believe it was totally Steelworker driven. Our plant manager has thanked us many times for our involvement.

The USW has promoted the bulb through its Rapid Response network, the Alliance for American Manufacturing and in mailings and other publications. Says Mortimer:

The success of this lamp, in my opinion, can be contributed to all our union brothers and sisters who have worked very hard to get the word out about this union-made product.

According to the USW, along with being union-made, the new bulbs do not have some of the potential health hazards of its main competition, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs that are largely made in China with

toxic mercury as a key ingredient.

In addition to Lowe's, the Sylvania Super Saver can be purchased in Menards and many BJ's Wholesale Club stores in the Midwest. They also can be purchased online at: www.sylvaniaonlinestore.com/.



USW Paper Sector Conference

The Paper Sector Conference — which is usually scheduled every two years — will be held in Pittsburgh, PA on August 16-19, 2010. As in the past, Company Council meetings will be held in conjunction with the conference.

We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for your local union to attend this conference. The paper industry is emerging from one of the most turbulent periods in its history and our members face many challenges.

This conference is an important part of the process for charting our course for a stronger sector. We will discuss our successes, the challenges we face and strategies developed to advance our paper bargaining program. Workshops held during the conference will help build skills and strengthen networking efforts between workers. The safety initiatives begun at our last conference will also be carried forward with critical presentations on our groundbreaking safety survey and an analysis of the results. Our success in advancing our goals is dependent on widespread and active participation in this conference.



Important Information about W-2s, Taxes, Income and the Excise Tax

There are many myths and flat out lies going around about what health insurance reform means for income taxes, W-2s, wages, etc. Here's what we can tell you today:

Employers are required to start reporting the dollar value of an employee's health care benefits on W-2 forms in 2011 in anticipation of when the excise tax may apply in 2018. **NO ONE will be taxed on their benefits prior to 2018**, and as with most of this new law, there is a lot that still needs to be clarified by regulatory agencies before anyone should be making hard and fast assumptions. **Any employer or citizen that's claiming that benefits will be taxed prior to 2018 is flat-out lying and misrepresenting the law.**

Please refer to the many USW materials in USW@Work and via staff memos that have accurate and detailed information about the proposed excise tax. Bargainers will have time to deal with the implication of the excise tax prior to 2018. Based on other aspects of the law that will be in place prior to 2018 - i.e. the Exchange in 2014 - hopefully, our members will be able to avoid this tax altogether.

This is the most offensive piece of the law that labor fought against, but it falls in the "this law isn't perfect" category. The 2018 excise tax is not what we wanted but it is much less hurtful that what was originally proposed because of our work and the work of other unions. For example, the level at which this tax is imposed has been raised significantly so that fewer people will have to pay it at all. And there are many exemptions for high-risk occupations and other things.

We will continue to follow the development of the regulations, and to the extent that there's any opportunity to influence how the excise tax is implemented we will be right there making the arguments on behalf of our members and their families.

Guidelines for Flowers and Bibles

At our April meeting we asked Janie Bush, Tim Agee and Keith Hensley to update our Local's guidelines for ordering flowers and presenting Bibles. They reported back at our May meeting and the following guidelines were adopted by the membership:

Flowers will be sent to the funeral in the event of a death in the family that is covered in the Funeral Leave section of the contract, *when notified in time*. If flowers are not sent to the funeral, then the member will receive a Bible from the union in that family member's memory.

Flowers will be sent to the funeral and a Bible will be given in the event of a death in the immediate family which will include: father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, step-father, step-mother, spouse, children (this includes step-children) and grandchildren.

Flowers will be sent to the funeral and a Bible will be given to the family in the event of the death of a Local 1137 member.

To have flowers sent or to get a Bible, contact the President of the local. If you can't reach him, then contact the Vice-President or Recording Secretary.

Thank You!

Ladd Cavnar and Fred Ray have both expressed their thanks to everyone for the recent money that was collected for them. Ladd is still off and is trying to get his disability approved. Fred is back at work for now



USW MERCHANDISE

We still have the Local 1137 T-Shirts available in the Local office. We also have some USW caps, do-rags, coffee mugs, playing cards and more.

General Wage Increase

All hourly employees at the mill will be getting the contract mandated 2% wage increase effective June 14.

USW Training Update

Johnny attended a 'USW Dues Transition' meeting in Muscle Shoals last week. The dues transition will take place January 2011.

We are looking into sharing 2-day CLEAR Arbitration Training with Local 1161 in July.

Johnny will be going to Pittsburgh in July for USW Leadership Training. This is the third year of a four year scholarship program for him.

Edwin, Junior, Bill, Keith and Kevin will be attending the District 9 Education Conference in August.

Tim Agee will be attending the USW Health and Safety Conference in October.

**DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE!
ALABAMA
PRIMARY ELECTIONS
RUNOFFS
TUESDAY JULY 13**

Sedgwick CMS Customer Dissatisfaction



We are Not Satisfied
Until You are
Dissatisfied

Just Saying, "DENIED"!
One Claim at a Time

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.



Local 1137 is now on FACEBOOK!
If you are a Facebook user, search 'Groups' for 'USW Local 1137' and join in. Invite other union members to join us, we think this will be another great communication tool for our members.



www.UnionSportsmen.org

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!



Check out the Union Plus website to learn about discounts and services available to Union members.

www.unionplus.org

Everyone, especially our stewards, should check out our website at 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.



"History is a great teacher. Now everyone knows that the labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Say something GOOD about your Union today