

# STEEL VOICE



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1999

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Indianapolis, Indiana

July 20, 2008

## Steelworkers Give Win To Jill Long Thompson

**T**hrough a long Primary Election night, Jill Long Thompson came out over 13,000 votes ahead of Jim Schellinger to claim the right to take on Mitch Daniels this fall. Thanks largely to the hard work of the Steelworkers in Indiana.

Jill was underfunded, understaffed, and had much less advertising across the state. She had little backing from the state Democratic Party. She was an underdog in a race that many said she could not win. What she did have was the full support of the United Steelworkers.



Jill Long Thompson claimed her victory at the Local 1999 Union hall on March 7.



The Steelworkers in Indiana worked a grass roots field program that turned out many working families in support of Jill on Election Day. Numerous Steelworker locals and SOAR chapters across the state participated in the effort. The program included several mailings to members from the Local Union Presidents as well as District 7 Director Jim Robinson. Local Union Presidents recorded robocalls through International's selective dialer in

Pittsburgh. Steelworkers participated in several block walks that were held throughout the state. Jill was present at many Steelworker plants with Local Union leaders talking to members as they came to and from work, discussing our issues.

After the Primary focus turned to the presidential race between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, Steelworkers were present at

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## My View

Bruce Reed, Local Union  
Representative



Brothers and Sisters:

It seems that every time we turn the television on there are commercials from candidates running for either national or state office. The election for President is a critical election for our Country, our Union, and in my opinion our way of life. We have had eight years of the Bush administration and its method and means of government. Unfortunately, we in Indiana have had the same at the State level with Bush's man Mitch Daniels.

It is my opinion that I do not believe the working class (what is left of it) can withstand four more years of assault on our rights and an economic plan that does nothing to recognize the struggle the American Workers are having providing for their families. One of John McCain's economic advisors Phil Gramm is quoted as saying the United States is "a Nation

of Whiners" and that inflation is in our minds. McCain has attempted to distance himself from this statement but as of the writing of this article has not fired his friend from being his advisor, they believe we are creating a situation of inflation by worrying ourselves into a mild panic. This type of leadership is not what we need, they have totally lost contact with America. The America we know is struggling with gas prices, food prices, healthcare, childcare, heating and cooling costs and fighting to keep our homes together for our families.

We are optimistic that the anti-worker environment that has characterized President Bush's term in office will end, and the new President will be one that values and respects America's middle class and its working families, if we **elect Barack Obama** he will be that President.

Has anyone else seen Bush's man Mitch's commercials? He says he did not raise taxes and froze our personal property tax. Maybe it was just me but I thought the sales tax went up 1% and my personal property tax went up \$500.00 a year. It is one thing to stretch the truth but his claims are beyond belief. Watch what he says and let's hold him accountable for his distortion of truth. **Jill Long Thompson** when in Congress was with us on every issue important to the working class and if we elect her she will be with us in the future.

As I discussed in the last newsletter it is very important we vote for our endorsed candidates so our voice will be heard. If a

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Dear Member,

NEED A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM? (Closes OCTOBER 6, 2008)

NEED AN APPLICATION TO VOTE ABSENTEE? (Closes OCTOBER 27, 2008)

All you need to do is:

1. See your county clerk.
2. Attend the monthly Union meeting.
3. Call your county Democrat Headquarters and they will send you either form.
4. Call the Union Hall (317-639-1479) and ask to be sent either form.
5. Call me @ Home 317-637-3913 or Pager 317-365-7414.

From the Statehouse to the Whitehouse America deserves a change only we can make that happen.

On November 4, 2008 vote for all labor friendly candidates to ensure a change for the better in America

Yours Respectfully,

Allen Johnson

Financial Secretary  
Legislative Chairman



# Indiana AFL-CIO Protests High Gas Prices

By Meagan Ingerson

In protest of rising gasoline prices, about a dozen AFL-CIO union members picketed Monday in front of the Statehouse, the first

because the price keeps going up."

The average price for a gallon of

amid fears that rising gasoline costs could push the nation into a full-blown recession. Oil futures rose to a record \$139.12 a barrel Friday and closed Monday at \$134.35.

The picketing kicked off a national campaign by the AFL-CIO to protest the oil policies of President Bush and presumed Republican presidential nominee John McCain, Breedlove said. Gas was about \$1.50 a gallon when Bush was inaugurated in 2001.



