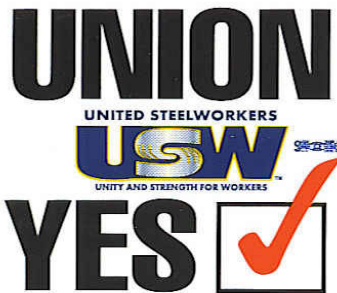


DECEMBER 2011



**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: Scott McCarley  
Guards: David Garrison, Robert Poellnitz



**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Monday  
December 12  
January 9, 2012  
3:45 PM**



*Terry Fowler was the winner of the USW jacket at our November meeting*



# USW LOCAL 1137

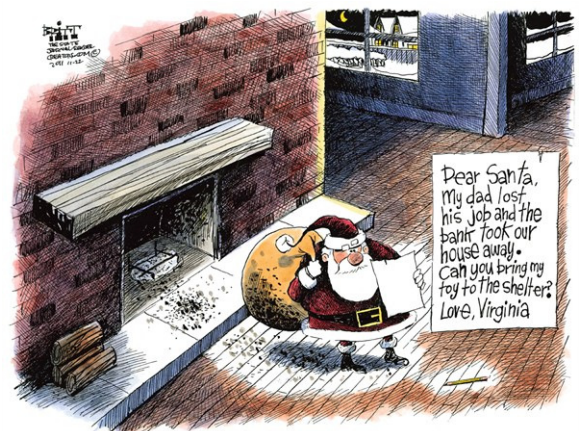
*Representing the Maintenance, Storeroom and Fire Control employees of International Paper's Courtland, AL Mill*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### *Catching up —*

We are in the process of making changes to the Local 1137 website. The new one will be less expensive for us and also easier and quicker for us to update from any location. For now, you can continue to visit our old site at [www.usw1137.org](http://www.usw1137.org) and you can keep up with the progress on the new one at <http://myuswlocal.org/sites/us/LU1137/> We are checking on the cost of keeping our old address and connecting it to our new website. More to come on this...

Bid sheets must be turned in by 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 13. As you all should know by now, the company has backed off their demands to interview/select some of our positions. That being said, it behooves us to make sure that we don't bid for one of those jobs unless we are willing to do what is needed to make it a success. We convinced them that they would get what they need by using our bid process so now we have to step up and prove it. The Training Coordinator is expected to be more than just schedule rooms, fix coffee and schedule a 'lunch-and-learn' every week or so. The members of the Training/Reliability crew also have certain expectations. The other side of that is, if the company expects us to have a world-class Training and Reliability program they have to listen to the people in the crew and provide them with the resources needed. We are confident that we will see positive things from the Training/



*(Continued on page 2)*

Say something GOOD about your Union today

Reliability group in 2012.

I would like to add that we realize I and the other officers of your Local could have talked until we were blue in the face and not have had the impact on their decision that the actions of some you had. We appreciate those of you who signed our grievance and especially appreciate those who not only did not sign up to be interviewed but told Mr. Gregory why you were not signing up.

As a reminder – each active employee on the payroll on the first pay date in 2012 will receive a \$1,000 lump sum payment. This payment will show up on your regular paycheck. In addition, each eligible employee will also receive a \$1,000 lump sum company contribution to their 401K account. Employees of a certain age (those who are, or will, during this Master Agreement, become, eligible for full retirement) will receive an additional \$1,500 lump sum company contribution into their 401K account.

At the end of our Union Meeting on Monday Dec. 12, we will have a brief meeting of the sick fund members.

I will be on vacation the weeks of December 19 and 26. Chief and most of the other officers will be here and will be able to contact me in case of an emergency.

We have at least three members who will be off work through the Holidays. Remember Ed Ray, Ray Boston, Brex Anderton and their families during this time.

John Rittenberry has announced that he is retiring at the end of the year. Congratulations and best wishes to John and his family!