District 7 Political Coordinator Brett Voorhies and Central Indiana Labor Council President Lettie Oliver were joined by Gubernatorial Candidate Jill Long Thompson at the Statehouse rally.

of several pickets planned across the country.

"We're working men and women that have to commute back and forth to our jobs on a daily basis," said Joe Breedlove, secretary-treasurer for the Indiana unit of the AFL-CIO, which organized the protest. "It's not just a union (or) non-union issue. . . . It's something people can't budget for

regular unleaded gas across the state was slightly above \$4 Tuesday, a half-cent below the record of \$4.009 set May 25. In Indianapolis, the price was \$3.98, just under a cent shy of the May 24 record.

Indiana is in step with rising prices nationally. Prices across the country hit an average \$4 a gallon for the first time Sunday

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**"It's not just a union (or) non-union issue. . . . It's something people can't budget for because the price keeps going up."**

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Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jill Long Thompson spoke at the event, calling for Gov. Mitch Daniels to declare an energy emergency, which would result in the suspension of state sales tax on gas. Former Gov. Frank O'Bannon declared such an emergency in 2000.

Long Thompson also publicized her plan to stop charging sales tax once the average price hits \$2.75 a gallon.

The percentage of wages spent on gas is now above 6 percent, slightly more than during the 1980-81 oil price surge.

Oil prices have been rising steadily from around \$30 a barrel in 2003 at the start of the Iraq war to more than \$135. ■

# Steelworkers Make A Difference

Chuck Jones, President

Our endorsed Candidates have made it through the Primary Election, with the help of many of our members. Thank you to everyone. To all of the Steelworkers that worked on the campaigns, or handed out flyers on Election Day, or just those of you that went to the polls and voted. When we (USW) stand together, we can make a difference.

The fight is far from over though, there is still much work to be done. The United Steelworkers endorsed Candidates are Barack Obama for President, Jill Long Thompson for Governor, and Andre Carson for Congress. In November these candidates will hopefully be elected to these positions. We need people that have

our best interests at heart. But if you are satisfied with the way things are going now, (the war, gas prices, property taxes, and the



assault on the middle class working families) then you go to the

polls and you vote for McCain, Daniels, and Elrod. Because a vote for them guarantees, that things will stay the same or get worse.

But if you have had enough of the high gas prices, the outrageous property taxes and the war in Iraq, the loss of jobs to other countries etc. Then our endorsed candidates should receive your most sincere consideration. We need these people in our government. Each of them has expressed concern on the problems that lay before us now. And they all have showed their support for organized labor. With their help we will be able to change the direction in which this Country and State are going. ■

## Carrier Members Ratify Contract

Members at Carrier knocked the dust off the ballot boxes and ratified a new 3 year agreement on April 27, 2008. The membership voted 774 to 42 in favor of the contract.

The new agreement provides a \$1.65 wage increase over the next three year and a \$3 pension multiplier increase. Eligible members will receive a lump sum payment of \$1,500 for ratifying the contract. It also includes several language changes to strengthen seniority rights and gives members a contractual right to refuse unsafe work.

New language was added con-

cerning payroll. Carrier members will now be paying union dues on a weekly basis as opposed to paying on a monthly basis as they have in the past. They also have increased protection of their right to be paid properly.

For the first time in many years the negotiating committee was able to hold the line on the company's efforts to increase operational shutdowns and dislocations. This was a very big issue for the membership at Carrier. The new agreement includes no increases in operational shutdown or dislocations.

As with all negotiations health

care was another big issue that committee had to struggle with. The committee was successful in holding increases in insurance costs down.

The Carrier negotiating committee unanimously supported the proposed contract. Members of the negotiating committee were; Chuck Jones (Local President), Bruce Reed (Local Union Representative), Kenny Dickerson (Unit President), Linda Bennington (Local Vice President), Shelly Grace Barber-Carr (Unit Vice President), Roy Beatty, Vicky Clark, Allen Johnson, Marion Qualls, Bennie Porter, Greg Rippy, and Maurie Wilkerson. ■

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each of their respective events passing out literature for Jill. On Election Day Steelworkers could be found at polling sites across the state making one last pitch to voters.

The program was run under the direction of Brett Voorhies, District 7 Political Coordinator for Indiana. Brett coordinated the efforts of several casual and full time staff released to work on the gubernatorial primary. These staff coordinated Local Union mail, robocalls, events, and volunteers.

International Deputy Political Director Kyle McDermott spent a



Jill discusses with a concerned worker how Mitch Daniels policies have failed Indiana's working families.



Rexnord Unit President Kevin Addison and Vertellus Unit President Carl Thompson congratulate Jill on her primary victory.

lot of time in Indiana providing support for the operations. Kyle maintained the Activist Corps website that allowed Local Unions access to flyers, sample letters, and pictures that they could download for their use. Kyle was responsible for getting 5000 yard signs printed. These were the only yard signs in the state that were available since the campaign could not afford to have any printed. Kyle also provided political training to Local Union leaders.

Through the enormous effort and hard work on the part of the Steelworkers Jill will face their man Mitch in the November general election. Again a lot of people are saying she can't win, but we as Steelworkers we know different. We will work tirelessly from now until the polls close on November 4th to make sure that Jill Long Thompson is our next governor. With the help of all the Steelworkers in Indiana she can only be victorious. ■

## World's First Global Union Agreement Signed

The agreement to create Workers Uniting, the world's first global union, was signed Wednesday by leaders of the United Steelworkers, North America's largest private sector union, and Unite the Union, the largest labor agreement in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The USW's 2008 Constitutional Convention erupted in applause as International President Leo W. Gerard and other USW officers signed the agreement with Derek Simpson, General Secretary of Unite's Amicus section.

"This union is crucial for challenging the growing power of global capital,"

Gerard said. "Globalization has given financiers license to exploit workers in developing countries at the expense of our members in the developed world. Only global solidarity among workers can overcome this sort of global exploitation wherever it occurs."

Workers Uniting will draw on the energies of the two unions more than three million active and retired workers from the United States, Canada, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland who work in virtually every sector of the global economy, including manufacturing, service, mining and transportation.

"In addition to empowering the



USW International President Leo Gerard with Unite the Union (Amicus section) General Secretary Derek Simpson celebrating the new global solidarity.

interests of our unions' members, our mission is to advance the interests of millions of workers throughout the world who are being shamefully exploited," Simpson said.

Tony Woodley, General Secretary of Unite's T&GU section, said in a video broadcast during the convention that the creation of our new union is only the beginning.

"We're laying the foundations of an even larger and stronger global union yet to come," he said.

The new global union's founding constitution calls on its combined membership to "build global union activism, recognizing that uniting as workers across international boundaries is the only way to challenge the injustices of

globalization."

Consistent with this calling, Workers Uniting will "match our words with action and resources, utilizing our collective expertise and knowledge through collective bargaining, organizing, global political action and international solidarity."

During the past year while discussions about the creation of a new global union have been ongoing, the two unions have been actively engaged in joint efforts to advance global union activism, including:

- Extensive discussions about strategies that each of the unions has adopted for saving manufacturing capacity in their respective countries.



- Joint collective bargaining efforts with common employers in the paper, chemical and titanium industries.
- International solidarity projects, such as efforts to protect the rights and safety of trade unionists in Colombia and Mexico.
- Participation by rank and file delegations of activists in each other's education, rapid response, health and safety, civil rights and women's conferences.
- Exposure to the political processes in each other's countries, including Democratic Party primaries and Labour Party conferences.

Workers Uniting will be a fully functional and registered labor organization in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland, with the ability to fully represent all of the members of its founding unions. It will be governed by a steering committee with equal membership from each participating union.

The new union's staff will be



headed by an executive director who will oversee an initial budget of several million dollars, and a staff that includes research, international affairs, and communications specialists.

Both participating unions have pledged to have Workers Uniting "challenge exploitation anywhere in the global economy, since it is fundamentally unjust and is destructive of decent living standards everywhere."

Toward this end, the new union, in conjunction with the National Labor Committee, is creating a Global Labor Rights Network that will have allied staff on the ground in Central America, the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and other regions.

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candidate does not appear to care about the American worker now, they will turn their backs on us after elected, as the Bush administration has done for the last eight years. We as middle class workers cannot afford another four years of Bush economics and policy and expect to survive, look to the past eight years, we will only continue to decline in size until there is no middle class. Please vote and vote right, support our endorsed candidates.

Our Union has endorsed **Barack Obama for President of the United States** and **Jill Long Thompson for Governor of the State of Indiana**. Let's support these candidates and give our families a chance at a better future.



## Savings and Solidarity

Get **special discounts on wireless** devices and **save 10%** on monthly service charges through AT&T

Now union members can save 10% on any new or renewed service plan with AT&T. You'll find a wide selection phones and plans that offer great value for your money. Plus, while you save, you'll also be supporting the only wireless company that is "Proud to Be Union!"