As we enter this Christmas season, I am reminded again of how blessed we are and how lucky I am to be able to do the things I do. I am proud to be a part of the USW and especially proud to represent the members of Local

1137. I consider it an honor and never take this job or our members for granted. I hope all of you and your families have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Johnny*

## Union Plus Scholarship Program



Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$3.2 million to students of working families who want

to begin or continue their post-secondary education. Over 2,100 families have benefited from our commitment to higher education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

This year's application is *entirely online* - allowing students to complete their application over time and save their responses. Information can be found at <http://www.unionplus.org>. This is a competitive scholarship. Applicants are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended.

The required essay can account for up to half your total score.

Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators. A complete application must be received on or before 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on **Tuesday, January 31, 2012**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2012. Students may re-apply each year.

## Newt Gingrich Wants To Ditch Child Labor Laws, Put Kids Back To Work

If you believe that we need to create more jobs in this country, Newt Gingrich may be your candidate! Aside from bringing up warm memories of the Clinton era and not being Mitt Romney, Gingrich has a rock solid plan for ending poverty in this country: Simply fire school janitors and put children to work!

During a Q&A session at Harvard's Kennedy School on Friday, Gingrich declared that our "child laws" are "truly stupid." He explained:

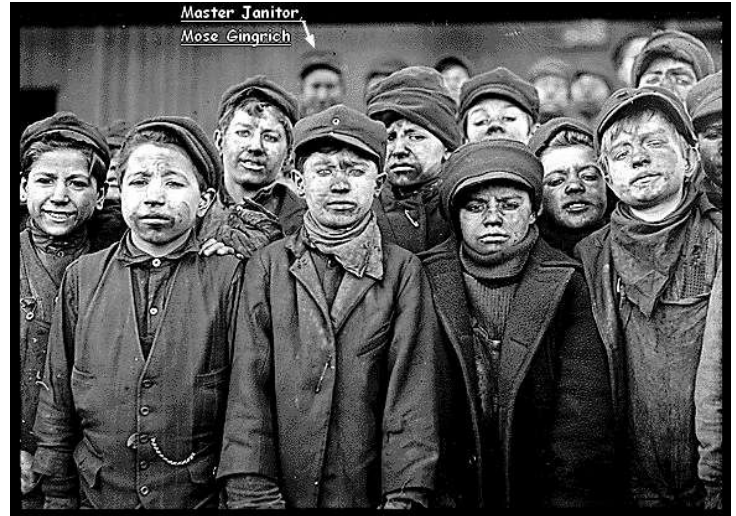
*"Most of these schools ought to get rid of the unionized janitors, have one master janitor and pay local students to take care of the school. The kids would actually do work, they would have cash, they would have pride in the schools, they'd begin the process of rising."*



Newt Gingrich wants to fire union workers and hire kids to clean schools. Seriously. **Tell him he's nuts.** [www.afscme.org/reallynewt](http://www.afscme.org/reallynewt)

sending middle and upper class kids off to work, just the poor children.

You see, what's wrong with this country isn't



that we've implemented policies that keep rich people rich and slashed funding to programs that help the underprivileged. That may be what the liberal media wants you to think, but the truth is that poor people are just lazy. Allow Newt to break things down:

*"You go out and talk to people, as I do, you go out and talk to people who are really successful in one generation. They all started their first job between nine and 14 years of age. They all were either selling newspapers, going door to door, they were doing something, they were washing cars. They all learned how to make money at a very early age. What do we say to poor kids in poor neighborhoods? Don't do it. Remember all that stuff about don't get a hamburger flipping job? The worst possible advice you could give to poor children. Get any job that teaches you to show up on Monday. Get any job that teaches you to stay all day even if you are in a fight with your girlfriend. The whole process of making work worthwhile is central."*

Sure, turning poor kids into the most adorable janitorial crew ever is going to put some adults out of work, but don't forget that janitors are

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

part of a union and are thus evil. Keeping them employed really just means we're taking jobs from innocent 9-year-olds who are eager to start cleaning toilets.

As president, Gingrich would do far more than ending child labor laws. (Actually, he calls them "child laws," so maybe he'd get rid of those pesky child abuse laws too!) He promises that he has more "Extraordinarily radical proposals to fundamentally change the culture of poverty in America." If Republicans want a candidate strong enough to take on the Democrats, they've found their man in Newt Gingrich. All the other candidates say they'll undo President Obama's policies, but only Gingrich is prepared to undo the work of every Democratic president of the past century.