### Start today!

1. **TAKE** this ad to your local AT&T store. To find the location nearest you, visit [att.com/find-a-store](http://att.com/find-a-store).
2. **SHOW** union identification, such as your Union Plus credit card, union membership card, or paycheck showing union dues deduction. (Reference FAN #113662)
3. **SIGN UP** for or renew a two-year service agreement.

\*The discounts described in this ad are NOT available with the iPhone and associated wireless service.



[www.UnionPlus.org/ATT](http://www.UnionPlus.org/ATT)

Ex-Mal-10/07

# Steelworkers Endorse Obama

When the presidential primary contests began last year, the United Steelworkers felt strongly that because of Senator John Edwards's deep commitment to working people and because of their shared beliefs, he deserved a strong endorsement. His belief that unfair trade policies must be changed, his commitment to pass the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) to restore workers' rights to freely choose workplace representation, and his proposal for

Senator Obama's call for a significant change of direction amounts to far more than a compelling rallying cry. It is buttressed by his record of consistent support for workers, by his call for sweeping changes to our health care system, by his unflinching support for Employee Free Choice, and by his insistence that America's trade policies must, first and foremost, serve the interests of America's working families.

profiteering at the expense of worker prosperity.

The Steelworkers share Senator Obama's call for significant changes to these bankrupt policies, just as they earlier shared Senator Edwards' Hopefully including Senator Clinton for whom the Steelworkers have the utmost respect, must now do everything possible to ensure that Barack Obama is the next President of the United States. Now is the time for contention and division to cease, and for Steelworkers to unite behind the changes for which Senator Obama and our members are calling.

America's workers cannot afford another four years of rehashed Bush administration policies, another four years in which the National Labor Relations Board shills for corporate misconduct, or another four years of a Secretary of the Treasury who considers it his "job" to bail out Wall Street speculators at the expense of hard working families loosing their homes.



universal health care were widely shared by Steelworker families.

On June 15, by virtue of a unanimous vote of the International Executive Board, the Steelworkers found themselves once again in agreement with Senator Edwards, this time with his decision to endorse Senator Barack Obama. And thus, the United Steelworkers enthusiastically endorsed Senator Barack Obama to be the next President of the

“Senator Obama has shown his commitment to working families by proposing significant investments in the future of American manufacturing, in the revitalization of our nation's infrastructure, and in 21st century clean energy technologies that will lead to significant growth in domestic jobs. He is clearly the candidate who can best lead our nation out of the dark period of economic decline created by the Bush administration's allegiance to Wall Street

The Steelworkers are proud and honored to join Senator Edwards in endorsing Senator Barack Obama to be the next President of the United States. The Steelworkers are committed to working tirelessly for his election and for a new age of cooperation among Democrats, Independents and thoughtful Republicans alike in which working Americans are restored to a place of dignity in society and in the American economy. ■

# Solidarity

Respecting our proud tradition.  
Rewarding union workers.



**Union Plus** salutes America's union workers. We honor our rich legacy by providing a wide range of benefits and services to help union members get more out of life. To support union solidarity, we point you to unionized companies and to quality products made by union workers. We also help stretch your paycheck with special discounts available only to union members. So you can SUPPORT your fellow union workers while you SAVE!

**SAVE on Goodyear Tire and Service.**

Claim a 5% union discount on all Goodyear tires as you support union members who make them. Get a 10% discount on services including sales prices.



**SAVE at Powell's Bookstore.**

Check out the bargain prices and great selections of new and used books at the largest unionized Internet bookseller. Great source of textbooks for students!



**ConsumerReports.org**

**SAVE with ConsumerReports.org** Get an annual subscription at 27% off. Find non-biased Product Reviews, Product Ratings and Buying Guides compiled by union workers.

**SAVE on Cingular Wireless Phones and Service.**

Take an additional 5% off the regular monthly rate of a individual or family calling plan. From the only wireless company that proclaims they are proud to be union!



**SAVE on Union-Made Clothing.**

Get up to 10% off quality, comfortable apparel union-made in the USA—everything from jeans, tees, sweats and socks to dresses, shirts and pants. Look and feel great as you wear your union pride!



**SAVE on a Hawaiian cruise with NCL America.**

Take a dream cruise through Hawaii's main islands on US-flagged, all-union ships. Norwegian Cruise Line America cuts your cost with union-member discounts of up to 5% every day savings and up to 30% off selected sailings.



To learn more about **Union Plus** programs and **discounts** available to Steelworkers, visit

**www.UnionPlus.org**



UM-USW EdMail-May07

Not all programs are available to Canadian members who may be eligible for the Canadian Union Advantage benefits. Visit [www.unionsavings.ca](http://www.unionsavings.ca)

# Unit 00 Rexnord

Rexnord is working a lot of overtime. Many of us have been working seven days a week and up to sixteen hours a day. It looks as though overtime will be heavy through the month of July. The Company has implemented a price increase and our customers have increased their orders to beat the increase.

The grievance load at this time is low, but we still have everyday issues and ongoing problems. Your Union officers are working hard and dealing with these issues as they arise. Please support your Local officers and say something good about your Union.

This is an important year for labor. As all of you know this is an election year. So please get out and vote. Encourage your family and friends to vote for labor friendly candidates. The Steelworkers are supporting Barack Obama for President and Jill Long Thompson for Governor. Both of these candidates are proud supporters of labor and our issues.

In Solidarity  
Kevin Addison  
Unit President, Rexnord

# Unit 05 Indiana Box

Business at Indiana Box is picking up. We currently have three employees out on lay off. Two are Union members and the third is probationary. Hopefully they will

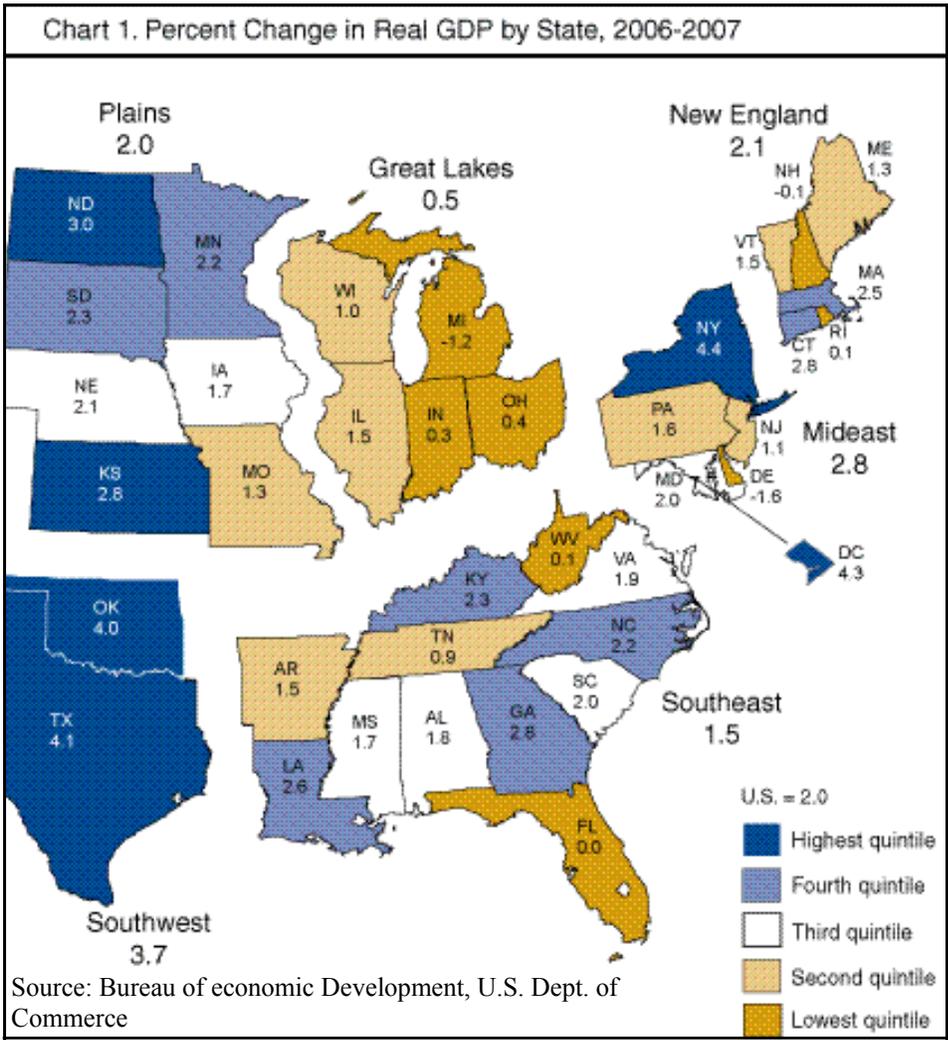
be called back soon. Indiana Box has gone 1½ years with no lost time accidents to report.