## TRENDING: Gov. Haley's Q to Bachmann as 'undecided voter'

By: CNN Political Producer Shawna Shepherd

– The second question at a Charleston town hall with GOP presidential candidate Michele Bachmann came from "another undecided voter," who happened to be the state's governor.

Gov. Nikki Haley walked on stage to James Brown's "I feel good," then asked the Minne-

sota congresswoman to address an issue that has become a hot topic for Republican candidates to rally around when they campaign through the early primary state.



Haley threw her softball to Bachmann. **"Our president decided to allow the NLRB, which he appoints members to, to try and stop what Boeing is doing in South Carolina. It's the most un-American thing I have ever seen,"** Haley said. **"If you were president, knowing that he's saying that he can't do anything because it's an independent agency. If you were president how would you handle the situation?"**

The National Labor Relations Board filed a complaint in April when Boeing decided it wanted to move production from its union-represented plant in Washington to a new plant in South Carolina, a right-to-work state where workers have a choice in joining a union.

The debate has pitted Democrats and Republicans against each other in a fiery debate over jobs. Boeing's critics claim the company is punishing workers for going on strike in Washington. Supporters say Boeing will be bringing 1,000 new jobs to South Carolina.

**Bachmann repeated her position, that she would only appoint pro-growth jobs ap-**

(Continued on page 5)

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pointees to the labor board.

She also put the board on notice.

"If the NLRB would also be continuing their current stance, they may not last very long. Once they see what I do to the EPA they may shape up," Bachmann said, referring to the Environmental Protection Agency, which she said she would "lock the doors and shut off all the lights" if she became president.

Bachmann took the opportunity to compliment Haley's "pro-growth agenda" and preserving South Carolina as a right-to-work state.

"We need to make sure states like South Carolina are rewarded and not punished," she said.



**WE HAVE SOME USW MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN THE OFFICE AND FOR DOORPRIZES AT OUR UNION MEETINGS!**

CAR TAGS



TOTE BAGS

CAPS



BUCK KNIVES

PORTFOLIOS



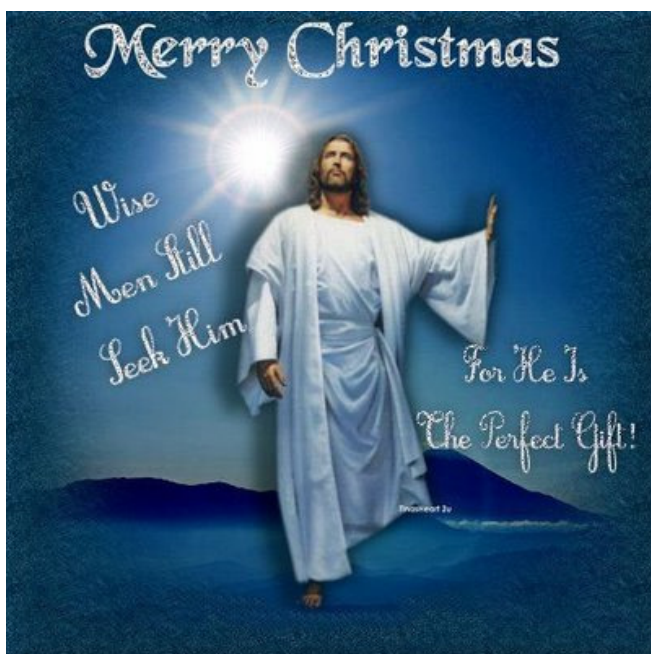
PLAYING CARDS



ALUMINUM BOTTLES



**WE ALSO STILL HAVE SOME USW LOCAL 1137 T-SHIRTS (M-L-XL-2XL)**



**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.*



[www.UnionSportsmen.org](http://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](http://www.unionplus.org)

*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.*



**“Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.”**

*Oren Arnold*



**Say something GOOD about your Union today**