We currently have 1 grievance and 1 pending arbitration. Some members have signed a petition expressing their concerns about the arbitration. They believe that the Union officials do not have their priorities straight. My only concern is that maybe they should find out “all” the facts before they sign their name to a piece of paper, or better yet get a backbone. I am sure if it was their grievance going to arbitration it would not be such a big issue.

Proud Army - Navy Dad Patrick Land,s son Chris has joined the U.S. Army. He will be leaving for boot camp July 16th. Pat also has a son that is currently in the U.S. Navy.

Proud Army Mom Robin Minnamann’s son PV2 Johnathon B. Lane is currently stationed in Korea. He is in the Infantry and will be stationed there for 1 year.

Proud Marine Mom Jane Hazlett’s son LCPL Joseph E. Brumfield of the U.S.M.C. is stationed in Washington D.C. as part



Mitch Daniels claims Indiana is an island of prosperity in the Midwest. The latest statistics from the Bureau of Economics show Indiana in the group of states with the lowest percentage of growth in their Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Must be Fantasy Island.

of the secret service. Joseph was in England in June and just returned from Japan in Early July.

Jane Hazlett and Adam Schroeder would like to thank Chuck Jones for giving us both the opportunity to go to the Safety Conference in May. It was a great learning experience for both of us.

Robin Minnemann would like to thank everyone who has kept her and her husband Tim in their prayers

In Solidarity  
Jane Hazlett  
Unit President, Indiana Box

## Unit 07 Carrier

Carrier just went through negotiations and the contract was ratified 776 to accept and 42 to reject. A substantial wage increase, lump sum payment, pension increase, and substantial language changes were in this contract. The committee did an excellent job and the membership showed strength to make these negotiations successful.

The grievance load is low at this time. We still have several grievances pending arbitration.

As everyone knows this is election year and every member needs to vote and vote the right way. Jill Long Thompson is running for Governor of the State of Indiana against Mitch Daniels. Jill came from a Union background and will be on our side when it comes to labor issues.

In Solidarity  
Linda Bennington  
Vice President, Local 1999

Everyone wants to know about our new contract books. The negotiations committee is proof reading the contracts on Wednesday, July 16th to correct some mistakes and will return them to the Company after which the books will be printed and issued.

For Voter registration forms see Vicki Clark.

In Solidarity  
Vicki Clark, Neg. Comm.

## Unit 09 Quemetco

We have received the awards for a couple of our recent arbitration cases.

We were successful in Cliff Phillips arbitration over holiday pay and seniority. The grievance was filed after Cliff was not allowed to work as a leadman on Memorial Day and a junior employee was allowed to work. The arbitrator ruled that Cliff should have been scheduled to work the holiday since he had previously performed leadman work. As a result Cliff was paid his lost wages for the holiday. The Company also settled an identical grievance filed on behalf of David Summers that was scheduled to go to arbitration.

In Mike McDonald's arbitration the Arbitrator ruled in favor of the Company. The Arbitrator stated that although the Grievant

was not aware of the overtime holiday work, he did not bring it to the attention of management prior to the holiday. Although impractical, the language requires an employee to bring a violation to the attention of management prior to the holiday being worked.

Even though we don't win every time we will continue to pursue arbitration of grievances such as these where we feel the Company has clearly violated contract language.

In Solidarity  
Kelly Ray Hugunin  
Unit President, Quemetco

## Unit 10 Sumco

Sumco is located on the Westside of Indianapolis on Girls School Road. To give you the short version of what we do, we do electroplating of flat sheet coil steel by using by using precious metals.

At Sumco we work under a structure known as "the nature of the business." This structure has caused us to be on a roller coaster ride as far as lay offs are concerned. Since December we have had 3 lay offs and 5 call backs. I guess we still have to consider ourselves lucky that we have approximately 85% of our bargaining unit still in the plant working.

Recently we were fortunate enough to have one of our terminations overturned through the arbitration procedure. I would like to thank Leo Hedden (Sumco,

Sumco, From Page 11

Unit Vice President) and Kelly Ray Hugunin (Quemetco, Unit President) for their help in bringing Cary Crosley back to work.

In November will be involved in one of the most important elections of our time, and that's on the local level as well as nationally. So if you are not registered to vote you need to get registered so that you can help vote for change and undo what your present President and Governor have done.

In Solidarity  
Curtis Jones  
Unit President, Sumco

## Unit 13 Diamond Chain

### Solidarity

Solidarity is a strong goal of a Union. Without solidarity we hurt everyone belonging to the Union. Will everyone always agree? No, but we fight for the whole of the Union.

This week in Indianapolis a young police officer was shot. It was his goal to protect you and me. May we all pray for this man.

With that I saw what solidarity meant. From the time this young man was shot up to and including today, the Indianapolis police force have been taking turns spending one or two hours of their time to be at the hospital in support of their fallen brother. This is not just one or two officers taking this time, this is the whole

police force. What better show of solidarity is there.

We the Union need to show this solidarity.

We need to support our officers and our fellow Union members. Nothing gives a company more leverage than Union brothers and sisters going against one another. If you disagree with someone let them know not the Company. If you agree with them then let the Company know, show your support. Let the Company know loud and clear, you support your Union.

What your Union does for you depends on your support to make it strong.

Again the Indianapolis Police Dept. has shown the meaning of solidarity. Let's see our members show this solidarity.

Let solidarity work for you. Remember the old saying "United We Stand, Divided We Fall."

As many of you know we have an all new management at Diamond Chain. This management wants to run OUR Union, or maybe even bust it. We cannot and will not let this happen.

We need to stand together and show them this is our Union. We fought hard to get where we are.

We will fight for our members rights and we will demand the respect we deserve and fairness for all members.

Show Your Solidarity  
Kathleen Enochs  
Unit President, Diamond Chain

## Unit 15 Quaker

On behalf of Local 1999-15, We're here to let you know that we understand there are a lot of issues that still need addressing among our members and the Company.

Lately we have had some grave issues such as overtime distribution, temporary jobs, Seniority issues and so forth. Your Union representatives and myself are working vigorously to resolve these issues.

Just recently we fought hard to get a resolution to the 4X4 grievance during arbitration and managed to get it settled with the Company.

We will continue to fight hard for our members, address issues as they develop, and keep the Company abiding by the contract.

In Solidarity  
Tim Johnson  
Unit President, Quaker Oats

## Unit 17 Mid America Extrusions

Business is slow to steady. We are working 2 shifts, 40 hours a week.

We settled one grievance concerning attendance at the second step.

Due to the high cost of fuel we

are having problems getting independent trucking companies and drivers to haul our freight

In Solidarity  
Howard Davis  
Unit President, Mid America Ext.

## Unit 18 Holcomb & Hoke

On Friday, July 11, 2008, we ratified a new 3 year contract by an 85% majority. We realized a 55¢ per hour increase beginning on July 14th. Next year we will receive another 45¢ raise in July and in 2010 we will receive 50¢ per hour. We were also able to renew the current health insurance package with no additional cost to the employee even though the cost of coverage went up 11.8% in the last year. We also increased the weekly indemnity insurance by \$10 per week.

As many of you know, last year we signed a one year agreement with no wage increases due to the financial situation the Company was experiencing at the time. Although we made economic strides during this session of bargaining, you can never recover lost wages from a work stoppage or an extended contract with no increases. But you can only move forward with the support and continuing efforts of the rank and file membership.

With this being said, I am grateful for all the hard work by President Chuck Jones, Local Union Rep. Bruce Reed, and Staff Rep. Jim Adcock. Without their help and

guidance our job would have been next to impossible. We are all fortunate to enjoy a hard working, efficient group of leaders in our amalgamated Union. In my opinion this is a perfect example of what it means to belong to a Union and what a Union accomplishes for its membership with an ongoing policy of solidarity for everyone. I am taking this opportunity to thank again our local Union leadership and the solidarity shown by the membership of Local 1999.

Fraternally  
Mike Biggs  
Unit President, Holcomb & Hoke

## Unit 27 Air System Components

Despite a shaky economy things have been going well. To date the company has a 2,400,000 backlog and business just seems to keep coming in. With the influx of business the company plans on adding jobs. This is good news for the bargaining unit. With the company's intentions leaning towards growth means better job security for us. Especially in times where we are seeing other places laying off or downsizing.

We haven't had much luck in arbitration lately. The local still continues to pursue issues that the bargaining unit feels are important to the workplace. Being newly organized there are a lot of issues that we and the company do not see eye to eye on contractually. But the transition seems to

be getting smother as time goes on.

In Solidarity  
Dustin Martin  
Unit President

## Unit 28 Vertellus

The Company has made it clear as to what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be used in the plant with some of the departments. The Company and our members know the use of PPE is needed. Our members use PPE in departments they are needed in.

The Company would like our members to think they are all about our safety. We as members know different. Let's take our drumming department where the worker stands at the drumming line with all that PPE that must be on him. Okay let's say it's 90° or more, the Company has on way of knowing what happens to that worker with all that PPE on.

We have a red line on the road all the way around the plant. This red line is a fire lane for fire trucks to move around the plant if needed. The Company says we are not to park on 10 feet of either side of this line. But the Company will have their drivers spot a trailer within that 10 feet and move the power unit from under it. What do you think, is this safety?

In Solidarity  
Dave Ashburn  
Unit Vice President, Vertellus

## Local 1999 Convention Delegation Votes No To Dues Increase

At the recent Constitutional Convention in Las Vegas, it was the recommendation of the Constitution Committee to accept a resolution to increase membership dues. The resolution was passed with approximately 80% of the delegates voting to approve it.

Our delegates from Local 1999 were mandated by the membership at the May Union meeting to vote against the resolution. All eight of our delegates stood in opposition to the dues increase.

The resolution as passed will change our dues structure from 1.3% to 1.45% of a members monthly earnings. The dues cap of 2.5 times a member's average hourly earning will change to 2.8. The new dues structure shall take

effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

There is a Local Union option to remain at the 1.3% and add an additional 3¢ per hour to the dues paid by a member. If a Local chooses this option they will still be converted to the 1.45% structure on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

The purpose of the increase is to strengthen and build the Strike and Defense Fund. Strike and lockout benefits have not been enough to meet the needs of the

members who have suffered through lengthy labor disputes.

The chart below shows the per member payments to locals during strikes. As you can see the benefit increases about \$100 over the next 3 years.

Local 1999 was opposed to the increase due to the fact that the former PACE locals would not be forced to go to this new dues structure until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Current Schedule		Proposed Schedule		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Waiting Period	3 Weeks	Waiting Period	3 Weeks	3 Weeks	3 Weeks	3 Weeks
Weeks 4-9	\$100					
Weeks 10 and Over	\$115	Weeks 4 and Over	\$150	\$175	\$200	



## Steelworkers Expand International Executive Board; First Woman Newest Member

In a constitutional convention filled with historic firsts, the United Steelworkers union expanded its International Executive Board (IEB) to include its first woman member.

Carol Landry, a union activist and seasoned contract negotiator who joined the USW in 1987 at Can-

ada's largest copper mine, was appointed International Vice President by unanimous vote of the 27-member IEB during the USW's 2008 Constitutional Convention.

tion where 3,500 delegates took steps to both create a global union and strengthen the USW's Strike and Defense Fund to better withstand employer assaults. Together, the USW and London-based Unite the Union will represent 3.2 million workers and retirees in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

portunities for women.

Prior to that strike, women were mostly clerical workers with a separate wage scale lower than men, different job classifications and lines of career progression. The agreement that ended the struggle contained one wage scale and gave every worker the right to bid on all jobs.

A decade later, Landry led negotiations as the local union president and stood firm against company demands for massive concessions and threat of permanent closure. The contract she won tied wages to the price of copper, producing five years of stellar wage and pension increases for her co-workers.

Appointed to the USW's Canadian staff in 1999, Landry serviced more than 90 collective bargaining agreements in the lower mainland of British Columbia and led negotiations in a variety of industries. She has been an instructor for the union for more than 16 years and has served as education coordinator for the USW's District 3 in Western Canada.

Her international experience started with a local union exchange program with miners in Chile. She has continued that work and today sits on the board of directors of the International Metalworkers Federation. ■



Landry is a totally committed union activist who has held virtually every position in Local 7619 at Highland Valley Copper – shop steward, treasurer, vice president and president. She is battle tested in tough strikes and bargaining situations.

I'm honored, privileged and humbled by the support you are showing me," said Landry

In 1998, when she was the only woman on a 13-member bargaining committee, Landry helped lead a 107-day strike that did away with inferior wages and op-

Her appointment came at conven-

“While she will become the first woman International USW officer, Carol is becoming a vice president not because of gender, but because of her passion, skills and dedication to economic and social justice for working people everywhere,” said USW International President Leo W. Gerard.

Her appointment came at conven-

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